[Report 1951] / Medical Officer of Health, Pontypool U.D.C.

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PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1951.

F. J. HALLINAN,
M.B.E. (Mil.), M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,
Area Medical Officer, No. 7 Area, Monmouthshire.
District Medical Officer, Pontypool Urban District.

MARKET BUILDINGS,
CRANE STREET,
PONTYPOOL, MON.

JUNE 1952.

HUGHES & SON, LTD., PONTYPOOL

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PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1951

Area of District	15,907 acres
Rateable value (1.4.'51).	£178,541
Estimated net product of 1d. rate (1951–1952)	£654
Number of inhabited houses (1951)	11,419
Number of Council owned houses (31.12.'51)	2,544
Population (estimated mid. 1951)	42,460
Number of persons per house	3.7
Census population, 1951 (21,260 males : 21,423 females)	42,683
Census population, 1931 (22,723 males : 21,187 females)	43,910
Number of live births (1951)	697
Birth rate per 1,000 population (1951)	16.4
Number of illegitimate births (1951)	20
Number of still births (1951)	21
Still birth rate per 1,000 population (1951)	0.49
Number of deaths (1951)	568
Crude death rate (i.e., death rate per 1,000 pop.) 1951	13.4
Number of infant deaths (i.e., deaths in infants under 1 year) 1951	30
Infant mortality rate (1951)	43.0
Number of maternal deaths (1951)	2
Deaths from tuberculosis (all forms) 1951	12
Death rate per 1,000 population from tuberculosis (all forms) 1951	0.28
Deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis (1951)	11
Death rate per 1,000 population from pulmonary tuberculosis (1951)	0.26
Deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis (1951)	1
Death rate per 1,000 population from non-pulmonary tuberculosis (1951)	0.02
Deaths from cancer (1951)	80
Percentage of total deaths for 1951 due to cancer	14.09%
Percentage of the total deaths for 1951 due to tuberculosis	2.11%

Year	Births	Deaths
1946	786	547
1947	816	527
1948	744	478
1949	740	531
1950	743	510
1951	697	568

PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillors:

Chairman: L. C. Lewis, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: W. G. Hillier

Wards:

Garndiffaith:

I. H. Tucker
D. J. Pritchard
Mrs. G. D. Morgan

Abersychan:

W. Higgs
D. T. Gullick
Mrs. M. Smith

Snatchwood:

C. H. Newman
E. I. Peake
Mrs. M. Davies

Wainfelin:

G. R. Trim, J.P.
J. E. Butcher
Mrs. M. Slade

Pontypool:

W. G. Hillier
J. T. Ware
A. S. Strickland
W. Rosie

Pontymoile:

Mrs. M. L. Lee
W. L. Jackson

Griffithstown:

L. Lewis
A. J. Jenkins
Mrs. C. Martin

New Inn and Sebastopol:

A. C. Jones
L. C. Lewis, J.P.
H. Bullimore

Council Meeting—Last Tuesday in each month at 6 p.m.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Committee is a major one comprising all members of the Council.

Chairman: Councillor W. L. JACKSON
Vice-Chairman: Councillor J. E. BUTCHER

Public Health Committee Meeting:
Tuesday following the first Monday in each month.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health ..	F. J. HALLINAN, M.B.E. (Mil.), M.B., B.CH., B.A.O. (N.U.I.), D.P.H. (Wales).
Chief Sanitary Inspector ..	F. G. MEEK, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Sanitary Inspector	B. GILFORD, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E.
Sanitary Inspector	J. M. JONES, CERT. R.S.I.
Sanitary Inspector	K. H. D. WILKINS, CERT.R.S.I.
Clerk to Department	Mrs. G. B. WILSON

OTHER COUNCIL OFFICIALS

Clerk to the Council	H. COOK (Solicitor).
Deputy Clerk	W. A. STEVENS.
Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer	T. R. JAMES.
Engineer and Surveyor	T. EDWARDS, M.I.MUN.E.
Deputy Engineer and Surveyor ..	W. BROWN, A.M.I.MUN.E.
Architect	C. DAWKES, L.R.I.B.A.
Rating and Valuation Officer ..	W. J. WALLACE.
Superintendent Collector	J. B. HARRIS.
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Public Librarian	M. J. DAVIES

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to the

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PONTYPOOL

for the year ending December 31st, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Pontypool Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the Urban District of Pontypool for the year ending 31/12/'51. This report has been compiled in accordance with Articles 6(3) and 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and as laid down in circular 45/51 (Wales), dated December 10th, 1951, of the Welsh Board of Health.

General Comment

The year 1951 opened for the District with a sharp epidemic of influenza which first began to make its appearance during the closing weeks of the old year. The epidemic reached its peak during the third week in January and then died away fairly quickly to make its exit by the end of February.

There was no very serious interference with public services or industry during the epidemic though, it must be admitted, a certain amount of inconvenience resulted. School attendances dropped markedly during the period of the epidemic, but these were also affected by the visitation of a measles epidemic during February which extended into the month of June. There were 1,351 notifications of measles during the year from general practitioners.

Influenza, *per se*, is not a notifiable condition unless complicated by pneumonia, so no indication can be given of the number of cases which occurred during the epidemic period. The notifications of influenzal pneumonia during this period numbered 13. There were 7 deaths.

The type of influenza experienced in this District was not of a severe character from the aspect of tendency to complications, except for the elderly. The average attack was characterised by a sudden onset, was sharp and short in duration, with full recovery within 10 days.

Physical Features

The Pontypool Urban District covers an area of 15,907 acres and is situated on the eastern outcrop of the South Wales coalfields. The coal mines in the district are some distance from the populated areas, being situated on the hillside.

The altitude varies from 1,789 feet above ordnance datum at Mynydd Varteg Fawr in the Abersychan Parish to 178.7 feet at the Sor, Cwmbwrrwch, in the Panteg Parish.

General Statistics and Social Conditions

The Registrar General's estimate of the population as at mid. 1951 was 42,460. The 1951 census population was 42,683—21,260 males and 21,423 females.

The majority of the workers in the district are engaged in heavy industry such as coal mining, steel smelting, tin-plating, railway works, by-product plants and glass making. The district also contains a very extensive factory engaged in the production of nylon yarn.

The district is well served by rail and road transport.

The town can boast in having a very excellent natural park, right in its centre, with many facilities for sport. The provision of a modern, all-weather swimming bath in this park would supply a much needed amenity for the citizens of the area and should be considered when expenditure on such projects is again permitted.

CENSUS POPULATION (1951) OF ADJACENT URBAN DISTRICTS AND MUNICIPAL BOROUGHS

Abergavenny M.B.	8,844	Abercarn	18,757
Abertillery	27,617	Bedwellty	28,826
Blaenavon	9,777	Cwmbran	13,162
Ebbw Vale	29,205	Monmouth M.B. ..	5,432
Tredegar	20,375		

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

TABLE I Showing the actual number of live births, estimated mid-year population, and birth rate per 1,000 population for the Pontypool Urban District for the last six years.

	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Number of live births	697	743	740	744	816	786
Estimated mid-year population ..	42,460	42,850	42,650	42,360	42,160	42,080
Birth rate per 1,000 population	16.4	17.3	17.4	17.6	19.8	18.1

The total live births assigned to this district for 1951 numbered 697, comprising 359 males and 338 females. Of these there were 11 male and 9 female illegitimate births.

There was a drop of 46 in the total births for 1951 as compared with the figure of 743 for 1950. The total births during the years 1950, 1949 and 1948 remained remarkably constant.

The total number of stillbirths was 21, comprising 11 males and 10 females all of which were of legitimate birth.

The stillbirth rate for England and Wales (per 1,000 population) was 0.36, while that for the Administrative County of Monmouthshire was 0.49 and that for the Urban District of Pontypool was also 0.49.

Comparative birth rates are shown in table IX.

The natural increase (i.e., excess of births over deaths) for this district for 1951 was 129.

DEATHS

TABLE II Showing the actual number of deaths, estimated mid-year populations, and the death rate per 1,000 population for the Pontypool Urban District for the last six years.

	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Number of deaths ..	568	510	531	478	527	547
Estimated mid-year population ..	42,460	42,850	42,650	42,360	42,160	42,080
Death rate per 1,000 population	13.4	11.9	12.5	11.3	12.5	12.9

The total number of deaths assigned to this district for 1951 was 568, comprising 297 males and 271 females. There were 73 inward transferable deaths, comprised of 37 males and 36 females.

There was an increase of 58 deaths over the 1950 figure.

Table III shows how these 568 deaths were assigned to the various causes.

There were 2 deaths assigned to maternal causes.

The deaths due to all forms of tuberculosis numbered 12—9 males and 3 females. The deaths due to pulmonary tuberculosis numbered 11—9 males and 2 females. All forms of tuberculosis represented 2.11% of the total deaths from all causes during 1951.

The cancer deaths during 1951 numbered 80—38 males and 42 females. Deaths due to cancer caused 14.09% of the total deaths. Cancer of the lungs and bronchi claimed 13—10 males and 3 females.

Diseases of the heart and blood vessels caused 241 deaths—111 males and 130 females. Deaths from these diseases represented 42.42% of the total deaths for the year.

There were 3 deaths—all males—due to motor vehicle accidents.

The crude death rate (i.e., the number of deaths per 1,000 population per annum) for 1951 was 13.4.

TABLE III Shewing the deaths from all causes, infant deaths, births and stillbirths allocated to this district for 1951.

	Causes of death	Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	9	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	1
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	12	6
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	8
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	5
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	16	0
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	2	—
16.	Diabetes	—	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	20	35
18.	Coronary disease, angina	29	24
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	4	4
20.	Other heart disease	51	58
21.	Other circulatory disease	7	9
22.	Influenza	5	2
23.	Pneumonia	11	7
24.	Bronchitis	39	15
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	9	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	13	2
27.	Gastritis enteritis and diarrhœa	2	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	7
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—
30.	Pregrancy, childbirth, abortion	—	2
31.	Congenital malformations	4	5
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	31	46
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	3	—
34.	All other accidents	8	3
35.	Suicide	4	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES	297	271
	Deaths in infants under 1 year of age :—		
	Legitimate	13	16
	Illegitimate	—	1
	Total	13	17
	Total births	359	338
	Legitimate	348	329
	Illegitimate	11	9
	Still births—Total	11	10
	Legitimate	11	10
	Illegitimate	—	—

Estimated population - mid 1951 = 42,460
(for calculation of birth and death rates).

Comparability factors :	Births	Deaths
	1.04	1.06

TABLE IV Showing the deaths registered in and assigned to the Pontypool Urban District for 1951, according to sex, month and quarter of occurrence, together with the inward transferable deaths.

Month	Males	Females	Total	Quarterly deaths
January	40	36	76	
February	37	25	62	202
March	29	35	64	
April	26	19	45	
May	12	20	32	103
June	11	15	26	
July	17	5	22	
August	17	13	30	88
September ..	15	21	36	
October	20	16	36	
November	8	16	24	102
December	28	14	42	
TOTALS	260	235	495	495
Inward transferable deaths	37	36	73	
GRAND TOTAL for the year 1951	297	271	568	

Comparative Death Rates — 1951

Pontypool Urban District	13.4
Monmouthshire Administrative County ..	13.4
England and Wales	12.5

INFANT MORTALITY

TABLE V Showing the actual number of infant deaths, live births, etc., for the past six years for the Pontypool Urban District.

	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Number of deaths in infants under 1 year	30	32	28	26	34	33
Number of live births ..	697	743	740	744	816	788
Infant mortality rate ..	43.0	43.1	37.8	34.9	41.7	41.9

There were 30 infant deaths (13 males and 17 females) during 1951, which represents a decrease of 2 from the 1950 figure. There was one illegitimate infant among these deaths.

The infant mortality rate for this district for 1951 was 43.0 which compares favourably with the figure for the Administrative County of Monmouthshire which was 43.1.

Table VI gives a detailed analysis of those 30 deaths by cause and in age groups. It will be seen that pneumonia was one of the main causes of infant death and this cause was closely followed by prematurity. Congenital deformities of various kinds caused the greatest number of deaths.

Table VII gives a comparison of the infant mortality rates for Pontypool Urban District, the Administrative County of Monmouthshire, England and Wales, etc.

TABLE VI Showing the infant deaths (i.e. deaths in infants under one year of age) assigned to this district for 1951, by cause and in age groups.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Pneumonia	1	—	—	1	2	1	3	—	—	6
Congenital defect of Larynx	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	4	1	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Congenital heart	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Post-operative death (hernia)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pulmonary congestion ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Overlaying	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Anencephaly	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Multiple deformities ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Marasmus	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	2
Pericarditis	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Intra-cranial haemorrhage	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Intussusception	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Neuroblastoma	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Microcephalic Mongoloid	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Gastro-Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
ALL CAUSES	12	3	1	3	19	2	7	2	—	30

TABLE VII Showing the infant mortality rates for England and Wales, the County Boroughs and Great Towns, the smaller towns, the Administrative County of Monmouthshire and Pontypool Urban District for 1949, 1950 and 1951.

YEAR	England and Wales	126 Co. Boro's. & Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller towns (resident pop'n 25 to 50 thousand at 1931 census)	Admin-trative County of Monmouth-shire	Pontypool Urban District
1949	32.0	37.0	30.0	42·7	37·8
1950	29·8	33·8	29·4	39·8	43·1
1951	29.6	33.9	27.6	43.1	43.0

TABLE VIII Showing the number of inquests during 1951 on persons belonging to this district, and the circumstances of the deaths.

Circumstances of Death	Males	Females	Total
Accidents at coal mines (underground)	1	—	1
Accidents at coal mines (on surface) ..	1	—	1
Accidents on the roads (pedestrians) ..	1	—	1
Accidents on the roads (cyclists) ..	1	—	1
Accidents on the roads (occupants of vehicles)	1	—	1
Accidents on railways (employees) ..	1	—	1
Accidental Drowning	1	—	1
Accidental ignition of clothing ..	1	—	1
Accidents at play	—	1	1
Suicides	4	1	5
Found Drowned	1	—	1
Overlaying	—	1	1
Shocks following surgical operation ..	1	—	1
Heart failure	2	1	3
Deaths consequent on falls in the home	2	2	4
Perforated gastric ulcer..	1	—	1
Total	19	6	25

There were 5 suicides during the year involving 4 males (aged 80, 55, 54 and 41 years) and 1 female aged 77 years. The 4 male suicides selected a variety of methods of terminating their existence by drowning, coal gas, hanging and cut throat. *Felo de se* in the case of the female was by coal gas poisoning.

There were three deaths due to road accidents as compared with 3 during 1950 and 6 during 1949.

Falls in the home occasioned the deaths of 2 males (aged 82 and 77 years) and 2 females (aged 86 and 83 years).

A female child aged 4 years died as a result of being accidentally hit by a garden swing.

TABLE IX Comparison of the vital statistics for England and Wales, etc., the Administrative County of Monmouthshire, Blaenavon Urban District and Pontypool Urban District for the years 1949, 1950 and 1951.

	Birth rates per 1,000 population						Death rates per 1,000 population			(Infant Mortality) Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births		
	Live Births	Still Births	Live Births	Still Births	Live Births	Still Births						
	1951	1951	1950	1950	1949	1949	1951	1950	1949	1951	1950	1949
England and Wales	15.5	0.36	15.8	0.37	16.7	0.39	12.5	11.6	11.7	29.6	29.8	32.0
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London) ..	17.3	0.45	17.6	0.45	18.7	0.47	13.4	12.3	12.5	33.9	33.8	37.0
148 Smaller Towns (Resident population 25,000–50,000 at 1931 census	16.7	0.38	16.7	0.38	18.0	0.40	12.5	11.6	11.6	27.6	29.4	30.0
London Administrative County ..	17.8	0.37	17.8	0.36	18.5	0.37	13.1	11.8	12.2	26.4	26.3	29.0
Administrative County of Monmouthshire	16.5	0.49	17.4	0.58	18.2	0.58	13.4	12.3	12.1	43.1	39.8	42.7
Blaenavon Urban District	12.7	0.82	15.0	0.40	15.5	0.20	12.9	14.4	13.7	48.8	13.3	51.6
Pontypool Urban District	16.4	0.49	17.3	0.51	17.4	0.54	13.4	11.9	12.5	43.0	43.1	37.8

ZYMOTIC DISEASES

The notifiable diseases which were notified during 1951 in the Urban District by general practitioners and hospital medical officers are analysed in age and sex groups in Table X.

DIPHTHERIA

There was only one notification of this disease during the year as was also the case for 1950. This case occurred in a male child aged 4½ years who was removed to the Isolation Hospital, Tredegar, for treatment. The child had not been immunised despite the fact that there are so many facilities provided in the district for carrying out this simple procedure. The nose and throat swabs in this case were negative, but the child presented the picture of clinical diphtheria and was treated as such. Recovery was uneventful.

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at the six infant welfare clinics in the Pontypool Urban District and "booster" or "strengthening" doses are also given at these centres to those children about to enter school. Parents have also got the alternative of taking their children to their family doctor for immunisation if they so prefer.

The Area Medical Officer has now brought immunisation against diphtheria into all the infant schools in the district, and by the end of the year many children had been given "booster" doses in addition to many others who received primary inoculation as they had not been protected in infancy. It is felt that it is most important to offer the facility of immunisation in the infant schools, since, in so doing, the response is always much greater than if the responsibility of taking the children to the infant welfare clinics or family doctor is left to rest wholly with the parents.

Parents are, it is feared, inclined to be misunderstanding frequent public statements as to the virtual disappearance of diphtheria as implying absolute elimination of the disease rather than elimination conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. Also, as the incidence of the disease diminishes, fewer and fewer parents have any actual experience of this disease, which is apt to make them dangerously unmindful that it has not been eliminated from our midst. If an adequate level of immunisation is not maintained there is a great likelihood of a return to conditions prevailing in this respect, only some 10 years or so ago, when numerous beds in our fever hospitals were occupied by children dying from this scourge.

The undoubted value of immunisation against diphtheria is well illustrated in the following up-to-date national figures showing the yearly deaths from and notifications of this disease since 1944.

Year	Deaths E. & W.	Deaths Wales	Corrected Notifications E. & W.	Corrected Notifications Wales
1944	934	77	23,199	2,213
1945	722	57	18,596	1,411
1946	472	41	11,986	1,028
1947	244	19	5,609	441
1948	156	7	3,575	190
1949	84	1	1,890	102
1950	49	1*	962	62*
1951	34*	1*	699*	53*

*Provisional figures

The enormous drop in the deaths and incidence since 1944 will be noted.

In 1951 deaths numbered 34 (E. & W.) and 1 (Wales), provisionally, against a yearly average of about 2,800 (E. & W.) and 232 (Wales), between 1930 and 1940.

Notifications of diphtheria (uncorrected) were 1,983 (E. & W.) and 108 (Wales) for 1951, compared with a yearly average of 55,000 (E. & W.) and 4,800 (Wales) for the period 1930 to 1940, before immunisation was introduced on a national scale.

Primary immunisations (completed course) in the Pontypool Urban District for 1951 were as follows :

Age in years	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5–9 yrs.	10–14 yrs.	Total
Number immunised ..	37	335	113	41	21	65	1	613

Booster doses were given to 14 children under 5 years of age and 152 children over the age of 5 years.

TABLE X Showing the infectious and other notifiable diseases notified in this district during 1951, analysed in age and sex groups and giving the admissions to hospital. (Tuberculosis excluded).

Disease	Under 1 year		1–2 years		2–3 years		3–4 years		4–5 years		5–10 years		10–15 years		15–20 years		20–35 year		35–45 years		45–65 years		65 yrs and upwa'd		All Ages			Cases Admitted to Hospital
	M.	F	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	T.	
Diphtheria	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	1
Measles	18	20	67	66	86	96	98	105	121	128	239	270	16	12	1	5	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	648	703	1351	–
Scarlet fever	–	–	1	–	3	2	1	2	6	2	16	16	2	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	31	25	56	1
Whooping cough ..	3	3	4	3	9	2	4	3	6	9	4	3	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	30	25	55	–
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–
Ac. primary pneumonia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	1	1	2	–
Ac. Influenzal pneumonia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	4	2	1	2	7	6	13	–
Erysipelas	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	1	–	3	–	3	–
Food Poisoning ..	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–
Meningococcal Infections	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Typhoid	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dysentery	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Acute Encephalitis ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Poliomyelitis :																												
Paralytic ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Non-paralytic ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals	21	23	73	69	98	100	103	110	135	139	259	289	18	15	3	6	2	4	2	2	6	2	2	2	722	761	1483	2

SCARLET FEVER

Notifications of this disease during the year numbered 56 (31 males and 25 females) as compared with the figure of 59 (19 males and 40 females) during 1950. One case was hospitalised due to unsatisfactory home conditions. This disease continued to be of a very mild variety during 1951 and no case gave any cause for anxiety. The Council's Sanitary Inspectors continue to carry out the ritual of terminal disinfection after this disease which, to my mind, is rather a waste of time. However, the public have long since come to expect this procedure to be carried out by the Health Department after a case of scarlet fever, and old customs die hard. All that is required is plenty of soap and water and a good airing of the bedroom which has been used by the patient by opening up all the windows fully and allowing adequate ventilation.

There were no deaths recorded from scarlet fever in this district during 1951.

MEASLES

The year 1951 was an epidemic year for measles in this district. The first cases began to occur during the first two months and notifications reached a peak during March, at a time when the general practitioners of the area were just finishing a hectic and wearying period due to the influenza epidemic. Notifications continued right up to the month of June and then quickly tailed off. The total notifications for the year numbered 1351, made up of 648 males and 703 females. The heaviest incidence occurred in the 5—10 year age group where there were 239 males and 270 females notified.

There was one death in a female child aged 4 months due to pneumonia associated with measles.

WHOOPING COUGH

There were 55 notifications (30 males and 25 females) of whooping cough during the year as compared with 180 (91 males and 89 females) during the year 1950.

No deaths were recorded from this disease.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

There was only 1 notification of puerperal pyrexia during the year.

An alteration in the definition of puerperal pyrexia was made by the Minister of Health during the year in exercise of his powers under sections 143 and 283 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

In the new regulations, which may be cited as the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951, the expression puerperal pyrexia was assigned the following meaning :

> " Puerperal pyrexia " means any febrile condition occurring in a woman in whom a temperature of 100.4° Fahrenheit (38° centigrade) or more has occurred within fourteen days after childbirth or miscarriage.

The new regulations came into force on the 1st August, 1951, and a copy of these regulations was sent to each medical practitioner who was ascertained to be practising within this district.

ACUTE PRIMARY PNEUMONIA

There were two notifications received during the year, but this number can hardly be considered to represent the actual cases which occurred. There were 18 deaths assigned to all types of pneumonia—11 males and 7 females.

ACUTE INFLUENZAL PNEUMONIA

There were 13 notifications of acute influenzal pneumonia during the year and practically all were related to the influenza epidemic which occurred at the beginning of the year. There were 7 deaths assigned to influenza—5 males and 2 females.

ERYSIPELAS

There were three notifications of erysipelas during the year.

FOOD POISONING

There was one notification of food poisoning in a male child in the age group 1—2 years which was not confirmed bacteriologically.

There were no notifications of cerebro-spinal fever, typhoid, dysentery, ophthalmia neonatorum, encephalitis lethargica, poliomyelitis and smallpox.

TUBERCULOSIS

The Chest Clinic for this district is situated in the Park Buildings, where a morning session is held every Tuesday. This clinic lacks an X-ray plant which must be considered an essential to any chest clinic if it is to justify itself of the name. As a consequence, patients requiring to be X-rayed or screened have to travel to Newport, a journey of more than 10 miles. This deficiency is a serious deterrent to many, especially contacts, who might otherwise attend for investigation.

However, there are indications that this deficiency will be remedied during the coming year and that, in addition to the installation of an X-ray plant, there will be two full-day clinics each week in place of the present half day.

During the year the medical officer of health visited the home of every newly notified case of tuberculosis and made an exhaustive environmental enquiry, the details of which were supplied to the county medical officer and the chest physician. The medical officer advised on personal hygiene for the patient to minimise the danger of spread of infection in the home, the necessity for attendance at the chest clinic of all household contacts, and the general management of the home so that the patient should have his or her own bedroom while awaiting sanatorium treatment. Advice was given as to the procedure for obtaining tuberculosis allowances, in suitable cases, from the National Assistance Board. Suitable booklets produced by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis were also supplied to patients. These booklets included *Killing Those Germs* and *Family Budgeting for Tuberculosis Patients.*

A suitable disinfectant, as required, was available free to each tuberculosis patient through the Public Health Department for use in sputum receptacles and in connection with the laundering of the patient's personal clothing, etc. Terminal disinfection was carried out on removal to hospital or death in each case.

In cases involving overcrowding the medical officer of health made representations, with some success, to the Public Health Committee for early rehousing in instances which warranted such action. In other cases priority admission to sanatoria was obtained for certain cases through the chest physician, Dr. M. I. Jackson, with whom a very harmonious liaison is maintained.

TABLE XI Showing the new cases of tuberculosis notified and the deaths due to tuberculosis during 1951, analysed in age and sex groups and by type of disease.

Age groups in yrs.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	1
5—15	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	3	6	1	1	1	—	—	—
25—35	3	4	—	2	—	2	—	—
35—45	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—55	7	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
55—65	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 +	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Totals ..	24	15	1	7	9	2	—	1

The higher incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis in the older age groups for men will be noted, over half the total for males occured in the over 45 age groups.

The death rates from tuberculosis for this district for 1951 were :—

(Rates for 1950 are in parentheses).

(*a*) Tuberculosis (all forms) — 0·28 per 1,000 pop. (·23)

(*b*) Pulmonary tuberculosis — 0·26 per 1,000 pop. (·19)

(*c*) Non-pulmonary tuberculosis— 0·02 per 1,000 pop. (·04)

The death rate per 1,000 population for E. & W. for all forms of tuberculosis was 0.31. The quarterly return for 31/12/1951, submitted in accordance with Article 10 (8) of the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regs. 1930, showed the number of cases of tuberculosis on the tuberculosis register for the Pontypool Urban District at the end of the year to be as follows :—

Males		Females		Total
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
161	38	132	50	381

TABLE XII Showing the monthly notifications of tuberculosis (all forms) for the year 1951.

Month of year	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
January	2	1	—	3	6
February ..	—	1	—	—	1
March	—	—	—	—	—
April	1	1	—	—	2
May	6	2	—	1	9
June	1	2	—	—	3
July	2	2	1	1	6
August	2	—	—	—	2
September ..	3	—	—	—	3
October	4	2	—	—	6
November ..	1	3	—	2	6
December ..	2	1	—	—	3
Total ..	24	15	1	7	47

In addition the following inward transfers took place during the year :—

Males – Pulmonary
3

Females – Pulmonary
4

Males – Non-Pulmonary
2

One death was attributed to pulmonary tuberculosis which had not been previously formally notified. The diagnosis in this case was established after post-mortem examination.

TABLE XIII Showing the occupations of the cases of tuberculosis notified during 1951. (These occupations are not necessarily those followed when the disease was contracted in each case).

Occupation	Males		Females		Total
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Pre-school child ..	1	—	1	2	4
School child ..	1	1	2	—	4
Clerk	1	—	—	2	3
Locomotive Driver	1	—	—	—	1
Fitter	1	—	—	—	1
Factory Worker ..	1	—	2	—	3
Shop Assistant ..	—	—	1	1	2
Steel-worker ..	3	—	—	—	3
University Student	—	—	1	—	1
Housewife.. ..	—	—	5	2	7
Labourer	2	—	—	—	2
Hospital Nurse ..	—	—	1	—	1
Collier	3	—	—	—	3
Naafi employee ..	1	—	—	—	1
Civil servant ..	1	—	—	—	1
Ex-school teacher	—	—	1	—	1
Railway fireman ..	1	—	—	—	1
Surveyor	1	—	—	—	1
Domestic service..	—	—	1	—	1
Unemployed ..	2	—	—	—	2
Retired	4	—	—	—	4
Total ..	24	1	15	7	47

TABLE XIV Showing the admissions and discharges to institutions for treatment of tuberculosis during 1951.

Institutions	Admissions		Discharges	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
St. Woolos Hospital ..	2	4	—	2
Cefn Mably Sanatorium ..	1	6	2	6
Chepstow Annexe	2	—	2	—
Glan Ely Hospital	5	3	3	3
Sully Hospital	4	—	4	1
North Wales Sanatorium ..	—	6	—	5
South Wales Sanatorium ..	2	—	4	—
Adelina Patti Hospital ..	1	—	—	—
Cardiff Isolation Hospital ..	—	4	—	1
Energlyn Hospital	—	1	—	1
TOTAL	17	24	15	19

TABLE XV Showing the tuberculosis (all forms) notifications as distributed to the various wards in the Pontypool Urban District for 1951.

Wards	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Garndiffaith ..	3	1	—	2	6
Abersychan ..	3	3	—	—	6
Snatchwood ..	4	6	—	1	11
Wainfelin ..	—	—	—	2	2
Pontypool ..	5	1	—	1	7
Pontymoel ..	3	—	—	1	4
Griffithstown ..	2	2	—	—	4
New Inn and Sebastopol ..	4	2	1	—	7
ALL WARDS ..	24	15	1	7	47

The greatest number of notifications during the year occurred in the Snatchwood Ward, while the lowest was in the Wainfelin Ward. The remaining wards showed a similarity in the number of notifications for 1951.

TABLE XVI Showing the yearly notifications of tuberculosis (all forms) for males and females, and the yearly deaths from all forms of tuberculosis since 1942.

Year	Yearly notifications of tuberculosis				Total yearly notifications of pulmonary & non-pulmonary tuberculosis	Yearly deaths from tuberculosis				Total of yearly deaths from all forms of tuberculosis
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Males	Females		Males	Females	Males	Females	
1942	21	7	9	6	43	7	10	4	4	25
1943	26	15	4	5	50	12	8	3	1	24
1944	27	29	3	8	57	14	9	2	1	26
1945	46	22	2	6	76	10	18	3	2	33
1946	19	13	11	3	46	12	8	2	2	24
1947	16	23	5	9	53	9	10	1	1	21
1948	21	22	4	10	56	16	5	3	1	25
1949	14	17	4	3	38	16	6	1	1	24
1950	19	17	1	4	41	6	2	1	1	10
1951	24	15	1	7	47	9	2	–	1	12

The slight tendency of tuberculosis notifications to rise will be noted while, in contrast, the deaths due to this cause show a marked decline in the last 2 years.

TABLE XVII Showing the notification rates and death rates for tuberculosis per 1,000 of the estimated population since 1938.

Year	Notification rates per 1,000 population		Death rates per 1,000 population	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1938	1·09	·42	·52	·07
1939	1·15	·49	·42	·07
1940	·84	·48	·58	·12
1941	1·13	·41	·74	·05
1942	·67	·36	·41	·19
1943	·99	·22	·49	·10
1944	1·34	·26	·55	·07
1945	1·88	·19	·67	·12
1946	·76	·33	·48	·10
1947	·93	·33	·45	·05
1948	1·01	·33	·50	·09
1949	·73	·16	·56	·05
1950	·84	·12	·19	·04
1951	.92	.18	.26	.02

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925

No action was called for under the above regulations in respect of tuberculosis employees in the milk trade during the year.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY—

GENERAL POPULATION, 1951

During the months of September and October, 1951, a very successful mass radiography survey by a mobile unit of the Welsh Regional Hospital Board was carried out on the general population of the Pontypool Urban District. Owing to the size of the district and to facilitate the general public, the unit was established for a five day period at each of three centres—the basement of the Grand Stand in Pontypool Park, the Drill Hall at Griffithstown and the Ambulance Hall at Abersychan.

This was the first occasion of a visit by a mobile radiography unit to the Pontypool U.D. for a general population survey and the results showed that the people of this district appreciate the facility of such a service. The total number of attendances at all three centres, which actually represented 10 days only allocated to the taking of miniature films, was 7,078, including 1,446 school-children. All the children (505) at one school were X-rayed, in addition to every member of the staff, in consequence of the recent occurrence of two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis amongst the pupils. These pupils were also mantoux tested with the co-operation of the chest physician, Dr. M. I. Jackson (see Table XXVI). In the case of the other schools in the district the facility was only afforded to those over the age of 14 years. Special arrangements were made for the schools and a time table provided indicating times for attendance of the children and their teachers. Table XXIV gives the details of the children who attended, and it is gratifying to note that 84 teachers attended at the same time. Of course many other members of the teaching staffs of infant and mixed schools attended during the general public sessions.

For some considerable time before the survey began an immense amount of effort was directed towards publicising the project. The co-operation of the general practitioners, health visitors, district nurses, midwives, welfare clinic medical officers, managers of all the larger business premises in the area, heads of government offices, managers of industrial concerns and secretaries of voluntary organisations was sought, and their response was wholehearted. During the three weeks prior to the commencement of the survey several thousand time tables incorporating suitable information were distributed through the cinemas, general practitioners' surgeries, infant and ante-natal clinics, welfare officers of industrial concerns and secretaries of voluntary organisations. The public press was also used as a medium to inform the public of the unit's visit.

In general, it can be said that the survey was a most successful exercise in practical health education for the public of the district and it is to be regretted that, owing to lack of sufficient mobile units, the survey cannot, as yet, be made a yearly feature in our efforts for better health. However, many workers in the district will be able to avail themselves of the service when the unit visits industrial concerns during the winter season.

It is regretted that still too few people with too meagre financial support are engaged on the preventive side while the greatest effort in manpower and finance continues to be lavished on the curative side.

Mass Radiography is one of the mass techniques which enables periodic chest X-ray to be available to the community at large at reduced expenditure, but to enable this to be done properly we need more mobile radiography units. It would be appropriate here to quote Dr. F. A. Nash, Medical Director, Mass X-ray Service for South West London :

> " Mass Radiography is part of a revolutionary development in medicine, the implications of which are not yet recognised. We are at the beginning of a new medical era—the era of Presymptomatic Diagnosis, in which treatment will begin before the patient feels ill, and, if the disease is infectious, before he becomes a danger to others. To-day, symptoms select the sick and bring them to the clinic. Tomorrow, the doctor will seek actively for disease among the apparently healthy. At present we deny to our fellow men the routine inspection the engineer gives to our machines. Men as much as aeroplanes and motor cars, need periodic scrutiny and maintenance over-hauls."

TABLE XVIII Analysis of the mass radiographic survey of the Pontypool general population in age and sex groups, etc.

	Grand Total	Under 15 years		15—24 years		25—34 years		35—44 years		45—59 years		60+ years		Totals	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Total number of persons examined Normal and abnormal	2,093	1	4	151	159	214	271	164	214	312	323	162	118	1,004	1,089
Total number found to be abnormal	106 or 5.06%	—	—	—	4	1	4	9	9	36	13	22	8	68	38
Classification of abnormal cases :—															
(*a*) Definite pulmonary tuberculosis..	1 or 0.05%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
(*b*) Needing further observation for pulmonary tuberculosis ..	7 or 0.33%	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	2	1	—	1	2	5
(*c*) Other abnormalities of chest ..	98 or 4.68%	—	—	—	3	1	2	9	9	33	12	22	7	65	33

Includes school staff but not school children.

TABLE XIX Further analysis of "Other abnormalities of chest" indicated at (*c*) in table XVIII—Pontypool general population survey.

Type of abnormality	Male	Female	Total
Pneumoconiosis	31	—	31
Healed post primary pulmonary tuberculosis	5	8	13
Bronchitis and emphysema	11	2	13
Bony abnormality	5	7	12
Healed primary pulmonary tuberculosis	2	9	11
Thickened pleura	8	1	9
Cardio-vascular disease (acquired) ..	1	3	4
Pulmonary fibrosis	—	2	2
Bronchiectasis	2	—	2
Pneumonitis	—	1	1
Total	65	33	98

TABLE XX Analysis of the mass radiographic survey of the Griffithstown general population in age and sex groups, etc.

	Grand Total	Under 15 years		15—24 years		25—34 years		35—44 years		45—59 years		60+ years		Totals	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Total number of persons examined Normal and abnormal	1,291	6	2	75	114	117	174	117	176	158	186	74	92	547	744
Total number found to be abnormal	31 or 2.40%	—	—	2	1	1	2	4	4	7	2	7	1	21	10
Classification of abnormal cases :—															
(*a*) Definite pulmonary tuberculosis..	1 or 0.08%	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(*b*) Needing further observation for pulmonary tuberculosis ..	7 or 0.08%	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	1	2	5
(*c*) Other abnormalities of chest ..	29 or 2.24%	—	—	1	1	1	1	4	4	7	2	7	1	20	9

TABLE XXI Further analysis of " Other abnormalities of chest " indicated at (*c*) in table XX—Griffithstown general population survey.

Type of abnormality	Male	Female	TOTAL
Pleural thickening	5	1	6
Bony abnormality	2	4	6
Healed post primary pulmonary tuberculosis..	3	2	5
Pneumoconiosis	3	—	3
Bronchitis and emphysema	2	—	2
Cardio-vascular disease (acquired) ..	1	1	2
Abnormality of diaphragm	—	1	1
Basal fibrosis	1	—	1
Healed primary pulmonary tuberculosis	1	—	1
Broncheal carcinoma	1	—	1
Pulmonary fibrosis	1	—	1
TOTAL	20	9	29

TABLE XXII Analysis of the mass radiographic survey of the Abersychan general population in age and sex groups, etc.

	Grand Total	Under 15 years		15—24 years		25—34 years		35—44 years		45—59 years		60+ years		Totals	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Total number of persons examined Normal and abnormal	2,164	4	5	128	157	216	270	270	225	322	323	151	93	1,091	1,073
Total number found to be abnormal	164 or 7.58%	—	1	4	3	9	7	27	8	44	13	44	4	128	36
Classification of abnormal cases :—															
(*a*) Definite pulmonary tuberculosis..	5 or 0.23%	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	4
(*b*) Needing further observation for pulmonary tuberculosis ..	4 or 0.19%	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2
(*c*) Other abnormalities of chest ..	155 or 7.16%	—	1	3	1	8	6	27	6	44	12	43	7	125	30

TABLE XXIII Further analysis of "Other abnormalities of chest" indicated at (*c*) in table XXII—Abersychan general population survey.

Type of abnormality	Male	Female	TOTAL
Pneumoconiosis	90	—	90
Healed post primary pulmonary tuberculosis..	10	4	14
Healed primary pulmonary tuberculosis	5	6	11
Bronchitis and emphysema	4	6	10
Bony abnormality	3	6	9
Thickened pleura	5	3	8
Pulmonary fibrosis	5	—	5
Cardio-vascular disease (acquired) ..	1	3	4
Basal fibrosis	1	1	2
Pneumonitis	—	1	1
Anaplastic lung	1	—	1
TOTAL	125	30	155

TABLE XXIV Analysis of the mass radiographic survey of school children in the Urban District by school, etc. (All children were 14 years and upwards, except in the case of the County School for Girls, where every child was X-rayed).

School	Number examined			Total Number found abnormal			Definite Pulmonary tuberculosis			Observation Pulmonary tuberculosis			Other abnormalities of the chest		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
West Monmouth Grammar School ..	221	—	221	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Twmpath Secondary Modern School ..	84	98	182	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
County School for Girls	—	505	505	—	7	7	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	6	6
Pontypool Wern Sec. Modern School ..	53	47	100	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
St. Alban's School ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abersychan Grammar School	95	100	195	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Abersychan Technical School	111	—	111	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abersychan Secondary Modern School ..	53	67	120	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Abersychan R.C. School	4	6	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total School children ..	623	823	1,446	4	9	13	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	7	11
School Staff	47	37	84	5	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	7

TABLE XXV Further analysis of " Other abnormalities of chest " indicated in table XXIV—Survey of school children in the Pontypool Urban District.

Type of abnormality	Male	Female	TOTAL
Bony abnormality	3	5	8
Dextro-cardia ..	—	1	1
Healed primary pulmonary tuberculosis	—	1	1
Bronchiectasis	1	—	1
TOTAL	4	7	11

	Male	Female	TOTAL
Failed to attend for large film ..	2	—	2

TABLE XXVI Showing the results of mantoux testing of all the children at the County School for Girls, Pontypool (Sept. '51). The percentage mantoux positive (i.e. the percentage tuberculised following previous infection with the tubercle bacillus) found at similar surveys in Newport and Maesteg is given for comparison.

Age groups in years	Number mantoux tested (Pontypool)	Number mantoux positive (Pontypool)	Percentage mantoux positive (Pontypool)	Percentage mantoux positive (Newport)	Percentage mantoux positive (Maesteg)
11—	91	24	26.4	38.1	31.1
12—	99	25	25.3		
13—	81	35	43.2	46.4	50.0
14—	76	33	43.2		
15—	51	23	45.1	44.7	60.0
16—	39	22	56.4		
17—	20	10	50.0	63.0	64.0
18+	4	4	100.0		
ALL AGES	461	176	38.2	—	—

From the above table it can be seen that, generally, the percentage mantoux positive in the different age groups at the Pontypool Girls' School was lower than that at Newport and Maesteg. The small numbers tested at Pontypool in the higher age groups make the comparisons of little value in these age groups.

HOUSING

During the year the Council passed their 1,000 post-war new house mark and progress in building continues at a satisfactory pace, though still far from satisfying requirements.

The Tranch area houses such as Twissell's Row and Club Row, mentioned in my 1950 Annual Report as over-ripe properties for clearance were becoming badly affected by mining subsidence by the end of 1951, and all the indications seemed to point that these houses would become dangerous structures in a short time.

The old P.O.W. Camp at the Polo Grounds, New Inn, was still in existence at the end of the year, and some 20 families remained in occupation of the huts. The clearance of this camp is again urged on public health grounds.

During the year 70 cases of overcrowding, many coupled with tuberculosis or other unsatisfactory circumstances, were reported in detail to the Public Health Committee and appropriate recommendations made. By the close of the year 17 of these cases had been rehoused in council houses.

TABLE XXVII Showing the number of houses owned by this Local Authority as at 31/12/1951.

	Temp. Pre-fabs.	Perm. Pre-fabs.	Tradi-tional Houses	TOTAL
No. of houses owned by L.A. on 31/12/1951 ..	300	208	2,036	2,544
No. of houses in course of erection on 31/12/51 ..	—	—	155	155
No. of houses for which sanction had been given, but which had not been commenced on 31/12/51	—	—	—	—

TABLE XXVIII Number of houses erected during 1951 by the Local Authority and by private enterprise.

	Temp. Pre-fabs.	Perm. Pre-fabs.	Tradi-tional Houses
By Local Authority	—	—	129
By private enterprise	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	129

Number of houses under construction by private enterprise but not completed on 31/12/1951 : 6.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

The following tables show the inspections made at factories during the year in connection with the maintenance of provisions for health.

TABLE XXIX Showing the number of factories and inspections thereof carried out during 1951.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted
		Inspections	Written notices	
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority	46	68	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	32	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	10	—	—
TOTAL	78	110	2	—

TABLE XXX Shewing the defects found in factories and the action taken.

Inspections	Number of defects			Number of Prose-cutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	1	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :				
(*a*) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective ..	2	2	—	—
(*c*) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	3	—	—

MISCELLANEOUS

Swimming Baths

The position with regard to the swimming baths has not altered since my Annual Report for 1949, and my observations then still obtain.

Sewerage

My Annual Report for 1949 covered this subject. However, work is still in progress on the Eastern Valley trunk sewer.

Public Conveniences

The observations in my Annual Report for 1949 in this respect still apply. However, the public conveniences in the centre of Pontypool are about to undergo major alterations which should be a vast improvement on the old structure.

Collection and Disposal of House and Trade Refuse

The unsatisfactory method of uncontrolled tipping is still in operation and should be discontinued in view of the unsightly appearance of uncontrolled tips and the cover they offer for fly and rat breeding. It is a fact that the Council's tips are by far the greatest breeding grounds for rats in the district as borne out by the rodent operator's reports.

Superannuation Act, 1937

Medical examinations were carried out on 50 employees of the Council by the Medical Officer during the year in connection with superannuation.

Attendance at Conferences during 1951

The Medical Officer of Health was not delegated to attend any conference or sessional meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute during 1951.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No action was required under Sec. 47 of the above Act during 1951.

ICE-CREAM SAMPLING

In the course of 1951 the department's inspectors took 55 samples of ice-cream which were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, for bacteriological examination. The results were very satisfactory and indicate that the quality of this product sold in the district has continued to improve from the bacteriological aspect since 1949. This continued improvement once again reflects the valuable work of your inspectors in this connection and a very high measure of co-operation from the producers in this area.

The grading of 37 samples taken during the 1949 season was as follows :

Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total Samples
12	4	4	17	37

The grading of 66 samples taken during the 1950 season was as follows :

Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total samples
34	17	7	8	66

The grading of 55 samples taken during the 1951 season was as follows :

Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total samples
36	12	4	3	55

It must be borne in mind in connection with these standards of cleanliness for ice-cream that these grades are provisional only and merely indicate whether or not the production is being carried out in a cleanly manner. It is unwise to attach too much significance to the bacteriological results on any one sample alone, but rather to base judgement on the results taken from a series of samples.

The Public Health Laboratory Service recommends that the interpretation of bacteriological examination and grading of ice-cream be as follows :

When samples are taken from a vendor over a six monthly period, 50% of his samples should fall into Grade I, 80% into Grade I or II, not more than 20% into Grade III, and none into Grade IV.

WATER SUPPLY AND SAMPLING

The Pontypool Gas & Water Company are the Statutory Water Undertakers to the district. The supply is a piped and chlorinated one.

Particular attention has been paid during 1951 to the sampling of the district's water supply and the results show a continued improvement since 1949.

The following samples were taken from the Company's supply during 1949 :—

No. unsatisfactory for a chlorinated supply	No. satisfactory for a chlorinated supply	Total samples
13	19	32

The following samples were taken from the Company's supply during 1950 :—

No. unsatisfactory for a chlorinated supply	No. satisfactory for a chlorinated supply	Total samples
10	50	60

The following samples were taken from the Company's supply during 1951 :—

No. unsatisfactory for a chlorinated supply	No. satisfactory for a chlorinated supply	Total samples
10	91	101

It is noted that where samples were classed as unsatisfactory the presumptive B. Coli count was very low, indicating a slight degree of under-chlorination.

Sampling of water from Wells

Two samples taken from wells proved satisfactory on analysis.

Pantygasseg Village Water Supply

The need for a piped supply of treated water to this village was discussed in my Annual Report for 1949, but by the close of 1951 the project had not materialised. It is hoped, in the interests of the inhabitants of this village, that this project will be carried through with as little further delay as possible.

STAFFING AND ACCOMMODATION

Staffing

I am glad to note that the Council, after enquiries from the Welsh Board of Health, implemented the recommendation in my Annual Report for 1949 and appointed an additional sanitary inspector during the year. This appointment has enabled the department to attend regularly to many aspects of environmental hygiene which hitherto were insufficiently covered.

Accommodation

There has still been no provision whatsoever made to provide the Medical Officer with a suitable office. The same conditions prevail as complained of in my Annual Reports for 1949 and 1950. Three-and-a-half years would appear to be more than a reasonable period in which to provide suitable accommodation for the Medical Officer of Health even if this requirement was not considered, as it undoubtedly was not, before the appointment of a full-time Officer was made. The Medical Officer of No. 7 Area, the largest area by population in the County, is undoubtedly worse served for a personal office than any of the other health areas in the County, both from the Local Health Authority side as well as the Local Authority side.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff, as well as other departments of the Authority, for their co-operation during the year.

TABLE XXXI Shewing the various Clinics and Medical Appliances Depots provided in the District by the Local Health Authority.

Area served	Location	Description of Clinic					Medical appliances depot	
		Ante-natal	Infant Welfare	Dental	Vision	Ortho-pædic	Location	Officer in charge
Garndiffaith ..	Methodist Schoolroom	—	Tuesdays (forenoon only).	—	—	—	Workmen's Institute, Garndiffaith.	Mr. Ivor Pugh, "Ardwyn," Stanley Road, Garndiffaith.
Abersychan ..	Relief offices.	Wednesday forenoon-alternate weeks.	Wednesdays (forenoon only).	—	—	—	Ambulance Hall, Abersychan.	Mrs. E. Cole, 91, Picton St., Abersychan.
Pontnewynydd	Wesleyan Chapel.	—	Thursdays (full-day)	—	—	—	Ambulance Hall, Pontnewynydd.	Mrs. A. Rowlands, Morley House, Hanbury Road, Pontnewynydd.
Pontypool ..	Ashgrove House.	Tuesdays (full-day)	Mondays (full-day)	Daily	Weekly	Six weekly	Ambulance Hall, St. James' Fields	Mrs. A. Jeremiah, Holly Cottage, Wainfelin.
Pontymoel ..	Mission Hall.	—	Tuesdays (forenoon only).	—	—	—	ditto	ditto
Griffithstown	Baptist Chapel	Whole day alternate weeks.	Thursdays (full-day)	—	—	—	Memorial Hall, Griffithstown.	Mrs. M. E. Parry, 48, Windsor Rd. Griffithstown.
New Inn							Panteg Red Cross Hall.	Mrs. L. M. Binnie, 2, Woodfield Rd, Panteg.

All enquiries in respect of Home Helps, District Nurses, County Midwives, etc., should be made, in the first place, to Mr. F. D. Allen, Clerk to the Area Health Sub-Commitee, Guardians' Offices, Hanbury Road, Pontypool. *Tel. No.:* Pontypool 138.

The Welfare Officer for the District is Mr. T. A. Wyatt, Guardians' Offices, Hanbury Road, Pontypool. *Tel. No.:* Pontypool 138.

TABLE XXXII Shewing the District Nurses, the localities they serve and their addresses.

District served	District Nurse	Address
Varteg Garndiffaith Cwmavon Pentwyn Talywain Abersychan Victoria Village	Nurse E. C. Harnett	88, Penylan Road, Varteg.
Snatchwood Pontnewynydd Cwmffrwdoer Freeholdland Leigh Road Pantygasseg	Nurse J. R. Jenkins	" Bryn-y-for," Lower Harper's Rd., Abersychan.
Wainfelin Pontypool Town Twmpath Tranch Merchant's Hill Crumlin Road Fishponds Albion Road	Nurse K. G. McCormack	" Penlea," Twmpath Road, Pontypool. *Tel. No.*: Pontypool 468.
Penygarn Trevethin New Inn Pontypool Road Trosnant Pontymoile	Nurse E. E. Cook	23, The Ridgeway, Penygarn. *Tel. No.*: Pontypool 430
Blaendare Sebastopol The Race Cwmynyscoy Griffithstown	Nurse E. L. Phillips	53, Channel View, Penygarn.

The service of a District Nurse in the home is provided on receipt of a note from the family doctor to say that such service is required.

A list, similar to the above table and produced in card form, is provided for display in the surgery of each general practitioner in the district.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PONTYPOOL

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the year 1951

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MARKET BUILDINGS,
CRANE STREET,
PONTYPOOL, MON.

Following is my report on work carried out by the Department for the year ending 31st December, 1951.

NOTICES SERVED

Number Notices Sect. 9 H.A. 1936	148
„ „ Sect. 93 P.H.A. 1936.. ..	114

DEFECTS IN DWELLINGS

Houses repaired externally	194
Houses repaired internally	208

DRAINAGE

Drains examined	20
Drains opened and cleansed	29
Drains connected to sewer	3
New drains provided	1
Defective drains repaired	12
Defective W.C's. put in order	28
Defective flush tanks repaired or renewed ..	9
New tanks supplied to W.C's.	4
New pans supplied to W.C's.	11
New lavatories provided..	4

INSPECTION OF COUNCIL HOUSES

536 Council houses were inspected during the year, and with few exceptions these houses are well maintained.

Six disinfestations for vermin were carried out.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

17 houses were dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. In seven instances offers by the owners to carry out the necessary repairs were accepted by the Council.

Ten Orders for Demolition were made.

1 Part Closing Order was made under Sec. 12 Housing Act, 1936.

OTHER NUISANCES

Accumulation of refuse removed	4
Infected mattresses and bedding destroyed ..	2

TENTS, SHEDS AND VANS

The small number of vans and sheds occupied as dwellings have been inspected, and cleanliness kept to a reasonable standard. Action in regard to these dwellings is held up by the present housing conditions.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Inspections of workshops and workplaces have been carried out, and below is a report on inspections made :—

Premises	No. of Inspections	Notices Served	Action Necessary
Factories (including laundries)	68	2	Nil
Workshops	32	—	Nil
Workplaces	10	2	Nil

All notices served in connection with these premises were complied with.

INSPECTION OF BAKEHOUSES

32 visits were made to the bakehouses, and in no case was it necessary to serve Notice for the abatement of nuisance.

In four cases Liming, and in one case General Cleanliness were not up to standard, but this was remedied without service of Notices.

FRIED FISH SHOPS

Thirty-two visits were made to these premises, and in every instance they were found to be clean and well maintained.

CINEMAS

Number of cinemas in the area	5
Number of inspections made	24
Notices served and complied with	Nil

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Below is my report of meat inspected at the Government Slaughter House, Abersychan, showing the number of cattle killed and meat condemned.

MEAT CONDEMNED

Beef ..	8,641lbs	Lamb ..	168lbs	Mutton ..	849lbs
Veal ..	227lbs	Pork ..	354lbs	TOTAL ..	10,239lbs

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	1,723	459	758	9,377	407
Number inspected ..	1,723	459	758	9,377	407
All disease except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcases condemned	1	3	1	17	2
Carcases of which some part or Organ was condemned	45	279	4	716	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	2·75	16.36	·66	7·49	3·4
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcases condemned	3	9	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or Organ was condemned	74	143	—	—	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4·4	33·11	—	—	·98

OFFAL CONDEMNED

Cattle : 563 livers, 281 lungs, 39 melts, 108 heads and tongues, 8 tongues, 9 hearts, 8 tails, 8 skirts, 46 udders, 8 tripes and 56 various organs.

Sheep : 1,952 livers, 974 lungs, 27 plucks, 21 heads, 9 various organs.

Calves : 1 complete carcase and offal, 1 liver, 2 plucks and 2 lungs.

Pigs : 3 plucks, 2 heads, 4 lungs and 2 complete offals.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

Beef 384lbs, Mutton 42lbs, Sausage 32lbs, fish 9 stones, 76 tins Lunch meat, 110 tins milk, 10 bottles sauce, 28 tins pork, 96 tins beans, 12 tins peas, 8 tins syrup, 18 tins plums, 14 tins soup, 18 fish paste, 52 tins tomatoes, 16 tins brawn, 120 tins sardines, 15 tins pilchards, 22 tins ham, 42lbs corned beef, 142 eggs, 24 tins stewed steak, 18 tins Irish stew, 16 tins tomato juice, 15 tins jam, and 8 jars jam.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

All cases of Infectious Disease notified were dealt with by the Department, terminal disinfection carried out, and all precautions taken against the spread of the disease.

Two cases of Infectious Disease were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Environmental Reports were made on all cases of Tuberculosis notified.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

The three Common Lodging Houses were inspected. One is included in a clearance area, and one was found unsuitable for the purpose.

The other was registered in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 238 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

One caravan was licensed under Sec. 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for a period of twelve months.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951

One licence was granted under Sec. 2 of the Rag Flock Act.

WATER SUPPLY

Two samples of water were taken from springs and wells in various parts of the area, and submitted to the County Analyst for examination :—

These two samples were found to be satisfactory. The supplies were untreated water.

101 samples were taken from the Company's Main Supply and ten were unsatisfactory. Check samples taken were satisfactory.

180 samples were taken by the Company's Inspectors, and all were satisfactory.

Generally the water supply to the area is of good quality and well maintained.

HEAT TREATED MILK

103 samples of Heat Treated Milk were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

The samples are classified below :—

Pasteurised	Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested	Sterilised	TOTAL
66	13	24	103

Three of the above samples failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test and one failed to pass the Phosphatase Test. Check samples taken following the report proved satisfactory.

MILK REGULATIONS, 1949

Dumping of Milk on the Highway

During a tour of the district, I found that milk was being placed on the Highway at seventeen points, awaiting collection by vendors.

This is contrary to the Milk Regulations, 1949, and appropriate steps were taken by the Authority to remedy this.

RAW MILK

19 samples of Raw Milk were submitted for examination. Classification and the results are set out below :—

9 Ungraded 8 Tuberculin Tested 2 Accredited

2 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk not up to the required standard.
2 samples of ungraded milk not satisfactory.
2 samples of accredited milk satisfactory.

The Tuberculin Tested Milk comes from outside the area. The Milk Officer was advised, and the Sanitary Inspector for the area in which the milk was produced.

CHURN RINSINGS

Six samples of churn rinsings were taken at the Cambrian Dairies, and five were satisfactory and one fairly satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939

Twenty-six samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination.

Twenty-five of the samples conformed to the requirements of the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939. One sample was deficient in fat to the extent of 8.82 parts per cent.

One sample of milk was found to contain added water. The Magistrates fined the vendor £10. He appealed, and the Higher Court allowed the appeal on a legal technicality.

Ninety-one samples of food were taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

All samples conformed to the required standards.

ICE-CREAM

55 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Bacteriological examination, and placed in provisional grades as set out below :—

Grade I	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
36	12	4	3

The above samples show that the standard of Ice-cream has been well maintained.

One sample of ice-cream powder proved on examination to be a sterile culture.

ROOMS WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED, AND INDUSTRIAL CANTEENS

19 inspections were carried out at Restaurant kitchens and works' canteens. It is pleasing to note the general improvement in the hygienic conditions at restaurants, due to the Clean Food Campaign.

Canteens are well conducted, and meals served under good conditions.

Four premises were registered for the manufacture of Butcher's smalls, and are maintained at a good standard of cleanliness.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

8 complaints of Bug Infestation were dealt with, a good insecticide spray proved successful in abating the nuisance.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year, extensive operations have been carried out against the Rat Population in all parts of the area, in compliance with the orders from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Treatment of Sewers

Owing to excessive flooding of the sewers, it was found impossible to carry out a treatment in May, but in September 97 manholes were baited ; 17 prebait takes and 17 poison takes were noted.

For sewers with open discharges (direct into the river) this is a very satisfactory result.

Business Premises

25 business premises were dealt with, and three major and 13 minor infestations discovered.

833 points were laid, with 790 prebait takes and 598 poison takes.

Private Dwellings

268 private dwellings were treated, and five major and 158 minor infestations discovered.

3,276 points were laid, with 2,572 prebait takes and 2,016 poison takes.

COUNCIL PROPERTY

The refuse tips and depots belonging to the Council called for 26 treatments.

1 Reservoir, 7 major and 15 minor infestations were discovered.

1,100 points were laid with 962 prebait and 821 poison takes.

Generally, the rat population is being kept in check, and no extraordinary invasions have been reported.

Again the officials of the Ministry and trades people of the area have given us every assistance in carrying out the work.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. G. MEEK

Chief Sanitary Inspector.