

**Report upon maternity and child welfare for the year 1928 /
Monmouthshire County Council.**

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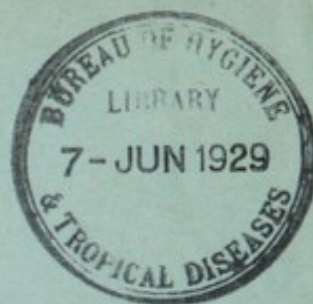
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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

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

REPORT

UPON

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

For the Year 1928.

May 9th, 1929.

D. ROCYN JONES,
County Medical Officer.

REINFORCED CONCRETE

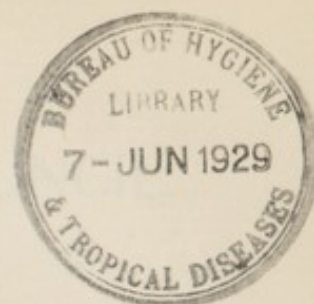
THEORY AND DESIGN

REPORT

BY THE CIVIL ENGINEERING

DEPARTMENT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNTY HALL,

NEWPORT,

9th May, 1929.

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

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Fourteenth 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, 1928, there were notified to this Department, 6,726 births, as follows:—

	LIVING.	STILLBIRTHS.	TOTAL.
No. officially notified by persons in attendance	6313	281	6594
No. not directly notified to the County Medical Officer, but information received from other sources, viz.,			
District Registrars 	111	—	111
Health Visitors 	21	—	21
	6445	281	6726

Of the 6,594 notifications to this Department, midwives were responsible for 6,518, registered medical practitioners for 61, and parents for 15 notifications. The percentage of births notified by midwives is 98, which is a high figure compared with the percentage for England and Wales, (93).

The number of registered live births during the year was 6,612, of which 95.4 per cent were notified in compliance with the Notification of Births Acts. Of the remainder, 132 births were subsequently discovered, 111 through the District Registrars, and 21 through the Health Visitors, leaving 2.6 per cent. of the registered births unaccounted for. This is a higher percentage than is usual in this County.

B.—WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITORS.

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

There are thirty Health Visitors upon the staff. Twenty-six of them undertake the joint work, while the two Health Visitors at Abertillery, and the two at Ebbw Vale, are fully employed on Maternity and Child Welfare work only. In addition, the lecturer in Nursing under the Higher Education Committee devotes a part of her 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.

There was a further decrease in the number of visits paid by the Health Visitors to the homes. The continuance of the epidemic of small pox was again the cause, the difficulty of obtaining nurses at two of the County Small Pox Hospitals necessitating the utilisation of the services of several of the Health Visitors. The epidemic abated slightly towards the end of the year, and with the closing of one of the temporary hospitals, and the engagement of nurses for the other hospital, it was possible to release most of the Health Visitors from the hospitals for their usual duties. At the time of writing this report, the Health Visiting staff is at its normal number, excepting for one nurse, who is acting as Matron of The Beeches Small Pox Hospital. It is hoped that there will be no further interruption of their work.

There is an important development in the training of Health Visitors, and the Ministry of Health has decided that no woman can be appointed for the first time as a whole-time officer of a Local Authority with health visiting duties unless she has obtained the new Health Visitor's Certificate. This means that women who have devoted $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 years to their training as nurses and midwives have to give at least another six months to obtain the Health Visitor's Certificate. It will be seen that the supply of candidates must be limited, and difficulty has already been experienced in this County in obtaining applicants for appointments who possess these qualifications.

1.—VISITS PAID.—During the year 36,475 visits were paid to the homes as follows:—

New Cases		Re-visits under 1 year of age	Re-visits 1 to 5 years.	Total Visits.
Babies seen	Fruitless Visits			
6,481	1,047	10,881	18,066	36,475

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

- 1927.—First visits, 6,031; Fruitless visits, 775; Re-visits under one year, 14,246; Re-visits 1-5 years, 21,496; Total, 42,548.
- 1926.—First visits, 7,467; 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, 21,843; 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.

II.—METHODS OF FEEDING.—Of the new cases visited it was found that 5,347 children were being brought up entirely on the breast (82.5 per cent.), whilst 829 were being bottle fed (12.8 per cent.), and 234 were both breast and bottle fed (3.6 per cent.). It was discovered on subsequent visits that in 408 instances (6.3 per cent.) children breast-fed had been put on the bottle after the first visit of the Health Visitor, and before the usual time of weaning. The above percentages are of the total cases visited. In 71 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:—

	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Breast-fed	84.7	86.2	86.2	82.3	81.8	79.6	78.7	79.3
Bottle-fed	10.26	9.8	9.6	10.1	10.0	11.5	11.8	11.4
Both breast and bottle fed ...	3.9	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 ...	6.8	7.3	10.2	9.1	7.6	12.0	13.0	15.8

These figures show the methods of feeding at the first visit of the Health Visitor to the home, and there is a drop of 2.2 per cent. in the number of babies breast-fed, as compared with the previous year (1927). This is regrettable, particularly as in the years 1925 and 1926 the percentage of breast-fed babies was 86.2.

Apart from the facts that the composition of the mother's milk makes it the perfect food for the infant and that the mother's health also benefits by feeding her baby, mothers should realise what a saving in time, labour and expense breast-feeding is. The better-educated mothers who seriously study the science of bringing-up children are now more ready to breast-feed, but often in working-class homes there is someone old-fashioned enough to decry breast-feeding and suggest the so-called easier method of bottle-feeding. The flaring advertisement of patent foods also tends to encourage the mother in the latter direction.

The Medical Officers in charge of the County Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and the Health Visitors lose no opportunity of impressing upon mothers the importance of breast-feeding where possible.

The records kept by the Medical Officers at the Welfare Centres in some instances show a further decrease this year in breast-feeding in areas which suffered through the industrial depression which is attributed to the low standard of health of mothers through insufficiency of income, rendering them incapable of carrying out breast-feeding. At other Centres in districts of the same type, the number of women breast-feeding has increased.

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 Health Visitors 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 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 the causation of bad health.

IV.—ANTE-NATAL.—The number of visits paid to expectant mothers was 224 to new cases, and 230 re-visits, a total of 454 visits. During the last two years the number of these visits has decreased, due chiefly to the limitation of the work of Health Visitors, consequent upon the transfer of several to small pox nursing. On the other hand, the number of visits of expectant mothers to the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres has considerably increased.

V.—PUERPERAL FEVER.—During the year 1928, notifications were received from the District Medical Officers of 14 cases, whilst in the return of deaths furnished by the Registrar-General the number due to puerperal sepsis was 15. The attack rate per 1,000 births in 1928 was 2.1. The attack rate per 1,000 of population equalled .037, and the death rate per 1,000 of population was .040. The death rate per 1,000 births was 2.2.

Notifications were received from the following districts :—Abertillery, 2; Bedwas and Machen, 2; Bedwellty, 3; Ebbw Vale, 2; Mynyddislwyn, 1; Rhymney, 1; Risca, 1; Tredegar, 1; and St. Mellons, 1.

The following comparative table is submitted :—

Year	No. of Notifications to Local M.O.H.	No. of Notifications received at Central Office.	No. of Deaths Registered	Death rate per 1,000 of population for County
1928	14	14	15	.04
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	.009
1917	4	4	0	Nil.
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 fourteen notified cases of puerperal fever were investigated by the County Midwives Inspectress, 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, 9; by medical practitioner and midwife, 4. One confinement took place before the arrival of the midwife. In three cases attended by the midwife, the medical attendant was called in on the day of delivery, whilst in two cases the doctor was summoned on the second day, in two cases on the third day, in one case on the fourth day, and in one case on the fifth day.

Every precaution possible is taken to prevent the spread of infection. A visit of inspection is made immediately on 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 five 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 15, it will be seen that unnotified cases occurred. This happens every year, and it is difficult to adequately account for it, but the investigation of maternal deaths, which is being commenced in the current year (1929) will probably throw some light upon this very serious aspect of maternal mortality, which during the year 1928 accounted for 40 per cent. of the maternal deaths.

On the 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 childbirth in which a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahr. or more has been sustained during a period of 24 hours.

Thirty-one cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified in 1928, and all were followed up by the Inspectress of Midwives. Twenty-nine cases cleared up satisfactorily, and two subsequently proved to be puerperal fever.

A scheme for the provision of facilities for diagnosis and treatment of cases is in operation. Under the scheme the services of Dr. G. I. Strachan, M.D., F.R.C.S., of Cardiff, have been retained as consultant obstetrician. Cases requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport and any necessary bacteriological examination is made by Dr. H. W. Catt, 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; 15 from puerperal fever, and 22 from other causes associated with childbirth. This is equal to a rate of 5.59 per 1,000 registered births. It is practically the same as that of last year (5.6), which was the highest figure recorded for many years.

The decline in infant mortality in the last quarter of a century is roughly 50 per cent, and it is astonishing that there is no corresponding reduction in maternal mortality. There is a public outcry against the high rate, and the Ministry of Health have taken the lead in the effort to diminish it.

For several years they have urged that action should be taken in every area to provide an efficient maternity service, with a view to reducing the risks involved in childbirth, and special attention has been drawn to the need for:—

- (i) Ante-natal supervision and a largely increased number of Maternity Centres.
- (ii) The reference of difficult cases to obstetric specialists.
- (iii) The provision of Maternity Hospitals for complicated midwifery cases, and for women whose homes are unsuitable for a confinement.
- (iv) The necessity for a high standard of practice by midwives; and
- (v) The education of public opinion in regard to the question of maternal mortality.

Considerable progress is being made in this County towards carrying out these suggestions. Ante-natal supervision is becoming more popular amongst the expectant mothers, and the number who attended the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres increased from 508 in the year 1927 to 884 in the year 1928.

At the time of writing, there are only three properly equipped Ante-Natal Clinics in the Administrative County, but a scheme has received the approval of the County Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, and the necessary arrangements for the functioning of the same are being made.

It is recorded with pleasure and gratification that the Save the Children Fund, which is always ready to assist the mothers and children of this County, has presented the County Medical Officer with a cheque for £350 to be used for the purpose of equipping these Ante-Natal Clinics.

With regard to suggestion (ii), difficult confinement cases have for some years been examined by Dr. G. I. Strachan, F.R.C.S., Consultant Obstetric Surgeon to the Cardiff Royal Infirmary, and an extended use of his services was made in 1928.

Suggestion (iii) is the provision of hospital facilities for complicated midwifery cases and for women whose homes are unsuitable for a confinement. Some of these cases are admitted to the Maternity Home of the Monmouthshire Nursing Association at Tredegar.

Facilities for hospital treatment of severe complicated labour cases are at present limited to the accommodation which can be obtained at the Maternity Department of the Cardiff Royal Infirmary, which Authority has been very obliging to the County Council in this matter.

The County scheme for equipping and utilising the Lydia Beynon Maternity Hospital, The Coldra, near Newport, is being held up for the present, but having regard to the urgent need in the County for an up-to-date Maternity Hospital equipped with facilities to meet all emergencies, it is sincerely to be hoped that the delay in equipping the Lydia Beynon Maternity Hospital will not be unduly protracted.

There is no provision more urgent in the County of Monmouth at the moment than the provision of this Hospital. The preservation of life, and particularly maternal life, should take precedence of all other provisions in the County.

The education of public opinion in regard to the incidence of maternal mortality is a vital factor in ante-natal work. There can be no doubt as to the importance of the subject. The whole trend of modern medicine is always toward prevention, and it should be conceded without question that every expectant mother has a right to be examined by a competent Obstetrician before confinement, and that in the event of difficulties presenting themselves, facilities to overcome those difficulties should be available.

In this respect the Ministry of Health has suggested that there should be an investigation in every area by a competent and experienced medical officer into the incidence of all maternal deaths and of all cases of puerperal fever with a view to ascertaining and preventing the causes which lead to maternal mortality.

This suggestion has been adopted in this County and steps have been taken to obtain from District Registrars particulars of all deaths of women between the ages of 15 and 45 years, so that the available information respecting these cases may be tabulated for the purposes of the inquiry.

VII.—INFANTILE DIARRHŒA.—Five cases of this disease were discovered during visits to homes, and ten re-visits paid, as against 13 and 25 re-visits in the year 1927.

Thirty-five deaths were registered from this disease in children under two years of age, giving a death-rate of 5.29 per 1,000 births, as compared with 7.36 for the year 1927.

All cases of which the Health Visitor has knowledge are visited, but it is obvious that very many cases do not come to her 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 twelve years, which includes one very hot summer, when the rate was 17.2, has been 7 per 1,000 births. It will be observed that the rate for the year 1928 is considerably below that average. Printed instructions to mothers in regard to these diseases are distributed by the Health Visitors when cases are found.

VIII.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Thirty cases were notified under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, as compared with 37 cases in the year 1927, and 36 in 1926. These cases, together with other cases of eye trouble reported by the midwives, making a total of 144 cases, were followed up by the Health Visitors, who paid 441 visits to them. In three cases there was unsatisfactory conduct on the part of the midwife, and warning letters were sent to them by the County Medical Officer.

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

It is estimated that about one-third of the cases of blindness in this County are due to ophthalmia neonatorum, but in this County such cases are rare. There was one case of blindness during the year 1928 amongst the cases investigated by the Health Visitors. The child was suffering from spina bifida and subsequently died. 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 136 cases as follows:—

NUMBER OF CASES VISITED.

			Acute	Slight	Total
Brought forward from last year	...	...	3	6	9
New cases—					
Both eyes	...	...	35	64	99
One eye only	...	...	4	24	28
			—	—	—
			42	94	136
			—	—	—
Number of cases which attended hospital					
As out-patients	...	...	9	—	9
As in-patients	...	...	6	—	6
Number of cases in which there was neglect on the part of the midwife	...	...	1	2	3
RESULTS:					
Completely cured	...	...	36	86	122
Blindness	...	...	1	—	1
Cases still being followed up at the end of the year	...	...	4	8	12
Dead	...	...	1	—	1
			—	—	—
		...	42	94	136

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

C.—VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1928

DISTRICT	Esti- mated 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 12 months	1—3 Months	3—6 Months	6—9 Months	9—12 Months	Total under 1 year	
URBAN—																												
ABERGARN	20980	210	191	11	5	221	196	417	19.9	111	76	187	8.9	21	2	23	55.1	10	4	2	2	18	1	2	...	4	25	3
ABERGAVENNY	8851	53	66	6	3	59	69	128	14.5	69	32	121	13.6	5	...	5	39.1	2	...	...	...	2	...	3	...	...	5	...
ABERYCHAN	28850	260	202	9	11	269	213	482	16.7	167	126	293	10.1	33	...	33	68.46	6	3	...	...	9	8	5	3	6	31	...
ABERTILLERY	32840	308	294	7	12	315	306	621	18.9	195	137	332	10.1	41	3	44	70.8	20	1	3	1	25	8	5	4	1	43	...
BEDWAS & MACHEN	9631	104	120	3	4	107	124	231	23.9	56	57	113	11.7	24	4	28	121.2	9	2	2	...	13	6	4	4	5	32	...
BEDWELLITY	32080	360	372	8	20	368	392	760	23.7	197	163	360	10.6	52	5	57	75.0	15	2	6	1	21	9	6	5	2	46	...
BLAENAVON	12080	95	98	2	3	97	101	198	16.3	74	67	141	11.7	12	...	12	60.6	5	...	2	...	7	...	...	2	3	12	...
CAERLEON	2583	13	16	...	...	13	16	29	11.2	6	9	15	5.7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CHRISTOW	4434	36	48	5	4	41	52	93	20.9	32	30	62	13.9	6	...	6	64.5	3	2	...	...	5	1	...	1	...	7	...
EBRW VALE	33650	273	297	12	7	285	294	579	17.2	211	183	424	12.6	55	...	55	94.99	8	3	4	2	17	5	10	12	10	64	...
LLANFRECHFA UPPER	4691	37	32	1	1	38	33	71	15.1	13	28	41	8.7	8	1	9	126.76	4	2	1	...	7	...	...	2	...	9	...
LLANTARNAM	7959	77	63	1	2	78	65	143	17.9	46	41	87	10.9	10	1	11	76.9	3	...	1	1	5	...	2	1	1	9	...
MONMOUTH	5034	41	40	3	4	44	44	88	17.4	42	36	78	13.69	2	...	2	22.7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
MYNYDDISLWYN	16560	165	185	10	4	175	189	394	21.8	78	64	142	8.5	21	1	22	60.4	9	1	1	...	11	2	3	2	3	21	...
NANTYGLO & BLAINA	13200	104	100	3	4	109	104	213	14.1	81	70	151	9.9	13	1	14	65.7	2	2	2	1	7	3	...	2	1	13	...
PANTG	11670	82	89	4	2	86	91	177	15.1	68	37	125	10.8	22	2	24	133.59	4	3	2	1	10	3	4	5	2	24	...
PONTYPOOL	7440	68	57	2	2	70	59	129	17.3	56	45	101	13.5	13	1	14	108.5	1	2	2	1	6	4	2	...	2	14	...
RHYMNEY	11440	121	115	1	4	125	119	244	21.3	79	71	150	13.1	20	1	21	80.06	6	4	1	1	12	2	4	2	5	25	...
RISCA	17200	147	144	8	6	153	150	305	17.6	90	73	163	9.4	19	1	20	65.57	5	1	...	...	7	7	4	...	18	...	
TREDEGAR	24440	237	222	8	5	245	227	472	19.3	118	125	273	11.1	25	...	25	52.9	7	5	2	1	13	2	4	4	2	25	...
USK	1407	8	8	...	...	8	8	16	11.3	11	5	19	13.5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
RURAL—																												
ABERGAVENNY	9392	47	56	6	2	53	58	111	11.8	54	60	114	12.0	8	1	9	81.08	5	...	...	...	5	2	1	1	...	9	...
CHRISTOW	8869	68	89	2	6	70	93	165	18.6	58	43	101	11.4	6	1	7	42.4	2	2	...	...	4	2	1	1	...	7	...
MAGOR	6993	51	45	...	2	51	47	98	14.3	41	39	80	12.1	7	1	8	81.6	3	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	1	5	...
MONMOUTH	6654	47	35	6	3	53	38	91	13.6	42	34	89	12.9	4	1	5	54.9	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	3	...
PONTYPOOL	5252	53	38	...	1	50	39	89	16.9	31	28	59	11.2	6	...	6	67.4	3	1	2	3	9	...	1	1	...	11	...
ST. MELLONS	15460	158	131	6	3	164	134	298	19.2	77	79	156	10.1	17	1	18	60.4	6	...	...	...	6	3	2	...	2	13	...
Grand Totals, 1928	361300	3223	3143	126	120	3349	3263	6612	18.3	2176	1778	3954	10.9	450	28	478	72.29	139	39	33	16	227	63	66	56	51	493	...
Totals for year 1927	371350	3184	3087	132	119	3316	3208	6522	17.5	2255	1833	4088	11.0	543	27	570	87.3	185	24	18	22	249	105	63	71	75	563	...

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.

TABLE IV - 2010 YEAR IN REVIEW

FISCAL YEAR	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL REVENUE	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	TOTAL SURPLUS/DEFICIT	PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET	PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE	PERCENTAGE OF EXPENDITURE	PERCENTAGE OF SURPLUS/DEFICIT	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
2010	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2011	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2012	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2013	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2014	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2015	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2016	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2017	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2018	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2019	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2020	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2021	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2022	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2023	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2024	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2025	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2026	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2027	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2028	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2029	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2030	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2031	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2032	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2033	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2034	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2035	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2036	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2037	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2038	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2039	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2040	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2041	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2042	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2043	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2044	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2045	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2046	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2047	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2048	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2049	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2050	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00

NOTE: All figures are in millions of dollars. The figures in the columns marked with asterisks are estimates.

IX.—STILLBIRTHS.—281 cases were notified to your Medical Officer, and this number in addition to the 71 infants who were found by the Health Visitors to have survived birth by a few hours, makes a total of 352 young lives lost.

The stillbirths work out at 4.25 per 100 live births, .65 lower than last year's rate, which was 4.9, but it is still a high figure when compared with the English Counties, where the stillbirth rates are generally under 4.0 per 100 live births.

Dr. Mary Scott, Assistant Medical Officer, during the year 1928 furnished the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee with a special report upon stillbirth, its incidence causation and prevalence, with special reference to the Administrative County of Monmouth, in which she dealt exhaustively with the subject. Her conclusion was that the measures suggested for the provision of maternal mortality applied equally to the prevention of stillbirth, or, as she phrased it, "that action taken to prevent stillbirth would undoubtedly lead to prevention of maternal mortality."

X.—UNREGISTERED WOMEN ACTING AS MIDWIVES.—The number of confinements attended by unregistered women without a doctor was 8, as compared with 5 in 1927, and 6 in 1926. With the exception of one rural case they were all done by a midwife whose name was removed from the Roll some few years ago. Proceedings were taken against her at Pontypool Police Court in March, 1929, when she was fined 20/- on each of three charges.

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 139 infants died within one week of birth, and 227 died within the first month of birth, whilst 463 died within the first twelve months, which, together with the figure of 281 still-births, makes a total of 744 lives lost to the community.

The infantile mortality rate per 1,000 births is 72.29. Last year it was 87.3; in 1926, 66.1; in 1925, 83.8; in 1924, 75.6; in 1923, 73.0; and in 1922, 83.4.

There were 6,612 births registered during the year, an increase of 90 when compared with the number for 1927, and the birth rate is 18.3 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 17.5 in 1927. In the year 1926, it was 20.3; in 1925, 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 246, which gives a ratio to that of legitimate births as 38.6 to 961.4. Last year the number was 251, equal to 38.48 per 1,000 legitimate births, and for the year 1926 the figure was 35.3.

The total number of deaths of illegitimate children under one year was 28, or 4.2 per 1,000 of all births, and 113.8 per 1,000 of illegitimate births. Last year the number of deaths was 27, or 4.1 per 1,000 of all births, and 107.6 per 1,000 of illegitimate births.

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

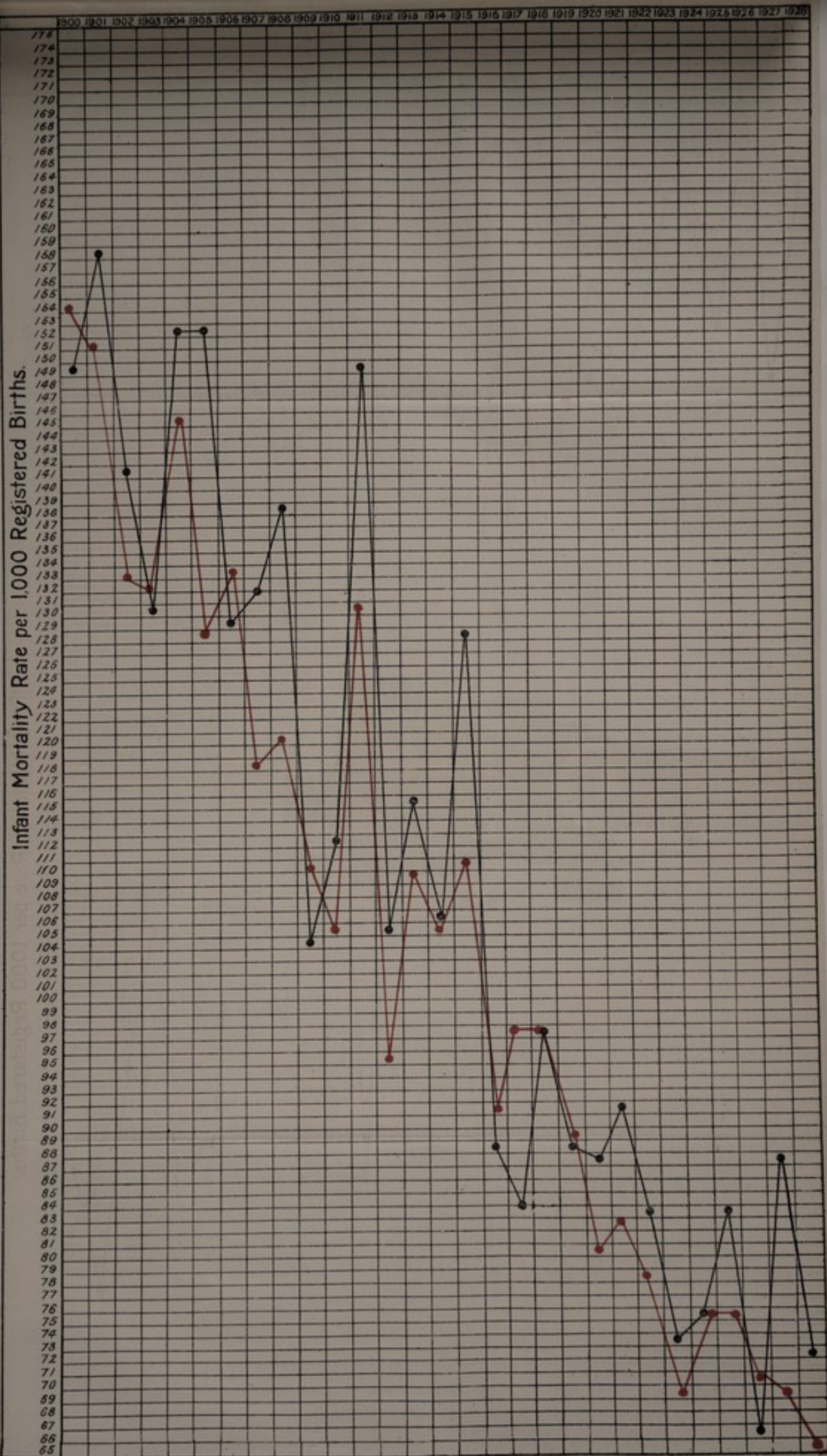
	Present Year.	(1927).		Present Year.	(1927).
URBAN—			URBAN—		
Panteg	135.59	(85.7)	Abercarn	55.1	(73.5)
Llanfrechfa Upper ...	126.76	(78.6)	Tredeggar	52.9	(95.4)
Bedwas and Machen..	121.2	(95.7)	Abergavenny	39.1	(62.9)
Pontypool	108.5	(57.1)	Monmouth	22.7	(81.1)
Ebbw Vale	94.99	(92.9)	Caerleon	—	(55.5)
Rhymney	86.06	(109.7)	Usk	—	(47.6)
Llantarnam	76.9	(50.4)	RURAL—		
Bedwellty	75.0	(111.1)	Magor	81.6	(67.6)
Abertillery	70.8	(84.9)	Abergavenny	81.08	(23.1)
Abersychan	68.46	(73.3)	Pontypool	67.4	(90.9)
Nantyglo and Blaina..	65.7	(102.5)	St. Mellons	60.4	(85.9)
Risca	65.57	(103.5)	Monmouth	54.9	(26.1)
Chepstow	64.5	(40.5)	Chepstow	42.4	(64.9)
Blaenavon	60.6	(132.9)			
Mynyddislwyn	60.4	(107.3)			

The Vital Statistics for England and Wales for the year 1928, compiled by the Registrar-General, are as in the subjoined table. The Monmouthshire figures are given for the purpose of comparison.

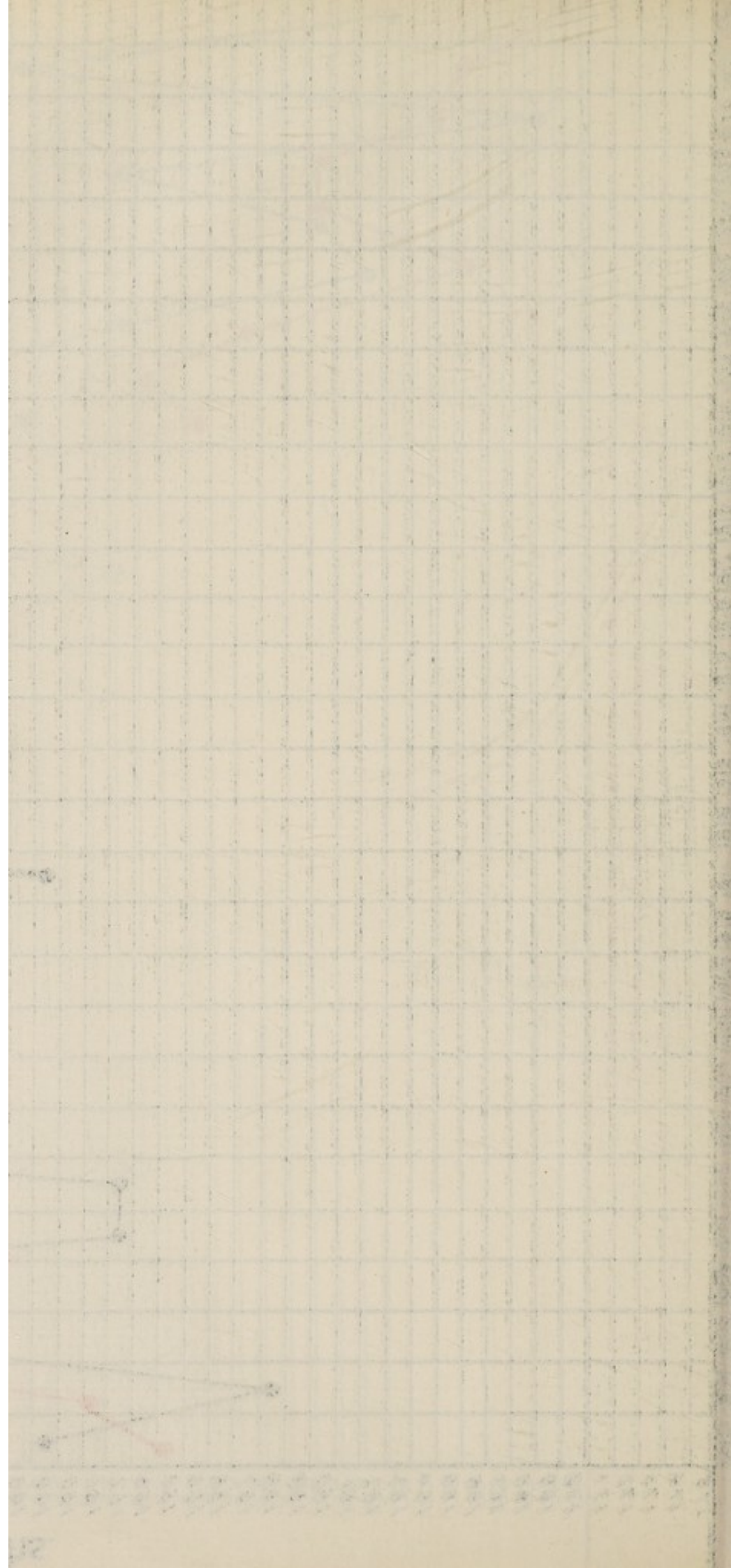
	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.			Death Rate per 1,000 living.		Deaths under one year per 1,000 births.	
	Live Births	Still Births	Live Births				
			1927	1928	1927	1928	1927
ENGLAND & WALES ...	16.7	.70	(16.7)	11.7	(12.3)	65	(69.)
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	16.9	.70	(17.1)	11.6	(12.2)	70	(71.)
156 Smaller Towns (1921 ad- justed populations, 20,000— 50,000)	16.6	.73	(16.4)	10.6	(11.3)	60	(68.)
London	15.9	.53	(16.1)	11.6	(11.9)	67	(59.)
MONMOUTHSHIRE ...	18.3	.75	(17.5)	10.9	(11.0)	72.29	(87.3)

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

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Registered Births.



The Black Line indicates the County Infantile Mortality Rate.
The Red Line indicates the Infantile Mortality Rate of England and Wales.



D.—DEDUCTIONS FROM THE COUNTY VITAL STATISTICS.

The County Birth Rate shows a slight increase on last year's figure, which was 17.5 per 1,000 of the population.

The County Death Rate of 10.9 per 1,000 of population is below the rate for 1927 (11.0), and it is still below that for England and Wales (11.7).

The County Infant Mortality Rate for the year (72.29) shows a decided decrease on the rate for the previous year, when it was 87.3. It is the second lowest figure on record for the County, the previous lowest being 66.1 for the year 1926.

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSES.	1928	(1927)	(1926)	(1925)
All causes	478	(570)	(501)	(679)
Small Pox	—	(2)	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	(1)	—
Measles	8	(7)	(2)	(15)
Diphtheria	—	—	—	(1)
Whooping Cough	17	(18)	(16)	(42)
Influenza	2	(8)	(5)	(9)
Meningococcal meningitis	1	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	(2)	(1)	—
Other Tubercular Diseases	4	(4)	(5)	(5)
Bronchitis	28	(47)	(34)	(59)
Pneumonia (all forms)... ..	85	(105)	(69)	(99)
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	28	(39)	(37)	(56)
Congenital Debility	217	(252)	(236)	(275)
Violence	8	(5)	(5)	(5)
Other Defined Diseases... ..	75	(81)	(89)	(113)
Causes ill-defined or unknown... ..	1	—	(1)	—

E.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

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

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

Location of Centre.	District Served	Premises Utilised	Date of Opening	Day and Hour of Consultations	Medical Officer.
Llanhilleth	... Llanhilleth and Aberbeeg	Workmen's Institute, Llanhilleth	1917 Oct. 15th	Monday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith
Monmouth	... Monmouth Urban and Rural Districts	Workingmen's Inst., Monk St., Monmouth	June 15th	Friday, 2-30—4-30 p.m.	Dr. W. H. Williams
Nantyglo	... Nantyglo	English Wesleyan Church, Nantyglo	1924 July 14th	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 Maesycwmmwr	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. W. B. Owen
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, Trevil, Troedrihwair, 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 Croesycelliog.	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	... Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu	Domestic Arts Centre, Ynysddu School.	1917 March 23rd	Friday, 10—12 noon	Dr. M. Scott

F.—DETAILS OF ATTENDANCES AT CENTRES.

CENTRE	MEDICAL OFFICER	No. of Infants on Register at 31st Dec., 1928	INFANTS				NURSING MOTHERS		EXPECTANT MOTHERS	
			No. of new cases, which attended during year	No. of Re-visits	Total No. of Visits	Average Attendance at each Session	No. on Register	No. of Attendances during year	No. on Register	No. of Attendances during year
Aberbargoed	Dr. A. Roberts	330	166	2036	2202	45.67	89	298	44	134
Abercarn	Dr. E. M. Griffith	265	121	2412	2533	57.57	4	4	—	—
Abergavenny	Dr. G. W. Parry	211	93	1016	1109	23.1	14	51	2	5
Abersychan	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	143	90	805	895	18.64	9	15	6	8
Abertillery	Dr. T. B. Smith	694	320	4028	4348	90.58	57	180	46	110
Abertysswg	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan	121	65	896	961	20.45	30	219	8	36
Beaufort	Dr. M. Scott	114	64	704	768	16.00	7	29	11	24
Blackwood	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	290	151	967	1118	46.58	67	209	32	72
Blaenavon	Dr. J. Reynolds	354	179	1458	1637	34.10	107	311	65	88
Blaina	Dr. M. Proudfoot	291	134	2082	2216	46.17	36	100	53	130
Caerleon	Dr. M. Gordon	82	21	351	372	17.71	3	37	6	32
Caldicot	Dr. M. Gordon	151	66	1495	1561	32.52	2	7	7	15
Chepstow	Dr. T. L. Drapes	222	73	2406	2479	50.59	—	—	1	1
Crosskeys	Dr. M. Scott	110	57	867	924	19.66	23	97	15	19
Crumlin	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	195	130	1184	1314	27.95	21	187	49	131
Cwm	Dr. R. Watson	172	120	1559	1679	34.98	20	84	10	23
Cwmbran	Dr. W. Austin	205	95	1284	1379	28.73	41	150	17	27
Ebbw Vale	Dr. F. M. Fonseca	304	234	1761	1995	41.56	34	101	10	23
Garniffaith	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	132	82	709	791	16.83	19	64	14	21
Llanhilleth	Dr. T. B. Smith	398	182	2351	2533	51.69	67	293	35	104
Monmouth	Dr. W. H. Williams	158	79	1774	1853	38.60	20	20	15	84
Nantyglo	Dr. M. Proudfoot	227	106	1807	1913	39.04	37	90	53	161
Newbridge	Dr. W. Austin	299	178	2063	2241	45.73	22	88	3	4
Newport	Dr. M. Gordon	79	49	235	284	20.29	8	30	3	8
New Tredegar	Dr. M. Scott	257	155	1127	1282	27.28	56	110	21	36
Oakdale	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	177	90	575	665	27.71	40	137	22	56
Panteg	Dr. W. Austin	151	67	980	1047	22.28	28	107	4	5
Pengam	Dr. M. Scott	397	213	2113	2326	47.47	98	317	56	103
Pontnewydd	Dr. W. Austin	158	68	1175	1243	25.37	18	107	10	12
Pontnewynydd	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	237	146	1096	1242	25.88	19	40	20	24
Pontymoile	Dr. W. Austin	128	48	817	865	18.40	17	109	11	29
Pontypool	Dr. W. Austin	261	144	998	1142	23.79	33	57	16	22
Rhymney	Dr. R. V. de A. Redwood	260	144	1161	1305	28.37	55	117	51	76
Risca	Dr. W. B. Owen	324	154	2405	2559	53.31	42	149	32	108
Rogerstone	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	143	77	734	811	33.79	4	41	2	9
Runney	Dr. M. Proudfoot	88	47	301	348	17.40	2	20	3	9
Six Bells	Dr. T. B. Smith	341	146	2151	2297	48.87	40	229	21	52
Tredeggar	Dr. E. T. H. Davies	427	294	1946	2240	46.66	4	4	37	58
Trethomas	Dr. M. Scott	361	181	2578	2759	57.44	87	291	34	69
Usk	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	65	45	214	259	11.77	13	64	2	2
Ynysddu	Dr. M. Scott	234	100	1409	1509	32.11	73	245	37	87
Total		9556	4974	58030	63004	35.56	1366	4808	884	2017

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

Constipation	...	567	Diarrhœa	...	2
Debility	...	411	Otorrhœa	...	2
Anaemia	...	216	Enuresis	...	2
Defective Teeth	...	183	Boils	...	2
Varicose Veins	...	59	Injuries	...	2
Hæmorrhoids	...	53	Fits	...	2
Menorrhagia	...	45	Synovitis	...	2
Deficient Lactation	...	43	Backache	...	2
Dyspepsia	...	36	Defective Hearing	...	2
Sore Nipples	...	32	Cystitis	...	2
Cough	...	28	Placenta Previa	...	2
Leucorrhœa	...	23	Congenital Hip	...	2
Eye Diseases	...	23	Worms	...	2
Amenorrhœa	...	21	Giddiness	...	2
Bronchitis	...	20	Ovarian Cyst	...	2
Skin Diseases	...	19	Excessive Milk Secretion	...	1
Pyorrhœa	...	19	Neurasthenia ...	...	1
Enlarged Thyroid	...	18	Diabetes	...	1
Uterine Displacements	...	15	Malpresentation	...	1
Vomiting and Indigestion	...	15	Intertrigo of Breasts	...	1
Gastritis	...	13	Psoriasis	...	1
Mastitis	...	13	Migraine	...	1
Nephritis	...	13	Abscess	...	1
Rheumatism	...	13	Gastric Catarrh	...	1
Bronchial Catarrh	...	13	Varicose Ulcer	...	1
Pruritis	...	10	Lupus Vulgaris	...	1
Heart Disease	...	9	Haemoptysis	...	1
Tuberculosis (all forms)	...	8	Fibroids	...	1
Laryngitis	...	8	Vulvitis	...	1
Dysmenorrhœa	...	7	Appendicectomy	...	1
Neuritis	...	7	Oedema	...	1
Headache	...	7	Sciatica	...	1
Neuralgia	...	7	Goitre	...	1
Anorexia	...	7	Post Eclampsia	...	1
Asthma	...	5	Septic Sores	...	1
Hyperemesis	...	5	Indigestion	...	1
Pharyngitis	...	5	Tachycardia	...	1
Ulcerated Mouth	...	5	Incontinence	...	1
Miscarriage	...	4	Endometritis	...	1
Albuminuria	...	4	Eclampsia	...	1
Tonsillitis	...	4	Parotiditis	...	1
Influenza	...	4	Ulcer of Lip	...	1
Venereal Disease	...	4	Sore Throat	...	1
Urticaria	...	3	Lumbago	...	1
Nasal Catarrh	...	3	Septic Gland	...	1
Epilepsy	...	3			
Abscess of Breast	...	2	Total	...	2092

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

Bronchitis and Bronchial Catarrh	1431	Fits	10
Constipation	667	Dactylitis	7
Skin Diseases	597	Rheumatism	7
Nasal Catarrh	263	Prematurity	7
Diarrhœa	221	Spina Bifida	6
Eye Diseases	209	Infantile Paralysis	6
Gastro Enteritis	209	Cleft Palate	6
Tonsils and Adenoids	206	Cervical Adenitis	5
Otorrhœa	205	Chorea	5
Debility	194	Ulcerated Mouth	5
Protuberant Umbilicus	190	Colitis	5
Phimosis	183	Undescended Testicles	5
Umbilical Hernia	179	Hydrocephalus	5
Teething	170	Asthma	5
Minor Digestive Troubles	155	Influenza	5
Worms	137	Cleft Palate and Hare Lip	5
Cough	120	Dyspepsia	4
Intertrigo	113	Venereal Disease	4
Rickets	110	Intestinal Indigestion	3
Stomatitis	94	Chicken Pox	3
Flatulence	86	Mastitis	3
Dental Caries	83	Sore Groin	3
Vomiting	64	Epilepsy	3
Whooping Cough	57	Curvature of Spine	3
Marasmus	56	Septic Glands	2
Earache	55	Mongolianism	2
Enlarged Glands	53	Pleurisy	2
Malnutrition	51	Trauma	2
Septic Umbilicus	51	Nephritis	2
Septic Sores	43	Cerebral Palsies	2
Inguinal Hernia	43	Torticollis	2
Heart Disease	37	Laryngitis	2
Anæmia	36	Congenital Dislocation of Hip	2
Naevus	36	Defective Hearing	1
Sore Buttocks	34	Ventral Hernia	1
Orthopædic Cases (Miscellaneous)	31	Goitre	1
Tongue Tied	30	Hypospadis	1
Diarrhœa and Vomiting	24	Meningitis	1
Talipes	23	Pleural Effusion	1
Convulsions	22	Imperforated Anus	1
Boils	22	Renal Calculus	1
Tuberculosis and Suspected Tuberculosis	21	Tachycardia	1
Anorexia	20	Erythema	1
Urticaria	20	Croup	1
Squint	19	Meningocele	1
Mentally Deficient	19	Encephalitis	1
Abscess	18	Scurvy	1
Thrush	17	Cyst	1
Injuries	17	Enlarged Spleen	1
Enuresis	16	Pyorrhœa	1
Pneumonia	15	Cataract	1
Hydrocele	15	Head Nodding	1
Snuffles	14	Hammer Toes	1
Jaundice	12	Flat Foot	1
Discharging Umbilicus	12	Enlarged Liver	1
Incontinence of Urine	11	Miscellaneous	74
Measles	10		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	10	Total	7090

I.—REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE CENTRES.

I.—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	57.1	56.4	58.6	58.1	59.3	64.8
Artificially fed	34.9	23.1	26.8	24.1	24.3	22.4
Breast and Artificially fed	8.0	20.5	14.6	17.8	16.4	12.8

BEAUFORT CENTRE.—This Centre is open for two hours each week. The numbers "attending" the Centre show a definite increase over those of the previous year. In the case of the nursing and expectant mothers the number of attendances were more than double those of the previous year. There is a gratifying increase too in the number of babies who were breast-fed.

CROSS KEYS CENTRE.—This Centre is open for two hours once each week. The numbers attending the Centre are satisfactory, and here also we have an increase in the amount of breast feeding.

The lady members of the local Maternity and Child Welfare Committee continue to take a warm interest in the work of the Centre, and we are much indebted to them for their help and for their regular attendance on Friday afternoons.

NEW TREDEGAR CENTRE.—The attendances recorded at this Centre of Nursing and Expectant Mothers and of Infants shew a definite increase over those of the previous year. There is a slight decline in the amount of breast feeding, but, as the percentage of breast-fed babies attending this Centre in 1927 was higher than that of the other Centres in this Valley, the decline brings the amount of breast feeding at New Tredegar into line with that of those other Centres for the year 1928.

The midwives of this district, it is satisfactory to note, keep in touch with the work, and visit us frequently at the Centre.

PENGAM CENTRE.—This is the Ante-natal Centre for the Rhymney Valley, and the number of expectant mothers attending the Centre has increased considerably during the year. We have all facilities for Antenatal work here, but the time to carry out this work is limited, as the expectant mothers attend on the Infant Welfare Centre day. We hope soon to have a day set specially apart for this important work.

The number of infants who attended during the year was much in excess of that of the previous year. The amount of breast-feeding is also improving and totally breast-fed babies who attended the Centre were in numbers about 8 per cent. higher than those of the previous year.

TRETHOMAS CENTRE.—Here again we have a very satisfactory increase in the numbers of breast-fed babies attending the Centre. The number of attendances, too, shows an all round increase. This Centre is a very pleasing one to run. The number attending and the enthusiasm shown by the mothers themselves are very satisfying. The premises are roomy and comfortable and are situated very conveniently for the mothers of the wide area which is served.

YNYSDDU CENTRE.—This Centre is open for two hours every Friday morning. The attendance remains very satisfactory. Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Prosser, two ladies of the local Infant Welfare Committee have been faithful in their attendance throughout the year. Their help at the Centre and the financial assistance given by the Local Infant Welfare Committee through these ladies have been much appreciated.

The amount of breast-feeding amongst the infants attending Ynysddu Centre shows a considerable increase, and this Centre has a higher percentage of breast-fed babies than any of the other Centres under my care.

GENERAL.—It is very interesting and gratifying to note that the percentage of breast-fed babies who attended those Centres showed an increase of about 7 per cent. over that of the previous year. It is difficult to account for this, especially as the amount of unemployment was much about the same as that of the year before. It may be due to the fact that in 1927 the mothers were suffering from the after-effects of the coal stoppage of 1926. During the year 1928 much more help was also given to mothers and babies by outside agencies and voluntary funds. Many more expectant mothers, too, received help through the Centres in the form of fresh and dried milks, and this no doubt has been beneficial to the quantity and quality of the breast milk after the birth of the child.

The work of the Centres continues to be mainly preventative, and consequently drugs are not prescribed to any great extent. Much attention is given to proper feeding, which is the basis of health in infants.

On the whole, the amount of milk and milk foods given free was greater than that of any other year, except the year 1926. Towards the end of the year, however, it was found that, along with the decrease in unemployment, there was also a very gradual but steady decrease in the quantity of milk given free.

As far as can be seen the industrial depression has had little effect on the health of the infants attending the Centres, unless it may have been the cause of a slight increase in the number of children suffering from a mild form of rickets. The mothers have certainly showed signs of strain, but it is amazing how soon they recover their health and spirits once the husband starts work again and food is improved and clothes renewed.

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

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

		Newbridge	Pontymoile	Pontnewydd	Pontypool	Panteg	Cwmbran
Breast-fed ...	...	97	47	47	88	56	60
Breast and Bottle ...	...	33	15	18	34	12	33
Cows' Milk ...	...	12	11	12	12	16	11
Dried Milk ...	...	48	11	25	33	16	31
Other Foods ...	...	24	2	6	17	6	8
% Breast-fed ...	...	45.3	54.6	43.5	47.8	52.2	41.9

NEWBRIDGE CENTRE.—This Clinic shows an increase in numbers from 258 to 299, of total attendances from 2,004 to 2,241, and of average attendance from 41.75 to 45.73. The number of breast-fed infants shows a decline from 133 to 97, and the percentage of breast feeding from 65.5 to 45.3. The percentage of partly breast-fed infants increased slightly from 13.3 to 15.8. The amount of free food given at this Centre has increased, and there were 48 infants fed on dried milk, compared with 22 in the previous year.

PANTEG CENTRE.—151 children attended during the year, a decrease in number of 10 from the previous year. The total attendances were slightly higher, and the average attendance 22.28 compared with 21.06 in the previous year.

Of the 106 infants under one year, 56 or, 52.2 per cent. were breast-fed, the percentage for the previous year being 48.6. The area served by this Clinic is populated very largely by steelworkers and railwaymen, and does not feel the industrial depression as acutely as the mining areas. The percentage of children partly breast and partly bottle fed also shows an increase from 8.9 to 11.3.

PONTYMOILE CENTRE.—This Clinic shows a decrease in number from 155 to 128, of total attendances from 1,000 to 865, and of average attendance from 21.28 to 18.40. The percentage of breast feeding has risen from 52.2 to 54.6, and of partly breast and partly bottle-fed from 11.9 to 17.4. This again is an area with a good proportion of steelworkers and railwaymen among the inhabitants.

PONTNEWYDD CENTRE.—The number of children attending this Centre decreased by 20 from the previous year, but they attended more regularly and paid 1,175 re-visits compared with 849 and so raised the average attendance from 21.02 to 25.37.

The percentage of breast-fed infants decreased from 46.1 to 43.5, and of partly breast-fed infants increased from 12.3 to 16.6.

PONTYPOOL CENTRE.—At this Clinic there was an increase of numbers from 244 to 261, of total attendances from 745 to 998, and of average attendance from 18.11 to 23.79. 184 children under one year were seen, of whom 88, or 47.8 per cent., were breast-fed, compared with 49.7 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage of partly breast-fed infants increased from 15 to 18.4.

CWMBRAN CENTRE.—The total number of children attending this Centre was 205, a decline of 4 from the previous year, but re-visits increased from 1,040 to 1,284, raising the average attendance from 23.1 to 28.73; of 143 infants under one year, 60 were breast-fed, a percentage of 41.9 compared with one of 49.3 in the previous year. The percentage of infants partly breast-fed increased correspondingly from 14.3 to 23. There is a uniformly high attendance at this Centre, and a large amount of fresh and dried milk is given.

GENERAL.—It will be noted in the details of infant feeding given for these six Centres that in the two areas in which the mining population is in a minority, *i.e.* Panteg and Pontymoile, the percentage of breast feeding has increased by 3.6 and by 2.4 respectively, but that in the other four Centres it shows a decrease of from 2 to 20 per cent. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that the mothers in many instances are not having enough nourishing food to enable them to breast feed. In each of the six Centres the percentage has increased of children who require artificial food to supplement the breast milk, and in each Centre the percentage of breast feeding is below that for 1925.

The amount of free food given has increased in the four Centres, and to a lesser extent the amount of drugs given has also increased.

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

DETAILS OF INFANT FEEDING.

	Blaina	Nantyglo	Rumney
Breast-fed	43.6%	46.3%	60.5%
Breast and Artificially fed	17.1%	14.8%	7.0%
Artificially fed	39.3%	38.9%	32.5%

BLAINA CENTRE.—The number on the register at the end of the year was 291, and the average attendance at each session was 46.17. This shows a big increase compared with 1927, when the number on the register was 247, and the average attendance was 28.74.

The percentage of breast-fed babies is again very low, viz., 43.6. There has been a big decrease in the number of breast-fed babies in 1927 and 1928, as compared with 1926. There is a slight increase this year as compared with 1927, when the percentage was 42.5. This serious decrease in the amount of breast feeding is largely due to the mothers being unable to get proper nourishment. The majority of the mothers had to be assisted with fresh or dried milk, but in spite of the supply of milk, several mothers were unable to continue breast feeding beyond one or two months. Several of the mothers suffered from anaemia and debility, and could not breast feed beyond one or two months.

Of the breast-fed babies, 4 were not weaned till over 12 months.

97 children over 1 year attended the Centre during the year. This is an increase over previous years. Again the nutrition of the babies up to 12 months was very good on the whole, but several between the ages of 1 and 3 years showed definite signs of malnutrition, and had to be supplied with milk, cod liver oil, etc. 14 children showed mild signs of rickets, 3 of whom were breast-fed till over 12 months. There were 3 cases of severe rickets. These children were supplied with fresh milk and cod liver oil, and showed definite signs of improvement.

Several minor ailments were treated. Drugs prescribed at this Centre are simple tonics and aperients.

Free food had to be supplied to the majority of mothers and babies attending the Centre owing to the widespread unemployment in this district. During the year 36 nursing and 53 expectant mothers attended for advice and treatment. This big increase is largely due to more mothers coming forward for free food.

There are no facilities for ante-natal work.

NANTYGLO CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 227, as compared with 170 the previous year. The average attendance at each Session was 39.04.

The percentage of breast-fed babies was again very low, viz., 46.3, but shows an increase as compared with 1927. Here, as at Blaina, the low percentage of breast feeding is largely due to the mothers getting the wrong kind of food. The majority of the nursing mothers had to be assisted with fresh or dried milk. Of the breast-fed babies, 5 were not weaned until over a year.

Ninety children over a year attended the Centre during the year. There were 2 cases of marked rickets and 8 cases showing mild signs of rickets. Several children between the ages of 1 and 3 years had to be supplied with fresh milk, cod liver oil, etc., on account of malnutrition and rickets.

The chief ailments requiring treatment were those connected with the digestive and respiratory systems. Otorrhoea in young babies has been more prevalent recently.

As few drugs as possible are given at the Centre. The medicines prescribed are mainly simple tonics, aperients, medicines for teething upsets, and ointments for skin diseases.

Free food had to be given in the majority of cases. During the year 37 nursing and 53 expectant mothers attended for advice and treatment. There are no facilities for ante-natal work. Here as at the Blaina Centre the attendance is too large for a satisfactory half-day clinic, but so far, it has been impossible to make it a whole-day Centre.

RUMNEY CENTRE.—This Centre is held fortnightly. The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 88, and the average attendance at each session was 17.4. This shows an increase since the previous year.

The percentage of breast-fed babies is 60.5, practically the same as it was in 1927. The mothers bring their babies very regularly. The majority of the children were healthy and showed no defects. Very few drugs were prescribed. A few children were treated for minor ailments.

Free food was given in a few necessitous cases. Two nursing and 3 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	45%	47.2%	47.4%
Breast and Artificially fed	23%	13.8%	17.1%
Artificially fed ...	32%	38.9%	35.5%

CALDICOT CENTRE.—The attendance at this Centre throughout the year has been satisfactory on the whole. Many of the mothers come from the rural outlying districts and weather conditions have a great deal to do with the regularity of attendance.

The number of infants on the register at the end of the year is approximately the same as the previous year. There is an increase in the number of new cases attending.

Unfortunately there is a slight decrease in the total attendances and in the average attendance at each session.

The percentage of breast-fed babies shows an increase compared with the previous year. The Clinic drains an area largely composed of railwaymen and agricultural labourers who are not affected to any great extent by the present plight of the coal-fields. Hence none of the mothers or babies who attended the Clinic showed evidence of malnutrition, and the majority of the mothers were able to breast-feed their babies, either completely or partially. Those mothers whose breast-milk showed any signs of failing were helped with free milk, etc.

The most common complaints among the babies were bronchial catarrh, gastro-intestinal upset, and eczema, the latter condition occurring irrespective of whether the baby was breast or bottle-fed.

Four cases of mild rickets were seen—two were referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic and attended there regularly for splinting and massage. One case of birth palsy was admitted to the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital.

Forty children under 5 years of age were examined. Their complaints were chiefly bronchial catarrh, threadworms, eczema, and enlarged tonsils and adenoids. The latter cases were referred for operative treatment to the County Tonsils and Adenoids Clinic. Dental appointments were made for several children.

Twenty-five nursing and 18 expectant mothers attended during the year, and received advice and treatment for simple complaints. Dental caries, constipation and debility were the chief ailments.

There are no facilities for ante-natal treatment.

NEWPORT.—This Clinic is held once a month and is attended by mothers and babies from Malpas, the Gaer, and the rural districts around Newport. As a result of the increase in population in these areas, due to the extensive building schemes in Malpas and the Gaer, there has been a gradual increase in the numbers attending the Clinic, till it is felt now that fortnightly meetings should be held to deal with the extra numbers.

During the year the average attendance was 20.29, compared with 13.3 last year. The number of infants on the register is 79 compared with 56—new cases attending are 49 compared with 22, and the total attendances are 284, compared with 120. 24 toddlers attended the Clinic, their chief complaints were enlarged tonsils and adenoids, bronchial catarrh, threadworms, and dental caries. Four were referred to the County Tonsils and Adenoids Clinic for operation.

Of the babies attending, 47.4 per cent. were breast-fed. This shows a slight increase compared with last year. The number of bottle-fed babies shows a marked decrease (35.5 per cent. compared with 50.2 per cent.), but this decrease is compensated for by an increase in the number of breast and artificially fed infants attending. This increase is satisfactory as it indicates a desire on the part of the mother to persevere with breast-feeding.

Of the ailments of the babies bronchial catarrh, teething troubles, umbilical hernia, and constipation formed the chief group. Four babies were referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic, and thereafter attended regularly for splinting and massage, 2 were cases of bowing of the legs due to mild rickets, 1 club foot, and 1 pes varus.

Thirty nursing and eight expectant mothers attended the Clinic and were given advice and simple tonics and aperients if necessary. Several cases of dental caries were referred for dental treatment under the Maternity and Child Welfare scheme.

No cases of definite malnutrition were seen among mothers or babies.

There are at present no facilities for ante-natal work.

CAERLEON.—This Centre is held every alternate Wednesday afternoon. The area served by the Clinic is not a large one and is partly rural and not one which will become more densely populated, so it is not surprising that the figures for the year under review show a decrease all round, compared with those of 1927.

The number of babies on the register at the end of the year is 82 compared with 90 last year. The number of new cases attending during the year is practically the same as in 1927—21 compared with 22. The average attendance at each session is 17.71, compared with 20.27 last year.

The percentage of breast-fed babies shows a slight decrease—due in most cases to the baby being already on artificial food when brought to the Clinic. The mothers, on the whole, are very healthy and require little assistance from the County Council funds, but a few mothers whose husbands are agricultural labourers were helped during the nursing period. No cases of definite malnutrition were seen.

Thirty-seven toddlers attended during the year. Their complaints were chiefly bronchial catarrh, eczema, enlarged tonsils and adenoids, and dental caries. Simple drugs were prescribed, and appointments made for dental treatment and removal of tonsils and adenoids.

Thirty-seven nursing and 32 expectant mothers were seen. The expectant mothers attended chiefly for attention to their general health, the nursing mothers for advice and help to enable them to carry on with breast-feeding.

There are no facilities for ante-natal work.

5.—Dr. ANNIE C. ROBERTS, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

ABERBARGOED CENTRE.—Details of infant feeding:—Breast-fed, 53 per cent.; breast and bottle-fed, 19.5 per cent.; bottle-fed, 27.5 per cent.

The number of infants on the register at the end of 1928 was 330 as compared with 270 in 1927, and the average attendance was 45.7 as compared with 27.8. 160 mothers attended the Clinic, of whom 90 were nursing, 54 expectant, and the remainder were mothers of children over the age of one year.

During 1928 a great deal of free food was given, as the majority of fathers of babies attending the Clinic were on the dole or on half time work. A good deal of milk, both fresh and dried, has been given to children between the ages of one and two years, as malnutrition has been most obvious at this age period. A good many mothers received free food during and after the 6th month of pregnancy, and in the majority of cases the results were good both as regards the condition of the child at birth and the ability of the mother to nurse her child.

The drugs given were practically the same as during 1927. Nearly all the mothers and many of the children suffer from constipation, and laxatives are often asked for. Owing to much damp weather practically every baby attending the Clinic suffered at some period from bronchitis or bronchial catarrh, and a cough mixture was frequently prescribed.

Apart from urine testing, no special ante-natal work was done at the Clinic, and cases requiring measurement were referred to Dr. Scott at Pengam Clinic. One case, a woman who had had three previous difficult labours, all resulting in the death of the child, was sent to Dr. Strachan for examination, and he arranged to have her under his charge for her confinement in February, 1929.

The number of breast-fed babies is again 53 per cent., exactly the same as in 1927. This low figure is due to the fact that many babies have been already weaned before visiting the clinic. As in 1927, a good many younger school children have attended the Clinic in many cases to ask for treatment at one or other of the school clinics. The number of mothers applying for dental treatment is still increasing.

Under-nourishment and anaemia have been noticeable among the nursing mothers who have greatly benefitted by the free milk allowed them.

As in 1927, malnutrition among children has been more apparent in the age period one to two years than in infants under one year, and responds less readily to treatment than in the case of the younger babies. Owing to the free food given at the Clinics infants under one year have suffered very little from the privations experienced in the district.

The most severe case of marasmus was from a good home, and responded well when a suitable food was found for it.

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

	Blackwood	Usk	Oakdale	Crumlin	Rogerstone
	%	%	%	%	%
Breast-fed	58	60	68	68	66
Breast and Artificially fed	12	9	12	4	11
Artificially fed ...	30	34	20	28	23

BLACKWOOD CENTRE.—The average attendance during the year has been very good, 46 per session as compared with 41 for 1927. The number on the register at the end of the year was 290—an increase of 24.

There is an improvement in the number of breast-fed babies, showing an increase of 8%.

Although there are no facilities for ante-natal work at this clinic the number of attendances of expectant mothers was 72, 32 being new cases.

OAKDALE CENTRE.—The number on the Register was 177 as against 166 last year, and the attendance was 27 per session.

The Ante-natal work shows a steady improvement. The total number of attendances was 56, compared to 21 of last year. It was found impossible to cope with the increasing numbers of ante-natal cases in conjunction with the ordinary infant welfare clinic, so the afternoon session is now devoted entirely to these cases. The premises in which the centre is held is used for many functions, social and otherwise, with the result that the cleanliness sometimes leaves much to be desired.

While wishing to thank the Voluntary Helpers for all their interest in the Centre, I would ask their co-operation in keeping it, in view of the ante-natal work, as clean as possible.

ROGERSTONE CENTRE.—The progress of this centre still continues to be most satisfactory. The whole atmosphere of this clinic is pleasing, for there is no suggestion of attending only for what can be got from it free of cost.

The attendance was 33 per session and the number on the Register was 143. The percentage of breast feeding has increased from 52% to 66%.

Expectant mothers are referred to the nearest ante-natal clinic, as it is found impossible to give them adequate attention at the already over-crowded half-day clinic.

CRUMLIN.—There is an all-round improvement in this centre. The number on the register at the end of the year was 195, showing an increase of 23. The average attendance was 28 per session. It is gratifying to note that the percentage of breast-feeding has improved, being now 68%.

The total number of ante-natal cases was 131, as compared to 79 last year. This increase is very encouraging and has warranted the holding of a separate ante-natal clinic once a fortnight, whereby expectant mothers avoid the unpleasant waiting about in crowded rooms. The progress of the patients has been good, but about 10% of cases showed abnormal pregnancies and were referred to Dr. Strachan of Cardiff. This figure seems rather high but when the fact that the local midwives refer unusual cases to the clinic, it is not so significant.

There is no scheme at present for post-natal care, but mothers return to the Clinic about one month after their confinement.

USK.—This centre is still rather small but shows an appreciable increase this year. The average attendance was 11 per session, and the number on the Register was 65 compared to 48 last year. The percentage of breast-fed babies shows a decrease, being only 60%. It is difficult to account for this figure in face of the improvement in other areas. Besides the factor of lack of nourishment due to general low wages, there is the astounding fact that very few families in this area ever drink fresh milk, as it is very difficult to get.

GENERAL.—The attendance at the various centres shows an all round increase. The percentage of breast feeding has also risen as compared to last year, showing a 5% increase over the various centres. That there should be any increase in spite of the general industrial depression indicates the part played by the centres.

Consequently, over all areas, the amount of free food given has almost been double that of previous years.

There has been a marked diminution in the general physical condition of both mothers and the children, but more particularly the mothers. 33% of expectant mothers were found to require extra-nourishment, and 20 % of nursing mothers. 10% of the children showed deficient nutrition, and the figure for rickets has risen from 1.6%, in 1927, to 1.7%, in 1928.

Drugs supplied at the Centres are the same as in previous years, being usually some simple tonics or aperients.

7.—DR. T. M. O'RIORDAN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

METHODS OF FEEDING.

	Abertysswg	Risca
Breast-fed	69%	71%
Breast and Artificially fed	13%	12%
Artificially fed ...	18%	17%

ABERTYSSWG CENTRE.—There is an increase in the number of babies brought to the Centre as compared with 1927. The number of breast-fed babies is only very slightly below that of 1927, namely, 70% in 1927, 69% in 1928.

As there was still much unemployment in the district during the year, free food was given to many mothers for their babies, and to many nursing and expectant mothers.

The most prevalent complaints amongst the children were bronchial catarrh and bronchitis. The number suffering from constipation is also high, but these cases were recorded on the babies' first visits. This complaint is almost unknown amongst the babies who attend regularly.

Three cases were referred to the Tuberculosis Centre. One baby—whose nutrition is much below normal—is at present being treated at the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster, London.

The extremely severe weather experienced this Winter, prevented many expectant and nursing mothers attending the centre regularly.

One mother showed signs and symptoms of the after-effects of Encephalitis Lethargica. She was advised Hospital treatment and was a patient—for a couple of months—at the Cardiff Royal Infirmary.

Only simple drugs—and very few—are used at the Centre. Chiefly aperient and tonic mixture for the mothers, and simple aperients and cough mixtures and simple ointments for the children. The work done is mainly preventive.

RISCA CENTRE.—The average attendance of infants for this year is lower. This decrease is mainly due to the severe weather experienced this winter—the attendance being almost nil during the snow-storms—under ordinary conditions the mothers of this Centre attend very regularly, and are most willing to carry out the advice given.

The percentage of breast-fed babies has increased from 66% in 1927, to 71% in 1928. This is mainly due to the regular attendance of the expectant and nursing mothers.

The total attendance of nursing mothers for 1928 being 149, compared with 115 in 1927.

The total attendance of expectant mothers for 1928 is 108, compared with 52 in 1927.

The general complaints amongst children were Bronchial Catarrh and Constipation. The latter cases were recorded on first visits, but this complaint disappears when the child is fed according to the instructions given.

There are still too many cases of protusion of the Umbilicus. One case of progressive loss of weight was referred to the Royal Gwent Hospital, where it was treated—as an in-patient—for several months.

The most common complaints amongst the mothers were constipation and general debility.

Two cases were referred to the V.D. Clinic; two cases to the Tuberculosis Clinic; and three to the Dental Clinic.

One mother—suffering from albuminuria, during the later months of pregnancy, was referred to the Maternity Hospital, Cardiff, where her baby was born. As the result of this special treatment her confinement was normal.

There are very few drugs used at the Centre—simple tonics and aperients, cough mixtures and simple ointments.

The work done at the Centre is mainly preventative.

GENERAL.—The children from 9 months to 5 years are put on a varied diet, suitable to their age and special needs.

Much thanks and credit, for the successful working of both Centres, are due to the excellent and energetic Nursing Staff. Also the regular attendance of the Voluntary Helpers at the Risca Centre is much appreciated.

Preventative work is the chief feature of the Centres. The majority of the mothers are most willing and careful to carry out the advice given, and continue to bring their babies regularly—every week—to the Centres.

Many school children attend both Centres—especially those who were brought as babies—and have appointments for dental and eye treatment, and for the removal of tonsils and adenoids.

8.—Dr. RALPH WATSON, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

METHODS OF FEEDING OF INFANTS UP TO NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

Breast Fed	54 %	Cow's Milk	9.5%
Breast and Cow's Milk ...	9.5%	Dried Milk	22.5%
Breast and Dried Milk ...	4.5%		

The number of infants on the register for 1928 shows a decrease from that of 1927, there being a drop of about 15 per cent. There has, however, been an increase in the number of new cases.

The total number of visits amount to approximately the same as for 1927, and the average attendance at each Clinic has risen from 34.57 to 34.98.

The attendance of nursing and expectant mothers shows a slight increase on that of 1927. Eight expectant mothers have attended during the year.

Comparing these results with those of 1927, there has been a decrease in the number of breast-fed babies (60%—54%) and an increase in the number fed on dried milk (15%—22.5%).

The diet of older children, from 9 months to 5 years, was suited to their age and individual requirements. Patent foods were also given if necessary; these included:—Roboleine, Virol, Robinson's Groats, and Cod Liver Oil and Malt.

Free food was given in 25 cases to mothers attending the Clinic.

The children's ailments treated were chiefly those affecting the respiratory and alimentary tracts. Also one case of nephritis was seen, two cases of rickets, and one case of talipes valgus.

Among the mothers, anæmia, debility, constipation, and hæmorrhoids were the conditions chiefly noticed.

The drugs prescribed for infants and children were chiefly aperient tablets or mixtures and simple expectorant mixtures. Ointments were prescribed for special skin conditions.

For the mothers, aperients and simple tonics met most needs. Any cases requiring special attention were referred to their own doctors.

There are no facilities for ante-natal work at this Clinic. In future all cases requiring special and thorough examination will be sent to the Ante-Natal Clinic at Crumlin.

The state of nutrition among the mothers and children on the whole is good. There is relatively little unemployment in this area.

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

ABERSYCHAN, GARNDIFFAITH AND PONTNEWYNYDD CENTRES.

DETAILS OF FEEDING OF INFANTS.

	Abersychan	Garndiffaith	Pontnewynydd
	%	%	%
Breast-fed	22.7	20.1	54.1
Dried Milk	52.2	52.2	22.1
Fresh Milk	7.2	5.9	7.7
Breast and Dried Milk ...	18.1	21.6	13.9
Breast and Cow's Milk ...	—	—	2.0

The attendance at all Centres shows an increase on past years, which increase would have been much greater but for measles, chicken pox and mumps being prevalent in the district the greater part of the year.

The work continues to be preventive, and is carried on on the same lines as previous years.

Breast feeding, which is always encouraged, still continues to increase.

There has been an increase in the amount of ante-natal work on former years, but unfortunately, until special arrangements are made for the work, there can be little progress.

Under-nourishment of mothers and infants attending the Centres has not been noticeable during the year. The cases that have been noticed are probably due to the shortage of employment in the coalfields.

Very little food has been given free to the mothers and few drugs are supplied.

I have again to thank the voluntary helpers and Lady Health Visitors for their assistance during the past year..

10.—Dr. W. D. STEEL, Abergavenny.

ABERGAVERNNEY CENTRE.—There was again an increase in the number of infants on the register during the year, 211 as against 172 in 1927. The number of attendances, new cases, has increased from 82 to 93. Re-visits numbered 1,016, making total attendances 1,109.

The average attendance per session was 23.1 as against 17.1 in 1927.

It is again satisfactory to note that the infants attending the Centre are drawn from many sections of the community, manifesting an increased appreciation of the usefulness of the Clinic.

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

The feeding of the infants was by breast or bottle or both.

Breast-fed	...	...	...	84
Bottle-fed	...	...	...	26
Breast and Bottle-fed	...	...	...	7

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

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

The amount of drugs it was found necessary to prescribe during the year was about as usual.

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 mothers seeking advice in this connection was small.

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

11.—Dr. J. REYNOLDS, Medical Officer of Health, Blaenavon Urban District.

BLAENAVON CENTRE.—Number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 354.

179 new babies were brought to the Centre during the year, and 1,458 re-visits paid, making a total of 1,637 attendances.

The average was 34.10 per session.

107 new nursing mothers attended the Centre and 204 re-visits were paid, making a total of 311. 65 new expectant mothers attended the Centre during the year.

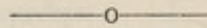
The new babies attending the Centre were fed as follows:—

Breast	...	...	46.5%
Artificial foods	...	...	53.5%

Drugs are prescribed where necessary.

There is no ante-natal work at this Clinic.

The state of nutrition of mothers does not appear to me to have materially altered.



12.—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, 1928, was 304.

The number of new infant cases which attended during the year was 234, number of re-visits 1,761, making the total attendances 1,995.

The average attendance at each session was 41.56.

The number of attendances of nursing mothers was—new cases 34, re-visits 67, total 101.

The number of attendances of expectant mothers was—new cases 10, re-visits 13, total 23.

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

Breast-fed	...	...	184	Breast and bottle-fed	...	6
Cow's milk	...	...	19	Dried milk	...	25
Patent foods	...	...	23	Other foods	...	20

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 available provision made for the examination of obstetric or gynaecological cases here.

I am pleased to say that the whole of the premises in use is now centrally heated.

The number of under-nourished mothers or infants attending the Centre is negligible. Those affected are attributable to shortage of employment in the coalfield area.

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

RHYMNEY CENTRE.—Methods of feeding the children attending the Centre :—

Breast-fed	...	...	87
Partly-breast and artificially	...	...	41
Artificially-fed	...	...	54

Infants.—Number on register at end of year, 260; number of attendances during year, new cases, 144; re-visits, 1,161; total attendances, 1,305; average attendance at each session, 28.37.

Nursing Mothers.—Number of attendances, new cases, 55; re-visits, 62; total attendances, 117.

Expectant Mothers.—Number of attendances, new cases, 51; re-visits, 25; total attendances, 76.

The attendance shows an increase in numbers compared to 1927. The average attendance per session is the same—28.

Free Food was given in 159 cases as against 140 in 1927. This high figure is accounted for by the continued unemployment and distress in the district during the year.

Drugs.—A minimum: grey tablets, Blaud's pills and simple ointments. For prescriptions mothers are referred to their different surgeries.

Ante-natal Attendances.—51 cases. A great increase which is very satisfactory. For further investigation and treatment when necessary, cases are sent to the Rhymney Hospital.

Clothing.—A quantity of useful indoor and outdoor clothing was given to the Centre during January, 1929, for mothers and infants. This clothing was sorted into bundles by the Lady Welfare Workers and distributed to each case on the register.

The free food has been most useful and necessary during the continued distress.

The Infantile Death Rate.—

The rate for 1928 is	98.7	} —both high rates.
1927 is	118.1	
1926 is	79.8	

The general death rate at all ages for these years being good and below that for England and Wales and taking into consideration the care of mothers and infants at this Centre, also the amount of free food given wherever necessary, I attribute the high infantile mortality rate to the high altitude; wet and cold during the winter months, compared to most other areas in the County.

The rises of temperature due to teething and accompanying catarrhs during the first year made bronchitis and broncho pneumonia comparatively common.

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

Our Lady Secretary (Mrs. Hopkins) puts in a lot of invaluable work and attends every session throughout the year.

14.—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	694	320 4028	4348	90.58
LLANHILLETH CENTRE	398	182 2351	2533	51.69
SIX BELLS CENTRE	341	146 2151	2297	48.87

	MOTHERS. EXPECTANT.		NURSING.	
	New Cases.	Re-visits.	New Cases.	Re-visits.
ABERTILLERY CENTRE	...	46 64	57	123
LLANHILLETH CENTRE	...	35 69	67	226.
SIX BELLS CENTRE	...	21 31	40	189

From the above tables will be noticed the number of infants, nursing and expectant mothers who attended the various Clinics during the year, together with the total number of visits paid. It will be seen that the figures keep well up to those of previous years as far as the infants are concerned, and that the number of expectant and nursing mothers seeking advice is increasing.

The above Centres are the busiest in the County.

I have not this year extracted from the various case-books the details of the ailments found in infants and mothers (expectant and nursing), nor have I extracted the various methods adopted by mothers in feeding the children under 9 months of age, the period at which breast-feeding, if adopted, is supposed to cease.

Disorders of the digestive organs in infants are a prominent feature and a great deal of the work of the Clinics revolve round the proper guidance of the mother as regards the child's dieting. There is a great tendency on the part of some nursing mothers to substitute breast-feeding by some form of dried milk on the least semblance of digestive trouble. This tendency has to be constantly combated. Nursing mothers, especially on their first visit, are advised on the proper methods of breast-feeding, and are urged not to give up this natural method of feeding without first of all consulting a medical advisor. In spite of this advice, it often happens that mothers have changed the method of feeding and substituted some other food for the breast-milk on their own accord.

Cow's milk is not yet taken advantage of to the extent it should be.

Pamphlets should be drawn up giving the correct method of feeding and necessary quantities of cow's milk required for babies of various ages.

Diseases of the respiratory system, Bronchitis, and Bronchial Catarrh also loom prominently in Clinic work. This has not to be wondered at, considering the great humidity of the atmosphere in the valley. Only four deaths from pneumonia were recorded in infants under one year of age.

Apart from Whooping Cough, there was practically no epidemic disease amongst young children. No deaths were recorded from any of the infectious diseases in children under one year of age.

Several cases of Rickets were observed, and the necessary corrective treatment prescribed. This disease has increased in recent years.

Congenital Heart Disease is more common than was previously presumed.

In previous reports I have called attention to the frequently unsatisfactory state of the umbilicus and to umbilical hernia, but in the year under review there appeared to be a great improvement in this direction.

The weights of new-born babies in many cases seemed to be less than normal, but by the time the baby reached from 5 months to 7 months old, in most cases normal weight for age was regained. The free milk supplied by the County Council had a most important bearing on remedying this defect.

Free milk is supplied, on application, by the Monmouthshire County Council, according to income scale, except to those on Poor Law Relief.

One death only from Diarrhoea and Enteritis was recorded in a child under one year of age. This disease used to cause a heavy mortality among infants, and was especially prevalent in the summer months. Very few severe cases of this disease are now noticed.

In my opinion the work of the Clinics combined with that of the Health Visitors has been a specially potent factor in controlling this condition.

Great scope exists for ante-natal work, and the time for providing the necessary facilities is long overdue. Many cases have been referred by me to the Ante-Natal Centre at Crumlin.

The number of nursing and expectant mothers attending the Clinics has increased.

The year under review has again been one of considerable distress in the coalfield. Unemployment has been rife in this valley practically since 1921. One colliery at Aberbeeg has been closed down permanently. Three collieries have been idle for the past four and a half years. Another colliery now employs less than half its pre-war complement of men. Many men sought work in collieries outside of the area.

The prolonged period of unemployment has reflected itself especially on the children between two and five years of age and on the younger nursing mothers.

Mental anxiety to make ends meet owing to insufficient income and consequent lack of well-balanced dietary has told its tale on the general physical condition and the nervous system of the mothers. I have enquired carefully into the dietaries of the mothers and find them specially lacking in fresh milk, fresh eggs, butter and meat.

Fresh milk was supplied under the Monmouthshire County Council scheme as was also dried milk of various kinds.

The amount of dental treatment undertaken was as follows:—

Abertillery Centre	...	...	...	1 Infant, 1 Mother.
Llanhilleth Centre	...	...	...	2 Infants, 48 Mothers.
Six Bells Centre	...	...	...	3 Mothers.

Dental treatment should be fostered to a greater extent among nursing and expectant mothers. The condition of the teeth of many mothers demands immediate attention.

You will note the large number of mothers from the Llanhilleth area who have taken advantage of the County Council's scheme of dental treatment.

Excellent results are being obtained by the orthopædic surgeon in the cases referred to him, but I think it is a great pity that the treatment of Hare-lips and Cleft-palates are not still being undertaken under this scheme in view of the satisfactory results obtained in this type of case in previous years.

Five cases were referred to the Consultant Orthopædic Surgeon from Abertillery Centre, 2 from Llanhilleth Centre, and 3 from Six Bells Centre. One case was admitted to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital during the year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Three cases only of a mild nature were notified during the year. These cases recovered without any eye defect resulting.

The County Council supplies the necessary preventive "eye-drops" to Midwives through the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

This disease can, by adopting the proper treatment, be entirely prevented.

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

MONMOUTH CENTRE.—This Centre has had another successful year which the subjoined figures show.

Infants on the register at end of year	...	...	158
No. of attendances during the year—New Cases	...	...	79
Re-Visits	...	...	1774
Total Attendances	...	...	1853
Average Attendance at each Session	...	...	38.60
Nursing Mothers.—No. of Attendances—New Cases	...	...	20
Re-Visits	...	...	20
Total Attendances	...	...	40
Expectant Mothers.—No. of Attendances	...	...	15
Re-Visits	...	...	69
Total Attendances	...	...	84

Of the new infants attending the Centre, 43 passed through the year without requiring any treatment.

The feeding of new infants attending during the year has been in nearly every case from the breast. The mother's milk being later supplemented by cow's milk or dried milk.

This year there has been very little difficulty in feeding, most of the infants have gained weight steadily.

The provision of free food to mothers in poor circumstances has not been excessive. Each case is considered by a strong committee who meet regularly and investigate the claims put in.

Only a few medicines are prescribed for at the Clinic. Mothers and children requiring a course of medicine are referred to their own medical man or to hospital.

The ante-natal work is increasing.

To the general regret of the Committee and myself Nurse Dennis has resigned her post as Health Visitor and Attendant Nurse at the Centre owing to her marriage. She is, however, a resident in the town and has acted as deputy to our secretary on several occasions, thus showing her continued interest in the Centre.

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

CHEPSTOW CENTRE.—The attendances during the year has been well maintained. The total attendances have numbered 2,479, including 73 new cases. The average attendance per session was 50.59. This figure is much the same as in the previous year.

Few children have had any serious ailments. The majority of those attending have suffered from errors of diet, bronchitis and skin diseases. There have been a few cases of Otitis Media, one case of Mongolism, and one case of extreme Rickets. Many of the infants are perfectly healthy, and the mothers attend in order to have them weighed regularly and to obtain supplies of food.

Breast-feeding is always encouraged when possible. When the natural supply is deficient it is supplemented or replaced by artificial foods—some form of dried milk is the form usually adopted, and of the various kinds on the market, Ostermilk and Ambrosia are those generally used.

Free food is given to really necessitous cases, after investigation of the circumstances of each individual case. The amount which has been supplied has increased somewhat owing to prevalence of unemployment. It is only in very exceptional cases that it is supplied after the age of nine months.

Drugs are prescribed when necessary. The majority of those supplied are for bronchial conditions and carminators.

There are no facilities for ante-natal work, but all expectant mothers, especially primiparæ, are advised to consult their medical attendant.

Few cases of under-nourishment of either mothers or infants have occurred.

I should like to express my thanks to the Health Visitors and the voluntary helpers, to both of whom the success of the Centre is largely due.

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	18,106 lbs.
Savory and Moores	150 tins
Lactagol	216 tins
Virol	2,190 lbs.
Virolax	246 jars
Ambrosia	56,240 lbs.
Robinson's Groats	1,008 lbs.
Malt Extracts	1 209 jars
Roboleine	3,261 lbs.
Allenbury's Food	6 tins
Ostelin	1,350 tins
Aberdeen Emulsion	24 bottles

The total cost of the articles was £5,708 0s. 9d.

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 further increased demand for this assistance, and goods to the value of £3,844 1s. 1d. were given for necessitous expectant and nursing mothers and for infants. This amount included £1,097 12s. 3d. paid for fresh milk.

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

1919	£140 15 0	1924	£1,170 3 8
1920	£537 18 11	1925	£1,766 14 0
1921	£5,984 0 0	1926	£2,469 7 6
(Coal Stoppage: Dinners also given).		1927	£2,817 18 4
1922	£2,232 14 3	1928	£3,844 1 1
1923	£1,548 6 7		

The value of the milk given in 1928 was very much more than it was in 1927 and also in 1926, during which year the prolonged stoppage in the coalfield occurred. The explanation is that during 1927 and 1928 the cause of the distress was shortage of employment in the coal areas, which reached its highest point in 1928. The men received unemployment insurance pay and this made them eligible for assistance under the County income test.

In the year of the coalfield stoppage (1926) the majority of the persons affected were in receipt of poor law relief and were consequently ineligible for assistance under the County scheme.

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 1928:—

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
1928	238	4	242	211	—	31	40
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 decreased by eight.

The proportion of trained women to untrained is 211 to 31, whereas 17 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 four illiterate women practising.

The total number of names removed from the Midwives' Roll during 1928 was 14; 11 through removal from County, 2 on account of death, and 1 by reason of retiring from practice.

The Inspectress of Midwives paid 1,397 visits to midwives, and made 978 examinations. In the other cases the midwives were not inspected for the following reasons:—

Not at home	...	...	...	379
Ill	...	...	...	6
Not commenced practising	...	...	...	6
Not working at the time	...	...	...	18
Away nursing private cases	...	...	...	4
Left the County	...	...	...	3
Wishes to resign	...	...	...	3

In 22 instances unsatisfactory conditions were found, viz.:—

Cannot take pulse and temperature	...	...	13
Cannot chart pulse and temperature	...	...	4
Bag of appliances not satisfactory	...	...	4
Case Book not up-to-date	...	...	1

Two 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).

1,748 notifications of sending for medical aid, and 144 cases of still-birth, were received from midwives during the year.

Also 7 notifications of deaths of mothers, 13 notifications of children dying a few hours after birth, 26 notifications of artificial feeding, 9 notifications from midwives who were liable to be a source of infection, and 14 notifications of having laid out a dead body.

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

High temperature	...	...	37
Prolonged and difficult labour	...	...	465
Obstructed labour	...	...	22
Premature birth	...	...	40
Premature labour	...	...	13
Retained placenta	...	...	74
Prolapse of Cord	...	...	3
Prolapse of uterus	...	...	1
Hæmorrhage, ante-partum	...	...	36
Ditto post-partum	...	...	48

Hæmorrhage (not defined) ...	...	26
Ruptured perineum ...	...	208
Contracted pelvis ...	...	14
Abnormal presentation—		
Breech ...	...	39
Face ...	...	9
Hand ...	...	4
Transverse ...	...	5
Vertex ...	...	8
Foot ...	...	7
Miscellaneous ...	...	19
Abortion ...	...	68
Threatened Abortion ...	...	16
Stillbirth ...	...	43
Unsatisfactory condition of mother ...	...	126
Ditto child ...	...	109
Deformity of child ...	...	21
Eye affections ...	...	144
Uterine Inertia ...	...	52
Doctor engaged ...	...	66
Born before arrival ...	...	2
Miscellaneous ...	...	23

Suspension of midwives to prevent the spread of infection was necessary in 15 cases. 9 on account of puerperal fever, 3 small pox, 2 septicæmia, and 1 diphtheria. The sum of £28 was paid by the Council as compensation for loss of cases through such suspension.

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 30 nurses are employed by them. There are in addition 9 nurses on the staff of the Tre-

degar Nurses' Home, and 1 at the Tredegar Maternity Home. The aims of the Association have been fully stated in previous reports.

The Nurses' Home at Tredegar, which is recognised by the Central Midwives' Board as a training centre for midwifery pupils, passed out 4 pupils during the year, all of whom were successful in obtaining the Central Midwives Board Certificate, except one who failed to pass in November, 1928. One pupil was trained who had paid for her training.

Since the establishment of the Training Centre, 16 years ago, 78 pupils have received midwifery training, 74 have passed the C.M.B. examinations, 3 have failed, and 1 refused to sit the examination after being trained.

Seventeen 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 is now 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 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 1928, 67 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 1928 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.	Llanfrechfa Lower.
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. The re-constitution of the Local Committees, necessitated by the changes in the personnel, after the County and District Council Elections in March, 1928, was carried out during the year, and much good work has been done by the Committees. It is regretted that a few of the Committees have not been re-formed, 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 in the homes of this County to demonstrate the information they acquire.

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

1.—PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.—The Joint Scheme of the County Council and Education Committee, whereby beds are reserved at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, London, was in full operation during the year. The reservation of beds has been increased from 12 to 24.

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	...	...	5	Congenital Deformity	...	...	1
Talipes Varus	...	...	4	Pes Cavus	...	...	2
Harelip and cleft palate	...	...	1	Rt. Torticollis	...	...	1
Deformity of feet	...	...	1	Bowed Legs	...	...	3
Paresis	...	...	2	Birth Palsy	...	...	3
Congenital Dislocation of Hip	...	...	3	Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	3
Genu Valgum	...	...	3	Hemiplegia	...	...	2
Infantile Paralysis	...	...	4	Spastic Paraplegia	...	...	1
Congenital Equino Varus	...	...	3				—
Cervical Scoliosis	...	...	1			Total	44
Scoliosis and Pes Cavus	...	...	1				—

His recommendations were as follows :—

For admission to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, Great Portland Street	...	...	...	...	...	5
For admission to the Country Branch of the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, Brockley Hill	...	...	...	...	...	13
To wear splints, or other apparatus	...	...	...	...	...	17
To attend for massage or other treatment at Newport Clinic	...	...	...	...	...	4
To have alterations to boots...	...	...	...	...	...	2
To see X-ray Specialist	...	...	...	...	...	1
Observation	...	...	...	...	...	2

He also made at the Newport Clinic 10 re-examinations of children who had received treatment at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital.

During the year twelve infants were sent to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital or its Country Branch at Stanmore, Middlesex. The defects from which they suffered were as follows :—

Congenital dislocation of hip...	2	Outward Curved tibia	...	1
Severe rickets	...	...	...	1
Talipes varus	...	...	...	1
Birth palsy	...	...	...	1
Rt. Hemiplegia	...	...	...	1

Since the inception of the scheme, 33 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 1928, he examined 179 crippled children—including cases of first diagnosis and re-examinations.

Sixteen infants attended the Clinic for massage and electrical treatment during the year, making 481 attendances.

Six pairs of surgical boots, and 15 splints, three night-shoes, six tin shoes, and other surgical appliances for these crippled children were supplied by the County Council. Alterations to boots were made for nine children. The total cost to the Council in this connection was £39 2s. 2d.

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 6 girls and 2 babies in residence on the 1st April, 1928. During the year which ended on the 31st March, 1929, 15 girls were admitted, and there were 16 births in the Hostel. Fifteen girls and 8 babies were discharged in that period, and 7 babies died. Six girls remained in the Home on the 31st March, 1929. Of the 15 girls admitted to the Home during the year, 10 were from the County of Monmouth, 1 from Newport, 2 from North Wales, 1 from Breconshire, and 1 from Glamorgan.

One of the girls married whilst in the Home, before the birth of the baby, the father of the child, and was later discharged with her baby to her husband's home.

One girl was admitted to the Abergavenny Asylum after the birth of her child, and the baby was admitted to the Workhouse.

Three of the girls went to situations and 10 returned to their homes.

The greater number are now in service or doing day work, and looking after their babies. Five babies returned with their mothers; 1 baby was received into the Edward Nicholl Home at Cardiff.

Total number of inmates during the year : 21 girls, 18 babies.

Generally, the girls are admitted one month before their confinement, and remain for 6 months after the birth of the child. The ideal that the mother and child must not be separated for at least the first 6 months of the infant's life is followed as far as possible.

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. There is real need in the County for a Hostel of this nature. The work at Nantyderry is carried out economically and on practical lines, and the results justify the vast amount of time given to it by the Committee and the Honorary Secretary, Lady Mather Jackson.

In view of the favourable financial circumstances of the Hostel during the year, the Hostel Committee, through Lady Mather Jackson, asked the County Council to reduce their grant for the year by £100.

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 150 cases during the year, involving a payment of £249 12s. 6d. 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 £11 2s. 0d. The figures for the year 1927 were—201 cases, costing £342 13s. 0d. Amount collected from husbands, £23 10s. 0d.

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

Ten cases were examined by Dr. Strachan, and 9 of them were subsequently admitted to the Maternity Hospital of the Royal Infirmary, Cardiff. Nine 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 unsuitable. One woman, suffering from loss of sight after confinement, was seen by an Eye Specialist in consultation with Dr. Strachan.

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	...	...	780
No. of appointments kept	...	...	502
No. of cases given "gas"	...	...	502
No. of permanent teeth extracted	...	...	443
No. of temporary teeth extracted	...	...	282
No. of mothers treated	...	...	441
No. of children treated	...	...	61

This is a section of Maternity and Child Welfare to which perhaps more attention might be paid, although the figures are very satisfactory when regard is had to the amount of time devoted to the duties.

That an expectant mother should have a healthy mouth need not be stressed, but what must be emphasised is the need for the earliest attention to a child's teeth. The general idea is that the age of 5 or 6 is early enough to commence to pay attention to dental hygiene, but a perfect set of teeth can only be surely developed and retained by proper care from the very beginning.

6.—REGISTRATION OF MATERNITY HOMES.—The Midwives and Maternity Homes Act, 1926, was in force until the 30th June, 1928, when it was repealed. The Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927, which embodies the provisions of the previous Act and extends the registration to Nursing Homes, came into operation on the 1st July, 1928.

Six Homes have been registered, one at Tredegar (Maternity and Nursing), one at Nantyerry (Maternity), one at Rumney (Maternity), one at Tre-ap-Gwilym, Cardiff Road, Newport (Maternity), and one at Highfield, Bassaleg (Nursing). No applications for registration were refused. Powers of inspection of the Homes are given to the County Medical Officer.

P.—CONCLUSIONS.

The chief item of interest in this report is the low Infant Mortality Rate for the year. The figure, 72.29 per 1,000 births, is the second lowest on record for the County. It will be better appreciated in comparison with the figures for the years, 1899, 1900 and 1901, when the rates were 173, 149 and 158 respectively.

The figure is particularly gratifying when the depressing industrial conditions of the year are considered. Unemployment in the colliery districts, which had been prevalent since the stoppage of 1926, reached its height towards the end of the year, and the mere fact that the infant mortality was so low gives a splendid return for the comparatively small amount of money which is spent on the Maternity and Child Welfare Service. Had industrial conditions been normal, undoubtedly this mortality rate would have been lower, and perhaps the lowest on record.

From the report of Dr. Pearse, Assistant Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, who paid a visit of inspection to the County recently, it appeared that there was very little evidence of malnutrition amongst the infants attending the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. This is not surprising, as the County scheme for provision of milk for necessitous expectant and nursing mothers, and for infants, is very comprehensive, and is extensively taken advantage of all over the County.

The assistance given by voluntary organisations has proved beneficial, and tribute is particularly merited by the Save the Children Fund, which has helped by the provision of extra nourishment for cases which did not come within the County scheme, by gifts of clothing, by "adoption" of certain infants, which includes the payment of a sum of money per week to the parents towards the maintenance of the babies, and by the magnificent gift of £350 towards the equipment of additional Ante-natal Clinics.

The activities of the Coalfields Distress Funds include help for expectant and nursing mothers by way of a grant for extra nourishment and the provision of maternity bags. The scheme was administered through the County Health Department for a few weeks, pending the formation of Local Committees.

The British Red Cross Society have also been generous contributors to families in need of clothing and the sewing parties of Victoria Road Congregational Church, Newport, through the good offices of Mrs. Barry.

Mention must also be made of the donation which has been made by Dame Lloyd George on behalf of the Jewel Fund, to assist Maternity and Child Welfare in the County.

Perusal of this report will show that there is in the administrative County satisfactory provision for the welfare of the infant, and that when the new Ante-natal Clinics are opened the needs of the expectant mother will be suitably met, but it is being more and more realised that there is another group which should be concentrated upon, viz., the "toddler," from 2 to 5 years of age, who is now missing very largely the necessary medical supervision.

Up to the age of 12 months he is a regular attendant at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre. When he reaches school age he comes under the supervision of the School Medical Service, but the years between are of extreme importance to his well-being, and it will soon be incumbent to devise a scheme to meet his case. He is welcomed at the Centres when he attends.

Attention has been drawn earlier in these pages to the continued high rate of maternal mortality. The death of a woman in childbirth is one of the saddest tragedies, especially in the working-class home. It is hoped that the Ministry of Health Inquiry into the causes of maternal deaths, for which investigations are being made in this County, will be productive of results which will materially lessen the dangers of confinement.

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.