

**[Report 1954] / Medical Officer of Health, Pembrokeshire County Council.**

**Contributors**

Pembrokeshire (Wales). County Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1954

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PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**County**

**Medical Officer of Health**

**for Pembrokeshire**

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**1954**

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H. G. Walters (Publishers) Ltd., Narberth, Tenby and Whitland





PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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for Pembrokeshire**

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**1954**



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE

**Pembrokeshire County Council**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my second annual report as your County Medical Officer of Health. The report gives an indication of the many and increasing responsibilities of the County Health Department. The co-operation between the West Wales Hospital Management Committee, the Executive Council and the County Council is gradually improving the health services in the County.

During 1954 there were a number of important developments. On the 1st July it was considered that all cattle in the County were free from tuberculosis and the whole County was declared an Attested Area. I wish to congratulate the farmers, veterinary surgeons and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture on their efforts in promoting this valuable public health safeguard. Pembrokeshire, with a cattle population of 116,000 in June, 1954, and a milk production of 27,166,000 gallons for the year ended 30th September, 1954, is an important milk producing County. Other developments included the appointment of a Mental Health Visitor in August, 1954, and a Chief Dental Officer in December, 1954. Both the mental health and the clinic dental services are now being augmented. On the 28th June, 1954, the County Council became responsible for the distribution of welfare foods, such as National Dried Milk, Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil. An infant weighing centre was opened at Crymmych for the first time. In September and October, a Mass Radiography Unit of the Welsh Regional Hospital Board visited the County.

The recruitment of health visitors and district nurses continued to present difficulty but the position was eased by the granting of County Council scholarships to local nurses who wished to train as health visitors or Queen's district nurses. The demand on the ambulance service continued to be very heavy. This demand was a reflection of the additional attendances at hospital, both for in and out-patient treatment.

Dr. Dorothy Griffiths, the District Medical Officer of Health for the Eastern Districts and Assistant County Medical Officer, became seriously ill on the 18th November, 1954, and unfortunately this illness subsequently proved fatal. She had done much excellent work in the public health service of the County Council.

I am grateful to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their support and interest. My thanks are also due to the medical, nursing and clerical staffs of the department and to the staffs of other departments of the County Council. Mr. Austin, the Chief Clerk, has been of great assistance in the compilation of this report.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**D. J. DAVIES,**

County Medical Officer.

County Health Department,  
Haverfordwest, Pembs.  
August, 1955.



# **COUNTY OF PEMBROKE HEALTH COMMITTEE**

(as on the 31st December, 1954)

Chairman : County Alderman L. J. Meyler, O.B.E.

Vice-Chairman : Clr. D. W. Evans.

## County Aldermen :

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Evan Anthony, M.B.E.    | J. O. Vaughan      |
| T. R. Joseph            | C. Hayden Williams |
| Sackville H. E. G. Owen | James John         |

## County Councillors :

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| B. G. Howells       | D. Hughes Lewis  |
| T. W. Byard         | J. A. Lewis      |
| Rev. Mathias Davies | D. C. Llewellyn  |
| T. R. Davies        | W. J. Llewellyn  |
| J. M. James         | Mrs. A. Norman   |
| W. C. John          | Fred Phillips    |
| J. W. Jones         | Rev. John Thomas |
| C. G. Lewis         | John Walters     |
|                     | W. L. Williams   |

## Co-opted Members :

Miss Nancy Thomas, Mrs. Picton Thomas

## Local Medical Committee Representatives :

Dr. W. F. T. George, Dr. J. A. K. Douglas, Dr. P. R. E. Williams

## Pembrokeshire Federation of Women's Institutes Representatives :

Mrs. Bland, Mrs. B. Ramsden

## West Wales Hospital Management Committee Representatives :

Mrs. E. Bickerton Edwards, Rev. W. H. Williams, County Ald. R. S. Wade

## **STAFF OF COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1954**

### **County Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer :**

D. J. Davies, M.B.E., B.Sc., M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

### **Assistant County Medical Officers and School Medical Officers :**

F. J. Harrison, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (Full-time)

D. M. Griffiths, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
(Also M.O.H. Eastern Districts).

W. J. Y. Speedy, M.B., B.Ch., L.R.C.P. & S., D.P.H.  
(Also M.O.H. Western Districts)

(The latter two officers are employed up to 25 per cent. of their time  
on County Council duties, mainly school health service work).

### **School Dental Officer :**

D. W. Harding (Part-time—two half-day sessions per week).



**County Nursing Officer :**

Miss C. Evans, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. Cert., H.V. Cert.

(She also undertakes the duties of Superintendent Health Visitor,  
Chief School Nurse and Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives.

**County Orthopaedic Sister :**

Miss E. J. James, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

**County Home Help Organiser :**

Miss M. R. F. Collins.

**Chief Clerk :**

W. J. Austin.

**Other Nursing Staff (as on 31st December, 1954) :**

3 Health Visitors and School Nurses.

38 District Nurse/Midwife/Health Visitor/School Nurses.

13 District Nurse/Midwives.

3 District Nurses.

**Home Helps (as on 31st December, 1954) :**

21 occasional home helps.

**County Council Committees (concerned with matters of health) :****1. Health Committee**

(a) Nursing Sub-Committee.

(b) General Purposes Sub-Committee.

(c) Ambulance Sub-Committee.

**2. Public Health and Housing Committee.****3. Education Committee (responsible for School Health Service).****SECTION I****VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1954****1. AREA :**

The area of the County, including inland water, is 393,003 acres.

**2. POPULATION :**

|                         |     |       |
|-------------------------|-----|-------|
| 1911—By Census          | ... | 90014 |
| 1921—By Census          | ... | 91580 |
| 1931—By Census          | ... | 86020 |
| 1938—Estimated Mid-year | ... | 83200 |
| 1945—Estimated Mid-year | ... | 82690 |
| 1951—By Census          | ... | 90740 |
| 1952—Estimated Mid-year | ... | 91040 |
| 1953—Estimated Mid-year | ... | 92090 |
| 1954—Estimated Mid-year | ... | 92750 |

**3. FINANCIAL :**

The product of a penny rate in the County for the financial year 1954/55 was £1,334 3s. 6d.

Rateable Value of the County as at 1st April, 1955, was £350,813.



#### 4. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS :

The available statistics relating to births, deaths and infectious diseases give a limited indication of the health of the community. Statistics on the incidence and nature of illness among the working population in various parts of the country are now being prepared by the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, but it is not yet possible to give details for this County. As mentioned in the previous report, the heavy demands on the general practitioner and hospital services are an unhappy indication of the amount of ill-health. Illnesses of as yet ill-determinate causation, such as ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, various forms of dyspepsia, rheumatism and bronchitis and minor mental illnesses, result in much unhappiness and economic loss.

There are no remarkable features in the 1954 vital statistics. The death rate was higher than in 1953, but it is doubtful if there is any definite significance in the increase. Despite the heavy rainfall and lack of sunshine, features of 1954, a higher death rate from respiratory causes did not occur. Diseases of the heart and blood vessels and cancer continued to be the chief causes of death. Cancer caused thirty more deaths than in the previous years. Cancer of the lung, which is increasing in prevalence, caused twenty-three deaths as compared with twenty in 1953. The relation of this disease to heavy cigarette smoking and atmospheric pollution is still under investigation.

Accidents took a heavier toll of life in 1954. While motor accidents deaths decreased from eight to six, other fatal accidents increased from 27 to 38. The importance of preventing accidents at home, especially among the elderly and young children, must be stressed. The increased mechanisation of agriculture is also causing more fatal accidents. Suicide caused ten deaths. Deaths from tuberculosis continued to decrease. This trend is described in a later section of the report.

The birth rate continued to be slightly higher than the rate for England and Wales. The still birth rate also remained higher than the national figure. It is impossible to give precise reasons for these consistent trends.

The infant mortality rate increased but this was due largely to an increased number of congenital malformations. The causation of such malformations is usually unknown.

#### 5. DETAILED STATISTICS :

##### (i) Births.

| Live Births   |     |     |  | Male | Female | Totals |
|---------------|-----|-----|--|------|--------|--------|
| Legitimate    | ... | ... |  | 754  | 737    | 1491   |
| Illegitimate  | ... | ... |  | 32   | 28     | 60     |
| Totals        |     |     |  | 786  | 765    | 1551   |
| Still Births. |     |     |  |      |        |        |
| Legitimate    | ... | ... |  | 17   | 21     | 38     |
| Illegitimate  | ... | ... |  | 1    | 1      | 2      |
| Totals        |     |     |  | 18   | 22     | 40     |



The crude birth rate was 16.72 per thousand population. For comparison with other areas in England and Wales and the national figure of 15.2 the adjusted County birth rate was 17.39.

The still birth rate was 25.14 per thousand still and live births as compared with a figure of 23.4 for England and Wales.

Details of the premature births are given in Section 2 of the report.

## (ii) Deaths.

**Infant Mortality :** There were 50 deaths among infants under one year of age in the County. 33 were males ; 17 were females.

The infant mortality rate, expressed as the number of infant deaths per thousand live births, was 32.23. The rate in 1953 was 25.31 and the 1954 rate for England and Wales was 25.5.

The number of deaths in the first month of life, the neo-natal period, was 36, giving a neo-natal mortality rate of 23.21 per thousand live births.

**Maternal Mortality :** The number of deaths of mothers due to complications of pregnancy, childbirth and abortion was two in 1954. Both mothers died from post partum haemorrhage.

The maternal mortality rate per thousand live and still births was 1.25, compared with a rate of 1.28 in 1953. Each maternal death was investigated. When a maternal death occurs, complete details are compiled and sent to the Regional Assessor—Professor G. I. Strachan, of Cardiff. He forwards the report with his comments to the Welsh Board of Health.

**Mortality from Cancer :** The number of deaths from Cancer were 207 compared with 177 for 1953. The reasons for this increase are not known. With the increased expectation of life, Cancer is becoming more prevalent. Despite much research work, the causation of most forms of the disease has yet to be discovered. In certain parts of the Country campaigns, informing the public of the early signs of the commoner forms of Cancer, are proceeding in the hope that patients will seek medical advice and treatment at an early and more treatable stage of the disease. Medical opinions vary on the value of such campaigns.

**General Death Statistics :** There were 1174 deaths in 1954 comprising 644 males and 530 females. The crude death rate was 12.65 per thousand population ; the adjusted death rate was 12.40 compared with a national figure of 11.3.



## Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life :

| Causes of Death |                                         | All Ages |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|----------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|--|--|
|                 |                                         | 0—       | 1— | 5— | 15— | 25— | 45— | 65— | 75— |  |  |  |  |
| 1.              | Tuberculosis—Respiratory                | 15       | —  | —  | 1   | 5   | 7   | 2   | —   |  |  |  |  |
| 2.              | Tuberculosis—Other                      | 1        | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | 1   |  |  |  |  |
| 3.              | Syphilitic disease                      | 1        | —  | —  | —   | —   | 1   | —   | —   |  |  |  |  |
| 4.              | Diphtheria                              | —        | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |  |  |  |  |
| 5.              | Whooping Cough                          | —        | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |  |  |  |  |
| 6.              | Meningococcal Infections                | —        | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |  |  |  |  |
| 7.              | Acute poliomyelitis                     | 1        | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |  |  |  |  |
| 8.              | Measles                                 | —        | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |  |  |  |  |
| 9.              | Other infective and parasitic diseases  | 4        | —  | 1  | —   | —   | 2   | —   | —   |  |  |  |  |
| 10.             | Malignant Neoplasm—stomach              | 44       | —  | —  | —   | —   | 15  | 12  | 16  |  |  |  |  |
| 11.             | Malignant Neoplasm—lung, bronchus       | 23       | —  | —  | —   | 1   | 13  | 4   | 6   |  |  |  |  |
| 12.             | Malignant Neoplasm—breast               | 18       | —  | —  | —   | —   | 7   | 3   | 6   |  |  |  |  |
| 13.             | Malignant Neoplasm—uterus               | 9        | —  | —  | —   | 2   | 3   | 1   | 2   |  |  |  |  |
| 14.             | Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 113      | —  | —  | —   | 7   | 32  | 34  | 40  |  |  |  |  |
| 15.             | Leukaemia, aleukaemia                   | 6        | 1  | —  | 1   | 1   | —   | 2   | 1   |  |  |  |  |
| 16.             | Diabetes                                | 9        | —  | —  | —   | —   | 3   | 4   | 2   |  |  |  |  |
| 17.             | Vascular Lesions of nervous system      | 189      | —  | —  | —   | 6   | 31  | 66  | 86  |  |  |  |  |
| 18.             | Coronary disease—angina                 | 132      | —  | —  | —   | 4   | 42  | 43  | 43  |  |  |  |  |
| 19.             | Hypertension with heart disease         | 18       | —  | —  | —   | —   | 5   | 8   | 5   |  |  |  |  |
| 20.             | Other heart disease                     | 215      | —  | 1  | 2   | 1   | 23  | 50  | 138 |  |  |  |  |
| 21.             | Other circulatory disease               | 39       | —  | —  | —   | 2   | 5   | 15  | 17  |  |  |  |  |
| 22.             | Influenza                               | 6        | —  | —  | —   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 3   |  |  |  |  |
| 23.             | Pneumonia                               | 28       | 1  | —  | 1   | 2   | 1   | 9   | 9   |  |  |  |  |
| 24.             | Bronchitis                              | 40       | —  | —  | —   | —   | 9   | 12  | 19  |  |  |  |  |
| 25.             | Other diseases of respiratory system    | 13       | —  | —  | —   | 1   | 5   | —   | 5   |  |  |  |  |
| 26.             | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum           | 6        | 2  | —  | —   | 2   | 3   | —   | 1   |  |  |  |  |
| 27.             | Gastritis, Enteritis and diarrhoea      | 3        | —  | —  | —   | —   | 1   | 1   | 1   |  |  |  |  |
| 28.             | Nephritis and nephrosis                 | 20       | —  | 1  | 1   | 2   | 5   | 5   | 6   |  |  |  |  |
| 29.             | Hyperplasia of prostate                 | 13       | —  | —  | —   | —   | 1   | 3   | 9   |  |  |  |  |
| 30.             | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion         | 2        | —  | —  | —   | 1   | 1   | —   | —   |  |  |  |  |
| 31.             | Congenital malformations                | 13       | —  | —  | 3   | —   | —   | —   | —   |  |  |  |  |
| 32.             | Other defined and ill-defined diseases  | 139      | 1  | —  | 1   | 7   | 31  | 18  | 50  |  |  |  |  |
| 33.             | Motor vehicle accidents                 | 6        | 1  | 1  | —   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   |  |  |  |  |
| 34.             | All other accidents                     | 38       | —  | 1  | 4   | 8   | 4   | 5   | 14  |  |  |  |  |
| 35.             | Suicide                                 | 10       | —  | —  | —   | 2   | 5   | 3   | —   |  |  |  |  |
| 36.             | Homicide and operations of war          | —        | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   |  |  |  |  |
| All Causes      |                                         | 1,174    | 50 | 6  | 14  | 59  | 257 | 302 | 481 |  |  |  |  |



(iii) District Council, Pembroke County, and National Comparative Vital Statistics (Using Appropriate Area Comparability Factors)

|                                        | Area<br>in<br>Acres | Estimated<br>Mid-year<br>Population<br>for 1954 | Live Births |                                    | Deaths |                                    | Infant<br>Mortality |                                       | No. of<br>Maternal<br>Deaths<br>and<br>(Rate per<br>1000 live<br>and still<br>births) |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                        |                     |                                                 | No.         | Adjusted<br>Rate per<br>1000 popn. | No.    | Adjusted<br>Rate per<br>1000 popn. | No.                 | Rate<br>Per<br>1000<br>Live<br>Births |                                                                                       |
|                                        |                     |                                                 |             |                                    |        |                                    |                     |                                       |                                                                                       |
| URBAN                                  |                     |                                                 |             |                                    |        |                                    |                     |                                       |                                                                                       |
| Fishguard and Good-<br>wick U.D.C. ... | 1841                | 4880                                            | 70          | 16.57                              | 71     | 13.97                              | 2                   | 28.57                                 | —                                                                                     |
| Haverfordwest M.B. ...                 | 1404                | 7600                                            | 145         | 17.76                              | 104    | 13.54                              | 4                   | 27.59                                 | —                                                                                     |
| Narberth U.D.C. ...                    | 122                 | 1070                                            | 14          | 13.34                              | 11     | 9.25                               | —                   | —                                     | —                                                                                     |
| Neyland U.D.C. ...                     | 484                 | 2220                                            | 32          | 14.99                              | 35     | 14.50                              | 2                   | 62.88                                 | —                                                                                     |
| Milford Haven U.D.C.                   | 1060                | 11760                                           | 216         | 18.73                              | 115    | 13.01                              | 7                   | 32.41                                 | —                                                                                     |
| Pembroke M.B. ...                      | 4679                | 12890                                           | 256         | 20.65                              | 166    | 12.49                              | 8                   | 31.25                                 | —                                                                                     |
| Tenby M.B. ...                         | 1090                | 4410                                            | 54          | 12.94                              | 61     | 10.39                              | 2                   | 37.04                                 | —                                                                                     |
| Total ...                              | 10680               | 44830                                           | 787         | 17.91                              | 563    | 12.68                              | 25                  | 31.76                                 | —                                                                                     |
| RURAL                                  |                     |                                                 |             |                                    |        |                                    |                     |                                       |                                                                                       |
| Cemaes R.D.C. ...                      | 79576               | 9040                                            | 127         | 16.43                              | 140    | 12.85                              | 6                   | 47.24                                 | —                                                                                     |
| Haverfordwest R.D.C.                   | 173650              | 22510                                           | 377         | 16.92                              | 239    | 11.25                              | 12                  | 31.83                                 | 1 (7.63)                                                                              |
| Narberth R.D.C. ...                    | 80237               | 9940                                            | 147         | 16.71                              | 164    | 14.19                              | 2                   | 13.60                                 | —                                                                                     |
| Pembroke R.D.C. ...                    | 48860               | 6430                                            | 113         | 18.80                              | 68     | 9.83                               | 5                   | 44.44                                 | 1 (8.77)                                                                              |
| Total ...                              | 382323              | 47920                                           | 764         | 17.06                              | 611    | 11.98                              | 25                  | 32.72                                 | 2                                                                                     |
| Whole County ...                       | 393003              | 92750                                           | 1551        | 17.39                              | 1174   | 12.40                              | 50                  | 32.23                                 | 2 (1.25)                                                                              |
| England and Wales ...                  |                     |                                                 |             | 15.2                               |        | 11.3                               |                     | 25.5                                  | —                                                                                     |



## SECTION 2

### LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT

#### 1. CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE.

##### **Expectant and Nursing Mothers.**

The standard local health authority ante-natal and post-natal clinics, staffed by a medical officer, are not provided in this County. There does not appear to be any definite indication, at present, to open such clinics. An increasing number of general practitioners are holding ante-natal and post-natal clinics in their surgeries. It is hoped that this development will continue. In the more rural areas, the doctors arrange the appropriate examinations in the homes of the patients.

Ante-natal clinics are provided at the maternity sections of Riverside and Priory Hospitals for mothers awaiting hospital confinement. Dr. W. F. T. George of Haverfordwest holds specialist ante-natal sessions at the County Hospital, Haverfordwest. He deals with the majority of abnormal pregnancies.

Routine blood tests during pregnancy are now being increasingly performed in the County.

Much ante-natal supervision is undertaken by the district nurse/midwives at the homes of patients or at the house of the nurse or, in the more urban areas such as Haverfordwest, Milford Haven and Pembroke Dock, at the County Council clinics.

The need, at present, is to integrate the ante-natal and post-natal work and mothercraft teaching of the local health authority nursing staff with the general practitioner and hospital services.

A maternity outfit is available for all home confinements. The County Council provided 530 outfits during 1954.

##### **Child Welfare.**

In the County there are eight child welfare and twelve weighing centres. The former are attended by a Medical Officer; at the latter, children requiring medical advice are referred to the family doctor.

At these centres, infants and children are weighed and individual health advice is given to the mothers. At the child welfare centres, routine medical examination of infants and children is undertaken. The undressing of infants for weighing is being encouraged.

In 1954 there were 5426 and 2415 attendances of infants and children at child welfare and weighing centres respectively.

##### **Care of Premature Infants.**

One hundred and nine premature live births were notified during the year; thirty six at home and the remainder in hospital. Twenty four of these infants died; nine during the first twenty-four hours of life. Seventeen of these deaths occurred in hospital.

Specially equipped premature baby cots are provided by the County Council for use when premature babies are nursed at home.



### **Supply of Dried Milks.**

Dried milk of a variety of brands is sold at a reduced price at the various welfare and weighing centres, which is much appreciated by the mothers. During 1954, 30,539 tins or packets of dried milk were sold.

### **Distribution of Welfare Foods.**

On the 28th June, 1954, the distribution of Welfare foods, including accounting and stock-keeping arrangements, was taken over from the Ministry of Food. Since the early years of the last war, the Ministry of Food has provided for expectant and nursing mothers, babies and pre-school age children, supplies of orange juice, cod liver oil, vitamin tablets and National Dried Milk. The orange juice and National Dried Milk are sold at a much reduced price; the cod liver oil and vitamin tablets are free.

Welfare foods are distributed from the houses of various voluntary workers, County child welfare clinics, weighing centres and a few retail shops in the more rural areas. The large number of distribution points ensures an adequate distribution throughout the County, but makes the accounting very difficult.

The following particulars of distribution of the various welfare foods from the 28th June, 1954, to the 2nd January, 1955, are as follows:—

|                                 |     |     |               |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|---------------|
| No. of distribution points      | ... | ... | 72            |
| National Dried Milk distributed | ... | ... | 32675 tins    |
| Orange Juice distributed        | ... | ... | 19394 bottles |
| Cod Liver Oil distributed       | ... | ... | 4640 bottles  |
| Vitamin Tablets distributed     | ... | ... | 1133 packets  |

### **Dental Care.**

The position with regard to dental care for expectant and nursing mothers and children under school age remains as stated in last year's report. At the end of the year, however, an experienced Chief County Dental Officer was appointed and, if further dental staff can be recruited, it will be possible to offer dental treatment to such mothers and children.

In the meantime, mothers and their children are encouraged to obtain dental treatment from private dental surgeons.

### **Family Planning.**

The Pembrokeshire branch of the Family Planning Association hold clinics at the County Health Department, Haverfordwest, by permission of the County Council.

### **Care of Unmarried Mothers and their Children.**

The County Council makes an annual grant to the St. David's Diocesan Moral Welfare Committee. The moral welfare workers assist in the care and training of unmarried mothers. In 1954, 58 unmarried mothers were helped by such workers in the County.

Three beds are reserved for Pembrokeshire cases at the Carmarthen-shire County Council Hostel for unmarried mothers at Plasnewydd, Burry Port. During the year 14 girls were admitted to this hostel from the



County. In co-operation with the Children's Department, the moral welfare workers assist in adoption arrangements when an unmarried mother wishes her child to be adopted.

There is no home or hostel for unmarried mothers in Pembrokeshire.

## 2. DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY :

The County Council employs 48 midwives. This is estimated to be an equivalent of 11.75 full-time midwives. Forty-five of the nurses have been trained to administer gas and air analgesia and are equipped with the necessary apparatus.

Co-operation between the midwives and general practitioners is being increasingly encouraged. Two midwives attended a refresher course at Cardiff in July, 1954.

The demand for hospital confinements continued to be heavy. During the year 58.2 per cent. of births occurred in hospital.

The supervision of the professional standards of practising midwives is undertaken by the County Nursing Officer, who acts as the Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives; the County Medical Officer is the Medical Supervisor. Most of the routine supervisory work is done by the former officer; the latter officer deals with special medical problems.

The following statistics for 1954 are of interest:—

|                                                                                           |     |     |     |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number of live and still births                                                           | ... | ... | ... | 1591 |
| Number of such births in hospital                                                         | ... | ... | ... | 929  |
| Number of such births at home (including transfers from other areas)                      | ... | ... | ... | 662  |
| Number of home births attended by County Council nurses (doctor not present at the birth) | ... | ... | ... | 433  |
| Number of home births attended by County Council nurses (doctor present at the birth)     | ... | ... | ... | 140  |
| Number of home births attended by private midwives                                        | ... | ... | ... | 78   |
| Number of still births at hospitals                                                       | ... | ... | ... | 34   |
| Number of still births at home                                                            | ... | ... | ... | 6    |
| Number of midwives employed by the County Council                                         | ... | ... | ... | 48   |
| Number of hospital midwives in practice on 31st December, 1954                            | ... | ... | ... | 17   |
| Number of midwives in private practice on 31st December, 1954                             | ... | ... | ... | 5    |
| Number of maternal deaths in hospital                                                     | ... | ... | ... | 1    |
| Number of maternal deaths at home                                                         | ... | ... | ... | 1    |
| Number of mothers who received gas and air analgesia at home                              | ... | ... | ... | 414  |
| Number of mothers who received pethidine from nurses during confinements at home          | ... | ... | ... | 280  |



**Number of inspections of midwives by County Nursing Officer :**

|                                       | Routine | Special |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Hospitals ... ..                      | 6       | 7       |
| County district nurse/midwives ... .. | 111     | 123     |
| Private Midwives ... ..               | 5       | 4       |
| Private Nursing homes ... ..          | 1       | 1       |

**3. HEALTH VISITING.**

The policy of the County Council is to provide full-time health visitors in the more urban areas and to arrange for district nurse/midwives to undertake health visiting in the rural areas. All the health visitors act as school nurses. Scholarships are available for district nurse/midwives to attend the necessary courses for the Health Visitors Certificate. Two such scholarships were granted in 1954.

The health visiting staff at the end of 1954 consisted of the County Nursing Officer, who acts as Superintendent Health Visitor, three full-time health visitors and thirty-five district nurse/midwife/health visitors.

During the year a health visitor was transferred to the headquarters staff at Haverfordwest to undertake the supervision of mental defectives and certain mental after-care work in the County. Co-operation between general practitioners and health visitors continued to be encouraged.

The following statistics of health visiting work during the year are of interest :—

|                                                                       |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Number of visits to children under one year of age ...                | 9188 |
| Number of visits to children between one and two years of age ... ..  | 5401 |
| Number of visits to children between two and five years of age ... .. | 8907 |

**4. HOME NURSING.**

The County Council employed on the 31st December, 1954, the following district nurses on home nursing duties :—

|                                             |    |
|---------------------------------------------|----|
| Home nurses/midwives/health visitors ... .. | 35 |
| Home nurses/midwives ... ..                 | 13 |
| Home nurses ... ..                          | 3  |

The major proportion of the work of the nursing staff is home nursing and this work has increased appreciably since 1948. Many chronic sick patients have to be nursed at home owing to shortage of hospital beds.

General Practitioners are given valuable assistance by the district nurses. The nurses continue to play an important part in the increasing home treatment of tuberculosis patients.

The building of two special houses for district nurses commenced during the year; one was completed and occupied by the district nurse at Keyston, Camrose. In other areas the district councils have kindly co-operated in letting council houses to nurses.



|                                               |        |        |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Number of home nursing visits during the year | ...    | 82,942 |
| Number of patients treated                    | ... .. | 6,139  |
| Number of medical cases                       | ... .. | 4,216  |
| Number of surgical cases                      | ... .. | 1,803  |
| Number of tuberculous cases                   | ... .. | 73     |

The County Nursing Officer is responsible for the supervision of home nursing work. The recruitment of district nurses continued to be difficult, but the position was eased by the granting of scholarships to local nurses who wish to undertake Queen's Institute District Nursing training.

## 5. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

No change has been made in the existing scheme for immunisation. The administrative arrangements for this work continue to be undertaken by the District Medical Officers of Health.

The actual vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria are performed by general practitioners in their surgeries, at the homes of patients, in the clinics and at schools.

As compared with 1952 and 1953, there was an appreciable and welcome increase in the number of children immunised against diphtheria. This increase was due to a number of causes, including more intensive propaganda by district nurses and health visitors.

An increasing number of babies and children are now being immunised with the combined diphtheria and whooping cough prophylactic. This tendency is being encouraged.

The following statistics are of interest :—

|                                                                                | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Number of successful primary vaccinations notified ...                         | 656  | 592  | 491  |
| Number of re-vaccinations notified .....                                       | 148  | 88   | 87   |
| Number of children immunised against diphtheria .....                          | 1151 | 747  | 905  |
| Number of children who received booster doses of diphtheria prophylactic ..... | 1697 | 268  | 300  |
| Number of notified cases of diphtheria .....                                   | Nil  | Nil  | Nil  |
| Number of notified cases of smallpox .....                                     | Nil  | Nil  | Nil  |

## 6. AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The County Council's proposals under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, provide that the County Ambulance Service and its personnel will be subject to the operational direction of the County Medical Officer of Health or a member of his staff authorised by him.

The Welsh Home Service Ambulance Committee provide and maintain under an agency arrangement the necessary ambulances, drivers and attendants. During 1954, there were seven ambulances with five full-time paid drivers and three full-time paid attendants in the County. In addition, volunteer drivers and attendants who are members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society are employed when required.



A combined fire and ambulance call room, staffed by firewomen of the County Fire Brigade, is available for the receipt of ambulance calls at any time during the day or night.

The demands on the ambulance service continued to increase and a record number of patients were transported in the ambulances and sitting case cars. It was necessary to make a further appeal to doctors and hospital staffs asking for their co-operation in reducing demands.

The following 1954 statistics of the Ambulance Service Proper are of interest:—

| Station                           | Patients<br>Stretcher | Patients<br>Sitting | Total<br>No. of<br>Patients | No. of<br>Journeys | Miles<br>Travelled | Average<br>miles<br>per case |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Haverfordwest                     |                       |                     |                             |                    |                    |                              |
| No. 1 ...                         | 973                   | 3024                | 3997                        | 2055               | 63,387             | 16.36                        |
| Haverfordwest                     |                       |                     |                             |                    |                    |                              |
| No. 2 ...                         | 597                   | 3189                | 3786                        | 2071               | 28,765             | 7.60                         |
| Haverfordwest                     |                       |                     |                             |                    |                    |                              |
| No. 3 ...                         | 151                   | 1047                | 1198                        | 565                | 56,440             | 47.11                        |
| (Long distance<br>Ambulance)      |                       |                     |                             |                    |                    |                              |
| Milford Haven ...                 | 306                   | 2060                | 2366                        | 1167               | 34,729             | 14.67                        |
| Pembroke Dock ...                 | 454                   | 1627                | 2081                        | 721                | 42,443             | 20.39                        |
| Tenby ...                         | 421                   | 1316                | 1737                        | 555                | 24,177             | 13.91                        |
| Fishguard ...                     | 233                   | 1292                | 1525                        | 732                | 28,517             | 18.70                        |
| (Letterston)                      |                       |                     |                             |                    |                    |                              |
| Cardiganshire<br>Ambulances ...   | 19                    | 31                  | 50                          | 49                 | 1,213              | 24.26                        |
| Carmarthenshire<br>Ambulances ... | 3                     | 2                   | 5                           | 5                  | 245                | 49.00                        |
| TOTALS ...                        | 3,157                 | 13,588              | 16,745                      | 7,920              | 281,916            | 16.83                        |

The increasing use of the County Ambulance Service since its inception on 5th July, 1948, is illustrated by the following figures, which do not include the Sitting Case Car Service:—

| Year     | Patients | Miles   | Average miles<br>per case |
|----------|----------|---------|---------------------------|
| 1948 ... | 1,625    | 37,976  | 23.37                     |
| 1949 ... | 7,023    | 148,261 | 21.11                     |
| 1950 ... | 9,516    | 186,007 | 19.54                     |
| 1951 ... | 12,086   | 230,361 | 19.06                     |
| 1952 ... | 12,540   | 220,296 | 17.57                     |
| 1953 ... | 14,877   | 270,762 | 18.20                     |
| 1954 ... | 16,690   | 280,458 | 16.80                     |

#### Sitting Case Car Service.

No sitting case cars are owned by the Authority. The service is provided by a large number of private car proprietors throughout the County who apply for inclusion on the approved list of the County Council. The payments for the hire of these cars are according to the mileage and waiting time.



Many patients regarded as sitting cases are transported by ambulance, but cars are used when an ambulance is not available or it is considered that the use of a car would be cheaper.

The following statistics of the sitting case car service for the past five years are of interest :—

| Year |     |     | Journeys | Patients | Miles  |
|------|-----|-----|----------|----------|--------|
| 1950 | ... | ... | 1256     | 1631     | 30,016 |
| 1951 | ... | ... | 1671     | 2382     | 50,799 |
| 1952 | ... | ... | 1911     | 2698     | 58,925 |
| 1953 | ... | ... | 1915     | 2762     | 58,975 |
| 1954 | ... | ... | 2383     | 3540     | 68,060 |

#### **Rail Transport of Patients.**

If the medical condition of patients who have to make long distance journeys is satisfactory, then rail transport is arranged. This involves making arrangements with other local health authorities for the use of their ambulances to meet trains and with the British Railways staffs, who are very co-operative in promoting the comfort of patients and their escorts.

### **7. PREVENTION, CARE AND AFTER-CARE OF ILLNESS.**

This section of the National Health Service Act presents a very wide field of work to a local health authority, but much further planning is necessary before it can be widely implemented.

As stated in previous reports, the Council's duties under this section have been restricted to tuberculosis and the provision of home nursing equipment.

#### **Tuberculosis.**

This disease continued to present a problem in the County. There was no reduction in the number of new cases as compared with 1953. The important developments in the medical and surgical treatment of tuberculous patients resulted in a continued reduction in the number of deaths from the disease. The tuberculosis statistics are given in Section 3 of the report.

In the prevention of the disease and the care and after-care of tuberculous patients, a liaison is maintained between the Chest Physician, General Practitioners, the County Health Department staff, the District Medical Officers of Health and Sanitary Inspectors. The District Councils continued to give special attention to the housing of tuberculous patients.

The County Council provides, on the advice of the Chest Physician, extra nourishment in the form of liquid milk for tuberculous patients. During 1953, 34,497 pints were supplied.

The County Council has garden chalets available for loan to patients, but the demand in recent years has been very limited.

The district nurses continue to make a valuable contribution to the home treatment of tuberculous patients. They give the majority of the injections of streptomycin to such patients.

The B.C.G. vaccination of child contacts against tuberculosis is encouraged. The work is undertaken by the Chest Physician. In 1954, 56 children in the County were vaccinated. A scheme for the routine B.C.G. vaccination of thirteen-year-old children has been approved.



In the Autumn, the Mass Radiography Unit visited the County. The results were as follows :—

|                                                                          |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Number of Persons X-rayed .....                                          | 9,787 |
| Number of definite cases of tuberculosis .....                           | 2     |
| Number of possible cases of tuberculosis for further investigation ..... | 88    |
| Number of other diseases or defects detected .....                       | 496   |

#### **Provision of Home Nursing Equipment.**

This equipment is provided mainly by arrangement with the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John. There are nine distribution depots. They are located at Haverfordwest, Milford Haven, Pembroke Dock, Pembroke, Tenby, Narberth, Letterston, Newport and Fishguard. The district nurses supply certain items in other parts of the County. All equipment is loaned free of charge to patients.

The County Council makes a payment of £10 to each depot and replaces all worn or damaged articles.

### **8. DOMESTIC HELP : HOME HELP SERVICE.**

During the year the demand for this service increased appreciably. A proportion of applicants were referred to the National Assistance Board for financial assistance to meet the cost of private domestic help. The greatest demands on the service continued to be from households with chronic sick patients and from the elderly and infirm. It was possible to make a limited expansion of the service during the year.

The service makes a definite contribution to the National Health Service. It helps to reduce the need for hospital beds and for Part III accommodation.

The following statistics for 1954 are of interest :—

|                                                                     |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Number of Occasional Home Helps employed during the year ...     | 88   |
| 2. Number of Full-time Home Helps employed during the year .....    | Nil  |
| 3. Number of Part-time Home Helps employed during the year ...      | Nil  |
| 4. Total number of households provided with Home Help .....         | 119  |
| 5. Number of maternity cases assisted with Home Help .....          | 27   |
| 6. Number of tuberculosis cases assisted with Home Help .....       | 8    |
| 7. Number of medical and surgical cases assisted with Home Help ... | 84   |
| 8. Number of home visits by Home Help Organiser .....               | 1123 |

### **9. MENTAL HEALTH.**

This as a subject of great importance. Mental ill-health, especially of a minor degree, is very prevalent. It causes much unhappiness and loss of social and economic efficiency. St. David's Hospital, Carmarthen, the local mental hospital, continues to be over-crowded and has a waiting list for the admission of patients.

The prevention of mental illness is a complex subject. Much further research is necessary as there are many gaps in our knowledge of the subject. In recent years increasing attention has been paid to possible causes in infancy and childhood. Psychiatrists now emphasise the need of a close mother-child relationship in infancy and early childhood and



the avoidance of a prolonged separation of mother and child. Hospitalisation of young children is being discouraged and the regular visiting of children in hospital by parents is being encouraged.

The after-care of patients after discharge from mental hospitals has not been developed in the County. A scheme is, however, under consideration. Unfortunately the St. David's Hospital, Carmarthen, is without a psychiatric social worker on its staff and the psychiatrists are too busy to give the necessary information which would assist the County Health Department in providing a routine after-care service.

In August, 1954, a Mental Health Visitor, who is a qualified health visitor, was appointed to the Headquarter Staff of the County Health Department. Her main duty, up to the present, has been the supervision of mental defectives in their homes and advising parents on their management. It is hoped that she will also be able to do some after-care of patients who have had psychotic or psychoneurotic illnesses.

The training of mental defectives in the County is under consideration. Geographical considerations make difficult the provision of occupation centres.

It had been hoped that the Welsh Regional Hospital Board would establish an occasional Child Guidance Clinic at Haverfordwest. The Child Psychiatrist for South West Wales is stationed at Swansea. He states that, at present, owing to other commitments, he cannot establish a Clinic in Pembrokeshire.

#### **Mental Deficiency Acts.**

In 1954, 5 mental defectives were admitted to institutions. The following statistics of the mental defectives in the County on the 31st December, 1954, are of interest:—

|                                                                 | Ma'les | Females | Total |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|-------|
| Number of Defectives "subject to be dealt with":                |        |         |       |
| Under Statutory Supervision ... ..                              | 34     | 21      | 55    |
| In Institutions or on Licence ... ..                            | 33     | 47      | 80    |
| In "Places of Safety" ... ..                                    | 1      | —       | 1     |
| Under Guardianship ... ..                                       | —      | —       | —     |
| Number of Defectives "not at present subject to be dealt with": |        |         |       |
| Placed under voluntary supervision ...                          | 32     | 44      | 76    |
| Number of Defectives awaiting admission to an Institution:      |        |         |       |
| Urgent Cases ... ..                                             | 4      | 6       | 10    |
| Non-urgent Cases ... ..                                         | 16     | 5       | 21    |

#### **Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.**

The seven district Welfare Officers act as part-time daily authorised officers. They arrange the admission of certified patients, including the various legal formalities, to mental hospitals. They also assist, if required, with the admission of voluntary patients.



The admission of mental patients from the County during the year were as follows :—

|                                         | Certified |        | Temporary |        | Voluntary |        | Totals |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|
|                                         | Male      | Female | Male      | Female | Male      | Female |        |
| St. David's Hospital,<br>Carmarthen ... | 8         | 12     | 5         | 4      | 32        | 52     | 113    |
| Cefn Coed Hospital,<br>Swansea ...      | 5         | 1      | 1         | —      | 4         | —      | 11     |

### SECTION 3

#### EPIDEMIOLOGY : INFECTIOUS AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The control of infectious diseases in the County is mainly the responsibility of the County District Councils. The District Medical Officers of Health send a weekly numerical report of notified infectious diseases in each district council area to the County Medical Officer. They have also to forward, if possible within twelve hours but in any case within forty-eight hours, a copy of each notification of infectious disease to the County Medical Officer. By such means, the latter officer has a comprehensive picture of the distribution of infectious diseases within the County.

There was a reduced incidence of Poliomyelitis during 1954 ; 7 cases were notified compared with 14 in 1953. The cases occurred in separate districts of the County and no chain or common source of infection was discovered.

During the year Whooping Cough was prevalent in most parts of the County. Only a proportion of cases is usually notified.

The ten notified cases of food poisoning at Haverfordwest and the eighteen cases at Milford Haven were probably due to zinc poisoning. The latter outbreak was investigated in detail and it was considered that the zinc was probably derived from potatoes cooked in a galvanised boiler, normally used for the boiling of kitchen cloths in a school canteen.

The following table gives the incidence of confirmed cases of certain infectious diseases, excluding tuberculosis, in the various districts in 1954 :—



Cases of Confirmed Infectious Diseases notified to the County Medical Officer were:—

| Disease                               | Haverford-<br>west M.B. | Tenby<br>M.B. | Pembroke<br>M.B. | Fishguard<br>and<br>Goodwick<br>U.D.C. | Milford<br>U.D.C. | Neyland<br>U.D.C. | Narberth<br>U.D.C. | Haverford-<br>west R.D.C. | Narberth<br>R.D.C. | Pembroke<br>R.D.C. | Cemaes<br>R.D.C. | Totals |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------|
| Scarlet Fever                         | 2                       | —             | 2                | 3                                      | —                 | 28                | —                  | 1                         | —                  | 4                  | 4                | 44     |
| Diphtheria                            | —                       | —             | —                | —                                      | —                 | —                 | —                  | —                         | —                  | —                  | —                | —      |
| Measles                               | —                       | —             | 6                | —                                      | 2                 | 3                 | —                  | 5                         | —                  | 15                 | 1                | 32     |
| Whooping Cough                        | 18                      | 12            | 55               | 19                                     | 7                 | 2                 | —                  | 90                        | 8                  | 3                  | 25               | 239    |
| Erysipelas                            | —                       | —             | 9                | —                                      | —                 | —                 | —                  | 2                         | —                  | —                  | —                | 11     |
| Paratyphoid Fever                     | 1                       | —             | —                | —                                      | —                 | —                 | —                  | 1                         | —                  | —                  | —                | 2      |
| Food Poisoning                        | 10                      | —             | —                | —                                      | 18                | —                 | —                  | 1                         | —                  | —                  | —                | 29     |
| Dysentery                             | 3                       | —             | 1                | —                                      | —                 | —                 | —                  | —                         | —                  | —                  | 1                | 5      |
| Puerperal Pyrexia                     | —                       | —             | —                | —                                      | —                 | —                 | —                  | —                         | —                  | —                  | —                | —      |
| Meningococcal Infection               | —                       | —             | —                | —                                      | —                 | —                 | —                  | 3                         | —                  | —                  | —                | 3      |
| Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic         | —                       | —             | —                | 1                                      | 1                 | —                 | —                  | 1                         | 2                  | 1                  | —                | 6      |
| Acute Poliomyelitis Non-<br>Paralytic | —                       | —             | —                | —                                      | —                 | —                 | —                  | —                         | 1                  | —                  | —                | 1      |
| Acute Infective Encephalitis          | —                       | —             | —                | —                                      | —                 | —                 | —                  | —                         | —                  | —                  | 1                | 1      |
|                                       | 34                      | 12            | 73               | 23                                     | 28                | 33                | —                  | 104                       | 11                 | 23                 | 32               | 373    |



**TUBERCULOSIS :**

The following tables are of interest :—

**Number and Age distribution of new notifications of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in 1954.**

| Age Groups in years | New Notifications |        |                 |        | Deaths      |        |                 |        |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
|                     | Respiratory       |        | Non-Respiratory |        | Respiratory |        | Non-Respiratory |        |
|                     | Male              | Female | Male            | Female | Male        | Female | Male            | Female |
| 0—1 ...             | —                 | —      | —               | —      | —           | —      | —               | —      |
| 1—2 ...             | —                 | —      | —               | —      | —           | —      | —               | —      |
| 2—5 ...             | —                 | —      | —               | —      | —           | —      | —               | —      |
| 5—10 ...            | —                 | —      | —               | 1      | —           | —      | —               | —      |
| 10—15 ...           | 1                 | 4      | —               | 2      | —           | —      | —               | —      |
| 15—20 ...           | 2                 | 3      | —               | —      | —           | —      | —               | —      |
| 20—25 ...           | 5                 | 2      | 1               | 1      | —           | 1      | —               | —      |
| 25—35 ...           | 6                 | 13     | 2               | 1      | 4           | —      | —               | —      |
| 35—45 ...           | 5                 | 4      | —               | —      | 1           | 1      | —               | —      |
| 45—55 ...           | 8                 | 1      | —               | 1      | 3           | 2      | —               | —      |
| 55—65 ...           | 3                 | 1      | —               | —      | 2           | 1      | —               | —      |
| 65—75 ...           | 2                 | —      | —               | —      | 1           | 2      | 1               | —      |
| 75+ ...             | 1                 | —      | —               | —      | —           | —      | —               | 1      |
| Totals ...          | 33                | 28     | 3               | 6      | 11          | 7      | 1               | 1      |

**The Number of Cases of Tuberculosis on the Health Department Register :—**

|                            | Respiratory |        | Non-Respiratory |        | Total |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-------|
|                            | Male        | Female | Male            | Female |       |
| On 31st December, 1953 ... | 301         | 212    | 42              | 47     | 602   |
| On 31st December, 1954 ... | 289         | 214    | 34              | 41     | 578   |

**The number of New Notifications of Tuberculosis and Deaths from 1935-54 :—**

| Year     | New Notifications of Tuberculosis |                 | Deaths      |                 |
|----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
|          | Respiratory                       | Non-Respiratory | Respiratory | Non-Respiratory |
| 1935 ... | 63                                | 16              | 65          | 22              |
| 1936 ... | 101                               | 19              | 46          | 14              |
| 1937 ... | 113                               | 29              | 59          | 12              |
| 1938 ... | 81                                | 37              | 48          | 11              |
| 1939 ... | 88                                | 27              | 43          | 12              |
| 1940 ... | 53                                | 18              | 38          | 10              |
| 1941 ... | 64                                | 22              | 26          | 14              |
| 1942 ... | 88                                | 19              | 43          | 8               |
| 1943 ... | 63                                | 32              | 22          | 1               |
| 1944 ... | 73                                | 21              | 36          | 1               |
| 1945 ... | 73                                | 24              | 32          | 5               |
| 1946 ... | 64                                | 18              | 25          | 4               |
| 1947 ... | 68                                | 14              | 36          | 3               |
| 1948 ... | 62                                | 29              | 24          | 1               |
| 1949 ... | 73                                | 18              | 41          | 1               |
| 1950 ... | 62                                | 16              | 28          | 3               |
| 1951 ... | 66                                | 9               | 26          | 9               |
| 1952 ... | 51                                | 5               | 24          | 1               |
| 1953 ... | 63                                | 6               | 22          | 6               |
| 1954 ... | 61                                | 9               | 18          | 2               |



## SECTION 4

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS: COUNTY COUNCIL  
RESPONSIBILITIES.

## 1. Pasteurised Milk.

The County Council, in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, is the licensing authority for pasteurisers and sterilisers of milk. There are three pasteurisation plants in the County, two at Haverfordwest and one at Tenby; there are no milk sterilisation plants. Batch pasteurisation is undertaken at two of the former plants; the H.T.S.T. process in the other plant.

Owing to other commitments, it continued to be difficult for the County Medical Officer to undertake the necessary regular inspections of pasteurisation plants. A close supervision of batch pasteurisation plants is particularly necessary. During the year, however, fewer samples of milk from these plants gave evidence of inadequate heat treatment. The importance of careful time and temperature recording was stressed to all pasteurisers.

Samples of milk at these plants were taken by the Weights and Measures Inspectorate. These samples were in addition to those taken by district sanitary inspectors during the retail distribution of pasteurised milk.

## 2. Sampling of Food and Drugs.

The milk sampling for chemical quality and added water was undertaken by the Police. The Weights and Measures Inspectorate was responsible for the sampling of other foods and drugs. The following brief summary of the number of samples and the results for the year 1954 is of interest:—

| Article                            | Number of |         |             |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---------|-------------|
|                                    | Samples   | Genuine | Not genuine |
| Milk ... ..                        | 175       | 159     | 16          |
| Dried and Condensed Milk ...       | 2         | 2       | —           |
| Patent Medicines ... ..            | 7         | 7       | —           |
| Non-alcoholic drinks ... ..        | 4         | 4       | —           |
| Alcoholic drinks ... ..            | 4         | 4       | —           |
| Butter, Margarine and Cooking Fats | 32        | 32      | —           |
| Tinned Meat and Fish ... ..        | 9         | 9       | —           |
| Spices and Condiments ... ..       | 22        | 22      | —           |
| Miscellaneous Groceries ... ..     | 159       | 153     | 6           |
|                                    | 414       | 392     | 22          |



## SECTION 5

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Children's Department.**

The County Medical Officer acts as medical adviser to the Children's Committee and Department. Close co-operation is maintained with the Children's Officer.

Medical advice is given on the suitability of certain children for adoption and "boarding out." Children taken into care are examined initially and, as far as possible, once every quarter.

The two departments co-operated in dealing with problem families.

**Welfare Department.**

The County Medical Officer also acts as medical adviser to the County Welfare Committee and the Welfare Department. The examination and certification of blind persons is, however, undertaken by Dr. E. Roland Williams, an Ophthalmologist.

Medical advice is given on the suitability of persons for admission to Part III accommodation. Transfer cases from chronic sick hospital accommodation often presented special difficulties as many of these cases could be described as borderline. Owing to the shortage of the hospital accommodation in the County every effort was made to facilitate the transfer of patients.

The effort to remove mental defectives from Part III accommodation continued during the year.

**Blind Persons.**

1. Number of Registered Blind or Partially Sighted Persons in the County on the 31st December, 1954, is as follows:—

|                          | Blind | Partially Sighted |
|--------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Under 5 years ... ..     | —     | 2                 |
| 5—16 years ... ..        | 3     | 11                |
| 16—21 years ... ..       | 7     | 6                 |
| 21—50 years ... ..       | 48    | 24                |
| 50—65 years ... ..       | 52    | 31                |
| 65 years and over ... .. | 266   | 103               |
| Total ... ..             | 376   | 177               |

2. Follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons.

|                                                                                                        |    |   |   | Cause of disability. |          |             |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---|---|----------------------|----------|-------------|--------|
|                                                                                                        |    |   |   | Retrolental          |          |             |        |
|                                                                                                        |    |   |   | Cataract             | Glaucoma | Fibroplasia | Others |
| (i) Number of cases registered during 1954 in respect of which para. 7 (c) of Form B.D. 8 recommends:— |    |   |   |                      |          |             |        |
| (a) No treatment ... ..                                                                                | 22 | 3 | — |                      |          |             | 11     |
| (b) Treatment (medical, surgical and optical) ... ..                                                   | 28 | 1 | — |                      |          |             | 12     |



- (ii) Number of cases as (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment      20      1      —      11

3. Ophthalmia Neonatorum : No cases were reported during 1954.

4. Hospital Ophthalmic Treatment Facilities : During the year an Out-patient Ophthalmic Clinic, in charge of Mr. R. W. Payne, F.R.C.S. (Ed.), was opened at the Meyrick Hospital, Pembroke Dock. The shortage of facilities for in-patient treatment continued.

#### **Medical Examination of County Staff.**

This work continues to take an increasing proportion of the time of the medical staff.

The following examinations were undertaken during 1954 :—

- |                                                                                                       |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Medical Examination of Entrants (excluding teachers and police) to County Council Employment ..... | 50 |
| 2. Medical Examination of Manual Workers for entry into sickness benefit scheme .....                 | 62 |
| 3. Medical Examination of Police candidates .....                                                     | 15 |
| 4. Medical Examination of Police cadets .....                                                         | 2  |
| 5. Medical Examination of Entrants to Teachers' Training Colleges .....                               | 86 |
| 6. Medical Examination of Newly Appointed Teachers .....                                              | 50 |
| 7. Number of Chest X-ray Examinations of Staff (excluding Mass Radiography examinations) .....        | 84 |







