## Report upon maternity and child welfare for the year 1929 / Monmouthshire County Council.

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## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

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

## **REPORT**



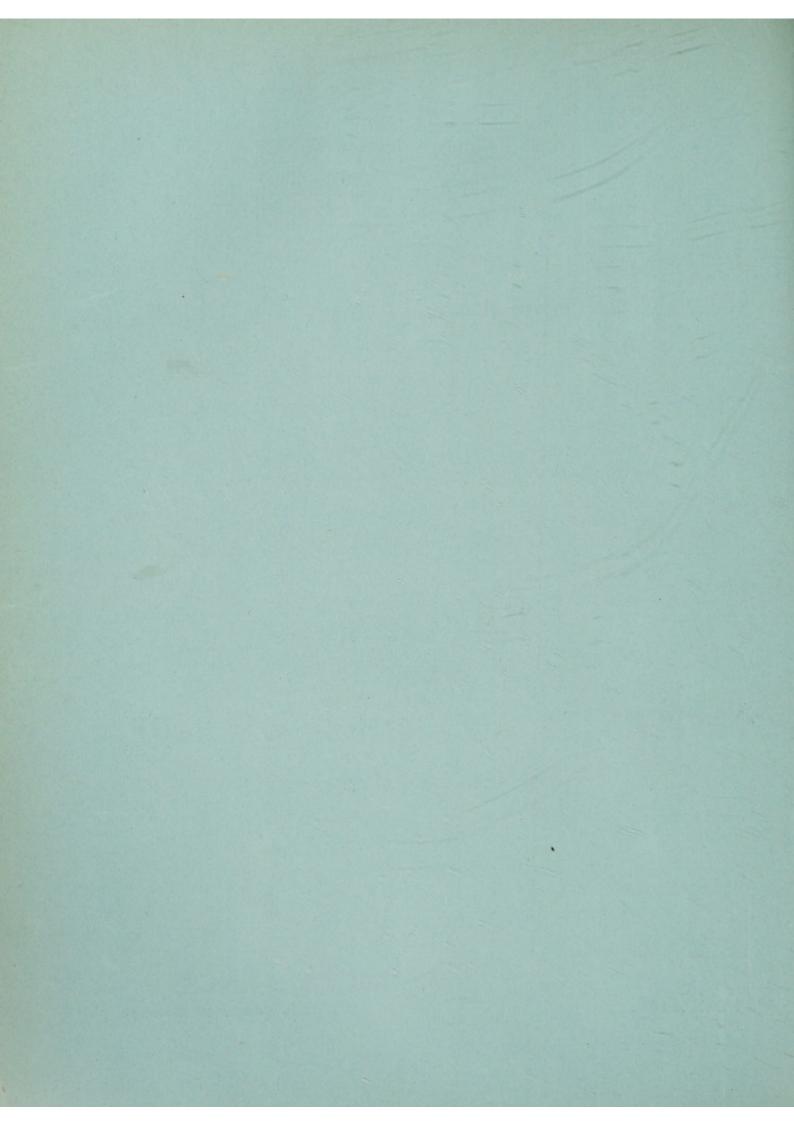
**UPON** 

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

For the Year 1929.

D. ROCYN JONES,
County Medical Officer.

May 8th, 1930.



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## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

COUNTY HALL,

NEWPORT,

8th May, 1930.

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

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Fifteenth 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, 1929, there were notified to this Department, 6,596 births, as follows:—

Department, 0,390 dirths, as follows:—			
	LIVING	STILLBIRTHS	TOTAL
No. officially notified by persons in attendance	6188	324	6512
No. not directly notified to the County Medical Officer, but information received from other sources, viz.,			
District Registrars	72	2	74
Health Visitors	10		10
The figures feer may principle years in property of all the	6270	326	6596

Of the 6,512 notifications to this Department, midwives were responsible for 6,468, registered medical practitioners for 43 notifications and parent for 1 notification. The percentage of births notified by midwives is 99, which is a high figure compared with the percentage for England and Wales.

The number of live births registered with the District Registrars during the year was 6419 of which 96.4 per cent, were notified in compliance with the Notification of Births Acts. Of the remainder, 82 births were subsequently discovered, 72 through the District Registrars, and 10 through the Health Visitors, leaving 2.3 per cent, of the registered births unaccounted for. This is slightly below the figure for 1928, but is still higher than is usual for the 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, and continued to work satisfactorily for nine years suffered a slight check in the year 1929, owing to the refusal of the Ministry of Health to sanction the appointment of Health Visitors who do not hold the Health Visitors Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The qualification recognised by the County Authority is three years' training in an approved Hospital, and in addition the Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board, and when the last advertisement for Health Visitors was issued, no applications were received from Nurses holding the Health Visitors Certificate.

Four Health Visitors holding the 3 years General Hospital training together with the C.M.B. Certificate were appointed by the Council, and as their approval by the Ministry was withheld, they were detailed for School Medical Inspection work.

There are at present 30 permanent Health Visitors on the Staff, and one temporary Health Visitor, the appointment of the latter being necessary owing to the absence of two nurses from duty on sick leave.

Twenty-two of them undertake the joint work, four are on school work, while the two Health Visitors at Abertillery and the two at Ebbw Vale are fully employed on Maternity and Child Welfare work. 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 very little disorganisation of the nursing staff on account of small-pox during the year, and there is an increase of over 10,000 in the number of visits to homes, as compared with the previous year.

The popularity of the health visiting service is steadily increasing and the mothers of to-day fully realise how readily and gladly help and advice is given them by the Health Visitors and how much sympathetic consideration there is in their work.

1.—VISITS PAID.—During the year 47,178 visits were paid to the homes as follows:

New	Cases	Re-visits under	Re-visits	
Babies seen	Fruitless Visits	1 year of age	1 to 5 years	Total Visits.
6,762	1,122	15,930	23,364	47,178

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

- 1928.—First visits, 6,481; Fruitless visits, 1,047; Re-visits under one year, 10,881; Re-visits 1-5 years, 18,066; Total, 36,475.
- 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.

II.—METHODS OF FEEDING.—Of the new cases visited it was found that 5,521 children were being brought up entirely on the breast (81.7 per cent.), whilst 920 were being bottle fed (13.5 per cent.), and 265 were both breast and bottle fed (3.9 per cent.). It was discovered on subsequent visits that in 502 instances (7.4 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 percent ages are of the total cases visited. In 56 cases the child only survived birth by a few hours (.8 per cent.).

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

		1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920
		per cent.								
Breast fed		82.5	84.7	86.2	86.2	82.3	81.8	79.6	78.7	79.3
Bottle fed		12.8	10.26	9.8	9.6	10.1	10.0	11.5	11.8	11.4
Both breast and bottle	fed	3.6	3.9	3.03	3.1	2.5	2.6	3.25	3.7	4.2
Changed from breast bottle feeding wit the first nine mon	hin	6.3	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 .8 per cent. in the number of babies breast fed, as compared with the previous year (1928). There has been a slight downward tendency in the last three years, but the present percentage can be considered a satisfactory one.

The mother's milk is the best and cheapest for the baby, but it is surprising how much persuasion and encouragement are necessary to achieve this ideal with present-day mothers. It is oftentimes difficult for mothers to carry out breast-feeding, but it is generally lack of patience which places so many children on the bottle. Breast-milk is clean and the composition is perfect and every mother should be taught to overcome any difficulties which may arise to prevent its use. When the mother attends the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, the difficulties are usually overcome, for the Clinic Doctor enquires closely into every reason for failure to breast-feed, and in many cases is able to convince the mother that she can by perseverance breast-feed her child. Under nourished mothers are often found to be suffering from digestive troubles and carious teeth, and when these have been attended to breast-feeding can be carried out. Feeding the baby regularly by the clock every three hours or four hours according to age in the day-time and not at all in the night is another important precept taught at the Centres. This, added to regularity in bathing, sleeping and other functions tends to make a happy and contented baby and a happy and contented mother.

The breast-fed child seldom suffers from nutritional disorders or from over-feeding. It resists disease more easily and as proved by statistics, is more likely to survive a serious illness than the bottle-fed baby.

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 319 to new cases, and 265 re-visits, a total of 584 visits. The number of these visits is increasing yearly and will continue to increase as the facilities, for ante-natal care which have been provided in the County become more widely known.

V.—PUERPERAL FEVER.—During the year 1929, notifications of 12 cases of puerperal fever were received under the Public Health (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926, from the District Medical Officers of Health, but in the return of cases of infectious disease made weekly by these Medical Officers of Health to the Registrar General, 20 cases of puerperal fever have been included. An investigation has been made into the discrepancy and it is found that 9 of these cases were puerperal pyrexia and not puerperal fever. The 12 notifications were received from the following districts:—

Abersychan, 2; Abertillery, 1; Bedwellty, 1; Ebbw Vale, 3; Mynyddislwyn, 1; Pontypool, 3; and St. Mellons, 1.

All the cases of puerperal fever and puerperal pyrexia notified were followed up by the County Inspectress of Midwives, and 11 of them were found to have been diagnosed as puerperal fever. In the remaining case the pyrexia had satisfactorily cleared up.

It is difficult to reconcile this figure of 12 cases of puerperal fever with the number of deaths from the disease included in the return furnished by the Registrar-General which is 21. The District Registrars during the year furnished the Department with particulars of all deaths between the ages of 15 and 45 years and of these only 11 were ascertained to be caused by puerperal fever.

For statistical purposes, the number of notifications made under the Puerperal Fever Regulations, and the number of deaths furnished by the Registrar-General have been taken.

The attack rate per 1,000 births in 1929 was 1.86. The attack rate per 1,000 of population equalled .03 and the death rate per 1,000 of population was .058. The death rate per 1,000 births was 3.27.

The following comparative table is submitted:-

Year	No. of Notifications to Local M.O.H.	No. of Notifications received at Central Office.	No. of Deaths Registered	Death rate per 1,000 of popula- tion for County
1929	12	12	21	.058
1928	14	14	15	.04
1927	10	10	8	.02
1926	19	19	8 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

The twelve cases of puerperal fever investigated by the County Midwives Inspectress showed that all cases were attended by registered midwives.

Details of the cases are as follows:—Number of women attended at confinement by midwife alone, 5; by medical practitioner and midwife, 7. In one case attended by the midwife, the medical attendant was called in on the day of delivery whilst in one case, the doctor was summoned on the second day, in one case on the third day, and in two cases on the fourth 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 two of the cases which were notified under the Regulations and followed up by the County Staff.

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.

Twenty-nine cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified in 1929 and all were followed up by the Inspectress of Midwives. Twenty-eight cases cleared up satisfactorily, and one subsequently proved to be puerperal fever.

A scheme for the provision of facilities for diagnosis and treatment of cases 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. Catto, County Bacteriologist, at the County Laboratory, Newport.

VI.—INFANTILE DIARRHŒA.—Eight cases of this disease were discovered during visits to homes, and four re-visits paid, as against 5 and 10 re-visits in the year 1928.

Thirty-six deaths were registered from this disease in children under two years of age, giving a death rate of 5.6 per 1,000 births, as compared with 5.29 for the year 1928.

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 1929 is considerably below that average.

The infective type of the disease is essentially one of the summer months and it varies in intensity according to the type of summer, many more cases occurring in really warm weather. During these months, the mothers attending the County Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are warned of the measures necessary to prevent the disease, and printed instructions to mothers in regard to these diseases are distributed by the Health Visitors at homes when cases are discovered.

VII.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Twenty-seven cases were notified under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, as compared with thirty cases in the year 1928 and thirty-seven in 1927. These cases, together with other cases of evetrouble reported by the Midwives, making a total of 172 cases, were followed up by the Health Visitors, who paid 442 visits to them. In 2 cases there was unsatisfactory conduct on the part of the Midwife, and warning letters were sent by the County Medical Officer. Since the beginning of January, 1921, the Midwives practising within the Administrative County have been supplied with bottles of Collosol Argentum, with which they are instructed to treat the eyes of all children at birth. The supply is renewed upon application to the County Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. It has been proved that this treatment prevents a large number of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum and statistics show that it is now having a good effect, for very rarely has it been found of recent years that blindness has followed upon Ophthalmia Neonatorum in infants.

Of the cases which were investigated during the year 1929, all cases cleared up satisfactorily. It is assumed that about 30 per cent. of all cases which are to be found in the Blind Institutions of England, owe their affliction to Ophthalmia Neonatorum. The County Health Visitors are assiduous in their following up of affected cases. Medical treatment is immediately urged for the slightest case, and frequent visits are paid to see that the mothers are properly attending to the eyes of the infants.

The Health Visitors have reported upon 126 cases as follows:-

## NUMBER OF CASES VISITED.

course sints the prosecution.	Acute	Slight	Total
Brought forward from last year	4	8	12
Both eyes	18 4	55 37	73 41
		100	126
Number of cases which attended hospital	(00000)	AS OF THE REAL PROPERTY.	MIN TO
As out-patients	8 4	e Durinet	8 4
Number of cases in which there was neglect on the part of the midwife	to dinor	the first of	within a
RESULTS: Completely cured	24	91	115
Cases still being followed up at the end of the year	1	9	10
Dead	1	_	1
	26	100	126

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

VIII.—STILLBIRTHS.—324 cases were notified to your Medical Officer, and this number in addition to the 56 infants who were found by the Health Visitors to have survived birth by a few hours, makes a total of 380 young lives lost.

The stillbirths work out at 5.04 per 100 live births, which is an increase of .79 over the figure for 1928 which was 4.25. This is a high figure, particularly 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 prevention of maternal mortality applied equally to the prevention of stillbirth. These measures are now in existence in this County and they are detailed later in this report. It is hoped that when the expectant mothers, for whom they are provided, fully realise the necessity of ante-natal examination and advice and take advantage of the facilities provided, there will be a reduction in the admittedly high number of still-births.

IX.—UNREGISTERED WOMEN ACTING AS MIDWIVES.—The number of confinements attended by an unregistered woman without a doctor was 3, as compared with 8 in 1928 and 5 in 1927.

As stated in last year's report Police Court proceedings were taken against this woman early in the year 1929, and she was fined 20/- on each of the three charges.

She has not taken any cases since the prosecution.

## 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 141 infants died within one week of birth, and 206 died within the first month of birth, whilst 427 died within the first twelve months, which, together with the figures of 324 stillbirths make a total of 751 lives lost to the community.

The infantile mortality rate per 1,000 births is 67.7, which is the second lowest ever recorded for the County, the previous lowest being 66.1 in 1926. Last year it was 72.29; in 1927, 87.3; in 1926, 66.1; in 1925, 83.8; in 1924, 75.6; and in 1923, 73.0.

There were 6,419 births registered during the year, a decrease of 193 when compared with the number for 1928, and the birth rate is 17.8 per 1,000 of population, compared with 18.3 in 1928. In the year 1927 it was 17.5; in 1926, 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 230, which gives a ratio to that of legitimate births as 37.16 to 962.84. Last year the number was 246, equal to 38.64 per 1,000 legitimate births, and for the year 1927 the figure was 38.48.

The number of deaths of illegitimate children under one year of age was 29 or 4.5 per 1,000 of all births, and 126.08 per 1,000 of illegitimate births. Last year the number of deaths was 28, or 4.2 per 1,000 of all births, and 113.8 per 1,000 of illegitimate births.

## C.—VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1929

	The same				BIF	RTHS					DEA	THS							IN	FANTI	LE MO	RTALIT	ry.				
DISTRICT	Esti- mated Popula-	Legit	timate	Blegi	timate	To	tal		Rate per			m. e. c	Rate per1000	Total	Deaths u	nder O	ne Year			Ag	es at De	ath of Ci	hildren u	nder On	e Year.		
	tion	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Grand Total	of popula- tion	Male	Female	Total	of popula- tion	Legiti- mate	Illegiti-	Total	Rate per 1000 births	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under Imouth	13 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total under 1 year
URBAN-		110											100				1 500										
ABERCARN ABERGAVENNY ABERSYCHAN ABERSYCHAN ABERSTLIESY BEDWAS & MACHEN BEDWELLTY BLARKAVON CHEPSTOW CHEPSTOW LLANYBECHPA UPPER LLANYBECHPA UPPER LLANYBECHPA UPPER MONMOUTH MYNYDDISLWYN ANTYGLO & BLAINA PANTSG PONTYPOOL RIYMNEY RISCA TREDBGAR USK	20060 8617 28490 32840 9674 31710 11950 2881 4293 33610 4682 7923 4994 16720 11720 11230 17270 24280 1376	241 57 228 310 95 345 102 12 34 313 40 69 50 167 105 94 69 110 124 219 7	211 57 202 270 77 317 84 12 38 322 29 77 34 152 100 81 172 86 128 6	9 4 10 10 11 14 3 1 3 7 2 2 2 4 1 6 3 4 4 9 4 1	4 5 8 5 1 7 7 3 1 3 1 2 2 3 7 7 7 2 1 5 6 9 9	250 61 238 320 96 359 105 13 37 320 42 71 54 168 111 97 73 114 133 223 8	215 62 210 275 78 324 87 13 41 334 29 70 70 159 107 83 73 91 124 227 6	465 123 448 505 174 683 192 26 78 654 71 150 91 327 218 146 205 450 14	22.1 14.2 15.7 18.1 17.9 21.5 16.0 10.0 18.3 19.4 15.1 18.9 18.2 19.5 14.7 15.3 20.2 18.2 18.2 18.2 18.2	125 56 157 207 61 200 85 9 34 209 32 55 38 93 90 77 35 78 99 145 12	103 65 138 144 53 135 70 14 20 22 37 40 75 73 41 57 41 57 77 77	228 121 205 251 114 335 54 381 54 92 78 168 163 164 76 135 191 272 19	10.8 13.9 10.3 10.6 11.7 10.5 12.9 12.6 11.3 11.5 11.6 15.6 10.4 11.0 13.9 10.5 12.0 11.0 11.2 13.8	31 8 32 39 14 47 11  2 43 2 12 7 24 15 9 7 13 16 25 1	2 2 1 1 2 2 1 1 2 2 1 1	33 8 34 40 14 51 11  3 44 2 25 17 11 8 13 16 27 2	70.9 65.0 75.89 67.2 80.4 74.6 67.2 28.1 93.3 87.9 76.4 77.9 61.1 54.79 63.4 59.9 00.0	10 3 11 20 5 13 4  1 17 1 5 3 6 7 7 8 4 3 5 7	1 1 4 2 2 2 1 	2 2 1 1 1 1	1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	12 4 17 23 8 17 6  2 26 1 1 11 6 4 3 8 9	6 1 4 7 5 2 2 3 3 1 1 1 5 5	6 2 2 2 2 2 2 15 1	5 27 22 1 1 4 6 4 1	4 - 6 99 98 75 4 30 1 93 1 93 1 30 4	33 34 39 14 51 11 2 44 2 12 8 25 19 12 7 13 15 27 2
ABERGAVENNY	9208 8877 6579 6562 5184 16330	62 67 55 47 29 154	56 74 56 47 42 136	5 1 2 3 1 3	3 4 1 5 1 8	67 68 57 50 30 157	59 78 57 52 43 144	126 146 114 102 73 301	13,6 16.4 17.3 15.5 14.1 18.4	47 65 35 38 36 97	41 67 39 40 28 67	88 132 74 78 64 164	9,5 14,8 11,2 11,9 12,3 10,4	8 8 8 8 5	2 2 1	10 10 8 9 5 12	79.3 68.3 70.1 88.2 68.5 39.8	5 1 2 2 1 2	1 1 2	5 1 1 1	ī	8 3 3 3 4	4 3 3 1	ī 	2 2 1	4 0 1	10 12 8 9 5
Grand Totals, 1929	359640	3205	2984	117	113	3322	3097	6419	17.8	2215	1854	4069	11.3	406	- 29	435	67.7	141	30	19	16	206	63	58	48	52	427
Totals for year 1928	361300	3223	3143	126	120	3349	3263	6812	18.3	2178	1778	3954	10.9	450	28	478	72.29	139	39	33	16	227	63	68	58	51	463

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.

.

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

	Present Year	(1928)	bows a slight desire		Present Year	(1928)
URBAN— Usk Llantarnam Monmouth Bedwas and Mac Nantyglo and Bla Mynyddislwyn Abersychan	 142.89 93.3 87.9 80.4 77.7 76.4 75.89	(76.9) (22.7) (121.2) (65.7) (60.4) (68.46)	URBAN— Risca Blaenavon Pontypool Chepstow Llanfrechfa Up Caerleon	  per	59.9 57.29 54.79 38.4 28,1	(65.57) (60.6) (108.5) (64.5) (126.76)
Bedwellty Abercarn Ebbw Vale Abertillery Abergavenny Rhymney Panteg Tredegar	74.6 70.9 67.2 67.2 65.0 63.4 61.1 60.0	(75.0) (55.1) (94.99) (70.8) (39.1) (86.06) (135.59) (52.9)	RURAL— Monmouth Abergavenny Magor Pontypool Chepstow St. Mellons	30	88.2 79.3 70.1 68.5 68.3 39.8	(54.9) (81.08) (81.6) (67.4) (42.4) (60.4)

The Vital Statistics for England and Wales for the year 1929, compiled by the Registrar-General, are as in the subjoined table. The Monmouthshire figures are given for the purpose of comparison.

(6)			e per 1,000 oulation	of		h Rate 1,000	Deaths under		
86	Live Births	Still Births	Live Births	Still Births		ring		00 births	
	1929	1929	(1928)	(1928)	1929	(1928)	1929	(1928)	
ENGLAND & WALES	16.3	.68	(16.7)	(.70)	13.4	(11.7)	74.0	(65.0)	
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	16.6	.69	(16.9)	(.70)	13.7	(11.6)	79.0	(70.0)	
157 Smaller Towns (1921 adjusted populations, 20,000—50,000)	16.0	.71	(16.6)	(.73)	12.3	(10.6)	69.0	(60.0)	
London	15.7	.53	(15.9)	(.53)	13.8	(11.6)	70.0	(67.0)	
MONMOUTHSHIRE	17.8	.99	(18.3)	(.75)	11.3	(10.9)	67.7	(72.29)	

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

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

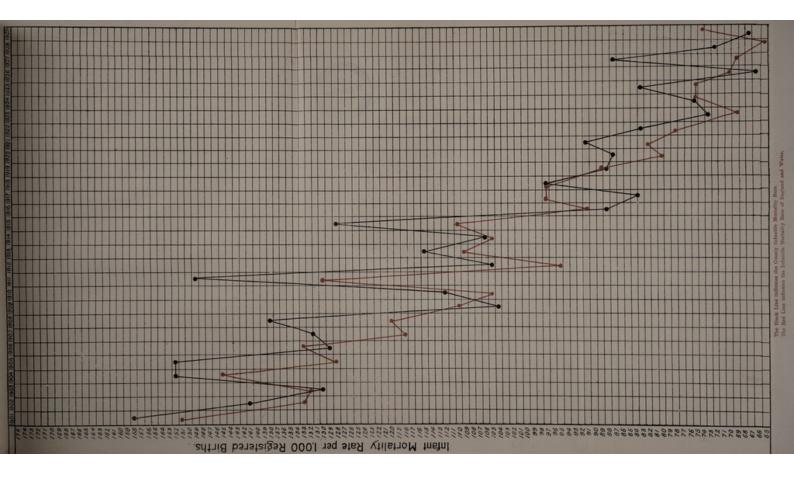
The County Birth Rate shows a slight decrease on last year's figure, which was 18.3 per 1,000 of the population.

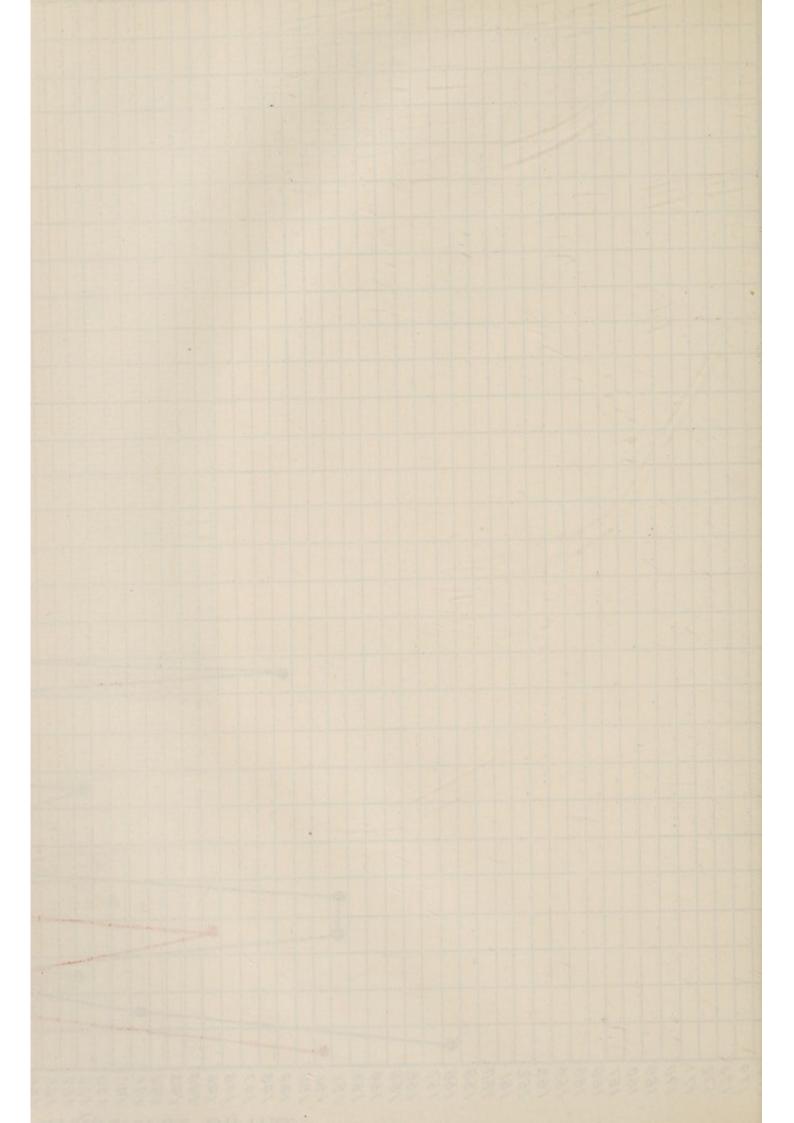
The County Death Rate of 11.3 per 1,000 of population is above the rate for 1928 (10.9), but it is still below that for England and Wales (13.4).

The County Infantile Mortality Rate for the year (67.7) shows a decided decrease on the rate for the previous year, when it was 72.29. It is the second lowest on record for the County, the previous lowest being 66.1 for the year 1926.

CAUSES OF	DEATH UNI	DER ONE YE	CAR OF AGE	ACTESTICAL SHEET
CAUSES.	1929	(1928)	(1927)	(1926)
Small Pox Scarlet Fever Measles Diphtheria Whooping Cough Influenza Meningococcal meningitis Pulmonary Tuberculosis Other Tubercular Diseases Bronchitis Pneumonia (all forms)	435 1 	(478) — (8) — (17) (2) (1) (1) (1) (28) (85)	(570) (2) — (7) — (18) (8) — (2) (4) (47) (105)	(501) — (1) (2) — (16) (5) — (1) (5) (34) (69)
Other Respiratory Diseases Diarrhœa Congenital Debility Violence Other Defined Diseases Causes ill-defined or unknown	4 29 191 6 67	(3) (28) (217) (8) (75) (1)	(39) (252) (5) (81)	(37) (236) (5) (89) (1)

The measures which have proved so satisfactory in lowering the death rate of infants have affected chiefly the infant from one to twelve months of age, and there has been comparatively little change in the proportion of deaths during the first four weeks of life. Nearly half the number of deaths of infants under 12 months of age occur in the first four weeks. It cannot be suggested that any organised form of health work will improve this figure. We can only hope that the development of the ante-natal clinics and of confinement facilities, which will free mothers from the anxieties of unsatisfactory home conditions, will result in a reduced annual mortality rate at this age period and consequently in the infant mortality rate as a whole.





## E.—MATERNAL MORTALITY AND ANTE-NATAL CARE.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—The number of deaths registered during the year from accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition was 48; 21 from puerperal fever, and 27 from other causes associated with childbn th. This is equal to a rate of 7.47 per 1,000 registered births. It is an exceptionally high rate and compares very unfavourably even with the figures for 1928 and 1927 which were 5.59 and 5.6 per 1,000 registered births respectively. The reason for the increase is the large number of deaths from puerperal fever.

The Ministry of Health has appointed a Maternal Mortality Committee to enquire into the causes of death of women in child-birth, and assistance is being rendered in this County. Dr. Mary Scott, the Senior Lady Medical Officer is making enquiries into the causes of all deaths notified, and the reports are forwarded to the Ministry. These enquiries are treated as confidential and no names are mentioned in the reports. The subject of good and safe motherhood has been perhaps the most backward of all forms of medical research and the setting up of this Committee is likely to prove of immense benefit to the mothers of the near future.

Pending the announcement of the findings of this Committee, as much as possible is being done in this County to lessen this mortality. The chief causes are the serious lack of proper care and supervision during pregnancy, of trained nursing and skilled medical attendance during confinement and of general after-care.

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

- (i) Ante-natal supervision.
- (ii) The reference of difficult cases to obstetric specialists.
- (iii) The opening of the "Coldra" as a maternity hospital for complicated midwifery cases and for women whose homes are unsuitable for a confinement.
  - (iv) The promotion of a high standard of practice by midwives.
- (v) The education of public opinion in regard to the matter of maternal mortality.

Progress in this County towards carrying out these suggestions continues.

The three Ante-natal Clinics which have been in existence for some years were supplemented in November, 1929, by eleven additional Clinics. Previously expectant mothers attended the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. The number of women who attended during the year 1929 was 1,230, an increase of 346 upon the number for the year 1928. This increase cannot be fully ascribed to the opening of the new Clinics, as only two sessions were held during the year.

Difficult confinement cases have for some years been referred to 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 1929.

The Maternity Home of the Monmouthshire Nursing Association at Tredegar is available for women whose homes are unsuitable for a confinement and for others who need hospital care.

Facilities for hospital treatment of severe complicated labour cases are still 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.

It is regretted that no progress can be reported with the scheme for equipping and utilising the Lydia Beynon Maternity Hospital. The premises are ready and can be immediately made available to meet all emergencies which are likely to arise at confinements.

The time is now opportune for the completion of the scheme and it is hoped that the Council will, in the coming year see its way to proceed, and so take a further step in the campaign against maternal mortality. No provision within the ambit of the County Council is worthier or more urgent than this. The saving of the lives of the expectant mothers transcends all other obligations and facilities.

ANTE-NATAL CARE.—The wisdom of an ante-natal examination is becoming more and more apparent to the expectant mothers of the County. There are many benefits to be derived from obtaining skilled advice at the earliest moment.

There is firstly the expectant mother's feeling of content that her case is in the hands of a doctor who has made a study of the subject and is only too happy to use her knowledge in the interests of the expectant mother and the expected child.

Secondly, bodily comfort in pregnancy can be assured, for many minor ailments which cause unnecessary suffering can be corrected by simple methods.

Thirdly, there are the danger symptoms which can be detected by a skilled doctor and the necessary steps taken to do everything possible to ensure a satisfactory confinement.

One of the chief causes of the falling birth-rate is that the young women of to-day are inclined to be afraid of the risks of motherhood. They must be taught that with ante-natal care the danger is considerably lessened, and in this direction the knowledge that there is an ante-natal clinic in the district should be of great service.

It will therefore be seen that there is a definite place in the community for ante-natal clinics, where the expectant mother can be assured of receiving sympathy, understanding and consideration, where she will be taught that pregnancy ought to be a time of well-being, and be helped to achieve it. In her own circle a woman will often be told of the troubles that are in front of her. It is the duty of the doctor and the health visitor at the clinic to lighten her lot, and that duty is willingly and conscientiously performed.

# LIST OF ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Average Attendance at each Session	1 -	ITV	21	C1 .	7.3	-	3	1		KA.		8	3.4	œ	60	6	9,0
District served by the Clinic	Abergavenny Urban and Rural Areas Abersychan, Varteg and Garndiffaith		Nantvolo and Blaina	Chepstow Urban and Rural Areas	Llanhilleth, Crumlin, Havodyrynys,	Newbridge, Abercarn and Cwmcarn Ebbw Vale, Beaufort, Victoria, Waunllwyd	Monmouth Urban and	Machen, Rhiwderin, Rogerstone, Bassaleg,	fach, Cross Keys, Risca, Pontnewydd,	Cwmbran, Malpas, Caerleon, Caldicot, Magor Rural Area,	Kumney and St. Mellons Rural	New Tredegar, Cwmsyfiog and	Oakdale, Blackwood and Pontllanfraith	Cefn Forest, Pengam, Maesycwmmer, Bedwas and	Trethomas Pontypool, Pontnew- ynydd, Pontymoile, Panter and	Griffithstown. Rhymney and Abertysswg	Tredegar, Sirhowy, Trevil, Bedwellty Pits, Troedrhiwgwair, Hollybush, Markham
No. of New Cases	12		34	61	74	1	60	1	Vitan			9	45	52	8	6	15
Medical Officer in Charge	Dr. Mary Scott Dr. Mary Scott		Dr Mary Scott	Dr. Mary Scott	Dr. Philomene Whitaker	Dr. Mary Scott	Dr. Mary Scott	Dr. Mary Gordon	Series of the se	THE STATE OF THE S		Dr. Mary Scott	Dr. Philomene Whitaker	Dr. Mary Scott	Dr. Mary Scott	Dr. Mary Scott	Dr. Marv Scott
Date of Opening	1929 Nov., 26th Nov., 6th		Nov	Dec.,	Nov., 1st	Nov., 19th	Dec.,	Dec.,	E I	April April MEL da	INTERIOR AND IN	Nov., 15th	Oct., 28th	Dec.,	Nov., 26th	Dec.,	Nov., 19th
Day and Time of Ante-natal Clinic	4th Tuesday in month, 10.30 a.m. to 12.30p.m. 1st Wed. in month, 2 to 4 p.m.	yet completed.	yet completed.	10.30 a.m. to 12.30p.m. 1st Friday in month,		3rd Tuesday in month, 10.30 a.m. to 12.30p.m.	1st Friday in month,	10 a.m. to 12.30p.m. 1st Monday in month, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.			TO THE PARTY OF	3rd Friday in month, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.		1st Tuesday in month, 2 to 4 p.m.	4th Tuesday in month, 2 to 4 p.m.	1st Tuesday in month, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.	3rd Tuesday in month, 2 to 4 p.m.
Premises Used	Boy Scouts' Rooms, Neville Street Congregational Schoolroom	Arrangements are not	. Arrangements are not Church Institute		Th	James Street Wesleyan Church		School Clinic, Stanley Road, Gold Tops	in the second	H SHOW		Wesleyan Methodist Schoolroom		. The Clinic, Vine House	Pontypool & District Hospital	Dor	Market Street
Clinic	Abersychan	Abertillery	Blaenavon	Chepstow	Crumlin	Ebbw Vale	Monmouth	Newport				New Tredegar	Oakdale	Pengam	Pontypool	Rhymney	Tredegar

## F.-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 42:—

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.—	Dr. A. Roberts
Abercarn		Abercarn and Cwmcarn	English Baptist Church Schoolroom, Abercarn	Oct. 18th	Thursday, 10 a.m.— 12-30 p.m., 2-30— 4-30 p.m.	Dr. E. M. Griffith
Abergavenny		Abergavenny Urban and Rural Districts	Boy Scouts' Rooms, Abergavenny.	April 17th	Tuesday, 2-30—4-30 p.m.	Dr. G. W. Parry
Abersychan		Abersychan	Congregational School- room, Abersychan.	1918 Oct. 29th	Wednesday, 11 a.m.— 1 p.m.	Dr. R.J.S. Verity
Abertillery		Abertillery and Cwmtillery	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	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.— 1 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
Blackwood		Blackwood, Pontllan- fraith and Argoed	Parish Hall, Blackwood	1917 April 20th	Alternate Mondays 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. E. M. Owen
Caerleon		Caerleon and Christ- church	Ty Craig, High Street, Caerleon.	Nov. 21st	Alternate Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
Caldicot		Caldicot, Sudbrook, Portskewett & District	Wesleyan Chapel, Caldicot.	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	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:
Garndiffalth		Varteg, Victoria, Cwm- avon & Garndiffaith	Calvinistic Methodist Schoolroom, Garn- diffaith	Oct. 23rd	Tuesday, 11 a.m.— 1 p.m.	Dr. R.J.S. Verity

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Location of Centre.		District Served	Premises Utilised.	Date of Opening	Day and Hours of Consultations	Medical Officer.
Llanhilleth .	-	Llanhilleth and Aberbeeg	Workmen's Institute, Llanhilleth	1917 Oct. 15th	Monday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith
Malpas		Malpas	The Institute,	1930 Jan. 2nd	Alternate Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon	Dr. Mary Gordon
Monmouth .		Monmouth Urban and Rural Districts	Workingmen's Inst., Monk St., Monmouth	1917 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. E. M. Owen
Newbridge .		Newbridge and Pentwynmawr	Fabernacle Baptist Schoolroom, Newbridge	1917 March 20th	Monday, 10—12 noon, and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. W. Austin
Newport .		Maesglas, Gaer Park, St. Brides, Magor,	School Clinic, Stanley Road, Newport	March 21st	Alternate Wednesdays 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
New Tredegar .		etc. New Tredegar and Cwmsyfiog	Wesleyan Methodist Schoolroom, New Tredegar	March 29th	Monday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. A. Roberts
Oakdale .		Oakdale, Rhiw-syr- dafydd and Mark- ham Village.	Women's Institute, Oakdale	1918 Oct. 25th	Alternate Mondays, 10.30—2.0 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 Maesycwmmer	Vine House, High Street, Pengam	March 12th	Thursday, 10.30—12.30 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, Goytrey,	Tabernacle Schoolroom, Crane Street, Ponty-	May 9th	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. W. Austin
Rhymney .		Coedypaen, Llangibby Rhymney and Rhym- ney Bridge.	pool 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	The second second second	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	Gospel Hall, Rumney	Dec. 5th	Alternate Thursdays, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. E. M. Owen
Six Bells .		Six Bells & Aberbeeg	Methodist Chapel, High St., Six Bells	1920 Sept. 29th	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith
Tredegar .		Tredegar, Sirhowy, Trevil, Troedrhiwg- wair, Bedwellty,	Wesleyan Chapel, Har- court St., Tredegar	1917 Feb. 26th	Tuesday, 11 a.m.— 1 p.m.	Dr. E. T. H. Davies
Trethomas .		Pits, Hollybush Trethomas, Bedwas, and Machen	Baptist Chapel, Trethomas	April 19th	Monday, 10.30—12.30 and 1-30—3-30 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
Upper		Pontnewydd and Croesyceiliog.	Ashley House, Pontnewydd.	1919 June 16th	Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. W. Austin
		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.	March 23rd 1917	Friday, 10—12 noon	Dr. M. Scott
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# G.-DETAILS OF ATTENDANCES AT CENTRES.

		No. of		INFANTS	NTS		NURSING	MOTHERS	EXPECTA	EXPECTANT MOTHERS
CENTRE	MEDICAL OFFICER	Infants on Register at	100	No of	Total No.	Average		No of		No ot
THE REAL PROPERTY.		31st Dec., 1929	attended during year.	Re-visits	of Visits	at each Session	Register	during	Register	Attendances during year
Aberbargoed	A. Roberts	386		2136	2283	47.56	74	279	45	143
Abercarn	E. M.	294	151	2753	2904	61.79	1	S	3	3
Abergavenny	3	226	114	1128	1242	26.42	-	6	4	ro.
Abersychan	R. J.	140	77	230	867	18.06	35	71	3	4
Abertillery	H	657	277	3661	3938	83.79	16	193	91	171
Abertysswg	T. M	111	45	720	765	15.94	25	121	21	106
Beaufort	M.	141	101	780	881	1911	200	19	10	16
Blackwood	Ъ	320	176	1223	1300	60.82	123	222	2.5	110
Blaenavon	I Rev	363	156	1513	1660	36.00	100	2000	25	611
Blaina	-\(\frac{1}{2}\)	267	104	1737	1841	30.02	200	200	77	176
Caerleon	Z	000	30	511	250	21.15	17	200	+1	27
Caldicot	N	153	63	1045	1108	23.57	120	670	0	12
Chenstow	-	300	202	1715	1704	27.27	17	0,0	2	27
Crosskevs	M Sc	116	09	864	900	10.70	20,00	8	10	30
Crumlin	Д	120	140	1163	1303	27.16	200	1771	74	176
Cwm	R	221	151	1452	1603	33 30	27	83	12	35
Cwmbran	M	230	113	1434	1547	32.23	102	143	33	47
Ebbw Vale	(I	336	200	2153	2440	52.20	47	181	100	7
Garndiffaith	. 2	137	09	661	730	15 52	21	35	01	101
Llanhilleth	Dr. T. B. Smith	303	222	2502	27.24	26.75	111	202	9	106
Monmouth	111	160	102	1001	11/2	24.22	210	220	3:	100
Naptuelo	E D	200	1007	1420	1143	22.4.2	17	770	17	1+0
Newbridge	11	200	163	2404	1340	52.21	33	28	\$	181
Newbort	7.1	146	100	2000	7007	27.10	7	60	01	000
New Tradoms	A A	240	122	1125	1050	27.18	0;	130	C.	212
Ostedala	d p	717	271	743	1238	70.07	36	130	33	25
Cardale	1.1	1/1	ti	747	078	31.77	67	200	45	68
Fanteg	3 3	661	4/2	1059	1155	23.60	39	118	4	6
rengam	Z	714	707	2551	2553	52.71	130	335	65	159
Fontnewydd	N. Y.	7/1	8/3	1035	1113	23.68	32	105	13	21
Fontnewynydd	7:	9/7	138	1308	1446	30.12	41	83	30	43
Pontymoile	× ;	146	75	298	942	20.04	36	107	15	21
Fontypool	× i	231	140	1080	1220	25.41	54	105	21	28
Khymney	Z.	262	137	1214	1351	28.74	35	110	48	103
Risca	B. Ow	308	162	2662	2824	58.83	26	66	26	74
Rogerstone .	P. R.	130	56	734	200	30.38	-	31	9	17
Rumney .	E. D.	83	42	427	469	19.54	10	16	13	16
Six Bells	Ţ.	372	220	1897	2117	44.10	99	317	44	111
Tredegar	E.	201	343	2183	2526	53.74	6	49	86	195
Trethomas	M.	336	133	2154	2287	47.64	62	240	31	99
Usk	Ъ.	29	29	209	238	9.49	25	14	3	10
Ynysddu	Dr. M. Scott	251	144	1472	1616	32.98	08	271	20	120
Ser Ser	Total	9004	1.5198	57732	02029	35.21	1610	5127	17/11	2010
San	A 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4		2		00000	17:00	1017	2010	1471	6107

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

Constipation		615	Ulcerated Mouth		4
Debility		331	Influenza		4
Dental Caries		261	Neuralgia		4
Anæmia		201	Worms		4
Deficient Lactation		90	Septic Fingers		
Vomiting of Pregnancy		82	Otitis Media		3
Pyorrhœa		81	Contracted Pelvis		3
Leucorrhœa		72	Englarged Glands		4 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
Varicose Veins		61	Hæmorrhage		3
Bronchial Catarrh		49	Mal Presentation		3
Hæmorrhoids	***	49	Intertrigo	***	3
Skin Diseases		48	Cystocele		3
Menorrhagia		46	Fits		3
		44			2
Bronchitis			Venereal Disease		2
Eye Diseases		44	White Leg		2
Amenorrhœa		43	Diabetes		2
Dyspepsia		43	Pleurisy		2
Cough		38	Menopause		2
Gastritis		37	Asthma		2
Nasal Catarrh	***	37	Hysteria		2
Nephritis		31	Epistaxis		2
Diarrhœa		30	Ovaritis		2
Mastitis		21	Facial Paralysis		1
Sore Nipples		20	Umbilical Hernia		1
Cystitis		18	Backache		1
Uterine Displacements		18	Sciatica		1
Pruritis		16	Pharyngitis		1
Laryngitis		15	Cleft Palate		1
Boils		14	Mentally Deficient		1
Rheumatism		12	Epilepsy		1
Enlarged Thyroid		9	Talipes		1
Abscess	10	9	Subinvolution		1
Heart Disease		8	Excessive Lactation		1
Albuminuria		8	Hæmatemesis		î
Nervous Debility		7	Septic Foot		1
Tuberculosis (All Forms)		6	Trauma		1
Tonsillitis		6	Incontinence		1
Fainting Attacks		6	Miscellaneous		27
Headache		5	Wiscenaneous		21
			T-4-1		2645
Neuritis		5 5	Total		2645
Anorexia		3			-

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

	N. 190 T.		The second of the second of		
Bronchitis and Bronchial Cat	arrh	1097	Enuresis		15
Constipation		786	Hydrocele		15
Skin Diseases		592	Mentally Deficient		13
Nasal Catarrh		362	Chicken Pox		12
Diarrhœa		354	Jaundice		12
Umbilical Hernia		323	Tonsillitis		11
Phimosis		300	Adenoids		9
Debility		280	Tuberculosis (All Forms)		8
Otitic Media		264	Influenza		8
Eve Diseases		256	Hydrocephalus		8
I Imbiliant Destrucion		190	Birth Injuries		8 7
Wanna		180	Chorea		7
Minor Digostivo Troubles		180	Bronchial Pneumonia		6
Cough		173	Anorexia		5
Rickets	•••	155	Prematurity		5
Ctomotitio		146	Ophthalmia Neonatorum		4
Vomiting		133	Mastitis		4
		120	Fractures		
Intertrigo Flatulence		104			2
		103	Meningocele		2
			Measles		3 2 2 2 2 2
Englarged Glands		90	Rheumatism		2
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoid	IS	90	Mumps		1
Whooping Cough		88	Colitis		1
Anæmia		82	Defective Hearing		1
Sores, Boils, etc.		76	Oedema		1
Miscellaneous Orthopædic Case	es	70	Splenomegaly		1
Malnutrition		68	Fibrosis of Lungs		i
Umbilical Discharge		68	Empyema		1
Inguinal Hernia		66	Hyperthyroidism		1
Dental Caries		54	Epilepsy		1
Nævus		39	Deaf and Dumb		1
Marasmus		38	Encephalitis		1
Abscesses		38	Scurvy		1
Earache		37	Nasal Obstruction		1
Strabismus		29	Defective Speech		1
Enlarged Tonsils		27	Polypus		1
Tongue Tie		21	Rheumatic Fever		1
Diarrhœa and Vomiting		21	Fibroma		1
Burns, Scalds, etc		21	Melæna Neonatorum		1
Heart Disease		20	Ganglion	Indiana.	i
Sore Buttocks		20	Mongolianism		1
Gastric Catarrh		20	Miscellaneous		64
Urticaria		19	Miscendicous		- 01
Convulsions	•••	18			7478
Undescended Testicles		16			7470
Ondescended Testicies		10			-

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

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

## FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	Beaufort	Crosskeys	Pengam	Trethomas	Ynysddu
	1 %	%	%	1 %	%
Breast-fed	54.1	60.3	55.4	57.4	63.4
	37.4	32.4	25.7	27.3	24.5
Breast and Artificially fe	ed 8.5	7.3	18.9	15.3	12.1

BEAUFORT CENTRE.—This Centre is open for two hours each week. The total number of babies brought to this Centre during the year 1929, shewed an increase of over a hundred over that of the previous year. This is a very satisfactory increase in a small Centre like Beaufort.

There was a slight decline in the amount of breast feeding at this Centre and a corresponding increase in the amount of purely artificial feeding. The amount of combined breast and artificial feeding remained practically stationary.

CROSSKEYS CENTRE.—This Centre is open for two hours each week but the Medical Officer of the Centre attends only on alternate weeks. There was a slight increase in the total attendances at the Centre during the year, 1929. There have been several interesting orthopædic cases in this district, one in particular of congenital dislocation of one hip which is making good progress after operative treatment at a London Orthopædic Hospital.

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.

There was an increase in the amount of breast feeding in babies attending Crosskeys

Centre.

PENGAM CENTRE.—The Centre is open for one whole day once each week. The attendance of infants at this Centre again shewed a definite increase, the total attendance being over two hundred higher than that of the previous year. This Centre serves a large district and mothers attend from Maesycwmmer and from the outlying districts of Blackwood and Aberbargoed.

Until the last two months of the year, Ante-natal work was carried on here on the same day as the Infant Welfare Centre. This has now been altered and a special day set apart for it, and all our time at the Infant Welfare Centre is now devoted to the babies. The amount of breast feeding shewed a slight decline in babies attending this Centre.

The ladies of the Local Maternity and Child Welfare Committee take a deep interest in the welfare of the mothers and babies of this district. They have been very generous in giving help, in the form of clothing and milk, to cases of distress in the district. TRETHOMAS CENTRE.—This Centre is open for one whole day once a week. The attendance for the year has been well maintained, the average number of infants attending being 52.71 per session.

There was a slight decline in the amount of breast feeding in babies attending the Centre.

One interesting point about Trethomas Centre is the large proportion of mothers attending who make application for and receive operative treatment for tonsils and adenoids in their children—whether this is due to their having observed the beneficial effect of such treatment in others, or, whether it may be due to a large incidence of these abnormalities in this district it is difficult to determine.

YNYSDDU CENTRE.—This Centre is open for one half-day each week but the Medical Officer of the Centre attends only on alternate sessions. There was an increase during the year in the number of infants brought to the Centre. There was a slight decline in the number of babies who were entirely breast-fed.

Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Prosser, two ladies of the Local Infant Welfare Committee have been faithful in their attendance at the Centre throughout the year. Their help at the Centre, and the financial assistance given to special cases by the Local Infant Welfare Committee, through these ladies, have been much appreciated.

GENERAL.—With the exception of one of the above five Centres there was a decrease in the amount of breast feeding. It was only a very slight decrease, but still it shows the tendency of mothers to resort more and more to artificial feeding and this, in spite of the time and energy spent by both doctors and health visitors in advocating breast feeding. At the same time there is no doubt that without this teaching at the Centres the decline in breast feeding would be much more rapid. If a breast-fed baby loses weight one week, if it is cross occasionally, if it is sick, or has any ailment whatever, the mother and her friends at once decide that the breast milk "does not agree" with the child and they turn to such and such a food or milk. It is very difficult to convince them that many times it is the method of feeding and not the food itself that is at faul. Much attention has therefore to be given to the methods of feeding; proper feeding in all infants being the foundation of health. The work at the Centres continues to be mainly preventative and consequently drugs are not prescribed to any great extent.

At Beaufort, Crosskeys and Ynysddu Centres the amount of milk and milk foods given free shewed a slight increase over the previous year.

At Trethomas and Pengam where industrial conditions have improved a little there was a considerable decrease in the quantity of food given free at the Centres.

As in previous years the infants shewed little sign of under-nourishment. The general health of the Mothers seemed to improve also, and one did not find so many cases of tired under-nourished mothers as in the previous year.

Toddlers do not attend these Centres in any considerable numbers. They are usually brought only when they are suffering from some small ailment and not as a matter of course, whether healthy or otherwise, as are the infants. Many of these toddlers who did attend shewed signs of malnutrition and even the apparently healthy ones were under weight. There were also several cases of mild rickets, and in Pengam, Trethomas, and

Ynysddu there was in each, one case of Rickets with gross deformity which will possibly require orthopædic treatment before they are remedied. Whether the malnutrition and mild rickets found in the toddlers who attended the Centres were due to under-nourishment or only to improper feeding it is difficult, without further investigations, to say.

Ante-natal attention and treatment were made available to all the mothers in the latter part of the year. No ante-natal work is done at any of the above Centres, all expectant mothers being referred to the Ante-natal Centres which are now held on a day different from that of the Infant Welfare Centres.

Many of the mothers, both expectant and nursing, have taken advantage of and benefited greatly from the Dental treatment available for them through the Infant Welfare Centres.

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

## Newbridge | Pontymoile | Pontnewydd Pontypool | Panteg Cwmbran Breast-fed 45 91 73 125 42 59 36.2 % Breast-fed ... 52.5 44.1 48.7 51.0 39.4 Breast and Bottle 38 21 25 27 13 47 Cows' Milk 15 17 14 18 11 15 ... Dried Milk 52 16 28 41 18 38 Other Foods 9 2 10 13 10 10

## FEEDING OF INFANTS.

In the above table "breast fed" denotes children who were fed for at least 8 months entirely on the breast, and "breast and bottle fed" includes two groups:—

- (a) Children who were fed on the breast for at least 3 months and subsequently entirely bottle fed, and
- (b) Children who had some breast feeding up to the age of 8 or 9 months but required in addition one or more bottle feeds in the day.

CWMBRAN CENTRE.—239 children attended this Clinic during the year 1929, an increase of 34 over the previous year, and the average attendance at each session rose from 28.7 to 32.2. Of these 239 children, 184 were born during 1929 or were under 1 year on Jan. 1st, 1929, and were fed as follows:—73 on breast only, i.e., 39.4 per cent., 47 or 23 per cent. on breast supplemented by bottle feeds, and the others were entirely on artificial feeding before the age of 3 months. The percentage of breast feeding shews a decrease from 41.9 (1928) to 39.4, while the percentage of partly breast-fed babies remains the same.

The amount of free milk given at the Centre was about the same as in 1928, during the greater part of the year, but decreased somewhat at the end of the year.

56 children over 1 year of age attended this Centre and 3 sets of twins.

NEWBRIDGE CENTRE.—280 children attended this Centre compared with 299 in the previous year, but the number of visits paid increase considerably raising the average attendance per session from 45.7 to 50.08.

Of the 238 infants under one year, 125 were breast fed, 52.5 per cent.; 38 breast and bottle fed, 16 per cent. and the others on artificial foods, chiefly dried milk.

Breast and partly breast feeding both showed an increase, the former from 45.3 per cent. to 52.5 per cent., and the latter from 15.8 per cent. to 16.1 per cent.

The amount of free food given at this Centre increased markedly owing to the closing of two collieries in the district, each for some months.

42 children over 1 year of age attended this Centre and 3 sets of twins.

PANTEG CENTRE.—The number of children who attended this Clinic during the year was 159, 8 more than in the previous year. The average attendance increased from 22.2 to 23.6 at each session.

Of the 115 infants under one year, 59 or 51 per cent, were breast fed, 13 or 11.3 per cent, were fed partly on breast and partly on bottle, 15 on cows' milk, 18 on dried milk and 10 on other artificial foods.

The percentage of breast fed decreased slightly from 52.2 to 51 and the percentage of partly breast-fed remained the same 11.3.

The amount of free milk given at this Centre was very small.

44 children over 1 year old attended this Centre during 1929, and one set of twins.

PONTNEWYDD CENTRE.—174 children attended this Centre during 1929, an increase of 14 over the previous year. The number of re-visits increased from 849 to 1035 raising the average weekly attendance from 19.2 to 23.6.

Of 116 infants under a year old, 42 were breast fed, 36.2 per cent.; 25 on breast and bottle, 21.5 per cent.; and the others on cows' milk, dried milk or other infant foods. The percentage of breast-fed fell from 43.5 to 36.2, and the percentage of partly breast-fed rose from 16.6 to 21.5.

The amount of free food given at this Centre was less than in the previous year.

55 children over 1 year of age attended the centre, and two sets of twins.

PONTYMOILE CENTRE.—The number of children who attended this Centre during 1929 was 146, an increase of 18 over the preceding year. The total attendances rose from 865 to 942, and the average attendance from 18.4 to 20.04. Of the 146 children, 102 were under one year and were fed as follows:—45 on the breast, i.e., 44.1 per cent., 21, or 20.6 per cent. on breast and bottle, and the remainder were wholly bottle fed before the age of 3 months. The breast feeding shows a fall of 10 per cent. compared with 1928, and the partly breast and partly bottle feeding a rise of 3.2 per cent.

There are no local causes to which this fall in breast feeding can be attributed, and the amount of free milk given at the Centre has decreased.

48 children over 1 year of age attended this Centre and one set of twins.

PONTYPOOL CENTRE.—This Clinic showed a decrease of 30 in the number of children who attended, but a big increase in the number of attendances from 851 in 1928 to 1,220 in 1929.

The average attendance rose from 23.7 to 25.4.

Of 187 infants, 91 were breast-fed, a per centage of 48.7, 27 were fed on breast and bottle, i.e., 19 per cent. and the remainder were bottle fed. The percentage of breast fed and of partly breast-fed both showed a small increase, in the former case from 47.8 to 48.7, and in the latter from 18.4 to 19.

The amount of free milk given was more than in the previous year.

59 children over 1 year of age attended the Centre and five sets of twins.

GENERAL.—The percentage of toddlers attending the Welfare Centres varied from 15 (Newbridge) to 32 (Pontnewydd).

These children attend for various minor ailments, e.g., enlarged tonsils, intestinal worms, dental caries, loss of appetite and constipation. Those under-nourished are found mainly between the ages of 18 months and 3 years, the chief cause of this is the small amount of milk given in their diet. This is a common fault and is by no means confined to the cases where lack of money is the determining factor.

If malnutrition is evident and the child is losing weight, milk or ostelin, or both, are given for a time from the Centre. These cases are about 5 per cent. of the total number of toddlers attending.

All expectant mothers are now referred to the special ante-natal clinic held once monthly. If their confinement is expected before the next ante-natal clinic is due they are dealt with at the Infant Welfare Centre.

## 3.—Dr. E. D. Owen, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

## DETAILS OF INFANT FEEDING.

	Blaina	Nantyglo	Rumney
Breast-fed Breast and Artificially fed Artificially fed	48.9% 33.6% 17.5%	53.9% 31.0% 15.1%	64.9% 5.4% 29.7%

BLAINA CENTRE.—The number on the register at the end of the year was 267 and the average attendance at each session was 38.35. This is a decrease from 1928 when the corresponding numbers were 291 and 46.17 respectively, but an increase on 1927 with a register of 247 and an average attendance of 28.74.

The percentage of breast fed babies was 48.9, a marked increase on the 1928 figure of 43.6. More noticeable still is the increase in the percentage of the breast and artificially fed group from 17.1 in 1928 to 33.6. This shows a definite desire on the part of the mothers to breast feed their babies. Most of them were assisted with fresh or dried milk but were unable to continue with the breast feeding. There was a corresponding decrease in the percentage of artificially fed babies from 39.3 in 1928 to 17.5.

Two of the breast-fed babies were not weaned at 14 months.

The number of children over 1 year attending the Clinic was much the same as in 1928 (97 in 1928, 98 in 1929). Many were underweight and under-nourished. These were given milk, cod liver oil, etc., which made a definite improvement in most cases. 6 children showed signs of rickets.

The amount of free food given at the Clinic has decreased owing to a very slight improvement in the industrial condition of the district.

Fewer nursing mothers (21) attended the Clinic than in 1928 (36) but many more expectant mothers, 74; (53 in 1928) came for advice and treatment. Towards the end of the year a special Ante-natal Clinic was established where all expectant mothers were seen.

As in previous years the drugs prescribed were very few-merely simple tonics and aperients, and ointments for skin diseases.

NANTYGLO CENTRE.—The number of children on the register at the end of the year was 209 and the average attendance at each session was 32.21. This shows a slight decline on the 1928 figures of 227 and 39.04.

There was a good increase in the percentage of breast-fed babies—53.9 in comparison with 46.3 in 1928. Also the percentage of breast and artificially fed babies increased from 14.8 in 1928 to 31.0 while that of artificially fed babies decreased correspondingly from 38.9 to 15.1.

One hundred and five children over 1 year of age attended the Centre during the year. There were 12 cases of rickets and many were suffering from malnutrition. These were supplied with fresh milk, cod liver oil, etc.

The commonest ailments met with were alimentary and respiratory, although skin troubles were fairly prevalent. One child with hare lip and Cleft palate was sent to the Babies' Hospital, Vincent Square, London.

There was a decrease in the amount of free food given during the year.

33 nursing and 64 expectant mothers attended the Clinic for advice and treatment. Constipation and debility were the chief complaints. By the end of the year arrangements had been made for expectant mothers to attend special Ante-natal Clinic recently established at Blaina.

RUMNEY CENTRE.—This Clinic is held once a fortnight. The number of children on the register at the end of the year was 83, as against 88 in 1928. This slight decrease was in the number of new cases who attended. The number of re-visits was much greater than the previous year, so that the average attendance rose from 17.4 to 19.5 for each session.

The percentage of breast-fed babies showed an increase from 60.5 in 1928 to 64.9.

Constipation and teething troubles were the chief ailments for which advice and treatment were sought. On the whole the babies were healthy, and very few drugs were prescribed.

Very little free food was given during the year. 10 nursing and 13 expectant mothers attended for advice and treatment.

By the end of the year arrangements had been made for expectant mothers to attend a newly-equipped Ante-Natal Clinic at Newport.

## 4.-Dr. M. GORDON Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

## DETAILS OF FEEDING.

	Caerleon	Caldicot	Newport
Breast-fed	42%	42%	50%
Breast and Artificially fed Artificially fed	12% 46%	12% 46%	5% 45%

CAERLEON CENTRE.—This Centre is held every alternate Wednesday afternoon. The attendance during the year was very satisfactory, and the figures showed an increase all round when compared with those of 1928—99 infants were on the register at the end of the year, as compared with 82 the previous year. 39 new cases attended, and 511 paid revisits, compared with 21 and 372 respectively during 1928. The average attendance was 21.15, as compared with 17.7 the previous year.

As in 1928, there is again a decrease in the number of breast-fed babies, due partly to the fact that in 1929 several delicate babies attended who were already being bottle fed, chiefly on Nestle's milk, when brought to the Clinic. The mothers, on the whole, were very healthy, and required little assistance from the County Council Fund, but a few mothers whose husbands were agricultural labourers were helped during the nursing period. No cases of definite malnutrition were seen.

Forty toddlers attended during the year. Bronchial catarrh, dental caries and blepharitis were the chief complaints. One case of late rickets was seen. Appointments for tonsils and adenoids removal were made for six toddlers and dental appointments for 4. There were no cases of under-nourishment. Less free food was given away this year.

Thirty nursing and twenty-one expectant mothers were seen. The expectant mothers attended chiefly for attention to their general health, but one woman with a contracted pelvis was sent to Dr. Strachan, Consulting Obstetric Surgeon, and had her baby in the Maternity Home, Glossop Terrace. The nursing mothers attended chiefly for advice on breast feeding and constipation. There are no facilities for ante-natal work.

NEWPORT CENTRE.—During the year under review this Clinic, instead of being held once a month, as in the year 1928, was open fortnightly. Mothers and babies from Malpas district and the Gaer attended on alternate sessions. The Scheme worked well but latterly it was felt that a Clinic in premises situated in the Malpas district would serve that area better, leaving the Stanley Road Clinic still available for the Gaer and Maesglas mothers and babies.

During the year the average attendance of babies was 27.18 compared with 20.29 the previous year. The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 146 compared with 79 (1928), and 63 new cases were seen instead of 49 the previous year. The total attendances were 462 as compared with 284 in 1928.

There is a satisfactory increase this year in the number of breast-fed babies. There is no doubt that the milk supplied by the County Council helped greatly towards maintaining the health of the mothers, particularly those in the Gaer district, and so enabled them to carry on with breast feeding longer than they would otherwise have been able to. There was an increase in the amount of free food given away, but this is explained by the large attendance at the Clinic, chiefly from Maesglas area.

Thirty toddlers attended the Centre. None showed evidence of under-nourishment, but four children under two were mal-nourished due to general debility and inability to assimilate proper food. Two of these suffered from recurrent attacks of urticaria. The chief complaints of the toddlers were enlarged tonsils and adenoids, bronchial catarrh, threadworms and dental caries. Five were referred to the County Tonsils and Adenoids Clinic for operation.

Of the ailments of the babies, bronchial catarrh, teething troubles, umbilical hernia and constipation formed the chief group. Two sets of twins attended and did very well. One baby with congenital nystagmus was referred to Dr. Coulter, the Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon

41 nursing and 8 expectant mothers attended and were given advice and simple tonics and aperients if necessary. One expectant mother with a severe degree of varicose veins complicating pregnancy was seen by Dr. Strachan and had her baby in the Maternity Home, Glossop Terrace. None of the mothers who attended suffered from malnutrition.

CALDICOT CENTRE.—This Clinic is held weekly and the attendances throughout the year was very satisfactory in spite of the fact that many mothers have long distances to walk to the Clinic and cannot come in wet weather.

The number of infants on the Register at the end of the year was the same as in 1928, also the same number of new cases attended as in the previous year. The number of re-visits were fewer, so the attendance per session is less than last year.

There is a slight decrease in the percentage of breast-fed babies due largely to the fact that many of the new babies were already on cows' milk or a patent food when brought to the Clinic and it was too late to try breast-feeding. Mothers who were breast-feeding were helped with free milk when necessary. Less free food was given away this year.

The majority of the babies were healthy. The chief complaints were bronchial catarrh, eczema, constipation and umbilical hernia. The prevalence of bronchial catarrh is probably due to the humidity of the atmosphere. One or two of the severe cases of eczema were referred to the Royal Gwent Hospital—it was noteworthy that this year all the cases of eczema occurred in babies fed artificially.

One case of Torticollis (Wry neck) and one of Pes Varus attended the Orthopædic Clinic for advice and thereafter for splinting and massage.

60 toddlers attended. None was mal-nourished. The complaints were chiefly bronchial catarrh, threadworms, impetigo, enlarged tonsils and adenoids, and dental caries. 4 children had tonsils and adenoids removed at the County Clinic.

3 cases of blocked tear-duct were referred to Dr. Coulter, 1 case of persistent otorrhoea was admitted to the Royal Gwent Hospital for in-patient treatment and 1 case of Pituitary Infantilism was sent to Bristol Children's Hospital, Out-Patient Department. 2 cases with roundworms were seen and treated.

30 nursing and 10 expectant mothers were seen and received advice and treatment for simple complaints. 10 mothers received dental attention.

There are no facilities for ante-natal treatment.

5.—Dr. Annie C. Roberts, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

## METHODS OF FEEDING.

ABERBARGOED CENTRE.—Breast-fed 40 per cent., Breast and bottle-fed 27 per cent., Bottle-fed 33 per cent.

NEW TREDEGAR CENTRE.—Breast-fed, 60.5 per cent., Breast and bottle 19.5 per cent., Bottle-fed 20 per cent.

Breast feeding at Aberbargoed has fallen from 53 per cent. to 40 per cent. A great many babies when brought to the clinic at the age of one month, had already been weaned either because the mothers were unable to continue feeding, due to insufficiency of breast milk, or because their own doctors had advised bottle feeding. This year a great many mothers fed their children up to the age of 5 or 6 months and then supplementary feeding had to be advised as the infants were not gaining enough weight. This accounts for the high percentage of breast and bottle feeding.

Breast feeding at New Tredegar has risen to 60.5 per cent. Here the figures given may be slightly high as a number of babies were brought to the Clinic for a month or two and then, possibly because the children were healthy or because the parents left the district, attendance was discontinued, and thus no further record of feeding was obtainable.

The number of children on the register at Aberbargoed for 1929 was 386 as compared with 330 in 1928. The number of new cases was slightly less than in 1928, but on the other hand the number of older children who attended was much higher. The average attendance has risen from 45.6 to 47.5.

Mothers have attended well and expectant mothers have been quite willing to be referred to the ante-natal centre at New Tredegar for further examination.

The numbers at New Tredegar centre have fallen slightly, the number of infants on the register being 249 as against 257 in 1928, and the average attendance was 25.6 as compared with 27. The number of expectant mothers has risen from 21 to 35 and the number of nursing mothers was also high.

At Aberbargoed a good deal of free food was still given, owing to the number of miners still on the dole in 1929; but the amount was not so high as in 1928, the total sum spent in the year being 15 per cent. less than in the previous year.

The amount of free food given at New Tredegar was small and was 10 per cent. less than in 1928.

A good many drugs were used at Aberbargoed, especially remedies for chest trouble, as about seventy children were treated during the year for bronchitis or bronchial catarrh. Drugs used for mothers were those necessary in the treatment of constipation, anæmia and dyspepsia.

Except for general physical examination and urine testing no special ante-natal work was done at Aberbargoed, and cases for pelvic measurements were sent to Pengam. During 1929 two mothers were admitted to hospital in Cardiff under the care of Dr. Strachan and though both labours were complicated, in both cases the result was a live and healthy infant.

No special ante-natal work was done at New Tredegar till the end of the year 1929, when the Centre was then equipped for such work and one day a month fixed for the examinations of cases from Aberbargoed, Cwmsyfiog and New Tredegar.

Aberbargoed.—As in 1928 children under the age of 1 year do not show signs of under-nourishment but a large number between the ages of 1 and 2 years are very much underweight. A large number of mothers suffer from debility and anæmia probably due to under-nourishment.

New Tredegar.—Conditions here are fairly good and only in a few cases do infants show signs of under-nourishment.

A large number of children aged 2-4 years attended Aberbargoed Centre. These were mostly cases which were first brought as infants and have continued their attendance up to school age. About half the number were a little underweight but healthy, and one or two were very much underweight.

Only a few toddlers attended New Tredegar Centre and those on the whole are fairly well nourished.

Malnutrition is noticed mainly in the children between the ages of 1-3 years. Up to 1 year the nutrition is fairly good and over the age of 3 it improves again and children of the age of 4 are all pretty healthy. As regards the low percentage of breast-fed children at Aberbargoed it seems that mothers are too ready to try bottle feeding and most babies are weaned without the mothers having been given instructions to do so.

At least half the mothers attending Aberbargoed Centre suffer from dental caries or pyorrhœa or both, and those who have had extractions done at Pengam have improved greatly in health.

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

#### FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Blackwood	Usk	Oakdale	Crumlin	Rogerstone
THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	%	%	1 %	1 %	9/0
Breast-fed	60	51	71	59	72
Breast and Artificially fed	10	19	11	10	3
Artificially fed	30	30	18	32	25

BLACKWOOD CENTRE.—The average attendance at each session during the year shows a marked increase on last year, being 60.8 as compared with 46 during 1928. The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 320, an increase of 30. The percentage of breast-feeding shows an increase, but the artificial feeding remains the same. Nursing mothers attend regularly, total attendances being 322 of which 123 were new cases.

All ante-natal cases are referred to the ante-natal clinic at Oakdale, but they do not turn up for routine examination as regularly as expected of them. 119 attendances were recorded during the year of which 58 were new cases. This is an improvement on 1928.

USK CENTRE.—The average attendance at this Clinic shows a slight decrease this year, being 9 per session as compared with 11 last year. Although this is a decrease, yet under the circumstances it is a very good attendance, for during October, November and December the district around Usk was flooded and on one occasion all the roads to and from Usk were quite impassable. It is an encouragement to note that the attendance is an improvement on the year 1927.

The percentage of breast-fed babies again shows a decrease, being only 51. This is a very low figure, as there is a tendency among the mothers to put the baby on Nestle's if it does not show immediate signs of improvement at the breast. Every encouragement and advice is given towards breast-feeding and we are hoping for a better result next year. The health visitor in the district is doing splendid work, and persuades the mothers to attend regularly for advice.

The ante-natal work is still very much behind that of other areas. The local farm folk are very slow to fall in with any "change" and consider visits before confinement rather unnecessary. 3 new cases attended, and 7 re-visited.

OAKDALE CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register at the end of the year shows a slight decrease, being 171, but the average attendance per session has improved, 31.7 as compared with 27.0 last year. The percentage of breast feeding has risen to 71.

The possibilities for ante-natal work here have improved tremendously. The Clinic has been equipped with suitable outfit which facilitates the work to a great extent, leading to more accurate diagnosis and minimising the risk of infection. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking the donors for this most acceptable equipment.

The total number of attendances of ante-natal cases during the year was 89, comparing very favourably with 56 for 1928. There is still some difficulty in bringing home to patients the necessity of routine examination, especially urinary. They are often very slack over this point and fail to comply with instructions.

CRUMLIN CENTRE.—The progress of this Clinic continues to be satisfactory. The number on the register shows a decrease, being 129 as compared with 195 last year, but the average attendance is practically the same, 27 as against 28 in 1928.

The proportion of breast-fed babies is not so good as in the previous year, being 10 per cent. lower, the artificial feeding showing a corresponding increase. The mothers seem increasingly unable to cope with the demands made upon them. Some 12 per cent. of mothers attending this clinic show lactational deficiency.

The ante-natal work shows steady progress. 74 new cases attended during the year, and 102 re-visits were made, making a total of 176 as against 131 last year. The patients attend very regularly here, and cases likely to prove abnormal are referred to Dr. Strachan of Cardiff.

Post-natal cases attend for observation as before, i.e., about 1 month after confinement. One case of acute phthisis with pregnancy was referred to the Tuberculosis Physician.

ROGERSTONE CENTRE.—The attendance at this Clinic throughout the year has been satisfactory, but shows a slight decrease. The attendance was 30 per session, 3 less than last year and the number on the register 130 as compared with 143 in 1928. The mothers bring their babies very regularly to the clinic and take a great interest in their progress.

There is not much evidence of malnutrition at this clinic, one or two isolated cases among the mothers, but the children are satisfactorily nourished.

Ante-natal cases are referred to the nearest ante-natal clinic, the total attendances being 17, six being new cases.

The percentage of breast-fed babies is very high here this year. This is encouraging for in previous years this clinic has shown a comparatively low figure for breast feeding.

GENERAL.—The attendance at the above Clinics shows a slight general decrease, with the exception of Blackwood. The percentage of breast-feeding has varied a little over the various areas, but the total figure is about the same.

Drugs supplied are usually some simple tonics, or aperients, ointments and cough mixtures.

In giving any opinion of the under-nourishment of mothers or infants it is difficult to give accurate figures but the following table may be useful. It shows that there is a definite degree of malnutrition noticeable among those attending the centre, especially the mothers and those children between 1 and 3. Mothers don't usually bring their children after  $3-3\frac{1}{2}$  years, and then only by reason of some defect, either of nutrition, or other minor ailments, so it is difficult to form a true estimate of the children in the areas.

Area	Mothers. Number Attending Clinic	Nutrition Below Normal	Lactational Deficiency
Crumlin Usk Oakdale Blackwood	102 16 124 184	5 3 6 4	12 -6 19
Area	"Toddlers" Number Attending Clinic	Nutrition Below Normal	Rickets

There's not much evidence of malnutrition among infants, as they are provided for by the Centres and in the necessitous cases have assisted food supply.

There has been a general increase in the free food given at the various centres, especially fresh milk and such foods as cod liver oil and Roboleine, in an effort to counteract the damage done by lack of proper and adequate nourishment.

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

#### FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Second College	Abertysswg
Breast-fed	60%
Breast and Artificially fed	25%
Artificially fed	25% 15%

ABERTYSSWG CENTRE.—The number of Infants attending this Centre decreased by 10 from the previous year. There is also a decrease in the average attendance at each session, the attendance being 15.94 in 1929, and 20.45 in 1928.

There is a decline in the amount of breast-feeding. The percentage of breast-fed infants decreased from 69 to 60, and of partly breast-fed infants increased from 13 to 25. This increase is satisfactory. It shows the mothers are anxious to persevere with the breast feeding if possible.

The number of artificially fed infants is less this year, being 15 per cent. as compared with 18 per cent, the previous year.

The decrease in the percentage of breast feeding is chiefly due to the mothers being unable to get proper nourishment. These mothers are assisted with fresh or dried milk at the Centre.

There is still much unemployment—or only part-time work—being done in the district. This trade depression naturally affects the health of the mothers. The number of expectant mothers who attended the Centre was excellent. Almost three times as many attended this year as compared with the previous year. The new cases were 21 compared with 8; the re-visits were 85 compared with 28 and the total attendance was 106 compared with 36.

Since the Ante-natal Clinics have been opened all expectant mothers are advised to attend these Centres.

Several mothers were referred to the Tuberculosis Centre and to the Dental Clinic.

Drugs are not prescribed to any great extent at the Centre, only simple aperients, expectorants and oin ments for the babies and simple tonics and aperients for the mothers. The chief feature of the Centre is preventative work.

As a rule the toddlers, *i.e.*, children between 2 and 5 years, do not attend the Centre regularly, as many mothers in this district, send their children to school before the age of 5 years. They only bring these children to the Clinic if they are suffering from some definite complaint.

Two or three children between 2 and 5 years have attended regularly, but these particular children were weakly and their nutrition was definitely below normal. In these cases fresh milk, or cod liver oil and malt or Roboleine was given free.

Free food is given to really necessitous cases, after a thorough investigation of the circumstances of the special case. It is rarely supplied after the age of 12 months.

I wish again to express my thanks to the Health Visitors, to whom the success of the Centre is largely due.

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

CWM INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.—Methods of feeding infants up to 9 months of age:—

Breast and Cows' Milk ... 8.5 per cent. Cows' Milk ... 14.5 per cent.

Breast-fed ... 49 per cent. Dried Milk ... 16 per cent.

Breast and Dried Milk... 12 per cent.

Comparing these figures with those of 1928 there is shown to be a decline in the percentage of infants fed wholly on the breast from 54 to 49, and an increase in the percentage number fed on the breast followed by dried milk.

The number fed on dried milk alone has fallen and there is a proportionate increase of those fed on cows' milk alone.

The diet of children over 9 months was suited to their individual requirements helped when necessary by the addition of cod liver oil and malt, virol, roboleine, etc.

As noticed in previous years the illnesses for which children required treatment were chiefly those affecting the respiratory and alimentary systems. Four cases only of rickets have been seen, and two cases of suspected tuberculosis were referred to the Tuberculosis Officer.

Among the mothers as before, anæmia, debility, dyspepsia, constipation and pyorrhœa were the chief complaints calling for treatment. In addition there was one fairly severe case of diabetes which has recently received hospital treatment.

Since 1928 the number of cases on the register has risen by just over 25 per cent. to 221, and the number of new cases attending by 25 per cent. to 151. There has however been a slight fall in the number of re-visits and the average attendance at each session has fallen from 34.98 to 33.29.

The attendance of nursing and expectant mothers shows a satisfactory rise and twelve expectant mothers attended during the year, each attending on the average for two visits. One would like to see many more expectant mothers attending the Clinic.

Free food was given to 28 cases during the year.

Drugs are not given to any great extent, the chief call being for simple expectorant mixtures and aperient tablets and mixtures for infants and tonics and aperients for the mothers.

Ante-natal work is only carried out to the extent of the giving of advice, the testing of specimens of urine and the diagnosis of the presentation of the fœtus. All abnormal cases and those cases requiring the supply of free milk are referred to the Ante-natal Clinic held at Ebbw Vale.

Under-nourishment in mothers and children was only noticed in about six cases, four of these being children who responded well to treatment.

The attendance of "toddlers" remains very small in spite of the requests of the nurses and myself to the mothers to bring these children for occasional examination.

My thanks are due to the nurses attending the Clinic for their help throughout the year. The increase in the number of new cases attending is due, I am sure to their continued efforts in the district.

9.—Dr. W. B. OWEN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

RISCA MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

Methods of feeding:

Breast Fed ... ... 65 per cent. Artificially Fed ... 21 per cent. Breast and Artificially Fed ... 14 per cent.

Breast feeding is encouraged in practically all cases, but too many cases come to the Clinic for the first time after artificial feeding has been commenced. It is noticeable that first babies are very successfully breast-fed, whereas mothers with families are not so successful in feeding their infants.

The chief ailments amongst the babies were bronchitis, constipation, umbilical conditions and skin conditions.

The number of "toddlers" attending the Clinic is small, but an improvement in this direction is noticeable.

Malnutrition is seen in some of these cases, lack of nourishment is sometimes the cause, but such conditions as enlarged tonsils, worms, dental caries and debility following whooping cough are found. There are two common contributory causes of the lack of progress in "toddlers" viz.: insufficient milk in the diet and insufficient rest.

Nursing Mothers.—All mothers who attended with their children were questioned concerning their health, marked ailments only being entered on the register. Such complaints as constipation, dental caries and debility were common. Many availed themselves of the opportunity for dental treatment.

Expectant Mothers.—The number attending was disappointingly small. When possible ante-natal examinations were performed and urine testing carried out. Two were referred to the Obstetric Specialist. Both were admitted to the Cardiff Royal Infirmary, and were successfully treated.

Free foods to the value of £60 were supplied during the year, a decrease of £8 as compared with 1928.

Drugs prescribed were as in previous years, chiefly aperients, cough mixtures and ointments.

Voluntary helpers continue to render valuable service, while much credit is due to the nursing staff for their splendid enthusiasm and interest.

10.—Dr. GUY W. PARRY, Abergavenny.

ABERGAVENNY CENTRE, 1929.—This Centre, open on market day each week, is used by mothers and children from the town and surrounding country.

A total of 1,242 attendances were made during the year, and there were 114 new cases, the average per session being 26.42. The idea that the Clinic only existed for the supply of free and cheap food has been discouraged, so that practically all attending are seen and advised.

The chief complaints were pulmonary and gastro-intestinal, and the drugs chiefly used were cough mixtures. Most of the gastro-intestinal complaints clear up with judicious feeding. In addition to these complaints were cases of conjunctivitis, otorrhœa (fairly numerous), impetigo and scabies, hernias (chiefly umbilical, with a few inguinal) and minor degrees of deformity. The cases of gross deformity and the severe eye cases have been reported to the County Medical Officer, and promptly dealt with by him.

The methods of feeding were:—Breast, 70 per cent.; breast and bottle, 15 per cent. dried milk, 10 per cent.; cows' milk, 5 per cent. The number receiving free food was 4, 2 from the local committee and 2 from the County Council.

Many children between the ages of 2 and 5 are seen and only a few are undernourished. The majority look well and are seen often for skin affections. Many infants who are under-nourished improve with more judicious feeding and mothers certainly do their best.

I should like to express my thanks to the Local Committee for much help and to the Sister-in-Charge for the keenness and energy with which she keeps in touch with the cases. Their efforts have resulted in better and more intelligent attendance, so much so that the premises are now becoming rather cramped.

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

#### ABERSYCHAN CENTRE.

#### Methods of Feeding.

Dried Milk	 	 80
Breast-fed	 	 52
Cows' Milk	 	 7

There was an increase in the number of children who attended during the past year. The mothers attended regularly. Very little food was given free; most mothers being able to pay for a portion. There was no increase on last year's figures. Very few drugs were prescribed. Very little ante-natal work was done, there being no facilities. No case of under-nourishmeent of mothers attending the Centre was noticed. Twenty "toddlers" attended the Clinic; none was found to be underfed.

#### GARNDIFFAITH CENTRE.

### Methods of Feeding.

Breast-fed	 	 50
Dried Milk	 	 62
Cows' Milk	 	 15

The attendance increased upon last year, the mothers attended regularly as requested. Very little food has been given free at the Centre. Few drugs were prescribed, chiefly for minor ailments. No facilities exist for ante-natal work. There were no cases of undernourishment in mothers or infants. Fifteen "toddlers," i.e., 2 to 5 years of age, attended the Clinic, none of whom was under-nourished.

#### PONTNEWYNYDD.

#### Methods of Feeding.

Breast-fed		 	132
Breast and Dried	Milk	 	35
Dried Milk		 	79
Patent Foods		 	3
Cows' Milk .		 	13

There was an increased attendance at the Centre; all mothers attended very regularly. Very little food was given free, and there was no increase on last year's figures. Not many drugs were prescribed. No facilities existed for ante-natal work. No case of undernourishment was observed in mothers or infants during the year. Thirty "toddlers" attended the Centre, and of this number seven were somewhat poorly nourished, and received treatment.

GENERAL.—The work at these Centres was conducted on the same lines as in previous years. The attendance shows an increase at all Centres. The majority of the children were healthy and showed no defects. The chief ailments that required treatment were those connected with the respiratory and digestive systems, skin troubles too, may be included, these received treatment and benefited.

Breast-fed babies still continue to shew an increase. There have been some cases when it has been found necessary to combine breast with artificial feeds, the mothers being unable to breast-feed entirely; in such cases one or perhaps two feeds of dried milk have been given per day.

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

## 12.-Dr. J. REYNOLDS, Medical Officer of Health, Blaenavon Urban District.

BLAENAVON CENTRE.—The number of infants on the register at the end of the year was 363. 156 new babies were brought to the Centre during the year and 1,513 re-visits paid; making a total of 1,699 attendances.

The average attendance was 36.02 per session.

Of nursing mothers 87 new cases attended the Centre and 121 re-visits paid, making a total of 208.

52 expectant mothers attended during the year and received advice, 16 re-visits were paid, total attendance 68.

Babies attending the Centre were fed as follows:-

Breast-fed	 	 87
Cows' Milk	 	 2
Dried Milk	 Messell .	 70
Patent Foods	 	 3
Other Foods	 	 25

The average attendance at the Clinic has increased from 34.1 in 1928 to 36.02 for the year under review.

Drugs are prescribed when necessary.

There is no Ante-natal work at this Centre.

There is evidence of some mothers and children being under-nourished.

About 50 per cent. of the children who attended ranged between 2 and 5 years.

## 13.—Dr. F. M. FONSECA, Medical Officer of Health, Ebbw Vale Urban District.

#### EBBW VALE CENTRE.

#### ·INFANTS.

Number of Infants on Regis	ster at 31st De	cember, 1929			366
Number of New Cases which	attended duri	ng the year			296
Number of Re-visits				10.000	2153
Total attendances					2449
Average attendance at each	Session		Na		52.10
NURSING MOTHERS.		EXPECTAN	NT MOTH	ERS.	
Number of attendances—New	w Cases 47	Number of a	ttendances-	-New Ca	ases 18
Re-	visits 53			Re-visit	s 23
Total attendances	100	Total attend	lances		41

#### FOODS.

Breast-fed	 262	Patent Foods	 9
Breast and Bottle	 24	Other Foods	 28
Cows' Milk	 16	Varied Diet	 7
Dried Milk	 35		

There has been an advance in the attendance during the year.

Free food is only supplied at the public expense after strict enquiry of the actual necessities of the cases. There has been an increase, due to unemployment.

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.

The Ante-natal Clinic which has recently been established is, as far as I can gather, making progress, and I am inclined to believe that in time this Clinic will be popular and the services rendered here much sought after.

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.

Very few "toddlers" between the ages of 2 and 5 years of age attend the Centre, and up to the present, none of these has shown any evidence of being under-nourished.

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

Methods of feeding infants:-

Breast	 212	Breast and other	Milks	 11
Dried Milks	 72	Breast and Cows'	Milk	 19
Breast and Dried Milks	 32	Other Milks		 39
Cows' Milk	 27			

INFANTS.	1929	1928
No. on Register	262	260
No. attendances-New Cases	144	137
Re-visits	1214	1161
	-	-
Total	1351	1305
Average at each session	28 74	28 37

It will be noted that the figures for the two years are very similar, a slight increase 1929.

ERS.	1929	1928
	35	55
	75	62
	110	117
		35

Note a decrease in new cases, but the number of births in 1929 were less.

EXPECTANT MO	THERS.	1929	1928
New Cases		48	51
Re-visits		55	25
Total attendances	•••	103	76

For the year 1930 there is a separate special clinic for expectant mothers held once a month at the same Centre.

From the figures given it will be noted that the attendances during 1929 were about the same as 1928.

Free Food.—Owing to the unemployment and distress still prevailing in the district, the amount of free food given has remained the same as in 1927 and 1928. The number of applications were decreasing at the end of 1929 owing to an improvement in employment.

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

Ante-natal work.—Attendances have improved slightly for 1929.

Under-nourishment of Mothers and Infants.—Where this was evident or suspected, the deserving cases were granted free food after investigation.

"Toddlers."—Some, but not many attended. Where indicated, patent foods were given free, or emulsion prescribed and dispensed at the surgery.

The free food distributed was necessary during the continued distress.

The Infantile Death Rate of 63.4 per 1,000 births was the most satisfactory annual rate for this district on record. The figures for the three previous years are given for comparison.

1926		79.8	1928	98.7
1927	444	118.1		

63.4 is a lower rate than that for England and Wales and also that for Monmouthshire for 1929.

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.

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

		Average			
	No. on Register	No. of a	ttendances	Total	Attendance
	at end of year.	New Cases.	Re-visits.	attendances.	per session
ABERTILLERY CENTRE	657	277	3661	3938	83.79
LLANHILLETH CENTRE	393	222	2502	2724	56.75
SIX BELLS CENTRE	372	220	1897	2117	44.10

1	EXPECTANT	MOTHERS		NURSING	MOTHER	ERS.
	New Cases.	Re-visits.	Total.	New Cases.	Re-visits.	Total
ABERTILLERY CENTRE	91	80	171	91	102	193
LLANHILLETH CENTRE	60	126	186	77	316	393
SIX BELLS CENTRE	44	67	111	60	251	317

The above table shows that the number of Infants who are brought to the Clinic keeps well up to the number of previous years in spite of the fact that the number born shows considerable falling off.

The number of visits paid by expectant and nursing mothers has considerably increased, in most cases the figures are almost double those of previous years. This alone shows the great demand for the establishment in the district of greater facilities for giving advice to expectant and nursing mothers.

Many mothers cannot continue the breast-feeding of their babies up to the full period of nine months, as their breast milk seems to fall off in quantity or disappear altogether sometime after the second month.

Cows' milk is not yet taken advantage of to the extent it should be. Most use is made of the various forms of dried milk as a substitute for breast feeding.

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

Diseases of the respiratory and digestive systems loom prominently in Clinic work.

Only three deaths were recorded in Infants under one year of age from pneumonia, and no deaths occurred from whooping cough and measles.

No deaths were recorded from diarrhœa and enteritis and this is a most important fact. The work done at the Clinics in my opinion has helped greatly to bring this about.

Umbilical hernia is not now so often met with.

The weights of many new-born babies seem still to be under the average weight for age, but most of those babies gain rapidly in weight and by the time 7 months is reached, normal weight for age is gained.

The free milk supplied has a most important bearing in remedying this defect.

The milk is supplied on application to the Monmouthshire County Council according to income scale.

Number of cases referred for dental trea	atment.	Infants	Mothers
Abertillery Infant Welfare Centre		 3	2
Llanhilleth Infant Welfare Centre		 5	64
Six Bells Infant Welfare Centre		 —	2

Greater advantage is now being taken of the facilities provided by the Monmouthshire County Council for dental treatment. You will note that 64 mothers from Llanhilleth area received dental treatment. There is great scope for further dental treatment amongst expectant and nursing mothers.

Number and type of	Orthopædic Cases.	Referred to Consultant Surgeon.	Examined by Consultant Surgeon.
Abertillery I.W.C	-Deformed Feet	. 1	_
	Talipes Valgus left	. 1	
	Atrophy of Muscles	1	The Paris of the P
	Club Feet	. 1 3 3 3 3 3 3	1
	Infantile Paralysis	. 1	1
	Rickets	. 2	NO. ST. OF MARKET
Llanhilleth I.W.C	-Talipes Varus	. 2	1
	Atrophy of Muscles	2	1
	Torticollis	. 1	1

Six Bells I.W.C.-Nil.

The above table shows the number of cases referred to the Orthopædic Surgeon, Mr. A. Rocyn Jones, F.R.C.S.

Excellent work is being done in this direction as the cases are got early in life.

The number of Ante-natal cases from the Abertillery Urban District seen at Crumlin Clinic during the year 1929 was 24.

Further Ante-natal Centres will be established when the necessary premises can be obtained.

"Toddlers" (2 to 5 years of age).—The attendance of "toddlers" at the various centres is small in proportion to the total number. The attendance of infants up to 2 years of age is excellent, but after this age, unless there is some special reason for their attendance, the mothers do not seem to bring them. The group (2-5 years) of age as far as public work is concerned is a lost group, and under an extended system much more could be done for this group of children than is being done at present. The child between 2-5 years of age is a totally different proposition to the infant and special clinics should be established to deal with it. The great majority in this group were healthy children but there was a proportion rather difficult to estimate who could do with special treatment and nourishment—not milk alone.

In previous reports I have referred to the under-nourishment of mothers and those same remarks hold even now.

Infants are well catered for at the various Centres as far as nourishment is concerned.

## 16.—Dr. E. T. H. DAVIES, Medical Officer of Health, Tredegar Urban District.

TREDEGAR CENTRE.—Details of Feeding.

Breast-fed	 	166	Other Milks	33
Dried Milks		117	Patent Food	2
Cows' Milk	 	15	Ordinary diet (over 12 months)	9

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

#### CHEPSTOW, CENTRE.

Work at the Centre has progressed satisfactorily during the year under review, and there were 226 infants on the Register at the end of the year. 79 new cases attended during the year and the total number of attendances was 1794. The average attendance was 37.37 per session. These figures are slightly less than in the previous years, and can be partly accounted for by a decrease in the population and a diminished birth-rate. As a contributory cause, the fact that the regulations as to the distribution of free food have been stringently enforced, may be partly responsible.

In every case, whenever at all possible, breast-feeding is advocated, but when nature's method fails, recourse is made to "artificial" methods. Usually a dried milk is used and in some cases citrated cows' milk.

The ailments for which advice is sought are rarely serious in nature. Such cases are referred to their own medical attendant. The commonest complaints are bronchial catarrh, gastritis, gastro-enteritis and other disorders of digestion, skin diseases, otitis media, umbilical protrusion, phimosis and an occasional case of hernia. In the vast majority of cases of phimosis the condition is relieved by stretching the prepuce; only in rare instances is circumcision necessary.

There were 97 attendances of nursing mothers. The principal ailments for which treatment was necessary were deficient lactation, anæmia and constipation.

The distribution of free foods has been curtailed and the regulations enforced more strictly than formerly. It is only allowed in cases which are known to be really necessitous.

Drugs are prescribed as little as possible. Simple mixtures for bronchitis and diarrhœa and ordinary ointments are those chiefly used. Cod Liver Oil and Malt and similar preparations are supplied at cost price when considered advisable.

Cases of under-nourishment of mothers were rare, and in the cases of infants it could usually be attributed to faulty methods of feeding. Some mothers like to keep their children under observation during the "toddling" stage. Most of such cases are healthy and are well nourished.

An ante-natal Clinic was started in November, which is held monthly. So far six expectant mothers have attended, the total number of attendances being 21. Doubtless the number will be increased when the Clinic is better known.

I should like to express my thanks to the Health Visitors, upon whose efforts the success of the Clinic so largely depends, and also to the local Secretary and voluntary helpers who attend most regularly, and take a keen interest in the work.

## K .- 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:-

Ostermilk	33,900 lbs.
Savory and Moores	156 tins
Lactagol	300 tins.
Virol	2,996 lbs.
Virolax	210 jars.
Ambrosia	45,133 lbs.
Robinson's Groats	834 lbs.
Malt Extracts	2,294 jars.
Roboleine	2,969 lbs.
Allenbury's Food	6 tins.
Ostelin	1,050 tins.
Aberdeen Emulsion	462 bottles.

The total cost of the articles was £6,242 3s. 5d.

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

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

In cases where the income to the home is below the scale fixed by the County Council, infant foods can be obtained either free of cost, or at half cost. The continued depression in the coal-producing districts during the year caused a further increased demand for this assistance, and goods to the value of £5,092. 18s. 8d. were given for necessitous expectant and nursing mothers and for infants. This amount included £2,471. 11s. 6d. paid for fresh milk.

The issue of free fresh and dried milk is growing each year, as will be observed from the following table:—

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
(Coa	al St	oppa	ge:	Din	ners	also give	n).		1927	 	 	£2,817 18	4
1922						£2,232	14	3	1928	 	 	£3,844 1	1
1923						£1,548	6	7	1929	 	 	£5,092 18	8

The scale of income under which applications for free milk are decided was reduced towards the end of the year in accordance with the request of the Ministry of Health, but this will not have much effect in lessening the amount given to necessitous persons, as in the vast majority of cases the husbands of the applicants are unemployed and the cases are consequently well within the scale.

## L.—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 1929:—

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
1929	245	4	249	222		27	25
1928	238	4	242	211	mine-inv	27 31	35
1927	248	5	The state of the s	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH	PARTY AME		40
	/ 1000000000000000000000000000000000000		253	219	O mit had	34	36
1926	243	5	248	211	-	37	32
1925	241	/	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	and Spensor	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	1410/b/658/8/10/10/10			87
			0.0000000000000000000000000000000000000	89	6 5 5	158	
1912	191	62	253	87	2	161	71
1911	176	66	242	68	5	168	67

It will be observed that the number of untrained midwives, *i.e.*, those placed upon the roll by virtue of their being in practice prior to the year 1901, is decreasing every year, and there are only 23 practising; 3 of them are illiterate.

We are gradually reaching the realisation of the ideal of a skilled midwifery service. The period of training of midwives has been extended from 6 to 12 months and a better educated type of woman is taking up the work.

The midwife has an important part in the work of Maternity and Child Welfare, and her assistance in this work is invaluable, apart from her responsibilities with regard to the hygienic conditions of the home. She can also by her suggestion of the need for antenatal measures, put the patient in touch with the necessary medical advice, either through the family doctor or the County Ante-Natal Clinics.

After the birth of the child there is, of course, the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre which can be recommended to the mothers for advice upon the modern methods of infant welfare.

The co-operation of the midwife with the Maternity and Child Welfare Service is heartily welcomed, and although it cannot be stated that all of the midwives in the County advise their patients to attend the Centres, it is gratifying to record that the number who realise the benefit that can accrue to expectant and nursing mothers through attendance at the Centres is increasing year by year.

The total number of names removed from the Midwives' Roll during 1929 was 28; 23 through removal from County, 4 through deaths, and 1 through ill-health.

The Inspectress of Midwives paid 1,335 visits to midwives, and made 892 examinations. In the other cases the midwives were not inspected for the following reasons:—

Not at hom	ie		 404
III			 5
Not comme	nced practi	sing	 9
Not workin	g at the ti	me	 22
Away nursi	ng private	cases	 1
Left the Co	ounty		 2

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

Did not send in form of intention	n to	
practise this year		1
Cannot take pulse and temperature	e	11
Cannot chart pulse and temperat	ure	5
Bag of appliances not satisfactory	7	1
Case Book not up-to-date		1
Bag of appliances left at case		1
Did not send copy of Medical	Aid	
Form to C.M.O		1

There are upon the County Roll two midwives who cannot take pulse and temperature, one 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).

1,699 notifications of sending for medical aid, and 125 cases of still-birth, were received from midwives during the year.

Also 9 notifications of deaths of mothers, 16 notifications of children dying a few hours after birth, 7 notifications of artificial feeding, 9 notifications from midwives who were liable to be a source of infection, and 9 notifications of having laid out a dead body.

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

High temperature		 48
Prolonged and difficult	labour	 493
Obstructed labour		 12
Premature birth		 42
Premature labour		 9
Retained placenta		 89
Prolapse of Cord		 6

Prolapse of uteru	s			1
Hæmorrhage, ant	te-partu	m		41
Ditto post-	partum			30
Hæmorrhage (no	t define	d)		14
Ruptured perineu	ım			192
Contracted pelvis				5
Abnormal present	ation—			
- Present	Breech			37
	Face	min od		8
	Hand			6
	Transv			6
	Vertex			8
	Foot			8
	Miscell		•••	14
Abortion		ancous		
				71
Threatened Abor	tion			22
Still-birth				41
Unsatisfactory con	ndition	of mother		136
Ditto		child		79
Deformity of chi	ld -			28
Eye affections				145
Uterine Inertia		· · · · ·		49
Doctor engaged				41
Born before arriv	val			5
Miscellaneous				13

Suspension of midwives to prevent the spread of infection was necessary in 9 cases, 7 on account of puerperal fever, 1 puerperal pyrexia and 1 scarlet fever. The sum of £13 14s. Od. was paid by the County Council as compensation for loss of cases through such suspension.

## M.—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 7 nurses on the staff of the Tredegar 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. One pupil was trained who had paid for her training.

Since the establishment of the Training Centre, 17 years ago, 82 pupils have received midwifery training, 78 have passed the C.M.B. examinations, 3 have failed, and 1 refused to sit the examination after being trained. Nineteen 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 twelve months.

A grant of £350 is made each year by the County Education Committee to provide six midwifery scholarships, value £38. 11s. 4d. each, and in addition, six months' district training in general nursing for 2 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 1929, 69 maternity cases were dealt with at the Home, as compared with 67 in 1928. Fifty-one of these cases were delivered by midwives and 18 by doctors. There were 280 Ante-natal attendances at the Home during the year.

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 1929 midwives were subsidised in the following areas:-

Llantilio Crossenny.
Llantilio Pertholey.
Goytrey and Llanover.
Tintern and St. Arvans.
Usk.
Llangattock-vibon-avel.

Raglan. Itton. Llanfoist. Llandogo and Trelleck. Caldicot.
Monmouth.
Llanfrechfa Lower.
Llanarth.

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

# N.—COUNTY SCHEME FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The scheme under which Local Maternity and Child Welfare Committees have been set up to render assistance at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres has been set out in detail in previous reports.

It was originally intended to serve Maternity and Child Welfare only, but in the year 1929, the County Committee decided to ask the Local Committees to also undertake the after-care of Tuberculosis and the Welfare of the Blind. Schemes have been prepared and forwarded to the Committees for consideration. It is anticipated that the majority of them will accept the additional duties and render further valuable service to the afflicted and suffering members of the County Districts.

## 0.—TRAINING OF ELDER GIRLS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

The need of making a place in the education of all women for training in the care of infants, and also young children, cannot be too well emphasised.

The elder scholars of Girls Departments are taught infant care and hygiene at the Domestic Arts Centres of the Elementary Schools of the County, and the scheme is productive of excellent and far-reaching results. In the working-class homes, many of the girls are "little mothers" and there is plenty of scope for them to practise what they are taught.

# P.—PROVISIONS FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CASES AT HOSPITALS, Etc.

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 is now 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 .		 .3	Torticollis	 	2
Talipes Varus		 2	Bowed Legs	 	2
Deformity of L	eg	 1	Birth Palsy	 	1
Paresis		 2	Anterior Poliomyelitis		5
Congenital Dislo	ocation Hip	 3	Spastic Paraplegia	 	1
Genu Valgum		 4	Pes Planus	 	6
Congenital Equi	no Varus	 6	Genu Varum	 	1
Metatarsal Var	us	 2	Coccygeal Tumour	 	1
Old Fracture Ri	ght Femur	 1	Kyphosis	 realbase!	1
Webbed Finger	s	 1			-
Congenital Defe	ormity	 1			46
					-

His recommendations were as follows:-

For admission to the Royal National Orthopædic Hos Portland Street	spital, Gr	eat 5
For admission to the Country Branch of the Roy Orthopædic Hospital, Brockley Hill	yal Natio	nal 8
To wear splints, or other apparatus		10
To attend for massage or other treatment at Newpo	ort Clinic	2
To have alterations to boots		8
To see X-ray Specialist		3
Observation		6
No treatment required		2
For admission to a Children's General Hospital		2

He also made at the Newport Clinic 16 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 dislocat	ion of h	ip	3	Rt. Hemiplegia		 1
Calcaneo Valgus			1	Cleft Palate		 1
Talipes Varus			1	Congenital Equino	Varus	 2
Contraction Right	Hand		1	Poliomyelitis		 2

Since the inception of the scheme, 45 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 1929, he examined 190 crippled infant children, including cases of first diagnosis and re-examinations.

Fifteen infants attended the Clinic for massage and electrical treatment during the year, making 350 attendances.

One pair of surgical boots, 6 splints, 12 night shoes, and 6 walking instruments or calipers for these crippled children were supplied by the County Council. Alterations to boots were made for ten children. The total cost in this connection was £36. 8s. 7d., of which the parents paid the sum of £4. 2s. 9d., leaving a net cost to the Council of £32. 5s. 10d.

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

 HOSTEL FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS.—The Maternity Home and Hostel at Nantyderry continued its good work.

There were 6 girls and 3 babies in residence on the 1st April, 1929. During the year April 1st, 1929, to March 31st, 1930, 11 girls were admitted, and there were 12 births. Nine girls were discharged during that period, of whom 5 were found situations, 2 went to relatives, 1 went to Hospital and 1 married. Of the babies discharged 2 went with their mothers to situations, 1 was admitted to the Edward Nicholl Home, 1 went with mother to Hospital, 2 went to grandparents, 2 were adopted and 1 went with mother after marriage.

Total number of inmates during the year, 17 girls and 15 babies.

Of the 11 girls received into the Home during the year, 3 were from the Borough of Newport and 8 from the County of Monmouth.

The number of cases dealt with during the year was slightly less than the preceding year, when there were 21 girls and 18 babies in the Home.

Generally the girls are admitted one month before their confinement, and remain for six months after the birth of the child. The ideal that the mother and child must not be separated for at least the first 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, if only through the large amount of prejudice which forces these girls into homes. It is often stated that more is done for unmarried than for married mothers. The unmarried mother is the more needy and help should accordingly be given.

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.

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 in cases of emergency, under certain specified conditions.

Fees were paid in 160 cases during the year, involving a payment of £264. 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 £31. 10s. 6d. The

figures for the year 1928 were, 150 cases, costing £249. 12s. 6d. Amount collected from husbands £11. 2s. 0d.

All these cases are investigated at the homes by the County Officers before they are passed by the County Medical Officer.

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.

Seventeen cases were examined by Dr. Strachan, and fifteen of them were subsequently admitted to the Maternity Hospital of the Cardiff Royal Infirmary. Four 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.

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 expectant and nursing 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 (extractions only) 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	 889
No. of appointments kept	 529
No. of cases given "gas"	 529
No. of permanent teeth extracted	 3012
No. of temporary teeth extracted	 249
No. of mothers treated	 466
No. of children treated	 63

The treatment is limited to extraction of defective teeth. Mothers who require dentures have to make their own arrangements.

The condition of the teeth during pregnancy is of great importance to the expectant mother, for decaying teeth and inflamed gums often cause considerable trouble, chiefly through the upsetting of the digestive system, and it frequently happens that harm is done to the unborn child.

The number of children under 5 years of age receiving treatment is very small, but it is not possible to develop this section with the limited dental staff available. It is obvious that a perfect set of teeth can only be grown and retained by proper care from the very start.

6.—REGISTRATION OF MATERNITY HOMES.—Five homes have been registered under the Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927, one at Tredegar (Maternity and Nursing), one at Nantyderry (Maternity), one at Rumney (Maternity), one at Tref-

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, and are carried out.

One exemption was granted during 1929, this being in respect of the Monmouth Hospital, Monmouth.

## Q.—CONCLUSIONS.

It will have been noticed earlier in this report that the Infant Mortality rate for the year is 67.7 per 1,000 births, only 1.6 above the record figure for the County (66.1 in the year 1926). This is commendable when compared with the figure for England and Wales (74 per 1,000 births) and it is a tribute to the thoroughness of the work carried out in the County for child welfare.

In last year's report attention was drawn to the need of provision for the welfare of the "toddlers"—children of the age period 2 to 5 years.

It is essential to build a good foundation, not only in babyhood, but up to the age of five years, so that the child on entering school will continue to progress both physically and mentally. The healthy children will derive most benefit from their school education. It is often found that defects which would be easy to deal with in early years severely handicap progress at school and success in after-life.

There is a definite place at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre for the "toddler." It cannot be gainsaid that greater mistakes are made in the feeding of children after the age of one year than before that age, and consultations at the Centres would materially help the mother to learn the principles of correct feeding.

The baby is regularly taken to the Centre, up to the age of 12 months. His progress is carefully watched and advice given upon his welfare. At the age of five (sometimes earlier) he goes to school and immediately comes under the observation of the School Medical Service.

There is a dangerous gap between. If the child is worth nurturing during its first year of life and during its school life, it is worthy of care during the intervening years.

Infant Welfare work should become part of a unified whole, dealing with the child from the cradle until he leaves the Elementary or Secondary School.

The difficulty in this County is to provide the necessary accommodation at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, and the additional staff required, for at most of the Centres additional sessions would have to be held to cope with the increased numbers. It naturally follows that more doctors and health visitors would be needed.

In December, 1929 the Welsh Board of Health expressed the opinion that there might be an abnormal amount of malnutrition amongst children from 2 to 5 years of age, and that the physical condition of entrants into the elementary schools was not so satisfactory as it might be.

At the beginning of the current year, Dr. Dilys Jones, Assistant Medical Officer, Welsh Board of Health, made an enquiry upon this subject at certain of the County Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, in company with Dr. Mary Scott, Assistant Medical Officer under this Council.

The report of Dr. Dilys Jones is not yet to hand, but Dr. Scott's findings are that there was definite evidence of malnutrition in a large proportion of the children of 2 to 5 years of age who were specially taken for examination to certain centres in the distressed areas of the County.

There is urgent need for a more organised method of dealing with the "toddler" than is possible with the present machinery and great responsibilities rest upon the County Maternity and Child Welfare Authority in this direction.

Their policy should be to provide as far as possible, the same treatment for children under five as for those of school age, so that with the existing services of care of the expectant and nursing mother there will be in the County, a scheme of medical supervision from the pre-natal period up to school leaving age.

Although the fourteen Ante-Natal Clinics have been open only a short time, we are very pleased with the use that is being made of them. Every expectant mother should have the advantage of a considered medical opinion early in her pregnancy, and, largely through the generosity of the "Save the Children Fund," which supplied the money to equip the clinics, that happy position is now possible in this County.

The Local Government Act of 1929, which came into force on the 1st April, 1930, is likely to place additional duties upon the Maternity and Child Welfare Department. On that date the County Council superceded the various Boards of Guardians.

It is too early to judge exactly what the change will mean, but as a number of Poor Law Infirmaries and Children's Homes will come under the administration of the County Council, and the poor law stigma will be removed, it is safe to prophesy that some benefit to suffering mothers and infants will accrue.

Finally it can again be asserted that if there is one service that is more important than another to the country at the present time, and which shows real value for money spent it is the Maternity and Child Welfare Work. The child's birth-right is a sound mind and a sound body. The gain or loss of a child's health is not shown in the County Treasurer's accounts, and an infinitesimal saving in rates might easily be paid for too dearly.

We once more thank the voluntary helpers and the members of the District Maternity and Child Welfare Committees for the assistance given at the Centres. We also gratefully accord our appreciation of the continued support afforded by the Chairman and members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

# D. ROCYN JONES,

County Medical Officer.