Whitehall

PEMBROKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL .

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH .

1 9 3 6 .

To the Chairman and Members of the Council .

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the public health and sanitary state of the Rural District of Pembroke for the Year ended 31st.December,1936, as follows.--

GENERAL STATISTICS .

Area (statute acres). ...	49,321
Population (estimate of resident).	5,208
Persons per acre.	0.10
Number of inhabited houses.	1,547
Rateable Value (operative).	12,386
Penny Rate Product (Product of Rates & Precepts Rules). ...	£55-16 - 9

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority .

One (part-time) Medical Officer of Health. M.R.C.S.(Eng.). L.R.C.P.(London).
One (whole-time) Sanitary Inspector & Sanitary Surveyor. M.R.Sanitary Inst.
Exchequer Grants amounting to a moiety of the salaries are received in respect of these Officers.

General Character and Social Conditions of Area.

The District contains thinly wooded undulating lands that comprise the greater part of the peninsula which lies to the south of and is bounded by the harbour of Milford Haven. It extends from Angle Bay in the west to the outskirts of Saundersfoot in the east. The chief industry is agriculture. A small number of persons obtain their livelihood by fishing. Gratuitous medical relief is not available from sources under my control.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Description.		Male.	Female.	Birth etc. rates.	
Live Births.	(Legitimate.	37	30		
	(Illegitimate.	3	3	Birth Rate.	14.01
	(Total.	40	33		
Stillbirths.	(Legitimate.	4	3		
	(Illegitimate.	-	-	Rate.	87.50
Deaths.	(Total).	44	39	Death Rate.	15.93
Deaths of infants under age 1 year.	(Legitimate.	-	-	(Infantile (Mortality (Rate.	13.69
	(Illegitimate.	-	1		

Causes of Death in the District.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
Scarlet Fever.	1	-
Influenza.	5	2
Encephalitis Lethargica.	-	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system. ...	-	-
Other Tuberculosis.	-	-
Cancer.	6	7
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	1	2

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Causes of Death in the District (contd.)

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
Heart Disease.	14	9
Other Circulatory Diseases.... ...	-	1
Bronchitis.	1	1
Pneumonia. (all forms).	3	3
Other respiratory diseases.... ...	-	1
Appendicitis.	1	-
Cirrhosis of Liver.	-	-
Other Liver Diseases.	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases.	1	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis... ...	-	1
Puerperal Causes.	-	-
Senility.	2	2
Suicide.	1	-
Other Violence.	6	1
Other defined Diseases.	1	4
Ill defined or not known.	-	1
All causes. ...	44	39

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

There were no developments or changes in the local conditions described in my reports of previous years as applying to services of the following character.-- (a) Laboratory facilities, (b) Professional nursing in the home, (c) Treatment Centres and Clinics, (d) Hospitals, (e) Midwives, and (f) Maternity Homes.

Ambulance Facilities.

Facilities are available in the adjoining towns for the removal by ambulance of infectious diseases and appear to satisfy the existing need. I would reiterate that, in my view, it would be advantageous to have in existence an ambulance for the removal of urgent surgical and accident cases to local hospitals, available for the combined use of the Pembroke town and rural areas.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area .

Water.

The three water supply improvement schemes to which I referred in last year's report have, as you are aware, since been approved by the Ministry of Health provisionally, and are either being or are in course of being proceeded with. The improvements proposed involve, in the case of (1) the Castlemartin-Warren Scheme, the installation of a hydrostat and water tower and the erection of public standposts; (2) the Carew-Manorbier and St.Mary Out-Liberty,Tenby Schemes respectively, a bulk supply by gravitation from the waterworks of neighbouring Local Authorities. The improvements will create, when completed, a beneficial addition to the amenities of the area.
The general supply, which is obtained from springs and deep wells, has continued to be satisfactory in the majority of our parishes. Inspections were made from time to time during the Year and such repairs and improvements (particulars are given below) as were necessary were made.

Wells cleaned out, protected, etc.	8
New pumps installed.	2
Pumps and taps repaired.	15
Piped supplies to standards.	8
Samples submitted for bacteriological examination and bacteria count.	6
Samples reported to be satisfactory.	6

No cases of pollution were recorded.
The quality and quantity of the supply available is satisfactory.

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Sanitary Circumstances of the Area (contd.)

Drainage and Sewerage.

The District does not possess a public system of drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal. The drains of domestic dwellings empty into cesspits, septic tanks, etc, which are kept in order and appear on the whole to satisfy existing conditions.

Rivers and Streams.

No cases of pollution were reported or otherwise came to my notice during the Year.

Closet Accommodation.

Privies provide the chief means of accommodation, but conversion to the earth closet or pail system proceeds satisfactorily. Privies are situate in all cases apart from the houses and are maintained generally in good order. Water closets in most cases discharge into septic tanks or suitably built cesspits.

Number of privies displaced by earth closets.		...	24
Number of water closets.	...	...	471

Public Cleansing.

Arrangements for the disposal of household refuse, cesspool cleansing, etc. remain unchanged. As has been previously remarked, most domestic dwellings in the area have large gardens, so that the disposal of combustible articles presents little difficulty. The present arrangements do not appear to call for special comment.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Inspections (chiefly concerned with water supplies, infectious diseases and nuisances).	...	..)	102
Statutory Notices served.	...	...	2
Informal Notices served.	...	...	37
Nuisances abated during the Year.	...	...	35

Shops.

No action was called for under the provisions of the Shops Act,1934, in respect of the ventilation and temperature of shops and sanitary conveniences.

Smoke Abatement.

As there are no factories in the area it is unlikely that nuisances from smoke will occur.

Swimming Baths and Pools. (Public and Private).

No swimming baths or pools are available in the area for the use of the public.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No cases of bed bug infestation were reported or otherwise came to my notice during the Year.

Schools.

The sanitary condition and water supply of schools in the area is satisfactory. Water is obtained from the public supply.

Housing Statistics.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the Year:--

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). ... 135

Housing Statistics (contd.)

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the Year:--

(1)(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	156
(2)(a) No.of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	58
(b) No.of inspections made for the purpose. ...	75
(3) No.of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	2
(4) No.of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	26

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:-

No.of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. ...	20

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

(a).-Proceedings under sects.17,18 and 23 of Housing Act,1930:	
(1) No.of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	2
(2) No.of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-- By owners. ...	2
(b).-Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) No.of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. ...	4
(2) No.of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:- By owners. ...	4
(c).-Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of Housing Act,1930:	
(1) No.of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	2
(2) No.of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	2
(d).-Proceedings under section 20 of Housing Act,1930:	
No action was necessary under section 20 of the Act of 1930.	-

4. Housing Act, 1935.-Overcrowding:--

(a).-No.of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the Year. ...	77
(11) No.of families dwelling therein. ...	79
(111) No. of persons dwelling therein. ...	381½
(b).-No.of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	Nil.
(c).-(1) No.of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	21
(11) No.of persons concerned in such cases. ...	85
(d).-Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. ...	Nil.
(e).- Any other particulars.	Nil.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

No.of milksellers registered.	138
No.of inspections.	267
No.of informal notices calling for improvements. ...	25
Result: All notices were or are in process of being complied with.	
No.of samples submitted for analysis.	4
Result: The samples submitted were stated to be satisfactory.	
Number of farms and dairies registered.	329
No.of inspections of registered premises.	266
No.of notices for improvements.	23
No.of new sheds erected.	6

Structural alterations were or are being made in compliance with notices issued, and the standard of cleanliness has been maintained.

Meat, etc.

The Meat Regulations have functioned satisfactorily and are being generally complied with. Vehicles used for conveying meat were inspected from time to time and it was observed that the standard of cleanliness is being maintained. Private slaughterhouses invariably possess adequate supplies of good water and are suitably drained. There are no public slaughterhouses in the area. Inspections were made of premises, carcases and vehicles.

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Inspection and Supervision of Food (contd.)

No.of private slaughter-houses registered.	...	...	9
No.of private slaughter-houses licensed.	...	...	1
No.of inspections made during the Year.	...	...	80

Bakehouses.

The standard of cleanliness in bakehouses is being maintained .

Number of bakehouses in area.	...	...	6
Number of inspections.	...	...	14

Prevalence of, and control over, infectious and other diseases.

An increase took place in the number of cases of infectious disease compared with those reported in the previous year. Appropriate measures were taken to prevent the spread of infection. A list of notifiable diseases that occurred during the year is appended.

The increase was attributable mainly to a small epidemic of scarlet fever which occurred in the Manorbier area and locality. The source of infection was obscure, and steps taken to test the water and milk supplies proved negative. Some cases were unable to be admitted to the isolation hospital as it was already full; and, in my opinion, the number of beds available are insufficient for the needs of the County. I have made representations to yourselves in Council in regard to the matter and I understand the Rural District Council have approached the County Council with the view of securing the provision of additional beds. The standard of accommodation (as is noticeable elsewhere) of existing working-class dwellings makes it difficult to isolate cases in their own homes. There was a small epidemic of measles in the spring of 1936; there is no available hospital accommodation for cases of this type. Pathological and bacteriological specimens are examined by the County Medical Officer of Health. I have no knowledge of any Schick and Dick tests having been made. Diseases occurring in schools are dealt with forthwith on receipt of a statement (in duplicate) reporting the circumstances. There were no cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, dysentery, or malaria. No vaccinations have been performed by me in my capacity as medical officer of health. Fumigation and disinfection of premises is carried out under my supervision. No verminous cases came under my notice during the year. Infected persons are treated by the County Council on removal to hospital. No action was necessary under section 66 of the P.H.Act,1925.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

A table of notifiable diseases that occurred during the year appears below. There were no non-notified tuberculosis deaths and no cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify. It will be noted that the system of notification functions smoothly. No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations,1925 (as to persons with pulmonary tuberculosis engaged in the milk trade), nor under section 62 of the Public Health Act,1925 (as to compulsory removal to hospital).

Schedule.

Other than Tuberculosis.

Diseases.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hosp.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	47	33	1
Diphtheria.	5	3	-
Pneumonia.	6	2	6

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Totals.	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-

Inspection of Factories, Workshops etc.

Inspections of workshops, etc.	...	...	34
Written notices in respect of defects.	...	...	1

Prosecutions were not called for.

(Signed) Geoffrey Wacher .

Medical Officer of Health .