

[Report 1955] / Medical Officer of Health, Newtown & Llanllwchaiarn U.D.C.

Contributors

Newtown & Llanllwchaiarn (Wales). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1955

Persistent URL

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

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**

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

M/H.

WELSH BUREAU OF HEALTH.
RECEIVED
10 DEC 1956
A.

NEWTOWN & LLANLLWCHAIARN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1955.





URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
NEWTOWN & LLANLLWCHAIARN.

Public Health and Water Committee.

Chairman :

Councillor Mrs. M. J. DAVIES.

Members :

Councillors Mrs. J. D. Smith.

R. J. Brymer-Griffith.

J. I. Morris.

W. G. Ivor Jones.

J. E. Neale.

C. T. Hodgson.

STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

AMELIA EVANS, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :

Mr. W. G. DAVIES, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR :

Mr. W. A. YOUNG, commenced duties 1/4/55.

Rodent Operator - Mr. Harry Matthews.

Administrative Clerk - Mr. Idris Owen.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
NEWTOWN AND LLANLLWCHYNOER
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on Health and Sanitary Conditions of your District for 1955. It is arranged in accordance with the Health Circular 17/55 (Wales).

Vital Statistics.

The birth rate for 1955 was 14.74 per 1,000 live births comparing with 15.49 for 1954. For the whole County this rate was 14.87 and in the urban districts 15.53.

There were 3 still births which mean 2.6% of total births as compared with 4.8% in 1954. In the County as a whole this rate was 2.6% and in the urban districts 3.0%.

There was 1 illegitimate live birth, compared with 3.0% in the County and 3.0% in the urban districts.

Infant Mortality.

There was one neo-natal death (i.e. under 7 days) and this was in a female baby and was due to cerebral haemorrhage. There were also a death in a child under 5 years of age due to secondary degree burns.

These 2 deaths give an infant mortality rate of 2 per 1,000 live births, compared with 24 in 1954 for the County and with 25 in the urban districts.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths from all causes was 10.45 per 1,000 population compared with 12.70 in 1954 for the County and with 12.70 for the urban districts.

The rate in 1954 was 9.89 per 1,000 population for deaths from tuberculosis.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

No action was taken under this Act.

Infectious Diseases.

Although the summer of 1955 was very hot and dry, which appears to be ideal for outbreaks of various kinds including poliomyelitis, the town was comparatively free from any serious outbreaks. One case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis was notified affecting a man of 45 and who made a complete recovery. The necessary precautions were taken in regard to the contacts and no further cases occurred. 25 cases of whooping cough were notified. Protection against whooping cough, combined with that against diphtheria, is now offered and this will considerably reduce the number of cases and the severity of the attack. 45 cases of measles were notified.

Housing.

The needs of the town with regard to its housing position is well realised by the Council and the allocation of Council houses, when available, gives the Council much difficulty in its endeavour to rehouse the neediest and most deserving families in order of priority.

The building of 16 houses was commenced in 1955 and it is hoped they will be ready for occupation in 1956.

I would express my thanks and appreciation to my fellow officials—the Clerk, the Sanitary Inspector and his assistant for their co-operation on many varied, and often difficult matters.

To the members of the Health Committee, and especially to its Chairman, I would like to express my thanks for their keen interest in the work of the Public Health Department. The duties of this department often call for much tact on the part of its officials and the encouragement which the Health Committee can give is always very much appreciated.

Mr. Chairman and Members, I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

AMELIA EVANS,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1955.

Statistical Surve

	1954.
Area in acres	7,224
Population (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate)	5,360
Rateable value	£28,86
Sum represented by one penny	£111 7s.

VITAL STATISTICS

(Based on Registrar-General's mid-year estimate)

LIVE BIRTHS.

	1954.
	<i>Male Female Total</i>
Legitimate	36 45 81
Illegitimate	1 1 2
Total	37 46 83
Birth Rate per 1,000 population for Newtown	15.49
For Urban Districts of County	14.96
For Montgomeryshire	15.50

STILL BIRTHS.

	1954
	<i>Male Female Total</i>
Legitimate	1 3 4
Illegitimate	0 0 0
Total	1 3 4

Still Births as % of Total Births:

For Newtown	4.8
For Urban Districts	2.6
For Montgomeryshire	2.3

Infant Mortality.

The Infant mortality rate (Deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births) :

For Newtown .....	.....
For Urban Districts .....	.....
For Montgomeryshire .....	.....

Deaths.

	1954.			1955.		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	23	30	53	30	26	56
Death Rate per 1,000 pop. :						
For Newtown		9.89			10.45	
For Urban Districts		12.69			12.70	
For Montgomeryshire		12.33			12.57	

Age at death—all causes.

	1954.			1955.		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0—1 year	1	1	2	0	2	2
1—5 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—	0	0	0	0	0	0
25—	0	0	0	0	0	0
35—	1	0	1	2	0	2
45—	1	2	3	2	3	5
55—	2	6	8	4	3	7
65—	12	10	22	7	6	13
75—	4	10	14	10	8	18
85—	2	1	3	4	5	9
Total	23	30	53	29	27	56

Causes of Deaths.

	1954.			1955.		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Menigococcal Infections	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	6	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm of stomach	0	0	0	1	0	1
do. lung, bronchus	0	0	0	1	1	2
do. Breast	—	0	0	—	1	1
do. uterus	—	0	0	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	0	1	4	3	7
Leuaemia	0	2	2	0	0	0

	1954.	
	Male	Female
Diabetes	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	6
Coronary diseases (Angina)	5	3
Hypertension with heart disease	1	0
Other heart disease	4	8
Other circulatory disease	0	4
Influenza	0	1
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	0
Congenital malformations	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	0
All other accidents	0	0
Suicide	0	0
	23	30

Notifiable Diseases.

Infectious diseases notified in the year were

Scarlet Fever	None
Whooping Cough	25
Acute poliomyelitis	1 case of no poliomyel
Measles	45
Diphtheria	None
Acute Pneumonia	1 case in a ma
Dysentery	None
Small Pox	None
Typhoid fever	None
Paratyphoid	None
Erisypelas	None
Food poisoning	None

Age and Sex Distribution of Whooping Cough.

	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	0	1	1
1—2 years	1	4	5
3—4 „	3	5	8
5—9 „	2	8	10
10—14 „	0	0	0
Age unknown	0	1	1
	—	—	—
Total	6	19	25

OF MEASLES

Under 1 year	1	2	3
1—2 years	6	3	9
3—4 „	8	6	14
5—9 „	7	11	18
10—14 „	—	1	1
	—	—	—
Total	22	23	45

Tuberculosis.

There were 4 cases of tuberculosis notified in 1955. All were cases of pulmonary tuberculosis.

Males, ages 19, 36 and 37 years.

Female, age 26 years.

No cases were taken from the register in 1955 and at the end of the year there were 45 cases notified in the district.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance.

The local service is the St. John Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council Health Committee.

Telephone—9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Newtown 205.

After 5 p.m. Newtown 359.

Sitting car service—all requests to the County Health Offices, Newtown.

Children's Officer.

The Children's Officer is:—

Mr. Parsons,

Children's Department, County Offices,

Welshpool. Telephone: Welshpool 228.

The Children's Reception Home is at:—

12, Bronwylfa, Welshpool.

Telephone: Wel

Domiciliary Midwifery and Home Nurs

The district is served by:—

Sister C. Lloyd Jones,

Bryneglwys, Newtown. Telephone:

Health Visitor.

The Health Visitor for this area is:—

Miss N. L. Jones,

County Health Offices, Newtown.

Home Help Service.

Home Help is available in certain cases
the Supervisor:—

Mrs. R. Goodwin,

County Health Offices, Newtown.

Hospitals.

The Montgomery County Infirmary is
Mid-Wales Management Committee based
Medical, Surgical and Maternity cases are ad

Sanatoria: North Wales Sanatorium. I

Chest Hospital, Machynlleth

Infectious Diseases: Monkmoor Hospit

Laboratory Service.

Bacteriological examinations are carried
Health Laboratory Service at:—

Donald-Hudson Pathological Laboratory

Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury.

and Cardiganshire General Hospital,

Aberystwyth. Telephone: Abe

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The County Council is responsible for t

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held each
new Clinic in Park Street at 2-30 p.m.

Dental Clinic.

There are two Dental Officers employed by the County Council and Dental Clinics are held at the Clinic, Park Street, for the treatment of school children.

Tuberculosis.

This service is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

The Chest Physician, Dr. G. O. Thomas, holds clinics at the County Infirmary 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 11 a.m.

Vaccination.

In this area vaccination is carried out by the local General Practitioners.

Protection against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

It is often the practice now to offer protection against these two diseases at the same time.

The treatment consists of 3 injections at monthly intervals starting when a baby is 5-6 months old and followed by a booster dose at the age of 5 years when the child goes to school.

Immunisation in this area is carried out by the local general practitioners and by the Assistant County Medical Officer at the Clinic, Park Street.

This procedure is done at no financial cost to the parent and every parent should be encouraged to avail themselves of the opportunity to have their children immunised, against diphtheria especially. Unless a high percentage of children are immunised, diphtheria might well make its re-appearance and often with fatal results.

Venereal Diseases.

Clinics are held:—

(a) 1, Belmont, Shrewsbury.

Men—Tuesdays and Fridays, 6 p.m.—8 p.m.

Women—Mondays and Wednesdays, 3-30 p.m.—5-30 p.m.

(b) The Dispensary, Brook Street, Oswestry.

Men—Thursdays, 1 p.m.—2 p.m.

Women—Thursdays, 2 p.m.—3 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I am pleased to contribute to the Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1955.

During the year a Slum Clearance Survey was carried out as required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act of 1954, and submitted to the Minister. Out of a total of 1,860 houses in Newtown, 341 were scheduled as unfit. The survey revealed that housing conditions in some instances were practically intolerable.

Work on the water supply system showed good results, and before the end of the year the new trunk main had been completed from the Reservoir to the Filter House. Results proved even better than was anticipated. However, much work remains to be done on the water distribution system due to poor layout, corrosion, etc.

A sewer survey during the year showed that much work will be required in order to free the sewer system from accumulated silt and gravel. I strongly condemn the ventilation system which admits of grill ventilators flush with the road surface. These freely admit in certain areas in times of heavy rain large amounts of silt and various debris, as well as emitting noxious sewer gases, frequently the cause of public complaint.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support and encouragement, and to the Medical Officer for her help and co-operation, and last but not least to all other officials and outdoor staff of the Council for their co-operation at all times.

Your obediently,

W. G. DAVIES,

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year numbered 2,482, and details as to the nature of these inspections are given below:—

Summary :

(1) Number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts)	107
(2) Number of houses inspected for other than Housing defects	51
(3) Premises other than houses inspected (including several visits to Industrial premises)	1124
(4) Premises re-inspected (including houses)	279
(5) Works in progress (including houses)	82
(6) Miscellaneous visits	839
	2482

Clearance areas and Individual Unfit Houses :

No action was taken under the Clearance Area procedure of the Housing Act during the year, or action in relation to individual houses.

Slum Clearance.

A survey was made during the year of housing in the whole district, as required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

The results of the survey revealed that on the new standard set out in section 9 of the Act referred to above, there were 45 areas in the district suitable for slum clearance schemes.

These areas vary in size from two to twenty-four houses in each area, and regard had been taken in these areas not only of unfitness for human habitation, but of bad arrangement, and narrowness or bad arrangement of the streets concerned. The total number of houses in these clearance areas amounted to 311. In addition there are 17 houses individually unfit, and not capable of repair at reasonable cost, and 26 back-to-back houses which by conversion into 13 houses can be made fit.

The Council submitted to the Minister concerned the following proposals :

Total number of permanent dwellings in the Local Authority's Area	1860
--	------

Part 1. THE TOTAL PROBLEM.

(i)	Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under section 11 or section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936	.....	341
(ii)	Period in years in which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all houses in (i)	.....	10

Part 2. ORDERS ALREADY MADE, Etc.

(iii)	Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the Local Authority	.....	7
(iv)	Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative		Nil

Part 3. ACTION IN THE FIRST FIVE YEARS.

(v)	Number of houses which are already in clearance areas, and for which clearance or compulsory orders are to be made, or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years	.....	Nil
(vi)	Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared, and which within the five years will be owned by the Local Authority, or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister	.....	191
(vii)	Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under section 2 of the Housing Repairs & Rents Act 1954, for temporary accommodation	.....	Nil

(viii)	Number of houses under (iii), (vi), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in five years	.....	191
(ix)	Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	.....	Nil

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts)	107
--	-------	-----

Repairs: Informal action—

Number of houses unfit but rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action	23
--	-------	----

Action made under Statutory Powers—

Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—

(a) By owners	.....	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		Nil

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses erected since 1945 :—

By Local Authority	.....	202
By private enterprise	.....	67

Number of houses erected during 1955 :—

By Local Authority	.....	Nil
By private enterprise	.....	10

Housing Act, 1949. Improvement Grants:

Application for Improvement Grants under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, are dealt with by the Montgomery County Council, to whom the Local Authority has delegated its power.

Temporary Accommodation:

Ten huts remained occupied at 31st December in Glan Dulas Camp.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Routine meat inspection at the Council's Slaughter House at Stone Street and the private slaughter houses at Great Brimmon and Lower Brimmon from May was carried on throughout the year. The high quality of the animals slaughtered reflects in the low figure of condemnations.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs,	Total.
Number killed	200	3	1767	417	2387
Number inspected	200	3	1767	417	2387
Disease other than T.B.					
(Whole carcasses)	—	—	—	—	—
(Part carcasses)	47		121	8	176
Percentage of number inspected with diseases other than T.B.	23.5		6.8	1.9	
Whole carcasses (T.B. only)	—	—	—	—	—
Part carcasses condemned (T.B. only)	1			5	6

WATER SUPPLY.

The advent of the new trunk main from the reservoir to the Filter House was the major item of the year under review.

The benefits of the new main proved to be immense, and put right many technical faults including :—

- 1) Correct chlorine injection with no failure of the chlorinating apparatus due to very low pressures at peak periods. This has eliminated the taste problem," and ensured a constant sterilized supply.
- 2) The balancing effect of the service reservoir counteracted difficulties of supply at peak periods, which used to be experienced due to the necessary expedient of direct supply through the filters.

Greatest difficulty with supply was due to the extreme cold weather resulting in considerable wastage due to bursts.

Constant efforts were maintained to educate the public in taking necessary precautions during cold weather, etc.

Due to the very dry summer, drought conditions existed during the fall of the year for several weeks resulting in the turn off of supply for varying times during the evening and night.

The top level of the reservoir fell six feet and bears out the need for greater storage so that some of the large amount of water normally run to waste during the most of the year could be conserved for the dry months.

The entire length of the main at Milford Road was scraped with direct labour, and supply improved considerably in the whole area supplied by this main.

I must pay tribute to the manual staff for the work carried out on this main, and throughout the water system, often in very trying circumstances, late at night and at week-ends, and in very cold bitter weather, etc.

A typical chemical and a bacteriological examination result is shown as under ;—

CHEMICAL REPORT :

In parts per million of water.

Total solid matter in solution	.....	.....	100.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates	.....	.....	0.75
Chlorine in Chlorides	.....	.....	14.0
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 80 F.	.....	.....	2.0
Free and Saline ammonia	.....	.....	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	.....	.....	0.15
Lead. Copper. Zinc.	.....	.....	Nil
Microscopical examination of the sediment	.....	.....	Iron rust.
Temporary Hardness	.....	.....	55.0
Permanent hardness	.....	.....	25.0
pH. Value	.....	.....	7.1
Colour	.....	.....	light brown.
Residual free chlorine	.....	.....	Nil

The colour of the water is due to peat and is harmless. The presence of a little iron rust indicates corrosion of some of the pipes, but with a pH. of 7.1 the water is not likely to cause excessive corrosion.

In other respects the chemical analysis is satisfactory.

BACTERIOLOGICAL REPORT.

	Coliform Bacilli	Faecal
	per 100 ml.	coli.
Tap, Newtown Hospital	..... 0	0

Remarks : Highly satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

During the year 10 cwts. 5½ lbs. of foodstuffs including canned foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Routine visits and inspections were carried out at food premises throughout the year.

FACTORY INSPECTION.

FACTORY ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Part 1. (Inspections).

<i>PREMISES.</i>	<i>No. on Register.</i>	<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>Written Notices.</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted.</i>
(I) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	8	1	Nil
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	41	30	Nil	Nil
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers)	7	7	Nil	Nil

Part 2. Cases in which defects were found :

<i>Particulars.</i>	<i>Found.</i>	<i>Remedied.</i>
Want of cleanliness	1	1
Sanitary conveniences (insufficient)	2	2

FACTORY ACT, 1937. Means of escape in case of fire.

During the year no new certificates for means of escape in case of fire were issued.



