BOROUGH OF NEATH.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR, 1943.

by

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

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BOROUGH OF NEATH.

Members of Neath Borough Council for the year 1943:

Mayor:- Councillor J.E.Emanuel.J.P. (to Nov.9th)
Councillor J.Richings. J.P. (from Nov.9th.)
Ald. J.W.Morgan.
Ald. W.K.Owen. J.P.
Ald. D.C.Griffiths.
Ald. R.Jenkins. J.P.
Ald. G.Davies. J.P. (retired Nov,1943.)
Ald.G.Gethin.
Councillor M.W.Arnold.
" D.G.Davies, J.P.
" H.E.Glover.
" C.R.Hedge. J.P.
" P.Howells.
" S.L.Burton.
" Miss M.C.Davies.
" F.A.Loader.
" M.A.Morgan.
" B.Sutcliffe (from 9th Nov.)
" J.B.Williams. Deceased.
" J.Branch.
" T.Hughes.
" E.C.Hutchinson.
" B.Morris.
" J.Shea.
" T.H.Snook. (from 9th Nov.)
" E.Thomas.

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

Members of Health Committee:-

Chairman:- Councillor E.C.Hutchinson.
Vice-Chairman:- Councillor J.Shea.
and all members of the Council.

Maternity & Child Welfare Committee:-

Chairman:- Councillor S.L.Burton.
Vice-Chairman:- Councillor E.Thomas.
Ald.R.Jenkins, Ald. J.W.Morgan,Ald.W.K.Owen,
Councillors Miss M.C.Davies,P.Howells, E.C.Hutchinson,F.A.Loader.
Co-opted members:- Mrs M.Arnold, Mrs Jenkins, Mrs Heale
Mrs Howells, Mrs Mort, Mrs 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. H.V. Dip: M.S.I.A. Special Orthopaedic training.
C.G. Rigby, CMB. H.V. Dip. MSIA
E. Lawrence SRN. (School Nurse)
E. Jones SRN. CMB. HV Dip.
G. Williams SRN. CMB. HV.Dip.

Clerical Staff:-

Chief Clerk:- G.M.Hopkins.
Junior Clerks: M.Abraham.
D.Lloyd.

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 L.D.S. R.C.S.
Orthopaedic Surgeon:- A.O. Parker. M.D. Surgeon to the 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. O.B.E., M.D., MRCP., FRCSE., D.P.H.
Dermatologist:- D.R. Lewis. M.D., FRCPE.
Paediatrician:- A.G. Watkins.M.D. MRCP.

Public Analyst:- Rhys P. Charles. M.D., F.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 for the year 1943. It has been drawn up in accordance with the recent Circular issued by the Welsh Board of Health, and as instructed, no information is given which would enable local population to be constructed.

During the year the work of the department has been maintained as heretofore, and I am again able to report that new measures have been introduced which should have a beneficial bearing on the welfare and well-being of the community. I am referring specifically to the treatment of Cleft - palate and Hare-lip at the plastic unit of the Gloucester City General Hospital, the appointment of a Consultant in Disease of Children, the provision of Insulin in necessitous cases, the introduction of the campaign against Venereal Diseases, and the commencement of the long-term policy of Health and Sex Education among the school children and adolescents in the Borough.

These matters, together with Diphtheria Immunisation, the care of Illegitimate children, Home Helps, the improved Vitamin scheme, are dealt with fully in the report. These are included together with the usual information which is given annually.

My thanks are due to the Mayor and Corporation for their encouragement, to the Town Clerk for his guidance and courtesy, and to my staff for their loyal co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H.R. STUBBINS.

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1944.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Area (in acres)	4,502
Rateable value	£163,921
Sum produced by penny rate	£631

VITAL STATISTICS
Rates per 1,000 population.

	England & Wales.	Neath.
Live births: ...	16.5	14.5
Still-births: ...	0.51	0.68
Deaths:		
All causes.: ...	12.1	12.2
Typhoid & Para-typhoid fever ...	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00
Whooping-cough	0.03	0.24
Diphtheria	0.03	0.00
Influenza	0.37	0.36
Small-pox	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.02	0.00
Cancer	Not available	1.53
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) 0.98	Not available	1.22
" (Non-pulmonary) 0.23		
Violence	"	0.57

Rates per 1,000 live births

Deaths under one year of age ...	49	70
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	5.3	7.4

Rates per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Maternal Mortality:	
Puerperal Pyrexia	0.00
Abortion	2.22

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

The following information has been supplied by Mr Albert Griffiths, Director of Public Assistance for Glamorgan, with reference to the Borough.

Public Assistance afforded in the Borough of Neath during the year ended 31st December, 1943:-

Weekly average number of persons chargeable ...	483
Total amount of relief paid	£15,683.4.0

BIRTHS.

The number of live births registered in the Borough was 426, made up of 221 males, and 205 females, giving a birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of 14.5
For the administrative County of Glamorgan this was 18.4
" England and Wales 16.5

The following table gives comparative figures for previous years:-

Year.	Birthrate.	Year.	Birthrate.
1943	14.5	1933	13.5
1942	16.1	1932	16.0
1941	13.9	1931	14.9
1940	13.3	1930	16.8
1939	13.9	1929	16.9
1938	14.9	1928	16.7
1937	14.7	1927	17.0
1936	15.5	1926	18.2
1935	15.5	1925	22.0
1934	15.1		

Illegitimate Births.

The total number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents in the Borough during the year was 17, showing an increase of 3 as compared with 1942, and giving a rate of 39.9 per 1,000 of the total live births in 1943.

The Minister of Health, in a recent Circular, expressed grave concern at the rising illegitimacy rate, and suggested that every welfare authority should draw up a scheme to safeguard the child and help the mother in every way possible.

BIRTHS (Cont.)

In view of the special problems involved, the Minister thought that a worker, trained and experienced in moral welfare and probation, should be appointed for this work .

The Glamorgan County Council thought this matter of so much importance that a Conference of all local Welfare Authorities was held on 26th June, 1944 to give an indication as to how this Circular was being implemented.

Our own case was that the numbers of illegitimate children born in the Borough during the last five years were:-

1939.	12
1940.	8
1941.	9
1942.	14
1943.	17

A total of 60,
and that in all cases the children were very well looked after by relatives and that all the suggestions enumerated in the Minister's Circular were being carried out by our Health Visitors, and as this was working satisfactorily we intended to continue with this arrangement.

Still-births.

The number of stillbirths registered was 20, giving a rate of 46.9 per 1,000 live and stillbirths, and 0.57 per 1,000 civilian population.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Figures given by Registrar- General.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid & Para-typhoid Fevers ...	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	1	5	6
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system	17	12	29
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	4	3	7
Syphilitic Diseases	1	0	1
Influenza	4	5	9
Measles	0	0	0
Ac: Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis	0	0	0
Ac:Infant Encephalitis	0	0	0
Cancer of Buc:Cav: and Oesophagus(M) Uterus(F)	3	5	8
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	13	1	14
Cancer of breast	0	7	7
Cancer of all other sites ...	8	8	16
Diabetes	1	3	4
Intercranial vascular lesions ...	16	16	32
Heart Disease	34	33	67
Other diseases of circulatory system	6	0	6
Bronchitis	10	10	20
Pneumonia	12	2	14
Other respiratory diseases ...	4	5	9
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	0	1	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	2	1	3
Appendicitis	0	1	1
Other digestive disorders ...	3	5	8
Nephritis	6	4	10
Puerperal & Post Abort: sepsis ...	0	1	1
Other maternal causes	0	0	0
Premature birth	3	5	8
Congenital malformation,birth inj:Infant Dis:	8	4	12
Suicide	3	0	3
Road Traffic accidents	3	1	4
Other violent causes ...	8	2	10
All other causes	22	25	47
	192	165	357

DEATHS (Cont).

The number of deaths registered during the year, of all ages, was 357, males 192, females 165. This gives a death-rate of 12.4 and may be compared with previous years in the following table:-

1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.	1935.	1934.	1933.	1932
12.4	11.9	14.0	13.7	12.6	12.0	12.7	13.3	11.7	11.5	13.8	12.1

The Ward distribution of deaths was as follows:-

North Ward. 133 South Ward.124 Briton Ferry Ward 100.

The table on page 7 gives a classification of the causes of deaths as recorded by the Registrar-General.

Deaths in age groups.

Under 1 year	30	35 - 45 years	26
1 - 5 years	12	45 - 55 "	41
5 - 10 "	1	55 - 60 "	22
10 - 15 "	5	60 - 70 "	75
15 - 20 "	5	70 - 80 "	68
20 - 25 "	5	80 - 90 "	40
25 - 30 "	9	over 90 "	1
30 - 35 "	8		

Cancer Deaths.

There were 45 deaths from cancer, and the age distribution was as follows:-

Age.	Males.	Females.
35 - 45 years.	2	3
45 - 55 "	3	3
55 - 65 "	6	7
65 & upwards	12	9

Inquests on Deaths from Violence.

The number of deaths in the Borough which were certified by the District Coroner after an enquiry was 17.

The following table gives the cause of deaths:-

DEATHS BY VIOLENCE.

Cause of death.	Ages. Male	Female.
Motor accidents.	3,11,31,62.	
Fall.	66	56, 79
Accidents in employment	36,52,60,69	
Suicide.	26, 42	
Scalds.	1 2/12ths.	
Drowning	2	

INFANT MORTALITY.

This 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 1,000 live births in the same year. In 1943 the number of infant deaths was 30, and the number of births was 426, thus giving an infant mortality rate of 70. You will note, in the accompanying analysis of infant deaths, that premature birth, congenital causes, and birth injuries account for more than half the number of deaths. They all occurred before the child was a month old, and most of them before leaving hospital.

The Ministry of Health Advisory Committee on welfare of mothers and young children has now recommended that
(1) space should be allocated on the birth notification card for the weight of the child to be recorded, in order that should the child weigh 5½ lbs or less, the health visitors attention could be immediately drawn to the fact that this child would require special attention.
(2) The appointment of a consulting paediatrician, and
(3) The appointment of Home Helps.

Of the remaining 13 deaths, eleven were due to diseases of the lungs, and here I must state that overcrowding and poor housing conditions have played a deadly part.

ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS.

Cause.	Ages: Under one month.		Over 1 month & under 1 year.		Totals.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	T.
Premature birth.	3	5	-	-	3	5	8
Congenital causes and malformation.	3	2	-	-	3	2	5
Birth Injury.	1	2	1	-	2	2	4
Bronchitis	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Pneumonia.	1	-	3	-	4	-	4
Convulsions	-	1	2	-	2	1	3
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	3	-	3	3
Marasmus.	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Pyloric Stenosis	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Totals.	8	10	9	3	17	13	30

Comparative numbers of Infant deaths for previous years:-

1942.	1941.	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931
29	35	27	17	28	27	34	23	27	43	39	45

Comparative table of Birthrates and Infant Mortality rates for Urban and Rural Districts within the County of Glamorgan.

District.	Birthrate per 1,000 population.	Deathrate per 1,000 population	Infant Death-rate per 1,000 births.
Administrative County.	18.4	12.4	56
Urban Districts.	18.4	12.9	57
Rural Districts.	18.3	11.2	52
England & Wales	16.5	12.1	49
Urban Districts.			
Aberdare	15.6	14.4	44
Barry	20.3	11.8	40
Bridgend	16.8	11.2	35
Caerphilly	20.6	13.5	75
Cowbridge	17.0	13.8	18
Gelligaer	22.0	12.1	77
Glyncorrwg	23.2	11.3	45
Llwchwr	18.1	11.5	41
Maesteg	19.9	12.9	81
Mountain Ash	18.1	13.7	46
Neath	14.5	12.2	70
Ogmore & Garw	20.7	11.6	54
Penarth	17.4	13.0	49
Pontypridd	18.5	13.0	69
Porthcawl	17.6	12.2	57
Port Talbot	18.3	13.2	58
Rhondda	17.3	13.6	55
Rural Districts.			
Cardiff.	17.0	10.9	31
Cowbridge	22.5	11.9	62
Gower	16.2	12.0	53
Llantrisant & Llantwit Fardre	19.3	10.6	42
Neath	17.8	11.2	60
Penybont	19.5	9.8	60
Pontardawe	17.8	12.9	60.

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 Cardiff.

The numbers of specimens submitted during the year were:

Swabs for the presence of Diphtheria bacilli	189
Milk samples	113
Water samples	82

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

Seven samples were submitted to the Beck Laboratory,Swansea, for Zondek Aschiem test.

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Ambulance Facilities.

The Borough ambulance is available when required for non-infectious cases. For the removal to Hospital of patient 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 diseases the 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.

Nursing in the Home (Cont.)

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 two thirds to Neath, and one third to Briton Ferry. During the year 1943 the Neath Nursing Association received £124, and the Briton Ferry Nursing Association £62.

Besides the above the Glamorgan County Council maintain 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 the Borough for the year are enumerated below:-

Disease.	No. of cases admitted.
Diphtheria ...	30
Scarlet Fever ...	66
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	4
Observation cases ...	10

Smallpox Hospital:

Smallpox cases can be admitted to the Fedwhir Smallpox Hospital, Aberdare, Neath being one of the Joint Authorities which belong to the Fedwhir 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 1943 was £142.11. 2d.

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. The new Emergency Hospital at Morriston has recently allocated a certain number of beds for tubercular patients, and patients from Neath have been admitted to this hospital.

Sanatoria (cont.)

30 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were admitted to Cimla Hospital from the Borough during the year.

General Hospitals.

West Glamorgan County Hospital at Penrhiewtyn, 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 917 births were notified from this hospital, of which 173 were from Neath Borough, and 744 from outside areas.

Swansea General and Eye Hospital:- This is a voluntary hospital of 350 beds, and admits general medical and surgical case 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 cases from the Borough included 35 maternity, 30 surgical, and 2 medical

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

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

1. Ante-natal Clinics:	Dyfed Road	-	Thursday afternoons.
	Hunter Street	-	Tuesday afternoons.
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 & 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 M.O.H.
7. Tonsil & 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. Tues. mornings. Schools. Wednesday " Ante-natal Saturday "

Tuberculosis Clinic:

The Welsh National Memorial Association hold clinics at 107, 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 Port Talbot Railway Station, and is open for males on Mondays and Thursdays, and for females on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

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 contact with the case were conveyed to the Isolation Hospital and disinfected before the patient returned home.

Disinfestation.

This was carried out by the Thermotox method. 17 houses were treated in this manner.

(For further information see report of Sanitary Inspector)

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 removal of tonsils and adenoids.
10. Diphtheria Immunisation clinics.

Maternity and Child Welfare (cont)

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and Ante-natal clinics were visited on many occasions during the year by dietetic experts from the Ministry of Food. They gave short talks and demonstrations to the mothers on the preparation of various dishes and obtaining the vitamin value of certain foodstuffs.

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 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:-

No. of visits paid during the year by all Health Visitors to:-

1.	Children under 1 year of age	...	3126
2.	Investigations of still-births	...	20
3.	Children 1-5 years of age ...	...	4,066
4.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	Nil.

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 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.	a.m. General treatment.
p.m.	Centre consultations at St. Catherine's Hall,Melin.	
Thursday. a.m.	1.General treatment. 2.Diphtheria Immunisation.	a.m.General treatment.
Friday a.m.	General treatment. Centre consultations.	a.m.General treatment. Centre Consultations. Diphtheria Immunisation.
Saturday. a.m.	General treatment. 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:- Monday mornings as required at Dyfed Road.

MINOR AILMENTS.

The following cases were seen at the Minor Ailment Clinics at Dyfed Road, St.Catherine's Parish Hall, and Hunter Street:-

Injuries	76	Glands	12
Whooping Cough	123	Cellulitis	23
Coughs	203	Umbilical Hernia	67
Urticaria	78	Cervical Adenitis	4
Mental cases	9	Pneumonia	5
Macrus	8	Alimentary	190
Cleft Palate	5	Nose & Throat	112
Rachitis	19	Skin affections	94
Influenza	27	Oxyurides	12
Asthma	11	Scabies	17
Eyes	50	Pemphigus	13
Ears	62	Scarlet Fever	2
Burns & Scalds	10	Diphtheria	2
Enuresis	1	Chickenpox	7
Marasmus	10	Mumps	3
Nervous diseases	2	Measles	7
Orthopaedic	25	Anaemia	73
Bronchitis	10	Miscellaneous	32

Cases attended to by Inspector Stephens,N.S.P.C.C. 14.

At this juncture I would like again to express my thanks to Inspector Stephens of the N.S.P.C.C. for his co-operation and help. The cases referred to him were promptly attended to with 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 present at each session. The number of expectant mothers who attended at the clinics is shown in the following figures

	Meath.	Briton Ferry.
Cases brought forward from 1942	104	25
New cases in 1943	101	67
Carried forward to 1944	93	42

Dental treatment:-

Extractions	...	6
Dentures	...	7

Ultra-Violet Ray Therapy:- Cases 65 Attendances 463

Infra-red Ray:- " 40

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 case 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 urine examined at each attendance. If the patient shows 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, exercise, etc., during the expectant period.

If any complication arises which may tend to make the confinement complicated, a radiological examination is carried out by Dr Iwan Davies, 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

During the year 3 cases were X-rayed at Swansea by Dr Iwan Davies, and 2 cases were examined by Dr Lloyd Davies.

Cases treated at ante-natal clinics are shown below:-

Skin affections	6
Abnormal presentations ...	5
Hyperpiesia	5
Abnormal bleeding	15
Albumenuria	9
Oedema	11
Severe anaemia	62
Vomiting, etc.	8
Digestive ailments	50
Insomnia & nervous conditions	46
Influenza	34
Pulmonary conditions	45
Fibroid	1
Heart	2
Varix	15
Dental	18
Zondek Aschiem tests	7

Maternal Mortality.

The term Maternal Mortality relates to the deaths of mothers from conditions peculiar to pregnancy and childbirth, and is expressed as a ratio which the number bears to 1,000 total (live and still) births. One death occurred in hospital.

Maternal Mortality rate ... 2.22

VISUAL DEFECTS.

During the year Mr H.E.Quick attended at 18 sessions, and 169 children were tested for visual defects.

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

Mr C.P.Robinson attended 13 times. 130 children were examined, of whom 71 received operative treatment for removal of tonsils and adenoids.

ORTHOPAEDICS.

The Orthopaedic clinics are held twice yearly, and in this year Mr A.C.Parker attended in April and October. 12 children were examined for the first time, and the total number of attendances for the two sessions was 90. 5 children received operative treatment at the Prince of Wales Hospital,Cardiff.

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

PLASTIC SURGERY.

Since my appointment to Neath I have been at a loss to know where to send babies suffering from hare lips and cleft palates. This congenital deformity is a disability which causes great distress to both parent and child, and must be attended to early in life in order to obtain the best results from the necessary operation.

In the past the only hospital that would take these cases was the Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond Street, London, and they had a very long waiting list. Now,however,since the formation of the Emergency Medical Services War Hospitals, the Plastic Unit of the Gloucester City Hospital has become available, and we are able to send some cases to Gloucester for treatment. During the year 7 cases of Cleft Palate commenced or completed this treatment at the Great Ormond St.Hospital,London, or at Gloucester City Hospital Plastic Unit. I am glad to be able to report that all the cases in the Borough have commenced or completed the treatment.

ULTRA-VIOLET RAY CLINICS.

These clinics are held 3 times weekly, and have proved of great value in the treatment of rickets, asthma,skin conditions,etc. 758 children attended during the year with a total number of 4,787 attendances.

INFESTATION BY HEAD LICE.

The nursing staff have paid especial attention to children between the ages of 2 and 5 years, and have concentrated largely on those homes which they found to be the least satisfactory with regard to cleanliness. As mentioned in my last report the numbers of young children found to be infested with vermin are comparatively small. During the year 12 children under 5, and 228 school children were reported as being infested.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

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.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles.

53 cases were notified during the year. The type of disease was of a mild character, and was accompanied by few complications. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria.

30 cases were notified, and all were treated at the Isolation Hospital. 18 of these were under 15 years of age. Only 5 had been immunised. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The Immunisation campaign has been conducted as vigorously as in previous years. When each child reaches the age of one year a reminder is sent to the parents in the form of a birthday card to the child, stressing the importance and the duty of the parent to see to it that the child is immunised as soon as possible after reaching the age of 12 months.

The total estimated number of children immunised in the Borough at 31st December, 1943, was 5,098, 86% of these being under 5 years, and 73.3% being between the ages of 5 and 15 years.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Cont.)

Whooping Cough.

During the year we had a sharp epidemic of Whooping Cough. Although only 18 cases were notified to me by local practitioners I myself saw 128 cases at the clinics. There were 6 deaths. It cannot be expressed strongly enough that this infectious disease is very dangerous, especially in young children, and every child should be under the observation of a doctor during the whole period of illness.

I have, during the last two years, tried out the latest Whooping Cough Vaccine, both as a preventative and as a method of treatment, but I cannot honestly say that it has been of much benefit.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.

Four cases were notified, and all recovered. Given the cases early enough, and the introduction of M.&.B.760 and proper hospital treatment, the prognosis of this disease is now good.

Scarlet Fever.

More cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year than for several previous years. The disease was so mild in character that in some cases permission was requested by practitioners to nurse the child in its own home. Where I was satisfied that proper isolation and nursing facilities were available this was granted.

Scabies - Cleansing Unit.

The reluctance, which was experienced during the first year, of adults to attend our Scabies Clinics has now been largely overcome. The reports of benefit obtained by patients who have attended, combined with the unsuccessful attempts at home treatment by others, have largly increased the attendances.

During the year, 927 children, and 532 adults received treatment. A few of these were return cases who had be re-infected at their homes.

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

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Cont.)

Infectious disease.	Total No. of cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total No. of Deaths.
Enteric Fever.	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever.	4	4	-
Whooping Cough.	18	2	6
Diphtheria	30	30	-
Measles.	53	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	66	45	-
Erysipelas	3	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1
Pneumonia	13	-	14

Comparative rates of Incidence of Infectious Diseases.

Notifications of Infectious disease.	England & Wales.	126 Cty Boroughs & Gt. towns (Incl: London).	148 smaller towns, Res. population 25000-50,000	London. admin. County.	NEATH.
	Rates per 1,000 civilian population.				
Typhoid Fever	0.01.	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00
Para-typhoid fever.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-spinal fever.	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.09	0.13
Scarlet fever.	3.01	3.29	3.54	3.80	2.24
Whooping Cough	2.54	2.82	2.25	2.68	0.61
Diphtheria	0.88	1.12	0.77	0.74	1.02
Erysipelas	0.31	0.35	0.27	0.42	0.1
Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	9.88	9.23	9.77	9.17	1.8
Pneumonia	1.34	1.62	1.16	1.27	0.44
	Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths.				
Puerperal Fever) " Pyrexia)	11.68	15.11	9.26	3.05) 15.23)	2.22

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods.	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	-	2	-	-	-	1	1
5 - 10 "	-	3	2	3	-	-	-	-
10 - 15 "	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
15 - 20 "	8	5	3	2	-	-	2	1
20 - 25 "	2	7	-	1	1	5	-	-
25 - 35 "	5	7	1	-	5	1	-	-
35 - 45 "	7	6	1	1	4	3	1	1
45 - 55 "	6	4	-	-	3	2	-	-
55 - 65 "	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
65 & upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	31	33	9	7	17	12	4	3

There has been a decrease in the notifications of both pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis as compared with last year. This is gratifying after four years of war with its restrictions in diet, overcrowding, blackout, and mental strain.

The Welsh National Memorial Association for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis is doing excellent work throughout Wales.

Professor Tytler, their Research Bacteriologist, has introduced a new compound which he has called "Promonide", which has given very promising results in the treatment of cervical glands and simuses. Unfortunately, owing to its toxicity the use of it in pulmonary tuberculosis has not met with the same success.

In April, 1943, the Minister of Health introduced his scheme for the mass Radiography of the civilian population. The Welsh National Memorial Association provided a mobile X-ray unit and have thus been able to carry out extensive investigations in all parts of the country.

The method used by the Association is to take the unit to a place of employment, a large factory or a school, and

TUBERCULOSIS (Cont.)

miniature X-ray films are taken of the lungs of the employees or scholars. These films undergo further examination, and if any suspicious film is found, the person is asked to attend at a centre to be carefully examined and X-rayed. Dr T.W.Davies, who is the Medical Officer in charge, reports that about 5% of the total number examined may be recalled for abnormal chest conditions, and of these about 1% show definite Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

In the past, the cry has been that the disease was not discovered until it was too late for effective treatment to be undertaken. Now we have a scheme whereby Pulmonary Tuberculosis can be discovered in its earliest stage.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

	No. of samples submitted.	No. found satisfactory.	No. found unsatisfactory.
Ungraded.	53	34	19
Pasteurised	36	25	11
Heat-treated	19	14	5
Sterilised.	3	3	0
Tuberculin - tested	2	0	2
	113	76	37

The table shown above does not make good reading, and I am afraid that more drastic steps will have to be taken in order that milk, when delivered to the consumer, should be bacteriologically clean .

At the present time we have no redress except to refuse a license to the distributor, and we are very loth to do this, especially when the milk supply is so short.

In view of the bacteriological results received, my advice is that all milk when received into the household should be boiled, whether it be ungraded, pasteurised, or Tuberculin-tested.

NUTRITION OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS, AND CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

Concern has been expressed in many quarters that expectant and nursing mothers are not taking advantage of the priorities extended to them in the form of vitamin products.

We are using every means possible to improve the take up of these essential food factors, and stress the importance of them at our welfare and ante-natal clinics, and also in the homes.

Our percentage take up compares favourably with that for the whole country, but still there is room for improvement.

Neath.

Cod-liver oil	38.6%
Orange juice	77.2%
Vitamin tablets	71.2%

	Codliver oil.	Orange juice.	Vitamin tablets.
Wales.	23.6	41.7	26.9
England.	26.1	50.3	41.6
England & Wales.	26.0	49.8	40.6

INSULIN.

In January, 1943, the Minister of Health, in Circular 2734, pointed out that there were certain classes of people - dependents of insured persons, widows, etc, for whom no public provision was made for the free supply of insulin for diabetes. The increased cost of insulin during the war was proving a substantial burden to these people, and he suggested that we should use our powers under Section 177 of the Public Health Act, 1936, whereby we could supply insulin free or at a reduced cost.

The local practitioners were notified of the new scheme. They certify that their patients are suffering from diabetes, and we then issue an order to the patient's chemist for the required amount of insulin to be supplied free to the patients. Five cases were reported to us by the practitioners during the year.

War-time Nursery

The work of the War-time Nursery has been carried on very successfully during the year. It has at present 39 on the register with an average attendance of 32.

It has proved a great blessing to the working mothers, and I have also admitted children whose mothers were ill at home or in hospital undergoing treatment.

Up to the present the only infectious disease which has arisen in the nursery has been an outbreak of Chickenpox during the latter part of the year. Each child was then examined daily and if any suspicious signs were noted it was immediately isolated and excluded from attendance at the nursery.

HEALTH EDUCATION - VENEREAL DISEASE.

The problem of Venereal Diseases which since the war, as in all wars, has again raised its ugly head. In the past venereal disease has been surrounded by a veil of secrecy, and it is admitted that this, with the ignorance which accompanied it, has been among the prime causes of this social evil. The first step necessary is the lifting of this veil, and secondly to make the ordinary man in the street conversant with the facts about venereal diseases, their cause, effects, and what what treatment is available.

At a Conference of Local Authorities held in London, and later, at a Conference of the Glamorgan District Authorities held at Cardiff, all these matters were discussed freely, and it was felt, in the words of the Minister of Health, that "the problem must be tackled now in the interests of public health, and national war effort, and the future of the race."

At the Cardiff Conference it was felt that the problem could be dealt with as

1. A short term policy.

2. A long term policy.

1. Short Term Policy: By this we meant that methods of propaganda should be organised locally in order to supplement the National Publicity Campaign. Addresses or lectures to small

Health Education - Venercal disease.(Cont.)

groups of audiences would be more effective than to address one large meeting.

A small propaganda committee was thus formed locally, comprising County Ald.the Rev.Degwell Thomas, Alderman Gethin, Ald W.Kingdom Owen, Alderman Hutchinson and myself.

The initial meeting was held at the Gwyn Hall on 19th July,1943, and representatives of various organisations in the town attended. The County Medical Officer of Health addressed the meeting.

He gave a brief account of the effect of Venereal Disease on the various systems of the body, and explained the importance of spreading the knowledge of the dangers of promiscuity. He also explained that a panel of lecturers had been formed in the County, and each organisation could if they so desired apply to the Medical Officer of Health for a Lecturer.

During the following six months many lectures were given to various organisations in the Borough.

Long Term Policy.

It was mentioned that if any serious attempt was to be made to tackle the problem effectively, then recourse would have to be made to bring the knowledge of sex to children in schools. In other words - sex education in schools. Too often the explanation of these changes were not given to our boys and girls, and they were left to find out for themselves,sometimes with disastrous results.

By the end of the year, arrangements were being made, with the full co-operation of the Board of Education, to hold a 3-day course on Health Education for our Elementary School teachers, and in the meantime talks and films on human reproduction were to be given to the children who were due to leave school at the end of the term.

Rainfall and Water Supply.

Month, 1943.	Gnoll. Inches.	Cimla. Inches.	CefnCwrt. Inches.
January.	7.83	7.36	7.77
February	3.16	2.81	2.96
March	1.50	1.70	1.52
April	1.51	1.44	1.52
May	4.44	4.26	4.00
June	4.87	5.09	4.98
July	4.80	5.01	4.02
August	5.83	5.95	5.61
September	7.02	7.07	7.24
October	4.92	4.80	4.93
November	2.57	2.76	2.86
December	2.51	2.59	2.64
Total.	50.96	50.84	50.05

The supply of water was curtailed in North and South Wards as and from 20th April to 12th May (23 days) to 16 hours per day, between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.