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HEALTH

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21 OCT 1950

**BOROUGH OF NEATH**

# **Annual Report**

*of the*

**Medical Officer of Health**

*for the year*

**1949.**

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

STACEY BROS., PRINTERS, NEATH



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REPORT OF THE

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

STATISTICAL OFFICE OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1917

BY H. B. STURMIS, M.D., D.P.H.

# BOROUGH OF NEATH

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## MEMBERS OF THE NEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1949.

*Mayors* : Councillor E. Thomas, J.P., Alderman S. L. Burton, J.P.

*Deputy-Mayors* : Councillor Ben Morris, Councillor R. Francis.

*Aldermen* : J. W. Morgan, J.P., Phil. Howells, D. C. Griffiths, J. E. Emannuel, E. C. Hutchinson, J. Shea, R. W. Perrott, T. Hughes, J.P.

*Councillors* : J. Howard Davies, J. Walter Jones, W. K. Owen, J.P., R. Smith, B. Sutcliffe, A. R. Harris, Frank S. Evans, F. A. Loader, G. T. Rosser, W. S. Watkins, Clement J. Gaze, W. T. D. Phillips, J.P., Percy A. Bishop, Charles E. Williams.

*Clerk to the Council* : A. E. I. Curtis.

## Members of Health Committee :

*Chairman* : Alderman S. L. Burton, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman* : Alderman T. Hughes, J.P. All Members of the Council.

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## STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1949.

*Medical Officer* : Haydn R. Stubbins, M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H. (Wales).

*Sanitary Inspectors* : Evan Thomas, Chief Sanitary Inspector ; R. T. Probert ; D. J. Howells ; T. G. Hopkins. Certificated Sanitary & Meat Inspectors.

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## BOROUGH OF NEATH

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

DYFED ROAD,

NEATH, Glam.

September, 1950

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1949.

The work of the Department is now entirely devoted to environmental hygiene, and although perhaps not so spectacular as before the introduction of the National Health Service Act and the transference of Part III of the Act to the County Council, nevertheless it is of vital importance in maintaining the health of the community.

1949 has been a good year from the public health point of view. The birth rate is a little lower than last year, but this is counteracted by a further fall in the death rate. It is interesting to note that nearly 50% of the deaths in the Borough were between 70 and 90 years of age.

When we come to analyse the causes of death in the Borough those caused by diseases of the heart and of the circulatory system were by far the commonest.

This year again I am able to report that there was no maternal death in your area. This condition of things, you will agree, is highly satisfactory. In my opinion, several factors have contributed to bring this about. Firstly the introduction of the Sulphonamide group of drugs and penicillin, secondly, the great care that is now being taken of every mother by proper ante-natal supervision at the clinics, thirdly, the fact that we are, as it were, on the door-step of a hospital with first class obstetric unit and fourthly, that mothers today are of a far better nutritional standard than ever before. Each one of these factors has played its part in bringing about a state of affairs which makes it possible to report that for two consecutive years no maternal death has occurred in the Borough of Neath.

I also have pleasure in reporting that there were no deaths from the common infectious fevers. I am referring to Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Cerebro-spinal Fever, Typhoid and Para-typhoid fevers. Many believe that the virulence of germs that cause these diseases is decreasing and there is a tendency to look upon them as trivial. This is a mistaken view and every mother should shield her child from them as long as possible, for there is always the danger that if they do contract them, dangerous complications are apt to develop.

This brings me to the question of disinfection and fumigation, after a case of infectious disease has occurred in the household. It has been the invariable custom to seal up the rooms and expose them to a concentration of formalin and sulphur vapour. In view of the modern opinion that most of these harmful germs can live only for a very short time outside the human body, I am, indeed, very doubtful whether this routine terminal disinfection is of any value. The only good that is done is the creation of such a mess that the housewife has of necessity to throw open the windows and get busy with plenty of soap and water. This, of course, does not refer to handkerchiefs, sheets and other articles soiled by the patient. These should be boiled. But, generally speaking, germs which cause 90% of the common infectious diseases do not survive more than a few hours in a clean, well ventilated room.

The visit of the Mass Radiography Unit to the Borough in September, 1949, was an important public health innovation. When one considers that over 3,000 of the population voluntarily took the trouble to attend for an X-ray examination one must agree that the ordinary man in the street still considers his health to be an important factor in his life, and of course he is right. The visit of the Unit was worth while because by taking a large sample of the population of Neath it has given us valuable information on the health of the community. Secondly, it discovered 17 cases of Tuberculosis, many of them in the early stages of the disease.

No Annual Report can be considered complete without referring to Housing. Owing to the set-back to the Housing Programme during the war, the provision of adequate housing for the population is going to take many years. The urgency of the problem is one which the whole Council are fully aware and every effort is being made to erect houses as quickly as possible.

During 1949, 46 new houses were completed and occupied.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**H. R. STUBBINS**

*Medical Officer of Health*

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION.**

|                                              |          |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|
| Area (in acres) Including Foreshore.....     | 5040     |
| „ Excluding Foreshore.....                   | 4502     |
| Rateable Value.....                          | £166,840 |
| Sum produced by Penny Rate.....              | £636     |
| Population Registrar's figures for 1949..... | 32,030   |

**Birth-Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analyses of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates  
for certain Infectious Diseases.**

|                                                                                               | England<br>and<br>Wales | 126 C.B.'s<br>and Great<br>Towns inc.<br>London | 148 Smaller<br>Towns,<br>Res. pop.<br>25,000 to<br>50,000 | London<br>Admin.<br>County | Neath |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| <b>BIRTHS (<i>Rates per 1,000 civilian population</i>) :</b>                                  |                         |                                                 |                                                           |                            |       |
| Live Births .....                                                                             | 16.7 (a)                | 18.7                                            | 18.0                                                      | 18.5                       | 15.9  |
| Still Births .....                                                                            | 0.39 (a)                | 0.47                                            | 0.40                                                      | 0.37                       | 0.46  |
| <b>DEATHS :</b>                                                                               |                         |                                                 |                                                           |                            |       |
| All Causes .....                                                                              | 11.7 (a)                | 12.5                                            | 11.6                                                      | 12.2                       | 11.8  |
| Typhoid & Paratyphoid .....                                                                   | 0.00                    | 0.00                                            | 0.00                                                      | 0.00                       | 0.00  |
| Whooping Cough .....                                                                          | 0.01                    | 0.02                                            | 0.01                                                      | 0.01                       | 0.00  |
| Diphtheria .....                                                                              | 0.00                    | 0.00                                            | 0.00                                                      | 0.00                       | 0.00  |
| Tuberculosis .....                                                                            | 0.45                    | 0.52                                            | 0.42                                                      | 0.52                       | 0.68  |
| Influenza .....                                                                               | 0.15                    | 0.15                                            | 0.14                                                      | 0.11                       | 0.00  |
| Smallpox .....                                                                                | 0.00                    | 0.00                                            | —                                                         | —                          | 0.00  |
| Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-<br>encephalitis .....                                          | 0.01                    | 0.02                                            | 0.02                                                      | 0.01                       | 0.00  |
| Pneumonia .....                                                                               | 0.51                    | 0.56                                            | 0.49                                                      | 0.59                       | 0.46  |
| <b>NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected :</b>                                                             |                         |                                                 |                                                           |                            |       |
| Typhoid Fever .....                                                                           | 0.01                    | 0.00                                            | 0.01                                                      | 0.01                       | 0.00  |
| Paratyphoid .....                                                                             | 0.01                    | 0.02                                            | 0.01                                                      | 0.01                       | 0.00  |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever .....                                                                    | 0.02                    | 0.03                                            | 0.02                                                      | 0.02                       | 0.03  |
| Scarlet Fever .....                                                                           | 1.63                    | 1.72                                            | 1.83                                                      | 1.46                       | 0.93  |
| Whooping Cough .....                                                                          | 2.39                    | 2.44                                            | 2.39                                                      | 1.70                       | 3.24  |
| Diphtheria .....                                                                              | 0.04                    | 0.05                                            | 0.04                                                      | 0.07                       | 0.09  |
| Erysipelas .....                                                                              | 0.19                    | 0.20                                            | 0.19                                                      | 0.17                       | 0.03  |
| Smallpox .....                                                                                | 0.00                    | 0.00                                            | 0.00                                                      | 0.00                       | 0.00  |
| Measles .....                                                                                 | 8.95                    | 8.91                                            | 9.18                                                      | 8.54                       | 6.99  |
| Pneumonia .....                                                                               | 0.80                    | 0.91                                            | 0.65                                                      | 0.55                       | 0.31  |
| Acute Poliomyelitis .....                                                                     | 0.13                    | 0.13                                            | 0.12                                                      | 0.18                       | 0.03  |
| Acute Polioencephalitis .....                                                                 | 0.01                    | 0.01                                            | 0.02                                                      | 0.01                       | 0.00  |
| Food Poisoning .....                                                                          | 0.14                    | 0.16                                            | 0.14                                                      | 0.19                       | 0.00  |
| <b>DEATHS (<i>per 1,000 live births</i>):</b>                                                 |                         |                                                 |                                                           |                            |       |
| All causes under 1 year of age .....                                                          | 32 (b)                  | 37                                              | 30                                                        | 29                         | 22    |
| Enteritis & Diarrhoea under 2<br>years of age .....                                           | 3.0                     | 3.8                                             | 2.4                                                       | 1.7                        |       |
| NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)<br>( <i>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live &amp;<br/>Still Births)</i> ) : |                         |                                                 |                                                           |                            | 2.0   |
| Puerperal fever and Pyrexia .....                                                             | 6.31                    | 8.14                                            | 5.30                                                      | 6.82                       | 0.0   |

**Deaths by Violence.**

The number of deaths caused by violence was 17. The following table gives the causes of deaths :—

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Suicide .....              | 2  |
| Traffic Accidents .....    | 3  |
| Other Violent Causes ..... | 12 |
|                            | —  |
| Total .....                | 17 |
|                            | —  |

**Causes of Deaths.**

Figures given by Registrar-General.

|                                                          | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .....                     | 0            | 0              | 0            |
| Scarlet Fever .....                                      | 0            | 0              | 0            |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever .....                               | 0            | 0              | 0            |
| Whooping Cough .....                                     | 0            | 0              | 0            |
| Diphtheria .....                                         | 0            | 0              | 0            |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....                 | 14           | 8              | 22           |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis .....                        | 1            | 1              | 2            |
| Syphilitic Disease .....                                 | 2            | 0              | 2            |
| Influenza .....                                          | 0            | 0              | 0            |
| Measles, Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ..... | 0            | 0              | 0            |
| Ac. Inf. Encephalitis .....                              | 1            | 0              | 1            |
| Cancer of Buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) Uterus .....  | 0            | 4              | 4            |
| (F)                                                      |              |                |              |
| Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum .....                     | 3            | 5              | 8            |
| Cancer of Breast .....                                   | 0            | 2              | 2            |
| Cancer of all other sites .....                          | 17           | 13             | 30           |
| Diabetes .....                                           | 1            | 1              | 2            |
| Intra-cranial vascular lesions .....                     | 24           | 21             | 45           |
| Other diseases of Circulatory System .....               | 10           | 14             | 24           |
| Heart Disease .....                                      | 57           | 45             | 102          |
| Bronchitis .....                                         | 18           | 5              | 23           |
| Pneumonia .....                                          | 9            | 6              | 15           |
| Other Respiratory Diseases .....                         | 6            | 0              | 6            |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .....                       | 2            | 2              | 4            |
| Diarrhoea under 2 years .....                            | 2            | 2              | 4            |
| Appendicitis .....                                       | 0            | 1              | 1            |
| Other Digestive diseases .....                           | 2            | 4              | 6            |
| Nephritis .....                                          | 7            | 2              | 9            |
| Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis .....                 | 0            | 0              | 0            |
| Other maternal causes .....                              | 0            | 0              | 0            |
| Premature births .....                                   | 1            | 3              | 4            |
| Con. mal. : birth injuries, infant diseases .....        | 2            | 2              | 4            |
| Suicide .....                                            | 1            | 1              | 2            |
| Road Traffic Accidents .....                             | 3            | 0              | 3            |

|                            | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Other violent causes ..... | 8           | 4             | 12           |
| All other causes .....     | 15          | 27            | 42           |
|                            | <hr/> 206   | <hr/> 173     | <hr/> 379    |

**Glamorgan (Administrative County) Vital Statistics—1949**

| District                     | Estimated<br>Pop. 1949 |        | No. of<br>Births | Rate per<br>1,000<br>pop. | No. of<br>Deaths | Rate per<br>1,000<br>pop. | Infant Mort.             |                                |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                              | Civilian               | Total  |                  |                           |                  |                           | Deaths<br>under<br>1 yr. | Rate<br>per<br>1,000<br>Births |
| England & Wales .....        |                        |        |                  | 16.7                      |                  | 11.7                      |                          | 32                             |
| Admin. County .....          | 730400                 | 734610 | 12515            | 17.1                      | 8896             | 12.2                      | 504                      | 40                             |
| Urban Districts .....        | 535620                 | 535750 | 9388             | 17.5                      | 6808             | 12.7                      | 391                      | 42                             |
| Rural Districts .....        | 194780                 | 198860 | 3127             | 16.1                      | 2088             | 10.7                      | 113                      | 36                             |
| HEALTH DIVISION :            |                        |        |                  |                           |                  |                           |                          |                                |
| Aberdare & Mountain Ash      |                        |        |                  |                           |                  |                           |                          |                                |
| (a) Aberdare Urban .....     | 40850                  | 40850  | 609              | 14.9                      | 642              | 15.7                      | 31                       | 51                             |
| (b) Mountain Ash Urban ..... | 31900                  | 31900  | 542              | 17.0                      | 450              | 14.1                      | 25                       | 46                             |
| Caerphilly Urban .....       | 34430                  | 34430  | 718              | 20.9                      | 431              | 12.5                      | 42                       | 58                             |
| Gelligaer .....              | 36390                  | 36390  | 759              | 20.9                      | 422              | 11.6                      | 27                       | 36                             |
| MID. GLAMORGAN :             |                        |        |                  |                           |                  |                           |                          |                                |
| Bridgend Urban .....         | 13700                  | 13700  | 251              | 18.3                      | 148              | 10.7                      | 8                        | 32                             |
| Maesteg Urban .....          | 23100                  | 23100  | 463              | 20.0                      | 2303             | 13.1                      | 22                       | 48                             |
| Ogmore & Garw .....          | 22710                  | 22710  | 426              | 18.8                      | 283              | 12.5                      | 13                       | 31                             |
| Porthcawl Urban .....        | 9207                   | 9237   | 136              | 14.8                      | 139              | 15.1                      | 1                        | 7                              |
| Penybont Rural .....         | 34280                  | 34530  | 603              | 17.6                      | 306              | 8.9                       | 14                       | 23                             |
| Neath M. Borough .....       | 32030                  | 32030  | 509              | 15.9                      | 379              | 11.8                      | 22                       | 43                             |
| Neath Rural .....            | 41200                  | 41200  | 654              | 15.9                      | 441              | 10.7                      | 27                       | 41                             |
| Llantrisant Rural .....      | 24970                  | 24970  | 469              | 18.8                      | 292              | 11.7                      | 18                       | 38                             |
| Pontypridd Urban .....       | 39440                  | 39440  | 681              | 17.3                      | 525              | 13.3                      | 28                       | 41                             |
| Glyncorrwg Urban .....       | 9023                   | 9023   | 180              | 19.9                      | 101              | 11.2                      | 10                       | 56                             |
| Port Talbot M. B. .....      | 43670                  | 43670  | 785              | 18.0                      | 492              | 11.3                      | 44                       | 56                             |
| S.E. GLAMORGAN :             |                        |        |                  |                           |                  |                           |                          |                                |
| Barry M. Borough .....       | 41680                  | 41780  | 786              | 18.9                      | 446              | 10.7                      | 22                       | 28                             |
| Cardiff Rural .....          | 36300                  | 36300  | 434              | 12.0                      | 364              | 10.0                      | 13                       | 30                             |
| Cowbridge M. B. .....        | 1140                   | 1140   | 14               | 12.3                      | 11               | 9.6                       | —                        | —                              |
| Cowbridge Rural .....        | 13820                  | 17530  | 315              | 22.8                      | 125              | 9.0                       | 10                       | 32                             |
| Penarth Urban .....          | 18040                  | 18040  | 292              | 16.2                      | 213              | 11.8                      | 8                        | 27                             |
| WEST GLAMORGAN :             |                        |        |                  |                           |                  |                           |                          |                                |
| Gower Rural .....            | 11430                  | 11430  | 180              | 15.7                      | 128              | 11.2                      | 7                        | 39                             |
| Llwchwr Urban .....          | 25680                  | 25680  | 354              | 13.8                      | 271              | 10.6                      | 7                        | 20                             |
| Pontardawe Rural .....       | 32780                  | 32780  | 472              | 14.4                      | 432              | 13.2                      | 24                       | 51                             |
| Rhondda .....                | 112630                 | 112630 | 1883             | 16.7                      | 1552             | 13.8                      | 81                       | 43                             |

### Births.

The number of live births registered in the Borough was 509 made up of 273 males and 236 females, giving a birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of 15.9.

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Birthrate</i> | <i>Year</i> | <i>Birthrate</i> |
|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1949        | 15.9             | 1936        | 15.5             |
| 1948        | 18.3             | 1935        | 15.5             |
| 1947        | 20.0             | 1934        | 15.1             |
| 1946        | 19.1             | 1933        | 13.5             |
| 1945        | 16.0             | 1932        | 16.0             |
| 1944        | 18.2             | 1931        | 14.1             |
| 1943        | 14.5             | 1930        | 16.8             |
| 1942        | 16.1             | 1929        | 16.9             |
| 1941        | 13.9             | 1928        | 16.7             |
| 1940        | 13.3             | 1927        | 17.0             |
| 1939        | 13.9             | 1926        | 18.2             |
| 1938        | 14.9             | 1925        | 22.0             |
| 1937        | 14.7             |             |                  |

### Illegitimate Births.

The total number of illegitimate births registered as referring to residents of the Borough was 13, showing an increase of 4 compared with 1948 and giving a rate of 25.5 per total live births.

The numbers of illegitimate children born in the Borough during the past 10 years were :—

|      |    |      |    |
|------|----|------|----|
| 1939 | 12 | 1944 | 15 |
| 1940 | 8  | 1945 | 27 |
| 1941 | 9  | 1946 | 22 |
| 1942 | 14 | 1947 | 12 |
| 1943 | 17 | 1948 | 9  |
|      |    | 1949 | 13 |

Health visitors have special instructions with regard to illegitimate children and in all cases they have reported that conditions affecting the children and their homes have been satisfactory.

### Still Births.

The number of still births registered was 15, giving a rate of 28 per 1,000 live and still-births, and .46 per 1,000 civilian population.

### Deaths.

The number of deaths registered during the year of all ages, was 379—206 males and 173 females. This gives a death-rate of 11.8 and may be compared with previous years in the following table :—

|      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1948 | 1947 | 1946 | 1945 | 1944 | 1943 | 1942 | 1941 | 1940 | 1939 | 1938 |
| 12.1 | 12.5 | 12.8 | 12.6 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 11.9 | 14.7 | 13.7 | 12.6 | 12.0 |

The Ward Distribution of deaths was as follows :—

NORTH WARD—171 ; SOUTH WARD—116 ; BRITON FERRY WARD—92.

The table on Page 7 gives a classification of the causes of death as recorded by the Registrar-General. Age groups are given below :—

|              |    |               |     |
|--------------|----|---------------|-----|
| Under 1 year | 22 | 40—45 years   | 8   |
| 1— 5 years   | 1  | 45—50 years   | 16  |
| 5—10 years   | 2  | 50—55 years   | 21  |
| 10—15 years  | 1  | 55—60 years   | 32  |
| 15—20 years  | 6  | 60—70 years   | 76  |
| 20—25 years  | 2  | 70—80 years   | 120 |
| 25—30 years  | 3  | 80—90         | 57  |
| 30—35 years  | 2  | Over 90 years | 4   |
| 35—40 years  | 6  |               |     |

#### Cancer Deaths.

All cases were in persons over 45 years of age. The age distribution was as follows

|       | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> |
|-------|--------------|----------------|
| 45—55 | 3            | 6              |
| 55—60 | 2            | 3              |
| 60—70 | 7            | 5              |
| 70—80 | 4            | 9              |
| 80—90 | 4            | 1              |

#### Infant Deaths—Cause and Age.

| Cause                | Under 1 month. |    | Over one month and under 1 year |    | Total |    | Total     |
|----------------------|----------------|----|---------------------------------|----|-------|----|-----------|
|                      | M              | F. | M.                              | F. | M.    | F. | M. and F. |
| Premature Births     | 1              | 3  | 0                               | 0  | 1     | 3  | 4         |
| Asphixia             | 0              | 0  | 1                               | 0  | 1     | 0  | 1         |
| Birth Injury         | 0              | 1  | 0                               | 0  | 0     | 1  | 1         |
| Broncho-pneumonia    | 1              | 1  | 4                               | 1  | 5     | 2  | 7         |
| Gastro-enteritis     | 0              | 0  | 2                               | 4  | 2     | 4  | 6         |
| Congenital Deformity | 1              | 1  | 0                               | 1  | 1     | 2  | 3         |
|                      |                |    |                                 |    |       |    | 22        |

### Premature Births and Deaths Notified.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PREMATURE BABIES NOTIFIED DURING 1949 :—

|                                        |    |
|----------------------------------------|----|
| (i) Who were born at home .....        | 15 |
| (ii) In hospital or nursing home ..... | 24 |

NUMBER OF THOSE BORN AT HOME WHO WERE :—

|                                                  |    |
|--------------------------------------------------|----|
| (i) Nursed entirely at home .....                | 11 |
| (ii) Who died during the first 24 hours .....    | 0  |
| (iii) Who survived at the end of one month ..... | 14 |

NUMBER OF THOSE BORN IN HOSPITAL OR NURSING HOME :—

|                                                 |    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----|
| (i) Who died during the first 24 hours .....    | 2  |
| (ii) Who survived at the end of one month ..... | 20 |

### Comparative Figures of Infant Deaths for previous years.

|      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1948 | 1947 | 1946 | 1945 | 1944 | 1943 | 1942 | 1941 | 1940 | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 |
| 17   | 17   | 20   | 22   | 18   | 30   | 29   | 35   | 27   | 17   | 28   | 27   |

### General Provision of Health Services in the Borough.

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 to be examined for the presence of Diphtheria bacilli ..... | 100 |
| Milk Samples .....                                                | 127 |
| Water Samples .....                                               | 97  |

### Nursing in the Home.

The Queen's Nursing Association and the Briton Ferry Nursing Association have both been taken over by the Glamorgan County Council under the new National Health Service Act. In addition, pupil nurses training for the Part II Certificate are being housed there and are trained in the district. This training school is run in conjunction with the Mid-Glamorgan Hospital Management Committee.

No decision has yet been reached as to the allocation of the John Taylor Charity Fund following upon the introduction of the National Health Act.

### Hospitals.

TONNA HOSPITAL : This is a Hospital under a joint board of the Neath Borough and Neath Rural District Councils. It has 54 beds and under normal conditions provides ample accommodation for the area. The number of cases admitted from the Borough during the year 1949 is as enumerated below. From July 5th, 1948, the hospital has been administered by the Mid-Glamorgan Hospital Management Committee.

| <i>Disease</i>             | <i>No. of Cases<br/>Admitted</i> |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Diphtheria .....           | 6                                |
| Scarlet Fever .....        | 28                               |
| Poliomyelitis .....        | 0                                |
| Whooping Cough .....       | 2                                |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever ..... | 0                                |
| Measles .....              | 2                                |
| Observation Cases .....    | 19                               |
| Meningitis .....           | 1                                |
| Gastro-enteritis .....     | 16                               |
|                            | —                                |
| Total .....                | 74                               |
|                            | —                                |

**SMALLPOX HOSPITAL :** Smallpox cases can be admitted to the Fedw Hir 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 ended 31st December, 1949, was £36 2s 6d.

**NEATH GENERAL HOSPITAL :** This hospital at Penrhiewtyn, Neath, is a fully equipped general hospital of 350 beds, 64 of which are reserved for maternity cases. The hospital admits all cases requiring hospital treatment, excepting Infectious Diseases. It has become an important centre for obstetrics and last year 1,436 births were notified to me from it.

For some time it has been realised that the present system of booking beds at the above hospital has not been equitable. Unless a patient reserved a bed as early as the second month of pregnancy there was little likelihood of her being confined at the hospital. Many mothers living in unsatisfactory home conditions were thus deprived of hospital confinement. Thus a revision of the procedure for reserving beds became necessary.

A conference was held at the Neath General Hospital on the 22nd of October, 1948, to discuss this matter. The County Medical Officer of Health presided and the Medical Superintendent, with the Medical Officers of Health of Port Talbot, Glyncoirwg Urban District, Neath Rural District, Pontardawe District, Gower Rural District and Neath Borough were present.

It was decided (1) That beds be allocated to each Maternity and Child Welfare Authority on the basis of population (This meant that Neath Borough would be allocated 20 beds per month.)

(2) The responsibility of selecting the patients would be placed on the Medical Officer of Health of each Maternity and Child Welfare Authority.

(3) Beds would only be reserved at the hospital on production of a signed certificate from the Medical Officer of Health.

(4) Each patient would then be referred back to attend the ante-natal clinic of the respective Authority.

(5) Any beds not taken up by the allocation were to be at the disposal of the Medical Superintendent.

I have found the above scheme to work quite satisfactorily in Neath, although at times I have had to appeal to the Medical Superintendent for a few extra beds.

During the year, 1,436 births were notified from the Neath General Hospital. Of these 229 were from the Borough of Neath and 1207 from outside areas.

**SANITORIA :** 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 Craig-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 cases from Neath have been admitted to this hospital.

**SWANSEA GENERAL AND EVE HOSPITAL :** This is a voluntary Hospital of 250 beds and admits general medical and surgical cases, but does not cater for obstetric cases.

**PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL, CARDIFF :** This is the recognised orthopaedic Hospital of this area. The Child Welfare Committee has an arrangement with this hospital for the provision of operative treatment and surgical appliances for children under 5 years of age.

#### **Disinfection.**

During the year 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 which had been in close contact with the case were conveyed to the Isolation Hospital and disinfected there before the patient's return to home.

#### **Disinfestation.**

This was carried out by the Thermatox method. (For further information see Sanitary Inspector's Report).

### Maternity and Child Welfare

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

- (i) Health Visiting.
- (ii) Infant consultations at the Welfare Centres.
- (iii) Ante-natal Clinics and Visiting.
- (iv) Ultra-violet Light Therapy for infants and expectant mothers.
- (v) Provision of dental treatment for expectant mothers in necessitous cases.
- (vi) Provision of milk and vitamin products for mothers and children under five years of age.
- (vii) Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics.

In addition, orthopaedic, dental, visual, ear, nose and throat treatment is given in co-operation with the County Medical Officer.

### Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The County Council who under the Education Act, 1944, became responsible for the treatment of school children, who were desirous of using our clinics as treatment centres and so clinic arrangements for the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee were arranged as follows :—

|                             |                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ante-natal Clinics          | Dyfed Road—Thursdays, 9.30 to 4. Hunter St., Briton Ferry—Friday, 9.30                                     |
| Maternity and Child Welfare | Dyfed Road—Friday, 2.30 p.m. St. Catherine's Parish Hall—Wednesday 2.30 p.m. Hunter Street—Tuesdays, 2.30. |
| Ultra Violet Light Therapy  | Dyfed Road Clinic—Tuesdays, 9.30 a.m.                                                                      |
| Diphtheria Immunisation     | All Child Welfare Clinics.                                                                                 |

### Health Visiting.

The birth of every child in the Borough must be notified to me within 36 hours by a responsible person present at birth, namely, the doctor or midwife. 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 as to feeding, clothing etc., of the child.

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

|                                      |      |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Children under 1 year of age .....   | 2995 |
| Investigations of Still births ..... | 14   |
| Children 1 to 5 years of age .....   | 3635 |

Each Health Visitor is also engaged at minor ailment clinics on two mornings in each week and at Child Welfare Clinics on two afternoons in each week. Thus they come into contact with the mothers and children at the Centres, and become aware of the advice that is given there by the Medical Officer. They are also able to follow up this advice in the subsequent visits to the home.

#### Attendances at Clinics.

|                            | <i>No. of children attending first time</i> |                                      | <i>Total attendances</i> |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                            | <i>Under 1 year</i>                         | <i>Over 1 year &amp; under 5 yrs</i> |                          |
| Dyfed Road Clinic .....    | 224                                         | 25                                   | 3976                     |
| St. Catherine's Hall ..... | 125                                         | 16                                   | 2551                     |
| Hunter St., B. Ferry ..... | 157                                         | 33                                   | 3741                     |
|                            | 506                                         | 74                                   | 10268                    |

#### Clinics.

T.B. CLINICS: The Welsh National Memorial Association holds Clinics on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays of each week.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS: 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 for females on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

#### Maternal Mortality.

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 (live and still) births.

No maternal deaths occurred in hospital.

|         |                             |      |
|---------|-----------------------------|------|
| DEATHS: | Puerperal Fever .....       | Nil  |
|         | Other Maternal Causes ..... | Nil. |
|         | Mortality Rate .....        | Nil. |

**Infectious Diseases—Cases notified.**

| <i>Infectious Disease</i>   | <i>Total No. of<br/>Cases notified</i> | <i>Cases Admitted<br/>to Hospital</i> | <i>Total No.<br/>of Deaths</i> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Poliomyelitis .....         | 1                                      | 1                                     | 0                              |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever .....  | 1                                      | 1                                     | 0                              |
| Whooping Cough .....        | 102                                    | 4                                     | 0                              |
| Diphtheria .....            | 4                                      | 4                                     | 0                              |
| Scarlet Fever .....         | 30                                     | 26                                    | 0                              |
| Measles .....               | 223                                    | 10                                    | 0                              |
| Puerperal Pyrexia .....     | 0                                      | 0                                     | 0                              |
| Pneumonia .....             | 8                                      | 3                                     | 0                              |
| Dysentery .....             | 13                                     | 0                                     | 0                              |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..... | 1                                      | 0                                     | 0                              |
| Erysipelas .....            | 1                                      | 0                                     | 0                              |

WHOOPING COUGH: 102 cases of this disease were notified with no deaths.

POLIOMYELITIS: One case of Poliomyelitis was notified during the year and treated at an Isolation Hospital.

MEASLES: 223 cases of this disease were notified with no deaths.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER: One case of this disease was notified.

SCARLET FEVER: 30 cases were notified and 26 admitted to hospital. If adequate nursing and isolation was available at the home, no objection was raised to allowing the case to be treated at their own homes by their own doctors.

DIPHTHERIA: 4 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year and admitted to Tonna Isolation Hospital.

**Comparative Table of Notifications.**

|                                | <i>England<br/>and<br/>Wales</i> | <i>126 Cty.<br/>Boroughs &amp;<br/>great towns<br/>inc. London</i> | <i>148 smaller<br/>towns, Resid.<br/>pop. 25,000<br/>to 50,000</i> | <i>London<br/>Admin.<br/>County</i> | <i>Neath</i> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Typhoid Fever .....            | 0.01                             | 0.00                                                               | 0.01                                                               | 0.01                                | 0.00         |
| Paratyphoid Fever .....        | 0.01                             | 0.02                                                               | 0.01                                                               | 0.01                                | 0.00         |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever .....     | 0.02                             | 0.03                                                               | 0.02                                                               | 0.02                                | 0.03         |
| Scarlet Fever .....            | 1.63                             | 1.72                                                               | 1.83                                                               | 1.46                                | 0.93         |
| Whooping Cough .....           | 2.39                             | 2.44                                                               | 2.39                                                               | 1.70                                | 3.24         |
| Diphtheria .....               | 0.04                             | 0.05                                                               | 0.04                                                               | 1.07                                | 0.09         |
| Erysipelas .....               | 0.19                             | 0.20                                                               | 0.19                                                               | 0.17                                | 0.03         |
| Smallpox .....                 | 0.00                             | 0.00                                                               | 0.00                                                               | 0.00                                | 0.00         |
| Measles .....                  | 8.95                             | 8.91                                                               | 9.18                                                               | 8.54                                | 6.99         |
| Pneumonia .....                | 0.80                             | 0.91                                                               | 0.65                                                               | 0.55                                | 0.31         |
| Acute Poliomyelitis .....      | 0.13                             | 0.13                                                               | 0.12                                                               | 0.18                                | 0.03         |
| Acute Polio-encephalitis ..... | 0.01                             | 0.01                                                               | 0.02                                                               | 0.01                                | 0.00         |
| Food Poisoning .....           | 0.14                             | 0.16                                                               | 0.14                                                               | 0.19                                | 0.00         |

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

This year again, I have to report a marked decline in the number of cases of diphtheria—with no deaths. It is significant that this decline is coincidental with the widespread adoption of artificial immunisation against the disease, and thus it is only fair to assume that it is due to the large number of children who have been immunised.

| Year | Number of<br>Cases Notified | Number<br>Immunised |
|------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1940 | 98                          | 0                   |
| 1941 | 42                          | 5                   |
| 1942 | 64                          | 0                   |
| 1943 | 30                          | 7                   |
| 1944 | 33                          | 4                   |
| 1945 | 31                          | 3                   |
| 1946 | 36                          | 6                   |
| 1947 | 16                          | 7                   |
| 1948 | 19                          | 11                  |
| 1949 | 4                           | 0                   |

### Tuberculosis

Figures are given below of the new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease during the year :—

#### Notification of New Cases.

| Age<br>Periods | Pulmonary |    | Non-Pulmonary |    | Deaths, |          | Deaths,   |          |
|----------------|-----------|----|---------------|----|---------|----------|-----------|----------|
|                | M.        | F. | M.            | F. | M.      | Non-Pul. | Pulmonary | Non-pul. |
| 0—1 years      | —         | —  | —             | —  | —       | —        | —         | —        |
| 1—5 years      | —         | —  | 2             | 2  | —       | —        | 1         | —        |
| 5—10 years     | —         | 2  | 2             | —  | —       | —        | —         | —        |
| 10—15 years    | 2         | 3  | —             | —  | —       | —        | —         | —        |
| 15—20 "        | 2         | 3  | 1             | —  | —       | —        | —         | —        |
| 20—25 "        | 3         | 5  | —             | 2  | —       | —        | —         | 1        |
| 25—35 "        | 6         | 8  | 1             | —  | —       | 1        | 1         | —        |
| 35—45 "        | 4         | 3  | —             | —  | —       | —        | 3         | 5        |
| 45—55 "        | 1         | —  | —             | 1  | 1       | —        | 2         | —        |
| 55—65 "        | 2         | —  | —             | —  | —       | —        | 6         | 2        |
| Over 65 years  | —         | —  | —             | 1  | —       | —        | 1         | —        |
| Totals         | 20        | 24 | 6             | 5  | 1       | 1        | 14        | 8        |

### Notifications and Deaths for the past 25 years

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Pul. Notns.</i> | <i>Pul. Deaths</i> | <i>Non-Pul. Notfns.</i> | <i>Non-Pul. Deaths</i> |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1924        | 40                 | 18                 | 31                      | 6                      |
| 1925        | 37                 | 18                 | 29                      | 2                      |
| 1926        | 43                 | 16                 | 33                      | 5                      |
| 1927        | 44                 | 19                 | 33                      | 2                      |
| 1928        | 42                 | 31                 | 23                      | 6                      |
| 1929        | 55                 | 25                 | 27                      | 4                      |
| 1930        | 81                 | 29                 | 33                      | 3                      |
| 1931        | 108                | 23                 | 28                      | 5                      |
| 1932        | 77                 | 22                 | 32                      | 4                      |
| 1933        | 44                 | 18                 | 29                      | 4                      |
| 1934        | 81                 | 33                 | 24                      | 3                      |
| 1935        | 43                 | 13                 | 26                      | 4                      |
| 1936        | 30                 | 11                 | 27                      | 1                      |
| 1937        | 41                 | 12                 | 20                      | 6                      |
| 1938        | 37                 | 8                  | 23                      | 3                      |
| 1939        | 40                 | 9                  | 27                      | 4                      |
| 1940        | 42                 | 10                 | 27                      | 6                      |
| 1941        | 44                 | 12                 | 31                      | 1                      |
| 1942        | 75                 | 18                 | 16                      | 2                      |
| 1943        | 64                 | 16                 | 33                      | 3                      |
| 1944        | 43                 | 15                 | 26                      | 9                      |
| 1945        | 69                 | 18                 | 22                      | 5                      |
| 1946        | 39                 | 11                 | 22                      | 3                      |
| 1947        | 42                 | 10                 | 22                      | 3                      |
| 1948        | 40                 | 18                 | 11                      | 3                      |
| 1949        | 44                 | 17                 | 11                      | 0                      |

### Water Supply

The water supply for the Borough comes from the Gnoll, Briton Ferry and Ystrad-fellte waterworks. From the two former the water is filtered and chlorinated, and from the latter, chlorinated only. Continuous samples were taken during the year from the three sources of supply before and after treatment, Monthly samples are taken as a routine measure for bacteriological examination.

Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination at houses, schools, hospitals, factories and public houses during the year were 76.

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| From Springs .....       | 9  |
| From Swimming Pool ..... | 12 |

### Curtailment of Water Supply.

NORTH WARD—From 6th July, to 23rd October, 1949.

SOUTH WARD : do.

BRITON FERRY WARD : From 12th September, to 22nd October.

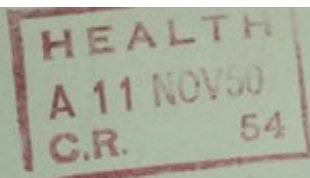
### Rainfall.

|                 | <i>GNOLL</i>  | <i>CIMLA</i>  | <i>CEFN CWRT</i> |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
|                 | <i>Inches</i> | <i>Inches</i> | <i>Inches</i>    |
| January .....   | 2.14          | 2.31          | 2.29             |
| February .....  | 2.26          | 2.39          | 2.12             |
| March .....     | 2.80          | N.R.          | 2.94             |
| April .....     | 4.03          | "             | 3.52             |
| May .....       | 4.91          | "             | 4.08             |
| June .....      | 0.52          | "             | 0.66             |
| July .....      | 1.74          | "             | 1.14             |
| August .....    | 2.84          | "             | 3.07             |
| September ..... | 2.63          | "             | 2.27             |
| October .....   | 8.67          | "             | 8.57             |
| November .....  | 5.55          | "             | 7.30             |
| December .....  | 5.70          | "             | 4.98             |
|                 | <hr/>         | <hr/>         | <hr/>            |
|                 | 43.79         | —             | 42.94            |
|                 | <hr/>         | <hr/>         | <hr/>            |









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**BOROUGH OF NEATH**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**SANITARY INSPECTOR**

**FOR THE**

**YEAR**

**1949**

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STACEY BROS., NEATH



# CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

NEATH

September, 1950.

To THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF NEATH.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have pleasure in submitting a report of the work carried out in the Sanitary Department during 1949 :—

## STAFF.

Mr. EVAN THOMAS, appointed Sanitary Inspector on the 1st January, 1924, and Chief Sanitary Inspector on the 24th November, 1935.

Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

Mr. R. T. PROBERT, appointed Sanitary Inspector on the 1st March, 1936.

Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

Mr. D. J. HOWELLS, appointed Sanitary Inspector on the 1st January, 1948.

Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

Mr. T. G. HOPKINS, appointed Temporary Sanitary Inspector on the 1st February, 1947 and Sanitary Inspector on the 1st February, 1949.

Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

## HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH, 1949.

Prominent among the Statutes are the Representation of People Act, 1949, The Landlord and Tenant, (Rent Control) Act, 1949, The Housing Act, 1949, and The Lands Tribunal Act, 1949.

There are numerous Statutory Instruments dealing with civil defence and town and country planning, while others of importance are the various regulations envisaged under the Food and Drugs, (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, which came into force on the 1st October, 1949.

## HOUSING INSPECTION.

|                                                                                                                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Number of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts .....                                             | 1291 |
| Number of visits of Inspection in respect of same .....                                                                           | 3943 |
| Number of houses found not in all respects to be reasonably fit for human habitation .....                                        | 441  |
| Number of houses rendered fit after service of Notices, including 138 which were in course of compliance at the end of 1948 ..... | 482  |
| Number of houses subject to Notices at the end of 1949 the time given having not expired .....                                    | 97   |

## DEFECTS FOUND DURING INSPECTION.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <i>Premises<br/>affected.</i> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| DRAINS : Defective, absence of, defectively constructed, defective fittings .....                                                                                                                                                                           | 101                           |
| WATER CLOSETS : Defective fittings, broken and defective pans, structural defects and dilapidations of closet buildings .....                                                                                                                               | 88                            |
| WATER SUPPLY : No supply, defective and insufficient supply, defective fittings .....                                                                                                                                                                       | 74                            |
| PAVING OF YARD AREAS : Defective yard paving, defective dish to gullies .....                                                                                                                                                                               | 81                            |
| GENERAL HOUSE REPAIRS : Dampness, defective roofs, rain-water troughings and downpipes, defective internal plastering, walls, woodwork, light and ventilation, defective firegrates and chimneys, absence of or defective food stores and coal stores ..... | 401                           |
| OTHER NUISANCES : Insanitary stables, pig styes and out-buildings, accumulation of manure, presence of rats and mice, smoke nuisance from domestic chimneys, house and trade refuse .....                                                                   | 205                           |

All the defects were dealt with under the Public Health Acts.

During the year, 656 complaints, of which 218 were written, were made in respect of various nuisances.

### NEW HOUSES.

The number of new houses erected during the year :—

|                                                                    |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| (i) By the Local Authority—Permanent Prefabricated Dwellings ..... | 0  |
| Traditional Type.....                                              | 46 |
| (ii) By other bodies or persons .....                              | 0  |

### DISINFECTIONS DURING THE YEAR.

|                                                             |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| After cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever .....           | 32 |
| After cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever and Poliomyelitis ..... | 1  |
| After deaths and removals (Tuberculosis) .....              | 10 |
| After deaths from Cancer .....                              | 4  |
|                                                             | —  |
|                                                             | 47 |
|                                                             | —  |

### DISINFESTATIONS DURING THE YEAR

|                                                 |    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----|
| Slum Houses during displacement .....           | 0  |
| Overcrowded Houses during de-crowding .....     | 0  |
| Council Houses, reported infested .....         | 2  |
| Privately owned Houses, reported infested ..... | 11 |
|                                                 | —  |
|                                                 | 13 |
|                                                 | —  |

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :—

| <i>Premises.</i>                                                                                                                        | <i>Inspections.</i> | <i>Notices..</i> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Factories with Mechanical Power .....                                                                                                   | 60                  | 2                |
| Factories without Mechanical Power .....                                                                                                | 85                  | 1                |
| Other premises under the Act, (including works of building and engineering constructions, but not including out-workers premises) ..... | 32                  | 0                |
|                                                                                                                                         | —                   | —                |
|                                                                                                                                         | 177                 | 3                |
|                                                                                                                                         | —                   | —                |

Defects found :—

| <i>Particulars.</i>           | <i>Defects</i> | <i>Remedies</i> |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)   |                |                 |
| Insufficient .....            | 0              | 0               |
| Unsuitable or Defective ..... | 2              | 2               |
| Other Offences .....          | 1              | 1               |
|                               | —              | —               |
|                               | 3              | 3               |
|                               | —              | —               |

A list of one outworker was received during the year.

### COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Applications were received at the beginning of the year for the re-registration of five Common Lodging Houses, all of which were situated in the old Borough, as follows :—

| <i>Name of Keeper</i>                       | <i>Address of Premises</i>        | <i>No. Reg'd Rooms</i> | <i>No. Reg'd Lodgers</i> |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs. Ann Sandham .....                      | 1, Cattle Street, Neath .....     | 8                      | 47                       |
| Mrs. Ann Sandham & Deputy—Wm. Sandham ..... | 1, Glamorgan Street, Neath .....  | 6                      | 16                       |
| Evan Rosser .....                           | 68, Water Street, Neath .....     | 3                      | 15                       |
| Ernest Powell .....                         | 11, The Parade, Neath .....       | 3                      | 11                       |
| D. W. Thomas .....                          | 4, Commercial Street, Neath ..... | 12                     | 45                       |
|                                             |                                   | —                      | —                        |
|                                             |                                   | 32                     | 134                      |
|                                             |                                   | —                      | —                        |

It was found that 106 men and 3 women were present on the 31st December, 1949, out of a total accommodation for lodgers of 134, and that there was no overcrowding. Verbal Notices were given in cases of minor nuisances, which were complied with.

These establishments, which now represent a third of their original number, and which are situated in the old portion of the North Ward are, by reason of age, structure and layout, not entirely satisfactory as such. There appears to be no general desire to improve the premises and facilities available for the lodgers, and it is doubtful whether this can be done and comply with the Building Byelaws. However, such places will continue to serve a requirement of the Borough until such time as other communal arrangements materialize and, in view of the fact that they are kept as satisfactorily as can be expected under the circumstances, it was decided to re-register the five premises mentioned for a further period.

# FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AND REGULATIONS.

During the year 165 samples of food were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis :—

| <i>Formal</i>                  |            | <i>Informal</i>              |    | <i>Informal B/forward</i> |     |  |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|----|---------------------------|-----|--|
| Milk .....                     | 24         | Puffs, Jam .....             | 1  | Milk .....                | 31  |  |
| Jam, Strawberry .....          | 3          | Sandwich, Jam .....          | 1  | Butter .....              | 3   |  |
| Jam, Damson .....              | 1          | Tarts, Rose .....            | 1  | Margarine, Special .....  | 3   |  |
| Jam, Apricot .....             | 1          | Sherbert .....               | 1  | Cheese .....              | 3   |  |
| Jam, Plum .....                | 1          | Flavourings .....            | 5  | Cooking Fat .....         | 2   |  |
| Jam, Raspberry .....           | 2          | Gravy Browning .....         | 1  | Lard .....                | 1   |  |
| Jelly, Bramble .....           | 1          | Baking Powder .....          | 5  | Sausage Meat .....        | 1   |  |
| Marmalade .....                | 1          | Junket Powder .....          | 1  | Sausages .....            | 5   |  |
| Honey .....                    | 2          | Self raising Flour .....     | 1  | Jam, Plum .....           | 1   |  |
|                                | —          | Pudding Mixture .....        | 3  | Peel, candied .....       | 1   |  |
| Total .....                    | 36         | Pearl Barley .....           | 1  | French Coffee .....       | 1   |  |
|                                | —          | Gelatine .....               | 1  | Pepper .....              | 1   |  |
|                                |            | Mustard .....                | 2  | Ground Ginger .....       | 1   |  |
|                                |            | Mixed Spice .....            | 1  | Dried Mint .....          | 1   |  |
|                                |            | Ground Cinnamon .....        | 1  | Thyme .....               | 1   |  |
|                                |            | Custard Powder .....         | 3  | Savoury Beverage .....    | 1   |  |
|                                |            | Golden Raising Powder .....  | 1  | Caramels .....            | 1   |  |
|                                |            | Sponge Mixture .....         | 2  | Chocolate, plain .....    | 1   |  |
|                                |            | Cake Flour Mixture .....     | 1  | Nut Comfits .....         | 1   |  |
|                                |            | Semolina .....               | 1  | Choc. Cream .....         | 1   |  |
|                                |            | Buns, Cream .....            | 1  | Choc. dates .....         | 1   |  |
|                                |            | Cakes, Banbury .....         | 2  | Macaroons .....           | 1   |  |
|                                |            | Cakes, Queen .....           | 3  | Mints .....               | 1   |  |
|                                |            | Cakes, Welsh .....           | 2  | Nougat .....              | 1   |  |
|                                |            |                              | —  | Nuts, Hazel .....         | 1   |  |
|                                |            | <i>Carried forward</i> ..... | 42 | Toffee .....              | 1   |  |
|                                |            |                              | —  | Fish Frying Oil .....     | 6   |  |
|                                |            |                              |    | Choc. Spread .....        | 1   |  |
|                                |            |                              |    | Choc. Cup .....           | 1   |  |
|                                |            |                              |    | Drinking Choc. .....      | 1   |  |
|                                |            |                              |    | Cup Kaff .....            | 1   |  |
|                                |            |                              |    | Marmite .....             | 1   |  |
|                                |            |                              |    | Veal & Ham paste .....    | 1   |  |
|                                |            |                              |    | Sweet Pickle .....        | 1   |  |
|                                |            |                              |    | Malted Milk .....         | 1   |  |
|                                |            |                              |    | Dessert Powder .....      | 1   |  |
|                                |            |                              |    | Crab Paste .....          | 1   |  |
|                                |            |                              |    | Pastry Mix .....          | 1   |  |
|                                |            |                              |    | Tomato Chutney .....      | 1   |  |
|                                |            |                              |    | Beef Broth .....          | 1   |  |
|                                |            |                              |    | Calves Foot Jelly .....   | 1   |  |
|                                |            |                              |    |                           |     |  |
|                                |            |                              |    | <i>Total</i> .....        | 129 |  |
| <b>Formal Samples</b> .....    | <b>36</b>  |                              |    |                           |     |  |
| <b>Informal Samples</b> .....  | <b>129</b> |                              |    |                           |     |  |
| <b>Total All Samples</b> ..... | <b>165</b> |                              |    |                           |     |  |

### Ratio of Samples to Population :—

|                           | Per 1,000<br>population |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Milk Samples (55) .....   | 1.7                     |
| Other Samples (110) ..... | 3.4                     |
| All Samples (165) .....   | 5.1                     |

### ADULTERATED SAMPLES.

| Series No.<br>(Formal) | Article         | Nature of Adulteration                                        | Observation   |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 5                      | Milk            | 1.1% Extraneous Water                                         | Vendor warned |
| 11                     | Milk            | 1.6% Deficient in Fat                                         | Vendor warned |
| 22                     | Milk            | 4.0% Deficient in Fat                                         | Vendor warned |
| (Informal)             |                 |                                                               |               |
| 13                     | Sponge Mixture  | Infested with Active Meal Mites, their Ova and<br>Dead Mites. | See below     |
| 17                     | Pudding Mixture | Ditto.                                                        |               |

It will be observed that the three Milk Samples were adulterated, one containing 1.1 per cent Extraneous Water, and two being Deficient in Fat to the extent of 1.6 per cent and 4.0 per cent respectively. The milk, generally, was of satisfactory average standard composition. Included in the milk samples were eleven obtained in course of delivery, supplied to the County Council on contract for their schools, one supplied under the "Schools' Scheme" to a Commercial School and one to a Hospital under "Hospital Contract," all of which were certified as being satisfactory.

There were no requests to sample "in course of delivery" nor "an appeal to the cow" received from vendors during the year. Sampling was carried out throughout the year.

The sample of Sponge Mixture and of Pudding Mixture mentioned above were found to be infested with Meal Mites, and the remainder of each stock was withdrawn from sale and disposed of as animal food.

The six samples of Sausages and Sausage-meat were found to be genuine and free from preservative with the meat content as under :—

| Series No. | Description       | Total Meat | Preservative |
|------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| 55         | Beef Sausage      | 57.5%      | Absent       |
| 56         | Beef Sausage      | 51.5%      | Absent       |
| 57         | Beef Sausage Meat | 56.2%      | Absent       |
| 58         | Beef Sausage      | 58.0%      | Absent       |
| 59         | Beef Sausage      | 53.7%      | Absent       |
| 60         | Beef Sausage      | 56.4%      | Absent       |

All the samples of sausage meat complied with the Preservatives Regulations and contained over 50% of meat.

The sugar confectionery was certified to be free from deleterious material and prohibited colouring and flavouring.

"The Mineral Oil in Food Order" came into force during the year. In this connection, flour confectionery, made up of cakes, tarts and buns, and fish frying oils were examined and certified to be free.

A special examination of "mixed peel" was made on behalf of the General Hospital and was declared to be of inferior quality, being badly discoloured by excess of Salt of Iron, which was confirmed by an analysis of a sample.

All samples of other foods were genuine and of good quality. The Indicator which is added to Standard Margarine was absent from the samples of Special Margarine examined.

In accordance with practice, the Local Food Office was informed of purchases and the special form of Receipt used in respect of Rationed Goods. The one-third part of the purchases were disposed of to the Cimla Tuberculosis Hospital, and were gratefully acknowledged.

Three applications were received from local tradesmen on procedure of having food privately analysed. They were in respect of the fat content of milk and ice-cream and meat content of sausages.

The following is a summary of samples purchased, the number adulterated and the number in which proceedings were taken in 1949 :—

| <i>Sample</i> | <i>No. taken</i> | <i>Per cent Adulteration</i> | <i>Case Proceedings</i> |
|---------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Milk          | 55               | 5.45                         | 0                       |
| Other Foods   | 110              | 1.81                         | 0                       |

#### **BOROUGH PUBLIC ANALYST.**

It is with deep regret that I heard of the sudden death on the 2nd August, 1949, of Dr. R. Pendrill Charles, M.D., F.R.I.C., the Borough Public Analyst. Dr. Charles was highly respected, a recognised authority in his profession and a loyal colleague who served the Council faithfully over a long period.

The duties were carried out temporarily by Mr. D. Evans Jones, of the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff, until permanent arrangements could be made.

#### **THE PUBLIC HEALTH, (PRESERVATIVES, ETC., IN FOOD) REGULATIONS.**

The Public Analyst certified all samples, with the exception of those mentioned below, to be free from Preservatives, Prohibited Colouring Matter or Deleterious Material :—

| <i>Series No.</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Preservative</i>                   |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 29                | Strawberry Jam     | 30 parts Sulphur Dioxide per million. |

## REGISTERED BUTTER FACTORIES.

| <i>Date of Registration</i> | <i>Situation of Factory</i> | <i>Occupier</i> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 26th January, 1937          | 15a, Orchard Street, Neath  | W. Elliott      |

This factory was inactive throughout the year.

## ARTIFICIAL CREAM.

There is no manufacture of Artificial Cream for sale carried on in the Borough, such being sold only in unopened receptacles, as received from the manufacturers. It is difficult to obtain, but its use in bakehouses in the making of flour confectionery, and at cafes in the preparation of Trifles, etc., is very much on the increase.

## CONDENSED AND DRIED MILK REGULATIONS.

During routine inspections of condensed and dried milk stocks, no case of incorrect description was discovered.

## MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

The provisions of this Act and the various "Orders" made thereunder, are almost all in suspension. Those which may be enforced are well observed, e.g. the marking of national products. The products of dollar countries are restricted imports.

## MILK "SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS."

The following Licences for the retail of Graded Milks within the Borough were in operation, during part of or the whole of the year :—

| <i>Name</i>                                | <i>Designation</i>     | <i>Licence</i>        |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Briton Ferry & Neath Co-operative Society. | Pasteurised Milk       | Dealer's Licence.     |
| Severn Valley Milk Co., Ltd.               | Sterilised Milk        | Dealer's Licence.     |
| Briton Ferry & Neath Co-operative Society. | Tuberculin Tested Milk | Dealer's Licence.     |
| Cambrian United Dairies Ltd.               | Pasteurised Milk       | Dealer's Licence.     |
| do.                                        | Sterilised Milk        | Dealer's Licence.     |
| do.                                        | Tuberculin Tested Milk | Dealer's Licence      |
| G. J. Edwards, Skewen                      | Pasteurised Milk       | Supplementary Licence |
| do.                                        | Tuberculin Tested Milk | do.                   |
| E. A. Evans                                | Pasteurised Milk       | do.                   |
| G. A. Baker                                | do.                    | do.                   |
| A. H. Thomas                               | do.                    | do.                   |

It is to be noted that any grade of milk was obtainable in the Borough and every effort was made to increase the sale of such milks, thus reducing the quantity of ungraded raw milk distributed. Practically every retailer sold heat-treated milk at some period during the year. In certain cases it was not retailed as such and therefore a Licence was not necessary.

The Food and Drugs, (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, came into operation on the 1st October, 1949, and the following Regulations were made :—

- (a) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.
- (b) Milk (Special Designation) Raw Milk Regulations, 1949.
- (c) Milk (Special Designation) Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk Regulations, 1949.

There were many changes in the administration of the Milk Industry consequent upon the coming into force of the Act and Regulations. The Ministry of Agriculture took over the production side, including the health of the cattle and the cow-sheds, and Local Authorities retained the control of the manipulation of milk and milk products and their distribution. Producers' licences for the sale of graded milk will be issued by the said Ministry and the other licences by Local Authorities, who are Food and Drugs Authorities, and to operate from 1st January, to 31st December as before. It became necessary to licence the sale of sterilised milk in addition to Pasteurised Milk (this being new, the former being boiled and the latter par-boiled at licenced factories). Generally, the objective was to restrict the sale of milk to that in the raw state to tuberculin tested and accredited herds and to heat all the remainder. This arrangement will be enforced in areas, to be later specified, and for the remainder of the country an extension of five years. In the case of the Borough it is rapidly converting itself into a " specified area " as practically 85% of its milk in distribution is graded.

#### MILK AND DAIRIES. *et*

The number of producers registered in the Borough remained ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> 15 with an average of 300 cows in milk, as follows :—

|                            | 1949 | 1948 |
|----------------------------|------|------|
| Producer-retailers .....   | 5    | 8    |
| Producer-wholesalers ..... | 10   | 7    |
|                            | —    | —    |
|                            | 15   | 15   |
|                            | —    | —    |

In 1939, there were 21 producers of milk for sale and further reductions are anticipated due to loss of pasture through extended building programmes. One of the farms is licensed for the production of T.T. milk. The premises were regularly visited up to the time of transfer of functions and were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition. All requests of the Ministry of Agriculture were carried out and full particulars of all producers forwarded to them.

The number of distributors operating during the year was 35, as under :—

|                                                          |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----|
| (a) Producer-retailers resident in the Borough .....     | 5  |
| (b) Producer-retailers resident in the Rural Area .....  | 10 |
| (c) Retailers (only) resident in the Borough .....       | 14 |
| (d) Retailers (only), resident outside the Borough ..... | 6  |
|                                                          | —  |
| Total .....                                              | 35 |
|                                                          | —  |

During 1939, there were 102 registered retailers, most of whom had disposed of their businesses to factory milk concerns. The distribution was supervised and kept under observation generally in all respects, which include the milk-store, vehicles and receptacles used.

### INSPECTION OF DAIRY CATTLE.

The State Veterinary Service has been responsible for the routine inspection of cattle on Dairy Farms since April, 1948. It is the practice to notify all cases of Advanced Tuberculosis discovered during Meat Inspection at the Public Slaughterhouse. During 1949, 128 notifications were forwarded to the Divisional Veterinary Officer, in respect of 123 cows, 2 heifers, 2 bulls and 1 steer. Included in the number of cows were 3 from local farms placed under the Tuberculosis Order, and a consignment of nine from one mart.

Special attention was called in respect of :—

- (1) A cow in an emaciated tuberculosis condition from a West Wales Mart.
- (2) A similar cow from a local farm in the Rural District.
- (3) A tuberculous bull in an adjoining Police Division.
- (4) The consignment of nine cows from the same mart, referred to above.

### EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR TUBERCLE BACILLI.

Twenty-three samples of locally produced milk were submitted during 1949, to the Public Health Laboratory for Tubercle Bacilli examination, made up of 21 routine and 2 special. Of these, 21 were found to be negative and 2 positive, both of the latter being from dairy-farms in the Rural District, the milk from which was mainly distributed in the Borough in the raw state. Two cows were removed from the herds and slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order and a complete check-up of the herd, including repeat sampling of milk, was proceeded with.

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

During the year, 127 samples of milk were collected and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, as under :—

| <i>Description</i>                    | <i>Number<br/>Submitted</i> | <i>Number<br/>Satisfactory</i> | <i>Number<br/>Un-satisfactory</i> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ungraded .....                        | 27                          | 19                             | 8                                 |
| Tuberculin Tested .....               | 3                           | 2                              | 1                                 |
| T.T. (Pasteurised) .....              | 1                           | 1                              | 0                                 |
| Pasteurised .....                     | 61                          | 54                             | 7                                 |
| Pasteurised (School Contract) .....   | 30                          | 29                             | 1                                 |
| Pasteurised (Hospital Contract) ..... | 2                           | 2                              | 0                                 |
| Sterilized .....                      | 3                           | 2                              | 1                                 |
|                                       | 127                         | 109                            | 18                                |

The results indicate the percentage of unsatisfactory samples to be :—

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Raw Milks .....          | 30.0 per cent. |
| Heat Treated Milks ..... | 9.3 per cent.  |
| Total—All Milks .....    | 14.1 per cent. |

The percentage of unsatisfactory samples compares very favourably with the results over 1939—1949 :—

| <i>Period</i> | <i>Samples<br/>Examined</i> | <i>Number<br/>Unsatisfactory</i> | <i>Percentage<br/>Unsatisfactory</i> |
|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1939          | 96                          | 21                               | 21.8                                 |
| 1940          | 89                          | 18                               | 20.2                                 |
| 1941          | 104                         | 38                               | 36.5                                 |
| 1942          | 107                         | 39                               | 36.4                                 |
| 1943          | 113                         | 37                               | 32.7                                 |
| 1944          | 111                         | 29                               | 26.1                                 |
| 1945          | 97                          | 30                               | 30.9                                 |
| 1946          | 110                         | 27                               | 24.5                                 |
| 1947          | 122                         | 31                               | 25.4                                 |
| 1948          | 116                         | 25                               | 21.5                                 |
| 1949          | 127                         | 18                               | 14.1                                 |

It will be observed that 18 samples of the 127 submitted for examination, or 14.1 per cent, were certified as being unsatisfactory. These were sub-standard, as to *Bacillus Coli* and Bacterial Count—a condition which reduces the Keeping Quality of Milk. All the Heat Treated Samples were returned as being completely pasteurised and the unsatisfactory ones were slightly below the Keeping Quality Test or of immediately above the limited bacterial count. An analysis of the quarterly returns shows :—

|                      | <i>Submitted</i> | <i>Satisfactory</i> | <i>Unsatisfactory</i> |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| First Quarter .....  | 30               | 27                  | 3                     |
| Second Quarter ..... | 30               | 20                  | 10                    |
| Third Quarter .....  | 34               | 29                  | 5                     |
| Fourth Quarter ..... | 33               | 33                  | 0                     |
|                      | <hr/> 127        | <hr/> 109           | <hr/> 18              |

The Second and Third Quarters affect the returns greatly and the unsatisfactory results were chiefly due to the exceptionally hot weather and restricted supplies of water for cooling purposes, in particular at Dairy Farms where, in some instances it had to be carried from distant sources. It has also to be mentioned that high day temperatures do upset the recognised tests. A number of complaints were received from consumers but these were attributed chiefly to the absence of proper facilities for storing at the home and the cutting off of the domestic water supply regularly for long periods. School supplies, all of which were pasteurised, were taken from County Council Schools and Private Commercial Schools, and Hospital Supplies from Cimla and Neath General, these being within the Borough.

## WATER SUPPLY.

During 1949, 97 samples—91 Bacteriological and 6 Chemical—were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. Of these, 76 were of drinking water and 21 from the Gnoll Swimming Pool, Ynysmaerdy Storage and feeder streams and brooks. The town supplies were satisfactorily maintained throughout the year. There was unavoidable restriction, a few complaints received of discoloured water brought about by turning off and on, and during alterations and the laying of new mains. No case of sickness attributable to water contamination was reported. All the town supplies are from three sources, viz., Briton Ferry, Gnoll and Ystradfellte Reservoirs, the last mentioned being purchased. The first two supplies are filtered and chlorinated and Ystradfellte chlorinated only. The fresh water supply at Briton Ferry Dock is from the town mains, is filtered and chlorinated, and all recognised precautions are taken. In this connection, 6 samples were taken to the Public Health Laboratory and 8 were collected by Officers of the Port Health Authority and examined at the Beck Laboratory, all being satisfactory.

## MEAT INSPECTION.

The control of fat-stock and meat supply commenced in January, 1940, and continued throughout the year. Neath Mart is the collecting centre for livestock, the Neath Public Slaughterhouse is centralised for the Borough and Rural District and, in addition, for other areas known as "export."

The duties of Meat Inspection are carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors, who are certified Meat Inspectors. Slaughtering was carried on continuously and complete inspection maintained, irrespective of evening, Saturday afternoon or Sunday work. The requisite records were kept of animals slaughtered, carcasses and offal condemned and the Ministry of Food's instructions strictly obeyed.

In consequence of control, the Public Slaughterhouse only was in use, no other slaughterhouse now being in existence. The management is by an official of the Ministry of Food. All animals are slaughtered by humane methods—Captive Bolt Pistols and Electric Stunners being used. There are twenty-four (24) licensed Slaughtermen, 14 of whom were employed full-time at the Slaughterhouse.

The number of animals slaughtered during 1949 was as follows :—

| <i>Cattle (excluding Cows)</i> | <i>Cows</i> | <i>Calves</i> | <i>Sheep &amp; Lambs</i> | <i>Pigs</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1530                           | 2434        | 29547         | 27649                    | 1156        | 62316        |

There was an increase in all classes of animals slaughtered and it was the highest number ever recorded for the Borough Abattoir.

The undermentioned carcasses and edible offal were found to be unfit for human food :—

|                          | <i>Cattle</i> | <i>Sheep</i> | <i>Calves</i> | <i>Pigs</i> |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| Carcasses complete ..... | 249           | 47           | 236           | 13          |
| Heads (only) .....       | 40            | 0            | 0             | 0           |
| Tongues (only) .....     | 4             | 0            | 0             | 0           |
| Heads and Tongues .....  | 431           | 48           | 237           | 57          |

|                         | <i>Cattle</i> | <i>Sheep</i> | <i>Calves</i> | <i>Pigs</i> |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| Livers .....            | 2849          | 2650         | 160           | 42          |
| Part Livers .....       | 301           | 0            | 0             | 0           |
| Hearts .....            | 295           | 0            | 0             | 15          |
| Tails .....             | 330           | 0            | 0             | 0           |
| Thick Skirts .....      | 329           | 0            | 0             | 0           |
| Lungs .....             | 2018          | 1467         | 32            | 41          |
| Melts .....             | 459           | 0            | 0             | 0           |
| Plucks .....            | 0             | 55           | 264           | 30          |
| Udders .....            | 2509          | 0            | 0             | 0           |
| Gut .....               | 926           | 47           | 241           | 74          |
| Tripe .....             | 275           | 0            | 0             | 0           |
| Parts of Carcases ..... | 6492 lbs.     | 37 lbs.      | 44 lbs.       | 311 lbs.    |

### **CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.**

|                        | <i>Cattle</i><br><i>(excluding Cows)</i> | <i>Cows</i> | <i>Calves</i> | <i>Sheep &amp; Lambs</i> | <i>Pigs</i> |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Number killed .....    | 1530                                     | 2434        | 29547         | 27649                    | 1156        |
| Number Inspected ..... | 1530                                     | 2434        | 29547         | 27649                    | 1156        |
|                        |                                          |             |               | <i>Totals</i>            | 62316       |

### **ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :**

|                                                                          | <i>Cattle (excluding Cows)</i> | <i>Cows</i> | <i>Calves</i> | <i>Sheep &amp; Lambs</i> | <i>Pigs</i> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Whole carcases condemned .....                                           | 3                              | 118         | 224           | 47                       | 8           |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....                 | 336                            | 1024        | 462           | 4141                     | 75          |
| Percentage of Number affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..... | 22.1                           | 46.9        | 2.3           | 15.1                     | 7.1         |

### **TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :—**

|                                                              | <i>Cattle</i><br><i>(excluding Cows)</i> | <i>Cows</i> | <i>Calves</i> | <i>Sheep &amp; Lambs</i> | <i>Pigs</i> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Whole Carcases Condemned.....                                | 5                                        | 123         | 12            | 0                        | 5           |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....     | 282                                      | 728         | 21            | 0                        | 57          |
| Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..... | 18.7                                     | 34.9        | .11           | —                        | 5.3         |

In addition, 319 lbs. of Imported Beef, 340 lbs. of Imported Mutton, and 609 lbs. of Corned Beef were condemned for unsoundness at the Distributing Centre. The Minister of Food (Circular, M.F. 10/49) instructed that all Condemnation Certificates for Corned Meat should state the "brand," country of origin and weight, and this was complied with.

It will be observed that 249 carcasses of Beef, 236 carcasses of Veal, 47 carcasses of mutton, 13 carcasses of Pork and a large quantity of offal were condemned during the year. Of the cattle slaughtered 61 per cent were cows, as compared with 55 per cent in 1948, 62 per cent in 1947, 71 per cent in 1946, 53 per cent in 1945 and 2 per cent in 1939. The beef was of moderate quality, and the policy of "end of the year" cleaning up of unthrifty herds was continued, the period when most of the cows were slaughtered.

Cattle and cows slaughtered and carcasses condemned during the successive quarters of the year were as follows :—

| Year        | Animals Slaughtered |      |       | Carcasses Condemned |      |       |
|-------------|---------------------|------|-------|---------------------|------|-------|
|             | Cattle              | Cows | Total | Cattle              | Cows | Total |
| 1949        |                     |      |       |                     |      |       |
| 1st Quarter | 107                 | 388  | 495   | 1                   | 46   | 47    |
| 2nd Quarter | 222                 | 191  | 413   | 0                   | 12   | 12    |
| 3rd Quarter | 523                 | 416  | 939   | 3                   | 42   | 45    |
| 4th Quarter | 678                 | 1439 | 2117  | 4                   | 141  | 145   |
|             | 1530                | 2434 | 3964  | 8                   | 241  | 249   |

The 1156 pigs slaughtered in the Public Slaughterhouse included 85 baconers for private consumers, one of which was condemned for generalised Tuberculosis. In addition, 68 baconers were killed at home and were not for sale; the majority of these were examined at the request of the respective owners.

The boning department was active throughout the year and the provision of larger premises is under consideration by the Ministry and the Council. Carcasses are received from a wide area, and in particular, from the Slaughterhouses west of Bridgend.

Extensions and improved facilities at the Slaughterhouse were further progressed and arrangements made for the fixing of a stunning-pen.

The Ministry of Food, in 1948, called attention to the cases of Measly Bladder Worm (*Cysticercus Bovis*) infestation of cattle reported from various parts of the country. During the year 13 cases were dealt with, six were condemned and seven released as manufacturing meat after treatment by cold and subsequent high pressure. One of these was received into the boning-out department from an outside source. The consumption of untreated Measly Beef may give rise to Tape Worm (*Taenia Saginata*) in man.

#### ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED DURING PERIOD 1940—1949 :

|        | 1940  | 1941  | 1942  | 1943  | 1944  | 1945  | 1946  | 1947  | 1948  | 1949  |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Cattle | 2053  | 1354  | 1007  | 1591  | 1450  | 1641  | 1667  | 1761  | 1477  | 1530  |
| Cows   | 690   | 759   | 624   | 619   | 923   | 1849  | 4179  | 2963  | 1793  | 2434  |
| Calves | 1334  | 1789  | 2473  | 2884  | 6297  | 13361 | 31212 | 31909 | 27891 | 29547 |
| Sheep  | 27911 | 23535 | 20833 | 22758 | 22829 | 19491 | 21988 | 16073 | 23325 | 27649 |
| Pigs   | 3037  | 1030  | 627   | 623   | 230   | 427   | 405   | 63    | 676   | 1156  |
|        | 35025 | 28467 | 25609 | 28484 | 31729 | 36769 | 59451 | 52769 | 55162 | 62316 |

**WHOLE CARCASSES CONDEMNED DURING PERIOD 1940—1949 :**

|        | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Cattle | 8    | 14   | 19   | 18   | 36   | 8    | 9    | 6    | 6    | 8    |
| Cows   | 29   | 29   | 27   | 37   | 69   | 270  | 624  | 321  | 153  | 241  |
| Calves | 6    | 9    | 7    | 9    | 13   | 50   | 222  | 264  | 237  | 236  |
| Sheep  | 24   | 27   | 12   | 19   | 15   | 28   | 26   | 26   | 19   | 47   |
| Pigs   | 9    | 4    | 3    | 4    | 6    | 3    | 4    | 2    | 10   | 13   |
|        | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    |
|        | 76   | 83   | 68   | 87   | 139  | 379  | 885  | 619  | 425  | 545  |
|        | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    |

**MEAT REGULATIONS, 1924-1948.**

The regulations were generally well observed and it was noted that there was a steady improvement in supplies of overalls and utensils. It was again necessary on several occasions to call attention to the condition of vehicles and the cleanliness of meat handlers. The transport of meat and edible offal for sale for human consumption is under the general direction of the Ministry of Food. Instructions have been issued to the Depot managers on the matter and such co-operation will materially help in carrying out the relevant provisions of the Meat Regulations.

**BUTCHERS' SHOPS.**

There were 48 premises in use as butchers' shops—35 as shops proper and 13 as stalls in the covered market. With the exception of the 10 occupied by the Co-operative Society, Woodleys Ltd., and Dewhurst Ltd., the remaining 38 are family businesses. With one exception, a small business which is to be taken over early in 1950, all the shops have refrigerators for storing meat and smalls pending sale. The premises generally were kept clean but the standard could be improved and suggestions were made whereby same could be carried out. The Minister of Food issued a circular stressing the importance of paying close attention to the manufacture, storage, distribution and sale of all foods which by their nature are especially liable to contamination and to the development of pathogenic organisms, particularly foods made up of various meat products. In this connection, the Ministry's Inspectors and Officers have been instructed to report to the Local Authority any case which came to their notice.

**OTHER PREMISES WHERE FOOD IS SOLD, STORED, OR PREPARED FOR SALE.****1. BAKEHOUSES :**

There were 22 bakehouses in use during the year, and changes in ownership were noted in four. The trade does not engage a large number of persons, 150 being employed, made up of men, women and boys, and includes those working in the shops and those in delivery vans. Adequate sanitary conveniences are provided and the premises generally are kept in a satisfactory condition. Wash-basins with hot and cold water, are available to the employees. One new bakehouse has been erected and alterations are proceeding in six others, restricted space prevents extension in a few and the tiling of floors and walls is increasing. The slicing and wrapping of bread is undertaken at several of the bakehouses and machines are installed for the purpose. No serious complaints were received of pest infestations and all the premises are supplied with water from the town's mains.

## 2. AERATED WATER WORKS :

The four aerated water works or bottling stores were in full employ in the preparation of soft drinks and three were also engaged in the manufacture of vinegar and gravy-browning. Samples of their produce were submitted for analyses under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act and were certified as genuine, and water used for manufacture is from the town's mains, samples of which, taken at the factories were all satisfactory. The premises were at all times during inspection found to be satisfactorily maintained.

## 3. ICE-CREAM SHOPS :

The Ice-cream Regulations, 1947, provided for the heat treatment of ice-cream mixtures and provisional standards covering the same. The trade was expected to have obtained proper and complete equipment by the end of May, 1949, and serious attempts were accordingly made to obtain same. Steady progress was made in the alteration of existing premises and the provision of new buildings. The trades, generally are prepared to do this and, considering the restrictions on materials, which is controlled by licences and labour, progress was good.

There were 72 premises, occupied by 65 persons or firms, registered for the sale of ice-cream in the Borough. The majority sold the product of national manufacturers in the season and any others which they were able to obtain. All the ice-cream is stored and sold from proper containers and the few who enter the area and sell from vehicles, are kept under strict supervision. Particular attention is given to medical history, and illnesses of food handlers are reported, including those of ice-cream.

The methods of examination are recognised as being experimental and the grading is, therefore, provisional, and it is recommended that only consistent offenders should be drastically treated. Samples are collected and conveyed in an ice-container.

The Laboratory Examination for 1947, 1948 and 1949, are given below :—

|      | <i>Number<br/>Submitted</i> | <i>Number<br/>Grade 1</i> | <i>Number<br/>Grade 2</i> | <i>Number<br/>Grade 3</i> | <i>Number<br/>Grade 4</i> |
|------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1947 | 30                          | 10                        | 2                         | 8                         | 10                        |
| 1948 | 42                          | 13                        | 6                         | 9                         | 14                        |
| 1949 | 50                          | 25                        | 11                        | 8                         | 6                         |

The Provisional Regulations interpret the above as :—

|      | <i>Number<br/>Submitted</i> | <i>Number<br/>Grade 1<br/>Satisfactory</i> | <i>Number<br/>Grade 2<br/>Fairly<br/>Satisfactory</i> | <i>Number<br/>Grade 3<br/>Un-<br/>satisfactory</i> | <i>Number<br/>Grade 4<br/>Very<br/>Unsatisfactory</i> |
|------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1947 | 30                          | 10                                         | 2                                                     | 8                                                  | 10                                                    |
| 1948 | 42                          | 13                                         | 6                                                     | 9                                                  | 14                                                    |
| 1949 | 50                          | 25                                         | 11                                                    | 8                                                  | 6                                                     |

An examination of 1949 sampling of ice-cream shows that 8 out of 20 were unsatisfactory for the quarter, April/June, 6 out of 18 for the quarter, July/September, and none out of 12 for October/December. Compared with 1947 and 1948 an improvement is shown, the percentages of unsatisfactory samples are given as, 1947—60%, 1948—54% and 1949—28%.

Copies of all certificates, which included the fat content, were sent to the Ministry of Food, as instructed. These varied between 10% and 1%. The Ministry's special attention was called to samples of only 1% and 1.6% of fat. The trade has agreed with the Ministry that it need not be less than 2.5% which, in my opinion, is far too low a minimum. It is generally agreed that a standard is desirable for ice-cream, but it is recommended, however, in view of the scarcity of ingredients, especially fats and milk solids, that this could not be done at the present time.

#### **4. FISH FRYING BUSINESSES :**

Twenty-six premises were in use for the sale of fried fish and chipped potatoes. The premises were regularly inspected and were found to be satisfactorily maintained. Particular attention was given to general cleanliness, decoration, condition of utensils, methods of waste disposal and personal cleanliness. It was necessary to serve nine notices in respect of re-decoration, broken refuse bins, disrepair of outbuilding used in preparation and dampness of walls of shop. Improvements were carried out in ventilation of shops, preparation rooms, sanitary conveniences and a further three changed over to gas-heated fires. There was no complaint as to disposal of waste which is removed daily by pig-keepers, and wrapping for consumption off the premises has greatly improved. It was ascertained that the fish was received daily and only Cotton-seed Oil or Ground-nut Oil and Dripping were used as frying fats. For purposes of information six samples were submitted to the Public Analyst and these were found to be free from Mineral Oil. The business of Fish and Chipped potatoes was not as flourishing as it was during the years of shortages of other foods, and with the exception of Fair Week there were no mobile shops seen.

#### **5. FISH SHOPS AND HAWKERS :**

Thirteen premises were used for the sale of fresh fish, and these were regularly visited. Of the 12 shops, six sold fish exclusively, one sold wet fish in addition to fried fish, and the remaining five sold a certain amount of dried, preserved fish subsidiary to the main business of fruit and vegetables, and one Departmental Stores. Conditions, generally, were found to be satisfactory but it was necessary to serve several notices requiring re-decoration, new refuse bins, defectively paved yard areas, more regular disposal of wastes and maintenance of hot water for the washing of hands on all premises. Fish hawkers were almost absent and no complaints were received or cases discovered of dumping offal in streams or on open spaces. The very warm weather was the cause of such large quantities of fish being condemned owing to decomposition, as mentioned in the Report.

#### **6. HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND CANTEENS :**

These premises were regularly visited and inspected, particularly as to their cleanliness and methods of preparing, storing and serving of food.

There are two hotels, one having a modern and well-equipped kitchen, and the other needs alteration but is well kept.

The restaurants and cafes, 30 in number, are open to serve the public particularly throughout the week. Six have completed alterations which included additional dining-room and kitchen accommodation. Most of the premises are fitted with refrigerators and it was necessary to give verbal notices in some instances as to re-decoration of kitchens.

There are 21 canteens providing for the principal works and factories, but the building trade still lags behind. The attention of the management was called to the need, at several places, for re-decorating generally. Some of the premises are well-constructed and equipped and the others would do well to emulate. One of the canteens, a poor structure, which is used in connection with an Omnibus Company, is about to be transferred to new premises attached to the omnibus depot outside the Borough.

Generally the premises are well looked after. Storage of perishable foods in refrigerators is increasing. Washing and sanitary facilities are satisfactory, but separate accommodation for the staff is not so at all places.

Disposal of waste is to local pig-dealers and is adequate. There were no complaints of vermin infestation and the service of the local authority on rodent control was commended in several places.

## 7. GENERAL PROVISION SHOPS, STALLS AND STORES :

The following foodstuffs were condemned :—

|                                  |                                                     |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 6 galls. Artificial Cream        | 73 lbs. Chicken                                     |
| 6 lbs. Butter                    | 212 lbs. Rabbits                                    |
| 158 lbs. Cheese                  | 134 lbs. Sausages.                                  |
| 104 Shell Eggs                   | 6 lbs. Liver Sausages                               |
| 7 lbs. Coffee                    | 9 lbs. Sausage Meat                                 |
| 6 lbs. Malted Foods              | 274 lbs. Pork Brawn                                 |
| One-and-a-half pounds Shortbread | 800 lbs. Walnuts                                    |
| 10 lbs. Oatmeal                  | 246 Oranges                                         |
| 4 lbs. Barley Groats             | 408 Pears                                           |
| 135 lbs. Custard Powder          | 228 lbs. Tomatoes                                   |
| 168 lbs. Rice                    | 163 lbs. Dried Peas                                 |
| 39 lbs. Flour                    | 10 lbs. Locust Beans                                |
| 7 lbs. Cake Flour Mixture        | 6 Tons Onions                                       |
| 7 lbs. Pudding Mixture           | 140 lbs. Haddock                                    |
| 2556 Crumpets                    | 84 lbs. Bream                                       |
| 1612 Pancakes                    | 91 lbs. Hake                                        |
| 10 lbs. Sugar                    | 240 lbs. Kippers                                    |
| 23 lbs. Macaroni                 | 210 lbs. Mackerel                                   |
| 26 lbs. Spaghetti                | 112 lbs. Cod                                        |
| 280 Tins Milk                    | 88 Tins Fish                                        |
| 59 Tins Jam                      | 356 Tins Vegetables                                 |
| 132 Tins Fruit                   | Sugar Confectionery, ( <i>by Fire</i> ), 275 Bars & |
| 213 Tins Meat                    | Boxes.                                              |

The effect of the warm weather upon the kind and amount of perishable foods which were condemned is evident, such as fish, fruit, vegetables and minced meat. The rabbits and chickens were condemned for decomposition due to improper dressing and packing for transit and the supplier was warned against such neglect and waste of food. It was necessary to call the attention of the British Railways as "carriers" in accepting such wrongly packed foodstuffs, and to the number contaminated by rats and mice during transit, such as crumpets and pancakes. The sponge and pudding mixtures were mite-infested and refer to those mentioned under "Food and Drugs." Special cases referred to the Public Analyst for examination were samples of Dried Egg, Chewing Nuts and Custard Powder. The egg and nuts were satisfactory but the custard powder, mentioned in the above list, was infested with mites. There was a satisfactory understanding with the local Food Office and the Borough Traders, and the Ministry's instructions as to salvage obeyed and certificates for condemnation issued accordingly.

## **GENERAL INSPECTION.**

### **1. SHOPS' ACT :**

The duties of the Local Authority for the purposes of the Shops' Acts have been performed by the Weights and Measures Inspector since the 1st July, 1939. Several Notices were served and complied with in respect of defective sanitary accommodation and the arrangements for the health and comfort of the shop workers were satisfactory. There is co-operation between the two Departments with regard to the respective duties under the Shops' Acts.

### **2. HAIRDRESSERS ESTABLISHMENTS :**

There were 37 such establishments operating, made up of 11 gentlemen and 9 ladies in the North Ward, 5 gentlemen and 4 ladies in the South Ward and 3 gentlemen and 5 ladies in the Briton Ferry Ward, and where 6 male and 24 female assistants were employed. During the year, ventilation improvements had been carried out at two places, and more suitable means of waste disposal carried out at another shop. It was pointed out that constant sterilisation of utensils, cloths and appliances was necessary after each use, and particular care should be exercised where skin diseases are suspected.

### **3. OFFENSIVE TRADES :**

Consent was given to the establishment of four Offensive Trades, three being Rag and Bone Dealers and one a Gut Scrapper. These are situated in James Street, Canal Side, The Green and the Public Abattoir, respectively. They were satisfactorily conducted, and having regard to their nature, little to complain about, excepting offensive smells occasionally given off by decomposing organic matter such as bones. In this connection, a suitable deodorant was recommended and put into use.

### **4. TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC. :**

The area was free, with the exception of two cases, of movable structures used for habitation and other unauthorised dwellings. The Police Department at all times has given every assistance in their regulation. It is the custom of a large number of living vans to be stationed within the confined area of the Fair Field during fairs and shows, and proper conveniences and domestic water supply are made available to the occupiers during their stay.

### **5. RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST (RESTRICTIONS) ACT :**

No application was received during 1949 for a Certificate of the Sanitary Authority as to the "state of repair" of dwelling houses.

## 6. SANITARY ACCOMODATION OF CINEMAS :

The five cinemas in the Borough were periodically inspected, special attention being given to their cleanliness, condition of sanitary conveniences, presence of rats and mice and other infestations. Re-decoration of the Windsor Cinema and some minor repair work was completed and the attention of the owners drawn to the necessity of doing similar work at the Gnoll and Empire. The renewal of seating and floor covering is under consideration and will be carried out in the near future. There are 89 persons, made up of 30 males and 59 females, employed at these places, where there is seating accomodation for 5,362 persons, and the position as to major alterations in respect of the Gnoll and the transfer of the Kinema to the Public Hall remains as reported on in 1941. The " Safety of Ceilings in Places of Public Entertainment," Circular dated 16/12/47, was cancelled in 1949.

## 7. SANITARY CONVENIENCES OF SCHOOLS :

All the Public Schools are controlled by the County Council. There are in addition, two private schools for training in commercial subjects, and these were inspected as to overcrowding and their general condition. The milk supply to all the schools is pasteurised and the water supply is from the town's mains. During the year, 30 samples of milk were submitted for Bacteriological Examination and 12 samples for Chemical Analysis, and it is pleasing to report that the supply proved highly satisfactory.

The Swimming Pool was made full use of during the season.

Every assistance was given in rodent control of school kitchens and the work was done on behalf of the County Council.

## 8. LICENSED PREMISES :

Inspections were made at intervals of the licensed premises, including the registered Clubs and Institutes in the Borough, principally in respect of the sanitary conditions and state of the conveniences. There was little change in their number, ownership and management. Major alterations and repairs were carried out at two of the premises and at several others repairs and re-decoration were in hand. It was noticed that good progress was being made with regard to increased conveniences, improvement of yard areas and facilities for the cleansing of glasses, utensils, pumps, taps and piping used.

## 9. RATS AND MICE INFESTATIONS :

The Ministry decided, (Circular, N.S. 21) to control the provisions of N.S.19. 50% Grant during 1948/49, for another year, 1949/50, on the same conditions, and the Council decided to accept the scheme for the extended period, and I have to report that the prescribed conditions were complied with.

The following is a summary of the premises treated and particulars of baiting, with results, during the year :—

|                         |    |                       |             |
|-------------------------|----|-----------------------|-------------|
| Business Premises       | 60 | Baits Laid            | 3169        |
| Private Dwellings       | 46 | Takes                 | 1564        |
| Corporation Property    | 45 | Dead Rats Found       | 706         |
| County Council Property | 4  | Dead mice found       | 70          |
| Hospital Board Property | 5  | Sewer Manholes Baited | 1718        |
| River Banks             | 2  |                       | (859 & 859) |
|                         |    | Takes                 | 126         |
|                         |    |                       | (73 & 53)   |

Included in the business premises treated were several works in close proximity to the tidal river and a number of bodies of black or ship rats were recovered. It is the practice to charge for all treatments, including dwelling-houses, exceptions on the latter being regulated by special reports to, and ~~resolutions~~ <sup>regulations</sup> by the Council, and the approval of the Ministry. The areas of the Green and Mackworth Lane, which are condemned houses and, as such, are far from being rat-proof and have old and defective drains, were thus treated. Work on the sewers has been carried out since 1944, the year of the initial treatment, and since, bi-annually, eleven treatments in all, enabling full grants to be claimed, and the effectiveness of regularly doing so is reflected by the low number of manholes infested. The methods adopted are those of the Ministry, and the Rodent Operative appointed in 1944 gave satisfactory service. Of interest was the showing to the Health Committee of the instructional films, "The Town Rat" and "The Farm Rat," and a section of the Health Exhibition was confined to local rodent control.

I continued my membership of the Rodent Advisory Committee of the South Wales Area.

#### **10. PRIVATE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE BOROUGH ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT :**

The following work was carried out at the expense of the Owners, by the Borough Engineer's Department and in accordance with the Public Health Act :—

- (a) Cleaning of combined drains of 29 houses in eight incidents occurring in eleven streets.
- (b) Cleaning and making good defects of closet drains and closet buildings at one house.
- (c) Renewing water services to seven houses.
- (d) Conversion of seven pail-closets into water-closets and slop-water drains of seven cottages, now within the sewer area, in the Scheme of appropriate cost to the Owners and the Council.

#### **HOUSING.**

##### **1. HOUSES UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION :**

- (a) Demolition Orders were made in respect of :—
  - 6, Ritson Street, Briton Ferry.
  - 62 and 70 Lowther Street, Briton Ferry.
- (b) Closing Orders were made in respect of :—
  - 10a, Villiers Street, Briton Ferry.

The families from the houses mentioned above were transferred to Council Houses.

6, Glamorgan Street was purchased by the Council with the view of demolition at a later date, as part of the re-development scheme.

The Council removed the sub-tenant from 2, Charles Street, Briton Ferry, to a Council House, thus de-crowding the house and allowing it to be added as living accommodation to a business premises. The tenant of 23, Wind Street was also given a Council House which enabled the Council to demolish an acquired derelict building and clear the site for future road widening.

## 2. SLUM CLEARANCE :

Further progress was made in 1949 in the displacement of Slum Clearance Areas, subject to confirmed Orders, and there are left, 130 houses, 32 of which are vacant, to be demolished and which are occupied by 132 families.

### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS UNDER PROGRAMMES.

Position at 31st December, 1949

#### (a) Clearance Areas :

|                                             |      |
|---------------------------------------------|------|
| Number of Houses which have been demolished | 223  |
| Number of persons displaced                 | 1043 |

#### (b) Other Insanitary Houses :

|                                                                                                                                                                                           |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under section II                                                                                                     | 46  |
| Number of persons displaced                                                                                                                                                               | 161 |
| Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished as a result of Undertaking (which have not yet been cancelled) by owners under Section II, not to use the houses for human habitation | 32  |
| Number of persons displaced                                                                                                                                                               | 133 |
| Underground rooms and Parts of buildings closed under Section 12                                                                                                                          | 12  |
| Number of persons displaced                                                                                                                                                               | 43  |
| Number of dwelling houses made fit as a result of formal Notices under Sections 2-12                                                                                                      | 16  |

In addition, the Council erected 50 houses on the Cimla Site as their first scheme in connection with de-crowding. In the first movement during 1938, 50 families of 347 persons were properly housed.

### OVERCROWDING, 1949

#### Particulars of Overcrowding.

Table 1. Overcrowding Records :

| Ward           | 1936     |         | 1949     |         |
|----------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
|                | Families | Persons | Families | Persons |
| North          | 186      |         | 67       | 354     |
| South          | 142      |         | 52       | 303     |
| Briton Ferry   | 84       |         | 32       | 179     |
| Council Houses | 25       |         | 19       | 139     |
|                | 437      |         | 170      | 975     |

Table 2. New Cases During the Year :

| Ward         | Families | Persons |
|--------------|----------|---------|
| North        | 3        | 17      |
| South        | 1        | 5       |
| Briton Ferry | 3        | 13      |
|              | 7        | 35      |

**Table 3. Reasons for New Cases of Overcrowding :**

|                                            | <i>Families</i> |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sub-tenants taken in .....                 | 0               |
| Natural increases in Family .....          | 3               |
| Married children taken in by Parents ..... | 4               |

—  
7  
—**Table 4. De-crowded Families, 1949 :**

| <i>Ward</i>          | <i>Families</i> | <i>Persons</i> |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| North .....          | 8               | 36             |
| South .....          | 12              | 66             |
| Briton Ferry .....   | 5               | 34             |
| Council Houses ..... | 4               | 10             |
|                      | —               | —              |
|                      | 29              | 146            |

**Table 5. Abatement of Overcrowding :**

|                                                 | <i>Council Houses</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>South</i> | <i>Briton Ferry</i> |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Re-distribution of rooms within the house ..... | 0                     | 2            | 3            | 0                   |
| Removal to other houses in the Borough .....    | 0                     | 2            | 2            | 0                   |
| Moved to other houses outside the Borough ..... | 0                     | 0            | 1            | 0                   |
| Moved to Dwryfelin A.T.S. Camp .....            | 0                     | 0            | 0            | 0                   |
| Removal of Sub-tenant .....                     | 1                     | 0            | 1            | 1                   |
| Reduction of Family .....                       | 2                     | 0            | 1            | 1                   |
| Transferred to Council Property .....           | 1                     | 4            | 4            | 3                   |
|                                                 | —                     | —            | —            | —                   |
|                                                 | 4                     | 8            | 12           | 5                   |

**Table 6. Position of Overcrowded Houses, 31st December, 1949 :**

| <i>Ward</i>          | <i>Houses</i> | <i>Persons<br/>in houses</i> | <i>Families<br/>Overcrowded</i> | <i>Persons<br/>Involved</i> |
|----------------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| North .....          | 102           | 472                          | 67                              | 354                         |
| South .....          | 91            | 418                          | 52                              | 303                         |
| Briton Ferry .....   | 43            | 243                          | 32                              | 179                         |
| Council Houses ..... | 24            | 164                          | 19                              | 139                         |
|                      | —             | —                            | —                               | —                           |
|                      | 260           | 1297                         | 170                             | 975                         |

## OCCUPATION OF DWRYFELIN A.T.S. CAMP.

These huts have been occupied since they were vacated by the A.T.S. in 1946. They are managed by the Local Authority and the occupation has been regularised. In the interests of Public Health, the sooner these are cleared the better, the fabric was never intended to be permanent and their emergency cover should be ended.

## TRESPASSERS IN CONDEMNED HOUSES.

The position was that 25 families were in occupation of condemned houses as trespassers. Proceedings were successfully taken by the Owners in two of the cases and Orders were made for their vacation. The Council has not authorised general proceedings against all the offenders.

## HOUSING STATISTICS, 1949.

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :

|        |                                                                                                                                                            |      |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1. (a) | Total number of Houses inspected for housing defects, (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)                                                            | 1291 |
| (b)    | Number of Inspections made for the purpose                                                                                                                 | 3943 |
| 2. (a) | Number of Dwellinghouses (included under sub head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925           | 4    |
| (b)    | Number of inspections made for the purpose                                                                                                                 | 4    |
| 3.     | Number of Dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation                                    | 4    |
| 4.     | Number of Dwellinghouses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 511  |

### 2. Remedy of Defects during Year without the service of Formal Notices :

|                                                                                                                            |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Number of defective Dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | 70 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|

### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :

|      |                                                                                                    |     |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (a)  | Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936                                   | 0   |
| (b)  | Proceedings under Public Health Acts :                                                             |     |
| 1.   | Number of Dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 441 |
| 2.   | Number of Dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :          |     |
| (i)  | By Owners                                                                                          | 482 |
| (ii) | By Local Authority                                                                                 | 0   |
| (c)  | Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936                                      | 3   |
| (d)  | Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936                                              | 1   |

### 4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding :

|        |                                                             |      |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| (a) 1. | Number of Dwellinghouses overcrowded at the end of the year | 170  |
| 2.     | Number of families dwelling therein                         | 260  |
| 3.     | Number of persons dwelling therein                          | 1297 |

|     |    |                                                                                                                                                            |     |
|-----|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (b) | 1. | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year                                                                                               | 7   |
|     | 2. | Number of persons concerned in such cases                                                                                                                  | 35  |
| (c) | 1. | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year                                                                                                   | 29  |
|     | 2. | Number of persons concerned with such cases                                                                                                                | 146 |
| (d) |    | Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | 0   |

#### **Eradication of Bed Bugs :**

|    |                                        |             |    |
|----|----------------------------------------|-------------|----|
| 1. | Number of Council Houses found to be : |             |    |
|    | (a)                                    | Infested    | 2  |
|    | (b)                                    | Disinfested | 2  |
| 2. | Number of other houses found to be :—  |             |    |
|    | (a)                                    | Infested    | 11 |
|    | (b)                                    | Disinfested | 11 |

The methods available for fighting the bed bug are, briefly, by the use of fumigants and sprays. Of the fumigants, Hydrogen Cyanide is still rated high and disinfestation of any infested house by same calls for caution and skill. Great strides have been made through the experience of war in the development and use of insecticides, notably D.D.T., and it is now possible to achieve excellent results by their use. The procedure carried out in the Borough is fumigation by "Thermatox" where premises can be vacated, and spraying with approved insecticides containing D.D.T. and Pyrethrum, in other cases.

### **GENERAL.**

#### **1. HOUSING :**

Further progress was made in the erection of houses and 46 Traditional Type were completed in 1949. There are still 132 families in occupation of houses subject to slum clearance orders, 23 families squatting in once-vacated houses of this kind and 14 families who have taken over the A.T.S. huts at Dwryfelin. Before 1939 a well-planned attack on the twin evils of slums and overcrowding was in full operation. The incessant demand for accommodation of any sort had prevented the demolition of houses which long ago were condemned as unfit for human habitation. There is evidence that slums and overcrowding are as extensive in area and misery as they were before 1939. The building or repairing of over a million houses is a creditable performance, but the policy has not succeeded in drawing away from the slums and the clearing of such wretched areas is dependent upon other shelter elsewhere. Rents of new houses are proving too high for the lower-paid workers and the answer must be a revision of subsidies and rebates together with a system of equalisation. Behind the dry statistics is an amount of human unhappiness and restlessness which cannot be measured in figures. It has to be recognised that in the worst slums there are to be found parents who rise above their surroundings and in circumstances of the greatest difficulty keep their homes clean and it is also true that these and many others have proved that under more favourable conditions have made excellent tenants of Council Houses. Slums are being continually created by the decay of property through neglect of repair and over-crowding and it is estimated that there are in the Borough, in addition to those mentioned, about 500 families residing in insanitary homes.

#### **2. FOOD POISONING :**

No case of Food Poisoning was reported in 1949.

### 3. TUBERCULOSIS CASES :

Nine Notifications were received during the year of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis, which were investigated as to the milk supplies. The checking-up of all such cases has become a routine duty for some years and has met with success in the elimination of Tubercular cows from dairy herds from which the supply of milk originated. Two cows were removed from one herd and slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order.

There is a complete link-up between the Department, the State Veterinary Service and the Public Health Laboratory, which includes sampling of raw milk, veterinary history of casualties, rejects, and other condemned animals at the Slaughterhouse.

### 4. SPECIAL FEATURES :

(a) **Factories** : There are 290 registered premises under the Factories Acts, made up of 72 with mechanical power, 137 without mechanical power and 81 others, which include works of building and engineering.

(b) **Food and Drugs** : 165 samples of food, which included 55 of milk, were submitted for analysis. No proceedings were taken, in five instances only was action necessary, three warnings were issued in respect of milk adulteration and the withdrawal of the remainder of the stock of infested sponge mixture. All the samples of sausage meat contained over 50% of meat and were free from preservative. It is with deep regret we had to record the death of Dr. Charles who had been Borough Analyst for a long period.

(c) **Milk, "Special Designation."** : It is to be observed that any grade of milk was obtainable in the Borough and that the sale of ungraded milk was on the decrease. The coming into force of the Milk and Dairies Act in October, 1949, brought about many changes in the control of the Milk Industry. The Ministry of Agriculture took over the production side which included the health of the cattle and their housing, and local authorities retain the control of the manipulation and distribution of milk and milk products. No area was declared a "specified area" for the sale of graded milk only, and in the case of the Borough about 85% of the milk sold is graded.

(d) **Slaughterhouse** : There was an increase in all classes of animals slaughtered and it was the highest number ever recorded with the previous highest number being 59,451 for 1946. The total for 1949 was 62,316. During the year, 13 cases of Measly Bladder Worm, (*Cysticercus Bovis*) infestation were dealt with.

(e) **Ice Cream Shops.** There were 72 premises on which ice-cream was sold, a number which is steadily increasing. A general improvement in the quality was shown, but in my opinion, the amount paid by the consumers should be regulated by the fat content of the purchased product, e.g., the difference between 10% and 1%.

(f) **Rodent Control** : The Council accepted the extension of Circular N.S.19 by adopting similar conditions as given in Circular N.S.21., thus enabling them to claim full grants. Eleven treatments of the sewers were carried out during 1944/49 and the low number showing takes proves the effectiveness of regular baiting.

(g) **Work Carried Out by Borough Engineer's Department** : There was a significant amount of work done by the Borough Engineer's Department, both on default and at the request of Owners, under the Public Health Act.

(h) **Atmospheric Pollution** : The first recordings were made during November, 1949, the instruments were placed on the roof, Dyfed Road Clinic, Neath. Impurity in the atmosphere can take the form of solid or liquid particles which may be so large that they settle out rapidly, or so small that they remain suspended for a long time, and gaseous impurity which is dispersed and remains in the air until it is absorbed by rain, or by substances with which it comes into contact. The four main sub-divisions of atmospheric pollution are (1) Smoke, (2) Ash, (3) Sulphur Dioxide and (4) Other particles and gases relative less in importance, except in particular districts. Special examinations were made by the Public Health Laboratory and covered November and December, 1949, noted on special forms, supplied by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and copies were sent to them for inclusion in their monthly Summary of Observations which is distributed as a Bulletin to co-operating bodies, the Council being a Member. Summary of Recordings for the months November and December, 1949 are as follows :—

|                                                                                            | November | December |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Rainfall in inches .....                                                                   | 6.45     | 5.22     |
| Undissolved Matter (In tons) .....                                                         | 6.88)    | 13.00)   |
| Dissolved Matter (In tons) .....                                                           | 13.72)   | 15.30)   |
| Total Solids Collected (in tons per square mile) .....                                     | 20.60    | 28.30    |
| Suspended Tarry Matter (in tons per square mile) .....                                     | .96      | 1.82     |
| Other Suspended Combustible Matter (in tons per sq. mile) .....                            | 4.88     | 9.23     |
| Sulphur Maximum Day Pollution, Mg. of SO <sub>3</sub> (per 1,000 square Centimetres) ..... | 10.6     | 12.6     |

These results are interpreted for practical purposes as :—

“A” — Clean.

“B” — Fairly Clean.

“C” — Dirty.

“D” — Very Dirty.

The November and December Reports were marked “B” which are considered to be satisfactory for an industrial area.

(i) **Civic Service Exhibition** : The Exhibition was held during the week 30th May—3rd June, 1949, at the Gwyn Hall, and consisted of 18 stalls fitted up and representing the Public Health Department, Borough Engineer, Gas and Electricity Undertakings, Public Laboratories, Infestations, Food Production and units dealing primarily with clean food handling. It was visited by over 4,000 people, including the senior boys and girls from schools.

I desire to express my thanks to the Members of the Council, the Medical Officer, and the staff of the Department and Officials of the Corporation for their assistance throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

EVAN THOMAS,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



