

[Report 1952] / Medical Officer of Health, Neath Borough.

Contributors

Neath (Wales). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1952

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/nyjpg5p3>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

WELSH BOARD
1952
OF HEALTH
R

BOROUGH OF NEATH



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1952



BOROUGH OF NEATH



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1952

H. R. STUBBINS, M.D., D.Ph.

BOROUGH OF HEALTH

Annual Report

1912-1913

1912-1913

1912-1913

BOROUGH OF NEATH

Members of Neath Borough Council for the year 1952

<i>Mayor</i>	.....	Alderman William Reginald Francis, J.P.
<i>Deputy Mayor</i>	.....	Councillor Gilbert Towart Rosser.
<i>Aldermen</i>	.....	J. W. Jones, R. W. Perrott, S. L. Burton, J.P., Eleazer Thomas, T. Hughes, J.P.
<i>Councillors</i>	.....	G. Howard Davies, A. R. Harris, W. K. Owen, J.P., R. Smith, B. Sutcliffe, L. R. Thomas, E. Cledwyn-Davies, J. E. Emanuel, F. S. Evans, D. C. Griffiths, W. S. Watkins, J.P., P. A. Bishop, W. R. Evans, Mrs. H. G. Howells, J. A. Rees, W. T. D. Phillips, Charles E. Williams.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

<i>Chairman</i>	.....	Councillor W. S. Watkins, J.P.
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	.....	Alderman Eleazer Thomas.
<i>Members</i>	.....	All members of the Council.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR 1952

<i>Medical Officer</i>	.....	Haydn R. Stubbins, M. D.(Edin),D.
<i>Sanitary Inspectors</i>	.....	Evan Thomas, <i>Chief Sanitary Inspector</i> R. T. Probert, D. J. Howells, T. G. Hopkins, <i>Certified Meat and Sanitary Inspectors.</i>

BOROUGH OF NEATH

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

NEATH,

Glam.,

August, 1953.

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Howells and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year ended 31st, December, 1952.

The Birth-rate at 14.72 per thousand of the population is slightly higher than that recorded for 1951, whilst the Death rate at 11.2 per thousand of the population compares very favourably with 13.97 per thousand of the population for 1951.

Of the 352 deaths 46% was due to diseases of the heart and circulation and 18% due to malignant diseases of the various organs of the body.

The trend of increasing longevity is again well maintained as nearly 60% of the deaths were in persons over 66 years of age.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths associated with childbirth during the year. This is the ideal state and to comment on it would be fatuous. I would say that it gives me much pleasure to record this fact once again in my Annual Report and also to express the thanks of the 466 mothers for the care and skill of the Doctors and Nurses concerned in bringing about this admirable state of affairs.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

14 infants died before reaching their first birthday. This gives an Infantile Mortality rate of 30 per thousand live births. The 1952 rate thus shows a marked reduction when compared with the 46.46 per thousand live births of last year. Four infants died from pneumonia, two from congenital deformities, three from prematurity, and one each from birth injury, violence, cerebral anoxia, fibro cystic disease and haemorrhage.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The year has been a mild one from the infectious Diseases aspect. Except for a sharp outbreak of measles during the latter half of the year the numbers notified have been quite small.

MEASLES.

379 cases of Measles were notified with no deaths. Again it should be stressed that this disease is not to be treated lightly for pulmonary complications are very liable to supervene especially in infants often with fatal results.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Only 27 cases were notified to the Health Department during the year. Whooping Cough has assumed an important place in the infectious diseases of childhood. Although more common in the Winter and Spring it is usually present throughout the year. Of the four infectious fevers, scarlet fever is now a mild infection, diphtheria is under control, the deaths from measles are declining but the treatment of whooping cough is still not entirely satisfactory. There is, however, still some hope for the future. The Ministry of Health has been conducting trials with several vaccines with a view to protection along the same lines as for Diphtheria Immunisation. One type of vaccine has been giving very satisfactory results and from October of this year the Divisional Health Service is hoping to begin to immunise children against Whooping Cough. It is recommended that children should be immunised at the age of three months and that three doses are necessary, to be given at monthly intervals

DIPHTHERIA.

There were no notifications again this year. To maintain this excellent state of affairs it must be emphasized that a high rate of immunisation is maintained. The rate for the year under review was 732. It is our aim to reach a rate of 75% of children immunised in the Health Division. Not until then can we be satisfied that we have done everything possible to prevent the possibility of an outbreak of this disease.

PARATYPHOID FEVER.

Two cases of Paratyphoid B fever were notified during the year. Although the investigation of these cases was gone into very thoroughly and although certain food-stuffs were suspect, no definite proof was obtained that these were the actual cause.

TUBERCULOSIS.

42 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 6 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified to me in 1952.

I would like to add that the co-operation and assistance I receive from the Chest Clinic is much appreciated, and I like to think that the Council are able to help them a little by rehousing some of their most difficult cases. The Housing Committee is now giving priority to sufferers from active Tuberculosis whatever their date of application.

With regard to B.C.G. vaccination, the Chest Physician reports that 311 children were investigated. These were all contacts of active Tuberculosis in their homes. He was, however, only able to advise inoculation in 63 cases, the remainder already being positive reactions.

HOUSING

66 Houses were completed and occupied during 1952 and a further 44 were partly completed.

The re-housing of families now living under unhygienic conditions still takes up quite a large part of the work of the Health Department. Each applicant has to be investigated and a special report prepared on the conditions prevailing. This is presented to the Housing Sub-Committee for their consideration. There are so many applicants that the Committee has decided that the date of application must have a bearing on the consideration of the case, for it seems only fair that applications received in 1946 should be considered before applications received, say, in 1950. This has given rise to much heart burning. The late applicants as they are termed, consider that they should have the same consideration as the earlier applicants. The Committee has, however, agreed that sufferers from active tuberculosis living under bad hygienic conditions should have priority whatever the date of application. This, in my opinion, is a step in the right direction for it does reduce the risk of spreading the infection to other members of the family especially children.

I would like to emphasise that Pulmonary Tuberculosis is the only medical condition for which extra 'points' are added. Unfortunately the Housing Committee had to come to this decision because practically 90% of the applicants produce medical certificates certifying a member of the family to be suffering from some condition or other.

The work of the House Letting Sub-Committee is one of the most arduous of the Council's many Committees. It pleases so few people. Nevertheless the members are to be congratulated on work which is well done.

In conclusion, may I take this opportunity of thanking you, Mr. Mayor, and Members of the Council for your encouragement and the Members of the Staff of the Health Department for their loyal assistance during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. R. STUBBINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Area (In acres) Including foreshore	5040
Excluding foreshore	4502
Rateable Value	£169,968
Sum produced by Penny Rate	£645
Population—Registrar's Figures for 1951	31,850

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY,
AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	England & Wales	126 County Borough & Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resi- dent Popu- lation of 25—50,000 at 1951 census)	London Adminis- trative County	NEATH
		RATES	PER 1,000	POPULATION	
BIRTHS :					
Live Births	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6	14.72
Still Births	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.34	0.53
	22.6(a)	24.6(a)	23.0(a)	19.2(a)	35.19(a)
DEATHS :					
All causes	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6	11.12
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.31	0.22
Influenza	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.09
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.58	0.28
NOTIFICATIONS (corrected) :					
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.06
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.53	1.75	1.58	1.56	0.53
Whooping Cough	2.61	2.74	2.57	1.66	0.85
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.14	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.86	10.11	8.49	9.23	12.0
Pneumonia	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.57	0.34
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.00
Non-paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.18	0.00
Puerperal Pyrexia	17.87(a)	23.94(a)	10.22(a)	30.77(a)	0.00
		RATES	PER 1,000	LIVE	BIRTHS
DEATHS :					
All causes under 1 year of age	27.6(b)	31.2	25.8	23.8	30.04
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7	0.00

Causes of Death. FIGURES GIVEN BY REGISTRAR-GENERAL :

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	4	7
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	2	10
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	12	3	15
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	8	8
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	20	7	27
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0	1
Diabetes	1	3	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	25	23	48
Coronary diseases of angina	24	17	41
Hypertension with heart disease	2	3	5
Other heart disease	19	22	41
Other circulatory disease	11	13	24
Influenza	1	2	3
Pneumonia	2	7	9
Bronchitis	15	7	22
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	0	5
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	0	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	4	2	6
Hyperplasia of prostate	6	0	6
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	0	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	25	40
Motor Vehicle accidents	0	1	1
All other accidents	13	3	16
Suicide	2	3	5
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
ALL CAUSES	192	160	352

BIRTHS.

The number of live births in the Borough was 466, made up of 250 males, and 216 females, giving a birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of 14.72.

Year	Birth-rate	Year	Birthrate
1952	14.72	1938	14.9
1951	14.25	1937	14.7
1950	15.73	1936	15.5
1949	15.9	1935	15.5
1948	18.3	1934	16.1
1947	20.1	1933	13.5
1946	19.1	1932	16.0
1945	16.0	1931	14.1
1944	18.2	1930	16.8
1943	14.5	1929	16.9
1942	16.1	1928	16.7
1941	13.9	1927	17.0
1940	13.3	1926	18.2
1939	13.9	1925	22.0

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

The total number of illegitimate births registered as referring to residents of the Borough was 13, showing an increase of one compared with 1951 and giving a rate of 27.87 total live births.

The total number of illegitimate children born in the borough during the past ten years was :

1942	14	1947	12
1943	17	1948	9
1944	15	1949	13
1945	27	1950	8
1946	22	1951	12

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 are satisfactory.

STILLBIRTHS.

The number of stillbirths was 17, giving a rate of 35.19 per 1,000 live and stillbirths, and 0.53 per 1,000 population.

DEATHS

The number of deaths registered during the year of all ages was 352, 192 males and 160 females. This gives a death-rate of 11.52 and may be compared with the previous years in the following table:-

1951	13.97	1946	12.8
1950	13.56	1945	12.6
1949	11.8	1944	12.2
1948	12.1	1943	12.4
1947	12.6	1942	11.9
		1941	14.7

The Ward distribution of deaths was as follows :

North Ward	135
South Ward	119
Briton Ferry Ward	18

The Table on page 8 gives classification of the causes of death as recorded by the Registrar-General. Age groups are given below :

Under 1 year	14	46—55	26
1—5	3	56—65	73
6—10	1	66—70	51
11—15	0	71—80	109
16—20	1	81—90	46
21—25	2	Over 90	3
26—35	7		
36—45	16		

CANCER DEATHS.

The age distribution was as follows :-

<i>Ages</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
25 — 35	0	0
36 — 45	2	1
46 — 55	6	2
56 — 65	9	8
66 — 75	15	7
76 — 85	8	3
Over 85	0	0
TOTALS	40	21

DEATHS BY VIOLENCE.

The number of deaths by violence was 22. The following table gives the causes of death.

Suicide	5
Traffic accidents	1
Drowning	2
All other accidents	14
<i>Total</i>	22

INFANT DEATHS.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 month		Over 1 month and under 1 year		TOTAL		TOTAL M&F
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Broncho-Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	2	2	4
Congenital Deformities	—	2	—	—	—	2	2
Prematurity	—	3	—	—	—	3	3
Birth Injury	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Violence	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cerebral Anoxia	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Fibrocystic Disease	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Haemorrhage	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
TOTAL	4	7	2	1	6	8	14

PREMATURE BIRTHS

The care and management of premature babies is a subject which has been neglected for many years. Authorities have shown that, with proper care, many of these infants can be saved and later become useful citizens. The Neath General Hospital Authority has realised this and has set up its premature unit. You will notice that 24 babies were born at the Hospital during the year. Another 10 were born at home. When you read further that 8 of these babies still survived at the end of the month, you will have some indication of, and also an explanation for, our fairly low mortality rate.

For the care and management of premature births at home the County Health Committee have specially trained and equipped midwives, who will have complete charge of the premature infant until it attains the physical fitness of a mature child.

PREMATURE BIRTHS AND DEATHS NOTIFIED.

Total number of Premature Babies notified during 1952 :-

(i) who were born at home	10
(ii) in Hospital or Nursing Home	24

Number of those born at Home who were :

(i) nursed entirely at Home	9
(ii) who died during the first 24 hours	2
(iii) who survived at the end of the month	8

Number of those born at Hospital or Nursing Home :

(i) who died during the first 24 hours	1
(ii) who survived at the end of the month	21

COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF INFANT DEATHS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS.

1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
14	22	14	22	17	17	20	22	18	30	29

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	11
Milk Samples	137
Water Samples	84

NURSING IN THE HOME

The Nursing Services in the Borough are now under the direction of the Local Health Authority, and include Home Nursing, Midwifery, and a service which, although not directly involved in nursing nevertheless has a great deal to do with the care and welfare of the sick—I refer to the Home Help Service.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

There were 466 births during the year but only 36% of the births were attended by the Midwives. The remaining 64% of the births took place at the Neath General Hospital. Of late years there has been a trend towards confinement in Hospital. Many mothers, of course, are advised by their own Doctor that, for obstetric reasons it would be better for them to have their babies in hospital. Others are recommended for admission because of the inadequate facilities in their own homes.

HOSPITALS.

Since the implementation of the National Health Service Act, the Hospitals in the Borough are now under the control of the Regional Hospital Board and are administered by the Mid-Glamorgan Hospital Management Committee.

There are two hospitals within the boundary of the Borough, namely, the Neath General Hospital with 350 beds, and the Cimla Hospital with 80 beds. Tonna Children's Hospital should be included as a hospital which serves the Borough for, although outside the Borough boundary, it is nevertheless closely associated with the Neath General Hospital.

NEATH GENERAL.

This is an acute General Hospital of 350 beds, with an annexe of 50 beds to which cases of fairly long stay may be transferred. This enables the more acute beds to be made available at the General Hospital. It has a first class maternity Unit. The Hospital is recognised for the D.R.O.G. and the D.C.H. Medical Diplomas. It is a training school for the State Registration of Nurses and for the first part of the Examination of the Central Midwives Board.

CIMLA HOSPITAL.

This is a specialist Hospital for the treatment of Tuberculosis. During the last two years it has opened a centre for Thoracic Surgery and the results as seen by myself, have been very satisfactory.

TONNA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

This is the old Isolation Hospital. It is now a Children's Hospital of 94 beds. Although at present in its developmental stage, the Management Committee hope, as circumstances permit, to make it eventually into a complete Children's Unit. At present it has a Paediatric Ward, an Orthopaedic Ward, a Ear, Nose and Throat Department and an Eye Department.

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. This disinfection of contaminated articles by Formaldehyde has been going on for many years. In the light of our present knowledge of bacteriology I doubt very much whether it is really effective. What it really does is, that the disinfection creates such a mess that the housewife has, of necessity to open all the windows and get to work with soap and scrubbing brush. This, in my opinion, is the real effective disinfection but whether public opinion is ready to do away with this Formaldehyde disinfection is very doubtful.

This must not be confused with the disinfection of bed clothing and articles which have been in close contact with cases such as tuberculosis.

To be made safe they should be stoved. Arrangements are now available for these contaminated articles and clothing to be properly stoved and made safe by special treatment at Tonna Hospital.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR 1952.

Scarlet Fever	17
Whooping Cough	27
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Measles	379
Diphtheria	—
Acute Pneumonia	11
Dysentery	—
Smallpox	—
Acute Encephalitis	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	1
Paratyphoid Fevers	2
Erysipelas	—
Meningococcal Infection	—
Food Poisoning	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
<i>Total</i>	<u>438</u>

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>No. of Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Number Immunised.</i>
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	7	0
1950	6	2
1951	0	0
1952	0	0

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

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

1. Health Visiting.
2. Infant Consultations at the Welfare Centre.
3. Ante-Natal Clinics and Visiting.
4. Ultra-Violet-Light-Therapy, for infants and expectant mothers.
5. Provision for dental treatment for expectant mothers in necessitous cases.
6. Provision of milk and vitamin products for mothers and children under five years of age.
7. Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics.

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

Neath is fortunate in having a really modern Midwifery Unit, staffed by experts in this speciality. It is enough to state that no mother has died from childbirth.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

This Service, although not directly a Nursing Service, is closely concerned with the welfare of the sick, Women are employed, full and part time to look after the household when the housewife is sick at home or in hospital. It is not what I consider a congenial job but these Home Helps are imbued with a fine spirit of service and are doing work which, from letters received, is very much appreciated.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

The County Council who, under the Education Act, 1944, became responsible for the treatment of school children, was 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 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hunter Street, Briton Ferry, Fridays, 9.30 a.m.
Maternity & Child Welfare	Dyfed Road, Fridays, 2.30 p.m. St. Catherine's Parish Hall, Wednesday, at 2.30 p.m. Hunter Street, Briton Ferry, Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.
Ultra-Violet-Light Therapy	Dyfed Road Clinic. Tuesdays, at 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 the 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.

During the year Health Visitors made 9,438

ATTENDANCES AT CLINICS.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

	<i>First Visits</i>	<i>Re- Visits</i>	<i>Total Visits.</i>
Dyfed Road	474	2001	2475
Hunter Street.....	144	577	721

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.

	<i>First Visits.</i>	<i>Re- Visits.</i>	<i>Total Visits.</i>
Dyfed Road	307	3281	3588
Hunter Street	153	3350	3503
St. Catherine's	107	2709	2816

TUBERCULOSIS.

	NOTIFICATION OF NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
6 — 10	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
11 — 15	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
16 — 20	4	4	—	2	—	—	—	—
21 — 25	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
26 — 30	4	5	—	—	—	1	—	—
31 — 35	3	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
36 — 40	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
41 — 45	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
46 — 50	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
51 — 55	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
56 — 60	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
61 — 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65 yrs.	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
TOTAL	23	19	2	4	3	4	Nil	Nil

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply from the Borough comes from the Gnoll, Briton Ferry and Ystradfellte works. 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.

The number of samples taken for bacteriological examination at houses, schools hospitals, factories and public houses during the year was 84.

CURTAILMENT OF SUPPLY.

The water was curtailed for twelve hours in all wards between 4th August and 9th August, 1952 (inclusive).

TUBERCULOSIS

Year	Males					Females					Total
	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	
1910	10	12	15	18	20	8	10	12	15	18	18
1911	12	15	18	22	25	10	12	15	18	22	22
1912	15	18	22	28	32	12	15	18	22	28	27
1913	18	22	28	35	40	15	18	22	28	35	32
1914	20	25	32	40	45	18	22	28	35	40	37
Total	55	67	85	103	122	43	52	65	80	95	89

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply for the Borough of ... is derived from the ... and is treated at the ... The water is distributed to the houses by means of ... pipes and is available to the public at all times of the day and night.

DETAILS OF SUPPLY

The water is supplied to the houses in the Borough of ... at a pressure of ... The water is supplied to the houses in the Borough of ... at a pressure of ... The water is supplied to the houses in the Borough of ... at a pressure of ...

BOROUGH OF NEATH

Annual Report

of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the year 1952

NEATH,

August, 1953.

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 1952.

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 Sanitary Inspector on the 1st February, 1947. (Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector.)

GENERAL CLERK, Public Health Department—Mr. D. J. WILLIAMS (Transferred from Borough Engineer's Department, 22nd May, 1950). (Certificated Sanitary Inspector—Left the Department, July, 1952).

GENERAL CLERK, Public Health Department—Miss D. M. BRUCE. (Transferred from Borough Engineer's Dept., 29th December, 1952).

HOUSING INSPECTION.

Number of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	1681
Number of visits of inspection in respect of same	5234
Number of houses found not in all respects to be fit for human habitation	437
Number of houses rendered fit after service of Notices, including 112 which were in course of compliance at the end of 1951	419
Number of houses subject to Notices at the end of 1952, the time having not expired	140

DEFECTS FOUND DURING INSPECTION.

	<i>Premises affected.</i>
DRAINS : Defective, absence of, defectively constructed, defective fittings	147
WATER CLOSETS : Defective fittings, broken and defective pans, structural defects and dilapidations of closet buildings	98
WATER SUPPLY : No supply, defective and insufficient supply, defective fittings	52
PAVING OF YARD AREAS : Defective yard paving, defective dish to gullies	91
GENERAL HOUSE REPAIRS : Dampness, defective roofs, rainwater troughings and downpipes, defective internal plastering, walls, woodwork light and ventilation, defective firegrates and chimneys, absence of or defective food stores and coal stores	512
OTHER NUISANCES : Insanitary stables, pig styes and out-buildings, accumulation of refuse or manure, presence of rats and mice, smoke nuisance from domestic chimneys, house and trade refuse	301

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

During the year, 533 complaints, of which 128 were written, were made in respect of various nuisances.

NEW HOUSES, 1952.

The number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) By the Local Authority—Traditional type	66
(b) By other Bodies or Persons	17
Total	83

DISINFECTIONS DURING THE YEAR.

After cases of Typhoid and Paratyphoid	3
After cases of Scarlet Fever	17
After cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever and Poliomyelitis	—
After deaths and removals (Tuberculosis)	6
After deaths from Cancer	2
	28

Steam disinfection of bedding and clothing is carried out at the Tonna Hospital by arrangement with the Mid-Glamorgan Hospital Board, on payment.

DISINFESTATIONS DURING THE YEAR.

Slum houses during displacement	0
Overcrowded houses during de-crowding	0
Council houses, reported infested	3
Privately owned houses, reported infested	15
	<hr/>
	18
	<hr/>

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :—

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices</i>
Factories with Mechanical Power	72	2
Factories without Mechanical Power	85	1
Other premises under the Act (including works of building engineering constructions, but not including out workers' premises)	38	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	195	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Defects found</i>	<i>Defects</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
SANITARY CONVENIENCES (S.7.) :		
(a) Insufficient	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	2	2
(c) Other Offences	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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 Borough, as follows :

<i>Name of Keeper</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Number of Regular Rooms</i>	<i>Number of Regular Lodgers</i>
Mrs. Ann Sandham	1 Cattle St., Neath	8	47
Mrs. Ann Sandham & Deputy (Wm. Sandham)	1 Glamorgan St., Neath	6	16
Evan Rosser	68, Water Street, Neath	3	15
Ernest Powell	11 The Parade, Neath	3	11
D. W. Thomas	4 Commercial St., Neath	12	45
		32	134

On the 31st December, 1952, 82 men, 3 women and 2 children, a total of 87 lodgers were resident and there was no case of overcrowding. The premises at Cattle Street, Glamorgan Street, Water Street, and The Parade were re-registered, having been kept in good order. In the case of 4, Commercial Street, this was re-registered conditionally that the making good of all bedding was completed forthwith.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, ORDERS & REGULATIONS.

SUMMARY OF SAMPLES EXAMINED DURING THE YEAR :

<i>Total</i>	<i>Milk</i>	<i>Other Foods</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Total</i>
223	108	115	3	220	223
Fish Frying Oil		1	Gravy Browning		2
Sponge Mixture		7	Gravy Salt		1
Cake Mixture		7	Gravy Powder		1
Blancmange Powder		3	Dried Noodle Soup		1
Pudding Mixture		1	Ground Ginger		1
Pastry Maker		1	Ground Nutmeg		1
Sago		1	Cloves		1
Arrowroot		1	Bisto		1
Custard Powder		7	Mixed Herbs		1
Cornflour		2	Glace Cherries		1
Dessert Powder		1	Picnic Mustard		1
Chocolate Powder		1	Dried Thyme		1
Semolina		1	Dried Peas		3
Vermicilli		1	Split Peas		1
Tapioca		1	Lentils		1
Table Delight		1	Table Jelly Crystals		1
Fancy Pastries		11	Table Jelly		3
Sunny Spread		1	Desiccated Coconut		2
Meat Paste		3	Coconut Chips		1
Fish Paste		3	Coconut Macaroons		1
Pork Sausages		5	Marshmallow Cream		1
Beef Sausages		2	Coffee & Chicory Essence		1
Ground Rice		2	Cereal Beverage		1
Rice		1	Malt Vinegar		2
Self-Raising Powder		3	Tomato Ketchup		2
Gelatine		2	Mint Sauce		1
Ground Almonds		2	Sauce		1
Welsh Rarebit		1	Essence of Rennet		1
Rusks		1	Friars Balsam		1
Yoghourt		1	Ice Cream		3
			Milk		108
		Total		223	

RATIO OF SAMPLES TO POPULATION :

	<i>Per 1,000 Population.</i>
Milk Samples (108).....	3.17
Other Samples (115).....	3.38
All Samples (223).....	6.55

ADULTERATED SAMPLES.

<i>Series No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Nature of Adulteration</i>	<i>Observation</i>
<i>(Informal)</i>			
15N	Sponge Mixture	Infested with meal mites	See below
26N.	Fish Frying Oil	Rancidity	"
51N.	Pork Sausages	Deficient in Meat	"
52N.	Pork Sausages	Deficient in Meat	"
59N.	Beef Sausages	Deficient in Meat	"
87N.	Coconut Chips	Rancidity	"
158N.	Pudding Mixture	Infested with meal mites	"
<i>(Formal)</i>			
N.88	Ice Cream	Deficient in fat	"
N.97	Ice Cream	Deficient in fat	"

There were no adulterated milk samples.

The milk was of satisfactory composition and included samples taken in course of delivery from the schools and hospitals within the Borough.

Sampling was carried out throughout the year, at irregular intervals, on practically an even quarterly average, and no request to sample "in course of delivery" nor "appeal to the cow" was received.

It will be observed that only two samples of Flour Confectionery were infested with Meal Mites (*Tyroglyphus Farinae*) and the remainder of the stock, in each case, was withdrawn from sale and disposed of as animal food. This is a marked reduction in cases of mite infestations arising from the steady clearing of war time accumulations.

Two special samples were submitted for examination owing to an unpleasant taste and odour which was declared to be due to hydrolytic rancidity, and the remainder of the stock was withdrawn from sale, as human food, viz., 26N. "Fish Frying Oil" (40 lbs.) and 87N. "Coconut Chips" (6,252 packets).

The samples of sausages showed a high meat content with the exception of 51N, 52N and 59N. All the samples were taken informally as a test and to check on preservatives, those deficient in meat were investigated and were found to be the result of too little allowance for moisture in the formulae, and after correction subsequent samples were satisfactory.

The samples of Fancy Pastries were free from harmful colouring preservatives and mineral oil.

Two of the Ice Cream samples, taken formally, were deficient in fat, as under :

<i>Series No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Fat Content</i>	<i>Percentage Deficient</i>	<i>Result of Proceedings</i>
N88.	Ice Cream	2.60%	48%	£10 & costs.
N97.	Ice Cream	3.67%	26%	£5 & costs.

The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1951, required a fat content of not less than 5 per cent, which was reduced to 4 per cent by the Food Standards (Ice Cream) (Amendment) Order, 1952 from the 7th July, 1952.

The sample of "Yoghourt Milk"—a product which aids digestion and sold by dairy firms was analysed and its composition given as follows :

Fat	1.8%
Other Solids	15.6%
Sucrose	4.4%
Total Solids	<u>21.8%</u>

Summary of samples purchased, number adulterated and the number in which proceedings were taken during 1952.

<i>Sample</i>	<i>No. taken</i>	<i>Percentage Adulterated</i>	<i>Case Proceedings</i>
Milk	108	0	0
Other Foods	115	7.82	2

BOROUGH ANALYST.

Mr. D Evans Jones, of the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff, who was appointed Public Analyst to the Borough as from 12th October, 1950, continued office.

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

<i>Series No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Preservative</i>	<i>Permitted Max. Preservative</i>
52N.	Pork Sausages	SO ₂ 147 p.p.m.	SO ₂ 450 p.p.m.
139N.	Pork Sausages	SO ₂ 115 p.p.m.	SO ₂ 450 p.p.m.
112N.	Gelatine	SO ₂ 64 p.p.m.	SO ₂ 1,000 p.p.m.
119N.	Gelatine	SO ₂ 288 p.p.m.	SO ₂ 1,000 p.p.m.

SULPHUR DIOXIDE IN DEHYDRATED VEGETABLES.

The Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations were amended as to authorise the importation and sale of dehydrated vegetables containing parts per million by weight of Sulphur Dioxide, set out to table of limited quantities.

REGISTERED BUTTER FACTORIES.

There remains one registered butter factory in the Borough, at 15a Orchard Street, in the occupation of Messrs W. Elliot & Son, It was not in use during the year.

ARTIFICIAL CREAM.

All artificial cream sold in the Borough was in unopened receptacles, as received from the manufacturers. Its consumption is very much on the increase as it is extensively used in the preparation of cakes, fancy pastries and trifles.

CONDENSED AND DRIED MILK REGULATIONS.

No case of incorrect description was observed on the labels of any containers during frequent inspection of stocks.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

The Marking Orders relating to imported eggs, bacon, butter, dried fruit, meat and poultry, apples, tomatoes, chilled salmon, honey, oat and malt products, are all operative.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

The following licences to retail graded milk within the Borough were in operation during 1952 :—

<i>Tuberculin Tested</i>	<i>Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised</i>	<i>Pasteurised</i>	<i>Sterilised</i>	<i>Total</i>
6	12	15	11	44

Licences for 1949 were 11, for 1950 were 34, and for 1951 were 47.

It is possible to obtain any grade of milk in the Borough and the stage is being reached when only designated milks will be available. Producer licences are granted by the Ministry of Agriculture and other licences by a Council as a Food and Drugs Authority.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The number of producers registered in the Borough for the sale of milk (wholesale and retail) is 12, having an average of 250 cows in milk, as follows :—

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Producer—Wholesalers	7	10	9	9	9
Producer—Retailers	8	5	3	3	3
Producer—Stock rearing only	0	0	3	3	3
	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>

In 1939 there were 21 producers of milk for sale, which are now reduced to 12 (9 wholesalers and 3 retailers) and 3 for stock rearing only, a figure which has been constant since 1950. Two only are licensed for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk, one of which bottles and retails, nine dispose of their product to factories for pasteurisation, and two retail their small supply locally.

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

(a) Producer—retailers resident outside the Borough	2
(b) Producer—retailers resident in the Borough	3
(c) Retailers (only) resident in the Borough	14
(d) Retailers (only) resident outside the Borough	9
	<u>28</u>

There were 102 registered retailers in 1939, and the decrease has been due to the transfer of several producer-retailers and retailers to the large milk factories.

INSPECTION OF DAIRY CATTLE.

The routine inspection of dairy cattle has been the responsibility of the State Veterinary Service since April, 1948. It has been the practice for many years to report all cases of Advanced Tuberculosis discovered during Meat Inspection at the Public Slaughterhouse. During 1952, 39 notifications were sent to the Divisional Veterinary Officer, in respect of 31 cows, 3 heifers, one bull, one steer, and 3 pigs, two of the cows were from dairy herds in the Rural area.

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries declared a Welsh area, comprising the Counties of Cardigan and Carmarthen (except the Bettws district) and North Pembroke, for the purposes of the Tuberculosis (Area Eradication) Order, 1950, from the 1st October, 1952. In this connection, 134 reactors were slaughtered at the Public Slaughterhouse during October, 1952. The post-mortem examination of the carcasses and offal was carried out by your Meat Inspectors, the work duty commencing at 6.30 a.m., and our co-operation was appreciated by the Ministry.

EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR TUBERCLE BACILLI.

During 1952, 24 samples of locally produced milk were submitted for tubercle bacilli examination, all of which gave negative results. It was possible to collect samples of bulk supplies from all herds in the Borough and of those situated outside, the product of which being retailed as raw milk in the Borough. The examinations were made at the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

During the year 137 samples of milk were collected and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, as under :

<i>Description</i>	<i>Number Submitted</i>	<i>Number Satisfactory</i>	<i>Number Unsatisfactory</i>
Ungraded	24	19	5
Tuberculin Tested	5	5	0
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	18	18	0
Pasteurised	49	49	0
Pasteurised (Schools and Nurseries)	29	29	0
Sterilised	11	11	0
Yoghourt	1	1	0
	137	132	5

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

Raw Milks	20.83%
Heat Treated Milks	0.00%
Total—All Milks	3.64%

The percentage of unsatisfactory samples compares very favourably with the results over 1939—1952 :

<i>Period</i>	<i>Samples Examined</i>	<i>Number Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Percentage 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
1950	131	6	4.58
1951	127	2	1.57
1952	137	5	3.64

The five ungraded raw milks were sub-standard in keeping quality, the temperature on that day being over 65 degrees Centigrade, which upsets the test applied. The results covering 137 samples of the milk supply of the Borough were satisfactory, excepting only the five mentioned, and all the heat treated milks collected, 29 of which were from schools and nurseries, showed complete pasteurisation or sterilisation. The sample of "Yoghourt" milk, included in the table, has been commented upon under the Food & Drugs Act.

An analysis of the quarterly returns shows :—

	<i>Submitted</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
First Quarter	41	41	0
Second Quarter	33	30	3
Third Quarter	34	32	2
Fourth Quarter	29	29	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	137	132	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

WATER SUPPLIES.

During 1952, 84 samples—70 Bacteriological and 14 Chemical—were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. The supply was satisfactorily maintained throughout the year and 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 named being purchased. The first two supplies are filtered and chlorinated, and the Ystradfellte chlorinated only. The supply to Briton Ferry Dock is from the town mains and all precautions are taken in the care of its equipment—samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and those to the Beck Laboratory by the Port Health Laboratory were satisfactory.

It was agreed with the Welsh Board of Health to sample our waters over a period of six months (April to September, 1952) to ascertain their plumbo-solvent action. A special report on same was submitted to the Board for their consideration.

In addition, three special samples of untreated water from the Gnoll reservoirs were collected, one from a pool for the presence of possible foreign matter, and seven for the bacterial condition and physical character of the Gnoll Swimming Pool, all of which were satisfactory.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The control of fat-stock and meat supply commenced in January, 1940, and continued throughout the year. Neath Mart remained the collecting centre for live-stock, the Neath Public Slaughterhouse being centralised for the Borough and Rural District meat supply, and in addition was made use of for outside areas known as "export".

The duties of Meat Inspection were carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors who are all certified Meat Inspectors. Slaughtering was carried on continuously and complete inspection was maintained, irrespective of evening, Saturday afternoon and Sunday killing. In this connection, overtime of 196 working hours and 15 Sundays were involved. The requisite records were kept of animals slaughtered, carcasses and offals condemned with causes of condemnation, and the Ministry of Food's instructions in every respect strictly obeyed.

Since control, the Public Slaughterhouse only is in use, the management being dual as between the Ministry of Food and the Borough Council. All animals are slaughtered by humane methods—a stunning pen, Captive Bolt Pistols and Electric Stunners being used. There were 20 licensed slaughtermen on the register, most of whom were employed full-time.

The number of animals slaughtered during 1952 was as follows :—

<i>Cattle</i> (<i>excluding cows</i>)	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep &</i> <i>Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Total</i>
3,038	1,881	18,550	25,849	3,002	52,320

Cwrt Herbert Private Slaughterhouse was closed in May, 1945, re-opened from October, 1950 to February, 1951, and again re-opened on the 13th August, 1951 and continued throughout 1952.

TABLE OF CONDEMNED MEATS.

The under-mentioned 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	135	29	244	19
Heads only	20	0	0	0
Tongues	3	0	0	0
Heads and Tongues	336	33	247	98
Livers	3263	2652	65	42
Part Livers	671	0	0	0
Hearts	176	0	0	1
Tails	135	0	0	0
Thick Skirts	180	0	0	0
Lungs	1813	1414	8	32
Melts	205	0	0	0
Pluck	0	64	245	31
Udders	1169	0	0	0
Gut	806	29	194	245
Tripe	143	0	0	0
Parts of carcasses	2947 lbs.	125 lbs.	149 lbs.	134 lbs.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle</i> (<i>excluding cows</i>)	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep &</i> <i>Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number Killed	3038	1881	18550	25849	3002
Number Inspected	3038	1881	18550	25849	3002

All Diseases except Tuberculosis :—

	<i>Cattle</i> (excluding cows)	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep & Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Whole carcasses condemned	7	92	241	29	16
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	381	742	277	2658	245
Percentage of number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	12.7	44.3	2.7	10.3	8.6

Tuberculosis only :

	<i>Cattle</i> (excluding cows)	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep & Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Whole carcasses condemned.....	5	31	6	0	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	378	381	14	0	79
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	11.2	21.8	.10	0	2.7

In addition, 57 tins of Corned Beef, weight 342 lbs., 114 lbs. of Imported Beef and 7 lbs. Imported Mutton were condemned for unsoundness at the Distributing Centre. The Ministry's instructions regarding identification were complied with.

It will be observed that 135 carcasses of Beef, 244 carcasses of Veal, 29 carcasses of Mutton, 19 carcasses of Pork, 2,947 lbs. of Beef, 149 lbs. of Veal, 125 lbs. of Mutton, 135 lbs. Pork as part carcasses and a large quantity of edible offal were condemned during the year. Of the total cattle slaughtered 38 per cent were cows, which indicates a steady and continuous improvement in the quality of rationed meat as shown in the following table.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cattle %</i> (excluding cows)	<i>Cows %</i>
1952	62	38
1951	58	42
1950	46	54
1949	39	61
1948	45	55
1947	38	62
1946	29	71
1945	47	53
1939	98	2

Included in the 3,002 pigs killed at the Slaughterhouse were 12 baconers for self consumers (by licence).

Extensions and improved facilities at the Slaughterhouse were carried out, and included extended lairage, a pig stunning block, a sheep paddock, and improved feeding and watering equipment.

Further to previous reports on the infestation of cattle by *Cysticercus Bovis* (Measly Beef). Since 1948, 53 carcasses have been discovered at the Borough Slaughterhouse, viz,

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	Total
1	10	10	23	9	53

This disease was previously extremely rare in this country and the consumption of infested untreated meat may give rise to Tapeworm (*Taenia Maginata*) in human beings.

PARTICULARS OF THE NINE CASES FOUND IN 1952 :

Collecting Centre	Class of Animal	No. of Animal	Disease Location
St. Clears	Cow	154	Left Cheek
Burton-on-Trent	Cow	122	Right Cheek
Birkenhead	Steer	250	Right Cheek
St. Clears	Cow	630	Right Cheek
Chard	Steer	607	Right Cheek
Mathry Road	Steer	949	Heart
Neath	Cow	405	Left Cheek
Neath	Cow	399	Right Cheek
Neath	Heifer	489	Heart

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED DURING PERIOD 1946—1952 :

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Cattle	1667	1761	1477	1530	2520	4018	3038
Cows	4179	2963	1793	2434	2997	2568	1881
Calves	31212	31909	27891	29547	32714	25391	18550
Sheep	21988	16073	23325	27649	21189	21487	25849
Pigs	405	63	676	1156	2040	1496	3002
	<u>59451</u>	<u>52769</u>	<u>55162</u>	<u>62316</u>	<u>61460</u>	<u>54960</u>	<u>52320</u>

WHOLE CARCASSES CONDEMNED DURING PERIOD 1946 - 1952.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Cattle	9	6	6	8	9	15	12
Cows	624	321	153	241	295	179	123
Calves	222	264	237	236	375	362	244
Sheep	26	26	19	47	61	33	29
Pigs	4	2	10	13	14	21	19
	<u>885</u>	<u>619</u>	<u>425</u>	<u>545</u>	<u>754</u>	<u>610</u>	<u>427</u>

**TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS (SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND KNACKERS'
YARDS) ORDER, 1952.**

The effect of the Order is that as from the 1st January, 1953, the Ministry of Food will be the central department responsible for all statutory functions in respect of slaughterhouses and Knackers' Yards, except, (a) the confirmation of Compulsory Purchase Orders relative to Public Slaughterhouses which will remain with the Minister of Housing and Local Government, and, (b) the approval of charges for use of Public Slaughterhouses which is transferred from the Home Secretary to the aforementioned Minister.

PUBLIC HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1924 — 1948.

The various Regulations relating to slaughtering, the sale of meat and its handling and transport were duly observed. It was necessary on occasions to call attention to personal cleanliness and the proper condition of head covering and overalls whilst engaged in the handling of meat. All vehicles and railwaymeat vans were regularly inspected and in this respect I wish to report an improvement, both structurally and maintenance.

BUTCHERS' SHOPS.

A total of 46 premises were in use as Butchers' Shops—33 as shops proper and 13 as stalls in the closed market, 35 of which are family businesses and the remainder are made up of Co-operative Society 6; H. Woodley & Co., 4; and J. H. Dewhurst & Co., 1. It was noticed that one old family business was closed during the year. These premises were regularly visited and inspection of counters, knives and other implements, methods of storing and disposal of trimmings, refuse and rubbish, condition of walls, floors and ceilings of rooms used, refrigerators, presence of flies and vermin, condition of yards, closets and outbuildings, were subject to special attention. All the shops had means of refrigerating storage and hot water was provided for ablution purposes. No complaint was received from the Ministry of Food of any irregularities.

OTHER PREMISES WHERE FOOD IS SOLD, STORED OR PREPARED FOR SALE.

1. BAKEHOUSES :

There were 20 bakehouses, in the occupation of 19 owners employing approximately 150 persons in the making, selling and distribution of bread and flour confectionery. It was noticed that three of old established firms had gone out of business. Regular inspections were carried out with particular attention to the adequacy of sanitary conveniences, drainage, washing facilities, provision of towels and overalls, pest infestations, general cleanliness and water supply. These matters were being given due care, alterations and repairs to premises were proceeding, a great advance in personal hygiene was observed, dusting and spraying with D.D.T. insecticides proved effective, and all the premises were on the public water supply and samples submitted during the year for examination were satisfactory. The slicing and wrapping of bread was being carried on at several of the premises but there is not, as yet, agreement in the trade regarding same.

2. AERATED WATER WORKS :

The four established factories in the Borough were in full production of aerated waters, and three were also preparing vinegar and gravy browning. The premises were generally kept in a sanitary state and all were on the public water supply, samples of which were satisfactory.

3. ICE-CREAM SHOPS :

There were 92 premises, 8 of which are factories, distributed throughout the Borough, registered for the sale of ice-cream in 1952. The majority retailed the product of the large national firms and during the summer supplemented same from any sources possible. The premises were kept under constant observation and the storage and methods of sale were satisfactory. A few came from outside and sold from vehicles and all were found to be registered and their conduct gave no cause for complaint.

The methods of examination are experimental, and the grading provisional.

The Laboratory examinations for 1947—1952 are given below :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number Submitted</i>	<i>Number Grade 1</i>	<i>Number Grade 2</i>	<i>Number Grade 3</i>	<i>Number Grade 4</i>
1947	30	10	2	8	10
1948	42	13	6	9	14
1949	50	25	11	8	6
1950	42	18	16	5	3
1951	41	32	2	4	3
1952	30	26	1	2	1

The provisional Regulations interpret the above as :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number Submitted</i>	<i>Number Satisfactory</i>	<i>Number Fairly Satisfactory</i>	<i>Number Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Number Very Unsatisfactory</i>
1947	30	10	2	8	10
1948	42	13	6	9	14
1949	50	25	11	8	6
1950	42	18	16	5	3
1951	41	32	2	4	3
1952	30	26	1	2	1

The percentage of unsatisfactory samples was 10, compared with 1947—60, 1948—54, 1949—28, 1950—19, 1951—17. It is recommended that proceedings should be taken against consistent offenders only. The "Very Unsatisfactory Sample" was due to a sudden period of low temperature resulting in reduced sale and consequent increase of stale product.

The total samples was reduced as the number of local manufacturers was less, with a corresponding increase in the sale of the product of national firms.

The Ice Cream Regulations, 1947, were amended from the 5th May, 1952, so as to permit three methods of heat treatment in its preparation—raising the temperature of the mixture and reducing the period of retention.

The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1951, required a fat content of not less than 5 per cent, which was reduced by the Amendment Order, 1952, to 4 per cent as from the 7th July, 1952.

4. FISH FRYING BUSINESSES :

There were 26 premises fitted for the purpose of preparing and selling fried fish and chipped potatoes, and situated 10 in the North Ward, 8 in the South Ward and 8 in the Briton Ferry Ward. It was noted that five were not operated during 1952. Business was moderate generally and with the exception of "Fair Week" there were no mobile shops seen. The business established in one of the Council's shops was engaged during the year. At one of the premises, the preparing and packing of potato crisps was also done on a fairly extensive scale. The shops generally were well maintained and in a reasonable state of repair, but it was necessary to serve seven Notices in respect of yard drainage, the provision of better covered bins for proper storage of waste, and for re-decoration of walls and ceilings. Fish, owing to its extreme perishability, needs special care, and a memorandum was circulated so as to ensure the highest possible standard. Samples of "Fish Frying Oil" were submitted for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act and in one instance it was necessary to condemn 40 lbs, the remainder of the stock, owing to Hydrolytic Rancidity

5. FISH SHOPS AND HAWKERS :

Nine shops sold fish in the Borough, two of which sold dried or preserved fish only, one retailed a quantity of fresh in addition to fried fish, and at one Departmental Stores dried fish was periodically sold. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory, but it was necessary to call attention to maintenance of washing facilities, more prompt disposal of wastes, washing down of yard areas, and unhygienic practices by way of handling of the commodity by customers. Fish Hawkers were practically non-existent and no complaints of dumping in streams of fish-offal was received. The arrangements made with the trade to report any doubtful consignments, as received, work satisfactorily and in this connection 133lbs. Kippers, 80 lbs. Hake, 154 lbs. Cod and 1 lb. Plaice fillets were condemned for unsoundness.

6. HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND CANTEENS :

The number of premises providing these facilities for the general public and the persons employed therein are fairly static. Menus showed a greater variety of food but shortage of money and higher prices was affecting the trade. Washing facilities and adequate sanitary accommodation were available on all the premises. Refrigerators were provided for the storage of perishable foods. Disposal of waste was to local pig-keepers and the attention of all persons was directed to the provisions of Orders relating to the boiling of swill.

There were no complaints of vermin infestations, insecticides are generally applied and the Council provided an efficient and appreciated rodent control service.

Summary of Hotels, Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens in the Borough and a statement of persons employed therein :—

<i>Business</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Persons employed</i>		<i>Total</i>
		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
Hotels	2	2	6	8
Cafes and Restaurants	30	23	154	177
Canteens	21	12	128	140
Totals	53	37	288	325

7. GENERAL PROVISION SHOPS, STALLS AND STORES :

The following foodstuffs were condemned :

35 lbs. Cheese	39 Rabbits
4 lbs. Butter	96 Chickens
8 lbs. Bacon	6 Ducks
59 lbs. Sausages	1379 lbs. Cooked Ham
216 Packets Sponge Mixture	154 lbs. Cod.
168 lbs. Sago	133 lbs. Kippers
12 Packets of Pudding Powder	80 lbs. Hake
131 Assorted Pastries	1 lb. Plaice Fillets
50 lbs. Dried Currants	40 lbs. Fish Frying Oil
31 lbs. Cornflakes	513 Tins of Meat
100 lbs. Coconut Macaroons	46 Tins of Fish
1 lb. Macaroni	238 Tins of Milk
18 lbs. Dates	707 Tins of Fruit
2 lbs. Grape Nuts	1197 Tins of Vegetables
6252 Packets of Coconut Chips	2 Tins of Chicken.

The coconut chips and fish frying oil have been referred to under "Food & Drugs." The total amounts of foodstuffs may appear high but is relatively low when compared with the quantities examined. It is to be recognised that Neath Borough is a large shopping centre, having a general market, several multiple shops, Co-operative Society Branches and two large departmental stores, with a rationed public twice its population.

The established arrangement of calling attention to doubtful foodstuffs as between the Borough Traders and the Department is naturally appreciated and materially assists in the prevention of food poisoning.

I wish to state that "Notices" made of substantial and washable material were distributed to all food premises throughout the Borough calling attention to the need of keeping dogs off same.

GENERAL INSPECTION.

1. SHOPS ACTS :

The duties of the Local Authority for the purposes of the Shops Acts and Regulations are performed by the Inspector of Weights and Measures, as the Shops Inspector. It was transferred from the Sanitary Department on 1st July, 1949 on the establishment of the Weights and Measures Department. The provision relating to sanitary conveniences and as to ventilation and temperatures are enforced by the Sanitary Department and improvements at several shops were carried out during the year. The provision and maintenance of washing facilities in shops generally is enforced by the Shops' Inspector, but in food shops the necessary action in the interests of hygiene is taken by the Sanitary Department.

2. HAIRDRESSERS' ESTABLISHMENTS :

Routine inspections were made during the year of all the hairdressers' establishments throughout the Borough, so as to ascertain whether the standard of cleanliness was being maintained, to examine methods of waste discharge, storage and disposal of lather, papers and hair, to effect a general all-round improvement and to record any changes.

It was found that the general standard of cleanliness had been improved, the regular inspections since 1937 undoubtedly have been of assistance in preventing what has recently been described as a "new health danger," arising from the possible use of unclean and non-sterile equipment. The trade is to be complimented upon the hygienic standard attained and it has been suggested to them the more general use of paper pads on headrests of chairs.

The following table shows the distribution and staff in June, 1952.

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Establishments</i>		<i>Assistants</i>	
	<i>Ladies</i>	<i>Gentlemen</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
North	9	10	3	16
South	5	3	1	2
Briton Ferry	3	6	0	0
	<u>17</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>18</u>

3. OFFENSIVE TRADES :

Consent was given for the establishment of the same four offensive trades in the Borough, viz., the three Rag and Bone Dealers situated at The Latt (Foner & Co.), Bankside (D. Price), The Green (W. Waters), and one of Gut Scraper, Slaughterhouse (W. Gabriel). These premises were regularly visited and kept under close supervision, the nature of their businesses may give rise to complaints especially in humid, hot weather. Cleansing and lime-washing were done periodically, special deodorants were used in keeping down smells and to destroy pests. The Council refused to consent the establishment of another rag and bone business owing to the unsuitability of the proposed premises.

4. TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC. :

Two cases of illegal occupation were brought to the notice of the Department—one of a shack occupied by one man, and the other of the occupation by a family of a well constructed van used in connection with work on agriculture. The shack was destroyed on vacation, and the occupier of the van is an applicant for a Council house.

During any occupation of the Fairfield, a number of moveable vans used as dwellings are fixed there for short periods. Conveniences for males and females are provided with the necessary attendants by the Council, and a sufficient and wholesome supply of drinking water off the town's mains is available.

5. RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST (RESTRICTIONS) ACTS :

No application was received during 1952 for a Certificate of the Sanitary Authority as to the "state of repair" of a dwelling house

6. SANITARY ACCOMMODATION OF CINEMAS AND BILLIARD HALLS :

There are five cinemas, the Gnull, Empire and Windsor in Neath and the Lodge and Palace in Briton Ferry with seating accommodation for 5,362 persons. The position regarding the reconstruction of the Gnull and the adaption of the Public Hall, Briton Ferry, followed by the closing of the Palace and the transfer of its licence thereto, remains as reported annually since 1941. There are two groups of Owners, one of the Neath premises and the other of those at Briton Ferry, employing 88 persons (35 males, 53 females). The conditions as to cleanliness and maintenance are generally higher, redecoration has been completed at two, is in progress at one, and is under consideration at the remaining two.

Routine inspections of the three billiard halls were made as to the condition of the sanitary conveniences and cleanliness of the buildings. There was a marked improvement, greater interest was being taken by the persons in charge, redecoration was in progress and minor repairs were being attended to.

7. SANITARY CONVENIENCES, ETC., OF SCHOOLS :

The Public Schools are under the control of the County Council. There are two private commercial schools, each being an adapted dwelling house, the principal residing there. The supply of milk to all the schools public and private, is pasteurised and the water supply is from the town's mains. During the year 29 samples from the schools and nurseries were submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis, and were returned as satisfactory. The Gnull Swimming Pool was made full use of by school children, particularly so during the school holidays. Rodent control work at these establishments were carried out by the Department, on behalf of the County Council.

8. LICENSED PREMISES :

There are 63 licensed and 14 registered clubs situated in the Borough, including the Refreshments Room at the Central Railway Station. Generally, these were well-maintained, considerable alterations and repairs have been completed and others are in progress or in course of planning. It was necessary to serve Notices regarding sanitary conveniences, including provision for women, and assurances were given by the Owners that these will be provided, also that greater attention will be given to the state of the beer cellars. Facilities are available for the cleansing of glasses, the standard of cleanliness is good, although difficulty of labour is experienced, and fluctuation of trade and changes in catering have their effect.

There were indications that Owners and Tenants were trying to meet the needs of customers and maintain satisfactory hygienic conditions.

The clubs were well maintained, and on occasion when necessary to call attention to sanitary defects, these were made good without delay.

9. PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951 :

The Act came into operation from the 1st April, 1952, and requires that all pet shops should be registered, the granting of same being subject to certain conditions. I was appointed as the "authorised officer" for the purpose of inspection and administration. 6 applications were received for registration for 1952, fee of 10/-, but it was decided that their registration would be dependent upon their complying with the conditions recommended by the R.S.P.C.A. and the A.M.C., and which were approved by the Council. It was agreed to give them sufficient time to carry out necessary alterations as to ensure this.

10. THE RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951 :

The Act and Regulations made thereunder came into operation on the 1st November, 1951. Premises where rag flock is manufactured or stored must be licensed, and premises on which it is used must be registered. Standards of cleanliness are prescribed in the Regulations and are those recommended by British Standards Institution. A survey was made of the Borough to ascertain whether any premises should be considered as coming within the provision of the Act. I was appointed the appropriate officer and authorised to take and submit samples to prescribed chemists for testing. It was discovered that three premises were liable to be registered and they were informed that should they wish to continue they would have to put their places in all respects satisfactory and to make application in due course. Applications were eventually received in respect of these premises for registration under the Act and were granted for 1952. In accordance with the instructions of the Council, a special report was submitted in regard to the Act, particularly on the provisions of cleansing and testing so as to afford adequate safeguards to the public.

11. RATS AND MICE INFESTATION :

The Pests Act, 1949, which came into force on the 1st April, 1950, covers infestation by rats, mice and insect pests which destroy foods. The Council do not charge service to dwelling houses, excepting cases of neglect by owner and occupier ; but all business premises are charged fully.

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

	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Dwelling Houses</i>	<i>Agricultural</i>	<i>Business & Indust.</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Properties inspected by Local Authority :					
(a) Notified as infested	0	77	0	46	123
(b) Otherwise	110	215	0	46	371
2. Properties found to be infested by rats :					
(a) Major	0	0	0	1	1
(b) Minor	30	152	0	53	235
3. Properties found to be infested with mice :					
(a) Major	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Minor	1	2	0	5	8
4. Properties treated by Local Authority	31	152	0	60	243

(a) SURFACE TREATMENT :

Baits Laid	2607	Dead rats found	325
No Takes	1225	Dead mice found	28
Takes	1382		

SEWER TREATMENT, 1952.

Manholes baited	38	Baits taken	22
Manholes Test baited	86	Baits taken	14
Total	<u>124</u>	Total	<u>36</u>

The treatment of sewers commenced in 1944, and to 1950, it was completely done 13 times. During 1951, a modified scheme was applied, and for 1952 a special treatment, indicated above was carried out. The Ministry's methods were strictly obeyed, both with regard to surface and sewer treatments. Your Rodent Operative attended a " Refresher Course " in connecton with his work, and I have pleasure in stating that his duties have been entirely satisfactory particularly wth regard to chargeable services.

The Chairman of the Public Health Committee and I continued our representation on the Rodent Advisory Committee of the South Wales area. The Annual Meeting was held in Monmouth, and as a result of which and the prominence given to the question of " Weils Disease," the National Coal Board set up a rodent control service throughout the coal field, a course arranged at Neath was attended by 24 operatives.

PRIVATE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE BOROUGH ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT.

The following work was carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department at the expense of Owners, under the Public Health Act :

- (a) Cleansing of drains, at request of owner, at 13 dwelling houses.
- (b) Cleansing of combined drains at 37 houses in 8 incidents.

This work is on the increase and it is gratifying to report its approval by owners involved. The Borough Engineer has provided great assistance in this matter, often in urgent and exceptional circumstances, and the department's knowledge and experience in the work ensured its success.

HOUSING.**Houses Unfit for Human Habitation.**

CLOSING ORDER : Part of Building, was made in respect of 10, Cattle Street, Neath. Undertaking accepted to use the Ground Floor only as a Workshop, subject to usual conditions.

HOUSES DEMOLISHED : 50 and 52 Lowther Street, Briton Ferry, and 20 Union Road, Neath, which were subject to "Demolition Orders."

Penydre House, Penydre Court and Kempthorne Court which were subject to Clearance Orders. The original tenants were rehoused by the Council, and the four families of trespassers were transferred to the A.T.S. Huts at Dwryfelin Road, the Ministry of Works caused the whole of the buildings to be demolished and the site cleared.

OTHER BUILDINGS DEMOLISHED : Samuel's Buildings and 44, Wind Street, both old shops and in a dangerous condition. No. 24 James Street, which had been converted into a "store," for a similar reason.

Summary of Progress and Position on 31st December, 1952.

(a) SLUM CLEARANCE AREAS :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Areas</i>	<i>Number of Houses</i>	<i>Number of Persons</i>	<i>Squatters</i>	<i>Total Families</i>
1938	37	452	1650	0	130
1951	14	79	278	8	98
1952	13	71	236	4	79

The reduction of 19 families was brought about, chiefly by combining two small families for purposes of re-housing, e.g. mother and daughter's family, or father with son's family, thus ensuring one movement and also ability to pay the new rent. The reduction of squatters of eight to four was due to their transfer from Penydre House to the Huts.

(b) DEMOLITION ORDERS :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Houses</i>	<i>Number of Persons</i>	<i>Squatters</i>	<i>Total Families</i>
1951	18	74	11	21
1952	17	67	11	18

A new case of squatters was reported at 49, Lowther Street, Briton Ferry and they were ejected by a Court Order.

(c) A.T.S. CAMP, DWRYFELIN :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Huts</i>	<i>Squatters</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Persons</i>
1951	10	10	10	56
1952	10	10	10	53

No new cases of squatters occurred, the number remained the same, the Council having granted Council houses to four from the huts, and replaced them with four from Penydre House.

(d) RE-HOUSING ACCOMMODATION :

	<i>Occupied</i>	<i>Squatters</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Persons</i>
(a) Clearance Areas	71	4	79	236
(b) Demolition Orders	17	11	18	67
(c) Huts	10	10	10	53
Total, 1952	98	25	107	356
Total, 1951	106	29	129	408

It is considered that about twenty of the above houses are dangerous buildings and should be early vacated. Their condition is a matter of serious consideration by the House-Letting Committee following the recommendation of the Housing Committee. The Council and the House-Letting Committee, in particular have accomplished a lot, having regard to all the circumstances. Movements within a Clearance Area have provided temporary relief and appreciated in the eight cases approved.

OVERCROWDING 1952.

Particulars of Overcrowding

TABLE ONE. OVERCROWDING RECORDS :

<i>Ward</i>	1936		1952	
	<i>Families</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Persons</i>
North	186	—	76	397
South	142	—	75	417
Briton Ferry	84	—	33	180
Council Houses	25	—	38	231
	437	2553	222	1225

TABLE TWO. NEW CASES DURING THE YEAR :

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Persons</i>
North	18	94
South	9	44
Briton Ferry	5	17
Council Houses	7	27
	39	182

TABLE THREE. REASONS FOR NEW CASES OF OVERCROWDING :

	<i>Families</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Sub-Tenants	32	140
Natural Increases in Family	7	42
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	39	182
	<hr/>	<hr/>

TABLE FOUR. DE-CROWDED FAMILIES, 1952 :

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Persons</i>
North	10	49
South	5	28
Briton Ferry	—	—
Council Houses	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	15	77
	<hr/>	<hr/>

TABLE FIVE. METHODS OF ABATEMENT OF OVERCROWDING :

	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Briton Ferry</i>	<i>Council</i>
Given Council Houses	8	—	—	—
Reduction in size of Family	4	1	—	—
Left the Borough	1	—	—	—
Given alternative accommodation	1	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	14	1	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

TABLE SIX. POSITION OF OVERCROWDED HOUSES, 31st DECEMBER, 1952 :

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Number of Families in the Houses</i>	<i>Number of Persons Involved</i>	<i>Number of Families Overcrowded</i>	<i>Number of Persons Involved</i>
North	126	531	76	397
South	128	558	75	417
Briton Ferry	47	228	33	180
Council Houses	67	322	38	231
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	368	1639	222	1225
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1952.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

(i)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts).....	1681
(ii)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	5234
(iii)	Number of dwelling houses (included under (i) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	1
(iv)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1
(v)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(vi)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	437

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT THE SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.....	64
--	--	----

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.....	437
	2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :	
	(i) By owners	419
	(ii) By Local Authority.....	0
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	0
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	1

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING :

(a) 1.	Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year	222
2.	Number of families dwelling therein	368
3.	Number of persons dwelling therein	1639
(b) 1.	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	39
2.	Number of persons concerned in such cases	182
(c) 1.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	15
2.	Number of persons concerned with such cases	77
(d) 1.	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0

5. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS :

1. Number of Council houses found to be :—

(a)	Infested	3
(b)	Disinfested	3

2. Number of other houses found to be :—

(a)	Infested	15
(b)	Disinfested	15

The methods available for the elimination of 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.**

Priority should be given for the provision of new houses but not at the expense of the repair of existing repairable ones. Tolerable living conditions would stimulate national pride, output would rise, contentment would replace frustration, and the money would yield benefits in so many directions as to help rather than hinder those activities at present described as of more importance than housing. The question of maintaining house-property arises mainly from its age and from the inability of owners to fund necessary urgent repairs from the current rent yield. The important need in the care of the aged was not so much their treatment in hospitals or the problem of providing homes for them, but the problem of dealing with their isolation and loneliness. Particular attention should be given to the human element in planning for newly-weds and the middle-aged couples with no children in maintaining the "Family Unit." How can it be expected for a family to perform most functions of life herded together within the confines of two small rooms, often harassed by a dominant landlady or criticised by querulous in.laws.

During the year, 83 houses were completed, 66 of the traditional type by the Council and 17 by private enterprise. The department continued its activities of house-letting by carrying out investigations into conditions of applicants, reporting same to and attending the meetings of the House Letting Sub-Committee. There are still 107 families living in condemned houses and huts, 222 families in grossly overcrowded conditions and to this may be added another 500 families occupying sub-standard and low-rented controlled houses in the Borough.

2. Food Poisoning.

There was no case of Food Poisoning reported during 1952, and it is pleasing to report that the Borough has been singularly free of same.

3. Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Eight cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were investigated at the request of the Medical Officer of Health. The Department works in co-operation with the State Veterinary Service and the Public Health Laboratory, in the notification of condemned tubercular carcasses together with veterinary history, and of milk examination.

4. Burial of the Dead.

The disposal of unclaimed bodies in your area (excluding hospitals) is the responsibility of the Local Authority and is carried out by this Department (Section 50, National Assistance Act, 1948). In this connection, during the year, three cases were reported for burial and were considered to come within the provisions of the Act. Two were from Common Lodging Houses and one a lodger from a private dwelling-house, and their burial was carried out by the Contractor.

5. Special Features.

(a) COMMON LODGING HOUSES :

The number of lodgers present on the 31st December, 1952, was 87, of a registered accommodation of 134 beds, as compared with 90 in the same night in 1951 and 112 in 1950.

(b) FOOD AND DRUGS :

Samples submitted for analysis were 223, 108 milk and 115 other food and drugs. The 108 milk samples were certified as of good quality. There was a marked reduction in cases of mite infestation following the steady clearing of war-time accumulations. The standard for ice-cream issued in 1951 required a fat content of 5 per cent, but this was reduced in July, 1952 to 4 per cent. Two of the Ice Cream samples were deficient in fat, both being taken under the 1951 Order, to the extent of 48 per cent and 26 per cent respectively. Samples of Fancy Pastries were free from harmful colouring, preservatives, and mineral oil. "Yoghourt Milk" has as yet, no recognised standard, and a sample of same, on sale locally, was submitted so as to ascertain its composition.

(c) GRADED MILKS :

It is now possible to obtain any grade of milk in the Borough, 44 licences were issued for their sale, the stage is nearly reached when only designated milks will be available. An examination of the table on the testing of graded milk shows that there were no unsatisfactory samples examined. The number of retailers of milk were reduced to 28 as compared with 102 in 1939.

(d) UNGRADED MILKS :

The producers of milk for sale are reduced to 12 (9 wholesalers and 3 retailers) as compared with 21 in 1939. It was possible to submit samples of bulk milk from the herds in the Borough as well as those supplying from outside for tubercle bacilli examination, all of which gave negative results. The routine inspection of dairy cattle was carried out by officers of the State Veterinary Service. Of the 24 samples of ungraded raw milks submitted for bacteriological examination, 5 were returned as sub-standard in keeping quality, the temperature on day of sampling was 65 degrees Centigrade, which upset the applied test, and when this factor is taken into consideration the results generally for all milks were highly satisfactory.

(e) WATER SUPPLY :

The supply was satisfactorily maintained throughout the year and no case of sickness attributable to water contamination was reported. Special sampling of the public supplies was made for the period April - September, 1952, to ascertain their plumbo-solvent action and the report on same was submitted to the Ministry and Council.

(f) SWIMMING POOL :

The open-air swimming pool in the Gnoll was well patronised during the season, the fresh-water supply being constant and chlorination applied during its use. Samples were submitted as to the bacterial condition and physical character of the water and these were satisfactory.

(g) SLAUGHTERING :

The number of animals slaughtered during the year was 52,320, a reduction which has been evident since the re-opening of Cwrt Herbert. The throughput remains the third largest in Wales, following Swansea and Cardiff. There was a further improvement in the quality of rationed meat, due to the decreased percentage of cows and increased number of pigs killed. Nine cases of cysticercus bovis were discovered, making 53 cases since 1948. The Ministry of Food expressed their appreciation of the manner your meat inspectors carried out their duties, which involved working overtime of 196 working hours and 15 Sundays.

(h) ICE CREAM :

The number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream increased to 92, 8 of which were factories. The percentage of unsatisfactory samples was 10, as compared with 17, in 1951, and 60 in 1947, which shows the improvements in plant, quality of ingredients, and the more hygienic methods of manufacture, storing and sale.

(i) FOOD HANDLING :

It is to be mentioned the advance in hygienic practice in " Food Handling," particularly in improved washing facilities, care of the person, storage and prompt disposal of waste, destruction of pests, wrapping and general protective measures against contamination.

(j) NEW ACTS :

It is to be noted that the new Acts which came in to operative administration by the Department during 1952 included the Pet Animals Act, 1951, and The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act 1951.

(k) SPECIAL REPORTS :

- (1) Standard of Cleanliness, Condition of Cellars, Decoration, Sanitary Conveniences, including provision for women where necessary, at the Licensed Premises, Registered Clubs and Public Billiard Hall in the Borough.
- (2) Ice Cream Regulations, 1947, as amended from the 5th May, 1952, so as to permit three methods of heat treatment in its preparation.
- (3) Welsh Area for the purposes of the Tuberculosis (Area Eradication) Order, 1950, from the 1st October, 1952, and its effect on meat inspection.
- (4) *(a)* Horse Slaughter, and *(b)* the siting policy regarding Slaughterhouses.
- (5) Civil Defence—The Council were kept informed of matters relative to my duties in this respect.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The recording of rainfall—roof and ground, solids insoluble and soluble, suspended tarry matter, other suspended combustible matter, the ash of the insoluble matter and the sulphur pollution has been made monthly since November, 1949. The analyses are made by the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff. The observations are noted on standard forms, supplied by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, to whom copies are sent for inclusion in their monthly " Summary of Observations," and which is distributed to co-operating bodies, the Council being a Member and represented by the Chairman of the Health Committee and the Chief Sanitary Inspector. There are two national organisations interested in the abatement of smoke, fumes and grit nuisances, the Council being a Member of both, the one referred to above and the National Smoke Abatement Society.

It was necessary to call attention to two major nuisances caused by smoke emission and grit deposit, from local works and both were abated.

The instruments have been ordered for the daily mean concentration of smoke in the Borough and it is anticipated that reading will be commenced in 1953.

In 1949, Cardiff City in East Glamorgan and Neath Borough in the West, were the only co-operating bodies in South Wales. Progress has been made for there are now, in addition, Bedwelty, Port Talbot Gellygaer and Pontardawe, and others, including Swansea, preparing to do so. It is also of interest that 18 Local Authorities in South Wales are now members of the Smoke Abatement Society. This indicates the possibility of forming in the near future, as previously mentioned by the Chairman to the Health Committee, a regional area comprising the built-up industrial sections of South Wales.

SUMMARY OF RECORDINGS, 1949 (Part), 1950, 1951 and 1952 :

Year	Month	Rainfall (inches)	Total solids in tons per square mile	Sulphur (SO ₃) Maximum Day Pollution per 1,000 sq. cms.	Interpretation
1949	November	6.45	20.60	10.6	" B "
"	December	5.22	28.30	12.6	" B "
1950	January	1.69	14.03	8.5	" B "
"	February	7.31	23.86	9.8	" B "
"	March	2.97	9.87	6.9	" A "
"	April	4.19	17.99	8.0	" B "
"	May	1.57	9.63	4.4	" A "
"	June	2.63	11.70	3.6	" A "
"	July	5.46	15.44	3.6	" B "
"	August	9.65	16.71	4.5	" B "
"	September	9.65	33.05	8.8	" B "
"	October	3.42	15.44	9.9	" B "
"	November	7.28	14.27	9.6	" B "
"	December	3.72	9.70	10.2	" A "
1951	January	7.23	17.74	15.40	" B "
"	February	4.96	14.62	11.0	" B "
"	March	5.63	15.61	8.10	" B "
"	April	4.52	15.37	7.10	" B "
"	May	2.98	6.91	3.60	" A "
"	June	1.88	14.55	4.80	" B "
"	July	1.15	14.20	4.10	" B "
"	August	10.29	24.60	3.60	" F "
"	September	5.50	14.75	4.40	" F "
"	October	0.93	7.94	4.60	" A "
"	November	10.18	20.63	7.10	" B "
"	December	5.36	36.62	7.70	" B "
1952	January	6.57	15.68	5.40	" B "
"	February	0.68	6.81	7.80	" A "
"	March	4.82	13.75	12.40	" B "
"	April	4.76	12.79	5.00	" A "
"	May	4.04	11.18	4.90	" A "
"	June	3.62	12.17	4.30	" A "
"	July	2.31	7.56	3.10	" A "
"	August	7.87	37.49	4.20	" B "
"	September	2.29	8.60	8.60	" A "
"	October	3.75	11.14	7.20	" A "
"	November	3.62	11.56	7.10	" A "
"	December	4.65	15.65	11.3	" B "

These results for practical purposes, are interpreted as :—

" A "	.....	Clean
" B "	.....	Fairly Clean
" C "	.....	Dirty
" D "	.....	Very Dirty

For the 38 months under review, 13 months were considered to be " A " and 25 months to be " B ", which are satisfactory, particularly for an industrial area.

Summary for the years 1950, 1951 and 1952 :—

Year	A's	B's	C's	D's
1950	4	8	0	0
1951	2	10	0	0
1952	8	4	0	0

RAINFALL.

1952			
Month	inches		inches
January	6.50		
February	0.90		
March	4.73		
April	4.71		
May	4.12	Average 1900—1950	57.00
June	3.53	For 1951	62.16
July	2.58	For 1952	50.10
August	7.89		
September	2.41		
October	4.06		
November	3.64		
December	5.03		

An examination of the rainfall records of the Borough for the period 1900—1952 shows that in 1912 it was 76.18 inches (August, 1912—13.21 inches), in 1921 it was 37.68 inches (August 1921—6.03 inches), and in 1952 it was 50.10 (August, 1952—7.89 inches).

Monthly reports were submitted to the Health Committee and copies exhibited in the two Public Libraries.

I wish to express my thanks to the Members of the Council, the Medical Officer of Health and my colleagues in the Department, the Borough Public Analyst, and the Officials of the Corporation for their assistance throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Howells and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EVAN THOMAS

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

