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PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

A N N U A L
R E P O R T

of the

County

Medical Officer of Health
for Pembrokeshire

1 9 5 9





ANNUAL REPORT

of the

County

Medical Officer of Health

for Pembrokeshire

1959

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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 seventh annual report. A feature of the year was the very long period of hot dry weather during the summer and autumn months, but, despite the shortage of water in certain areas and an unusually heavy influx of visitors, there was fortunately no outbreak of infectious disease.

With the completion of the Esso Refinery and the British Petroleum Oil Terminal, Milford Haven will become a major oil port in the near future. This will necessitate an expansion of the local Port Health Service and during the year discussions on the subject were held with the Port Health Authority. Though the possibility of the importation of serious infectious disease is slight, it is necessary to make arrangements to deal with such an eventuality.

In 1959 there was serious concern among the general public and local doctors that, despite the local industrial developments, there would be a reduction in the existing hospital and consultant services in Pembrokeshire, due to the erection of the large base hospital at Carmarthen. At a series of meetings at Haverfordwest, representatives of the County Council and other local health service organisations were given reassurances by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board and the Welsh Board of Health that no reduction in the existing services was planned. It is a complicated problem, but, as South West Wales has only sufficient population to maintain one major general hospital, it is probable that the County Hospital at Haverfordwest and the West Wales General Hospital at Carmarthen will become more closely linked and will eventually have a joint consultant staff. It is likely that an increasing number of Pembrokeshire patients will receive hospital treatment at Carmarthen.

There were a number of developments during the year : in the early summer months, a heavy demand for vaccination against poliomyelitis followed the death of a well-known Birmingham footballer from the disease ; a limited extension of the scheme for B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis was authorised ; proposals for the required expansion of the County Council mental health services in future years received detailed consideration and arrangements were made for the establishment of a Mental Health Service or Community Care Section of the department ; further progress was made in promoting co-operation in the local maternity services ; the County Council decided to give additional financial assistance towards a voluntary chiropody service for elderly persons ; it was possible to open for the first time weighing centres at St. Ishmaels and St. Dogmaels and group training sessions for mental defectives at Haverfordwest and Pembroke Dock.

I am grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued support and interest. It was a busy year for the staff of the County Health Department and the medical, dental and nursing and clerical staff deserve commendation for their efforts.

It was the last full year of the Agency Agreement with the Welsh Home Ambulance Committee, and I wish to thank the Committee and the Officials, especially Mr. C. H. Smith, the Ambulance Controller, for their valuable work in maintaining the ambulance services in this County since the inception of the National Health Service in 1948.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. J. DAVIES,

County Medical Officer of Health.

County Health Department,
Haverfordwest.

May, 1960.

COUNTY OF PEMBROKE

HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as on 31st December, 1959)

Chairman :

Councillor D. W. Evans

Vice-Chairman :

County Alderman B. G. Howells

County Aldermen :

James John	Mrs. A. Norman
T. R. Joseph	D. H. Roberts
L. J. Meyler, O.B.E.	J. O. Vaughan
S. J. Morris	

County Councillors :

T. H. Allen	J. W. Jones
E. Anthony, M.B.E.	W. M. Mendus
T. W. H. Byard	J. L. Morris
Rev. Mathias Davies	W. C. Philpin
A. Edwards	Rev. D. G. Stephens
J. M. James	Rev. John Thomas
O. G. John	W. Thomas, C.B.
W. C. John	W. L. Williams

Co-opted Members :

Miss Nancy Thomas, Mrs. Picton Thomas.

Local Medical Committee Representatives :

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

Pembrokeshire Federation of Women's Institutes Representatives :

Mrs. E. Bickerton Edwards, Mrs. V. Owen.

*West Wales Hospital Management Committee Representatives :*J. F. Green, Esq., Dr. M. Rowland Evans,
County Alderman R. S. Wade.

STAFF OF COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1959

*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.

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

T. D. Lewis, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

District Medical Officers of Health :

(These Officers devote up to 25% of their time to County Council duties):

W. J. Y. Speedy, M.B., B.Ch., L.R.C.P., & S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

P. E. M. Bowen, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officers and School Medical Officers :

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

Joan Nichols, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H.

(Part-time employed on occasional sessional basis).

Chief Dental Officer and Principal School Dental Officer :

I. O. Enos, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Resigned 10.1.59)

O. C. Jenkins, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.), D.D.S. (Toronto) (Commenced 1.5.59).

School Dental Officers :

G. Hellings, L.D.S.

D. G. James, L.D.S., R.C.S.

N. J. Rowland, L.D.S., R.C.S.

County Nursing Officer :

Miss J. M. Young, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. CERT., H.V. CERT.

County Orthopaedic Sister :

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

Mental Health Visitor :

Miss P. E. A. Porter, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. CERT.

Tuberculosis and Problem Families Health Visitor :

Miss S. M. Morgan, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. CERT.

County Home Help Organiser :

Miss M. R. F. Collins.

County Ambulance Officer :

P. J. Hunt.

Speech Therapist :

Miss M. Thompson (part-time).

Occupational Therapist :

Mrs. I. R. Panton, M.A.O.T. (Part-time commenced 24.II.59).

Consultant Child Psychiatrist :

G. Crosse, M.B., B.S., D.P.M.

Educational Psychologist :

C. B. E. James, B.A., B.E., A.B.P.S.S.

Chief Clerk :

O. M. Shearn, A.C.I.S.

Other Nursing Staff (as on 31st December, 1959) :

- 4 Health Visitors and School Nurses.
- 31 District Nurse/Midwife/Health Visitor/School Nurses.
- 15 District Nurse/Midwives.
- 1 District Nurse/Health Visitor.
- 3 District Nurses.
- 1 Clinic Nurse.

Home Helps (as on 31st December, 1959) :

- 163 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 ;
- (d) Tuberculosis Care and After-Care Sub-Committee ;
- (e) Mental Health Sub-Committee.

2. Public Health and Housing Committee.

3. Education Committee responsible for School Health Service.

SECTION I

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1959

1. AREA

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

2. POPULATION

1911—By Census	...	...	...	90,014
1921—By Census	...	...	...	91,580
1931—By Census	...	...	...	86,020
1938—Estimated Mid-Year	...	...	...	83,200
1945—Estimated Mid-Year	...	...	...	82,690
1951—By Census	...	...	...	90,740
1952—Estimated Mid-Year	...	...	...	91,040
1953—Estimated Mid-Year	...	...	...	92,090
1954—Estimated Mid-Year	...	...	...	92,750
1955—Estimated Mid-Year	...	...	...	93,800
1956—Estimated Mid-Year	...	...	...	94,260
1957—Estimated Mid-Year	...	...	...	93,670
1958—Estimated Mid-Year	...	...	...	93,700
1959—Estimated Mid-Year	...	...	...	94,600

3. FINANCIAL

The product of a penny rate for the financial year 1959/60 was £3,274 15s. od.

Rateable value of the County on the 1st April, 1959, was £842,396.

4. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The estimated population of the County showed an increase of 900 over the previous year.

The 1959 vital statistics do not show any definite evidence of unusual tendencies. As stated in the previous report, it is important not to consider small annual variations as significant, especially in a limited population.

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system, including vascular lesions of the nervous system, and cancer continued to be the main causes of death. These conditions particularly affect the age groups over forty-five years of age and their increase in recent years has tended to keep the figures of expectation of life stationary. The definite causation of the degenerative diseases of the circulatory system, including coronary thrombosis, is still unknown though there are a number of unconfirmed theories.

Cancer remains a serious problem: there were 200 deaths as compared with 185 in the previous year. The death rate from this disease in the County approximated to the national figure. An appreciable increase—from 20 to 38—in the deaths from cancer of lung emphasises the importance of publicising the connection between this condition and tobacco smoking.

Accidents are a preventable cause of death: motor accident deaths were ten as compared with eighteen and six in the previous two years, and, other accidents, mainly in the home, caused twenty-six deaths. Most of the victims in the latter group were of the age group of seventy-five years and over.

Though the birth rate continued to be appreciably higher than for England and Wales, there was a definite fall as compared with the previous year. The marked predominance of male infants was a feature of the year: 121 more males than females. There was a very welcome fall in the infant and neo-natal mortality rates: the former figure was slightly below the national rate for England and Wales. The still-birth rate remained well above the national figure. There was one maternal death during the year.

Of the neo-natal deaths—in the first month of life—ten were due directly to congenital abnormalities and five to cerebral or intra-cranial haemorrhage.

5. (i) DETAILED STATISTICS

<i>Live Births</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Legitimate	... ..	827	712	1,539
Illegitimate	... ..	35	29	64
(3.99 per cent. of live births)				
TOTALS ...		862	741	1,603

<i>Still Births</i>				
Legitimate	... ..	20	20	40
Illegitimate	... ..	2	1	3
TOTALS ...		22	21	43

Live birth rate per 1,000 population	... ..	16.94
		(Crude)
		17.45
		(Adjusted)
Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births	... ..	26.12
Total live and still births	... ..	1,646
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	... ..	34
Infant Mortality Rates:		
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	... ..	21.21
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	... ..	22.09
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... ..	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	... ..	16.84
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	... ..	14.34
Peri-natal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	... ..	40.09
Maternal Mortality (including abortion):		
Number of deaths	... ..	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	... ..	0.60

(ii) CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE:

Causes of Death	All ages		0—		1—		5—		15—		25—		45—		65—		75—		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1.—Tuberculosis—Respiratory	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
2.—Tuberculosis—Other	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.—Syphilitic Disease	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
4.—Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.—Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.—Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.—Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.—Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.—Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.—Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	26	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	3	10	6	6	5
11.—Malignant Neoplasm—Lungs, Bronchus	36	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	13	2	17	—	5	—	—
12.—Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	4	—	2
13.—Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	1
14.—Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	52	43	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	4	6	12	17	18	10	17	9	—
15.—Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.—Diabetes	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.—Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	82	104	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	19	15	25	31	38	57	2
18.—Coronary Disease—Angina	141	67	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	53	8	44	28	40	31	—
19.—Hypertension with Heart Disease	10	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	11	6	7	—
20.—Other Heart Diseases	35	60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	7	13	12	19	40	—
21.—Other Circulatory Disease	31	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	4	4	22	20	—
22.—Influenza	12	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	7	3	3	2	—
23.—Pneumonia	16	19	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	2	2	7	12	—
24.—Bronchitis	27	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	12	3	5	5	—
25.—Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.—Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	10	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	5	—	3	1	—
27.—Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.—Nephritis or Nephrosis	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.—Hyperplasia of Prostrate	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.—Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.—Congenital Malformation	11	7	9	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32.—Other Defined and Ill-defined diseases	43	59	10	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	14	3	10	13	29	—
33.—Motor Vehicle Accidents	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34.—All Other Accidents	11	15	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	1	2	—	—	3	11
35.—Suicide	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36.—Homicide and Operations of War	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Causes	590	512	21	13	4	2	5	3	7	2	21	17	164	103	167	131	201	241	—

(iii) DISTRICT COUNCIL, PEMBROKE COUNTY AND NATIONAL COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS (USING APPROPRIATE AREA COMPARABILITY FACTORS)

	Area in Acres	Estimated mid-year Population for 1959	No.	Live Births		Deaths		Infant Mortality		No. of Maternal Deaths and Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births
				Adjusted Rate per 1,000	No.	Adjusted Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000 Live	No.	
URBAN										
Fishguard & Goodwick U.D.C.	1,841	4,770	62	13.64	70	15.26	2	32.26	—	—
Haverfordwest M.B. ...	1,404	8,310	206	22.55	118	13.62	7	33.98	—	—
Narberth U.D.C. ...	122	1,040	12	11.65	16	15.07	—	—	—	—
Neyland U.D.C. ...	484	2,250	44	20.14	21	9.33	1	22.72	—	—
Millford Haven U.D.C. ...	1,060	12,740	246	19.31	99	11.19	4	16.26	—	—
Pembroke M.B. ...	4,679	12,800	254	20.44	176	14.16	5	19.68	1	3.74
Tenby M.B. ...	1,090	4,450	62	14.07	61	11.65	1	16.13	—	—
TOTAL ...	10,680	46,360	886	19.11	561	13.07	20	22.57	1	1.10
RURAL										
Cemaes R.D.C. ...	79,576	8,870	110	14.38	132	13.09	2	18.18	—	—
Haverfordwest R.D.C. ...	173,650	22,970	371	16.15	230	11.21	5	13.47	—	—
Narberth R.D.C. ...	80,237	9,990	144	16.14	115	10.70	4	27.77	—	—
Pembroke R.D.C. ...	48,860	6,410	92	15.21	64	10.08	3	32.61	—	—
TOTAL ...	382,323	48,240	717	15.75	541	11.21	14	19.52	—	—
Whole County ...	393,003	94,600	1,603	17.45	1,102	12.11	34	21.21	1	0.60
England and Wales				16.5		11.6		22.0		0.38

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 local arrangements for ante-natal care continued as in the previous year. With the exception of the monthly local authority clinic at Tenby, the medical ante-natal care outside the hospitals was undertaken by the general practitioners. Ante-natal clinics, staffed only by midwives were held at Hakin, Milford Haven, Pembroke Dock and Pembroke. There were 1,160 attendances of expectant mothers at the clinics, including the Tenby clinic, during 1959. The routine weighing of expectant mothers to detect early pre-eclamptic toxæmia was undertaken at each clinic. Mothercraft training sessions were arranged at Tenby and Milford Haven. Ante-natal classes, including instruction in relaxation techniques, were developed at the County Hospital, Haverfordwest, during the year.

The Maternity Services Committee (Cranbrook) Report, issued in May, 1959, was considered. Co-operation between the various members of the maternity team—the general practitioners, hospital staffs and the district midwives—is being increasingly encouraged locally. Towards the end of the year, agreement was reached with the Local Medical Committee, representative of the general practitioners in the County, and the Consultant Obstetricians of South West Wales on the local introduction of a suitable personal maternity record card in 1960. It is hoped that the use of this card will facilitate the required co-operation.

The number of maternity beds in the County was inadequate to meet the demand, especially at Haverfordwest. In the booking of the normal maternity beds at Priory Hospital, the County Nursing Officer adopted the recommended criteria for selection of the patients—special priority was given to grand-multiparae and to primiparae over the age of thirty.

Infant and Child Welfare

In 1959, it was possible to extend these services. Weighing centres were opened at St. Ishmaels and St. Dogmaels. The modernisation of the Milford Haven Clinic was completed and schemes for the provision of new clinics at Hakin and Pembroke Dock were given preliminary consideration.

During the year, there were 10,480 and 4,517 attendances of infants and children at the infant welfare and weighing centres respectively ; in 1958 the figures were 9,859 and 4,385. The limited application of the modern techniques of early detection and treatment of partially deaf and deaf children was introduced during the year and audiometry clinics were held in the urban areas. Special attention was given to certain vulnerable groups of children with the highest incidence of deafness. In 1959, thirteen pre-school age children were specially investigated for suspected deafness.

Increasing attention was given to the ascertainment and treatment, when necessary, of handicapped pre-school age children especially those with slow mental development.

Care of Premature Infants

There were 94 premature live births during the year: 33 at home and the remainder in hospital. Thirteen of the infants died, seven during the first twenty-four hours of life. Twelve deaths occurred in hospital and one at home.

At the end of the year, the much needed small premature baby unit at the County Hospital, Haverfordwest, was nearing completion. Professor A. G. Watkins of the Department of Child Health, Cardiff, kindly arranged for the County Nursing Officer to study the modern techniques of the nursing care of premature babies at the Premature Baby Units at St. Davids Hospital, Cardiff and the Cardiff Royal Infirmary Maternity Unit. Equipment for the home care of premature babies is available in the County.

Distribution of National Welfare Foods and Dried Milks

There were no major changes during the year. The administration of the schemes continued to be undertaken by the Welfare Foods Section of the department at Willesden House, Haverfordwest.

The assistance of the voluntary workers, who continued the major part of the distribution of welfare foods in the County, was invaluable, and, as stated in previous reports, their public spirit deserves commendation. The Clerk at the District Medical Officer's Office, Tenby, and many of the district nurses and health visitors also made a valuable contribution.

The following statistics illustrate the extent of the distribution work in the County:—

	1958	1959
Number of distribution points ...	64	64
National Dried Milk tins distributed	39,847	35,567
Orange Juice bottles distributed ...	44,634	47,917
Cod Liver Oil bottles distributed ...	5,826	5,784
Vitamin tablet packages distributed	3,090	3,269
Branded Dried Milk tins and packets distributed	40,405	40,546

Dental Care

The limited scheme for the provision of dental care for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school age children was continued. Priority had however to be given to the dental care of school children.

The following statistics are of interest:—

	<i>Expectant & Nursing Mothers</i>	<i>Pre-school age Children</i>
Total number of patients inspected ...	35	68
Number referred for dental treatment ...	34	68
Number actually treated (completed) ...	34	68
Number of general anaesthetic cases ...	14	28
Number of fillings	66	91
Number of teeth extracted	112	102
Number supplied with artificial dentures	11	—
Attendances at treatment centres ...	114	206

Family Planning

The clinics of the Pembrokeshire branch of the Family Planning Association continued to be held at the County Health Department, Haverfordwest. Dr. Margaret Talbot is in medical charge of the clinics and advice on sterility and sex problems in marriage is available in addition to family planning guidance.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and their Children

The moral welfare workers of the St. David's Diocesan Moral Welfare Committee, working in close collaboration with family doctors, district nurses, health visitors and the Children's Officer continued the social work for unmarried mothers and their children. They gave much valuable, but unobtrusive, assistance. During the year, fourteen unmarried mothers from the County were admitted to hostels at Hereford, Cardiff and Penarth. There is no hostel in South West Wales. In determining the length of stay at the hostel the individual problems of each mother and child were considered.

2. DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

At the end of 1959, forty-six district nurse/midwives and district nurse/health visitor/midwives were employed. This is equivalent to 9.2 full-time midwives. The recruitment of midwives remained difficult and there were three vacancies for the greater part of the year.

Forty-five of the midwives have been trained to administer gas and air analgesia and are equipped with the necessary apparatus. Trilene analgesia was used by the midwives in thirty-nine cases as compared with fifty-four in 1958.

Six district midwives attended approved refresher courses during the year. The County Branch of the Royal College of Midwives continued to arrange an excellent series of lectures. One of the lectures was given by Miss C. M. Grosse, Assistant Matron of the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich, on the use of intra-gastric oxygen in the resuscitation of the new born.

The district midwife's work, with the various calls at night, can be arduous. Each midwife is allowed five days off per month. It has been impossible to obtain an adequate num-

ber of relief midwives, and, in parts of the County, the midwife has to be responsible for a double area when her nearest colleague is off duty. A night rota system has not been introduced.

The demand for hospital confinements continued to be heavy. The proportion of such confinements was 65.1 per cent as compared with 61.2 in 1958.

The County Nursing Officer is the Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives.

The following statistics for 1959 are of interest:—

Number of live and still births	...	...	...	1,646
Number of such births in hospital (including transfers from other areas)	...	...	...	1,073
Number of such births at home (including transfers from other areas)	...	...	...	573
Number of home births attended by County Council nurses (doctor not present)	...	...	...	470
Number of home births attended by County Council nurses (doctor present at birth)	...	...	...	97
Number of home births attended by private midwives				6
Number of still births at hospitals	...	...	...	31
Number of still births at home	...	...	...	12
Number of midwives employed by the County Council				46
Number of hospital midwives in practice on 31st December, 1959	...	...	...	22
Number of midwives in private practice on 31st December, 1959	...	...	...	1
Number of maternal deaths in hospital	...	...	...	1
Number of maternal deaths at home	...	...	...	Nil
Number of mothers who received gas and air analgesia at home	...	...	...	376
Number of mothers who received pethidine from nurses during confinement at home	...	...	...	307
Number of mothers who received trilene from nurses during confinement at home	...	...	...	39

4. HOME NURSING

The following groups of nurses were employed on home nursing duties on the 31st December, 1959:—

Home nurse/midwife/health visitors	31
Home nurse/midwives	15
Home nurse/health visitor	1
Home nurses	3

Throughout the year, the demand for home nursing was heavy especially from the elderly chronic sick patients. There was a marked increase in the total of home nursing visits—7,981 more than the previous year. Other factors contributing to this trend were the large number of injections given by district nurses, patients requiring nursing care after early discharge from hospitals and the increasing tendency to treat children, with serious illnesses, at home.

The following statistics give an indication of the home nursing work during the year:—

Number of home nursing visits to children under five years of age	3,123
Number of home visits to persons over 65 years of age	40,126
Total number of home nursing visits	88,907
Number of medical cases treated	2,964
Number of surgical cases treated	1,258
Number of tuberculous cases treated	113
Number of miscellaneous cases treated	1,043
Total number of patients treated	5,378

5. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The poliomyelitis vaccination scheme received the highest priority. Adequate supplies of British vaccine were available locally throughout the year. In the first few months of the year, the response from persons born between the 1st January, 1933, and 31st December, 1942, inclusive was very disappointing, despite additional publicity. The death of a

well-known Birmingham footballer from poliomyelitis in March, with the consequent publicity, caused a marked increase in the demand for vaccination for a period of approximately three months. The increase was not as great in this rural County as in the large towns, but it necessitated a sudden expansion of the work of the department. With the assistance of two additional temporary clerks for the registration and appointment work, and the postponement of some of the less urgent medical work, it was possible to deal with the extra demand. I am grateful to the clerical, nursing and medical staff, assisted by a few general practitioners, for their excellent teamwork in the implementation of this scheme especially during the "rush" period. Throughout the year, steady progress was made with the third injections which are given at least seven months after the second injection.

Numerous injection sessions were held in schools and clinics throughout the County: the willing co-operation of the various head teachers was invaluable in these arrangements.

On the 31st December, 1959, the poliomyelitis vaccination statistics were as follows:—

Number of premises used as vaccination centres during
the year III

Number of persons (including children) who completed two injections in 1959:—

Those born in the years 1933-42 3,377

Those born in the years 1943-58 5,138

Expectant Mothers 622

General Practitioners and Ambulance Staff (including families) 5

Hospital Staff and Medical Students (including families) 137

TOTAL 9,279

Number of Children and young persons who completed three injections in 1959	13,511
Total number of persons (including children) at 31st December, 1959, who had received two injections since the commencement of the scheme	22,686
Total number of children and young persons who had received three injections	14,314

Despite the priority for the afore-mentioned scheme, considerable progress was made in 1959 with the schemes for immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough, and vaccination against smallpox as is evidenced by the following statistics:—

	1959	1958	1957
Number of children immunised against diphtheria	1,245	958	868
Number of children who received booster dose of diphtheria prophylactic ...	515	396	172
Number of successful primary vaccinations notified	728	932	651
Number of re-vaccinations notified ...	106	182	149
Number of children immunised against whooping cough	1,128	721	—

The assistance of the general practitioners in the implementation of these schemes was much appreciated.

6. AMBULANCE SERVICE

The heavy demand for ambulance and sitting-case car transport continued throughout the year. There is evidence that the developments at the West Wales General Hospital, Carmarthen, resulted in additional Pembrokeshire patients being taken to this hospital especially from the north and south of the County. Mr. P. J. Hunt, the Ambulance Officer, in his first complete year in the post, made a determined effort, with a definite degree of co-operation from the general practitioners, to effect economies. Despite a small increase in the number of patients, the total ambulance and sitting case car mileage was reduced by 10,300 miles.

Much ambulance service planning was necessary during 1959: preparations were made for the termination of the agency arrangement with the Welsh Home Ambulance Committee on the 31st March, 1960; arrangements were also made for the introduction in 1960 of radio-telephony for the ambulance service; the necessary vehicles, including a twelve-seater special sitting-case vehicle capable of conversion to a two stretcher ambulance, were ordered so that the County Council fleet of eleven ambulances would be available on the 1st April, 1960.

With the kind permission of the Fire Brigade Committee and the Chief Fire Officer, the ambulance control room remained at the new County Fire Brigade Headquarters. During the very hot summer months, the staff of the control room had to be augmented for short periods by the Ambulance Officer and other members of the County Health department staff as the normal staff were overwhelmed by the additional fire calls and could not give sufficient attention to the ambulance work.

The following 1959 statistics of the Ambulance Service proper are of interest:—

Station	Patients		Total No. of Patients	No. of Journeys	Miles Travelled	Average Miles per case
	Stretcher	Sitting				
Haverfordwest No. 1 ...	1,085	4,255	5,340	2,557	51,015	9.55
Haverfordwest No. 2 ...	287	783	1,070	662	6,648	6.21
Haverfordwest No. 3 ... (Long dist. ambulance)	224	1,701	1,925	645	54,809	28.47
Milford Haven ...	292	2,871	3,163	1,217	25,586	8.09
Pembroke Dock ...	578	1,816	2,394	830	36,072	15.06
Tenby ...	466	490	956	431	19,190	20.07
Fishguard ...	470	2,546	3,016	1,286	38,962	12.91
Cardiganshire ...	26	10	36	36	1,387	38.40
Carmarthenshire ...	11	2	13	13	414	31.84
TOTALS ...	3,439	14,474	17,913	7,677	234,083	13.06

The use of the County Ambulance Service, possibly one of the busiest services in the County, is illustrated by the following figures, which do not include the Sitting Case Car Service:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Average Miles per Case</i>
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
1955 ...	16,177	284,720	17.60
1956 ...	18,124	280,542	15.48
1957 ...	18,741	268,017	14.30
1958 ...	18,085	264,678	14.74
1959 ...	17,913	234,083	13.06

Sitting Case Car Service

This service is provided by a large number of private car proprietors throughout the County who apply for inclusion on the approved list. The payments for the hire of these cars are based on the mileage and waiting time.

The following statistics of the sitting case car service since 1952 are of interest:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Miles</i>
1952 ...	1,911	2,698	58,925
1953 ...	1,915	2,762	58,975
1954 ...	2,383	3,540	68,060
1955 ...	3,009	4,410	82,344
1956 ...	2,594	3,918	78,942
1957 ...	2,944	4,535	108,142
1958 ...	2,674	4,851	96,319
1959 ...	2,898	5,191	116,525

Rail Transport of Patients

In 1959, 61 patients travelled by rail as compared with 67 in the previous year. Considerable difficulty was experienced in the transport of stretcher patients to places served by diesel trains as the latter have no facilities for such patients. For this reason ambulances had to be used for a number of long journeys to the north and south-west of England.

7. PREVENTION, CARE AND AFTER-CARE OF ILLNESS

Tuberculosis

The detailed statistics are given in the third Section of this report. There was a small increase in the number of deaths from tuberculosis as compared with the previous year but the number of new notifications of the disease—twenty-seven—was the lowest figure recorded in the County since 1912; no records prior to that date are available in the department. The trend of an increased incidence of respiratory tuberculosis in middle-aged and elderly males is evident from the age distribution statistics in recent years.

Though there has been a marked fall of mortality from tuberculosis in recent years and a more limited decline in the morbidity, tuberculosis remains an important public health problem. It is very probable that estimates of five to ten years for the disappearance of this disease are unduly optimistic. Preventive measures should still be implemented vigorously in this County and complacency avoided.

Owing to staffing problems and other commitments, the Mass Radiography Unit of the Welsh Regional Hospital Board was able to make only a limited visit to the County in 1959. During the period from 2nd November to 11th December, 1959, 4,782 persons were x-rayed and no cases of definite pulmonary tuberculosis were detected.

On the advice of the Chest Physician, the County Council supplied extra nourishment, in the form of 40,304 pints of liquid milk, to tuberculous patients during 1959.

The B.C.G. vaccination scheme continued during the year. Following authorisation by the Minister of Health in April, 1959, the County Council scheme was later modified to

include certain school children under thirteen years of age, school children of fourteen years and upwards and university and college students. It was not considered practicable to include part-time students at the local technical college. During the year, 661 children, including 113 contacts, were vaccinated. The British Glaxo freeze dried vaccine was used exclusively for the non-contact group. The clinical work of this scheme was undertaken by Dr. Phyllis Bowen and Dr. W. J. Y. Speedy, the District Medical Officers of Health, and Dr. D. Llewelyn Davies, the Chest Physician. The latter was responsible for the "contact" group. A recent assessment by the Medical Research Council Tuberculosis Research Unit shows that the undoubted protection conferred by B.C.G. vaccine lasts for at least seven and a half years.

Health Education

This important service requires to be developed in the County. It is intended to submit proposals for the necessary expansion.

The County Council subscribes to the Central Council of Health Education and obtains much useful publicity material, including posters and leaflets, from this source.

During the year, special attention was given to poliomyelitis vaccination publicity; press advertisements and an extensive distribution of suitable posters supplemented the individual and group approach of doctors, district nurses and health visitors at clinics and the homes of patients.

Poster and display-set publicity at the clinics during the year included the following subjects: smoking and lung cancer, accidents in the home, food hygiene, prevention of colds and influenza and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough. This publicity was particularly aimed at parents of young children.

Provision of Home Nursing Equipment

The loan of such equipment by the ten distribution centres, staffed mainly by Red Cross or St. John personnel, continued during the year. Certain of the major items, including many wheel chairs, were distributed direct from the County Health Department. This service is being increasingly used: in

1959, the number of items loaned to patients was twice the 1958 figure. The demand for wheel chairs was particularly heavy; it is presumed that, during the long period of fine weather in the summer, many invalids wanted to be out of doors.

All home nursing equipment is loaned free of charge. The difficulty in recovering various items has lessened in recent years.

Chiropody

In April, 1959, the Minister of Health announced that he was willing for local health authorities, such as the County Council, to provide a direct chiropody service, with priority for the elderly, the physically handicapped and expectant mothers. As an alternative for elderly persons, he suggested that the County Council could give financial assistance to a local voluntary organisation already providing a chiropody service. As chiropodists with the officially approved qualifications are not readily obtainable and office accommodation for administration of the service would not be available in the near future, the County Council decided to postpone the provision of a direct service but to increase the financial grant to the Pembrokeshire Old People's Welfare Committee so that the existing voluntary chiropody service could be augmented. The initial increased grant will be made for the financial year 1960/61.

8. DOMESTIC HELP: HOME HELP SERVICE

As compared with previous years, there was an increased number of requests for this service from the chronic sick and the elderly and infirm and a reduced demand from maternity patients. The Home Help Organiser, in addition to the normal administration of the scheme, continued much social work among elderly people. She considers that, in recent years, there has been a general improvement in the housing and living standards of this section of the community and that the local co-operation between the various appropriate voluntary and statutory organisations, including the National Assistance Board, has improved appreciably. She emphasises one difficult problem: the care of the frail ambulant elderly person living

alone in her own home. The home help service assists a number of these persons but is unable to provide all the care which is required during the evenings, nights and week-ends. Many such persons prefer to remain in their own homes.

The recruitment of home helps presented a few problems during the year: in the summer months, more lucrative employment in hotels and boarding houses was available in certain areas; in the Milford Haven and Hakin areas, potential home helps preferred to provide board residence for the many temporary constructional workers at the new Esso refinery. The requests for home help included 127 cases in which the Organiser was able to solve the domestic difficulties without the provision of domestic help.

The following statistics for 1959 are of interest:—

Number of Occasional Home Helps employed during the year	163
Number of Full-time Home Helps employed during the year	Nil
Number of Part-time Home Helps employed during the year	Nil
Total Number of householders provided with Home Helps	212
Number of Maternity Cases assisted by Home Helps ...	35
Number of Tuberculous Cases assisted by Home Helps	8
Number of Chronic Sick including aged and infirm assisted by Home Helps	136
Number of Home Visits by Home Help Organiser ...	1,404

9. MENTAL HEALTH

1959 was an important year for the mental health services. The recent developments are based on certain principles recommended by the Royal Commission on the Law relating to Mental Illness and Mental Deficiency. Briefly they imply, firstly, that mentally disordered patients should be treated as far as possible on the same footing as other sick and disabled people and with a minimum of compulsory detention and control, and, secondly, that there should be a general re-orientation towards the care of mentally disordered patients

in the community rather than in hospitals. Adoption of the latter principle will entail a marked expansion of the County Council mental health services. The Mental Health Act, which implements the afore-mentioned principles, was passed in July ; the Act will come into operation in stages.

During 1959, the essential problem was the planning of the required local expansion of the County Council mental health services. Definite progress was made towards drafting proposals for submission early in 1960 to the Minister of Health for his approval. The County Council considered that an early appreciable expansion of the general social work to help all types of mentally disordered patients and relatives and a limited increase in the training facilities for subnormal children and adults were practicable. It was, however, decided that the provision of hostel or residential accommodation, with the exception of a limited provision for elderly persons with mild mental disorders at the proposed new Old People's Home at Narberth and at the modernised Home at Riverside, Pembroke, would require more detailed consideration after experience of more intensive social work among local mentally disordered patients had been gained.

The County Council decided to establish a Mental Health Services or Community Care Section of the County Health Department on the 1st January, 1960, and a suitably qualified Senior Psychiatric Social Worker was appointed to commence duty on that date.

It was possible to increase the training facilities for mental defectives in the County ; in addition to the weekly group training session at Tenby, similar sessions were commenced at Haverfordwest on the 20th July, 1959, and at Pembroke Dock on the 23rd November, 1959. Mrs. Panton, the Occupational Therapist, was able to resume part-time duties on the 23rd November, 1959, and has undertaken the training at Pembroke Dock. Mrs. Davies, a handicrafts instructress, is in charge of the sessions at the other centres.

The shortage of institutional vacancies for mental defectives continued, but the staff of the Welsh Regional Hospital Board were very helpful in finding accommodation for four urgent patients. The ascertainment of mental defectives has continued to improve. In 1959, fourteen patients were ascertained.

The following statistics of mental defectives in the County on the 31st December, 1959, are of interest:—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of defectives "subject to be dealt with"			
Under Statutory Supervision	35	21	56
In Institutions or on Licence	44	58	102
In "Places of Safety"	—	—	—
Under Guardianship	—	—	—
Number of defectives not at present "subject to be dealt with":			
Placed under voluntary supervision ...	56	38	94
Number of defectives awaiting admission to an institution:			
Urgent cases	14	1	15
Non-urgent cases	2	4	6

Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts

The seven District Welfare Officers and Registrars of Births and Deaths act as the part-time duly authorised officers. They arrange the admission of certified patients to mental hospitals and undertake the various legal formalities connected with these admissions. From the 6th October, 1959, the Minister of Health brought into operation that part of the Mental Health Act, 1959, which is necessary to permit the informal admission of patients to mental hospitals without using the procedures of the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts. This arrangement is a considerable advance.

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

	...	Certified		Temporary		For Observation		Informal and Voluntary Admission		Totals
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
		St. David's Hospital, Carmarthen	6	2	—	—	7	17	61		86	179
Cefn Coed Hospital, Swansea	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	4	

Of the patients admitted to hospitals for observation under Sections 20 and 21 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, five males and eleven females later became voluntary patients.

SECTION 3

EPIDEMIOLOGY: INFECTIOUS AND OTHER
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

There was a comparatively low incidence of infectious diseases in the County during 1959. The unusually long period of dry weather during the summer and autumn, with the resultant shortage of water in certain areas, and the heavy influx of summer visitors, especially at caravan sites, did not result in any outbreak of disease. Throughout the year, no case of food poisoning was notified and only three cases of dysentery.

In the early months, measles was prevalent in the north of the County; this was a continuation of the 1958 epidemic. Occasional cases of scarlet fever were reported especially in the Milford Haven area but the illness was generally mild. No case of diphtheria was notified.

It is pleasing to report that, for the first year since 1946, no case of poliomyelitis occurred in the County.

During the early spring months, an influenza type illness was prevalent and led to a marked increase in sickness benefit claims. No local investigations were undertaken of the strain of the infecting virus, but, from reports of certain other areas, influenza Virus type B was isolated from patients with a similar illness.

Infective hepatitis, a virus disease affecting the liver, caused some concern in the Haverfordwest borough and rural areas. Occasional cases in children and young adults were reported—the disease is not officially notifiable. There was no evidence that the infection resulted from blood or plasma transfusions or injections of prophylactic or therapeutic agents.

One mild case of Weil's Disease, due to the leptospira ictero-haemorrhagiae, occurred in the north of the County. The patient—a young male adult—had been fishing in a local river at the time of the possible infection.

The following table gives the incidence of confirmed cases of certain infectious diseases, excluding tuberculosis, in the various County districts in 1959:—

DISEASE	Haverfordwest M.B.	Tenby M.B.	Pembroke M.B.	Fishguard & Goodwick U.D.	Milford U.D.	Neyland U.D.	Narberth U.D.	Haverfordwest R.D.	Narberth R.D.	Pembroke R.D.	Cemaes R.D.	TOTALS
Scarlet Fever	6	—	14	1	34	5	—	15	2	13	6	96
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	3	15	7	92	20	1	—	92	4	1	83	318
Whooping Cough	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	9
Erysipelas	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	9
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	—	—	16	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	12	33
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	12	15	45	93	56	9	—	117	6	14	102	469

Tuberculosis

The following tables are of interest:—

Number and age distribution of new notifications of tuberculosis and deaths from this disease in 1959:

Age Group in years	New Notifications				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
2—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20—25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	3	3	—	—	2	—	—	—
45—55	4	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
55—65	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65—75	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
75 plus	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
TOTALS	15	11	—	1	6	2	1	2

Number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register :—

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
On 31st December, 1957 ...	269	215	27	26	537
On 31st December, 1958 ...	288	226	29	26	569
On 31st December, 1959 ...	289	240	28	24	581

Year	New Notifications of Tuberculosis		Deaths from Tuberculosis	
	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
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	15	1
1955 ...	35	7	14	3
1956 ...	49	4	8	2
1957 ...	36	4	11	1
1958 ...	38	3	7	—
1959 ...	26	1	8	3

SECTION 4

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:
COUNTY COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES1. *Pasteurised Milk*

The County Council, as the Food and Drugs Authority, continued to be responsible for the licensing of the two milk pasteurisation plants in the County: the High Temperature Short Time (H.T.S.T.) type at the Dried Milk Products Dairy, Merlin's Bridge, Haverfordwest and the batch pasteurisation plant at Craig's Dairy, Tenby. The County Council has no public health inspector on the staff. The Public Health Inspectors of the Haverfordwest Rural District Council and the Tenby Borough Council, together with the Weights and Measures Inspectors, have assisted in the public health supervision of these plants.

The results of laboratory tests of pasteurised milk during the year were satisfactory. Of the 466 samples tested, only one showed inadequate heat treatment, and, despite the long period of hot weather during the summer and early autumn, only five were of unsatisfactory keeping quality.

Bottle washing machines at these dairies require careful supervision and maintenance. The efficiency of the machines is checked by testing the bacterial purity of the washed bottles: of the 19 tests in 1959, one was unsatisfactory. Action was taken to remedy the defect.

2. *Sampling of Food and Drugs*

The milk sampling for chemical quality and added water and the sampling of food and drugs continued to be undertaken by the Weights and Measures Inspectors.

Following the death of Mr. H. J. Evans, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., the Public Analyst, on the 18th December, 1958, the work was continued by his partner Mr. D. C. Jenkins, M.Sc., F.R.I.C., who was subsequently officially appointed as Public Analyst for the County with effect from the 5th May, 1959.

The following is a brief summary of the results of sampling during 1959:—

Article	No. of Samples	Genuine	Non-Genuine
Milk	384	339	45
Non-alcoholic drinks ...	16	16	—
Butter, Margarine and Cooking Fats	3	3	—
Tinned Meat and Fish ...	24	14	10
Spices and Condiments ...	8	8	—
Miscellaneous Groceries	136	132	4

The non-genuine samples of milk comprised thirty-five of insufficient fat content and ten of added water. One sample of blackcurrant jam had a lower fruit content than that stipulated in the Food Standards (Preserves) Order, 1953 ; one sample of rice contained rodent excreta and rice grains coloured with a dark fungus ; ten samples of tinned meat were deficient in meat ; one sample of health salts did not correspond exactly with the formula shown on the container ; one sample of tinned milk was deficient in total milk solids and contained less than the quantity declared on the tin.

The County is an important dairy farming area. On the 31st December, 1959, 3,309 dairy farms were registered ; 2,611 (79%) were occupied by farmers licensed as tuberculin tested milk producers or producer-retailers. It is estimated that, on the same date, 90 per cent of these farms had satisfactory water supplies and 89 per cent had satisfactory milk premises — cowsheds and dairies.

It is pleasing to note that, on the 1st October, 1959, the whole of Wales was declared an attested area. This means that it can be generally considered that tuberculosis in cattle in the Principality has been eradicated. This has been a major achievement in which farmers and veterinary surgeons in South-West Wales, including Pembrokeshire, played an important part, especially in the early stages of the scheme.

SECTION 5

MISCELLANEOUS

Children's Department

The necessary close liaison with the Children's Officer and his department was continued and special attention was given to the medical and emotional problems of deprived children. As in previous years, much assistance was given by the nursing staff, including health visitors and home helps, in the prevention of the break-up of families. A number of difficult problem families in the County received much persistent, patient and detailed assistance from one of the health visitors, Miss S. M. Morgan, who specialises in this work. Without her assistance, many of the children would have had to be taken into care.

The local N.S.P.C.C. Inspector continued to obtain from the medical staff of the department much medical advice on the problems of child neglect and cruelty. Dr. Lewis, the Deputy County Medical Officer of Health, accompanied the Inspector on several home visits. Until its closure on the 26th November, 1959, Dr. Phyllis Bowen, the District Medical Officer of Health, continued the medical supervision of the Belvedere Residential Nursery at Tenby.

During the year, eighty-nine medical examinations of children in the care of the County Council were undertaken by the doctors of the department.

Welfare Department

The medical staff of the County Health Department continued to act as medical advisers to the County Welfare Committee and the County Welfare Officer. Dr. E. Roland Williams, an Ophthalmologist, was responsible for the examination and certification of blind and partially sighted persons.

During the year, the County Medical Officer of Health participated in the discussions on the planning of the proposed Old People's Home at Narberth, to replace Allensbank, and the proposed modernisation of Riverside, Pembroke.

The recent modernisation of the chronic sick hospitals in the County, the provision of modern facilities at the geriatric unit at Priory Hospital and the maintenance of an efficient Chronic Sick Bed Bureau and Almoner service at the latter hospital have improved markedly the hospital facilities for the chronic sick in the County. In addition, the easy transfer of patients between hospital and Part III accommodation has been encouraged; in 1959, thirty-nine elderly patients were transferred from hospital to Part III accommodation and twenty-eight in the opposite direction. It has been possible to reduce appreciably the chronic sick waiting list in the County; from October to December, 1959, the average waiting list was four and, for varying periods in the summer months, no chronic sick patients were awaiting hospital beds. The position has not been so satisfactory in many other parts of England and Wales.

The County Nursing Officer, the Home Help Organiser and the County Medical Officer of Health continued as members of the County Old People's Welfare Committee. Definite progress was made during 1959 in the establishment of local Old People's Welfare Committees throughout the County. The County Council decided to give the County Committee an additional grant for the financial year 1960/61 to augment the existing voluntary chiropody service.

There were welcome improvements in the hospital ophthalmic service in South West Wales during 1959. Three additional hospital ophthalmic beds were available at the West Wales General Hospital, Glangwili, Carmarthen, and towards the end of the year appreciable reductions both in the out-patient and in-patient ophthalmic waiting lists were achieved.

Blind Persons

1. The age distribution of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons in the County on the 31st December, 1959, was as follows:—

	<i>Blind</i>	<i>Partially Sighted</i>
Under 5 years	—	—
5—16 years	3	7
16—21 years	2	6
21—50 years	45	23
50—65 years	60	30
65 years and over	229	127
TOTAL	<u>339</u>	<u>193</u>

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

	<i>Cause of Disability</i>			
	<i>Cataract</i>	<i>Glaucoma</i>	<i>Fibro-plasia</i>	<i>Others</i>
(i) Number of cases registered during 1959 in respect of which Form B.D. 8 recommends:				
(a) No treatment	13	7	—	10
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical and optical)	14	2	—	10
(ii) Number of cases as (i) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	3	2	—	9

3. Ophthalmia Neonatorum: No cases of blindness due to this condition were reported during 1959.

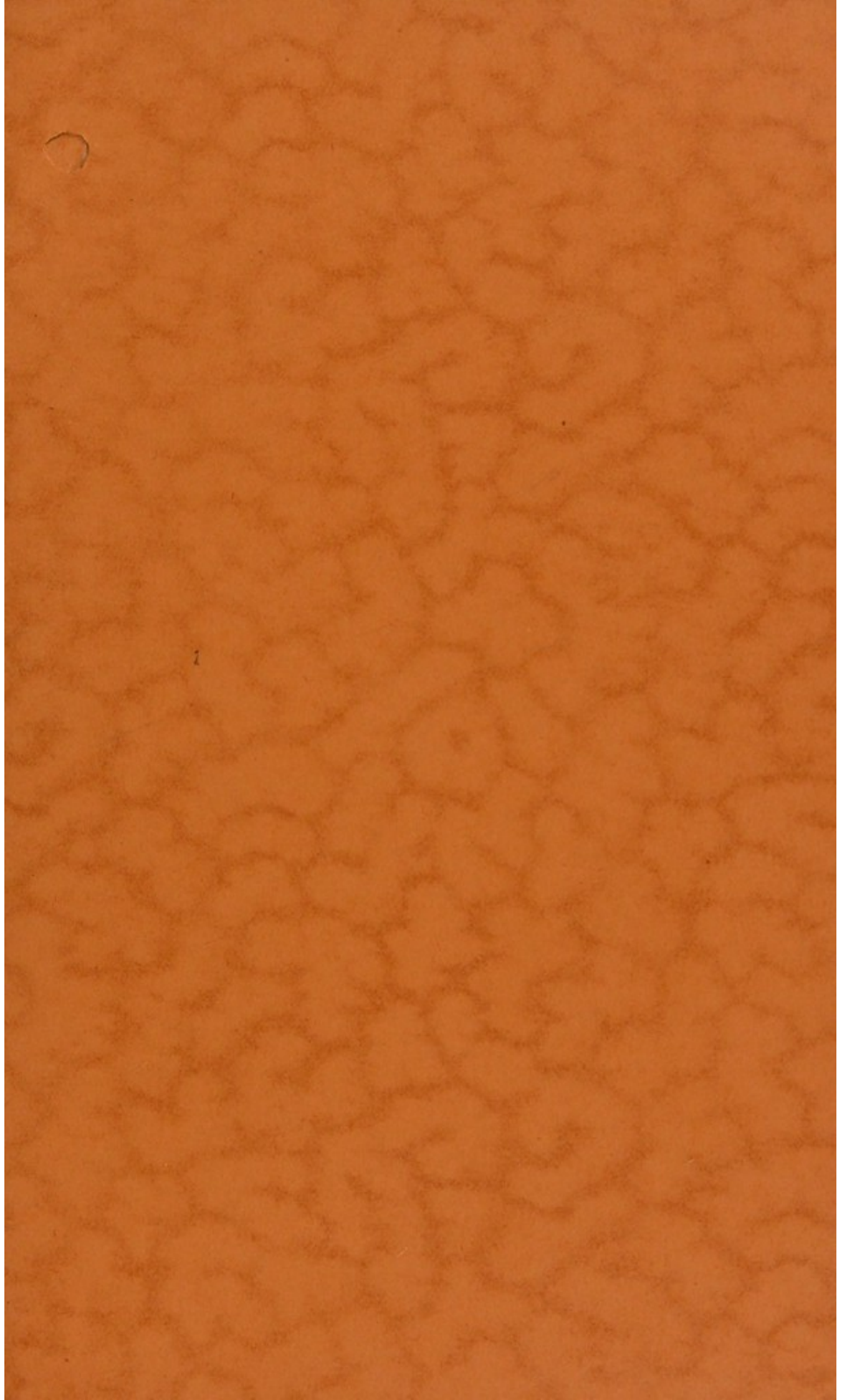
Medical Examination of County Staff

This work again showed a considerable increase over the previous year.

The following examinations were undertaken during 1959:—

Entrants (excluding teachers and police) to County Council employment	... ..	50
Manual Workers for entry into sickness benefit scheme		63
Police candidates	.....	13
Police cadets	... ..	11
Entrants to Teachers' Training Colleges	... ..	92
Newly appointed Teachers	... ..	82
Canteen staff	... ..	58
Re-examinations of existing employees	... ..	25
Number of Chest X-ray examinations of staff (excluding mass radiography examinations)	... ..	43
Examinations carried out on behalf of other local authorities (reciprocal arrangement)	... ..	7

When the Mobile Unit of the Mass Radiography Service made a limited visit to the County during November and December, 1959, it was possible to arrange the biennial chest x-ray of the majority of the school canteen staff.



WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH

RECEIVED

26 AUG 1960

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