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Neath (Wales). Borough Council.

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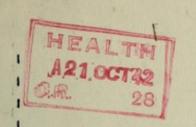
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BOROUGH OF NEATH.

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH

14 SEP 1942

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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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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALIN edt tot YEAR, 1941. by H.A.G., N. D. P.H.H. HTASSI TO THREEPOR TECTION ALTONA Pris 3 CONTRACTOR AND TOXA add tol YEAR, 1941. H.A.G .. C.N . CHIGEUTA.H. HEADER TO HEADER.

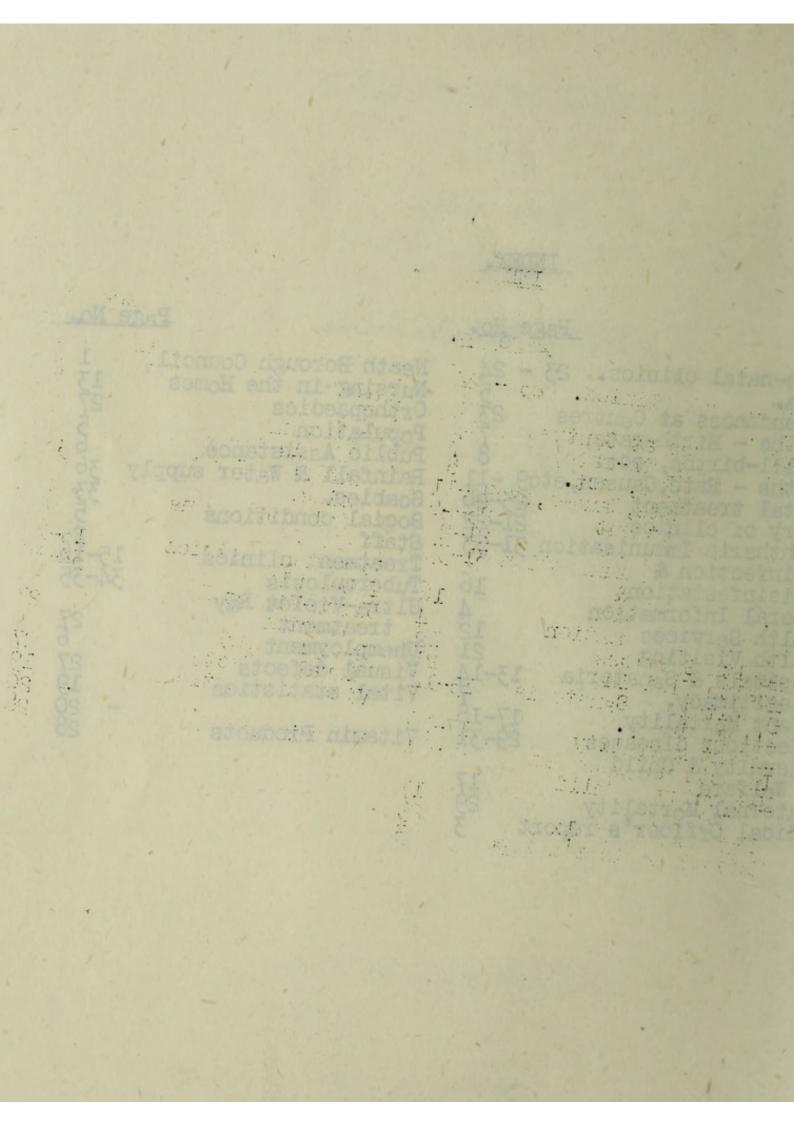
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1.

#### BOROUGH OF NEATH.

Membars 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. п T.Cole - Deceased March, 1941 ŧŦ D.G.Davies. J.P. 11 C.R.Hedge. J.P. 括 P.Howells. 11 J. Richings. 11 S.L.Burton. 11 Miss M.C. Davies. \$2 J.E.Emanuel. 11 F.A.Loader. 77 M.A.Morgan 15 . J.B. Williams. 11 J.Branch. 11 T. Hughes. 11 E.C. Hutchinson. 11 B.Morris.

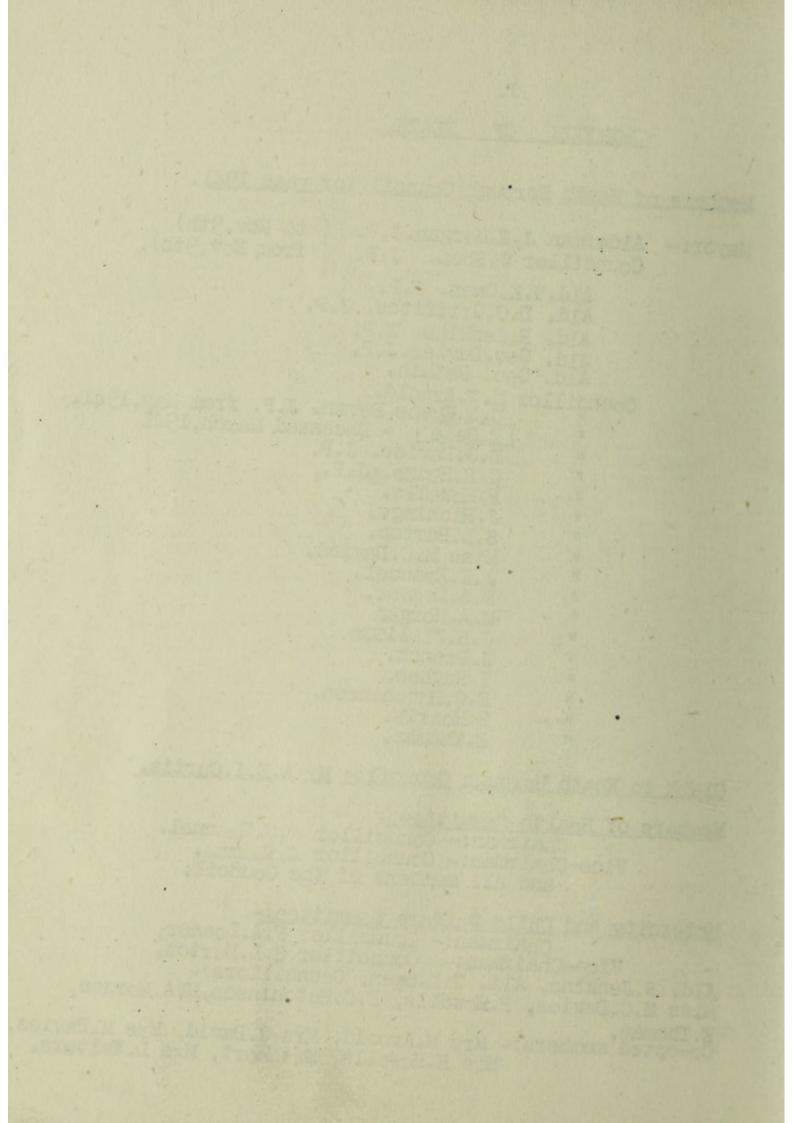
E. Thomas.

11

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:-

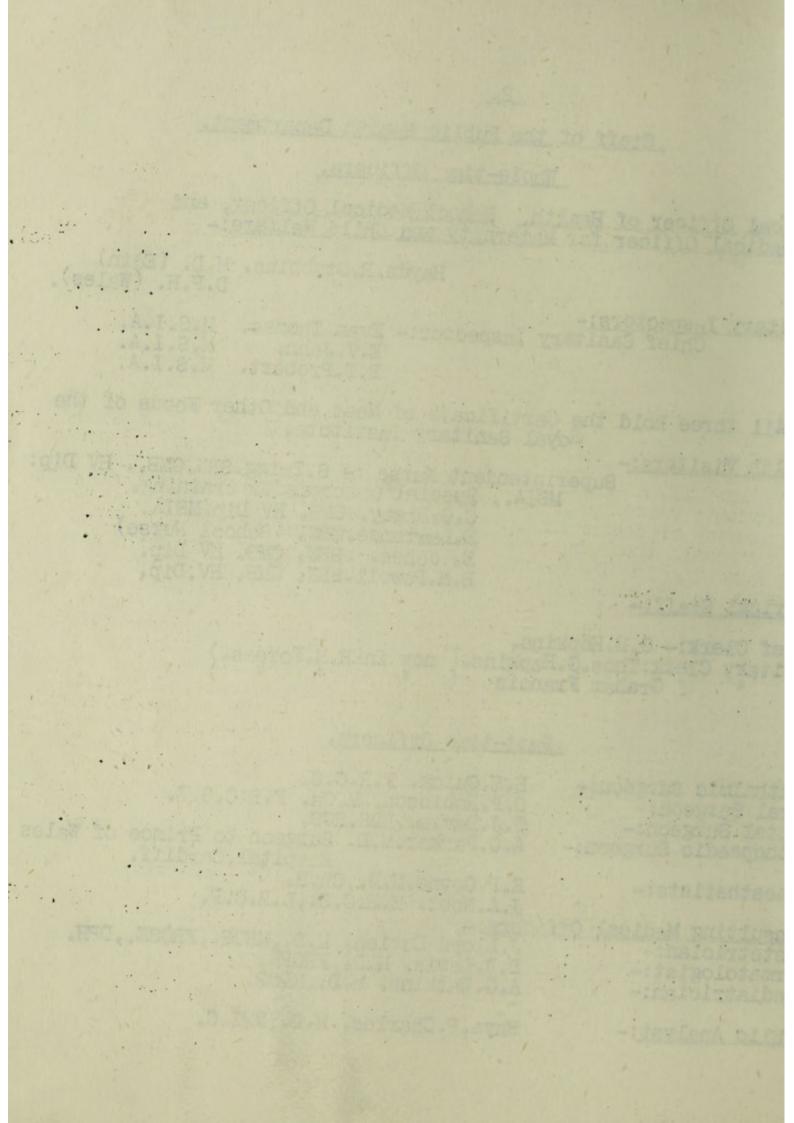
Superintendent Nurse :- S.Twigg.SRN.CMB., HV Dip: MSIA., Special Orthopaedic training. C.G.Rigby. CMB. HV Dip.MSIA. E.Lawrence.SRN, (School Nurse) E. Jones. SRN. CMB. HV Dip. B.M.Powell.SRN. CMB. HV.Dip.

#### 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. 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 Two small epidemics of Whooping-cough and Measles death. occurred during the year but fortunately these were of a mild There has been a slight increase in the number of notiftype. ications 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.

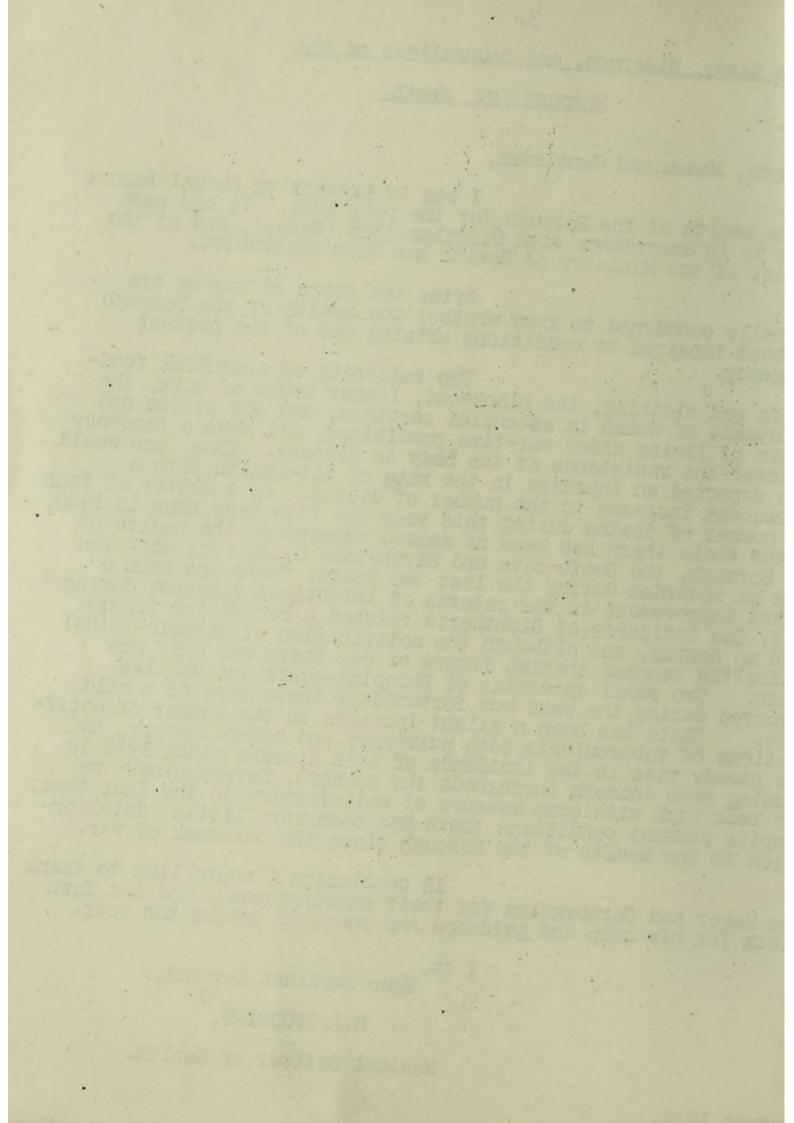
In conclusion I would like to thank the Mayor and Corporation for their encouragement, and the Town Clerk for his help and guidance and courtesy during the year.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

H.R.STUBBINS.

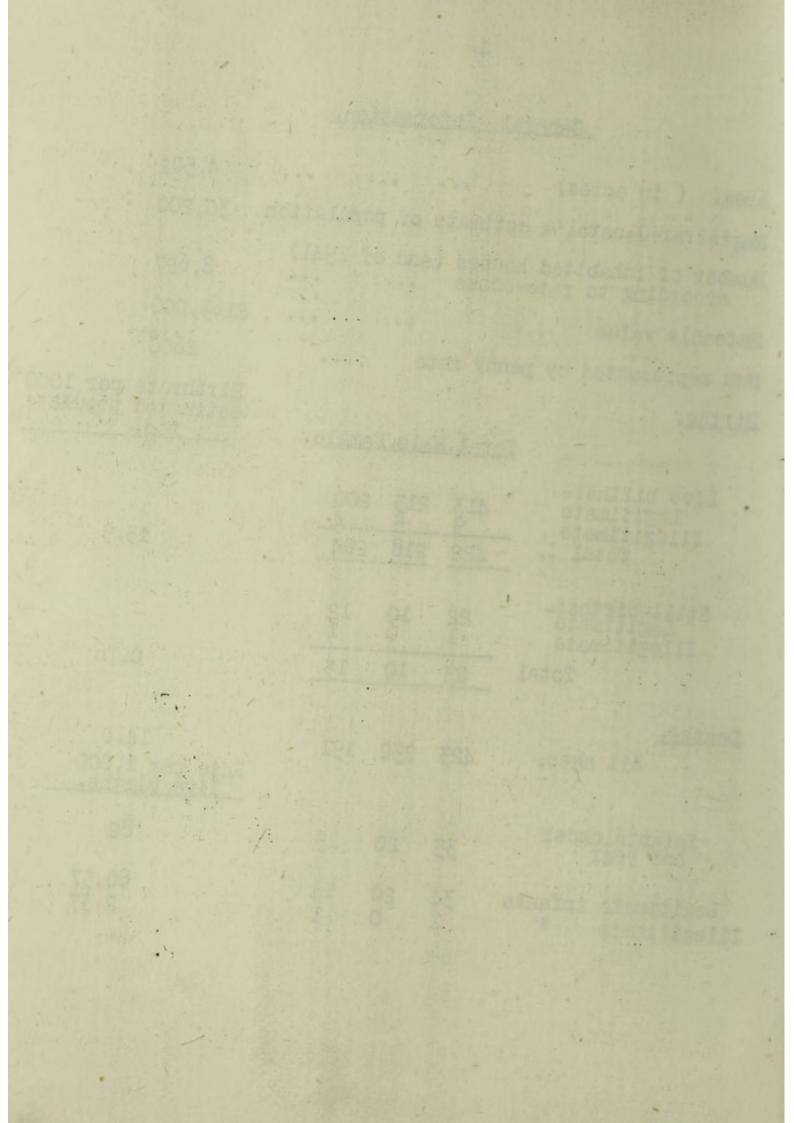
Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1942.



# General Information.

Area. ( in acres)			•••		4,502
Registrar-General's	estima	te of	popu	lation	30,200
Number of inhabited according to rat				941)	8,627
Rateable value .			•		2163,000
Sum represented by	penny r	ate		•	£600
Births.					Birthrate per 1000
in the address	Total.	Male.	Femal	<u>e</u> .	estimated populat-
Live births:- Legitimate Illegitimate	413	213	200		
Total	422	218	204		13.9
Still-births:- Legitimate Illegitimate	22	10	12	-	-
Total	23	10	13		0.76
Deaths.					
All ages.	423	232	191	I	14.0 Rate per 1,000 live births.
Infants under one year	35	20	15		82
Legitimate infants Illegitiamte "	34 1	20 0	14 1		80.57 2.37



#### AREA.

1 5.

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.

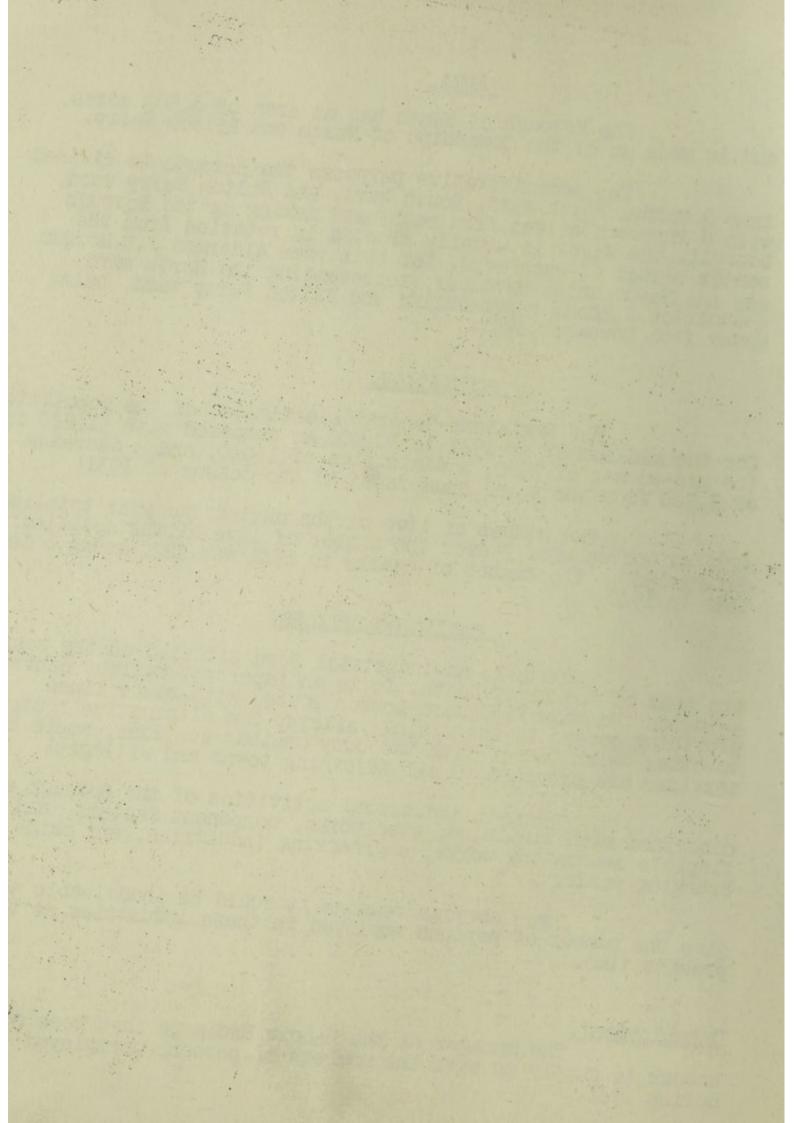
Neath is an industrial town situated on the eastern bank of the River Neath. It is an important railway centre, being on the main Fishguard-London route, with minor lines providing access to the mining valleys, and alternative routes to other Welsh towns. With two busy omnibus stations, ample bus services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

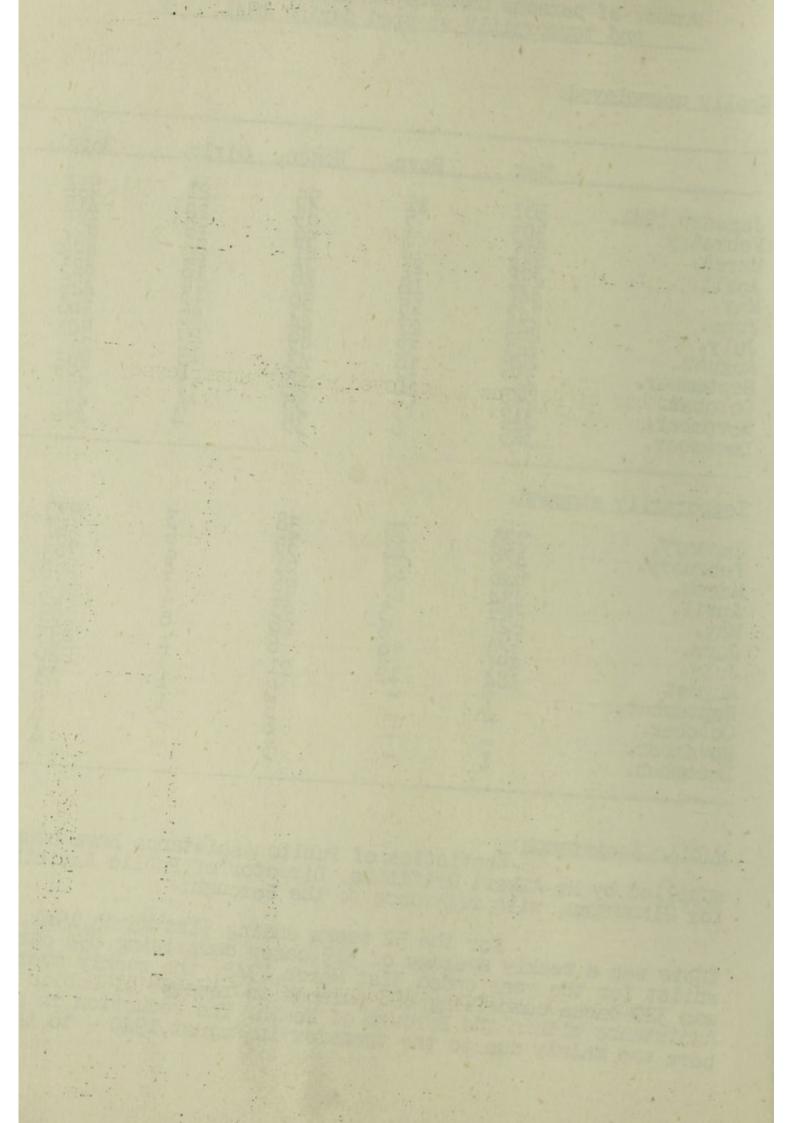
#### Wholly unemployed:

	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.
January, 1941. February March. April. May. June. July. August. September. October. November. December.	332333246325	117972157209022	500010040000555 980554548047070	222122122122212212	511554350 11912
Temporarily stop January. February. March. April. May. June. July. August. September. October. November. December.	ped. 903 476 434 151 484 7 - 1	354142 200 922 1 1 1	355-16 M66 21 15150 M	MOOM16-1MHH11	957690393003664

# 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 birthrate 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		1.98
Britor	1 Ferry	Ward	102

The birth-rate for the administrative County of Glamorgan was 16,7, and for England and Wales was 14.2.

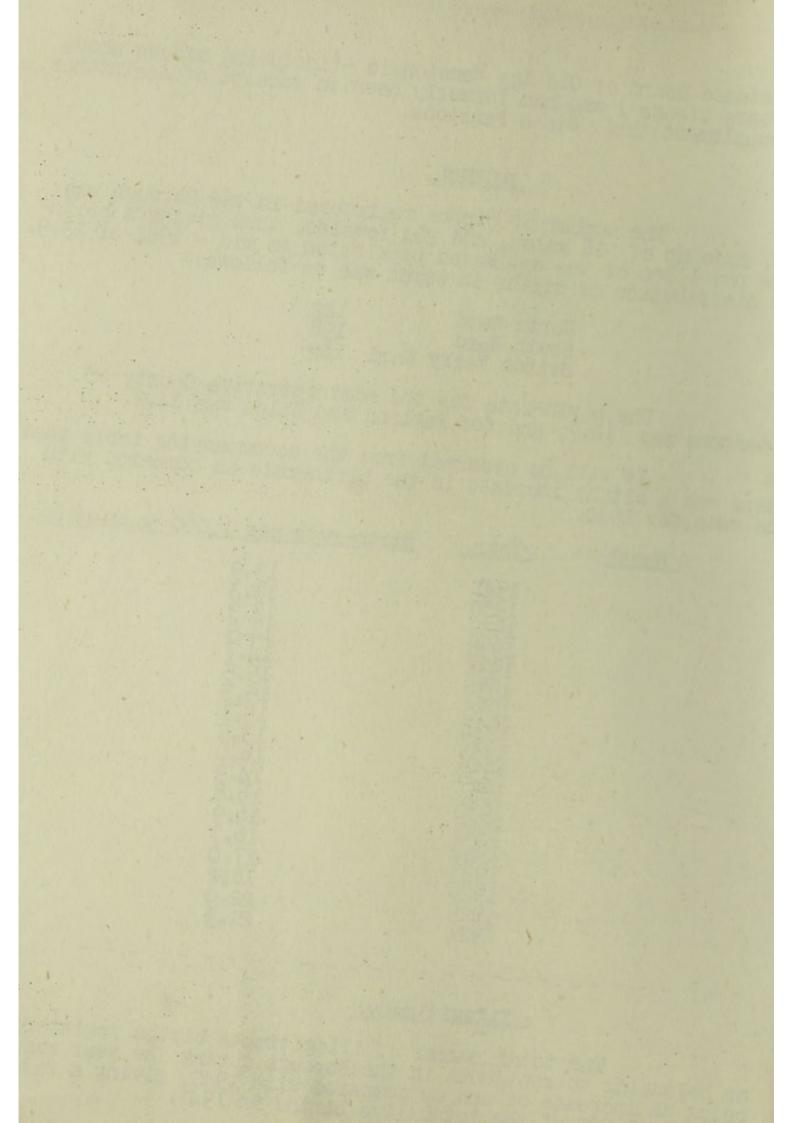
It will be observed from the accompanying table that there was a slight increase in the birth-rate as compared with the rate for 1940.

Neath -	Year.	Birth-rate per 1,000 population.

99999999999999999999999999999999999999	93997555450000970205 333445555364666678824 11111111111111111111111111111111111
.924	5700

#### 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.

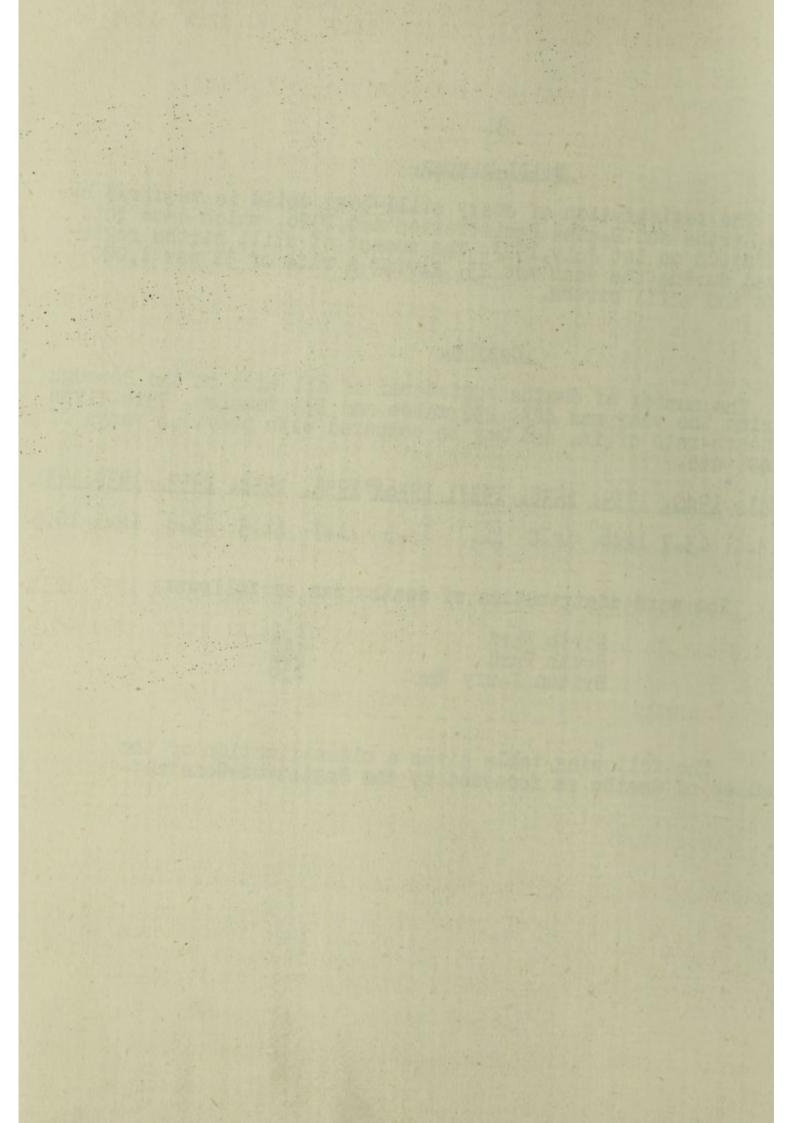
The number of deaths registered of all ages in the Borough during the year was 423, 232 males and 191 females. This gives a death-rate of 14, and may be compared with previous years of 1940, etc.

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		132 153 138
Briton Ferry	Ward	138

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



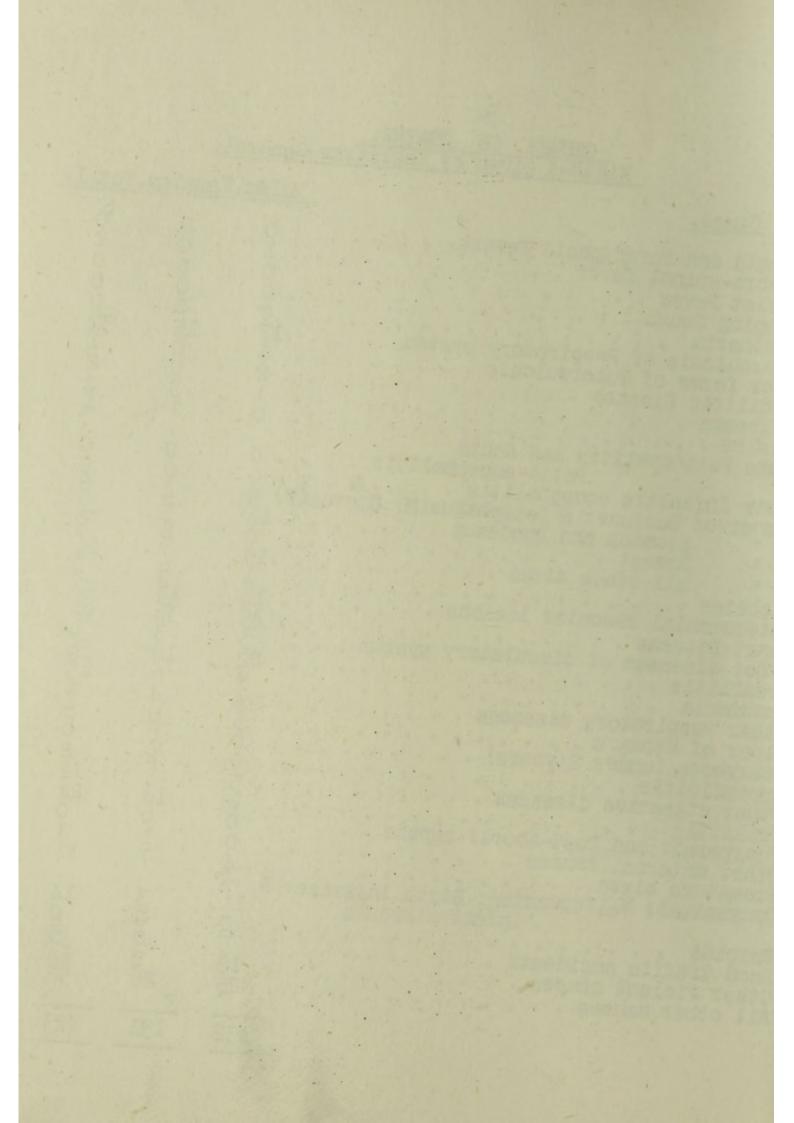
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CAUSES OF DEATHS. Figures given by Registrar-General.

Cause.

# Males.Females.Total.

Nephritis	100 17 300 26 191	24 0 1 11 14 0 5 14 52 423
Heart Disease  45    Other diseases of circulatory system  3    Bronchitis  22    Pneumonia  9    Other respiratory diseases  4    Ulcer of Stomach  5    Diarrhoea (under 2 years)  0    Appendicitis  0    Other digestive diseases  5    Nephritis  6	36 3 14 6	00000000000000000000000000000000000000
Polio-encephalitis 0 Acute Infantile encephalitis 0 Cancer of Buc:cav: & Oesophagus(M) Uterus(F) 4 "Stomach and Duodenum	041007-000	o on the soo
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.0Cerebro-spinal fever1Scarlet Fever0Whooping Cough0Diphtheria0Tuberculosis of Respiratory system17Other forms of Tuberculosis1Syphilitic Disease2Influenza1Measles0Acute Poliomyelitis and Acute	00	01000001041



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 " ... 58 20 - 25 " ... 9 215 - 20 " ... 9 225 - 355 " ... 155 225 - 355 " ... 155 355 - 155 " ... 986 44 0 ver 90 " ... 44

#### 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

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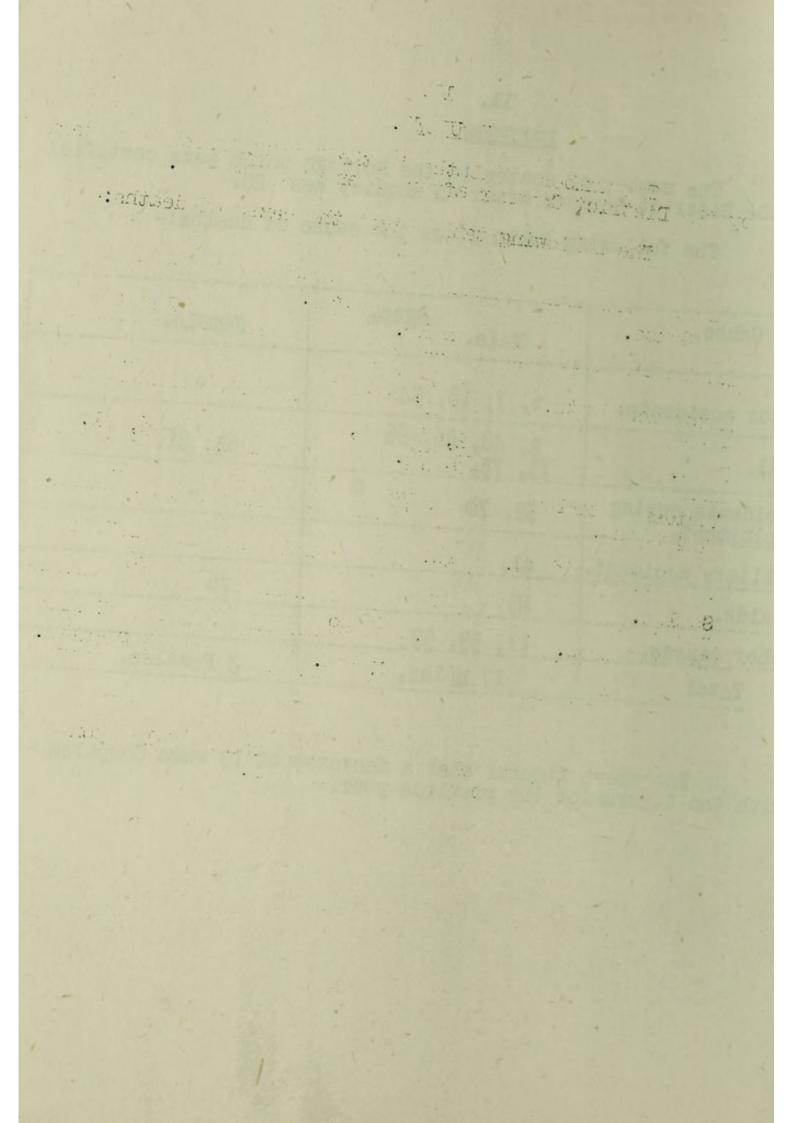
# INQUESTS.

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, <b>7</b> 5•	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.



#### 12.

#### 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:-

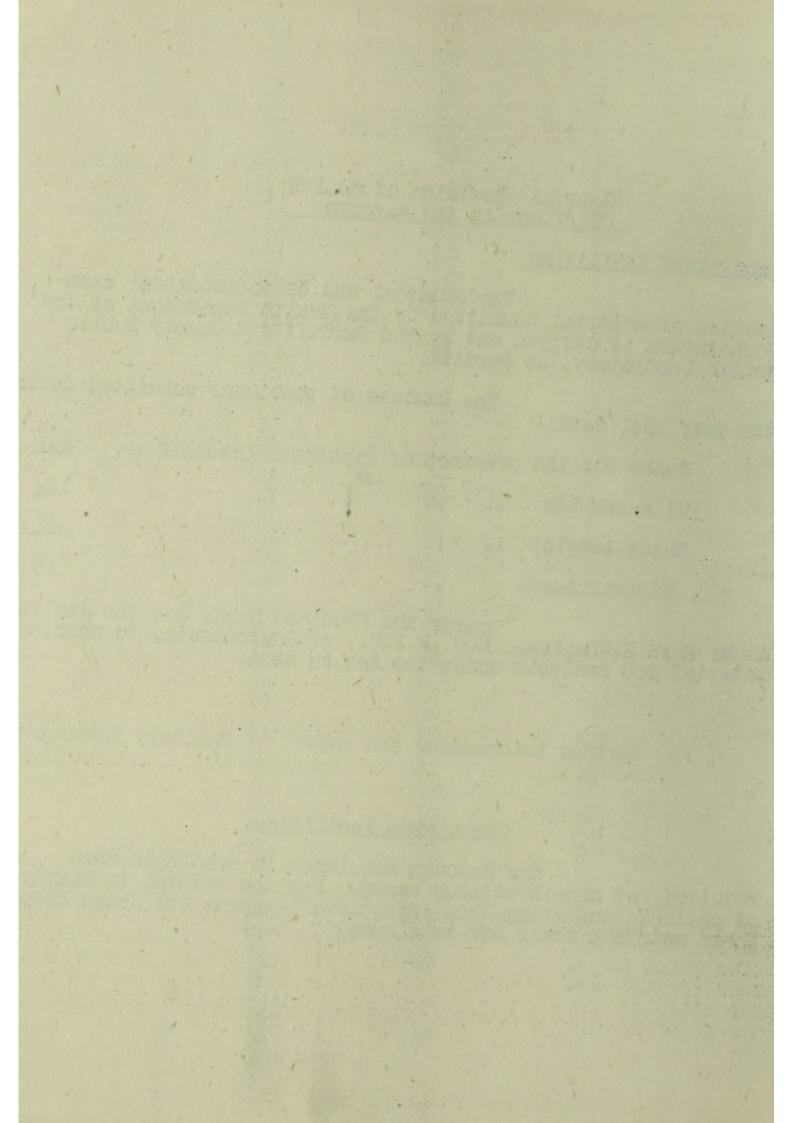
Swabs for the	prese	ence c	f Diphth	eria ba	acilli -	1.41
Milk samples	•••	00			۰ •	104
Water samples	00			0 0	• •	. 81
Miscellaneous			,			18

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.

Observation cases

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.01	cases	admitted	to Tonna	Hospital.
Diphtheria			44		
Scarlet Fever.	1200		_2		
Cerebro-spinal	fever		25		

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.

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#### Sanatoria:-

Cimla Hospital, which is a Tuberculosis Hospital under the jurisdiction of the Welsh  $N_{a,t}$ ional 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.

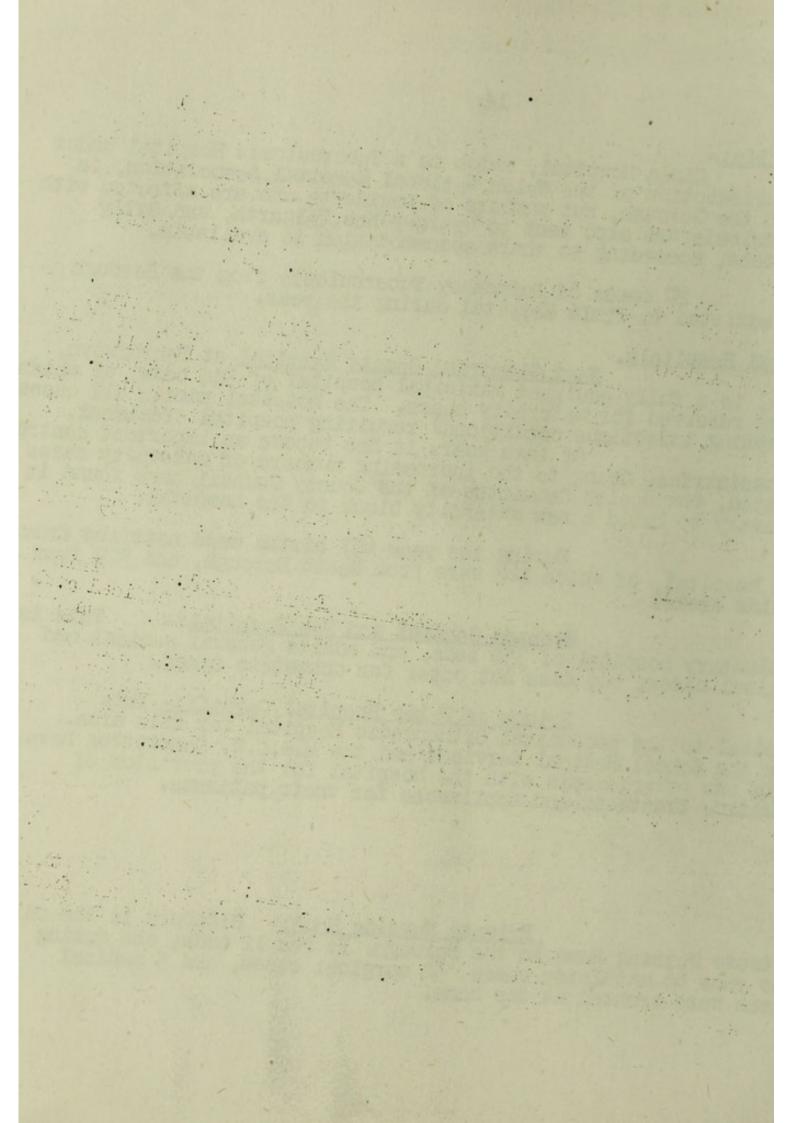
<u>West Glamorgan County Hospital</u> at Penrhiwtyn, Neath, is a fully equipped municipal hospital of 344 beds, of which 30 are reserved for maternity cases. The hospital admits all cases (excepting infectious conditions) requiring hospital treatment. Of late years it has become an important centre for 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 Eve 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.

<u>Private Nursing Home:</u>- 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.



# 15.

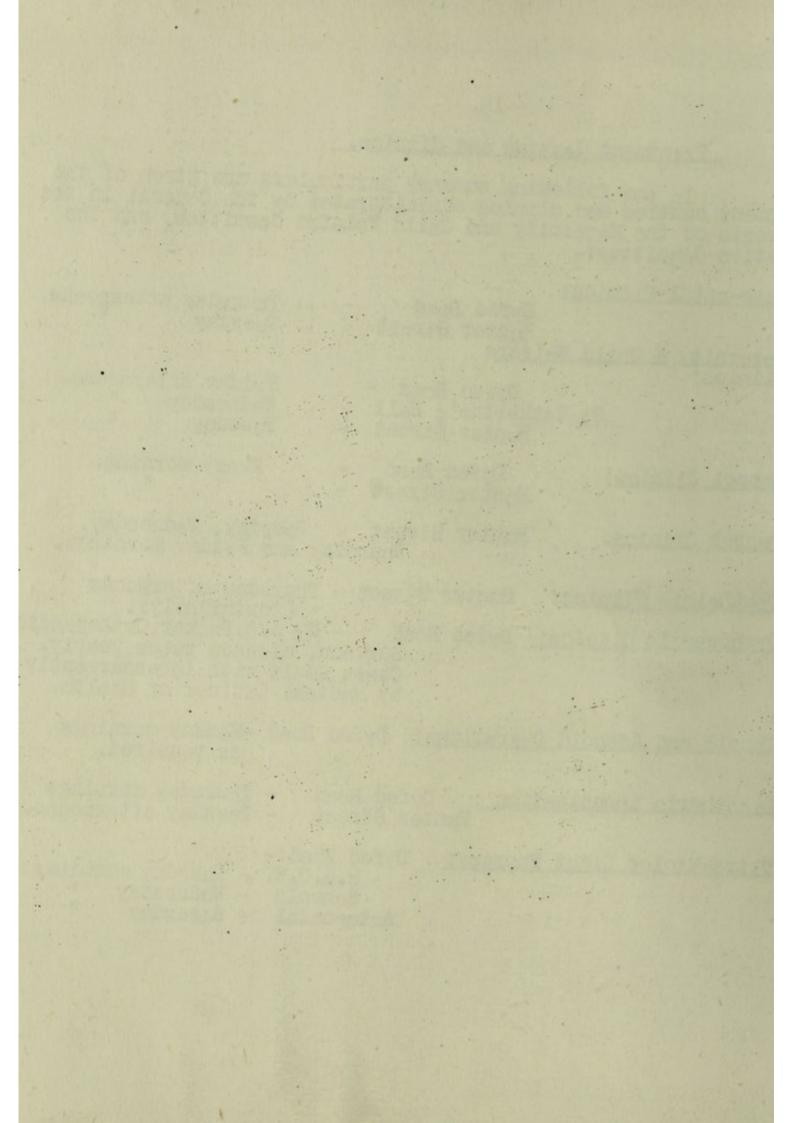
# Treatment Centres and Clinics.

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:

	Maternity & Child Wel	Hunter St				afternoons. "
•	Clinics: St Cat	Dyfed Roa herine's I Hunter-St	ad - Hall - reet -		Friday af Wednesday Tuesday	. 11
3	School Clinics:	Dyfed R Hunter St			Every mo	rning.
4.	Dental Clinics:	Hunter St	reet - Thursd	Tue lay an	sday, Wed d Friday	nesday, mornings.
5.	Ophthalmic Clinics:	Hunter S	treet -		sday afte	
6.	Orthopaedic Clinics:	Dyfed Ro	Surgeo Cases	Mr A on, at dealt	tends twi	y). ,Orthopaedic ce yearly. ercurrently of Health.
7.	Tonsil and Adenoid Op	erations:	Dyfed	l Road	-Monday as requ	mornings Lired.
8.	<u>Diphtheria immunisati</u>	on : Dy Hunte	fed Roa r Stree	ud - et -		mornings afternoons.
9	<u>Ultra-Violet Light Th</u>	erapy:		.C.W.	- Tuesda - Wednes	

- Ante-natal
- saturaay



#### 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.

methods. 24 house were treated in this manner.

( For detailed information see Sanitary Inspector's report)

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### Maternity and Child Welfare.

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

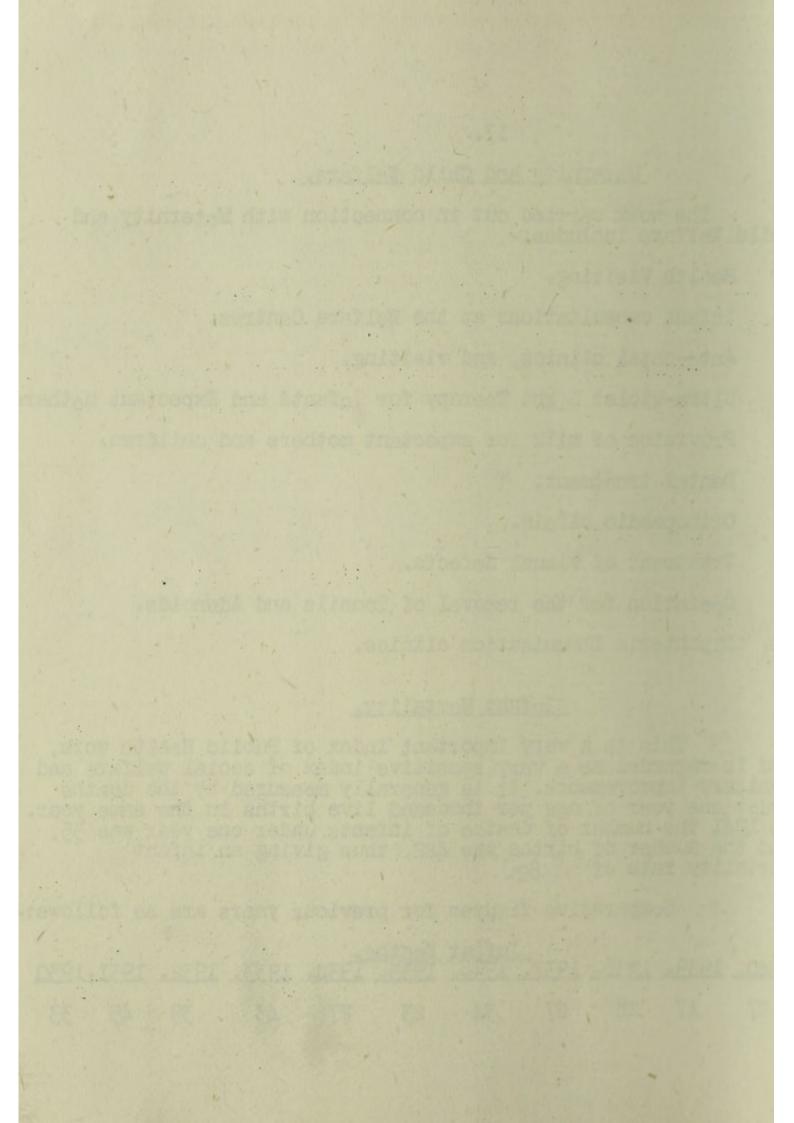
- 1. Health Visiting.
- 2. Infant consultations at the Welfare Centres.
- 3. Ante-natal clinics, and visiting.
- 4. Ultra-violet Light Therapy for Infants and Expectant Mothers.
- 5. Provision of milk for expectant mothers and children.
- 6. Dental treatment.
- 7. Orthopaedic clinic.
- 8. Treatment of 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:-

<u>Infant Deaths.</u> 1940. 1939. 1938. 1937. 1936. 1935. 1934. 1933. 1932. 1931.1930 27 17 28 27 34 23 27 43 39 45 33

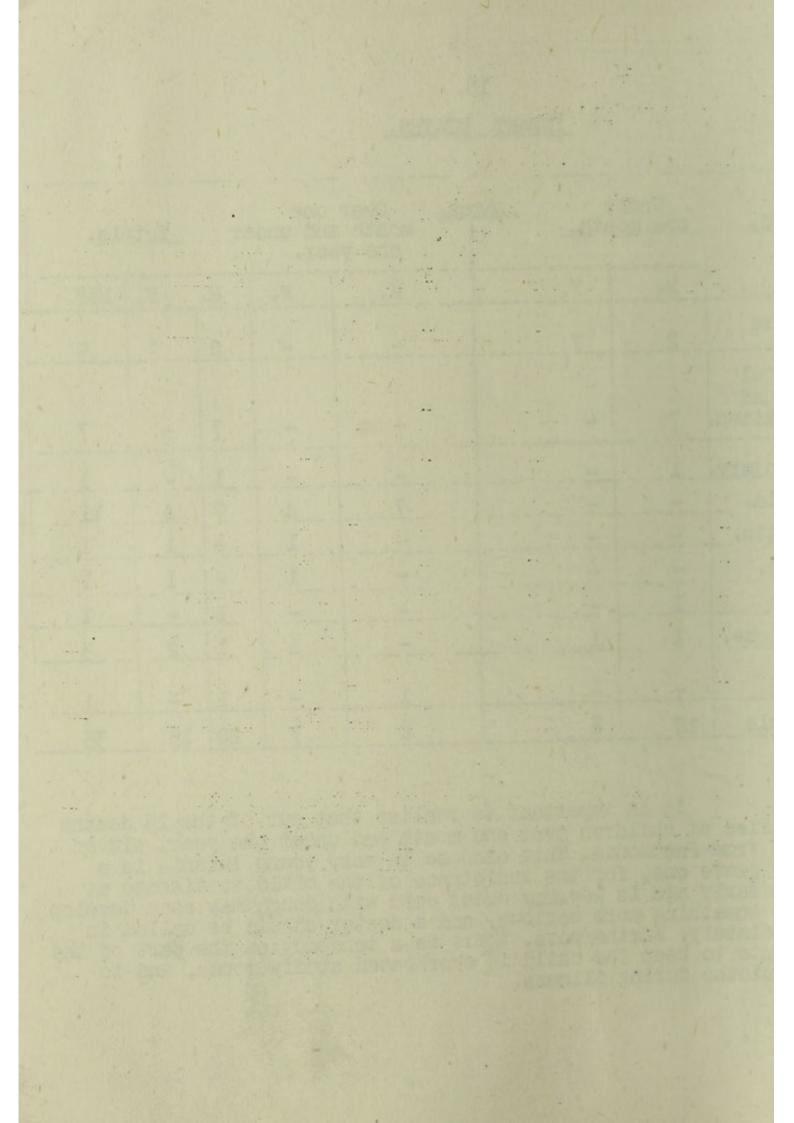


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#### INFANT DEATHS.

Cause	Unde: _one_mor	The second se	ges.	Over month one y	and und	er	_Tota	3 <u>ls</u> .
	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M&F,
Premature birth.	2	7		-		2	7	9
Congenital	N				-0			1
causes and Malformation.	7	-		-	-	7	-	7
Birth injury.	1	-	×	-		1	-	1
Pneumonia.		_	1.		4	. 7	4	11
Bronchitis.		-	1		1	-	1	1
larasmis.	-	-		-	1	-	1	1
sphyxia	1	-		-	_	1	T	1
Convulsions.	1	1		-	1	1	2	3
Pyloric Stenosis				1		1	-	1
Totals	_12	8		8	7	20	15	35

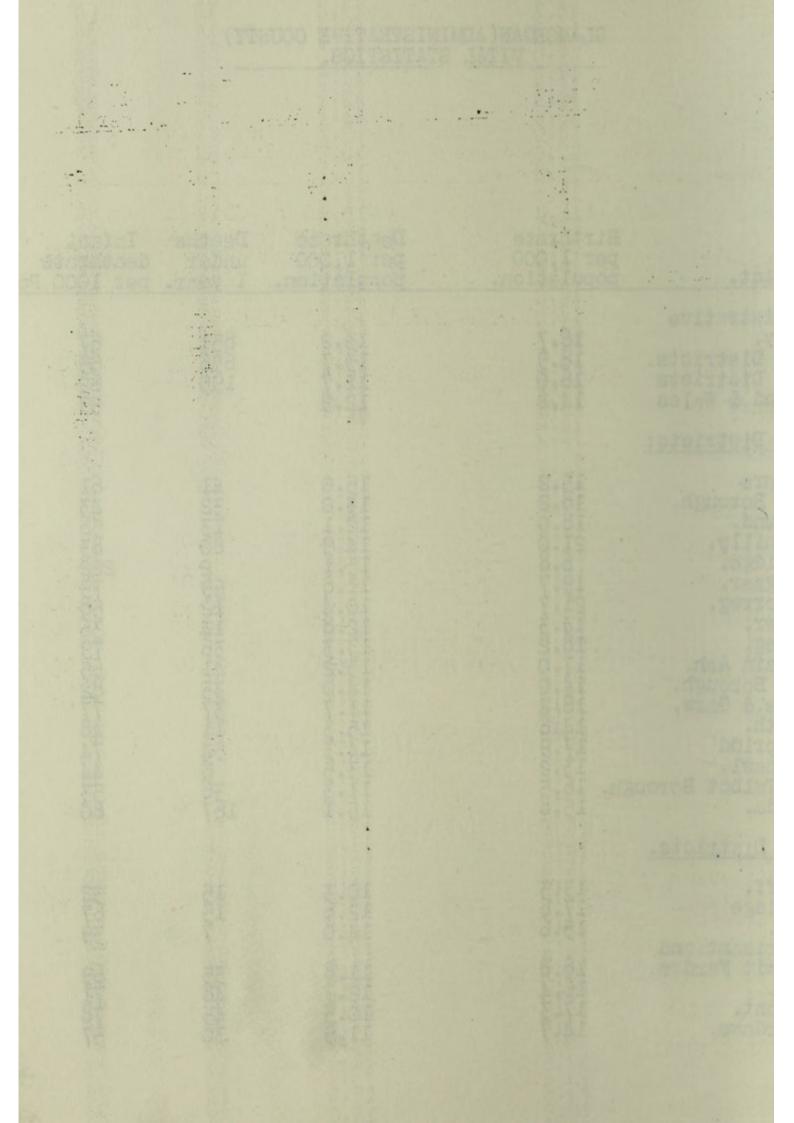
It is important to realise that out of the 15 deaths notified of children over one month and under one year, eleven died from Pneumonia. This disease in very young infants is a very grave one, for the resistance of the child to disease at this early age is low Any chest cold with cough may soon develop 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.



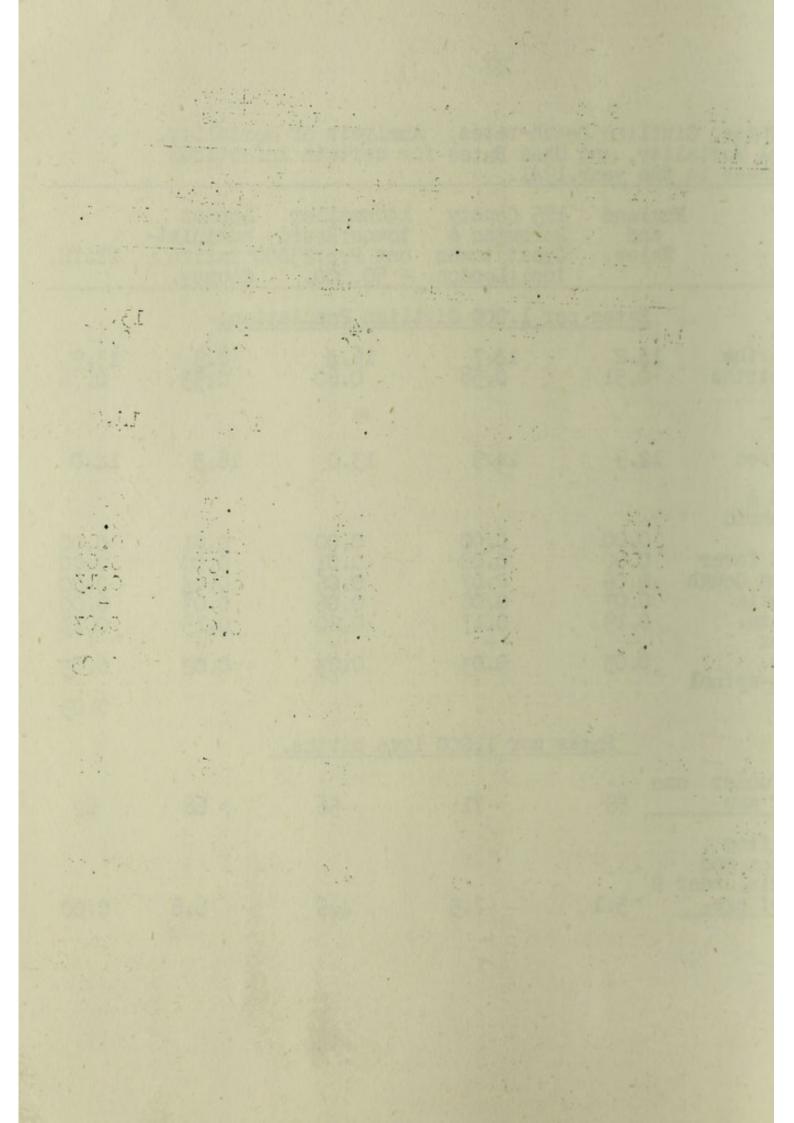
## GLAMORGAN(ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY) VITAL STATISTICS.

A. 1. 40 1. 1.

]	Birthrate per 1,000 population.	Deathrate per 1,000 population.	Deaths under 1 year.	Infant deathrate per 1000 Pop.
Administrative County. Urban Districts. Rural Districts England & Wales	16.7 16.9 16.0 14.2	13.2 13.7 11.7 12.9	<del>8</del> 51 656 195	67 69 62 59
Urban Districts:				in the
Aberdare Barry Borough. Bridgend. Caerphilly. Cowbridge. Gelligaer. Glyncorrwg. Llwchwr. Maesteg. Mountain Ash. Neath Borough. Ogmore.& Garw. Penarth. Pontypridd Porthcawl. Port Talbot Boroug Rhondda.	15.2 18.2 18.0 26.7 19.7 14.0 19.7 14.0 19.7 14.0 14.0 14.0 14.0 14.0 14.0 14.0 14.0	15.00 19.19.18.48 19.19.18.48 19.19.18.48 19.19.18.48 19.19.19.18.48 19.19.19.19.18.48 19.19.19.19.19.19.19.19.19.19.19.19.19.1	4316 2924615714667	645000000000000000000000000000000000000
Rural Districts.				deutor As
Cardiff. Cowbridge. Gower. Llantrisant.and Llantwit Fardre. Neath. Penybont. Pontardawe.	13.3 17.6 15.6 18.8 16.4 17.3 14.7	10.3 12.6 14.0 11.8 12.7 10.5 11.9	1557 55850	327 39 691 877 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.	148smaller towns:Resid- ent Pop:2500 - 50,000.		NEATH.
	Rates	per 1.000 Civ	vilian Popula	tion:-	
Live births Still-births.	14.2 0.51	14.7 0.58	16.4 0.60	8.9 0.33	13.9 0.76
Deaths:-					
All causes	12.9	14.9	13.0	16.3	14.0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid fever. Scarlet fever Whooping Cough Diphtheria Influenza. Smallpox Measles. Cerebro-spinal fever.	0.07 0.19 0.03	0.00 0.00 0.07 0.08 0.17 	0.00 0.01 0.06 0.20 0.03	0.01 0.00 0.04 0.03 0.15 0.02	0.00 0.00 0.00 0.13 0.03 0.03
	Rat	es per 1,000	live births.	_	
Deaths under year of age	one 59	71	56	68	82
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis, under years of age.	er 2 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

Ophthalmia Neonatorum 4.

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. Monday. a.m. General treatment.

Tuesday.

therapy.

Wednesday

a.m. 1. General treatment. 2. Ultra-violet ray therapy. p.m. Centre consultation at St Catherine's Hall, Melyn.

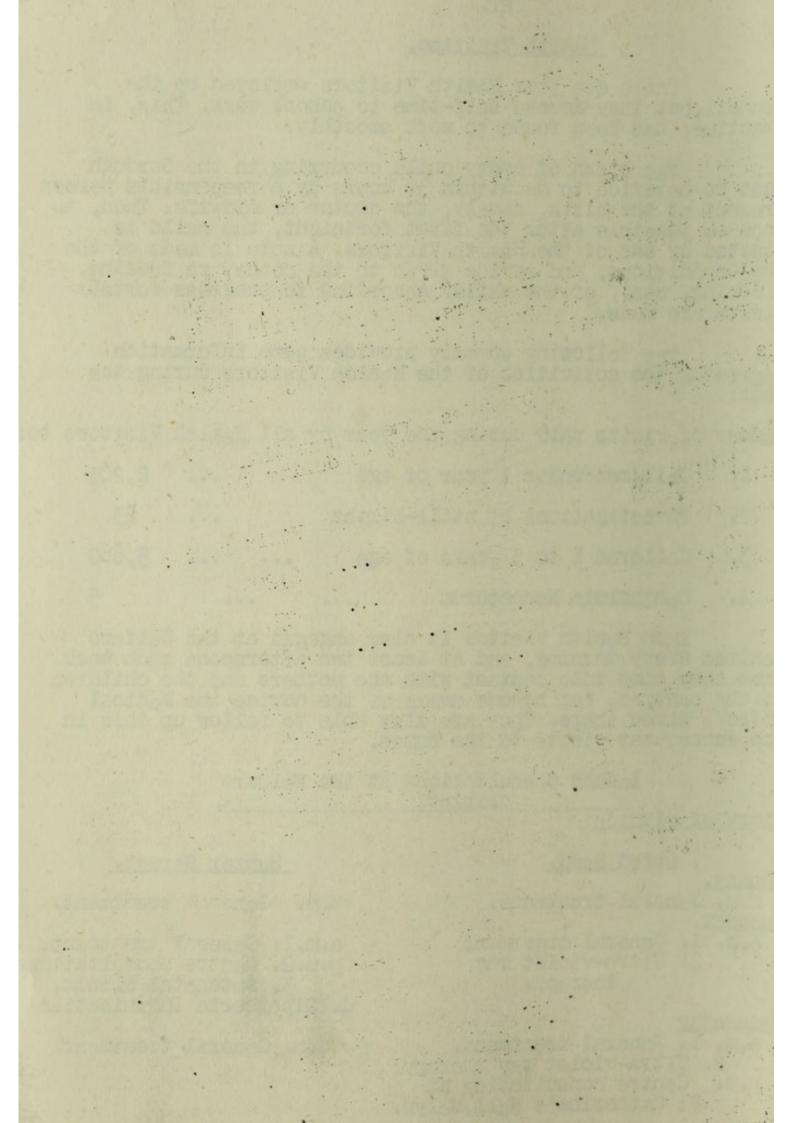
Hunter Street.

a.m. General treatment.

a.m. 1. General treatment 2. Ultra-violet ray a.m.1. General treatment. p.m.2. Centre consultations. 3. Antenatal clinic.

4. Diphtheria Immunisation.

a.m. General treatment.



### Infant Consultations (cont)

Thursday.

a.m.l. General treatment 2. Diphtheria Immunisation clinic.	a.m. General treatment.
Friday. a.m. General treatment. p.m. Centre consultation.	a.m.l. General treatment 2. Centre consultations. 3. Diphtheria Immunis- ation.
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.

¥ 13	Mumber of chi	ldren attending M.&.C.	.W.
Month. <u>1941.</u> January. February March. April May June July August September October November	Dyfed Road. 305 292 252 232 440 351 291 269 351 406 314	Clinics. St.Catherine's Hall. 189 98 98 132 128 158 206 105 168 228 252	
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:-

201) 10000000 ... in the 13 1.3: 1. P . 18 - 19 - 19 18 - 19 - 19 - 19 13 6.15 . they do the second .2. . ..... the state of the : J. Sugar B 12 6 1 1 23 14 Hill and the . Ifatt La Hakaspierer And Fred the .

Minor ailments (Cont).

Skin affections Cellulitis Injuries Infectious diseases Diphtheria Cerebro-spinal fever Whooping Cough Eyes Nose and Throat Nerve and brain Rheumatism Bronchitis, coughs, etc	2256 1443 11399992 3151	Enuresis Asthma Alimentary conditions Scabies Rickets Orthopaedic " Influenza Cervical adenitis Oxyurides Anaemia Heart Various other	162601200253
Tuberculosis	15	conditions	49

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 antenatal 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.

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### 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.

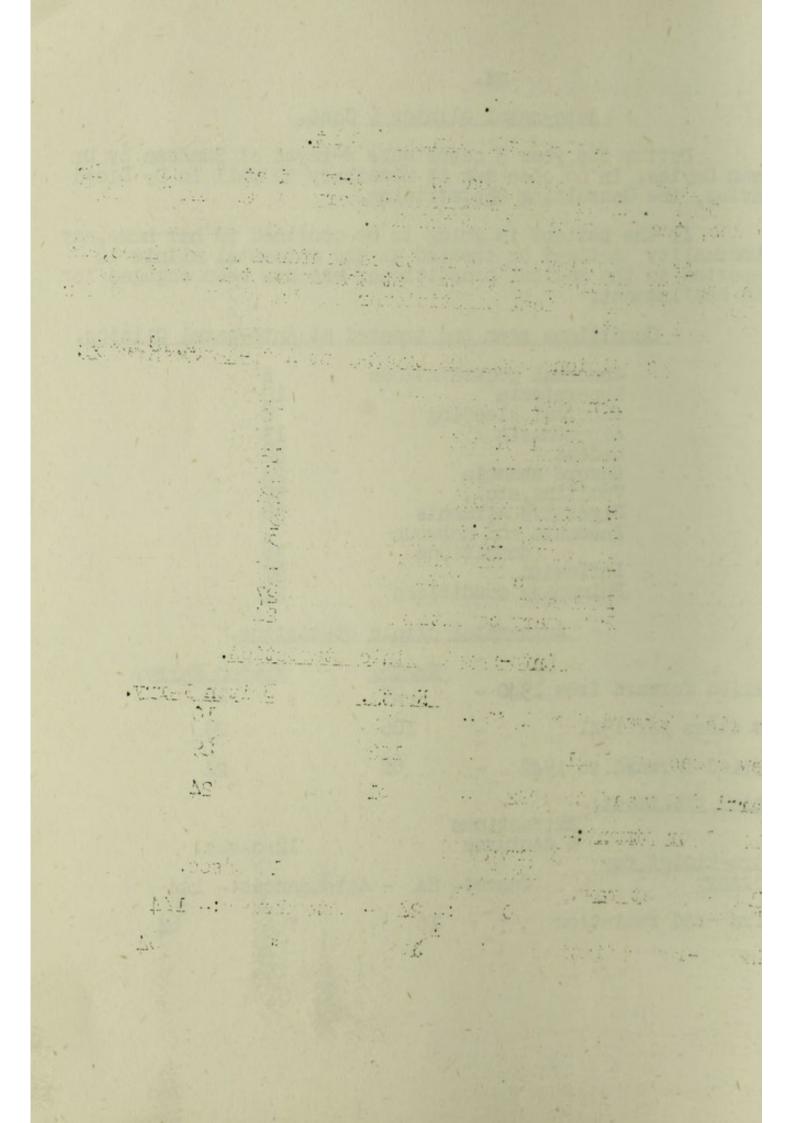
If the patient is going to be confined in her home, any abnormality noticed or treated at the antenatal clinic is reported to the medical practitioner who has been engaged for the confinement.

Conditions seen and treated at Ante-natal Clinics.

Abnormal presentations	_4
Hyperpiesia	10
Abnormal bleeding	8
Albumenuria	13
Oedema,	1324406
Severe anaemia	24
Vomiting, etc., Digestive Ailments	39
Digestive Ailments	30
Insomnia and nervous	-6
conditions	307
Influenza	2(
Pulmonary conditions	24

Ante-natal clinic statistics.

Carried forward from 1940 -	Neath-	Briton Ferry. 10	
New cases for 1941 -	106	29	
Garried forward to 1942 -	61	24	
Dental treatment:- Extraction & dentures		12 cases.	
Ultra-violet ray Therapy Cases:	- 24 - Atter	ndances:- 144	
Infra -red radiation "	16	# 64	



## Dental Clinic.

25

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

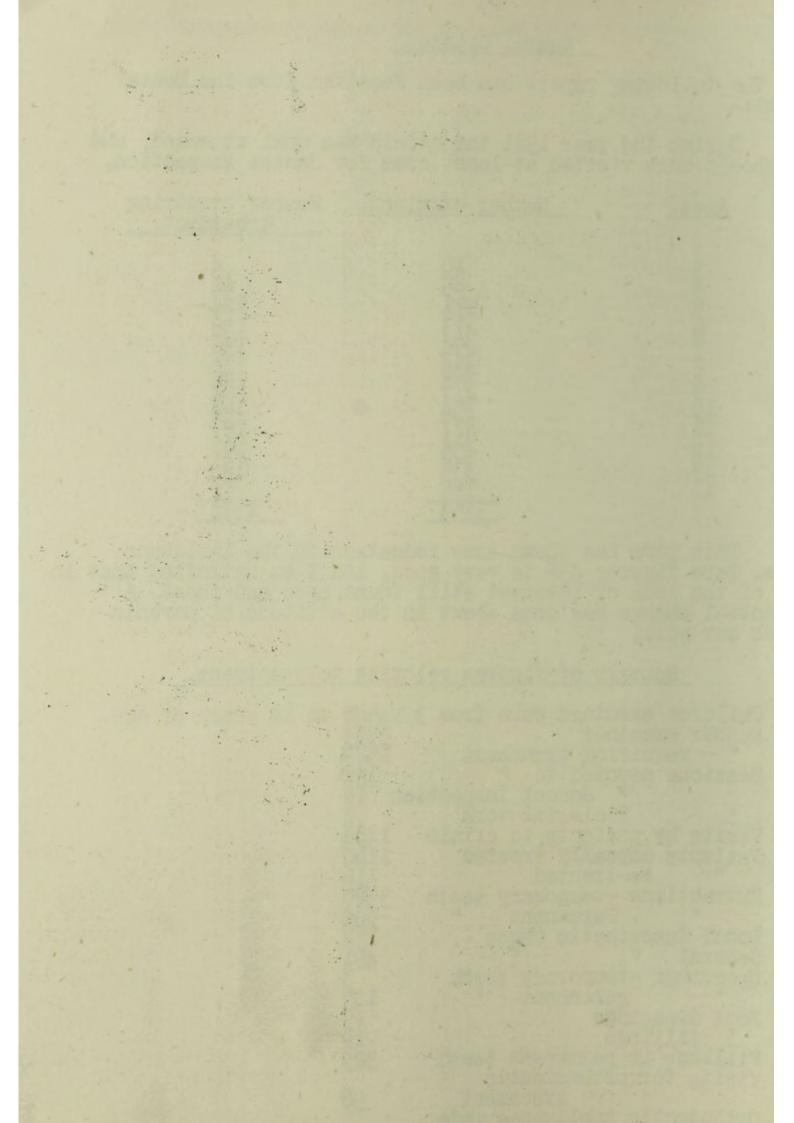
During the year 1941 the clinic was well attended, and all schools were visited at least once for dental inspection.

Ages.	Number examined.	Number requiring treatment.
37415	10 85 271	42 124
6780	273 294 435	129 158 140
10 11 12	215 354 477 455	164 197 191
13 14	335 185 3553	134 <u>72</u> 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 Number examined " requiring treatment	years to 14 years 3553 1583	of age.
Sessions devoted to " " School inspection	158 n 18	
Visits by patients to clinic Patients actually treated	1486 1180	
Extractions -temporary teeth " Permanent "	3380 590	
Local Anaesthetic cases General "" Dressings -temporary teeth	133 491 3	
" permanent " Root dressings " fillings	149 19 12	
Fillings in permanent teeth Visits for orthondontic	323	
Orthodontic appliances made and fitted	58 8	
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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:-

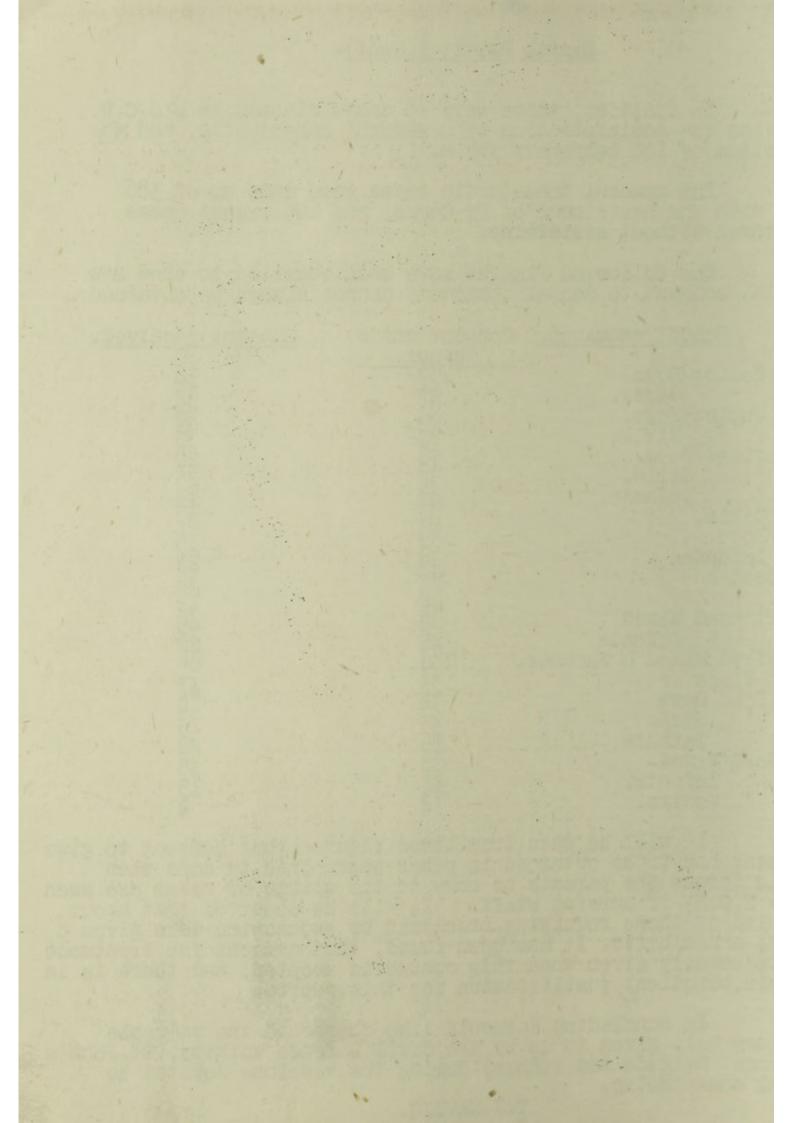
School examined.	Consent cards issued.	Consent received.
Gnoll Senior Boys.	1.09	56 52
" Girls. Junior Boys,	26	42
Ald.Davies, Boys.	58	. 22
" " Girls.	57	18 24
Melin Girls.	29.	27
" Boys. " Infants. St.Joseph's	1000	1000
Cimla.	好	field and a second seco
Herbert Road Mixed.	82 45	45
Brynhyfryd Mixed & Infants Vernon Place	• 116	89 47
Neath Road Boys Girls	30	12 23
Cwrt Sart Mixed.	NOS NOS	23 22 35
" " Infants. " " Central	31	15
COLLERCET	14	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 mursing 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.



## 27.

## 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.

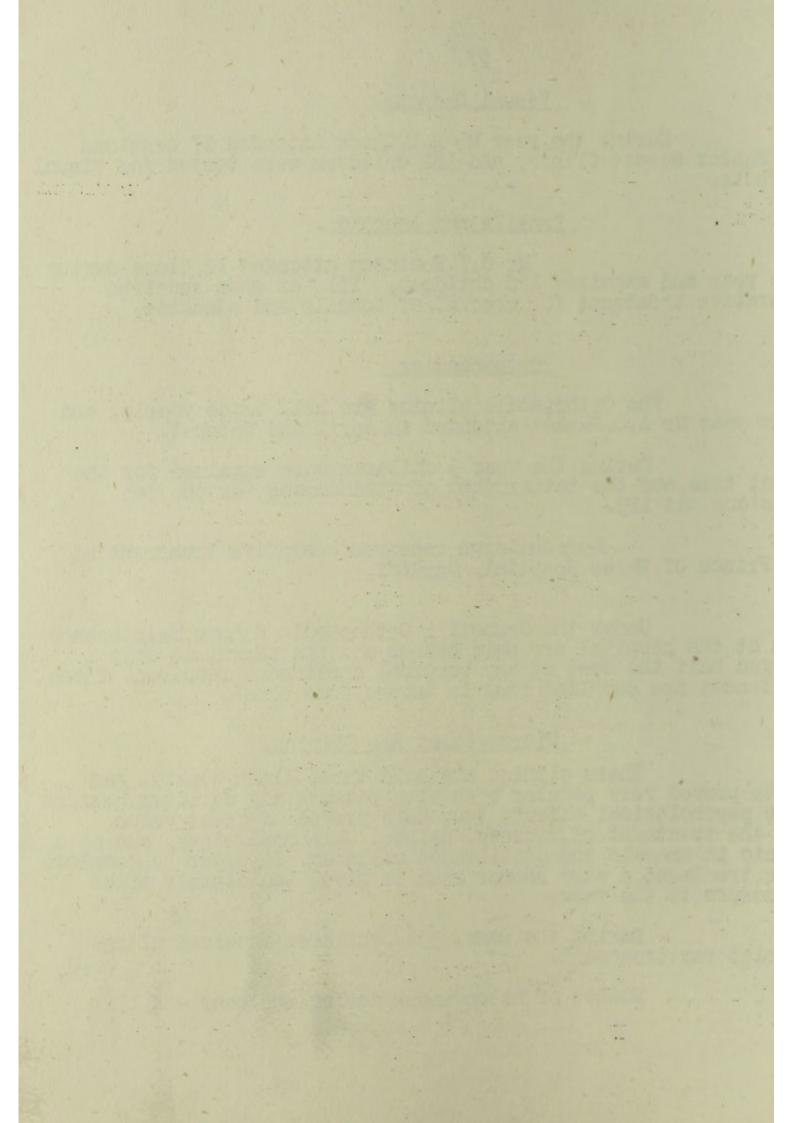
Under the Council's Orthopaedic Scheme, maintenance fees at the hospital are paid by them, and the parent is only charged half the cost of any surgical appliances required. These appliances are supplied free in necessitous cases.

## 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.

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

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 131 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.

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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

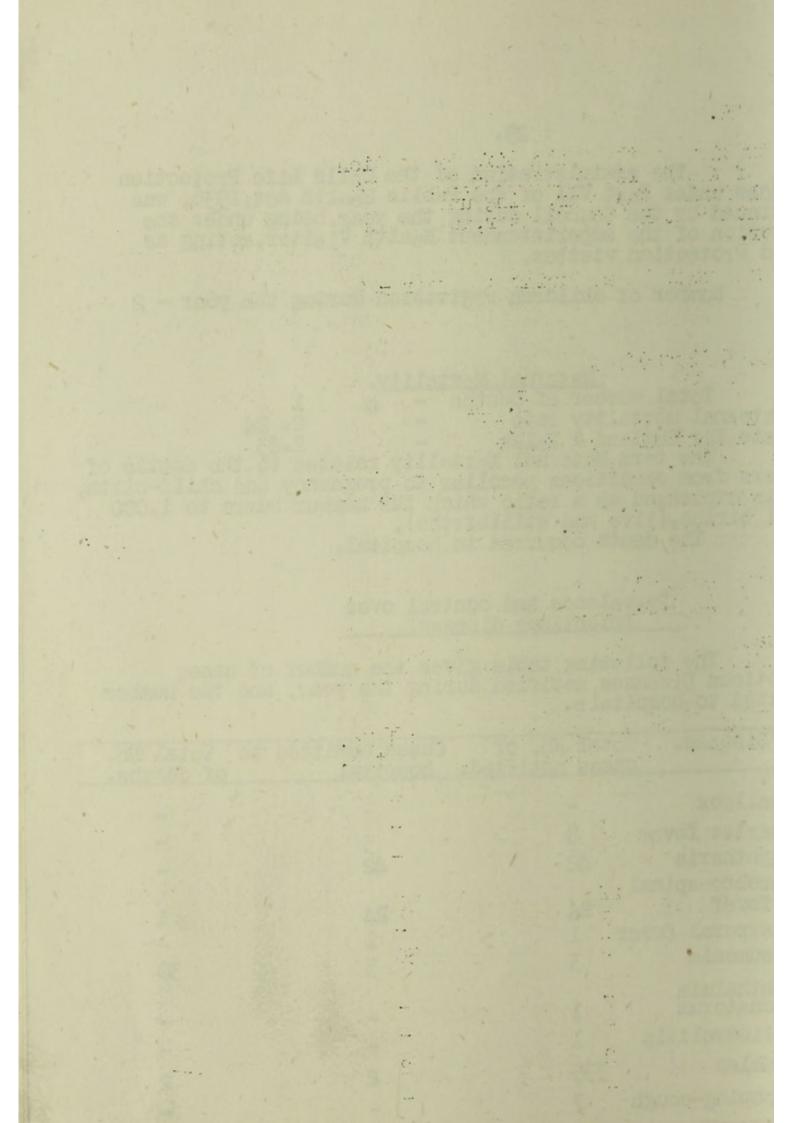
#### Maternal Mortality.

Total number of deaths -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. T	otal No. of ases notified.	Cases admitted hospital	to Total No. of deaths.
Smallpox	_	<u>_</u>	_
Scarlet fever	8	5	-
Diphtheria Cerebro-spinal	42	42	-
fever	24	24	1
Puerperal feve	r 1.	1	-
Pneumonia	3	3	30
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	_	
Poliomyelitis	1	_	_
Measles	335	2	2
Whooping-cough	7		-



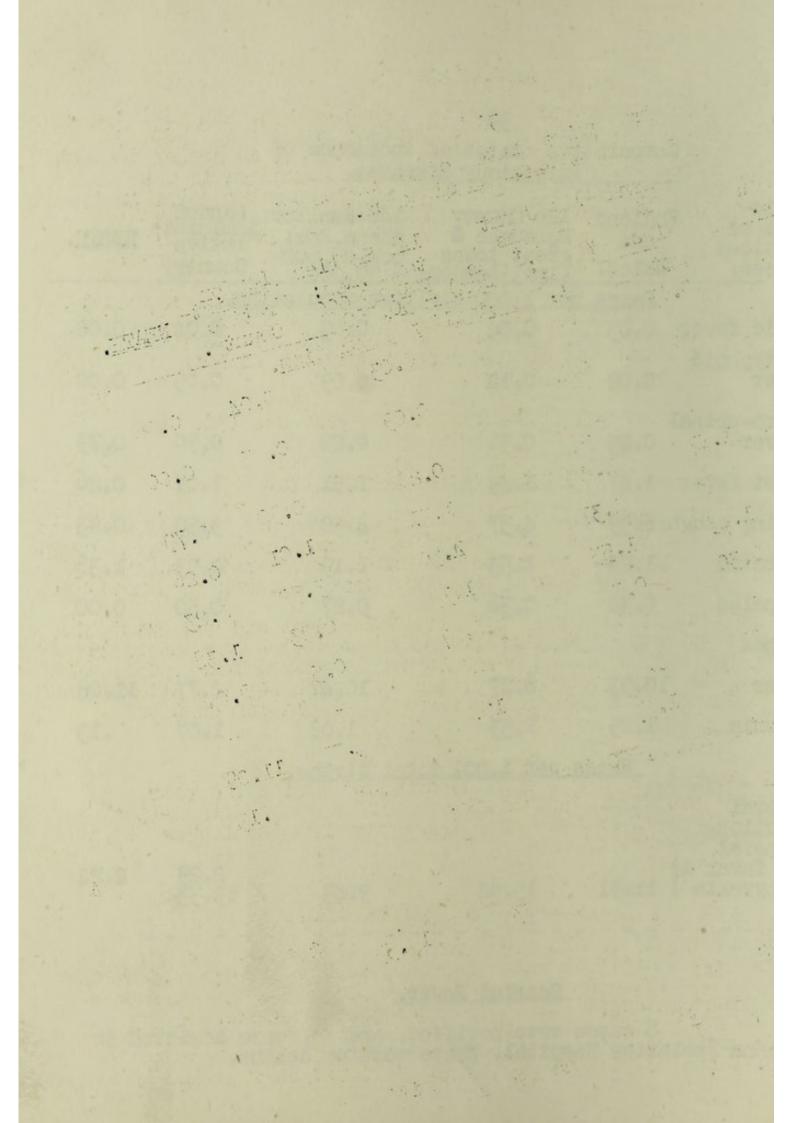
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Comparative	rates	of	incidence	of
Infec	tious	dis	seases.	-

Notific- ations of Infectious diseases.	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs & great towns (incl:London)	148 Smaller towns.Res: pop.25,000 - 50,000	London Administ- rative County.	NEATH.
	Rates	per 1,000 civi	lian populati	on.	
Typhoid fever	r 0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.00
Para-typhoid fever	0.09	0.12	0.09	0.05	0.00
Cerebro-spins fever	0.25	0.31	0.20	0.30	0.79
Scarlet fever	r 1.47	1.49	1.51	1.01	0.26
Whooping coup	gh 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	-	1	-	-	-
Measles	10.33	8.27	10.47	4.77	11.08
Pneumonia	1.25	1.53	1,04	1.07	.13
	Rate	s per 1,000 to	tal births.		
Puerperal <u>infection.</u> 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.



#### 31.

## 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 nonexistent 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

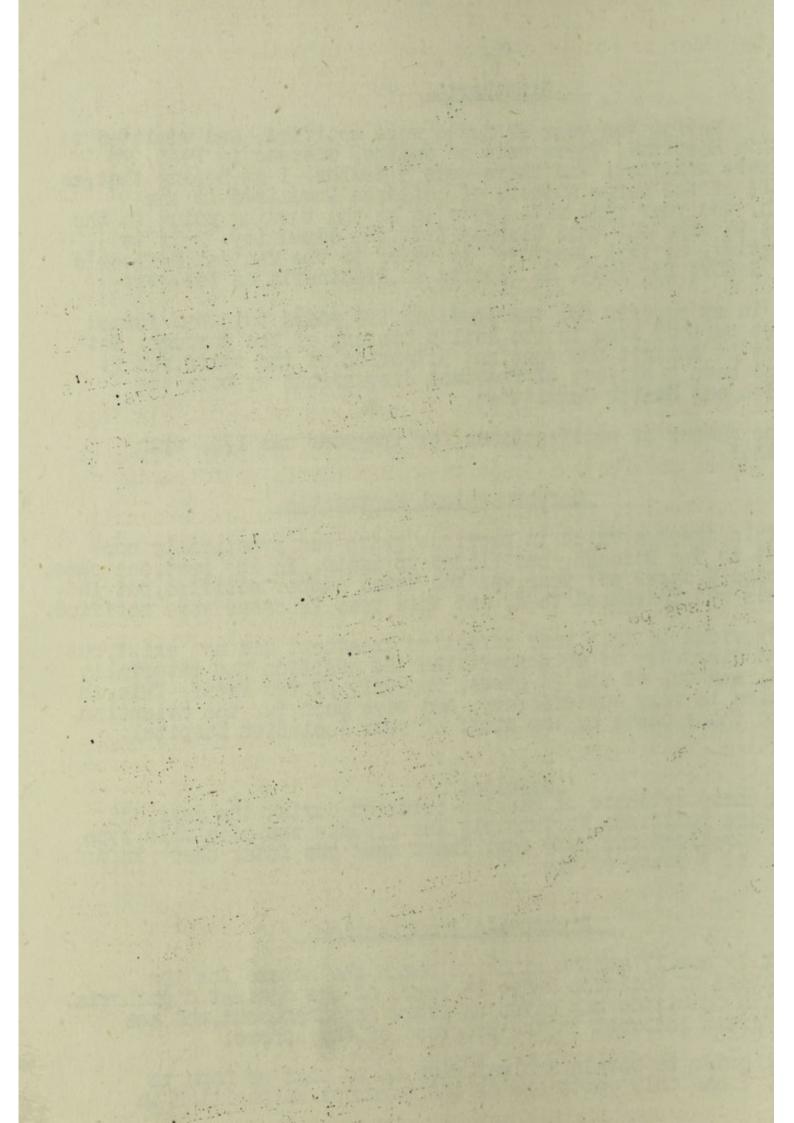
with the discovery of Sulphapyridine the position has materially changed, and out of the 24 cases, one only proved fatal. This, in my opinion is very satisfactory, and says much for the attention given to these cases by the staff of your Isolation Hospital

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).

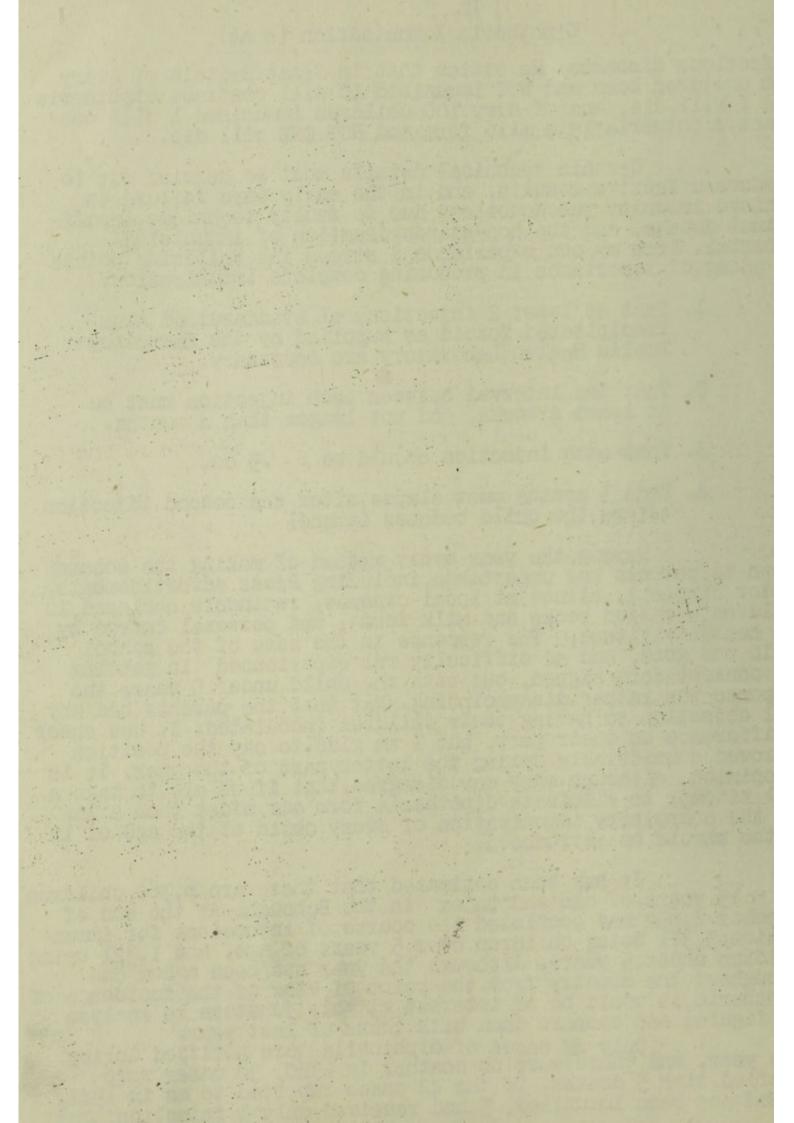
infectious diseases. He states that in Great Britain of every 100 children born and NOT immunised 10 will contract diphtheria and 1 will die, and of every 100 children immunised 1 will contract diphtheria in a mild form and NOT ONE will die.

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 indifference on their part, but I am glad to say the position improved considerably during the latter part of the year. It is real attempt to eliminate diphtheria form our midst then a law for the compulsory immunisation of every child at the age of 12

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. May 2 cases of diphtheria were notified during 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.

## Scables,

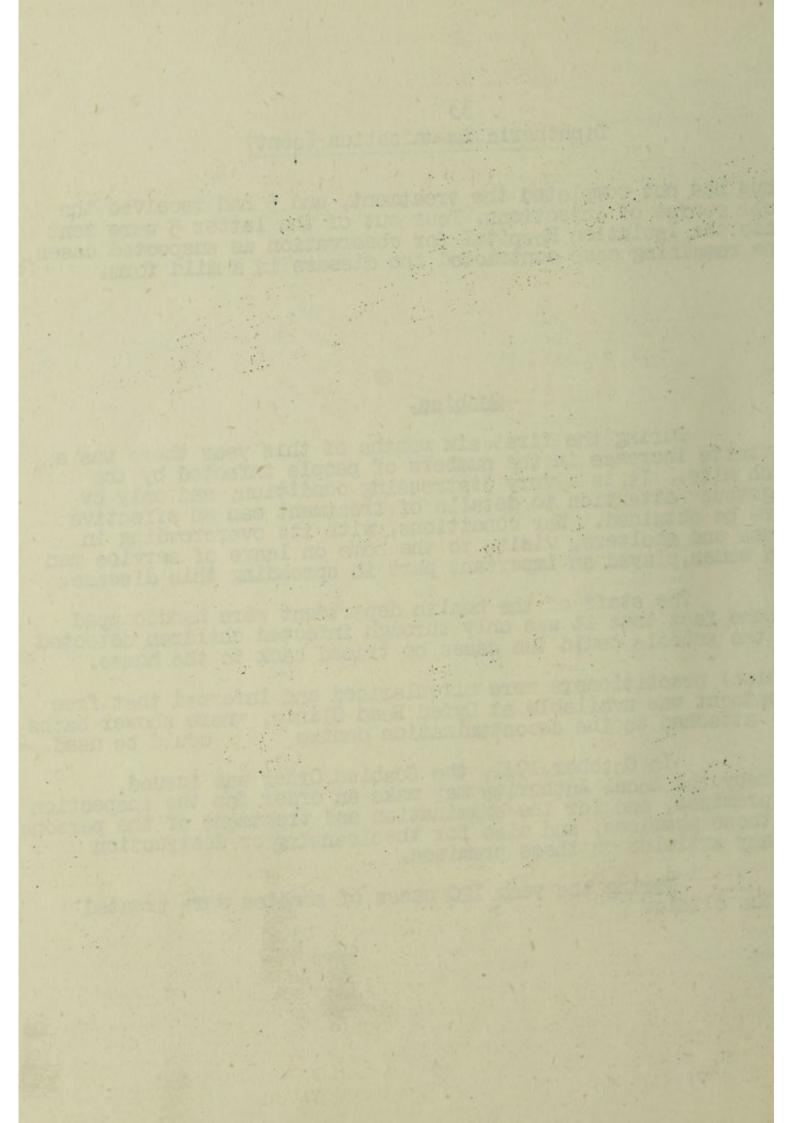
During the first six months of this year there was a definite increase in the numbers of people infected by the itch mite. It is a very distressing condition, and only by rigorous attention to details of treatment can an effective cure be obtained. War conditions, with its overcrowding in homes and shelters, 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

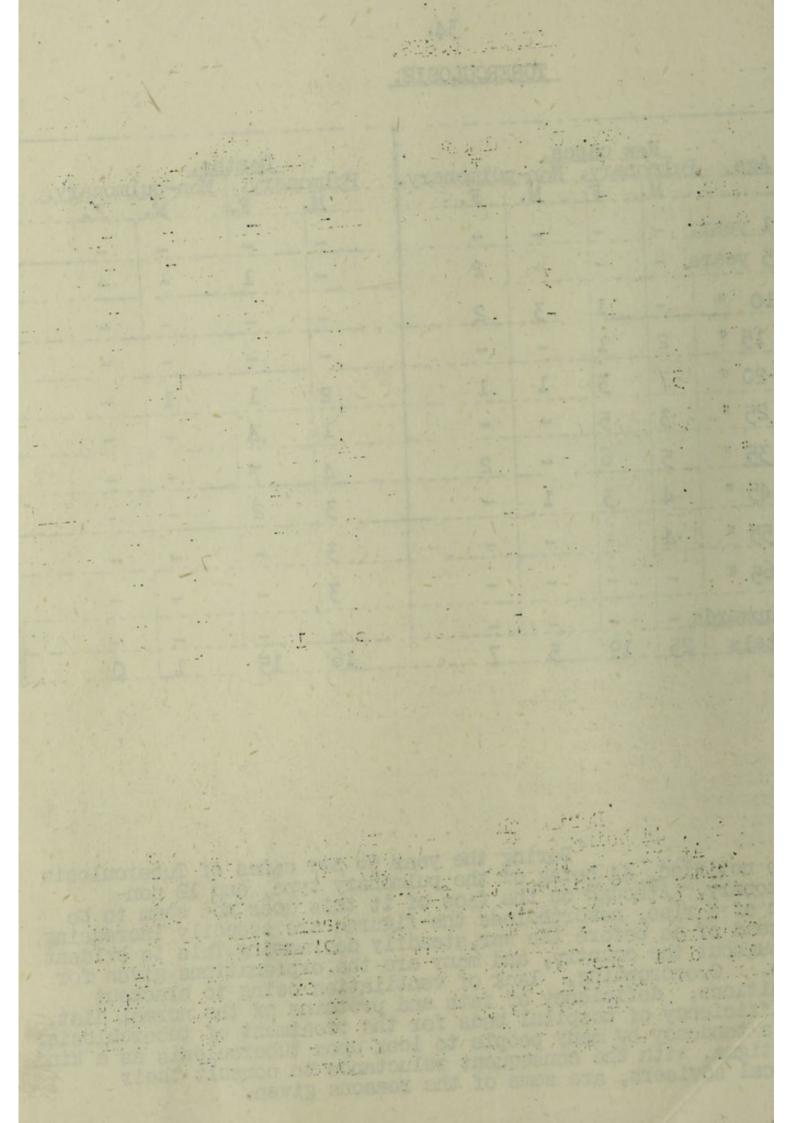


## TUBERCULOSIS.

34.

					-1				
Age.	Pulm	lew ca lonary	Lses. L. Non- M.	pulmonary	Puln	Dea nonary.		llmona.	cy.
2 - 1 year	r	-	1.000			*•••••	• <u>M</u>	F.	
- 5 year	REAL 1000 100		-	2	+				
2 - 10 "	-	1	. 3	2		·	<del></del>		
0 - 15 "	2	1	-		1	+			
15 -20 "	7	3	1	1	+				1
0 - 25 "	3				2	1	1		
5 - 35 "	5	6			1 1	4		-	
				2	4	7	-	_	
5 - 45 "	4	3	1	-	3	2			
2 - 55 "	4	-	-	-	3				
5 - 65 "	-	2 -	-	-					
& upward	S -				3			-	-
Totals		19	5	7					
the second second				-+	16	15_	- 1	0	

During the year 56 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 44 being of the pulmonary type, and 12 nonmuch 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, of stigma, with the consequent reluctance to consult their medical advisers, are some of the reasons given.



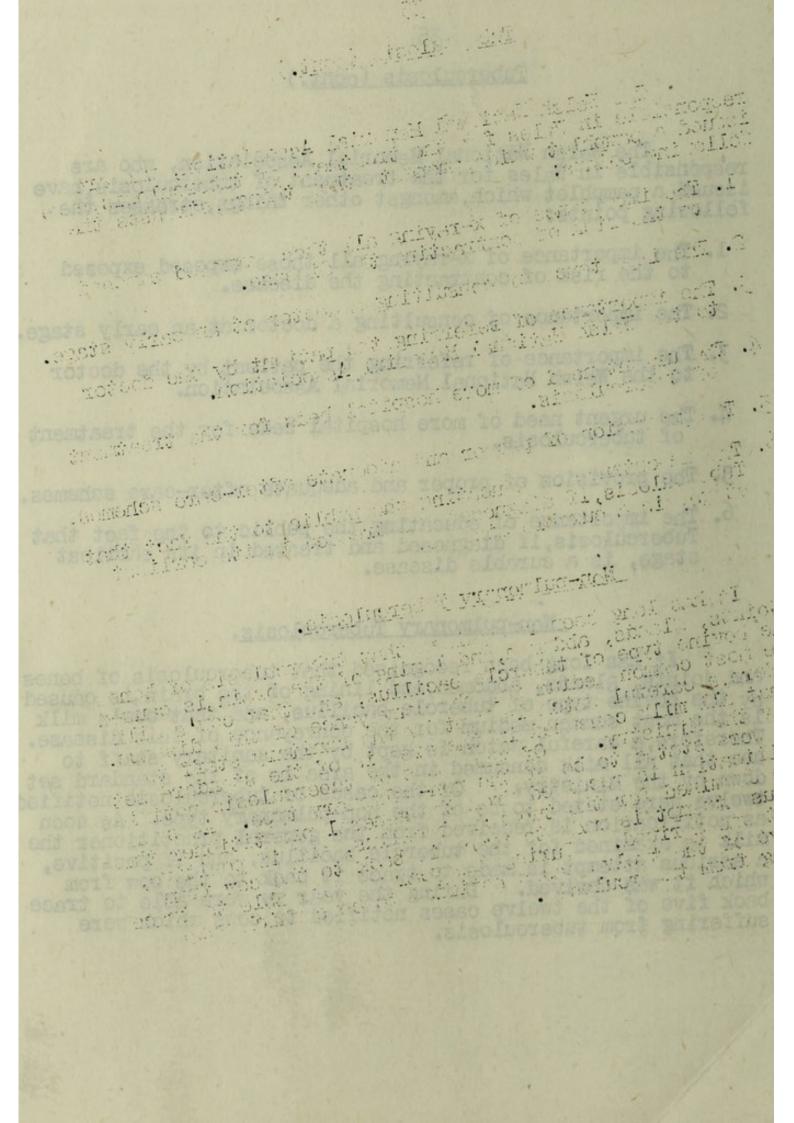
## Tuberculosis (cont.)

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 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 suffering from tuberculosis.



	<b>50</b> .	·	
•	RAINFALL AND	WATER SUPPLY.	
Month, 1941.		Reservoirs.	
Month.	Gnoll. Inches.	  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
Ma.y.	2.83	2.66	2.39
June.	1.54	1.47	1.51
July.	4.05	3.89	3.86
August. September.	6.75	5.18	6.36
October.	•58	.61	.62
November.	4.32	4.16	4.19
December.	3.00	2.98	2.68
Totals	<u>4.56</u> <u>40.44</u>	4.66	4.14
Curtailment	AU.44	_39.22	

36.

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.) from 28th July to 17th August. (Hours of supply - 12 hours.) Briton Ferry Ward: Constant supply maintained.

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