

**Report upon maternity and child welfare for the year 1938 /
Monmouthshire County Council.**

Contributors

Monmouthshire (Wales). County Council.

Publication/Creation

1938

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/nqa66gn2>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Maternity & Child Welfare

CONTENTS.

	<i>Page</i>
A. SUMMARY OF BIRTHS NOTIFIED	3
B. WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITORS	3
C. VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1938	8
D. MATERNAL MORTALITY AND ANTE-NATAL CARE	10
E. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES	18
F. DETAILS OF ATTENDANCES AT CENTRES	20
G. REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF CENTRES	21
H. SALE OF FOODSTUFFS AT THE INFANT WELFARE CENTRES	42
I. MIDWIFERY SERVICES	43
J. DISTRICT NURSING	46
K. COUNTY SCHEME FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE	48
L. TRAINING OF THE ELDER GIRLS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	48
M. PROVISION FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CASES AT HOSPITALS, ETC.	48
N. INFANT PROTECTION	52
O. CONCLUSIONS	52

Monmouthshire County Council

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL,

NEWPORT, Mon.

20th July, 1939.

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

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Twenty-fourth 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 the 31st December, 1938, 4,936 live births and 250 stillbirths, making a total of 5,186 were notified to this Department after adjusting the notifications transferred to other districts and those transferred from other districts.

The number of registered births in the County for the year, according to the Registrar General's return was 4,944, and 283 stillbirths, a total of 5,227.

Of the 5,186 notified births, 5,168 were notified by midwives and 18 by doctors and parents. The percentage of births notified by midwives is 99·6, which is the usual high figure.

B—WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITORS.

The work of the Health Visitors in respect of School Medical Inspection and Maternity and Child Welfare is co-ordinated excepting at Ebbw Vale and Abertillery, where the County Health Visitors undertake Maternity and Child Welfare work only, as those areas are autonomous under the Education Act, 1902.

One of the County Health Visitors is engaged in School Medical Inspection work only, as she has not been approved by the Ministry of Health for Maternity and Child Welfare work. The Ministry require for all new appointments that nurses appointed as Health Visitors shall hold the Health Visitor's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

There were at the end of the year 39 full-time Health Visitors on the Council's staff. In addition the Lecturer in Nursing under the Higher Education Committee devoted one day a week to Maternity and Child Welfare work. The apportionment of the time of the Health Visitors to Maternity and Child Welfare during the year worked out at approximately 27.

Nurses O. Griffiths, K. M. Walters, and C. Davies are also District Supervisors of Midwives, to which work they devote two days per week. Nurse Griffiths is also Infant Protection Officer for the County and Mental Deficiency Enquiry Officer for the Rural area of the County. She is the nurse in attendance at the Orthopædic Clinics, and engaged in Orthopædic after-care.

Nurses Walters and Davies give the remainder of their time to Maternity and Child Welfare work.

Nurse P. G. Waters is the Mental Deficiency Enquiry Officer for the Western and Eastern areas of the County. She also undertakes other duties.

The Maternity and Child Welfare duties of the Health Visitors include attendance at Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics, and the home visitation of infants up to the age of five years.

All infants are visited soon after the tenth day, and during the first year of life at intervals of three months. The visit at nine months is important, because of the advice with regard to 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 four times yearly until the child attains the age of five.

Statistics relating to the duties of Health Visitors are given in the following pages, but their real value cannot be demonstrated by figures. Their work is of prime importance in a successful Infant Welfare Service. They are highly trained nurses, who, through their visits to the homes, are able to reach the mothers and instruct them in the correct care of the babies and toddlers. Their responsibilities are serious and it is gratifying to record that they meet them capably.

I.—VISITS PAID.—During the year, 58,148 visits were paid to the homes as follows :

NEW CASES. Babies seen	Re-visits under 1 year of age	Re-visits 1 to 5 years	Fruitless visits	Total Visits
1938—5,028	12,418	36,856	3,846	58,148
1937—4,775	13,041	40,225	4,221	62,262
1936—5,050	13,637	34,315	3,917	56,919
1935—5,339	13,702	30,756	2,487	52,284
1934—5,401	14,933	33,695	1,502	55,531
1933—5,580	15,301	32,475	1,078	54,434
1932—5,762	16,684	23,667	907	47,020

1931.—First visits, 6,056 ; Fruitless visits, 940 ; Re-visits under 1 year, 15,544 ; Re-visits 1-5 years, 23,055 ; Total, 45,595.

1930.—First visits, 6,731 ; Fruitless visits, 1,133 ; Re-visits under 1 year, 15,372 ; Re-visits 1-5 years, 22,909 ; Total, 46,145.

1929.—First visits, 6,762 ; Fruitless visits, 1,122 ; Re-visits under 1 year, 15,930 ; Re-visits 1-5 years, 23,364 ; Total, 47,148.

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

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

1926.—First visits, 7,467 ; Fruitless visits, 416 ; Re-visits under 1 year, 22,366 ; Re-visits 1-5 years, 27,751 ; Total, 58,000.

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

II.—METHODS OF FEEDING OF INFANTS.—Of the new cases visited it was found that 3,625 children were being brought up entirely on the breast (72·0 per cent.) whilst 1,094 were being bottle fed (21·7 per cent.), and 255 were both breast and bottle fed (5·0 per cent.). It was discovered on subsequent visits that in 360 instances (7·1 per cent.) children breast-fed had been put on the bottle after the first visit of the Health Visitor, and before the usual time of weaning. The above percentages are of the total new cases seen. In 54 cases the child only survived birth by a few hours (1·0 per cent.).

The percentage of breast-fed babies in this table is much higher than that given by the Medical Officers in the section of this report dealing with the work of the Centres, and it must be pointed out that the Health Visitors' figures deal with the feeding at the time of their first visits, *i.e.*, about 10 days after birth, and there is evidently a considerable diminution in breast-feeding during the next few months. Many mothers take their babies to the centre for the first time owing to their inability to continue breast-feeding.

The Health Visitors' figures show there is a decrease of 2·7 per cent. in the number of babies breast-fed, as compared with the previous year (1937). The percentage has been gradually falling for the past few years. In 1925 it was 86·2.

III.—SANITARY DEFECTS AT THE HOMES.—In accordance with the arrangements made at the initiation of the scheme, visits were paid by the Health Visitors to several of the District Medical Officers of Health for consultation purposes, and reports were made to those Medical Officers upon serious housing defects and overcrowding.

Although the Housing Act, 1936, which provides for the abolition of slum areas, is now in force, there is still much overcrowding in the County. The evils of bad housing, overcrowding and slum property have an important bearing on Maternity and Child Welfare, and better conditions would mean better physical and moral progress.

IV.—ANTE-NATAL.—The number of visits paid to expectant mothers was 746 to new cases, and 1,005 re-visits, a total of 1,751 visits. The figures for the last year were 896 new cases, and 1,046 re-visits, a total of 1,368 visits.

PUERPERAL SEPSIS.—During the year 1938 notification of 55 cases of puerperal pyrexia were received under the Public Health (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926, from the District Medical Officers of Health. Five other cases of high temperature were also notified.

Eleven of the cases were removed to hospital.

All notifications were immediately followed up by the Supervisors of Midwives, and measures were taken to prevent the spread of infection. When it was necessary, the midwives were suspended from taking fresh cases until they had finished with the infected cases.

The Registrar-General's list of deaths during the year showed 13 from Puerperal Sepsis.

A scheme for the provision of facilities for diagnosis and treatment of cases is in operation. Under the scheme, Professor G. I. Strachan, M.D., F.R.C.S., of Cardiff, has been retained as Consultant Obstetrician, and his services have been requisitioned frequently. Cases requiring hospital treatment are sent to an Infectious Diseases Hospital and any necessary bacteriological examination is made by Dr. Gwyn Rocyn Jones, County Bacteriologist, at the County Laboratory, Newport.

Further comments are made under the heading of Maternal Mortality.

V.—INFANTILE DIARRHŒA.—Twenty-two cases of this disease were discovered during visits to homes, and 18 re-visits paid, as against 32 and 19 re-visits in the year 1937.

Twenty deaths were registered in children under one year of age, giving a death rate of 4·0 per 1,000 births, as compared with 5·5 for the year 1937.

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. This 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 eighteen years, which includes one very hot summer, when the rate was 17·3, has been 6·3 per 1,000 births. The reduction in the rate in recent years is undoubtedly due to the greater care which is now observed in the feeding of infants and the measures taken by the Council to ensure a clean milk supply.

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 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 are distributed by the Health Visitors at homes when cases are discovered.

VI.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Thirty-five cases were notified under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, as compared with 24 cases in the year 1937, and 14 in 1936. These cases, together with other cases of eye trouble reported by the Midwives making a total of 126 cases, were followed up by the Health Visitors, who paid 435 visits to them.

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. There is no doubt that these precautionary measures have succeeded in greatly reducing the incidence of blindness due to gonococcal infection, for rarely in recent years is there blindness from this cause.

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 infants. The Venereal Diseases Inquiry Officer also follows up cases suspected of gonococcal infection, with a view to attendance at the Clinic.

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

NUMBER OF CASES VISITED.			
	Acute	Slight	Total
Brought forward from last year	—	—	—
New cases—			
Both eyes	16	52	68
One eye only	4	54	58
	<hr/> 20	<hr/> 106	<hr/> 126
Number of cases which attended hospital :			
As out-patients	8	—	8
As in-patients	4	—	4
Number of cases in which there was neglect on the part of the midwife	—	—	—
RESULTS :			
Completely cured	17	100	117
Blind—both eyes	1	—	1
Blind—one eye	—	—	—
Died	—	1	1
Left County	1	1	2
Cases still being followed up at the end of the year	1	4	5
	<hr/> 20	<hr/> 106	<hr/> 126

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

VII.—STILLBIRTHS.—The number of registered stillbirths was 283, which works out at 5·72 per 100 live births, a decrease of 1·2 compared with the figure of 1937, which was 5·84 per 100 live births. This year's rate is equal to ·92 per 1,000 of population. It continues to be abnormally high, and compares unfavourably with the rate for England and Wales, which for 1938 was ·60 per 1,000 of population.

C—VITAL STATISTICS.

The area of the Administrative County in acres at the 31st December, 1938, was 340,110. 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 90 infants died within one week of birth, and 149 died within the first month of birth, whilst 275 died within the first twelve months. With the figure of 283 stillbirths there was a total of 558 lives lost to the community.

The infant mortality rate per 1,000 births is 55·8, as compared with 63·9 for 1937. In 1936 the rate was 61·7; in 1935, 61·4; in 1934, 57·4; in 1933, 71·7; in 1932, 67·9; in 1931, 71·9; in 1930, 64·9; in 1929, 67·7; in 1928, 72·29; in 1927, 87·3; in 1926, 66·1; in 1925, 83·88; in 1924, 75·6; and in 1923, 73·0. The rate for the year under review is the lowest on record, being 1·6 below that of 1934, which was the previous lowest.

There were 4,944 live births registered during the year, an increase of 83 upon the number for 1937, and the birth rate is 16·1 per 1,000 of population, compared with 15·5 in 1937. In the year 1936 it was 15·9; in 1935, 16·1; in 1934, 16·0; in 1933, 16·2; in 1932, 17·1; in 1931, 17·6; in 1930, 17·6; in 1929, 17·8; in 1928, 18·3; in 1927, 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 rate for 1937 was the lowest on record, but this year's rate has risen slightly.

The number of births of illegitimate live children was 189, or 3·82 per cent. of all births. Last year the number was 165 (3·39 per cent.), and for the year 1936, 178 (3·49 per cent.).

The number of illegitimate stillbirths was 14.


The number of deaths of illegitimate children under one year of age was 10, or 2·02 per 1,000 of all births, and 52·9 per 1,000 of illegitimate births. Last year the number of deaths was 9, or 1·8 per 1,000 of all births, and 54·5 per 1,000 of illegitimate births.

C—VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1938.

DISTRICTS	Estimated Population	BIRTHS.							DEATHS.			INFANTILE MORTALITY.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
		Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total		Grand Total	Rate per 1000 of population	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1000 of population	Total Deaths under One Year				Ages at Death of Children under One Year																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female							Legiti- mate	Illegiti- mate	Total	Rate per 1000 births	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 m'ths	3—6 m'ths	6—9 m'ths	9—12 m'ths	Total under 1 year																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
URBAN—																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				

* The figures in these columns were supplied by the Registrar-General; the remainder by the District Medical Officers of Health.

† These figures are modified estimates submitted by the Registrar-General for use with composite records of Births, Deaths and Notifiable Diseases. The actual estimated population of the Magor & St. Mellons Rural District subsequent to the extension of the Cardiff City boundary is 11,490, and of the Administrative County of Monmouth, 305,300.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28861589>

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

Districts	Present Year	(1937)	Districts	Present Year	(1937)
URBAN—			Chepstow	30.7	—
Nantyglo and Blaina	101.7	(54.8)	Monmouth	30.3	(28.1)
Bedwas and Machen	74.6	(79.7)	Rhymney	27.9	(110.3)
Blaenavon	73.1	(82.0)	Abergavenny	26.0	(42.3)
Bedwellty	72.6	(63.7)	Caerleon	22.2	(85.7)
Abertillery	65.0	(74.2)	Usk	—	—
Pontypool	62.2	(59.3)	RURAL—		
Cwmbran	58.3	(77.4)	Chepstow	66.1	(49.5)
Tredeggar	57.6	(105.0)	Abergavenny	42.5	(10.5)
Ebbw Vale	55.0	(95.9)	Monmouth	40.5	(66.6)
Mynyddislwyn	47.1	(43.2)	Pontypool	31.2	(17.8)
Abercarn	43.6	(57.8)	Magor and St. Melons	23.9	(59.6)
Risca	39.4	(32.1)			

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSES.	1938	(1937)	(1936)	(1935)
All causes	276	(311)	(314)	(324)
Typhoid Fever	—	—	(1)	—
Measles	3	(4)	(1)	(7)
Diphtheria	—	—	(1)	—
Whooping Cough	4	(6)	(14)	(7)
Influenza	2	(2)	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	(1)	(1)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—
Other Tubercular Diseases	4	(4)	(3)	(2)
Cancer (Malignant disease)	1	—	—	(1)
Syphilis	—	—	(3)	—
Bronchitis	15	(23)	(18)	(21)
Pneumonia (all forms)	40	(41)	(48)	(43)
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	—	—	(2)
Diarrhoea	20	(27)	(18)	(24)
Digestive Diseases	—	(4)	(6)	(3)
Congenital Debility; premature birth, etc.	155	(169)	(174)	(179)
Violence	4	(3)	(6)	(5)
Other Defined Diseases	24	(28)	(20)	(29)

The Vital Statistics for England and Wales for the year 1938, compiled by the Registrar-General, are as in the subjoined table. The Monmouthshire figures are given for the purpose of comparison.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.				Death Rate per 1,000 living		Deaths under one year per 1,000 births	
	Live Births	Still Births	Live Births	Still Births				
	1938	1938	1937	1937	1938	1937	1938	1937
ENGLAND AND WALES	15.1	0.60	(14.9)	(0.67)	11.6	(12.4)	53	(58)
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	15.0	0.65	(14.9)	(0.67)	11.7	(12.5)	57	(62)
148 Smaller Towns (estimated resident populations 25,000-50,000 at Census 1931)	15.4	0.60	(15.3)	(0.64)	11.0	(11.9)	51	(55)
London	13.4	0.48	(13.3)	(0.54)	11.4	(12.3)	57	(60)
MONMOUTHSHIRE	16.1	0.92	(15.5)	(0.90)	12.1	(12.6)	55	(63)

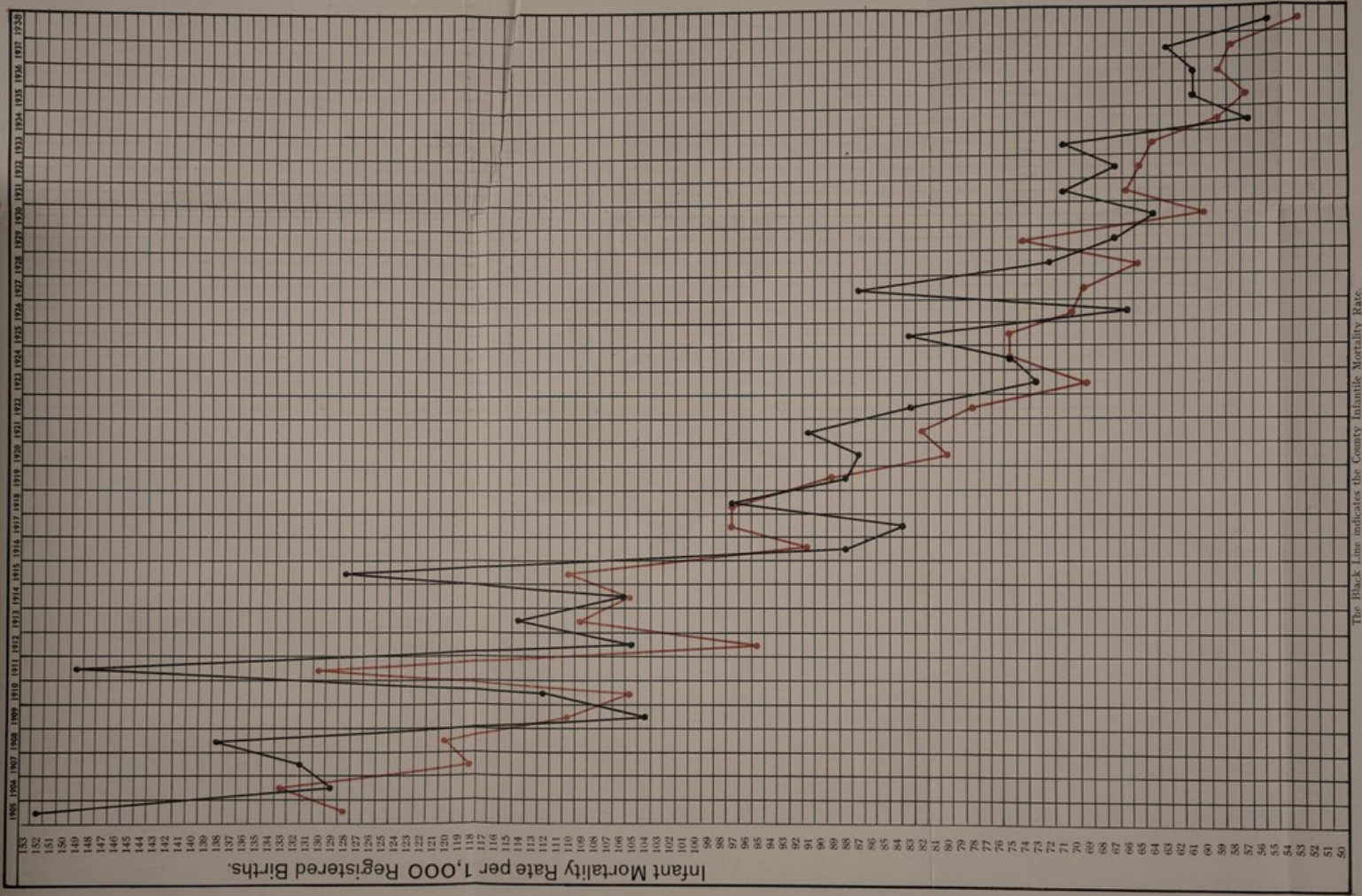
In all cases the estimated populations as supplied by the Registrar-General have been used for the purpose of this table.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY. The large proportion of deaths during the first four weeks of life (149 out of 275 or 54.1 per cent.) is still very noticeable. Of the total deaths under one year of age in this County a little more than half occur in and during the first four weeks. Although the infantile mortality rate has been so much reduced during the past thirty years, the neo-natal rate remains practically the same. This year's percentage is 1.3 below that of last year.

These deaths are largely due to conditions of the mother and to difficulties during confinement, and the problem is closely connected with that of maternal mortality. It is hoped that increasing after-care of the expectant mother will reduce this mortality.

D—MATERNAL MORTALITY AND ANTE-NATAL CARE.

The number of deaths registered during the year from accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition was 38; 13 from puerperal sepsis and 25 from other causes. This is equal to a rate of 7.6 per 1,000 live births, which is considerably higher than the figure for last year (4.5). Calculated upon total births (live and stillbirths) the figure is 7.26 per 1,000.



The rate continues to be considerably higher than the rate for England and Wales, which for the year 1938 was 3·08 per 1,000 live births registered.

The County rates per 1,000 live births for the past twelve years have been :—

1938	....	7·6	1934	....	6·2	1930	....	5·3
1937	....	4·5	1933	....	7·19	1929	....	7·4
1936	....	6·8	1932	....	5·6	1928	....	5·5
1935	....	6·8	1931	....	5·3	1927	....	5·6

The high Maternal Mortality Rate for 1938 was due entirely to an abnormally high rate for the first six months of the year. Of the total number of deaths for 1938, 26 occurred in the first half of the year, the number in the 2nd half being below the average for the previous years. Fourteen out of these 26 women died before reaching full time, the duration of their pregnancies being anything from six weeks to thirty six weeks. It would seem that some factor was at work in the County during this particular period which was undermining the health of expectant women and rendering them unfit to carry through their pregnancies to full time.

A special analysis of these deaths is being made in an attempt to elucidate the causes which gave rise to this unhappy position in the first half of 1938.

It is satisfactory to note that the attendance at the Ante-Natal Clinics has again increased. The 18 Clinics were visited by 3,269 women (62·5 per cent. of the total number of births—live and still—notified during the year compared with 54·7 per cent. in 1937). The total attendances were 10,017 compared with 7,778 in 1937, the average attendance per session being 24·2 compared with 22·3 in 1937 and 19·0 in 1936. This means that 62·5 per cent. compared with 54·7 per cent. in 1937 had at least one ante-natal examination.

Notifications of puerperal pyrexia in the practices of midwives are still numerous and the number of deaths from Puerperal Sepsis was 13, compared with 16 in 1936 and 8 in 1937. The death rate from Puerperal Sepsis in Monmouthshire has been high for several years and towards the end of 1936 special schemes were started in an effort to fight this fatal disease.

(a) A generous supply of antiseptic was supplied free of cost to all midwives for each patient confined. It appeared that certain midwives were not making use of antiseptics as freely as necessary or were purchasing an inferior quality of antiseptic, their excuse being that they could not afford to do otherwise. While it was recognised that the use of Antiseptics alone and without the other necessary precautions would not reduce the sepsis rate, it was felt that each patient should be sure of the benefit of this extra safeguard.

(b) Sterile outfits were supplied throughout the year at cost price or at a sum less than cost according to the financial condition of the patient. The response to this offer by patients and by midwives has been remarkable and during the year 3,794 of these outfits were sold.

(c) Large amounts of special foods were supplied to us for distribution to necessitous expectant mothers of the distressed areas of the County by the Birthday Trust Fund and there is little doubt that this has also been an important factor in the fight against sepsis. Patients whose general health is improved by these foods are better able to resist infection, or, if infected are better able to fight and overcome that infection.

(d) Lastly the supplying of a special preparation free of cost for those patients who were potentially septic or who had developed sepsis was an important factor. In this the co-operation of the General Practitioner was required and it is gratifying to know that most practitioners have availed themselves freely of this supply.

This rather expensive drug is sent to certain distributing centres in all areas of the County and may be obtained free of cost and at a moment's notice by any practitioner requiring the drug for his patient. There is no doubt that this remarkable preparation introduced into this country by research workers in Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, London, in 1936 has been a big factor in reducing maternal deaths from sepsis.

In 1937 there were 5 deaths from abortion and in 1 of these cases the cause of death was septicæmia. In 1938 there were 10 deaths from abortion and in 6 of these the cause of death was septicæmia.

The following are the reports of the Medical Officers in charge of the Ante-Natal Clinics :—

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

BLAENAVON.—This Clinic is open for one whole day each month. There was a decrease in the number of patients who attended during the year. The new patients numbered 67 compared with 95 in the previous year and the average monthly attendance was 20·27 compared with 25·2 in 1937. Three of the patients who attended were not pregnant.

Thirty patients suffered from varying degrees of dental Caries and of these seventeen were offered, and they accepted treatment at the local County Dental Clinic. Three patients were referred to the Royal Gwent Hospital for the treatment of Gonorrhœa. Thirty-two patients suffered either from High Blood Pressure or Albuminuria or a combination of both. Four patients attending had one of the minor forms of heart disease. There were three cases of Malpresentation. One of those patients who had a serious malpresentation was referred to the Obstetric Specialist and was safely confined in Cardiff. Six patients who attended shewed signs of malnutrition that is nearly 9 per cent. of number attending. That this malnutrition may be caused by factors other than that of insufficient food is shown by the fact that in three cases the family was small, the husband working regularly and home conditions comfortable. Two others were the wives of unemployed men, while the 6th patient was the wife of a man who worked regularly but she was the mother of a large family.

BLAINA.—This Clinic is held on alternate Thursdays. The number of new patients who attended was 177 compared with 112 in 1937, while the average attendance per fortnight increased from 16·68 to 19·44.

Five of the patients who attended were not pregnant. Two patients were referred to Venereal Disease Clinic for the treatment of Gonorrhœa. Twenty-four patients had dental Caries but only five accepted appointments and had dental treatment. Forty patients had either Albuminuria or High Blood Pressure or both. Malpresentation was noted in seven cases. Three patients were referred to the Obstetric Specialist—One of these he considered could be safely confined at home, the others, one suffering from Toxæmia, the other from Contracted Pelvis, were admitted to the Maternity Hospital. One had a still-born premature baby; the other had a living child. Thirteen patients shewed signs of malnutrition which was 7·3 per cent. of the total who attended. This is an improvement on the year 1937 when the percentage of malnutrition was 13·4.

CHEPSTOW.—This Clinic is held once each month for one whole day. The new patients numbered 105 compared with 81 in 1937 and the average monthly attendance was 23·33 compared with 19·75. Eleven patients attended from the adjoining area of Gloucestershire. Four of the patients who attended were not pregnant. One patient was referred as suspected Gonorrhœa to the Venereal Diseases Clinic but gave a negative result to the tests. Fourteen patients had Dental Caries but only three accepted appointments and were treated by the County Dental Officer. Thirteen patients suffered from either High Blood Pressure or Albuminuria or both. Three cases of malpresentation were noted. There were only three

patients suffering from malnutrition ; that is a percentage of only 1·8. One patient was referred to the Obstetric Specialist, was admitted to Cardiff Maternity Hospital and safely confined there.

EBBW VALE.—This Clinic is held fortnightly on alternate Tuesdays. The total number of new patients who attended during the year was 204 compared with 200 in 1937, while the average fortnightly attendance was 26·13 compared with 21·04. Twenty-four of the patients who attended this Clinic were confined in the Tredegar Maternity Home. Three patients were referred to the Royal Gwent Hospital for the treatment of Gonorrhœa. Two patients were suffering from Tuberculosis ; one from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and the other from Lupus. It was considered safe in both cases to allow them to continue in pregnancy and both were safely delivered of living children. Eighteen patients had Dental Caries but only three consented to having dental treatment. Fifty-six patients had either Albuminuria or High Blood Pressure or both. There were five cases of malpresentation noted. Two patients were epileptics.

Four patients were referred to the Obstetric Specialist, two because of Contracted Pelvis and two because of Toxæmia. Both patients with Contracted Pelvis had living children, one being delivered by Caesarean section operation. One of the Toxæmic patients had a premature still-born child, while the other had twins, one still-born and one living. Only five patients, that is 2·5 per cent. were found to suffer from malnutrition.

NEW TREDEGAR.—This Clinic is held monthly for one whole day. The new patients who attended increased from 151 in 1937 to 183 in 1938, while the average monthly attendance was 38·08 compared with 29·54 in the previous year. Eight of the patients who attended were not pregnant. Three patients were referred to the Venereal Disease Clinic and received treatment for Gonorrhœa. Thirty patients had Dental Caries and nine of those accepted appointments and had treatment at the County Dental Clinic. Forty-eight patients suffered either from High Blood Pressure or Albuminuria or both. Eight cases of malpresentation were found. Three of the patients who attended were confined in the Tredegar Maternity Home.

It was not found necessary to refer any patients during the year to the Obstetric Specialist. Thirteen patients were found to be suffering from malnutrition, which equals a percentage of 7·1. The majority of patients suffering from malnutrition attend from the Aberbargoed district.

PENGAM.—This Clinic is open for one day monthly. 184 new patients attended during the year compared with 112 in the previous year and the average monthly attendance was 37·58 compared with 27·41 in the year 1937. Nine patients who attended were not pregnant. Two patients were referred to and received treatment for Gonorrhœa at the Royal Gwent Hospital. Twenty-seven had Dental Caries and eleven of these had treatment from the County Dental Officers. Thirty-two patients suffered either from High Blood Pressure or Albuminuria or both. Six Cases of malpresentation were noted. Three patients were referred to the Obstetric Specialist and all were admitted to Cardiff Maternity Hospital for their confinements.

Six patients, that is 3·3 per cent. suffered from malnutrition.

PONTYPOOL.—This Clinic is open for one whole day on alternate Tuesdays. During the year 297 new patients attended compared with 255 in 1937 while the average attendance per fortnight was 38·58 compared with 33·65. Nine non-pregnant patients attended this Clinic. Five patients were referred to the Royal Gwent Hospital and were treated, four for Gonorrhœa, and one for Syphilis. Forty-two patients had Dental Caries and fifteen accepted treatment by the County Dental Officers for this condition. Eight patients had malpresentation. Forty-six patients had either Albuminuria or High Blood Pressure or both of those

conditions combined. Four patients were referred to the Obstetric Specialist. One of these had a marked degree of Toxæmia but before she could be admitted to the Maternity Hospital she had a premature still-born baby. The second of these patients had a Mesenteric Cyst complicating pregnancy and was safely delivered of a living child in Cardiff Maternity Hospital. The other two patients had Contracted Pelves. Both had living children in Cardiff Maternity Hospital.

One patient suffered from a very severe degree of Chorea. She was referred to her own doctor who had her removed to the local hospital for treatment. After rest and treatment she recovered sufficiently to go home, where later, she had a full-time living child.

Twelve cases of malnutrition were found amongst the mothers attending this Clinic. This is equal to a percentage of 4.0 amongst those attending.

TREDEGAR.—This Clinic is held every Wednesday afternoon—292 new patients attended compared with 239 in 1937. The average attendance increased from 14.26 to 17.06. Twelve patients who were not pregnant attended. Only one patient had to be referred to the Venereal Disease Clinic at Newport for treatment for Gonorrhœa. Thirty-four patients were found to have Dental Caries. Of these, twelve accepted and received treatment at the local County Dental Clinic.

Eighty-three patients shewed signs of Toxæmia either by having Albuminuria or by High Blood Pressure or a combination of both.

One patient who had Congenital Heart Disease bore the pregnancy well but before full-time had a premature still-born child.

One patient with Contracted Pelvis who had had previously very difficult confinements with only one living child refused to have examination by the Obstetric Specialist. She had a difficult premature labour giving birth to twins both still-born. Another patient also with a Contracted Pelvis refused examination by the County Obstetric Specialist. At the beginning of labour she was admitted to the Local Hospital and was there safely delivered by Cæsarean Section Operation. Many of the patients attending this Clinic arranged for and had their confinements in the Tredegar Maternity Home.

Ten patients, that is 3.4 per cent. were found to be suffering from malnutrition.

2.—DR. MARY GORDON, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

NEWPORT.—This Centre was open on alternate Fridays (morning and afternoon sessions) for old and new cases, and on alternate Friday afternoons for old cases only.

Two hundred and sixty-five new cases attended, 673 re-visits were paid and the average attendance per session was 21.31.

Of the new cases reporting, 33 per cent. were primiparæ; 83 per cent. were referred to the Clinic by a midwife; 6 per cent. came of their own accord; 2 per cent. were referred through the County Infant Welfare Centres, while 9 per cent. came on the advice of their own doctors. As has been the case since the inception of the Centre, the midwives are responsible for advising the majority of patients to attend the Centre. Many midwives attend personally with their patients.

Eight per cent. of the expectant mothers suffered from malnutrition and were helped with milk preparations.

Several cases of contracted pelvis and toxæmia were referred to the Consultant Obstetrician. 3 cases of mild and 2 of severe, contracted pelvis, were admitted to Glossop Terrace for trial labour and were delivered of healthy babies. There was an increase in the number of cases attending with high blood pressure, and in spite of diet and rest several had stillbirths. 3 cases of severe high blood pressure with toxæmia, were admitted to Glossop Terrace.

Three sets of twins were born.

Constipation, digestive disturbances and varicose veins were the chief ailments and attention to these, with removal of decayed teeth and treatment of Oral Sepsis, combined with the giving of cod liver oil and vitamins, greatly improved the health of the mothers.

Two hundred and forty live births were traced including 3 in Tredegar Maternity Home, 2 in Coed-y-Gric Institution, and 1 in Royal Gwent Hospital.

Ten cases were referred to the V.D. Department, Royal Gwent Hospital, for investigation of vaginal discharge.

Twelve non-pregnant cases reported.

3.—DR. ANNIE C. ROBERTS, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

ABERTILLERY.—This Clinic was held fortnightly for the first half of the year with an attendance gradually rising until it reached 76 when it was found necessary to have a whole day weekly session. About 400 women attended during the year and the average attendance was 37. 146 women were primiparæ and 254 multiparæ; and 12 women who were not pregnant also attended. There were 4 miscarriages all in multiparæ—2 primiparæ and 6 multiparæ had stillbirths. 37 primiparæ and 39 multiparæ attending were not due to be confined until 1939. 1 primiparæ and 5 multiparæ had twins. Several cases were referred to Prof. Strachan, four albuminurias (one with twins) two cardiac cases, one hyperemesis and one woman (primip.) with a large amount of glucose in the urine. These were all advised admission to Glossop Terrace. One case, examined by the Consultant was found to be normal and had her confinement at home. There was one maternal death. This patient was taken to Glossop Terrace in labour and died of toxic hepatitis. About 50 per cent. of the women received food under the National Birthday Trust Scheme but the majority were allowed it because of economic reasons and not because of malnutrition. The primiparæ here are in good condition and malnutrition is shown mostly in multiparæ who have had a large number of pregnancies, or whose pregnancies have been too close together.

Very little evidence of Venereal disease was found and the few Wassermans which were done gave a negative re-action.

A Dental Clinic has now been opened at this Centre but so far very few women have availed themselves of this facility.

RISCA.—This Clinic was opened in April, 1938, as it was noted that patients from Ynysddu to Risca found the distance to Newport too far to travel regularly. For a month the session was a half-day weekly but has later increased to a whole day weekly. Over 200 cases attended between April and December, and the average attendance was 23·2. 3 non-pregnant women also attended. There were 3 miscarriages one in an elderly primiparæ and 2 in multiparæ. Five primiparæ and four multiparæ had stillbirths. Seventeen women were referred for consultation to Prof. Strachan and twelve of these were advised admission to hospital. Two cases had Cæsarean Section, one primiparæ for a rachitic pelvis and the other a multiparæ for a transverse lie. Two primiparæ with tense distended abdomens were found to have respectively a breech and a transverse lie and both had still births in hospital. Three multiparæ and two primiparæ all with severe albuminuria were confined in Glossop Terrace, the primiparæ having live children and all the multiparæ still births. One woman with severe albuminuria and twin pregnancy refused consultation and was confined at home of live twins. The majority of the still births were due to High Blood Pressure and Albuminuria. Four women were referred to Dr. Gordon, one with syphilis and three with Gonorrhœa and all were given treatment. About one-third of the women received food under the National Birthday Trust Fund and it was noted that the cases which showed the highest degree of anæmia and malnutrition came from the Ynysddu area. These same women also showed the highest degree of Dental Caries and Oral Sepsis but efforts to persuade them to have treatment were quite futile. It is surprising that there are not more cases of Puerperal Sepsis among patients such as these.

ABERGAVENNY.—This Clinic is still only held once a month for a half-day as the attendance does not increase. 55 women attended in 1938 and the average attendance was 10. 21 women were primiparæ and 34 were multiparæ. Of these, three were post-natal, one being referred for birth control, one to her own doctor for general treatment and one was advised to consult a Gynæcologist.

The majority of the cases had normal confinements. Two were admitted to Glossop Terrace where one had an instrumental delivery and the other a Cæsarean Section.

4—DR. WINIFRED E. PROBERT, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

USK.—This Clinic is held every fortnight on the same day as the Infant Welfare Clinic. The total attendances were 55. There were twenty-three new cases. This is double the number of new cases for last year. The giving of free food to the rural areas has been of considerable help and greatly appreciated by the mothers. Some of the mothers have considerable distances to travel and it is an effort for them to attend especially in bad weather.

One patient was referred to Prof. Strachan because of recurrent hæmorrhage and general health very poor. She was admitted to Glossop Terrace, gave birth to a living child and has now made good recovery. Another woman was advised to go to Tredegar Home but refused to go. There were 2 cases of Albuminuria, one of which resulted in a miscarriage.

Two women attended for a Post-natal examination, one of whom had prolapsed uterus and was afterwards operated on at the Royal Gwent Hospital.

CRUMLIN.—This Centre is held every week on a Friday. The total attendances were 1,229, an increase of 54 over last year's figures.

The average attendance was 25.6. Of these 382 were new cases and 847 were re-examined. The percentage of primiparæ equals 38 per cent.

The majority of the women were sent to the Clinic by their midwives. A few were referred by their local doctors. The midwives attend personally with their patients and especially so if they are young primiparæ and there is a doubt if the confinement will be a normal one.

There were 60 cases of patients suffering from slight Albuminuria. These cases cleared up with the appropriate treatment. There were 14 cases of a more severe Albuminuria which required more intensive treatment.

Seven cases were referred to Professor Strachan.

Eight cases were referred to the Royal Gwent Hospital for investigation of Vaginal Discharge.

Ten cases were found with moderate Heart disease. Anæmia and constipation were the commonest complaints, which were appropriately treated.

OAKDALE.—This Centre is held every fortnight. The total attendance was 654. The average attendance was 29.2. This shows an increase since last year, the average then being 22.6. The percentage of primiparæ equals 26.

One case thought to be a Breech was sent to Prof. Strachan. It was a normal confinement. Another case was taken to Hospital for Antepartum Hæmorrhage and delivered a seven months baby. There were a few cases of mild Albuminuria which cleared up with treatment. Anæmia, varicose veins and constipation were the commonest complaints.

5.—DR. MARY R. MACQUILLAN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

ABERSYCHAN A.N. CLINIC.—This Clinic is held for a half-day session once a month. The total attendance in 1938 was 220 as compared with 207 in the previous year. There were 88 new cases attending, and of these 36 were primiparæ.

SCHEDULE OF ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Clinic	Premises Used	Day and Time of Ante-natal Clinic	Date of Opening	Medical Officer in Charge	Health Visitor	District served by the Clinic	No. of New Cases attended	Re-Visits	Total	Average Attendance at each Session
Abergavenny	Boy Scouts' Rooms, Neville Street	4th Tuesday in month, 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.	1929 Nov. 26th	Dr. Annie C. Roberts	Nurse M. Sainsbury	Abergavenny Urban and Rural Areas	47	77	124	10.3
Abersychan	Congregational Schoolroom	4th Wednesday in month, 2 to 4 p.m.	Nov. 6th 1930	Dr. Mary R. MacQuillan	Nurse L. Howell	Abersychan, Varteg and Garndiffaith	77	143	220	20.0
Abertillery	59 Tillery Street	Thursdays—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	July 19th 1930	Dr. Annie C. Roberts	Nurse D. Beacham	Abertillery, Six Bells, Aberbeeg & Llanhilleth	393	939	1332	37.0
Blaenavon	Workmen's Surgery	4th Friday in month, 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	July 29th 1929	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse C. M. Phillip	Blaenavon Urban District	67	156	223	20.2
Blaina	Church Institute	Alternate Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Nov. 12th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse C. Davies	Nantyglo and Blaina	177	309	486	19.4
Chepstow	Domestic Arts Centre, Bridge St., School The Clinic,	1st Friday in month, 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.	Dec. 6th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse N. Richards	Chepstow Urban and Rural Areas	105	175	280	23.3
Crumlin	Hafoedrynys Road	Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Nov. 1st	Dr. Winifred E. Probert	Nurse G. I. Golding	Llanhilleth, Crumlin, Hafoedrynys, Newbridge, Abercarn and Cwmcaru	382	847	1229	25.6
Ebbw Vale	James Street Wesleyan Chapel	Alternate Tuesdays—9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Nov. 19th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse M. Redwood	Ebbw Vale, Beaufort, Victoria, Waunllwyd and Cwm	204	397	601	26.1
Monmouth	Glendower Street Congregational Chapel	1st Friday in month, 10 a.m. to 12 noon	Dec. 6th	Dr. Evelyn D. Owen	Nurse E. Webb	Monmouth Urban and Rural Areas	43	74	117	11.7
Newport	School Clinic, Stanley Road, Gold Tops	Alternate Fridays, 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Dec. 2nd	Dr. Mary Gordon	Nurse E. Wilmoth	Machen, Rhiwderin, Rogerstone, Bassaleg, Pontnewydd, Cwmbran, Caerleon, Caldicot, Magor and St. Mellons Rural Area	265	673	938	21.3
New Tredegar	Wesleyan Methodist Schoolroom	3rd Friday in month, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Nov. 15th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse F. Williams	New Tredegar, Cwmsyfiog and Aberbargoed	183	274	457	38.0
Oakdale	Women's Institute	Alternate Tuesdays—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Oct. 28th	Dr. Winifred E. Probert	Nurse G. I. Golding	Oakdale, Blackwood and Pontllanfraith	206	448	654	29.7
Pengam	The Clinic, Vine House	2nd Friday in month, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Dec. 3rd	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse M. B. James	Cefn Forest, Pengam Maescwimmer, Bedwas & Trethomas	184	267	451	37.3
Pontypool	Tabernacle Schoolroom Crane Street	Alternate Tuesdays—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Nov. 26th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse E. A. Morgan	Pontypool, Pontnewydd, Pontymoile, Panteg, and Griffithstown	297	629	926	38.5
Rhymney	Neuadd Wen yr Urdd	1st Monday in month, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.	Dec. 3rd 1938	Dr. Evelyn D. Owen	Nurse W. Jones	Rhymney and Abertyswg	87	93	180	18.0
Risca	District Nursing Association Rooms	Every Monday—10 a.m. and 4 p.m.	1929 Nov. 19th	Dr. Annie C. Roberts	Nurse A. Hopkins	Risca, Cross Keys, Ynysddu, Cwm-felinfach	224	659	883	23.2
Tredegar	Lower Surgery, Park Place	Every Wednesday—1 to 4 p.m.	1929 Nov. 19th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse M. Payne	Tredegar, Sirhowy, Trevil, Bedwelty Pits, Troedrihwgwaer, Hollybush, Markham Village and Argoed Usk and District	292	544	836	17.06
Usk	Twyn Square	Alternate Mondays—10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	1938 June 27th	Dr. Winifred Probert	Nurse A. M. Spencer		23	32	55	5.0
Rumney—Transferred to Cardiff—1/4/38.							13	12	25	8.3
Totals							3269	6748	10017	24.2

E.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

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

Location of Centre	District Served	Premises Utilised	Date of Opening	Days and Hours of Consultations	Medical Officer
Aberbargoed	Aberbargoed	Methodist Chapel, Aberbargoed	1917 Nov. 4th	Wednesday, 10 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. A. C. 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, Neville Street Abergavenny	April 17th	Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Dr. G. W. Parry
Abersychan	Abersychan	Congregational Schoolroom, Abersychan	1918 Oct. 29th	Wednesday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. R. J. S. Verity
Abertillery	Abertillery and Cwmillery	59 Tillery Street, Abertillery	1917 June 8th	Friday, 10 a.m.—3 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith
Abertysswg	Abertysswg	Ainon Baptist Chapel, Abertysswg	1920 July 7th	Wednesday, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
Beaufort	Beaufort	Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, Beaufort	1919 Sept. 3rd	Thursday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. F. M. Fonseca
Blackwood	Blackwood, Pontllanfraith and Argoed	Parish Hall, Blackwood	1917 April 20th	Monday, 10.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m. and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. A. M. S. Dewar
Blaenavon	Blaenavon	Workmen's Surgery, Blaenavon	June 6th	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan
Blaina	Blaina	Church Institute, Blaina	April 17th	Friday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.	Dr. W. Panes
Caerleon	Caerleon and Christchurch	Wesleyan Chapel Caerleon	Nov. 21st	Alternate Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
Caldicot	Caldicot, Sudbrook, Portskewett & District	Wesleyan Chapel, Caldicot	1920 June 1st	Tuesday, 10 a.m.—3.30 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
Chepstow	Chepstow Urban and Rural Districts	Domestic Arts Centre, Bridge Street School, Chepstow	1917 March 27th	Thursday, 10 a.m.—12 noon, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. J. J. O'Reilly
Crosskeys	Crosskeys, Wattsville and Pontywaun	Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, Crosskeys	Nov. 23rd	Friday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. A. M. S. Dewar
Crumlin	Crumlin	4 Hafodyrny Road, Crumlin	1924 March 28th	Wednesday, 10 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan
Cwm	Cwm, Victoria and Waunllwyd	Parish Hall, Cwm	1917 Nov. 20th	Thursday, 10.30 a.m.—4 p.m.	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan
Cwmbran	Llantarnam, Cwmbran, Llanfrehfa and Ponthir	Wesley Schoolroom, Cwmbran	March 21st	Thursday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.	Dr. M. R. MacQuillan
Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale	James Street Wesleyan Chapel, Ebbw Vale	March 13th	Tuesday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.	Dr. F. M. Fonseca
Garndiffaith	Varteg, Victoria, Cwmavon and Garndiffaith	Calvinistic Methodist Schoolroom, Garndiffaith	Oct. 23rd	Tuesday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. R. J. S. Verity
Llanhilleth	Llanhilleth Aberbeeg	Workmen's Institute, Llanhilleth	1917 Oct. 15th	Monday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith

Location of Centre	District Served	Premises Utilised	Date of Opening	Day and Hours of Consultations	Medical Officer
Markham Village	Markham	46, Abernant Road, Markham	1933 Feb. 15th	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. A. C. Roberts
Monmouth	Monmouth Urban and Rural Districts	Glendower Congregational Chapel, Monmouth	1917 June 15th	Friday, 10 a.m.—4.30 p.m.	Dr. W. H. Williams
Nantyglo	Nantyglo	English Wesleyan Church, Nantyglo	1924 July 14th	Monday, 1 p.m.—4 p.m.	Dr. H. V. M. Jones
Newbridge	Newbridge and Pentwynmawr	Tabernacle Baptist Schoolroom, Newbridge	1917 March 20th	Monday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan
Newport	Magor and St. Mellons Rural Area.	School Clinic, Stanley Road, Newport	March 21st	Alternate Wednesdays 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
New Tredegar	New Tredegar and Cwmsyfiog	Wesleyan Methodist Schoolroom, New Tredegar	March 29th	Monday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. W. B. Owen
Oakdale	Oakdale, Rhiw-syr-dafydd	Women's Institute Oakdale	1918 Oct. 25th	Alternate Thursdays, 10 a.m.—3.30 p.m.	Dr. M. Scott
Panteg	Panteg, Griffithstown and Pontrhydyrun	Baptist Chapel, Griffithstown	1917 March 21st	Thursday, 10—12 noon	Dr. B. L. MacQuillan
Pengam	Pengam, Fleur-de-lis and Maesycwmmwr	Vine House, High Street, Pengam	March 12th	Thursday, 10.30—12.30 and 1.30—3.30 p.m.	Dr. H. V. M. Jones
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. T. M. O'Riordan
Pontypool	Pontypool, Mamhilad, Glascoed, Goytre, Coedypaen, Llangibby	Tabernacle Schoolroom, Crane Street, Pontypool	May 9th	Wednesday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. E. D. Owen
Rhymney	Rhymney and Rhymney Bridge	Neuadd Wen yr Urdd, Rhymney	March 12th	Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. R. V. de A. Redwood
Risca	Risca	District Nursing Association Rooms Risca	March 23rd	Friday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. A. C. Roberts
Rogerstone	Rogerstone, Bassaleg, and Rhiwderin	Domestic Arts Centre, Rogerstone School	Nov. 12th	Alternate Fridays, 10—12 noon	Dr. M. Gordon
Six Bells	Six Bells and Aberbeeg	Methodist Chapel, High St., Six Bells	1920 Sept., 29th	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith
Tredegar	Tredegar, Sirhowy, Trevil, Troedrihwair, Bedwellty Pits, Hollybush	Wesleyan Chapel, Harcourt Street, Tredegar	1917 Feb. 26th	Tuesday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. E. T. H. Davies
Trethomas	Trethomas, Bedwas and Machen	Baptist Chapel, Trethomas	April 19th	Monday, 10.30—12.30 and 1.30—3.30 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
Upper Pontnewydd	Pontnewydd and Croesyceiliog	Ashley House, Pontnewydd	1919 June 16th	Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan
Usk	Usk and Rural Area	Twyn Square, Usk	Nov. 11th	Alternate Mondays, 10—4 p.m.	Dr. W. E. Probert
Ynysddu	Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu	Domestic Arts Centre, Ynysddu School	March 23rd 1917	Friday, 10—12 noon	Dr. A. M. S. Dewar

A fair number of the mothers attending were undernourished.

Of the various disorders treated, 14 had anæmia and 10 had Dental Caries. 26 had Albuminuria of varying degrees, whilst only one had Gonorrhœa. One patient had contracted pelvis, and was referred to Professor Strachan. A Cæsarean was performed in Cardiff Royal Infirmary. With this exception, and two still-births, the remaining patients all had normal labours, and as far as is known, no cases of puerperal sepsis were recorded.

National Birthday Trust food was given to necessitous cases at this centre.

6.—DR. EVELYN D. OWEN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

RHYMNEY.—This Clinic was converted from a half-day to a whole day Clinic towards the end of the year and is held once a month. The average attendance increased from 15·9 in 1937 to 18 in 1938.

Fifty per cent. of the new cases attending were primiparæ. One patient was not pregnant.

Three cases of Contracted Pelvis were referred to the Consultant Obstetrician. Two of these went into Glossop Terrace under his care for their confinements; the third had a difficult confinement at home. All had nice healthy babies.

A fourth patient who was referred to the Consultant on account of her poor general condition refused to go into hospital and was very ill after the confinement with severe mental symptoms.

Two patients went to the Tredegar Nursing Home for their confinements and two to Ty Bryn. Three patients with moderately severe heart disease were successfully confined at home.

Two patients were sent to the Royal Gwent Hospital V.D. Department.

Constipation and Dental Caries were the commonest troubles encountered. A few availed themselves of the services of the County Dentist but many postponed their extractions until after the baby was born.

Ten cases of malnutrition were seen.

MONMOUTH.—This Clinic is held monthly for a half-day only. Its average attendance increased in 1938 from 9 to 11·7. 35 per cent. of the new cases were primiparæ. No non-pregnant patient attended.

Two patients were referred to the Consultant Obstetrician and three to the V.D. Department at the Royal Gwent Hospital. Two others went to the Tredegar Nursing Home for their confinements.

One patient with severe heart disease was successfully confined at home. There were four other cases of milder heart disease. These all had uneventful pregnancies and confinements. Four cases of Anæmia were seen. Constipation and Dental Caries were common. Three patients were found to be suffering from malnutrition.

G—REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

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

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	ABERTYSSWG	OAKDALE	TRETHOMAS
	%	%	%
Breast-fed	40·0	31·3	52·4
Artificially fed	43·5	46·9	34·7
Breast and Artificially fed	16·5	21·8	12·9

ABERTYSSWG.—This Centre is open for two hours every Wednesday morning. There was a considerable increase in the total number of children attending the Centre from 580 in 1937 to 831 in 1938, the average attendance per session being 17·31 compared with 12·08 in 1937. The total number on the Register at the end of the year was 89 compared with 80 in the previous year. Breast feeding diminished somewhat—40·0 per cent of the babies brought to the Centre being wholly breast-fed compared with 43·3 per cent. in the previous year. Only two children were found to have Rickets and that in a very mild form. Five children had Dental Caries and three of those had the Carious teeth extracted at the Dental Clinic. Only one child had enlarged Tonsils and was operated on for this condition. One child had a squint but the parents refused treatment for this. No gross Rickets or other orthopaedic conditions were found in the children attending.

Four babies under two years and four toddlers suffered from malnutrition. Two non-nursing mothers also suffered from this condition. Eight mothers had Dental Caries and five accepted treatment for this at the County Dental Clinics.

OAKDALE.—This Centre is open for one whole day fortnightly. There was an increase in the total attendances from 1031 to 1068, while the average attendance per session increased from 41·24 of the previous year to 42·72. Breast-feeding shewed a further decrease from 40·1 per cent. to 31·3 per cent. Five children were noted to have Dental Caries. Three of these accepted appointments and had the Carious teeth removed. There were four cases of mild Rickets. Three children attended during the year suffering from various forms of congenital deformity. All were referred to, and were treated by the Orthopaedic Surgeon.

Four babies under two years and ten toddlers shewed signs of malnutrition. Two nursing mothers and eight non-nursing mothers shewed signs of this condition. Ten mothers had Dental Caries and seven accepted treatment for this condition at the County Dental Clinics.

TRETHOMAS.—This Centre is open one day weekly. The numbers of children under 5 years shewed a slight decrease from 2,385 in 1937 to 2,345 in 1938, while the average attendance was 50·74 in 1937 and 49·89 in 1938. The number of wholly breast-fed infants increased from 44·6 per cent. in 1937 to 52·4 per cent. in 1938. Five children suffered from Rickets in a very mild form. Four children had squint and three of these had advice and treatment from the Ophthalmic Specialist. One child developed Epilepsy and died after several severe attacks. Five children had Dental Caries and four of these accepted appointments and had the Carious teeth removed. Four children had conditions requiring orthopaedic treatment, one having birth paralysis of one arm. All received the necessary orthopaedic treatment. One child had a severe attack of Chorea and Rheumatism and was placed under the care of the County Rheumatism Specialist.

Five babies, eight toddlers, and four non-nursing and one nursing mother shewed signs of malnutrition. Fourteen mothers suffered from Dental Caries and nine had treatment for this at the County Dental Clinics.

2.—DR. MARY GORDON, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS.

	ROGERSTONE	CAERLEON	CALDICOT	NEWPORT
	%	%	%	%
Breast-fed	43	47	53	49
Artificially fed	41	45	40	41
Breast and Artificially fed	16	8	7	10

ROGERSTONE.—This Centre is open fortnightly—on a Friday—and is attended by mothers and babies from Rogerstone and the district surrounding—Bassaleg and Rhiwderin.

Infants :—The figures for attendance show an increase except in the case of new babies reporting, where 46 attended in 1938 as compared with 53 in 1937. 155 infants were on the Register in 1938 as against 157 in 1937. Re-visits were 645 compared with 496, making a total of 526 attendances, against 422 the previous year. The average attendance per session was 46·80 compared with 37·34 in 1937.

The figure for breast-feeding is much lower than last year unfortunately—43 per cent. compared with 54 per cent. This may be explained by the fact that there is still an increase of unemployment in the area with a consequent lowering of the health of the mothers and this year the majority of new babies attending, belonged to mothers of large families. These mothers were worn out by repeated pregnancies and financial shortage and were unable to breast feed. Extra food was given in necessitous cases.

No cases of malnutrition were seen among the babies. Bronchial catarrh, eczema, and teething disturbances were the chief ailments. One case of rachitic bowing of legs was referred to the County Orthopædic Clinic and 1 squint case was seen by Mr. Coulter.

Toddlers :—Fewer new cases attended this year—9 new compared with 14 last year—but the re-visits increased greatly—517 compared with 408 in 1937.

The majority belonged to the 1-2 years old group and, though the greater number of this group were healthy, 10 per cent. showed anæmia and improved with simple iron tonics. 4 per cent. were pale, fat and flabby owing to excess of starchy food in the dietary, lack of fresh air and sunshine, and insufficient sleep. The majority of the latter suffered from bronchial catarrh.

Next in frequency of attendance were the 3-4 year olds. The majority were very fit but 7 of the 28 reporting had to have carious teeth removed and 2 were referred to Dr. Watkins, Consulting Physician, on account of asthma, and were greatly improved after advice and treatment.

The majority of the 2—3 years group were healthy—several had appointments for adenoids removal. Most of this group were brought along by their mothers (probably with a baby as well) to have a watch kept on their progress.

Two cases of malnutrition were seen and assisted with tonics and cod liver oil.

Forty-nine new nursing mothers attended and were helped with free food and tonics where necessary. About 10 per cent. showed lactational debility and 8 per cent. suffered from anæmia.

CAERLEON.—This Centre is open on alternate Wednesday afternoons for the mothers and babies from Caerleon and the surrounding rural districts.

There is an increase all round in the number of cases reporting. 127 *infants* were on the Register at the end of the year compared with 103; 44 new babies attended as against 26 in 1937 and there were 490 re-visits compared with 395 the previous year—making a total of 534 re-visits.

The babies on the whole were a healthy lot. The figure for breast feeding was again low (47 per cent.)—most of the new babies being already on artificial milk foods before coming to the Clinic. Bronchial catarrh, nasal catarrh, eczema and digestive disturbances accounted for the majority of the ailments and were relieved by advice and simple mixtures. 1 case of mild bowing of legs was referred to the Orthopædic Clinic and had treatment by massage and night splints. No cases of malnutrition attended.

Of the *toddlers* reporting, 46 per cent. belonged to the 1-2 year old group. The majority of these were healthy but 3 cases of malnutrition due to under-nourishment were seen and helped with milk and cod liver oil preparations. Bronchial catarrh, eczema and urticaria formed the majority of the ailments.

Thirty-six per cent. were in the 2-3 year old group. This group was a very healthy one—though 2 cases of malnutrition due to under-nourishment attended. 2 cases were referred to the County Clinic for adenoids removal, 2 cases had dental appointments, 1 squint case was sent to Dr. Roche, Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon, and 1 case of otorrhoea attended the Aural Clinic at Newport.

The majority of the 3-5 year old group came, accompanying their mother who was bringing a baby. All were healthy. 4 had dental appointments. This was the smallest group, as many of the 4-5 year olds were attending school.

The *nursing mothers* showed a considerable amount of lactational debility (15 per cent.) and anæmia (10 per cent.). Milk foods (given free to necessitous cases) and iron tonics caused much improvement in the general health and nursing capabilities of the mothers. 7 dental appointments were made. No cases of malnutrition due to under-nourishment were seen.

Six expectant mothers were referred to the Ante-Natal Clinic at Newport.

Ladies of the local Maternity and Child Welfare Committee attended regularly at the Centre throughout the year, and gave valuable assistance.

NEWPORT.—This Centre was open on alternate Wednesday afternoons and was attended by mothers and babies from High Cross, Bettws, Llanwern, Nash, Goldcliffe and Castleton. The attendance of mothers and babies from the latter area is due to the taking-over of Rumney Infant Welfare Centre by Cardiff City Council during the first half of the year 1938.

Largely due to the inclusion of Castleton and Marshfield districts in the area served by the Centre, the figures for attendance show an increase all round compared with the previous year—101 on Register at end of year, instead of 71; total attendances 535 compared with 283; and average attendance per session 20·57 as against 11·79 in 1937.

The figure for breast-feeding showed a satisfactory increase—49 per cent. as against 39 per cent. in 1937. On the whole, the babies were very fit, but 2 cases of malnutrition were seen and several anæmic babies were greatly improved with iron tonics. 2 cases of mild rachitic bowing of legs were referred to the Orthopædic Clinic and one case of Erb's paralysis was already attending the Orthopædic Clinic when she came to the Infant Welfare Centre—excellent progress was made at the Orthopædic Clinic.

Sixteen new cases from 1-5 years attended compared with 12 in 1937 and 164 re-visits of toddlers were paid as against 95 the previous year.

Of the toddlers reporting, the majority belonged to the 1-2 year old group. 3 showed subnormal nutrition, due to improper feeding. No cases of malnutrition due to lack of nourishment were seen. 2 cases of flat foot were referred to the Orthopædic Clinic.

Next in order of frequency of attendance were the 2-3 years old. They were all very fit. 1 deaf-mute was detected in this group and was sent to an Institution for training.

Of the 3-5 year old group, the chief defects were enlarged tonsils and carious teeth. 1 case of malnutrition due to insufficient feeding was seen. 2 cases of squint were referred to Mr. Roche.

Eight-ten per cent. of the nursing mothers showed lactational debility and were helped with milk foods and iron tonics. 4 per cent. of the nursing mothers showed anæmia and 2 per cent. non-nursing mothers also were anæmic. Dental appointments were given to several nursing mothers.

I should like to express my thanks to Miss Mordey for her regular attendance at, and help with the work of, the Centre.

CALDICOT.—This Centre is held weekly on a Tuesday and is attended by mothers and babies from Caldicot and the surrounding rural districts.

The figures for attendance show an increase all round compared with 1937—161 on Register at end of year instead of 150 an average attendance per session of 40·29 compared with 36·04 in 1937.

Of the *babies* attending the majority were healthy—53 per cent. were breast-fed and there were no cases of malnutrition. Bronchial catarrh, otorrhœa and minor digestive upsets accounted for most of the ailments. 3 cases of mild bowing of legs were referred to the County Orthopædic Clinic and given cod liver oil and advised re diet and hygiene. The three cases of ear discharge were sent to the Aural Clinic at Newport.

The *toddlers* who attended were of average nutrition on the whole, but 4 per cent. showed subnormal nutrition due to improper feeding. The majority of the toddlers belonged to the 1-2 year old group and 3 per cent. of this group suffered from anæmia, improving greatly with iron tonics, and attention to diet.

There was no subnormal nutrition in the 2-5 year old group. The majority came, either with their mother bringing a young baby or for dental appointments. 3 had adenoids removed at the County Tonsils and Adenoids Clinic. Threadworms and impetigo were the chief minor ailments.

Lactational debility occurred in 8 per cent. of the nursing mothers but no malnutrition was seen. Constipation, anæmia and pyorrhœa were responsible for most of the other troubles of the nursing mother.

Five expectant mothers were referred to the Ante-Natal Clinic at Chepstow.

Free food was given in much the same amount as last year.

The ladies of the local Maternity and Child Welfare Committee attended during the sessions and rendered excellent service.

3.—DR. EVELYN D. OWEN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

Breast-fed	.....	44%
Breast and Artificially fed	.....	25·8%
Artificially fed	.....	30·2%

PONTYPOOL.—The attendances at this Clinic were more in 1938 than in 1937. The number on the Register at the end of the year was 330 with an average attendance of 59·39 per session. In 1937 the figures were 317 and 50·6.

The percentage of babies that were entirely breast fed dropped from 47·8 to 44 with a corresponding increase in the percentage of artificial feeding. The combined breast and artificial feeding remained the same as the previous year.

The number of nursing mothers attending for advice and treatment for themselves was the same as in 1937. Only four of these were definitely badly nourished but about 20 per cent. showed some general debility or slight anæmia. Most of these improved with treatment by simple drugs and free food when necessary. On the whole the condition of the mothers seen at this Centre is not unsatisfactory.

One case of marasmus was seen among the babies and in nine others under one year of age the nutrition was somewhat below normal.

As in the previous year the number of toddlers who attended in 1938 was 80. 23 of these were underweight but only three of four were badly so. It was disappointing to find that a number of these toddlers did not improve even although they were given extra milk foods and medicines such as cod liver oil and malt, Roboleine, etc. Too often other factors such as insufficient rest appear to be responsible for the child's poor progress.

4.—DR. TERESA M. O'RIORDAN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	NEW-BRIDGE	PONTY-MOILE	PONT-NEWYDD	CWM	CRUMLIN	BLAEN-AVON
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Breast-fed	42·9	35·71	40·0	37·5	39·62	42·10
Breast and Artificially fed	19·10	20·00	20·0	20·31	20·76	12·40
Artificially fed	38·00	44·29	40·0	42·19	39·62	45·50

NEWBRIDGE.—This centre is open for a whole day every Monday. During the last few months of the year the Medical Officer attended only alternate weeks. The average attendance at this Clinic during the year was 77·95, a slight decrease from last year when it was 79·2. The number on the Register at the end of the year was 280 as against 322 in 1937. The slight decrease in these figures may be due partly to the non-attendance of the Medical Officer regularly each week as formerly.

The percentage of breast-fed infants is 42·90 per cent. in 1938 compared with 41·70 per cent. in 1937. It is satisfactory to record even a slight increase. The percentage of the combined method of feeding is 19·10 per cent. as against 22·60 per cent. in 1937, and the percentage of artificially fed infants has increased from 35·7 per cent. in 1937 to 38·0 per cent. in 1938.

The nutrition of the infants was mostly up to the normal standard—quite a number attaining the excellent standard, but a few were slightly below the normal. Two infants—twins—whose nutrition was bad at birth made such good progress that they reached the normal standard at 3½ months of age.

The nutrition of the mothers is on the whole, improved this year. Those whose nutrition was below the normal—12·5 per cent. were helped by a free supply of a milk food to enable them to continue breast-feeding or if anæmic were given a suitable iron tonic. Nineteen mothers were referred to the Dental Clinic for treatment. Two attended Dr. Gordon's Clinic at the Royal Gwent Hospital and one attended the Tuberculosis Clinic.

The nutrition of toddlers examined at the Clinic during the year was not satisfactory, 36·6 per cent. were slightly below normal as against 33·4 per cent. the previous year. There were 10 cases of mild rickets. All these children were given a free supply of a suitable preparation such as malt and oil, Roboleine or Virol, and this was continued as long as necessary. Five orthopaedic cases were referred to the Specialist. Eight children were treated at the Tonsil Clinic; four at the Dental Clinic; three children at the Eye Clinic, and nine children referred to the Aural Clinic attended there regularly.

NUTRITION OF TODDLERS.

	NEWBRIDGE	PONTY-MOILE	PONT-NEWYDD	CRUMLIN	BLAEN-AVON
	%	%	%	%	%
Excellent	5.0	12.72	7.0	8.2	5.60
Normal	56.7	58.18	75.0	52.40	50.60
Slightly below normal	36.6	29.10	18.0	36.10	41.5
Bad	1.7	—	—	3.30	2.3

PONTYMOILE.—This is a half-day Centre and is open each Tuesday morning, and for the last part of the year the Medical Officer attended only alternate Tuesdays.

This year again there is a further increase in the number of infants on the Register at the end of the year. At the end of 1938 the number was 136 compared with 128 in 1937, and with 104 in 1936. There is also an increase in the number of new cases: it was 61 in 1938; in 1937 the number was 54. The average attendance at each session is slightly lower, being 21.9 in 1938 compared with 22.29 in 1937. This decrease may be due to the visits of the Medical Officer on alternate weeks and not on each Clinic day as formerly.

It is satisfactory to record that the percentage for breast-feeding has increased from 29.4 per cent. in 1937 to 35.71 per cent. in 1938, but the percentage for the combined method of feeding has decreased from 29.40 per cent. in 1937 to 20.0 per cent. in 1938. The percentage of the artificially fed infants has increased from 41.2 per cent. in 1937 to 44.29 per cent. in 1938.

The mothers whose nutrition was below the normal standard of health were given some milk food to enable them to continue breast feeding for the full period—if possible, and for those suffering from slight anæmia a suitable iron tonic was prescribed. These additions to their daily diet have helped the mothers considerably. Many mothers suffered from pyorrhœa and Dental Caries and were referred to the Dental Clinic for treatment.

Four children were referred to the Tonsil Clinic, five were treated at the Dental Clinic. Three children attended the Orthopædic Centre, one attended Dr. Gordon's Clinic at the Royal Gwent Hospital, and two had glasses prescribed at the Eye Clinic.

NUTRITION OF THE MOTHERS.

	NEWBRIDGE	PONTYMOILE	PONTNEWYDD	CRUMLIN
	%	%	%	%
Excellent	3.0	3.70	3.0	—
Normal	84.0	77.70	91.4	94.30
Slightly below Normal	12.5	18.60	5.6	5.70
Bad	0.50	—	—	—

PONTNEWYDD.—This Centre is open during the afternoon, each Tuesday. During the last few months of this year the Medical Officer attended Alternate Tuesdays.

There is a decrease in the number of infants on the Register at the end of this year; the number has decreased from 137 in 1937 to 106 in 1938. Also the average attendance

at each session is 22·29 in 1938 compared with 26·9 in 1937. This decrease may be due to the absence of the Medical Officer on the alternate Clinic days. When the patients miss the doctor they fail to return regularly.

There is an increase in the percentage of breast-fed infants; the percentage for 1938 is 40·0 per cent. as against 35·70 per cent. in 1937. There is a decrease in the percentage of the combined method of feeding: 20 per cent. for 1938 as against 31·0 per cent. in 1937, and the percentage of the artificially fed infants has risen from 31·0 per cent. in 1937 to 40 per cent. in 1938. It is pleasing to record this increase in the natural method of feeding.

The nutrition of the mothers attending this Centre is generally satisfactory. 91·4 per cent. were found normal re their nutrition; those whose nutrition was below normal by the addition of a milk food, granted free to them at the Centre, were enabled to continue breast-feeding usually up to the ninth month.

The toddlers attended fairly regularly and the nutrition of those who do attend is satisfactory, but often the mother reports that "the little one at home is poorly" and saying she finds it difficult to bring the toddler with the baby. When this toddler does attend for examination it is often found that malt and oil or Roboleine, or some such tonic food is necessary for them, and this—in many cases, is supplied free at the centre.

Only the simple drugs, such as aperients, cough mixtures and simple tonics and ointments are prescribed at this Centre—and the others too—the work done at all Centres is mainly prophylactic.

CRUMLIN.—This Centre is open each Wednesday morning. During the last few months of 1938 the Medical Officer attended alternate Wednesdays. The number on the Register at the end of the year was 189 compared with 179 in 1937. The number of new cases was 90 in 1938 as against 70 in 1937, and the average attendance at each session in 1938 was 31·93 as against 25·48 in 1937. It is pleasing to record these increases.

The arrangement for visiting centres—especially half-day Centres—on alternate weeks is not satisfactory. The Medical Officer often has to leave without seeing all the mothers or infants, and others attend the session when the Medical Officer is not there, and must go away disappointed.

The percentage of breast-fed infants has increased very slightly from 39·0 per cent. in 1937 to 39·62 per cent. in 1938. The percentage of the combined method has increased from 15·5 per cent. the previous year to 20·76 per cent. in 1938, and the percentage of the artificially fed infants has decreased from 45·5 per cent. in 1937 to 39·6 per cent. in 1938.

The nutrition of the mothers visiting the Centre has improved, 5·7 per cent. were found slightly below the normal standard. Those who—for medical reasons—needed a milk food to enable them to continue breast feeding, were given a supply free at the Centre, and many suffering from either a general debility or a slight anæmia were given a suitable iron tonic. Four mothers received treatment at the Dental Clinic and four attended Dr. Gordon's Clinic at the Royal Gwent Hospital.

Many mothers, who live near the Centre, bring their toddlers regularly. The nutrition of these children was not satisfactory, as seen from the figures in the table above. These children were helped by a regular supply of a suitable preparation such as malt and oil, Roboleine, etc. Some were given this—others a milk food, over a long period to enable them to regain the normal standard of health. Two children were referred for treatment to the Dental Clinic; two to Dr. Gordon's Special Clinic at the Royal Gwent Hospital; two to the Orthopædic Clinic, and one to the Tuberculosis Officer, and one child to the Eye Clinic.

CWM.—This Centre is open every Thursday. The Medical Officer attends alternate weeks.

The number on the Register at the end of the year was 222 compared with 183 in 1937. The number of new cases—under one year—in 1937 was 74 and in 1938 there were 111 new

cases. The number of re-visits in 1937 were 1,032 and the number in 1938 were 1,392. The average attendance at each session in 1938 was 42.25 compared with 32.6 in 1937. These figures shew a satisfactory improvement.

The percentage of breast-fed infants has decreased from 40.4 per cent. in 1937 to 37.50 per cent. in 1938. There is an increase in the percentage of the combined method from 19.2 per cent. in 1937 to 20.31 per cent. in 1938, and the percentage of the artificially fed class 42.19 per cent. in 1938 compared with 40.4 per cent. in 1937.

There were a few cases of malnutrition amongst the infants. Suitable milk food—if they were not breast-fed—and cod liver oil and malt or Virol or Roboleine, according to the needs—were given to these children.

The mothers brought the toddlers more regularly to the Centre. Amongst these there were some mild cases of Rickets. The mothers of these children were instructed re their diet and general hygiene. Three children were referred to the Dental Clinic and four to the Orthopædic Centre.

The health of the mothers—attending the Clinic—was, on the whole, satisfactory. Several mothers, whose condition was not quite up to the normal standard, were helped with free milk food to enable them to continue breast feeding their infants, and those who suffered from a mild anæmia were given suitable iron tonics.

BLAENAVON.—This Centre is open each Wednesday afternoon. During the last months of the year the Medical Officer attended only on alternate Wednesdays.

The number of infants on the Register at the end of the year was 283 as against 275 in 1937. The number of new cases in 1938 was 128 compared with 109 in 1937 and the average attendance at each session was slightly increased in 1938, being 42.18 as against 41.2. in 1937.

There is a marked increase in the percentage of breast-fed infants. In 1937 the percentage was 33.0 per cent., in 1938 it was 42.1. per cent. The percentage in the combined method has fallen from 15 per cent. the previous year to 12.4 per cent. in 1938; and the percentage of the artificially fed infants has too, from 52.0 per cent. in 1937 to 45.0 per cent. in 1938.

The nutrition of the mothers—on the whole—is satisfactory. Those, whose nutrition was below the normal, were given a supply of milk food free to help them to continue breast feeding their infants during the normal lactation period. This supply was continued as long as medically needed. Some mothers suffered from a slight anæmia and for them iron tonics were prescribed and given. The attendance of the mothers varied—depending on the attendance of the Medical Officer and also weather conditions, when extreme—as they often are in this district, are responsible for a low attendance. Four mothers attended the Dental Clinic, one attended Dr. Gordon's Clinic. Two were under the supervision of the Tuberculosis Officer.

The toddlers attended more regularly, but mainly those whose nutrition was not up to the normal standard or who was suffering from some complaint. These children were given some tonic extract or a milk food free to enable them to regain their normal condition, and many were given iron tonics. These additions to their ordinary diet helped them considerably. Ten children were treated at the Dental Clinic. Three were referred to the Orthopædic Clinic; two children were referred to Dr. Gordon's Clinic at the Royal Gwent Hospital. Three were under the care of the Tuberculosis Officer; three were examined at the Eye Clinics and one at the Tonsil Clinic.

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

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

Breast-fed	....	....	....	....	....	53	=	28%
Breast and bottle fed	....	....	....	....	....	28	=	15%
Bottle fed	....	....	....	....	....	107	=	57%
						188		

RISCA.—The breast feeding figure which was very low in 1937 being 32 per cent. has dropped still lower, to 28 per cent. which shows that only just over a quarter of the babies attending are breast-fed. A recent article in the *British Medical Journal* infers that the Medical Officers of the Centres are to be blamed for this state of affairs, but that is hardly reasonable. Most of these infants are already entirely bottle fed when they first visit the Centre and with a few exceptions neither the family doctors nor the midwives give much advice re persevering with breast feeding. Bottle fed babies appear to thrive just as well as the breast fed ones and summer diarrhoea (especially when dried milks are used) now seems almost unknown; therefore except for psychological reasons arguments are lacking to persuade the mother to persevere with breast feeding.

The attendance at this Clinic has increased greatly this year, the average now being 97·7 as against 83·6 in 1937. In summer the attendance reached as high a figure as 130 (excluding the treatment of nursing mothers) and with such an attendance it shows that there is little or no time to pay attention to nursing mothers, especially when, as now, Medical Officers are attending their Centres fortnightly instead of weekly.

The amount of food given here is not high in proportion to the number of infants attending and with a few exceptions the cases are deserving and the mothers are grateful for the help given.

The attendance being high, the amount of drugs used is large, the demand being larger than the supply, which is limited. Simple tonics especially those containing iron are particularly useful, especially in winter time when iron containing foods are difficult to obtain.

Ante-Natal work is done at the same Centre but on a different day of the week and it is now noted that most of the mothers bringing young infants have previously attended the Ante-Natal Clinic.

The nutrition of infants under nine months is excellent and it is particularly gratifying to note that a number of infants underweight in the earlier months have reached a normal weight by the age of 9 months. Of 53 breast fed babies 98 per cent. were satisfactory. Of 28 breast and bottle fed 88 per cent. were satisfactory. Of 107 bottle fed 98 per cent. were satisfactory. Here the complementary feeding does not appear to have been entirely suitable and some infants would probably have done better had breast feeding been persevered with.

The nursing mothers here are healthy about 94 per cent. being satisfactory. Of the part nursing 93 per cent. were satisfactory. Of those not nursing their infants nearly 25 per cent. were unsatisfactory but not to any extreme degree. Two mothers (one having had previous sanatorium treatment) were referred by their own doctors to the Tuberculosis Officer and were found to have a severe degree of phthisis. In both cases the infants were healthy.

Ninety-five infants, aged 9 months to 2 years, attended the Centre. Of these 20 were unsatisfactory, giving a figure of 78 to 79 per cent. satisfactory. This, though not high, is better than last year and satisfactory in consideration of the fact that this is the age group in which malnutrition and mal-assimilation are most noticeable.

One hundred and twenty-four children aged 2-5 years attended. Of these only 15 were unsatisfactory, leaving 109 or nearly 88 per cent. satisfactory. Toddlers here attend regularly and mothers are always ready to respond to suggestions for treatment where diet is unsatisfactory or defects such as decayed teeth, enlarged tonsils or squint need attention.

In regard to this centre where both the Ante-Natal Clinic and the Infant Welfare Clinic are attended by the same Medical Officer, it has been noted that the women who, during their pregnancy, received milk foods under the National Birthday Trust Fund, had, for the most part very healthy infants, but the breast feeding figures have been in no way improved.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

Breast fed	....	....	....	....	....	....	26	=	34½%
Breast and bottle fed	....	....	....	....	....	....	12	=	15½%
Bottle fed	....	....	....	....	....	....	40	=	50%
							78		

MARKHAM.—The breast feeding figures have risen slightly, about 50 per cent. of the mothers having fed or partly fed their babies with breast milk. Here again, as at other Centres, too many of the mothers "try" a bottle feed usually of Nestle's milk. This is generally approved of by the infant and weaning follows as a matter of course.

The average attendance has dropped from 27 to 21 per session and is decidedly low for the size of the district. Markham is a notoriously cold and windy spot in the winter and there are many days when it is almost impossible for mothers from Argoed and Hollybush to attend. The number of new infants in the year is 55, against 72 in the previous year, which suggests that there may have been a decrease in the birth rate for that area.

The amount of food given here is relatively small and goes mostly to cases from Argoed where unemployment is more in evidence than in Markham. Generally speaking the Markham children, both toddlers and infants, are well nourished and exceptionally well cared for.

The amount of drugs used here is not very large but that is to be expected in a clinic smaller than the average.

Expectant mothers are not dealt with here but attend either Tredegar or Oakdale Ante-Natal Clinics.

The nutrition of infants up to the age of 9 months is very satisfactory, only 5 out of 78 being graded as unsatisfactory, i.e., 94 per cent. satisfactory. The unsatisfactory cases were chiefly amongst those whose mothers were unable to breast feed.

Of the nursing mothers 25 out of 26 were in good condition, equalling about 96 per cent. Of the part nursing 11 out of 12 were satisfactory, equalling about 92 per cent. Amongst the nursing mothers 9 out of 40 were unsatisfactory, equalling 77½ per cent. satisfactory. In several cases the unsatisfactory condition was not due to malnutrition but to some inter-current illness or to some illness of pregnancy, i.e., kidney trouble.

As regards children aged 9 months to 2 years, they are again, as in previous years, far below the high standard of the infants, about 33 to 34 per cent. of them grading as unsatisfactory. This is due to various factors—lack of milk foods—teething—lack of sleep; and infectious illnesses to which many of them fall victims during that age period. In spite of the low figure, 66 to 67 per cent. satisfactory, shows an improvement on last year, when only about 50 per cent. were satisfactory.

Thirty-six toddlers attended in 1938—Of these 10 (or 28 per cent.) were unsatisfactory though it may be stated that no cases of extreme malnutrition were observed.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

Breast fed	....	....	....	....	....	50	=	40%
Breast and bottle fed	....	....	....	....	....	15	=	10%
Bottle fed	....	....	....	....	....	64	=	50%
						<hr/> 129		

ABERBARGOED.—The percentage of bottle fed babies is exactly the same as last year and it seems impossible to raise the standard of breast feeding. It appears to be that those who wish to breast feed often cannot and that those who might, apparently have no desire to do so. In this centre the number of unsatisfactory breast fed babies is lower than that of unsatisfactory bottle fed babies but this statement does not hold good for all centres.

The average attendance has risen this year from 30·7 to 37·1, which for a half day Clinic is satisfactory, as a larger number cannot be dealt with in the time allowed.

“Free food” is still unfortunately very much in evidence at this Centre and it has been found impossible to supply it on medical grounds only. Many of the families are so large that if some food is not supplied even when the infant is healthy, either the mother suffers or the infant itself later shows signs of malnutrition.

Drugs here are extensively used and are much appreciated, particularly iron tonics which improve to a great degree the slight anæmics of the nursing mother and the infants and toddlers.

Ante-Natal cases are all referred to New Tredegar Ante-Natal Clinic.

The condition of infants from 1 to 9 months is on the whole very satisfactory, only about 10 per cent. grading as unsatisfactory and of these several have been premature and delicate from the start or are suffering from some defect such as congenital heart or familial jaundice. With regard to feeding, figures show that 98 per cent. of the breast fed babies were satisfactory, 100 per cent. of the breast and bottle (showing the usefulness of complementary feeding) and 82 per cent. of the bottle fed.

With regard to the mothers—96 per cent. of the nursing mothers were satisfactory—93½ per cent. of the part nursing but only 77 per cent. of the non-nursing. This shows that roughly 25 per cent. of the non-nursing mothers were probably genuinely unable to breast feed but that still leaves 75 per cent. whose own health should have justified breast feeding. Maternal nutrition shows an improvement from that of the previous year. One mother died of Tuberculosis.

With regard to the nutrition of children of 9 months to 2 years there appears to be a marked improvement from last year. 72 per cent. grading as satisfactory instead of 53 per cent. as previously. Infants receiving free food who are still under weight at the age of 12 months have been allowed a half supply of food until conditions improved. 55 toddlers (aged 2-5 years) attended and of these 71 per cent. were found to be satisfactory. This shows a decrease from last year's figure, probably due to the high number of 9 months to 2 years who were unsatisfactory in 1937.

Large families prevail here and this leads to irregular and injudicious feeding and lack of sleep amongst the younger members of the family.

6.—DR. ALICE DEWAR, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	BLACKWOOD	CROSS KEYS	YNYSDDU
	%	%	%
Breast fed	34·3	39·6	38·8
Breast and artificially fed	21	18·7	27·1
Artificially fed	44·7	41·7	34·1

BLACKWOOD.—This Centre is open one whole day weekly, the Medical Officer attending fortnightly. The attendances were lower than those of the previous year. The number on the Register was 317 compared with 337, and the total attendances was 2,377 compared with 2,703. The average attendance at each session had fallen from 56·31 to 49·52. The number of infants had actually increased, the decrease being in the number of toddlers attending. This is mostly due to the fact that a large proportion of the toddlers who had attended the previous year were then between the ages of four and five years and were at school in 1938. The amount of breast feeding has fallen from 35·7 per cent. to 34·3 per cent. The amount of combined breast and artificial feeding shows an increase from 15·3 per cent. to 21 per cent. with a fall in purely artificial feeding from 48·9 per cent. to 44·7 per cent. This shows that the mothers are making an attempt to breast feed their infants though they are unable to do so entirely.

The condition of the infants on the whole was good. Only 15 were underweight and only two showed signs of actual malnutrition. The condition of the toddlers was not nearly as good as that of the babies. Half of them were underweight but only one suffered from malnutrition. The chief complaints were bronchial catarrh and constipation. Five cases of mild rickets were seen. Four cases were referred to the Orthopædic Clinic, one to the Tuberculosis Officer, five cases of squint to the Eye Clinic and four cases of otorrhœa to the Aural Clinic.

A limited supply of simple drugs was used and a fair amount of cod liver oil and malt, and similar preparations was prescribed, mostly for toddlers.

The health of the mothers who attended seemed to show an improvement this year. There was no case of actual malnutrition.

CROSS KEYS.—This Centre is open for one half-day weekly, the Medical Officer attending every second week. There is practically no change in the number of infants on the Register here, it having altered from 88 to 87. The total attendance however has increased from 1,281 to 1,399 and the average attendance at each session from 26·68 to 28·55. This is satisfactory showing that the mothers are attending more regularly. There is a slight increase again in the amount of breast feeding, it having risen from 38·2 per cent. to 39·6 per cent. There is a very gratifying decrease in the amount of purely artificial feeding, it having dropped from 56·3 to 41·7 per cent. There is an increase in the amount of combined breast and artificial feeding from 5·5 per cent. to 18·7 per cent. This is partly due to the fact that during the last year at this Centre there has been a large proportion of young mothers attending with their first babies and they seem more anxious to take advice than the older mothers who have already had children.

The health of the infants on the whole was very good, only five were underweight and there was no case of malnutrition. There was a slight increase in the number of toddlers

attending, and on the whole they were very healthy. Seven cases were referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic, two cases of squint to the Eye Clinic and five cases of Otorrhœa to the Aural Clinic.

As in previous years practically no free food was given at this Centre.

The general condition of the mothers was good, a very few suffered from debility and none from malnutrition. The expectant mothers were referred to Risca Ante-Natal Clinic.

YNYSDDU.—This is a half-day Centre and is held weekly, the Medical Officer attending fortnightly.

There is again a slight increase in the number of infants on the register, it being 199 compared with 192 for the previous year. The total attendance has increased from 1,818 to 1,851 and the average attendance at each session from 37·87 to 38·62. Unfortunately there is a very large decrease in the amount of breast feeding, it having fallen from 53·8 per cent. to 38·8 per cent. This is very disappointing as this Centre has always previously had a much higher percentage of breast feeding than any other Centres. But in several cases the mothers are unable to breast feed the babies, owing to deficient lactation, but that they do attempt to do so, is evidenced by the fact that the amount of combined breast and artificial feeding has increased from 16·2 per cent. to 27·1 per cent., and the amount of purely artificial feeding shows a small increase, namely from 30 per cent. to 34·1 per cent.

The infants on the whole were fit, a fair number were underweight but none suffered from malnutrition. The condition of the toddlers, however, was not nearly as satisfactory. About two thirds of them were underweight. This accounts for the fact that a fairly large amount of free food and preparations of cod liver oil are supplied at this Centre.

The health of the mothers was fairly good, several suffering to a certain extent from debility. The chief complaints were constipation and dental caries. It is very difficult to persuade some of the older mothers at this Centre to avail themselves of the treatment offered them at the Dental Clinics. The expectant mothers were referred to Risca Ante-Natal Clinic.

7.—DR. MARY R. MACQUILLAN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

CWMBRAN.—This Clinic is held every Thursday for a full-day session and is always well attended. The number on the register at the end of 1938 was 237, a slight increase on the previous year's figure of 228. New cases attending under one year, amounted to 89 and re-visits to 1,343.

The percentage of purely breast-fed amounted to 35 per cent., breast and artificially fed to 25 per cent. and artificially fed 40 per cent. Free food is given to needy cases.

The drugs prescribed are mostly for chest and gastric disturbances.

All Ante-Natal cases are referred to the Newport Clinic.

The attendance of toddlers at the Centre is good, although it shews a slight decrease from the previous year. Seven new cases attended and there were 889 re-visits; 39 of the cases showed signs of malnutrition.

Of nursing mothers attending the Centre, new cases amounted to 31, and re-visits to 82. 26 of these had anæmia and 16 showed signs of malnutrition.

8.—DR. W. BOWEN OWEN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.
NEW TREDEGAR.

	Breast-fed.	Breast and Bottle Fed.	Bottle Fed.
<i>Infants.</i>	40%	28%	32%
	No. reviewed at the end of the year		119
	In satisfactory condition		80%
	In unsatisfactory condition		20%

Breast feeding was more in evidence during the year, especially during the early months of life. The percentage of babies making satisfactory progress was higher than during the previous year—80 per cent. as against 74 per cent.

Children aged One to Five Years.

No. reviewed at the end of the year	126
In satisfactory condition	49%
In unsatisfactory condition	51%

Unsatisfactory progress is very common amongst the toddlers. The Common Cold, Bronchitis, Enlarged Tonsils, and Otorrhœa are common affections. Despite the distribution of milk, malt and oil, and other medicaments their condition and growth is not maintained as in infancy.

Malnutrition observed in mothers :—

Nursing	3
Non-Nursing	12

The average attendance was 60·29, being practically the same as last year.

9.—DR. WM. PANES, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

BLAINA.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

Breast fed.	Breast and Bottle fed.	Bottle fed.
52%	14%	34%

Fifty-two per cent. of infants under 9 months of age were fed on the breast, this is an increase of 5 per cent. on the previous year. The combined method of feeding showed no change whereas bottle feeding fell about 5 per cent.

The number on the Register at the end of the year was 288, an increase of 11 on the year 1937. The average attendance per session was 42·85, a fall of approximately 17 per session over the previous year. This fall is in all probability due to the improvement that has taken place in the general condition of the children of this area.

Only four infants under 1 year presented signs of malnutrition and in all cases improvement occurred when a slight alteration of the diet was carried out. Generally speaking the condition of infants was extremely satisfactory.

One hundred and twenty-three children from 1-5 years attended the Clinic and of these approximately 20 per cent. showed signs of under nourishment clinically. However, it is felt that these children were not suffering from a shortage of food, but rather from a diet which is ill-balanced. In a number of the cases the condition of clinical malnutrition, was thought to be constitutional, this belief was borne out by the failure of some cases to improve even after the defects in diet had been rectified.

The condition of the mothers shows a marked improvement over recent years. The severe anæmias and debility which were common a few years ago have now become decidedly uncommon. The general attitude and demeanour of the mothers show an improvement which has been absent since depressed industrial conditions first struck this district. They seem much more cheerful and hopeful, and this cheerfulness is reflected by an improvement in the health both of the children and the mothers.

10.—DR. WINIFRED E. PROBERT, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

USK.—This Centre is held every fortnight. The number on the register at the end of the year was 138. The average attendance was 45·6, while the total attendances amounted to 1,095.

The percentage of breast feeding	50
The percentage of partially fed	22
The percentage of artificially fed	28

The total number of toddlers attending was 615, showing an increase of 39 over last year's figure. Malnutrition and debility were found in a few cases. These were given free milk, and cod liver oil and malt, and showed improvement.

Free food were given in many cases as the earnings of the farm labourers are often inadequate to support large families.

The usual iron tonics and cough mixtures were prescribed.

The voluntary helpers continue to give their help and my thanks are due to them for this co-operation.

11.—DR. H. V. M. JONES, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.
PENGAM.—

Breast fed.	Part Breast.	Artificially fed.
44.9%	37.7%	17.4%

The attendance at this Clinic has been progressively increasing and the numbers for the present year again shewed increase over those of the previous year.

The children are well turned out and intelligently cared for—in many cases a noteworthy achievement in the face of economic pressure. The mothers eagerly follow the progress of the children and frequently ask advice. When instructions have been given they are usually well carried out. The percentage of wholly and partly breast fed babies shew clearly that the common sense advantages of natural feeding are being increasingly appreciated.

The nutrition of the mothers and children—more especially that of the babies—is good. As Dr. Munro my predecessor commented, there is a certain amount of malnutrition amongst the toddlers. It is significant that these children, below the average in weight, do not gain weight when food is gratuitously supplied.

In regard to illnesses, respiratory affections are comparatively the most frequent. This year, however, enteritis has been troublesomely persistent but fortunately it has never been of dangerous severity.

Cases have been referred for treatment to the County Dental, Orthopædic, Aural and Ophthalmic Clinics. Several cases, also, have been investigated by the Tuberculosis Authority—with gratifying negative results.

NANTYGLO.

Breast fed.	Part Breast.	Artificially fed.
36%	16%	48%

As hitherto this Clinic has been available on Monday afternoons each week.

Slightly less have attended than in the previous year, but there is little or no change to report on, in comparison with the previous years. The advantages of breast feeding of babies is still not appreciated, though one must admit that the art of artificial feeding with dried milks has indeed been well mastered.

On the whole the health of the mothers and children has been quite satisfactory. The excellent progress of many of the children has been a real tribute to their parental care. Some of the children over two years of age have been below the average weight—but these have not gained weight when nourishment has been given them at the Clinic. One has to remember that some people are naturally of smaller physique than others. Again there must be borne in mind the facts that children of the two to five year old group attend the Clinic for the most part only when in need of especial care. The large majority of this "toddler group" are not seen.

Most often encountered of illnesses has been bronchitis and next to it enteritis. This is the general run of frequency met with. For the most part the ailments have been fortunately of mild severity.

As is usual, cases have been referred for treatment to the County's Dental, Aural, Orthopaedic and Ophthalmic Clinics. Cases for investigation, have been sent to the County Pathologist and to the Tuberculosis Officer.

12.—DR. B. L. MACQUILLAN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

PANTEG.—This Clinic is held every Thursday and consists of a morning session only. During the year 1938 there has been a very excellent attendance, and the average numbers visiting increased with each session. The average attendance per session was 46.69 per cent.

Sixty-three per cent. of the babies were breast fed, 4 per cent. partially breast fed, and the remainder, some 33 per cent., were artificially fed.

The majority of children in this group were healthy and well nourished.

The percentage attendance of the toddler class still keeps at a very high level, and it is gratifying to sense the appreciation of the mothers of this area.

Owing to the frequent recurrence of Diphtheria in the Eastern Valley quite a few mothers of children of pre-school age have been advised to have them immunized and have accepted the facilities gratefully.

The dispensing of free food has been, as in former years, limited to those cases on purely medical grounds such as malnutrition, rickets, etc. The preponderance of drugs used during the year were mainly those used in dealing with infections of the alimentary and respiratory tracts. The willing co-operation of the local medical practitioners is also greatly appreciated.

13.—DR. E. M. GRIFFITH, Medical Officer of Health, Abercarn Urban District.

ABERCARN.—The average attendance was 81.87. The average attendance varies very little year after year.

The general conditions in this area have considerably improved during the year as regards unemployment—with the result that free food has not been given except in cases of illness ; or to a very small extent.

Drugs are rarely prescribed at this Centre.

Malnutrition :—

- (i) In Nursing mothers has not been noticed to anything like the extent it was some years ago, owing to, as before mentioned, that times have been better.
- (ii) Non-nursing mothers : The same conditions apply.
- (iii) Babies : Very few with malnutrition have been seen at the Clinic as the mothers are very keen on the health and general well-being of their babies.

20.—DR. G. W. PARRY, Abergavenny.

This Clinic is open every Tuesday, which, being market day, is the most convenient for country people.

It is very well attended ; the total number of attendances for the year being 2,178, an average of just over 45 per session.

Mothers ailments are chiefly alimentary and nearly all due to bad teeth but this is improving and mothers are seeking dental attention to a greater extent.

Among children by far the greatest number of complaints was respiratory. There has been a bad outbreak of whooping cough and this coupled with indifferent weather accounts for most of it.

Dirty skins were too common and some bad cases of impetigo were treated. Otherwise alimentary diseases predominated, nearly all from wrong feeding and disinclination to wean at the proper age. Mothers are much more willing to learn and to act on advice.

Many cases of an orthopaedic nature and many cases of tonsils and adenoids were seen and referred to the County M.O.H., who has had them dealt with promptly.

Feeding is nearly all breast, at any rate up to six months and then by cow's milk or Ostermilk, very few are given free food as work has been more plentiful.

Drugs used are chiefly those for coughs and colds, enteritis and worms to a much less extent.

Since the beginning of work at Glascoed which has absorbed a large number of local men the standard of feeding of both mothers and children is much higher and the poorer children show it very much and are also much better clothed.

The attendance seems to be getting larger at this Clinic particularly of toddlers who are brought primarily for advice and not for free medicines or foods.

I am particularly impressed by the way mothers now try to understand why things go wrong with their children and try to obviate the cause.

15.—DR. T. B. SMITH, Medical Officer of Health, Abertillery Urban District Council.

CENTRE	INFANTS (0-1 year).			CHILDREN (1-5 years).					
	No. on Register 31st Dec. 1938	No. of Attendances		No. of Re-visits		Total		Total Attendances all ages	Average Attendance per Session
		New Cases under 1 yr.	New Cases 1-5 years	Under 1 year	1-5 years	Under 1 year	1-5 years		
Abertillery	570	234	11	2110	1040	2344	1051	3395	70.72
Llanhilleth	344	114	11	1544	868	1658	879	2537	52.85
Six Bells	339	136	16	1362	737	1498	753	2251	40.93
Total all Centres	1253	484	38	5016	2645	5500	2683	8183	54.83

A comparison of this table with the same table printed in the reports of previous years shows that the attendances at the Centres are well maintained. There were only 492 births during the year compared with 610 in 1930, 1242 in 1921 and 461 in 1937.

Gastric-Intestinal and Bronchial troubles accounted for by far the largest percentage of disease found in the infants.

No marked case of Rickets was observed.

Special treatment was given to six cases which showed signs of commencing Rickets—All did well.

Several babies were brought to the Clinic suffering from the after-effects of Whooping Cough which was more prevalent than usual in certain districts.

Skin diseases showed a decrease but a few cases of scabies were observed.

A large number of infants are already weaned when brought to this Centre for the first time. This happens mostly with the younger mothers. They appear to accept advice too readily from other people who have fed their babies on the various artificial foods. A little special advice and a little more persistency would lead to a larger percentage of breast-fed infants. The most trivial reasons are regarded as an excuse for giving up breast feeding. It cannot too often be stressed that the natural method of breast feeding far excels the best artificial methods where the mother is healthy and this lesson should be specially inculcated when they are attending the Ante-Natal Clinic.

No marked case of malnutrition was observed in the nursing mothers in attendance but a considerable number of them were definitely under "par" and did not seem to regain their normal health as rapidly as they should have done after confinement.

Many of these were anæmic and debilitated.

Careful enquiry revealed that there was a definite lack of cow's milk and fresh vegetables in their diet.

The cost of cow's milk is definitely too high for general use in the family of the worker.

Fresh milk was supplied in all cases when it was considered necessary on medical grounds and in some cases extra allowances were granted by the Unemployment Assistance Board.

"Toddlers" do not attend the Centre in such numbers as the younger infants. Those who did attend were mostly suffering from the "after effects" of some severe illness and required careful observation and treatment.

Special diet charts are distributed to mothers.

Several nursing mothers were referred for dental treatment and a few "toddler" cases were referred to Orthopædic Specialist.

Three cases of severe squint were dealt with by the Eye Specialist.

16.—DR. R. J. S. VERITY, Garndiffaith.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	ABERSYCHAN	GARNDIFFAITH	PONTNEWYNYDD
	%	%	%
Breast-fed	48	34	37
Breast and artificially fed	6	—	24
Artificially fed	46	66	39

ABERSYCHAN, GARNDIFFAITH AND PONTNEWYNYDD.—All the three Centres have been carried on as in past years, the attendances having been both good and regular.

The attendance of "toddlers" has been good but there is still room for improvement in this direction.

There have been no cases of malnutrition from the want of food but there have been a few from improper feeding and attention.

A number of nursing mothers have sought advice, which has been given, and improvements noted.

There has been great improvement in the number of breast-fed babies.

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

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	BEAUFORT	EBBW VALE
	%	%
Breast fed	41	67
Breast and artificially fed	6	9
Artificially fed	53	24

BEAUFORT AND EBBW VALE.—There has been a slight increase in the attendances at these Centres during the year.

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

The drugs at 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 attendants.

The Ante-Natal Clinic is still very popular and attendances are increasing.

There was no malnutrition amongst the cases attending the Centre. Very few "toddlers" attended.

18.—DR. R. V. de A. REDWOOD, Medical Officer of Health, Rhymney.

RHYMNEY.

MODE OF FEEDING UP TO NINE MONTHS.

Breast fed	Breast and Artificially fed	Artificially fed
33%	19%	48%

The attendances weekly at the Clinic have been well maintained, despite the fact that in recent years the birth-rate has steadily declined due to many of the young people leaving the district.

The birth-rate for Rhymney Urban District was usually above that for England and Wales; in recent years it has been below.

The attendance of toddlers up to 5 years has increased.

A considerable amount of free food was given each week, in nearly all cases of illness, poor development and undernourishment. The amount has been less during the latter half of 1938, as there is some slight improvement in employment.

A few simple drugs and ointments are prescribed; other prescriptions are dispensed at the parent's surgery.

The Ante-Natal work has sustained its increase, evident in 1937. The importance of examination and advice during the whole of the pregnancy being more appreciated throughout the district during recent years.

Any Ante-Natal cases presenting themselves at the Infant Welfare Clinic are referred to the following Ante-Natal Clinic.

Nursing mothers and non-nursing mothers. There are a number of cases of malnutrition amongst these cases following confinement—anæmia and loss of weight (20)—Dental Caries (16). New cases on Register 57 during 1938. Infants, 29. New cases on Register 125. Total on Register 257.

Milk is given to the mother if suckling the baby; or milk to the mother with the help of two bottle feeds a day.

Where the baby is artificially fed, if below the scale, 1 box of free food is given a week.

About 50 per cent. of the toddlers that visit the Centre suffer from malnutrition, the mothers bring them owing to this being the case.

The Orthopædic Clinic under Mr. Arthur Rocyn Jones, F.R.C.S., and Dental Clinics are much appreciated and taken full advantage of.

Most cases of infants and mothers needing surgical treatment are sent to the Rhymney Cottage Hospital. A number of cases of circumcision—abscess of breast, etc., are dealt with each year and some are admitted.

The local committee, *i.e.*, the County Councillors and lady helpers take an enthusiastic interest in the Clinic, and their help is invaluable.

19.—DR. E. T. H. DAVIES, Medical Officer of Health, Tredegar.

TREDEGAR.—This Centre is more successful than ever. It is a delight to see the mothers take such an interest in it.

Considering the climate of this district the attendance is remarkable.

20.—DR. J. J. O'REILLY, Medical Officer of Health, Chepstow.

CHEPSTOW.—The attendances per session were well maintained.

The year's work has been uneventful, but we hope, none the less useful. All mothers are made welcome, especially those in difficulty, and we manage to straighten out most of the tangles. The distribution of infant food, free and at reduced price, is an important part of our work, while simple medicines are given free in cases of need. Education in mothercraft, however, is the important function of the Centre.

Breast-feeding does not seem to be increasing, probably because the case for it is not stated as freely and forcibly as in the case of its rivals. Breast milk, having no cash value, has no press agent. Yet the Authorities seem unanimous; from the first three to hand we get :—

Advantages of breast feeding to the child :—

" it is five times less likely to die during the first year of life."—(Donald Paterson and J. Forest Smith in "*Modern methods of feeding in infancy and childhood.*")

" Mortality statistics show that 4 to 6 artificially fed babies die for every breast fed baby that dies."—Smith and Byers in section on Pediatrics from "*The Specialities in General Practice.*" (Palfrey).

" Both the mortality and morbidity of breast-fed infants are lower than is the case in those artificially fed. In a large series of elementary school children who were examined (Holper and Hardy) it appeared that those who had been artificially fed were physically and mentally inferior to those who had been breast-fed for the first nine months of life." "*Diseases of Infancy and Childhood*" (Parsons and Barling).

While in the current number of "*The Lancet*" (April 29th, 1939) we find the following in a lecture on Infantile Diarrhoea based on a study and analysis of 500 consecutive cases in Birmingham Children's Hospital :—

" Ever since the artificial feeding of infants became prevalent, all writers have recognised the increased incidence of the diarrhoeal diseases among such babies. As has already been mentioned, Carter (1893), forty six years ago, laid emphasis on the prophylactic value of breast feeding, and recently Spence (1938) has declared that it is beyond all question that breast fed infants show a greater freedom from disease and a greater power of recovery from disease than artificially fed infants. My figures very strongly support and confirm the accuracy of these statements. Only 12 infants had been entirely breast fed up to the time of admission with gastro-enteritis; two died, one from broncho-pneumonia, the other from bilateral mastoiditis. Furthermore, out of 375 infants under the age of nine months only 154, or 41 per cent. had been breast fed for a month or more. The mortality rate in this group was 25·9 per cent. which contrasts with a mortality rate of 76·6 per cent. in those who had never been breast-fed. Thus, although there was not a great deal of difference in the incidence of gastro-enteritis in partially breast-fed and in entirely artificially fed infants, the mortality rate in the latter group was more than three times greater than in the former."

Mass suggestion is the greatest single cause of failure to breast feed. One cannot blame the mother; with an education not designed for anything in particular, she is "exposed to the full battery of a modern publicity campaign operated with the utmost skill to produce maximum profit for the manufacturer." One day perhaps, this exploitation of the innocents will be checked by law, but in the meantime we might learn something from the salesmen. We might for instance, give the mothers something to read about all this. True, we now hand out a certain amount of "official" literature, our familiar little pile of different coloured

slips—the mauve one telling how to prepare mutton broth, the pink how to make barley water and so on—no doubt very practical and sensible, but for all that a little uninspiring, a little faded in tint and technique. Why not a small book (it might even be “got up like an advertisement”), attractive in appearance, helpful and interesting in matter, and designed to do for breast milk what is similarly done for any and all of the substitute foods. The cost would surely not be prohibitive, and in any case a small price might be charged for it. Its preparation should present no difficulty.

Our thanks are due to Mrs. and Miss Evill for another year's voluntary work in the Centre.

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

The facilities for the purchase at the Infant Welfare Centre of infant food, etc., continue to be of advantage to the mothers attending the Centres.

The wages earned by many of the men employed in the works and collieries of the County continue very low, and there is still a considerable amount of unemployment throughout the County. The service for the provision of infant foods at a little over cost price, therefore, meets a real necessity.

Dried milks, malt extracts and other infant foods to the value of £6,700 8s. 4d. were purchased for sale and for distribution to necessitous cases at the Centres during the year.

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 cost incurred on the articles given gratis. At a few of the Centres there are voluntary funds, out of which foods are supplied 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 medical officer in charge of the Centre is of opinion that expectant or nursing mothers and infants are in need on medical grounds, milk is given free if the income of the parents is within the scale fixed by the Council.

Foods to the value of £1,848 7s. 8d. were given for expectant and nursing mothers and for infants during the year. This included £386 13s. 9d. paid for fresh milk.

The following table shows the value of foods given away each year since the commencement of the scheme.

1919	....	£140 15 0	1928	....	£3,844 1 1
1920	....	£537 18 11	1929	....	£5,092 18 8
1921	....	£5,984 0 0	1930	....	£4,787 2 6
(Coal Stoppage : Dinners also given).			1931	....	£5,941 2 6
1922	....	£2,232 14 3	1932	....	£3,372 13 11
1923	....	£1,548 6 7	1933	....	£995 15 6
1924	....	£1,170 3 8	1934	....	£1,218 7 1
1925	....	£1,766 14 0	1935	....	£1,755 6 2
1926	....	£2,469 7 6	1936	....	£1,774 1 3
1927	....	£2,817 18 4	1937	....	£1,638 14 4
			1938	....	£1,848 7 8

I.—MIDWIFERY SERVICES.

The County Council is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts for the whole of the Administrative County of Monmouth.

The County Council's scheme under Section 1 of the Midwives Act, 1936, came into force on the 1st October, 1937.

It provides for the domiciliary midwifery service, in the rural areas, through the Monmouthshire Nursing Association, and, in the urban areas, by salaried midwives employed by the County Council.

Of the Nurses employed by the Monmouthshire Nursing Association, eighteen do district nursing as well as midwifery, and four are employed solely as midwives.

All the districts served by the Monmouthshire Nursing Association are rural areas with the exception of Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, and Abergavenny, which have at least one Monmouthshire Nursing Association Nurse. No general nursing is done by any of the nurses in those areas, their whole time being devoted to district midwifery. In the case of Tredegar and Ebbw Vale the nurses are resident in the District Nurses' Homes established in those two townships by the Monmouthshire Nursing Association. An annual contribution of £1,397 for 1938-39, rising to £1,582 in 1944-45, will be paid by the Council to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association in respect of midwifery done by the Association midwives.

Sixty-four midwives are employed by the County Council, and they are whole-time servants. In addition there are six peripatetic midwives who act as relief nurses for week-end leave, holiday leave, or in case of illness or suspension of the regular district midwives.

At the passing of the Act there were 229 midwives on the County Roll. Since then, twenty-four midwives have retired voluntary, whilst twenty-four have been compulsorily retired. Voluntary retirals are still taking place amongst those midwives not appointed as County Midwives, and any midwife who gave notice to practise on or after 1st January, 1935, and before 8th March, 1936, may up to July 30th, 1939, apply for, and receive compensation on surrendering her Certificate.

Many of the midwives absorbed from those already practising in the County when the Act came into force are in possession only of the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board, but in the future only general trained nurses possessing also the Central Midwives Board Certificate, and not over thirty-five years of age will be appointed if they can be obtained.

At the present time there are 150 practising midwives on the Roll, including 5 independent midwives living outside the County but working within, and deducting the 64 County Midwives, the 6 Peripatetic, the 22 Monmouthshire Nursing Association Midwives, and 29 who are practising in the Hospitals, Maternity Homes, and Public Assistance Institutions, there are still 24 independent midwives practising the art of midwifery.

There are three District Supervisors of Midwives who each have the supervision of an area of the County, and who devote two and a half days each week to this work, and all types of practising midwife in the County come under their jurisdiction. All are under the general supervision of Dr. Mary Scott, the senior lady medical officer.

Under the County scheme no woman need lack the services of a trained midwife at her confinement.

The scale of fees adopted by the County Council are as follows :—

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) For Midwives and Maternity Nurses | { For the first birth 35/-. |
| | { For all subsequent births 30/-. |

Provided that in cases where the Maternity Nursing exceeds two weeks the payment shall be £1 per week.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (2) When confinement is attended by County Midwife and patient is subsequently removed to hospital. | { 15/- for confinement and 2/- a day after wards until removal. |
| (3) MISCARRIAGE | { 10/- for attending the miscarriage and 1/6 for each day's subsequent attendance. |

Subject to the Scale of Income as under :—

INCOME.	WHERE MATERNITY BENEFIT IS PAYABLE	WHERE MATERNITY BENEFIT IS NOT PAYABLE
Where weekly income (after deducting 5/- for each dependent child)		
(1) Is less than £2/10/0	20/-	Nil
(2) Exceeds £2/10/0 and does not exceed £3/5/0	25/-	12/6
(3) Exceeds £3/5/0 and does not exceed £4	27/6	15/-
(4) Exceeds £4 and does not exceed £5	30/-	25/-
(5) Exceeds £5	35/-	35/-

The net weekly income shall be the average gross earnings of the husband and wife for the six weeks immediately preceding the confinement.

No reduction is to be made in the above scale in respect of the fact that a patient or her relative is a contributor to a District Association.

When two maternity benefits are payable (i.e., man and wife) the full fee will be charged.

It is as yet too early to record the effects this new Act will have on the public health of the County. The position of a midwife, who, previously was working as an independent woman, and who has now been appointed under the Act, is greatly altered for the better. Her hours of work are regulated. Uniform, telephone, travelling expenses and her equipment are provided. She is assured of a regular income, regular holiday leave and, when she retires, of a superannuation.

Refresher courses will be provided at regular periods and which will keep her up-to-date in her work.

Taken in conjunction with the schemes now being arranged by the Central Midwives Board for improving the training of midwives, and with the wider facilities for specialist and hospital treatment, the new facilities should do much to lighten the burden of women during pregnancy and confinement. It is also hoped that the damage to the health of the expectant mothers will become negligible and that the incidence of stillbirths will show a rapid decline.

Many difficulties were encountered in bringing this new Act into operation, but these have been overcome and the service is now working smoothly.

The following table shows the number of births notified during the year 1938 :—

County Midwives	3,608
Public Institutions	75
Monmouthshire Nursing Association Midwives	499
Independent Midwives	536
Maternity Homes in the County	341
Total	5,059

The Chief Supervisor of Midwives is Dr. Mary Scott, the senior Assistant Medical Officer, with three District Supervisors—Nurse O. Griffiths for the Rural Areas, Nurse C. Davies for the Eastern and Western Valeys Areas, and Nurse K. M. Walters for the Rhymney and Sirhowy Valley Areas.

The number of inspection visits paid to midwives in the Urban and Industrial areas by the Supervisors of Midwives was 556.

1,945 notifications of sending for medical aid, and 111 of cases of stillbirth, were received from midwives during the year. There were also sixteen notifications of deaths of mothers, 19 notifications of children dying a few hours after birth, 20 notifications of deaths within ten days of birth, 44 notifications from midwives who were liable to be a source of infection, and sixteen notifications of having laid out a dead body.

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

High temperature	106	Still-birth	6
Obstructed labour	79	Unsatisfactory condition of child	53
Delayed labour	4	Eye affections	150
Prolapse of cord	7	Doctor engaged or Patients' request	30
Hæmorrhage, ante-partum	63	Unsatisfactory condition of mother	77
Hæmorrhage, post-partum	95	Albuminuria	44
Prolonged and difficult labour	411	Spina bifida	5
Premature birth	29	Eclampsia	1
Abnormal presentation :—		Varicose Veins	3
Breech	46	Rash, blisters, etc.	12
Face	4	Inflamed breasts	1
Hand	4	Born before arrival	8
Foot	8	Hare lip and cleft palate	4
Shoulder	1	Uterine Inertia	68
Undefined	28	Breast trouble	9
Retained placenta	79	Phimosis	4
Ruptured perineum	340	Hysteria	3
Miscarriage	48	Asphyxia	3
Abortion	21	Jaundice	4
Incomplete abortions	9	Death of child	3
Abortion threatened	6	Subinvolution	2
P.O.P.	10	Rheumatism	1
L.O.P.	3	Anæmia	1
R.O.P.	2	Kidney troubles	3
O.P.P.	16	Oedema	3
Convulsions	3	Tongue Tied	1
Vaginal discharge	1	Miscellaneous	9
Threatened miscarriage	14		

Suspension of midwives to prevent the spread of infection was necessary in 27 cases—Four of these were independent midwives, and compensation was paid to them by the Council in respect of the cases they lost through the suspension.

Letters were sent by the County Medical Officer to six midwives drawing their attention to minor breaches of the rules of the Board.

Tredegar Maternity Home.—(Monmouthshire Nursing Association).

There are seven maternity beds provided at the Home. During the year, 1938, 158 maternity cases were admitted to the Home as compared with 155 in 1937. The number of confinements during the year was 156—121 by midwives and 35 by doctors. There were 5 still-births, and 2 deaths of infants within 10 days of birth. There was also one maternal death.

The grants hitherto made to the Maternity Home, Tredegar, by the Ministry of Health are now under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1929, being paid by the County Council. They amount to £225 per annum. The Home is not recognised as a Training Centre for Midwifery Pupils.

J.—DISTRICT NURSING.

The Monmouthshire Nursing Association :

It was some 30 years ago that Lady Mather Jackson saw the necessity for the provision of district nurses in the County of Monmouthshire, and in due course she submitted a draft scheme for a County Nursing Association to the Higher Education Committee of the Monmouthshire County Council.

On March 4th, 1908, Dr. Rocyn Jones was appointed the first County Medical Officer for Monmouthshire, and immediately upon his appointment the Chairman of the County Council handed to him the draft scheme submitted by Lady Jackson, requesting him to revise it and amend it or otherwise for submission to the County Council at their next meeting. In due course this draft was amended and submitted to the Higher Education Committee and afterwards to the County Council and approved, and in November of the same year the County Council gave it their complete blessing.

In February of 1909, a public meeting was held at Newport under the Chairmanship of the first Viscount Tredegar to consider the establishment of this Association for Monmouthshire, and after a free discussion it was unanimously resolved to proceed with the scheme and to appoint local committees in the industrial and rural areas of the County.

District nurses were appointed in the industrial areas to undertake general medical and surgical nursing only as there was an ample supply of midwives in these areas to carry on the midwifery nursing, but in the rural areas the Association's nurses did the nurse-midwives work which included general nursing and midwifery nursing.

The first Association in the industrial valleys was Newbridge, and Llantilio-Pertholy the first in the rural areas.

The benefit of the nurses was quickly realised and the formation of other Associations followed. In 1910 the number had grown very much and it was necessary to have a principal Body to supervise the work. It was then that affiliation between the local Associations and the County Nursing Association was established. The County Council were of the greatest help and the Monmouthshire Nursing Association owes a great deal to Dr. Rocyn Jones, the County Medical Officer, for his support and guidance.

Tredegar was chosen as the Headquarters, where a Nurses' Home and Training Centre was established. Pupils were trained in midwifery on the district, and the Higher Education Committee awarded Scholarships to assist them in their training.

The training of midwives in this way went on until the Central Midwives Board stipulated that midwives must have a period of intern training, and to satisfy that requirement the County Council asked the Monmouthshire Nursing Association to provide the necessary Home. This was agreed to, and in 1925 the County Council granted a loan, to be repaid in ten years, to enable the Monmouthshire Nursing Association to purchase and equip the premises next door to the Nurses' Home at Tredegar. This establishment proved an enormous success, and a great many pupils were trained for and obtained their C.M.B. Certificates, and as midwives they were employed all over the County, as well as becoming district nurse-midwives in our rural areas, having received six months general district training at Tredegar. In 1933, however, the Central Midwives Board introduced a new rule that all Training Centres for midwives must have 20 beds, and as Tredegar had only 8 beds the training had to cease, and the loss of having trained midwives always available is greatly felt.

A maximum number of patients have been dealt with at the Maternity Home for some time, and as many bookings have had to be refused during the last year or so, the Monmouthshire Nursing Association now have under consideration, and plans have been submitted to the Welsh Board of Health, after which an application will be made to the Commissioner for Special Areas for a Grant, for the building of an entirely new Maternity Home, to replace the present Home, which will provide 14 beds, and it is intended that if this object is achieved, the present Home will be retained for use until part of the new Home is ready for occupation.

Notwithstanding this, the Home has been continued as a Maternity Home only, and large numbers of patients enter each year, until 1938 showed a record total of 158, and so much has the work increased that it is now necessary to extend the premises for the purposes of dealing with the ante-natal work. The County Council has made an annual grant towards the maintenance of the Maternity Home, for which the Monmouthshire Nursing Association is very grateful, as the expenses are very high. Patients are admitted from all over the County.

Under the Local Government Scheme of 1918, the County Council was empowered to make Grants to the Rural Associations for the midwifery branch of the nurses' work, and these have continued until the introduction of the Midwives Act, 1936, on October 1st, 1937, when the Grants were increased in order to provide higher salaries for the midwives and, whenever possible to appoint fully trained midwives, which is being done as the vacancies occur. This Act also enabled the Monmouthshire Nursing Association to establish five new rural Associations, so that the area of the County of Monmouth should be completely covered for midwifery. The installation of telephones under the Act has also proved enormous advantage.

Since 1935 the establishment of District Associations in the industrial district has been great, and no less than 20 new nurses have been appointed, mainly through grants recommended by the Medical Committee of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Council of Social Service, and which recommendation was strongly supported by Sir L. Twiston Davies, the Chairman, and Sir Percy Watkins and Mr. Elfan Rees, the Executive Officers of the Council.

The support which all concerned have given this Nursing movement has been remarkable, which is evidence how much the skilled attention in cases of general ailments, tuberculosis and midwifery is appreciated.

There are 46 District Associations in the County, employing 70 nurses. A grant of £260 per annum has hitherto been made by the Public Assistance Committee to assist these Associations, but under the Public Health Act, 1936, the responsibility for this payment was transferred to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

K.—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. There are 24 Committees, the majority of which are very active and are rendering useful assistance to the mothers and infants attending the Centres.

The scheme 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 drafted, and the Local Committees are prepared to administer them, the provision being made in the case of Tuberculosis that the necessary funds are supplied by the County Council. The Committees are co-operating with the local Association for the Blind in the Welfare of the Blind and this part of the scheme has been satisfactorily inaugurated. Very valuable work in the brightening of the lives of blind persons is being carried out by many of the Committees. The matter of Tuberculosis after-care is still in abeyance.

L.—TRAINING OF ELDER GIRLS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

The teaching of mothercraft in Schools is now a matter of national importance, and local authorities are being urged to develop it. In this County the older scholars of Girls' Departments are taught infant care and hygiene at the Domestic Arts Centres of the schools.

M.—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 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, twice 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 :—

Metarsus Varus	....	3	Talipes Valgus	....	1
Sprengel shoulder	....	1	Contracted toe	....	1
Torticollis....	....	1	Deviation of toe	....	2
Outward curved Tibia	....	17	Supernumerary toe....	....	1
Con. deformity rt clavicle	....	1	Pes Planus	....	2
Congenital Equino Varus	....	3	Deformity of finger	....	4
Pes Plano Valgus	....	10	Deformity of hip	....	1
Genu Valgum	....	8	Calcaneo-cavo-Valgus	....	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	....	1	Facial paralysis	....	1
Spastic monoplegia	....	2	Rickets	....	1
Spastic equinus	....	1	No physical signs	....	6
Pes Valgus	....	1	Dorso-lumbar Kyphosis	....	1
Sl Varus	....	1	Genu Varum	....	2
Talipes Equino Varus	....	3	Cong. seal arms	....	1
Ganglion of wrist	....	1			
					<hr/> 79

His recommendations were as follows :—

For admission to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital	2
For admission to Brockley Hill Country Branch of the Hospital	6
To wear Splints or other apparatus	19
To have alterations to Boots	20
To see X-Ray Specialist	2
No treatment required	12
Re-examination	16
To have special exercises, etc.	2
	<hr/> 79 <hr/>

He also made at the Newport Clinic 49 re-examinations of children who had received treatment at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital.

During the year 14 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 :—

Relapsing Congenital Equino		Congenital Equino Varus	3
Varus	3	Genu Valgum	1
Outward-curved Tibia	2	Anterior Poliomyelitis	2
Hemiplegia	1	Webbed fingers	2

Since the inception of the scheme 191 infants and children under 5 years of age have received treatment at the Hospital.

Upon discharge of the children from the Orthopædic Hospital, Mr. Nathan Rocyn Jones, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S., takes charge of their after-care. He sees them periodically at the Central Orthopædic Clinic, Newport, and at the Clinics at Crumlin, Pengam, Tredegar, Monmouth, and Chepstow, and supervises their massage and electrical treatment and appropriate after-care when necessary. A close watch is kept upon 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 1938, 243 crippled infant children including cases of first diagnosis and re-examinations were seen at these clinics.

Ten infants attended the Clinic for massage and electrical treatment during the year, making 165 attendances.

Seven walking instruments, 9 splints, 13 night shoes, and 6 pairs of surgical boots were supplied for these children by the County Council. Alterations to boots were made for 47 children, also alterations to one walking instrument and repairs to 4 splints. The total cost at this connection was £46 17s. 7d. Infants suffering from Surgical Tuberculosis are treated in the Hospitals of the Welsh National Memorial Association.

In this County there is no excuse for delay in obtaining early treatment. Many cases are discovered by the Health Visitors and the Medical Officers in charge of the Infant Welfare Centres, who notify them to the County Medical Officer, and he arranges an examination by the Consultant Orthopædic Surgeon. If treatment is required, the child's name is placed upon the hospital waiting list and the child is admitted as soon as a vacancy occurs.

2.—OTHER TREATMENT.—(a) Dental.—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 5 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	....	2,064
No. of appointments kept	....	1,297
No. of cases given " gas "	....	1,295
No. of permanent teeth extracted	....	3,548
No. of temporary teeth extracted	....	1,648
No. of fillings done	....	—
No. of mothers treated	....	843
No. of children treated	....	454

The treatment is limited to filling or extraction of defective teeth. Mothers who require dentures have to make their own arrangements. The need for dental treatment is still not understood sufficiently well by expectant mothers, for there are many examined at the ante-natal clinics and infant centres who do not follow the advice given in regard to treatment. This may be due to the fact that many women, for financial reasons, would be unable to obtain artificial teeth after the extractions have been made.

(b) Defective Vision.—Urgent cases of squint and defective vision in children under school age who attend at the Infant Welfare Centres are referred for examination at the local school clinics. 113 children attended the Clinics during the year and spectacles were prescribed for 66.

(c) Tonsils and Adenoids.—39 cases urgently requiring attention and referred from the Infant Welfare Centres received operative treatment at the School Clinics.

(d) Otorrhœa. Weekly Aural Sessions are held at five school clinics and 120 children under 5 years of age attended, making 364 visits.

3.—HOSTEL FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS.—The Maternity Hostel at Nantyderry continues to do good work. There are 10 beds at the Institution, and the number of girls admitted during the year was 10, the average duration of stay being 115·1 days. Nine babies were born and there was one still-birth. The total number of inmates during the year (including those who were admitted in the previous year) was 12 girls and 10 babies.

Eleven girls were discharged, of whom 5 went to relatives, 5 to Homes and 1 to a situation. Of the babies discharged, 5 went to relations and 4 to Homes.

Of the girls resident in the Hostel during the year, 10 were from the County of Monmouth and 2 from Glamorgan.

The object of the Hostel is to make provision during pregnancy and confinement for unmarried women who have borne good characters, but were expecting a first baby, thus giving them a chance of privacy which they could not secure in a public institution, and enabling them to preserve their self-respect.

Generally the girls are admitted one month before their confinement and remain for three months after the birth of the child. As far as possible the mother and child are not separated for at least the first three months of the infant's life.

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.

The work at Nantyerry 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.

The County Council makes an annual contribution of £300 to the Hostel.

4.—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 to the amount of £418 16s. 0d. were paid during the financial year. 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 £120 13s. 0d. The fees paid in the year 1937 totalled £378 1s. 0d. Amount collected from husbands, £74 4s. 9d.

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

5.—PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.—The old Poor-law Institutions of the County are now under the control of the County Council, and the following table shows the accommodation available for maternity cases, and its use during the period 1st January, 1938 to 31st December, 1938 :—

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS	TREDEGAR	CHEPSTOW	PONTYPOOL	TOTAL
Number of Maternity Beds	6	2	4	12
Number of Confinements during year	58	2	17	77

6.—DIFFICULT LABOUR CASES.—Facilities for consultation with Professor G. I. Strachan, M.D., F.R.C.S., Senior Assistant Gynaecologist of the Welsh National Medical School, and the Royal Infirmary, Cardiff, are provided for these cases, and hospital treatment given when necessary.

One hundred and five cases were examined by Dr. Strachan, and 70 of them were subsequently admitted to the Maternity Hospital of the Cardiff Royal Infirmary. Thirty-one other cases were sent to the Maternity Department making a total of 101. Five cases were sent to other Maternity Hospitals. Fourteen cases recommended by the County Council were admitted to the Tredegar Maternity Home as the conditions for the confinement of the women in their own homes were unsuitable. Two women who suffered from Venereal Disease were sent to the London Lock Hospital for their confinements.

7.—REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.—Four Homes have been registered under the Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927, one at Tredegar (Maternity and Nursing), one at Nantyderry (Maternity), one at Bassaleg (Nursing), and the Victoria Cottage Hospital, Abergavenny. Powers of inspection of the Homes are given to the County Medical Officer, and are carried out. All the registered Homes were found to be satisfactory at the annual inspection.

Applications for exemption have been received from the majority of the voluntary hospitals of the County.

N.—INFANT PROTECTION.

The supervision of children under the Children and Young Persons Acts is undertaken by one of the Council's Health Visitors. There were 20 children on the County Register at the end of the year in the care of 15 foster mothers. A visit of inspection is paid every three months to see that the health and home circumstances of the children are satisfactory.

O.—CONCLUSIONS.

The Infantile Mortality Rate has dropped from 63·9 per 1,000 births in 1937 to 55·8 per 1,000 births in 1938. This is the lowest figure ever recorded for the County.

The Maternal Mortality Rate has risen to 7·6 per 1,000 live births. The Rate for 1937 was abnormally low, namely 4·5 per 1,000 live births. This disappointing increase in the Maternal Mortality Rate for 1939 was due entirely to an abnormal number of deaths in the first two quarters of the year—In the last two quarters of the year the rate was well below the average, which for the last few years prior to 1937 was 6·8 per 1,000 live births. As stated elsewhere in this Report a special enquiry is being made into the abnormal Maternal Mortality rate for the first two quarters of 1938 which more than equalled that for the whole of the previous year of 1937.

Fluctuations are inevitable, but, it is felt that, in spite of those upward fluctuations, the rate will, with the passing of time, show a gradual downward trend.

Tribute must be paid to the value of the foodstuffs which are supplied free of charge to expectant mothers in the distressed areas of the County by the National Birthday Trust Fund through the Joint Council of Midwifery. The foods provided are Ovaltine, Ostermilk and Yeast Extract. The County Council provides this same food to necessitous expectant women in the Rural Areas, which do not come within the scope of the Birthday Trust Fund Distribution.

The attendances at most of the Infant Welfare Centres and at all of the Ante-Natal Clinics continue to increase. Many of the Ante-Natal Clinics especially, are overcrowded. Arrangements have now been made for the appointment of an additional Assistant Medical Officer. This addition to the Staff will enable many of these Clinics, both Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal, to be held at more frequent intervals and so relieve the congestion.

The sewerage difficulties in connection with the Lydia Beynon Maternity Hospital have at last been overcome. The Contract for the sewerage scheme was signed on the 21st June, 1939, and it is now felt that the completion of this Hospital is not far distant.

D. ROCYN JONES,

County Medical Officer.

