BOROUGH OF NEATH.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR, 1941.

by

H.R.STUBBINS. M.D., D.P.H.

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INDEX.

BOROUGH OF NEATH.

Members of Neath Borough Council for year 1941.

Mayor:- Alderman J.W.Morgan.J.P. (to Nov.9th)
Councillor J.Shea. J.P. (from Nov.9th).

Ald.W.K.Owen. J.P.
Ald. D.C.Griffiths. J.P.
Ald. R.Jenkins. J.P.
Ald. Geo.Davies.J.P.
Ald. Geo. Gethin.

Councillor M.W.Arnold.
" D.M.Evans Bevan. J.P. from May,1941.
" [T.Cole] - Deceased March,1941
" D.G.Davies. J.P.
" C.R.Hedge. J.P.
" P.Howells.
" J.Richings.
" S.L.Burton.
" Miss M.C.Davies.
" J.E.Emanuel.
" F.A.Loader.
" M.A.Morgan
" J.B.Williams.
" J.Branch.
" T.Hughes.
" E.C.Hutchinson.
" B.Morris.
" E.Thomas.

Clerk to Neath Borough Council:- Mr A.E.I.Curtis.

Members of Health Committee:-
Chairman:- Councillor J.E.Emanuel.
Vice-Chairman:- Councillor E.Thomas.
and all members of the Council.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee:-
Chairman:- Councillor F.A.Loader,
Vice-Chairman:- Councillor S.L.Burton,
Ald. R.Jenkins, Ald. W.K.Owen, Councillors:-
Miss M.C.Davies, P.Howells, E.C.Hutchinson,M.A.Morgan,
E.Thomas.
Co-opted members:- Mrs M.Arnold, Mrs G.David, Mrs M.Davies,
Mrs H.Howells, Mrs Mort, Mrs L.Walters.

Staff of the Public Health Department.

Whole-time Officers.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, and Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare:-

Haydn.R.Stubbins. M.D. (Edin)
D.P.H. (Wales).

Sanitary Inspectors:-

Chief Sanitary Inspector:- Evan Thomas. M.S.I.A.
E.V.John. M.S.I.A.
R.T.Probert. M.S.I.A.

All three hold the Certificate of Meat and Other Foods of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Health Visitors:-

Superintendent Nurse :- S.Twigg.SRN.CMB., HV Dip: MSIA., Special Orthopaedic training.
C.G.Rigby. CMB. HV Dip.MSIA.
E.Lawrence.SRN. (School Nurse)
E. Jones. SRN. CMB. HV Dip.
B.M.Powell.SRN. CMB. HV.Dip.

Clerical Staff:-

Chief Clerk:- G.M.Hopkins.
Sanitary Clerk:Thos.G.Hopkins. (now in H.M.Forces.)
" " Graham Francis (" " ")

Part-time Officers.

Ophthalmic Surgeon:- H.E.Quick. F.R.C.S.
Aural Surgeon:- C.P.Robinson. M.Ch. F.R.C.S.E.
Dental Surgeon:- T.J.Davies.LDS,RCS.
Orthopaedic Surgeon:- A.O.Parker.M.D. Surgeon to Prince of Wales Hospital,Cardiff.
Anaesthetists:- E.P.Coyne.M.B.,Ch.B.
J.A.Noot. M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.

Consulting Medical Officers:-
Obstetrician:- J.Lloyd Davies. M.D.,MRCP.,FRCSE.,DPH.
Dermatologist:- D.R.Lewis. M.D.,FRCPE.
Paediatrician:- A.G.Watkins. M.D.,MRCP.

Public Analyst:- Rhys.P.Charles. M.D.,M.R.I.C.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the

Borough of Neath.

Mr Mayor, Madam, and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1941. It has been drawn up in accordance with Circular 1728 (Wales), and at the request of the Ministry of Health has been contracted.

After two years of war we are naturally concerned to know whether the health of the Borough has been impaired by conditions arising out of the present emergency.

The rationing of essential foodstuffs and clothing, the black-out, longer hours of work, the employment of women in essential services, and the stress and strain of living under war-time conditions, all have a tendency to lower the resistance of the body to disease. Thus, one would have expected an increase in the rate of ill-health, with a consequent increase in the number of deaths. As a matter of fact the number of deaths during this year was five less than in 1940. On the whole there has been no marked changes in the health of the Borough, the Death-rate and Birth-rate being very much the same as recorded during the last two years. There has been a marked improvement in the returns of infectious diseases during 1941. The incidence of Diphtheria reached a record low figure with no deaths, and although the notification of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis reached the high figure of 24, there was only one death. Two small epidemics of Whooping-cough and Measles occurred during the year but fortunately these were of a mild type. There has been a slight increase in the number of notifications of Tuberculosis, both pulmonary and non-pulmonary, and the steady rise in the incidence of this disease since 1938 is causing some concern throughout the country. Nevertheless we can look back with some measure of satisfaction to the fact that, despite present conditions, there has been very little deterioration in the health of the Borough since the outbreak of war.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Mayor and Corporation for their encouragement, and the Town Clerk for his help and guidance and courtesy during the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

H.R.STUBBINS.

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1942.

General Information.

Area. (in acres)	4,502
Registrar-General's estimate of population	30,200
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) according to rate-books	8,627
Rateable value	£163,000
Sum represented by penny rate ...	£600

Births.

	Total.	Male.	Female.	Birthrate per 1000 estimated population.
Live births:-				
Legitimate	413	213	200	
Illegitimate	9	5	4	
Total ..	422	218	204	13.9
Still-births:-				
Legitimate	22	10	12	
Illegitimate	1	0	1	
Total	23	10	13	0.76

Deaths.

All ages.	423	232	191	14.0
				Rate per 1,000 live births.
Infants under one year	35	20	15	82
Legitimate infants	34	20	14	80.57
Illegitiamte "	1	0	1	2.37

AREA.

The Borough of Neath has an area of 4,502 acres, and is made up of the townships of Neath and Briton Ferry.

For administrative purposes the Borough is divided into 3 wards, North ward, South ward, and Briton Ferry ward, with 8 representatives from each ward making up the Borough Council. The Mayor is usually elected in rotation from the senior member of each ward. For this year Alderman J.W.Morgan was the Mayor until November, representing the North ward, Councillor J.Shea, representing the Briton Ferry ward, being Mayor from November,1941.

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population for the mid-summer of 1941 is 30,200 as compared with 31,240 in the mid-summer of 1940, a diminution of 1,040, and a decrease of 3,320 from the total enumerated at the census of 1931.

The number of live births during the year totalled 422, an increase of 7 over the number of live births notified during 1940. The number of deaths in 1941 was 422, being 6 less than in 1940.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Neath is an industrial town situated on the eastern bank of the River Neath. It is an important railway centre, being on the main Fishguard-London route, with minor lines providing access to the mining valleys, and alternative routes to other Welsh towns. With two busy omnibus stations, ample bus services are provided to all adjoining towns and villages.

The main industrial activities of the Borough are concerned with tinplates, steelworks, component factors, and tinplate decorating works, engineering industries, and shipbreaking yards.

For obvious reasons it would be inadvisable to give the number of persons employed in these industries at the present time.

Unemployment.

The manager of the Labour Exchange has been good enough to supply me with the numbers of persons unemployed during 1941.

Number of persons unemployed, wholly unemployed, and temporarily stopped during 1941.

Wholly unemployed:

	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.
January, 1941.	387	11	95	21	514
February	303	7	83	22	415
March.	271	9	59	16	355
April.	386	27	51	20	484
May.	347	12	48	16	423
June.	347	15	50	13	425
July.	263	27	44	26	360
August.	354	32	89	26	501
September.	336	19	43	13	411
October.	323	20	38	8	389
November.	312	13	35	11	371
December.	325	8	35	4	372

Temporarily stopped.

January.	903	35	38	3	979
February.	476	44	35	6	561
March.	646	47	61	9	763
April.	434	27	26	3	490
May.	157	3	43	-	203
June.	151	6	26	6	189
July.	467	19	6	1	493
August.	184	12	21	3	220
September.	7	-	5	1	13
October.	-	-	5	1	6
November.	-	-	6	-	6
December.	1	-	3	-	4

Public Assistance:

Statistics of Public Assistance have been supplied by Mr Albert Griffiths, Director of Public Assistance for Glamorgan, with reference to the Borough:-

For the 52 weeks ending 31st March, 1941, there was a weekly average of 519 cases comprising 894 persons, whilst for the year ended 31st March, 1942, the weekly average was 320 cases comprising 606 persons in receipt of Public Assistance within the Borough of Neath. The reduction in numbers was mainly due to the transfer in August, 1940 - to the

Assistance Board of Old Age Pensioners -(including widows above 60 years of age) who had formerly been in receipt of Assistance to supplement their State Pensions.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered in the Borough was 422, made up of 218 males, and 204 females, thus giving a birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population in mid - 1941 of 13.9. The distribution of births in wards was as follows:-

North Ward	122
South Ward	198
Briton Ferry Ward	102

The birth-rate for the administrative County of Glamorgan was 16.7, and for England and Wales was 14.2.

It will be observed from the accompanying table that there was a slight increase in the birth-rate as compared with the rate for 1940.

Neath - Year.	Birth-rate per 1,000 population.
1941	13.9
1940	13.3
1939	13.9
1938	14.9
1937	14.7
1936	15.5
1935	15.5
1934	15.1
1933	13.5
1932	16.0
1931	14.9
1930	16.8
1929	16.9
1928	16.7
1927	17.0
1926	18.2
1925	22.0
1924	21.5

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Illegitimacy.

The total number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents in the Borough during the year was 9, being an increase of one as compared with 1940, giving a rate of 21.3 per 1,000 of the total live births in 1941.

Still-births.

The registration of every still-born child is required by the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1926, which came into operation on 1st July, 1927. The number of still births registered during the year was 23, giving a rate of 51 per 1,000 live and still births.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered of all ages in the Borough during the year was 423, 232 males and 191 females. This gives a death-rate of 14, and may be compared with previous years of 1940, etc.

1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.	1935.	1934.	1933.	1932.	1931
14.0	13.7	12.6	12.0	12.7	13.3	11.7	11.5	13.8	12.1	10.5

The ward distribution of deaths was as follows:-

North Ward	132
South Ward	153
Briton Ferry Ward	138

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The following table gives a classification of the causes of deaths as recorded by the Registrar-General:-

CAUSES OF DEATHS.
Figures given by Registrar-General.

Cause.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	0	1
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	17	15	32
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	0	1
Syphilitic Disease	2	0	2
Influenza	1	3	4
Measles	0	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis and Acute Polio-encephalitis	0	0	0
Acute Infantile encephalitis	0	0	0
Cancer of Buccav: & Oesophagus(M) Uterus(F)	4	4	8
" Stomach and Duodenum	11	3	14
" Breast	0	6	6
" all other sites	19	7	26
Diabetes	1	5	6
Intercranial vascular lesions	18	15	33
Heart Disease	45	36	81
Other diseases of circulatory system . . .	3	3	6
Bronchitis	22	14	36
Pneumonia	9	6	15
Other respiratory diseases	4	4	8
Ulcer of Stomach	5	0	5
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0	0	0
Appendicitis	0	2	2
Other digestive diseases	5	7	12
Nephritis	6	18	24
Puerperal: and Post-abort: sepsis	0	0	0
Other maternal causes	0	1	1
Premature birth	4	7	11
Congenital: Malformation: Birth injuries: & Infant diseases	11	3	14
Suicide	0	0	0
Road Traffic accidents	5	0	5
Other violent causes	12	2	14
All other causes	26	26	52
	232	191	423

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system again easily head the list of deaths with a total of 123, as compared with 144 in 1940 . No true explanation can be given except to state that most of these deaths occur between the ages of 60 and 80, when senile changes are said to commence their inroads on the body.

Deaths (all ages) in age groups.

Under 1 year	...	35
1 - 5 years	...	6
5 - 10 "	...	1
10 - 15 "	...	5
15 - 20 "	...	8
20 - 25 "	...	9
25 - 30 "	...	13
30 - 35 "	...	15
35 - 45 "	...	25
45 - 55 "	...	39
55 - 60 "	...	33
60 - 70 "	...	95
70 - 80 "	...	86
80 - 90 "	...	44
over 90 "	...	4

Deaths from Cancer.

The deaths from Cancer during the year amounted to 54. This figure is 14 more than the number notified during the previous year. As in former years, one has to admit that our knowledge of this disease has progressed very little, and one can only emphasise the importance of early consultation with the doctor with the object of treatment in the early stages of the disease.

Age distribution of deaths from Cancer.

Age.	Males.	Females.
20 - 25 years	-	1
25 - 35 "	-	-
35 - 45 "	-	2
45 - 55 "	3	2
55 - 65 "	12	4
65 and upwards	18	11

INQUESTS.

The number of deaths in the Borough which were certified by the District Coroner after an enquiry was 20.

The following table gives the cause of deaths:-

Cause.	Ages. Male.	Female.
Motor accidents.	6, 7, 18, 54	-
Fall.	2, 48, 66, 66 73, 75.	65, 81.
Accidents during employment.	59, 70	-
Colliery accident.	41.	-
Scalds.	15	76
Other causes.	11, 59, 59	-
Total	17 Males.	3 Females.

The above figures shew a decrease of 19 when compared with the figures for the previous year.

General Provision of Health Services in the Borough.

Laboratory Facilities.

The chemical and bacteriological examination of material submitted by the Health Department of the Corporation is carried out by the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory, at Cardiff.

The numbers of specimens submitted during the year 1941 were:-

Swabs for the presence of Diphtheria bacilli -	141
Milk samples	104
Water samples	81
Miscellaneous	18

Under the Food and Drugs Act the Analyst is Mr Rhys P.Charles., M.D.,F.I.C., of Bournemouth, to whom all material for analysis under the Act is sent.

(For further information see report of Sanitary Inspector)

Ambulance Facilities.

The Borough Ambulance is available when required for non-infectious cases. For the removal to hospital of patients suffering from Infectious Diseases the Joint Hospital Board maintain their own ambulance.

Nursing in the Home.

The Queen's Nursing Association, and the Briton Ferry Nursing Association, in Neath and Briton Ferry respectively, maintain a high standard of general and maternity nursing in the Borough. For cases of infectious disease the Borough Health Visitors are available for help and advice. Although there is no definite co-ordination between the Nursing Associations and the Council, nevertheless the latter recognise the value of the work that is being done by their administration of the John Taylor Charity. Many years ago the late John Taylor left a sum of money to the Council for the provision of a hospital in the Borough. The Council later decided to invest the sum in the Charity Commissioners, the interest being transferred to an account known as the 'John Taylor Charity Trustees account.' The amount so credited is divided between the Neath and Briton Ferry Nursing Associations in the ratio of 2/3rds to Neath, and 1/3 to Briton Ferry. During the year 1941, the Neath Nursing Association received £95 , and the Briton Ferry Nursing Association £47.10.0 .

Besides the above, the Glamorgan County Council maintains six fully qualified midwives for maternity work only.

Hospitals.

Tonna Isolation Hospital: - This is a hospital under a joint Board of the Neath Borough and Neath Rural District Authorities. It has 54 beds, and under normal conditions provides ample accommodation for the area. The number of cases admitted from Neath Borough for the year are enumerated below:-

Disease.		No. of cases admitted to Tonna Hospital.
Diphtheria	...	44
Scarlet Fever.	...	5
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	25
Observation cases	...	7

Smallpox Hospital:- Smallpox cases can be admitted to the Fedw-hir Smallpox Hospital, Aberdare, Neath being one of the Joint Authorities which belong to the Fedw-hir Hospital Scheme. No occasion arose for the admission of cases of smallpox during the year. The proportion of the cost of maintaining this hospital paid by the Borough of Neath for the year 1941 was £170.17.9.

...
...
...
...

Sanatoria:-

Cimla Hospital, which is a Tuberculosis Hospital under the jurisdiction of the Welsh National Memorial Association, is within the Borough, but numbers of residents who are affected with tuberculosis are also sent to Graig-y-Nos, Talgarth, and Sully Hospitals, according to where accommodation is available.

20 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis from the Borough were admitted to Cimla Hospital during the year.

General Hospitals.

West Glamorgan County Hospital at Penrhiwtyn, Neath, is a fully equipped municipal hospital of 344 beds, of which 30 are reserved for maternity cases. The hospital admits all cases (excepting infectious conditions) requiring hospital treatment.

Of late years it has become an important centre for obstetrics. Owing to the increasing numbers of maternity cases admitted, the Health Committee of the County Council have found it necessary to build a new maternity block to the hospital.

During the year 697 births were notified from this hospital, of which 168 were from Neath Borough, and 529 from outside areas.

Swansea General and Eye Hospital:-.. This is a voluntary hospital of 350 beds, and admits general medical and surgical cases, but does not cater for obstetric cases.

Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff:- This hospital is the recognised Orthopaedic Hospital for this area. Both the School Medical Services and the M.&.C.W. Committees have their own arrangements with the hospital for the provision of operative treatment and appliances for their patients.

Private Nursing Home:- Highbury is the only private Nursing Home in the Borough. It has 12 beds, and during the year 66 maternity cases, 32 surgical cases, and 5 medical cases were treated at the home.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

In the following summary particulars are given of the treatment centres and clinics administrated by the Council in the interests of the Maternity and Child Welafre Committee, and the Education Committee:-

1. Ante-natal Clinics:
   - Dyfed Road - .. Thursday afternoons.
   - Hunter Street - .. Tuesday "
2. Maternity & Child Welfare Clinics:
   - Dyfed Road - Friday afternoons.
   - St Catherine's Hall - Wednesday "
   - Hunter-Street - Tuesday "
3. School Clinics:
   - Dyfed Road - Every morning.
   - Hunter Street - " "
4. Dental Clinics: Hunter Street - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.
5. Ophthalmic Clinics: Hunter Street - Thursday afternoons (fortnightly).
6. Orthopaedic Clinics: Dyfed Road - Mr A.O.Parker, Orthopaedic Surgeon, attends twice yearly. Cases dealt with intercurrently by Medical Officer of Health.
7. Tonsil and Adenoid Operations: Dyfed Road -Monday mornings as required.
8. Diphtheria immunisation : Dyfed Road - Thursday mornings
   - Hunter Street - Tuesday afternoons.
9. Ultra-Violet Light Therapy: Dyfed Road:-
   - M.&.C.W. - Tuesday mornings.
   - Schools - Wednesday "
   - Ante-natal - Saturday "

Tuberculosis Clinic.

The Welsh National Memorial Association hold the clinics at London Road, Neath, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays of each week.

Venereal Diseases Clinic:

This is maintained by the Glamorgan County Council, and is held at Port Talbot. It is situated near the Port Talbot Railway Station, and is open for males on Mondays and Thursdays, and for females on Wednesdays.

Disinfection.

During the year the disinfection of articles of clothing and infected houses in the Borough was carried out at the homes of infected persons by means of formaldehyde vapour.

Every case of infectious disease was visited, and where suitable, disinfection was carried out. All blankets and clothing in close ocntact with the case were conveyed to the Isolation Hospital, and disinfected before the patient returned home.

Disinfestation.

This was carried out by the Cimex and Thermatox methods. 24 house were treated in this manner.

(For detailed information see Sanitary Inspector's report)

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The work carried out in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare includes:-

1. Health Visiting.
2. Infant consultations at the Welfare Centres.
3. Ante-natal clinics, and visiting.
4. Ultra-violet Light Therapy for Infants and Expectant Mothers.
5. Provision of milk for expectant mothers and children.
6. Dental treatment.
7. Orthopaedic clinic.
8. Treatment of visual defects.
9. Operation for the removal of Tonsils and Adenoids.
10. Diphhteria Immunisation clinics.

Infant Mortality.

This is a very important index of Public Health work, and is regarded as a very sensitive index of social welfare and sanitary improvements. It is generally measured by the deaths under one year of age per thousand live births in the same year. In 1941 the number of deaths of infants under one year was 35, and the number of births was 422, thus giving an infant mortality rate of 82.

Comparative figures for previous years are as follows:-

Infant Deaths.

1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.	1935.	1934.	1933.	1932.	1931.	1930
27	17	28	27	34	23	27	43	39	45	33

INFANT DEATHS.

Cause.	Ages. Under one month.		Over one month and under one year.		Totals.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M&F.
Premature birth.	2	7	-	-	2	7	9
Congenital causes and Malformation.	7	-	-	-	7	-	7
Birth injury.	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pneumonia.	-	-	7	4	7	4	11
Bronchitis.	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Marasmus.	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Asphyxia	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Convulsions.	1	1	-	1	1	2	3
Pyloric Stenosis	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Totals	12	8	8	7	20	15	35

It is important to realise that out of the 15 deaths notified of children over one month and under one year, eleven died from Pneumonia. This disease in very young infants is a very grave one, for the resistance of the child to disease at this early age is low. Any chest cold with cough may soon develop into something more serious, and a doctor should be called in immediately. Furthermore, there is a tendency on the part of the parents to keep the child in overheated stuffy rooms, and to overclothe during illness.

GLAMORGAN (ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY) VITAL STATISTICS.

District.	Birthrate per 1,000 population.	Deathrate per 1,000 population.	Deaths under 1 year.	Infant deathrate per 1000 Pop.
Administrative County.	16.7	13.2	851	67
Urban Districts.	16.9	13.7	656	69
Rural Districts	16.0	11.7	195	62
England & Wales	14.2	12.9		59
Urban Districts:				
Aberdare	15.2	15.0	41	61
Barry Borough.	18.2	13.0	32	43
Bridgend.	18.0	12.1	13	56
Caerphilly.	21.0	14.9	60	83
Cowbridge.	6.8	15.1	2	222
Gelligaer.	19.7	11.8	59	79
Glyncorrwg.	21.7	10.4	12	58
Llwchwr.	14.3	12.8	14	36
Maesteg.	18.2	13.3	36	79
Mountain Ash.	17.0	13.2	41	65
Neath Borough.	14.0	14.0	35	82
Ogmore.& Garw.	18.4	11.7	37	77
Penarth.	14.6	15.3	11	48
Pontypridd	17.9	14.3	54	74
Porthcawl.	13.2	13.5	6	44
Port Talbot Borough.	16.5	11.3	36	53
Rhondda.	15.8	15.1	167	80
Rural Districts.				
Cardiff.	13.3	10.3	15	32
Cowbridge.	17.6	12.6	15	67
Gower.	15.6	14.0	7	39
Llantrisant.and Llantwit Fardre.	18.8	11.8	35	69
Neath.	16.4	12.7	48	71
Penybont.	17.3	10.5	45	78
Pontardawe.	14.7	11.9	30	57

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case Rates for certain Infectious diseases in the year, 1941.

	England and Wales.	125 County Boroughs & Great towns incl: London.	148 smaller towns: Resident Pop: 25000 - 50,000.	London administrative County.	NEATH.
	Rates per 1.000 Civilian Population:-				
Live births	14.2	14.7	16.4	8.9	13.9
Still-births.	0.51	0.58	0.60	0.33	0.76
Deaths:-					
All causes	12.9	14.9	13.0	16.3	14.0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid fever.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Scarlet fever	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.00
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.03	0.00
Influenza.	0.19	0.17	0.20	0.15	0.13
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Cerebro-spinal fever.					0.03
	Rates per 1,000 live births.				
Deaths under one year of age	59	71	56	68	82
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis, under 2 years of age.	5.1	7.5	4.6	6.8	0.00

Health Visiting.

There are four Health Visitors employed by the Council, but they devote half-time to school work. This, in practice, has been found to work smoothly.

The birth of every child occurring in the Borough must be notified to me within 36 hours by a responsible person present at the birth, namely, the doctor or midwife. Then, as soon as possible after the first fortnight, the child is visited by one of the Health Visitors. A note is made of the home conditions, and advice given to the mother re feeding, clothing, etc., of the child. According to progress further visits are made.

The following summary provides some information regarding the activities of the Health Visitors during the year:

Number of visits paid during the year by all Health Visitors to:

1.	Children under 1 year of age ...	2,205
2.	Investigations of still-births ...	23
3.	Children 1 to 5 years of age	5,860
4.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5

Each Health visitor is also engaged at the Welfare Centres every morning, and at least two afternoons each week. Thus they come into contact with the mothers and the children at the centres, and become aware of the advice the Medical Officer gives there. They are also able to follow up this in the subsequent visits to the homes.

Infant Consultations at the Welfare clinics.

Diary of clinics:

Dyfed Road.	Hunter Street.
Monday.	
a.m. General treatment.	a.m. General treatment.
Tuesday.	
a.m. 1. General treatment 2. Ultra-violet ray therapy.	a.m. 1. General treatment. p.m. 2. Centre consultations. 3. Antenatal clinic. 4. Diphtheria Immunisation.
Wednesday	
a.m. 1. General treatment. 2. Ultra-violet ray therapy. p.m. Centre consultation at St Catherine's Hall, Melyn.	a.m. General treatment.

Infant Consultations (cont)

Thursday.

a.m. 1. General treatment
2. Diphtheria Immunisation clinic.

a.m. General treatment.

Friday.

a.m. General treatment.
p.m. Centre consultation.

a.m. 1. General treatment
2. Centre consultations.
3. Diphtheria Immunisation.

Saturday

a.m. 1. General treatment
2. Ultra-violet ray therapy.

a.m. General treatment.

Dental Clinics: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings.

Ophthalmic Clinic: Thursday afternoons (fortnightly) at Hunter Street.

Orthopaedic Clinics: March and October by arrangement, at Dyfed Road.

Tonsil and Adenoid operations: Mondays mornings as required, at Dyfed Road.

Number of children attending M.&.C.W. Clinics.

Month. 1941.	Dyfed Road.	St.Catherine's Hall.	Hunter Street.
January.	305	189	186
February	292	98	182
March.	252	98	231
April	232	132	214
May	440	128	233
June	351	158	244
July	291	206	337
August	269	105	116
September	351	168	319
October	406	228	280
November	314	252	199
December	252	174	227

Minor Ailments.

The following list of minor ailments were attended to at Dyfed Road, St.Catherine's Parish Hall, and Hunter Street:-

Minor ailments (Cont).

Skin affections	225	Enuresis	16
Cellulitis	56	Asthma	12
Injuries	149	Alimentary conditions	56
Infectious diseases	243	Scabies	120
Diphtheria	10	Rickets	11
Cerebro-spinal fever	11	Orthopaedic "	12
Whooping Cough	63	Influenza	29
Eyes	99	Cervical adenitis	60
Nose and Throat	339	Oxyurides	12
Nerve and brain	12	Anaemia	75
Rheumatism	53	Heart	13
Bronchitis, coughs, etc	211	Various other conditions	49
Tuberculosis	15		

Referred to N.S.P.C.C. - 5 cases.

I would like at this juncture to convey my thanks to Inspector Stephens of the N.S.P.C.C. for his co-operation and help. The 5 cases referred to him during the year were promptly attended to with very satisfactory results.

Ante-natal clinics.

Two sessions per week are devoted to the supervision of expectant mothers. The Medical Officer of Health, the superintendent nurse, and one health visitor, are in attendance at each session. The number of expectant mothers who attended clinics was 174, with a total number of attendances of 1454.

On the first visit of every expectant mother to the ante-natal clinic, a complete record of the mother's previous illness, and of any previous confinements, is taken and entered on a special cases sheet. The findings of the medical examination during the first visit and subsequent visits are also entered. Any abnormal symptoms are fully investigated, the blood pressure and weight are taken, and the urine examined at each attendance. If the patient exhibits symptoms or signs of anaemia, or vitamin deficiency, or malnutrition, appropriate advice is given, and in necessitous cases, extra milk, cod liver oil, iron in tablet form, and supplies of medicine are available free of charge. A special ultra-violet ray clinic is held on Saturday mornings for expectant mothers. Leaflets are also given with advice as to hygiene, diet and clothing, and exercise, etc., during the expectant period.

If any condition arises which may tend to make the confinement complicated, a radiological examination is carried out by Dr Iwan Davies, of Swansea, and the fare and Radiologist's fee is paid by the Council in necessitous cases. Further, if the Medical Officer requires specialist advice, Dr J.Lloyd Davies is consulted.

Ante-natal clinics (Cont.)

During the year 3 cases were x-rayed at Swansea by Dr Iwan Davies. In no case was it necessary to call in Dr Lloyd Davies, the Consulting Obstetrician.

If the patient is going to be confined in her home, any abnormality noticed or treated at the antenatal clinic is reported to the medical practitioner who has been engaged for the confinement.

Conditions seen and treated at Ante-natal Clinics.

Abnormal presentations	4
Hyperpiesia	10
Abnormal bleeding	8
Albumenuria	13
Oedema	42
Severe anaemia	24
Vomiting, etc.,	30
Digestive Ailments	36
Insomnia and nervous conditions	36
Influenza	27
Pulmonary conditions	24

Ante-natal clinic statistics.

	Neath.	Briton Ferry.
Carried forward from 1940 -	29	10
New cases for 1941 -	106	29
Carried forward to 1942 -	61	24

Dental treatment:-

Extractions & dentures		12 cases.
Ultra-violet ray Therapy	Cases:- 24	- Attendances:- 144
Infra -red radiation	" 16	" 64

Dental Clinic.

The following report has been received from the Dental Surgeon:-

During the year 1941 the clinic was well attended, and all schools were visited at least once for dental inspection.

Ages.	Number examined.	Number requiring treatment.
3	10	4
4	85	42
5	271	124
6	273	129
7	294	158
8	435	140
9	379	183
10	354	164
11	477	197
12	455	191
13	335	134
14	185	72
	3553	1538

This year has shown some reduction in the incidence figure. This figure, 43% is very good, and I am satisfied that in spite of the lack of interest still found here and there, a substantial change has come about in the attitude of parents towards our work.

Summary of figures relating to treatment.

Children examined were from 3 years to 14 years of age.

Number examined	3553
" requiring treatment	1583
Sessions devoted to "	158
" " School inspection	18
" " clerial work	3
Visits by patients to clinic	1486
Patients actually treated	1180
" re-treated	116
Extractions -temporary teeth	3380
" Permanent "	590
Local Anaesthetic cases	133
General " "	491
Dressings -temporary teeth	3
" permanent "	149
Root dressings	19
" fillings	12
Fillings in permanent teeth	323
Visits for orthondontic treatment	58
Orthodontic appliances made and fitted	8

Dental Report (Cont).

In addition, there were 18 cases classed as M.&.C.W., involving the administration of a general anaesthetic, and the extraction of 100 temporary teeth.

The general anaesthetic cases were made up of 386 cases with the assistance of Dr Coyne, and 105 urgent cases undertaken without assistance.

The following figures have been compiled to show how parental consent to dental treatment cannot always be obtained:-

School examined.	Consent cards issued.	Consent received.
Gnoll Senior Boys.	109	56
" " Girls.	97	52
" Junior Boys.	86	42
" " Girls.	90	35
Ald.Davies, Boys.	58	22
" " Girls.	57	18
" " Infants.	42	24
Melin Girls.	49	27
" Boys.	82	35
" Infants.	48	22
St.Joseph's	74	39
Cimla.	27	12
Herbert Road Mixed.	82	45
" " Infants	45	22
Brynhyfryd Mixed & Infants.	116	89
Vernon Place " "	139	47
Neath Road Boys	30	12
" " Girls	35	23
" " Infants.	26	22
Cwrt Sart Mixed.	88	35
" " Infants.	31	15
" " Central	74	4

It will be seen from these figures that consent to give treatment has to be obtained in other ways. This is done when trouble forces the parents to come to the clinic,or cases are seen by the M.O.H. or nursing staff. It will be observed that about one third of those requiring treatment by extraction were given a general anaesthetic. It has been found, that consent for treatment is more readily given when this course is adopted, and there is in the main,practical justification for this course.

In concluding I should like to record the valuable voluntary help given to us by the Civil Defence workers,(St.John's Ambulance Brigade and others) during the sessions devoted to general anaesthetic.

T.J.DAVIES.

School Dental Officer.

Visual Defects.

During the year Mr H.E.Quick attended 17 sessions at Hunter Street Clinic, and 182 children were tested for visual defects.

Tonsils and Adenoids.

Mr C.P.Robinson attended 12 times during the year and examined 120 children, 111 of whom received operative treatment for removal of tonsils and adenoids.

Orthopaedics.

The Orthopaedic clinics are held twice yearly, and this year Mr A.O.Parker attended in April and October.

During the year 9 children were examined for the first time, and the total number of attendances for the two sessions was 119.

Four children received operative treatment at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff.

Under the Council's Orthopaedic Scheme, maintenance fees at the hospital are paid by them, and the parent is only charged half the cost of any surgical appliances required. These appliances are supplied free in necessitous cases.

Ultra-violet Ray Clinics.

These clinics are held three times weekly, and have proved very popular both with parents and children. Besides the psychological effect, they have proved of great value in the treatment of rickets, asthma, skin conditions, and as a tonic in anaemic and debilitated children. In order to complete the treatment a warm shower bath is given immediately after exposure to the rays.

During the year, 356 children received ultra-violet ray treatment.

Number of attendances during the year - 4,172

Vitamin Products.

In order to ensure that the development of the child shall not suffer from any inadequacy in the daily intake of vitamins due to the difficulty of war-time feeding, the Ministry of Health, in conjunction with the Ministry of Food, have asked all Infant Welfare Authorities to co-operate with them by distributing the vitamin products through the clinics.

From 8th December, 1941, supplies of fruit juice and cod liver oil were made available free of charge to all children under 2 years of age. The preparations distributed were:-

1. A six fluid ounce bottle of cod liver oil compound, sufficient for 6 weeks.

2. A 13½ fluid oz. bottle of black currant syrup sufficient for 2 weeks.

3. 8½ fluid oz. can of black currant puree, containing one week's supply.

4. 6 fluid oz. bottle of concentrated orange juice, containing 3 week's supply for a child under 6 months, and 2 week's supply for a child between 6 months and 2 years.

We welcomed the scheme as a step in the right direction, but it would have been better if it had been possible to extend the age to five years, and thus bring it into line with the National Milk Scheme.

The administration of the Child Life Protection Clauses under Part VII of the Public Health Act, 1936, was continued by the Council during the year, being under the direction of the superintendent Health Visitor, acting as Child Protection visitor.

Number of children registered during the year - 2

Maternal Mortality.

Total number of deaths	-	1
Maternal mortality rate	-	2. 24
Rate for England & Wales	-	2.23

The term Maternal Mortality relates to the deaths of mothers from conditions peculiar to pregnancy and child-birth, and is expressed as a ratio which the number bears to 1,000 total births, (live and stillbirths).

The death occurred in hospital.

Prevalence and control over infectious disease.

The following table gives the number of cases Infectious Diseases notified during the year, and the number admitted to hospital:-

Disease.	Total No. of cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital	Total No. of deaths.
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	8	5	-
Diphtheria	42	42	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	24	24	1
Puerperal fever	1.	1	-
Pneumonia	3	3	30
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-
Poliomyelitis	1	-	-
Measles	335	2	2
Whooping-cough	7	-	-

Comparative rates of incidence of Infectious diseases.

Notifications of Infectious diseases.	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs & great towns (incl: London)	148 Smaller towns. Res: pop. 25,000 - 50,000	London Administrative County.	NEATH.
	Rates per 1,000 civilian population.				
Typhoid fever	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.00
Para-typhoid fever	0.09	0.12	0.09	0.05	0.00
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.25	0.31	0.20	0.30	0.79
Scarlet fever	1.47	1.49	1.51	1.01	0.26
Whooping cough	4.39	4.37	4.50	3.50	0.23
Diphtheria	1.25	1.53	1.19	0.93	1.38
Erysipelas	0.30	0.36	0.27	0.50	0.00
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	10.33	8.27	10.47	4.77	11.08
Pneumonia	1.25	1.53	1.04	1.07	.13
	Rates per 1,000 total births.				
Puerperal infection.					
Puerperal fever & " pyrexia	11.91	15.64	9.43	2.29 19.33	2.24

- -

Scarlet Fever.

8 cases were notified, and 5 were admitted to the Tonna Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria.

During the year 42 cases were notified, and admitted to Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths, whereas in 1940, 98 cases were notified, and there were 5 deaths. I am hoping that, as a result of the large numbers of children immunised in the Borough, the year 1941 will prove to be the turning point in the attempt to wipe out this disease from the community. It is interesting, at this juncture, to refer to the Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1923. He reports on Diphtheria as follows:-

" As in my reports for the previous two years this has formed the most serious item in the health history of the borough. Not only has it engaged the constant attention of the staff, but it has also been a subject of frequent discussions at both the Education and Health Committees.

The number of notifications for the year was 174, with 22 deaths"

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

This disease, which in previous years was practically non-existent in the Borough, has flared up again. In the past, one case, or perhaps 2 cases per year was the usual number notified, but in 1940 this was increased to 8, and this year 24 cases were notified.

Previous to this year effective treatment did not exist, but with the discovery of Sulphapyridine the position has materially changed, and out of the 24 cases, one only proved fatal. This, in my opinion is very satisfactory, and says much for the attention given to these cases by the staff of your Isolation Hospital

Measles.

A sharp epidemic of measles orrurred during the year, 335 cases being notified. Fortunately the disease was of a mild type and the complications were few. There was one fatal case in a child of 3 years of age.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

It is now 17 months since we began the scheme for the immunisation of children under 15 years of age against diphtheria. The Health Committee has given us every encouragement, and has taken a great interest in the progress of the scheme.

In order to obtain a clear view as to what we hope to achieve. I can only quote one of the foremost authorities on

Diphtheria Immunisation (cont).

infectious diseases. He states that in Great Britain of every 100 children born and NOT immunised 10 will contract diphtheria and 1 will die, and of every 100 children immunised 1 will contract diphtheria in a mild form and NOT ONE will die.

Certain technical details must be carried out to produce effective results, and in the early days failure to achieve immunity was doubtless due to faulty technique, insufficient dosage, and the non-standardisation of immunising material. From my own experience I stress the following points as being of importance in producing complete immunisation.

1. That at least 2 injections of standardised Alum Precipitated Toxoid as supplied by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory are necessary.

2. That the interval between each injection must be at least 4 weeks, and not longer than 4 months.

3. That each injection should be . . .5 cc.

4. That 3 months must elapse after the second injection before the child becomes immune.

During the year every method of making the scheme known to parents was undertaken, including Press advertisements, Poster displays, slides at local cinemas, reminders enclosed in children's ration books and milk forms, and personal canvas by the health visitors. The response in the case of the school child was good, and no difficulty was experienced in getting the consent form signed, but with the child under 5 years the response was rather disappointing. Not that the parents had any real objection to having their children inoculated, It was sheer indifference on their part, but I am glad to say the position improved considerably during the latter part of the year. It is my opinion, although many may disagree, that if we are to make a real attempt to eliminate diphtheria form our midst then a law for the compulsory immunisation of every child at the age of 12 months should be introduced.

It has been estimated that there are 6,360 children of 15 years of age and under in the Borough. At the end of December 4,692 had completed the course of injections for immunisation, 3,371 being children over 5 years of age, and 1,321 being children under 5 years. Although the year has been a bad one throughout the country from the point of view of the incidence of diphtheria, it would be of interest at this juncture to analyse our figures and compare them with those of last year.

Only 42 cases of diphtheria were notified during this year, and there were no deaths. In 1940, 98 cases were notified, with 5 deaths. Of the 42 cases reported to me in 1941, 34 had not been immunised, 3 had received only 1 injection, and

Diphtheria Immunisation (cont)

thus had not completed the treatment, and 5 had received the full course of injections. Four out of the latter 5 were sent into the Isolation Hospital for observation as suspected cases, the remaining case contracted the disease in a mild form.

Scabies.

During the first six months of this year there was a definite increase in the numbers of people infected by the itch mite. It is a very distressing condition, and only by rigorous attention to details of treatment can an effective cure be obtained. War conditions, with its overcrowding in homes and shelters, visits to the home on leave of service men and women, played an important part in spreading this disease.

The staff of the health department were handicapped by the fact that it was only through infected children detected at the schools could the cases be traced back to the homes.

Medical practitioners were circularised and informed that free treatment was available at Dyfed Road Clinic, where shower baths attached to the decontamination centre could be used.

In October, 1941, the Scabies Order was issued, whereby the Local Authority may make an order for the inspection of premises, and for the examination and treatment of the persons on these premises, and also for the cleansing or destruction of any articles on these premises.

During the year 120 cases of scabies were treated at the clinic.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age.	New cases. Pulmonary. M.	New cases. Pulmonary. F.	New cases. Non-pulmonary. M.	New cases. Non-pulmonary. F.	Deaths. Pulmonary. M.	Deaths. Pulmonary. F.	Deaths. Non-pulmonary. M.	Deaths. Non-pulmonary. F.
0 - 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years.	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-
5 - 10 "	-	1	3	2	-	-	-	-
10 - 15 "	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -20 "	7	3	1	1	2	1	1	-
20 - 25 "	3	5	-	-	1	4	-	-
25 - 35 "	5	6	-	2	4	7	-	-
35 - 45 "	4	3	1	-	3	2	-	-
45 - 55 "	4	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
55 - 65 "	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	25	19	5	7	16	15	1	0

During the year 56 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 44 being of the pulmonary type, and 12 non-pulmonary. Athough on the face of it this does not seem to be much of a rise, nevertheless the figures are steadily increasing, instead of as before the war, steadily decreasing. This is evident throughout the country, and many are the explanations given for this. Overcrowding, lack of ventilation owing to blackout conditions, deficiency of fats and proteins of the normal diet, insufficiency of hospital beds for the treatment of tuberculosis, and a tendency by many people to look upon tuberculosis as a kind of stigma, with the consequent reluctance to consult their medical advisers, are some of the reasons given.

Tuberculosis (cont.)

The Welsh National Memorial Association, who are responsible in Wales for the treatment of tuberculosis, have issued a pamphlet which, amongst other things, stresses the following points:

1. The importance of x-raying all those exposed exposed to the risk of contracting the disease.
2. The importance of consulting a doctor at an early stage.
3. The importance of referring the patient by the doctor to the Welsh National Memorial Association.
4. The urgent need of more hospital beds for the treatment of tuberculosis.
5. The provision of proper and adequate after-care schemes.
6. The importance of educating the public to the fact that Tuberculosis, if diagnosed and treated in its earliest stage, is a curable disease.

Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

It has long been recognised that tuberculosis of bones and joints, glands, abdomen, and lining of the brain, is caused by the bovine type of tubercle bacillus, and that cow's milk is the most common medium for the conveyance of this disease. Therefore, a careful watch is kept by the sanitary staff to see that all milk consumed in the area is of the standard set down by the Ministry. Of the cases of tuberculosis notified twelve were stated to be of the non-pulmonary type. As soon as notification is received from the general practitioner the milk is examined for the tubercle bacillus, and if positive, a serious attempt is made to trace it back to the cow from which it was derived. During the year we were able to trace back five of the twelve cases notified to cows which were suffering from tuberculosis.

RAINFALL AND WATER SUPPLY.

Month, 1941.

Month.	Reservoirs. Gnoll. Inches.	Cimla. Inches.	Cefn Cwrt. Inches.
January.	3.33	3.88	3.55
February.	4.92	5.01.	4.66
March.	3.05	3.03	1.95
April.	1.51	1.69	1.60
May.	2.83	2.66	2.39
June.	1.54	1.47	1.51
July.	4.05	3.89	3.86
August.	6.75	5.18	6.36
September.	.58	.61	.62
October.	4.32	4.16	4.19
November.	3.00	2.98	2.68
December.	4.56	4.66	4.14
Totals . . .	40.44	39.22	37.51

Curtailment of supply:

North & South Wards:- Supply cut off from 6.30 p.m. to 12 midnight from 2nd July to 27th July, 1941. (Hours of supply 18½ hours.)

Supply cut off from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. from 28th July to 17th August. (Hours of supply - 12 hours.)

Briton Ferry Ward: Constant supply maintained.