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BOROUGH OF MONTGOMERY.



MEDICAL OFFICER'S  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Welshpool: Printed by ROBT. OWEN.

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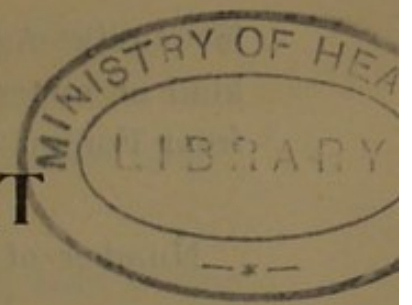
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# ANNUAL REPORT



OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

## Borough of Montgomery.

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough for the year 1925, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 359 (Wales).

### Natural & Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)	...	...	3390
Population 1921 Census—	942,	Estimated 1925—	975.

The town of Montgomery is situated on elevated ground on the side of a broad valley, its general aspect is open towards the South East. The surrounding Country

is purely Agricultural. There are no public works of any kind or mines in the district. Poor Law relief is dispensed from Forden Union of which the Borough forms a part.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921	...	252
"          "          "          1925	...	251
Number of Families or Seperate Occupiers 1921,		252
"          "          "          "          1925,		252
Rateable Value, £8871.		
Sum represented by a penny rate, £24 15s. 6d.		

The greater number of the inhabitants are Agricultural Workers leading a healthy open air life, the remainder are engaged in Shopkeeping, Office Work and small Trades. The amount of Poor Law relief for 1925 was £158 3s. 10½d. Very few of the inhabitants are sent to hospital for treatment, the home Conditions being favourable in most instances.

There have been mild Epidemics of the more common infectious diseases *e.g.*, Mumps, Measles etc., which have not been confined to children. The spread of these diseases could be limited to a great extent by greater care in isolation and early treatment.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Births	{ Legitimate	16	8	8	} Birth Rate 16·3
	{ Illegitimate	0	0	0	
		Total	M.	F.	
Deaths		15	8	7	Death Rate 15·3

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth.

From Sepsis	0
From other causes	0



Death of Infants under one year of age per 1000 births.

Legitimate      0      Illegitimate      62.5      Total 62.5

BIRTHS—There were sixteen children born during the year, 8 males and 8 females, giving a birth rate of 16.3 per 1000, against 25.3 for 1924, 17.7 for 1923, 14.7 for 1922, 14.8 for 1921, and 32.4 for 1920.

The General Birth rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 18.3 per 1000 of the population, for 1924, 18.8

The birth rate on the whole is low. This is due to the fact that the younger people, when they get married move off to larger centres.

DEATHS—Fifteen deaths were registered as belonging to the Borough during the year:—8 males and 7 females, giving a death rate of 15.3 per 1000 of the population compared with 12.2, the general death rate for England and Wales during the same period. The death rates for the Borough for the five preceding years are as follows.—

1920	...	15.7.
1921	...	11.6.
1922	...	5.2.
1923	...	12.5.
1924	...	12.6.

It will be noted from above Statistics that the birth rate over this period is much in excess of the death rate, and that the population of the Borough is not decreasing. As usual during the year deaths occurred chiefly amongst the old people. Seven were over 70 years of age, of these four were over 80. Four died from Cancer in various forms which is an unusually high number from this particular disease. Three died from Tuberculosis which is also a high Mortality figure for this disease. Three died

from senile decay. One child, illegitimate, died before attaining the age of one year, giving an infantile mortality figure of 62.5, compared with 75 for England and Wales.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	1	0	0
Diphtheria ...	1	0	0
Erysipelas ...	2	0	0

There was only one case of Diphtheria, it was impossible to trace the origin unless it was due to defective drains. The case was rigidly isolated and recovered. All contacts were also isolated and given prophylactic doses of Antitoxin. The house was thoroughly disinfected and the drainage system is now in process of reconstruction.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under one year	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
20—25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The case under one year died from Tubercular Meningitis. The other case has as far as I know recovered and is at work.



No case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum occurred during the year.

There were mild and protracted epidemics of Mumps, Measles and Chicken Pox during the year. There were no deaths from these, but as I pointed out in the previous part of the report, isolation in the home is not nearly strict enough, this entails, great loss of time both for work and school attendance.

### NURSING.

There is one General Nurse in the Borough who is also a registered Midwife supplied by the County Nursing Association and supported principally by voluntary contributions.

There is no Special Nurse for Infectious Diseases.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES—There are no Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries, School Clinics, Tuberculosis Dispensaries or Centres for Venereal Disease. Tuberculosis is Specially Attended to by Dr. Owen Morris, the Tuberculosis Officer for the County, who visits the Borough at intervals and at any time when required. He has now established a visiting station in Montgomery where he sees patients regularly and notes treatment and progress of cases.

There is a centre for Venereal Disease situated in Belmont, Shrewsbury, 21 miles distant from the Borough.

### HOSPITALS.

- (1) **Tuberculosis**—There is a hospital for Tuberculosis at Machynlleth, 24 miles distant. This is supported by the Welsh National Memorial Association.
- (2) **Maternity**—There are no maternity hospitals but urgent cases are received at Shrewsbury 21 miles away or Welshpool 7 miles away.



- (3) **Children**—Children are sent to Newtown Infirmary or Shrewsbury Royal Infirmary when necessary.
- (4) **Fever**—Fever Hospitals are available at Shrewsbury and Oswestry. The County Council pay for conveyance and maintenance.
- (5) **Small Pox**—There is a Small Pox Hospital at Mochdre, Newtown, under the Supervision of the Public Health Authority. Also a small isolation hospital at Forden. These are supported by the respective District Councils.
- (6) **General**—Other cases are sent to Shrewsbury Infirmary or Newtown Infirmary. These are supported by voluntary contributions.

Ambulance Facilities—(a) For infectious cases. (b) For non-infectious and accident cases. There is one Ambulance at Welshpool 7 miles distant.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the district.

### LABORATORY WORK

The Welsh National Memorial at Cardiff, through Dr. Owen Morris, examines and reports on Sputum. The University of Manchester, through the Public Health Authority, undertakes all other examinations. These arrangements work satisfactorily.

### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

There is no whole time Public Health Officer employed by the Corporation, and the part time Sanitary Inspector does not receive a contribution to his salary under the Public Health Acts or Exchequer Grants. No specialised Inspectors, Health Visitors or Special Nurses are employed by the Council.

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## ACTS IN FORCE.

No adoptive Acts are in force.

Sanitary Byelaws adopted May 9th, 1890.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

**Water Supply** The supply is derived from three up-land Springs, above and away from the town and stored in two

Council.

There are about 50 private pumps in working condition. During the Summer there was a period when the supply was very scanty and great care and economy had to be practised. This was due to an unusually long period of drought.

Rivers and Streams are not polluted in any way. The nearest brook is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant from the town.

**Sewers**—There are two main Sewers constructed of 18" pipes, discharging on opposite sides of the town, well away from any dwellings. They are in good working order and frequently inspected.

**Closets**—There were at the end of the year 53 Water Closets, 100 Privies, 109 tubs or pails, and two Earth Closets in the Borough. Conversion to the Water Carriage System is proceeding slowly and I think it will be many years before we see the last of these insanitary types of privy accommodation. In 1920 there were 48 Water Closets, 130 privies, 27 middens, 110 tubs or pails and two earth closets.



**Scavenging**—House refuse is collected in moveable ashbins, removed once a fortnight and deposited well away from the town.

**Sanitary Inspection**—This will be dealt with under Housing in the last part of the report.

**Smoke Abatement**—No action has been taken.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply**—There is a good supply of clean and wholesome milk. There are 18 Vendors of milk in the Borough. There are no milk shops. The Dairies and Cowsheds are kept clean and in fairly good condition, Owners and Occupiers are advised to whitewash the Sheds at least twice a year. This is done in most instances.

(b) **Meat**—There are two Slaughter Houses in the Borough, one of them should be kept in a more Sanitary condition, the other is satisfactory. Both are licenced and registered. The meat has been inspected at various times and no diseased meat has been found exposed for sale. There is no public abattoir.

### Private Slaughter Houses—

	In 1920,		In Jan., 1925		In Dec., 1925
Registered	2	...	2	...	2
Licensed	2	...	2	...	2

(c) **Action under "The Sale of Food and Drugs Act"**—No action has been taken during the year.

## HOUSING.

The general Housing conditions are fairly good, more houses are required but no measures for building new houses are contemplated at the present time. The population is increasing slightly. There is no overcrowding and the general standard of houses in the Borough is good. The chief defects in the unfit houses are dampness, where soiled up, defective lighting, defective roofs and troughing.

### Housing Statistics for the year 1925 —

Number of new houses erected during the year	...	0
(a) Total	...	0
(b) As part of Municipal Housing Scheme	...	0

### UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES,

#### (1) Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	25
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Houses (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.		25
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		1
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	6



**(2) Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 0

**3 Action under Statutory Powers.**

*A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, and Town Planning, &c, 1919.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses, in respect of which notices were served, requiring repairs ... 0

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit:—

(a) By Owners ... .. 0

(b) By Local Authority in default ... 0

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration of Owners of intention to close ... .. 0

*B. Proceedings under the Public Health Act.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. 2

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied:—

(a) By Owners ... .. 1

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... 0

C. *Proceedings under Section 11, 14 and 15, of the  
Housing, Act, 1925.*

- |   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view<br>to the making of Closing Orders   | ... | 0 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which<br>Closing Orders were made   | ... | 0 |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of<br>which Closing Orders were determined the<br>dwelling houses being rendered fit | ... | 0 |
| (4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of<br>which Demolition Orders were made  | ... | 0 |

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**T. D. KIRK.**

*Montgomery,*

*May 25th, 1926.*









