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Contributors

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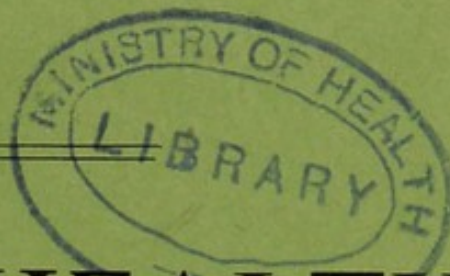
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PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1955

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.

APRIL, 1956.



PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1955

Area of District
Rateable value (1.4.55)
Estimated net product of 14 rate (1955-56)
Number of inhabited houses (1955)
Number of Council-owned houses (31.12.55)
Number of Council houses built during 1955
Population (Estimated mid 1955)
Average number of persons per house

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1955

Number of live births
Birth rate per 1,000 population
Number of illegitimate births
Number of stillbirths
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 population
Number of deaths
Death rate per 1,000 population
Number of infant deaths (i.e. deaths in infants under 1 year)
Infant mortality rate
Deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis
Death rate per 1,000 population
Deaths from cancer of the lungs and bronchi
Death rate per 1,000 population from cancer of the lungs and bronchi
Deaths from cancer — all forms
Death rate per 1,000 population from cancer — all forms

F. J. HALLINAN,
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MARKET BUILDINGS,
CRANE STREET,
PONTYPOOL, MON.

APRIL, 1956.

PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1955

Area of District	15,907 acres
Rateable value (1.4.'55)	£193,398
Estimated net product of 1d rate (1955-56)	£722
Number of inhabited houses (1955)	12,384
Number of Council-owned houses (31.12.'55)	3,259
Number of Council houses built during 1955	215
Population (Estimated mid 1955)	41,660
Average number of persons per house	3.4
Census population, 1951	
(21,242 males : 21,461 females)	42,703
Census population, 1931	
(22,723 males : 21,187 females)	43,910
Number of live births	563
Birth rate per 1,000 population	13.5
Number of illegitimate births	11
Number of stillbirths	19
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 population	0.46
Number of deaths	510
Death rate per 1,000 population	12.2
Number of infant deaths (i.e. deaths in infants under 1 year)	20
Infant mortality rate	35.5
Deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis	3
Death rate per 1,000 population from pulmonary tuberculosis	0.02
Deaths from cancer of the lungs and bronchi	16
Death rate per 1,000 population from cancer of the lungs and bronchi .. .. .	.38
Deaths from cancer — all forms	79
Death rate per 1,000 population from cancer — all forms	1.89
Percentage of total deaths for 1955 due to cancer of the lungs and bronchi	3.14%
Percentage of total deaths for 1955 due to pulmonary tuberculosis	0.59%

Year	Births	Deaths
1948	744	478
1949	740	531
1950	743	510
1951	697	568
1952	699	507
1953	683	466
1954	628	480
1955	563	510

PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PONTYPOOL

Councillors:

Chairman: D. J. PRITCHARD, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: W. HIGGS

Wards:

Garndiffaith:

- I. H. TUCKER
- D. J. PRITCHARD
- Mrs. G. D. MORGAN

Abersychan:

- W. HIGGS
- D. T. GULLICK
- Miss D. WEBB

Snatchwood:

- C. H. NEWMAN
- E. H. PARKER
- R. K. TELFER

Wainfelin:

- G. R. TRIM, J.P.
- J. E. BUTCHER
- Mrs. E. M. HILL

Pontypool:

- W. G. HILLIER
- Mrs. F. M. PROSSER
- J. S. JONES
- J. H. EVANS

Pontymoile:

- Mrs. M. L. LEE, J.P.
- W. L. JACKSON, M.M., B.E.M.

Griffithstown:

- L. LEWIS
- Mrs. D. M. LOWE
- C. J. IRVING

New Inn and Sebastopol:

- A. C. JONES
- L. C. LEWIS
- H. BULLIMORE

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

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. M. L. LEE, J.P.

Public Health Committee Meeting:
Tuesday following the first Monday in the 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., F.S.I.A.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector ..	B. GILFORD, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.R.I.P.H. & H.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector ..	J. M. JONES, CERT. R.S.I.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector ..	K. H. D. WILKINS, A.R.S.I., M.R.I.P.H. & H.
Clerk to the Department ..	Mrs. E. B. DAVIES

All the Sanitary Inspectors are qualified as
Meat Inspectors.

OTHER COUNCIL OFFICIALS

Clerk of the Council	H. COOK (Solicitor)
Deputy Clerk	A. N. HAYMOND, ESQ.
Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer	T. R. JAMES, ESQ.
Engineer and Surveyor	W. BROWN, A.M.I. MUN. E., A.M.I.C.E.
Deputy Engineer and Surveyor ..	F. NEWTON, A.M.I. MUN. E., A.M.I.C.E.
Architect	C. DAWKES, L.R.I.B.A.
Parks Superintendent	W. R. DADGE, F.INST. P.A., M.INST. B.C.A.
Housing Manager	D. T. HOPKINS, A.A.L.P.A., A.R.S.I.
Public Librarian	M. J. DAVIES, ESQ.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
to the

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PONTYPOOL

for the year ending 31st December, 1955

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my duty to present to you the Annual Public Health Report for the year 1955 relative to the sanitary circumstances in your district for your information.

This report is submitted in accordance with the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 and 1951, and as indicated in circular 17/55 (Wales) dated 23rd November, 1955, of the Welsh Board of Health.

General Comment

The year 1955 was on the whole a most satisfactory one from the public health aspect. It was, as expected, an epidemic year for measles and 509 notifications were received from general practitioners. For the third consecutive year no notification of diphtheria was received. There was one notification of acute poliomyelitis but we were fortunate in this respect when we think of the experience of adjoining local authority districts in this connection during the year. The notifications of tuberculosis continued to fall and in all there were only 16 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (8 males and 8 females). The death rate from this disease attained its lowest figure for the district.

There was no general population mass radiography survey during the year, but the larger factories in the area were selected instead. The details of these surveys elsewhere in the body of this report are very encouraging.

Physical Features

The Pontypool Urban District which covers an area of 15,907 acres is situated on the Eastern outcrop of the South Wales Coalfields. The mining areas in the district are located some distance from the centres of population.

The altitude varies from 1,789 feet above sea level at Mynydd Varteg Fawr in the Abersychan Parish to 178.7 feet above sea level at the Sor, Cwmbwrrwch, in the Panteg Parish. The altitude at the Town Hall is 431 feet above sea level.

General Statistics and Social Conditions

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid-1955 was 41,660. The census figure for 1921 was 44,831 persons, which was followed by a decline at the 1931 census to 43,910 persons (22,723 males and 21,187 females), and by a further decline at the 1951 census to 42,703 persons (21,242 males and 21,461 females).

The main heavy industries operating in the district include coal mining, the manufacture of tin-plate and steel sheets, railway works, by-product plant and glassmaking. The main light industries in the district are the production of nylon yarn and on a moderate scale the making of stuffed toys.

The town is adequately served by rail and road transport.

Estimated population (mid-1955) of adjacent Urban Districts and Municipal Boroughs

Abergavenny	M.B.	8,970	Abercarn	.. U.D.	18,490
Abertillery	.. U.D.	26,870	Bedwellty	.. U.D.	28,120
Blaenavon	.. U.D.	9,490	Cwmbran	.. U.D.	17,100
Ebbw Vale	.. U.D.	28,420	Monmouth	.. M.B.	5,720
			Tredegar	.. U.D.	20,150

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

TABLE I Showing the yearly number of live births, estimated mid-year population and birth rate per 1,000 population for the district since 1948.

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Number of live births	563	628	683	699	697	743	740	744
Estimated mid-year population	41,660	42,030	42,320	42,420	42,460	42,850	42,650	42,360
Birth rate per 1,000 population	13.5	14.8	16.1	16.5	16.4	17.3	17.4	17.6

The live births allocated to this district for 1955 numbered 563 and were made up of 294 males and 269 females. There were 11 illegitimate births included in this figure comprising 8 males and 3 females.

There was a marked drop of 65 in the number of births as compared with 1954.

The excess of births over deaths for the year (natural increase) was 53 as compared with 148 for 1954, 217 for 1953 and 192 for 1952.

Stillbirths for the year numbered 19 (9 males and 10 females) and were all of legitimate birth. The stillbirth rate for the year per 1,000 population was 0.46 as compared with a County rate of 0.51.

The birth rate for the district for 1955 was 13.5 as compared with a County rate of 15.3 and a rate of 15.0 for England and Wales.

If a comparison of the local birth rate is to be made with that for England and Wales the local figure should be multiplied by a comparability factor of 1.00 which is arrived at by the Registrar General.

TABLE II Showing the births registered in and allocated to this district for 1955 according to sex, month and quarter of occurrence, together with the inward transferable births.

Month	Males	Females	Total	Quarterly Births
January	20	13	33	79
February	10	8	18	
March	19	9	28	
April	13	17	30	84
May	14	13	27	
June	14	13	27	
July	14	11	25	88
August	19	13	32	
September	13	18	31	
October	14	14	28	88
November	15	12	27	
December	17	16	33	
TOTALS	182	157	339	339
Inward transferable births	112	112		224
GRAND TOTALS for the year 1955	294	269	563	

Comparative Birth Rates — 1955

Pontypool Urban District	13.5
Monmouthshire Administrative County	15.3
England and Wales	15.0

TABLE III Showing the yearly number of deaths, estimated mid-year population, and the death rate per 1,000 population for this district since 1948.

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Number of deaths	510	480	466	507	568	510	531	478
Estimated mid-year population	41,660	42,030	42,320	42,420	42,460	42,850	42,650	42,360
Death-rate per 1,000 population	12.2	11.4	11.0	12.0	13.4	11.9	12.5	11.3

The number of deaths assigned to this district for 1955 was 510 (293 males and 217 females) and shows an increase of 30 over 1954.

There were 2 deaths assigned to maternal causes which gave the rather high maternal mortality rate of 3.4 per 1,000 births (live and still) as compared with the County rate of 0.98 per 1,000 births (live and still).

There were 3 deaths (1 male and 2 females) assigned to pulmonary tuberculosis during the year which represented 0.59% of the total deaths for 1955 from all causes.

All forms of cancer claimed 79 deaths (46 males and 33 females) during the year which represented 15.5% of the total deaths for the year. Cancer of the lungs and bronchi claimed 16 deaths (15 males and 1 female) which was 3.14% of the total deaths for the year.

The diseases of the heart and blood vessels claimed 246 deaths (130 males and 116 females) which represented 48.2% of the total deaths for the year.

Motor vehicle accidents caused 2 deaths (1 male and 1 female).

There were 4 suicides (2 males and 2 females).

The local death rate is comparable with that for England and Wales if the local rate is multiplied by the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General, which is 1.06.

TABLE IV Showing the deaths registered in and allocated to this district for 1955 according to sex, month and quarter of occurrence together with inward transferable births.

Month	Males	Females	Total	Quarterly births
January	22	23	45	149
February	25	15	40	
March	38	26	64	
April	27	20	47	109
May	22	18	40	
June	15	7	22	
July	14	17	31	82
August	12	19	31	
September ..	11	9	20	
October	15	9	24	88
November	24	11	35	
December	17	12	29	
TOTALS	242	186	428	428
Inward transferable deaths	50	32		82
GRAND TOTAL for the year 1955	292	218	510	

Comparative Death Rates — 1955

Pontypool Urban District	12.2
Monmouthshire Administrative County	12.4
England and Wales	11.7

TABLE V Showing the deaths registered in and allocated to this district for 1955 in quinquennial age groups and by sex.

Age last birthday	Males	Females	Total
0-4 ..	14	6	20
5-9 ..	—	1	1
10-14 ..	—	—	—
15-19 ..	1	—	1
20-24 ..	1	—	1
25-29 ..	1	2	3
30-34 ..	4	3	7
35-39 ..	2	5	7
40-44 ..	6	5	11
45-49 ..	6	8	14
50-54 ..	14	10	24
55-59 ..	21	10	31
60-64 ..	36	26	62
65-69 ..	38	15	53
70-74 ..	49	32	81
75-79 ..	56	45	101
80-84 ..	32	23	55
85-89 ..	6	23	29
90-94 ..	5	2	7
95 and over ..	—	2	2
All ages ..	292	218	510

From the above figures it will be noted that 328 out of 510 persons, or 64.3%, who died during the year had attained the age of 65 years at death. There were 94 out of 510 persons (38%) who died during the year who had attained the age of 75 years.

INFANT MORTALITY

TABLE VII Showing the yearly number of infant deaths, live births, etc., for this district since 1948.

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Number of deaths in infants under 1 year	20	31	23	19	30	32	28	26
Number of live births	563	628	683	699	697	743	740	744
Infant mortality rate	35.5	49.3	33.7	27.2	43.0	43.1	37.8	34.9

Infant deaths allocated to this district for 1955 numbered 20 (14 males and 6 females). All these infant deaths occurred in hospitals with the exception of 3 (1 male and 2 females).

Infant deaths under the age of 4 weeks numbered 14 (10 males and 4 females). Deaths in the first week of life numbered 8 (5 males and 3 females). All these deaths occurred in infants of legitimate birth.

Table VIII shows the causes to which these deaths have been allocated, and it will be noted that prematurity claimed 4 deaths and congenital defects 3.

The actual number of infant deaths is not considered excessive when compared with previous years and it is not wise to place too much reliance on the infant mortality rate itself when the number of deaths in question is low.

The infant mortality rate for the year was 35.5 while the County rate was 33.96 per 1,000 live births and the rate for England and Wales 24.9.

TABLE VIII Showing the infant deaths (i.e. deaths in infants under one year of age) assigned to this district for 1954, by cause and in age groups.

Cause of Death	Under	1-2	2-3	3-4	Total under	1-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	Total deaths
	1 week	weeks	weeks	weeks	1 month	months	months	months	months	under 1 year
Prematurity	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Gastro-enteritis (plus multiple deformities)	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Gastro-enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
Pyogenic meningitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pink Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Intra-cranial haemorrhage	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pressure on Umbilical Cord	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Overlaying	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis of lungs	2	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital heart disease	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Anencephaly	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Lobar Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Sub-Arachnoid haemorrhage	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
ALL CAUSES	8	2	2	2	14	2	3	1	—	20

All the above infant deaths occurred in hospital with the exception of three. Prematurity, congenital defects and birth hazards were responsible for the greatest proportion of these deaths.

TABLE IX Showing the infant mortality rates for England and Wales, the Administrative County of Monmouthshire and Pontypool Urban District since 1949.

Year	England and Wales	Monmouthshire	Pontypool U.D.
1949	32.0	42.7	37.8
1950	29.8	39.8	43.1
1951	29.6	43.1	43.0
1952	27.6	33.9	27.2
1953	26.8	32.6	33.7
1954	25.5	39.7	49.3
1955	24.9	33.9	35.5

TABLE X Showing the number of inquests during 1955 on persons belonging to this district and the circumstances of the deaths.

Circumstances of death	Males	Females	TOTAL
Coronary disease of the heart.. ..	8	1	9
Accidental coal gas poisoning.. ..	1	—	1
Mining accidents	2	—	2
Peritonitis	1	—	1
Knocked down by train	1	—	1
Cancer of the lung	2	—	2
Chronic bronchitis and emphysema ..	2	—	2
Accidental fall in the home contributing to death	1	1	2
Cerebral haemorrhage	1	1	2
Suicide	2	2	4
Road accident (motor cyclist).. ..	1	—	1
Post-operative shock	2	3	5
Chronic Myeloid leukaemia	1	—	1
Run over by car	—	1	1
Accidental burns	1	1	2
Railway accident (Railway worker) ..	1	—	1
Asphyxia due to epileptic fit	—	1	1
Broncho-pneumonia	1	—	1
Cancer of Oesophagus	1	—	1
TOTAL	29	11	40

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The analysis of the corrected notifications of notifiable diseases notified formally in this district by hospital medical officers and general practitioners is given in Table XI.

DIPHTHERIA

No notification in respect of this disease was received for the third year in succession. This does not by any means indicate that diphtheria has left us as a killing disease, but should make us all the more enthusiastic in advocating protective immunisation in infancy and a reinforcing dose on entering school for every child.

This protective immunisation is now available free at the six infant welfare clinics in the district and through the agency of the family doctors. It is now routine to offer a combined antigen which protects against diphtheria and whooping cough. When the double antigen is given it is wise to start the injections when the child is about five months old or a month after vaccination against smallpox. A reinforcing dose of the combined diphtheria and whooping cough prophylactic should be given to the child about eighteen months after the primary inoculation course and a further reinforcing dose on entry to school so as to enhance his resistance to infection.

Parents bear a heavy responsibility to see that their children are protected against diphtheria, as it is only by maintaining a very high level of immunisation that the disease will be prevented from returning.

The number of Anti-Diphtheria immunisations done in the Council's District during 1955 was as follows:—

	Age at date of final injection (as regards A) or of reinforcing injection (as regards B)			
	Under 1 yr.	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	Total
A. No. of children who completed a full course of primary immuni- sation in the Council's District during the year 1955 ..	146	193	126	465
B. No. of children who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection subsequent to primary immuni- sation in the year ended 31.12.'55 ..	—	76	242	318

TABLE XI Showing the notifiable diseases notified in this district during 1955, analysed in age and sex groups and giving the admissions to hospital. (Tuberculosis excluded) (Corrected for Diagnosis).

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 years		35-45 years		45-65 years		65 yrs and upward		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 ..	8	7	26	20	38	33	32	38	31	43	105	118	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Measles ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Scarlet fever ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Whooping cough ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Ac. primary and Influenzal pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Erysipelas ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Food Poisoning ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Typhoid ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Paratyphoid ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Dysentery ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Acute Encephalitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Poliomyelitis:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Paralytic ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Non-paralytic ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Smallpox ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
TOTALS	9	7	28	22	39	36	36	39	32	44	112	127	5	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	267	283	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	2

MEASLES

This was an epidemic year for measles and 509 notifications (246 males and 263 females) were received. The number of notifications for 1954 was 4 (2 males and 2 females). There was no death assigned to this cause.

SCARLET FEVER

There were 17 notifications (7 males and 10 females) of scarlet fever during the year and no death was assigned to this cause. There were 7 notifications of this disease during 1954.

WHOOPIING COUGH

There were 19 notifications (12 males and 7 females) of whooping cough during the year as compared with 225 notifications (113 males and 112 females) during 1954.

No deaths were assigned to this cause during the year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

No notification in respect of this condition was received during the year. There were 3 notifications during 1954.

ACUTE PRIMARY AND INFLUENZAL PNEUMONIA

There were 3 notifications (2 male and 1 female) relating to pneumonia received during the year.

ERYSIPELAS

There was 1 notification (female) in respect of this condition.

POLIOMYELITIS

There was 1 notification (female in the 5-10 age group) of paralytic poliomyelitis received during the year.

OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

No notifications were received in respect of food poisoning, meningococcal infection, typhoid, paratyphoid, dysentery, ophthalmia neonatorum, acute encephalitis and smallpox.

TABLE XII Showing the number of cases of notifiable disease notified yearly since 1946 (corrected).

DISEASE	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Diphtheria ..	-	4	-	1	1	1	3	-	3	4
Measles ..	509	7	735	110	1,351	18	115	275	214	3
Scarlet Fever ..	17	7	10	61	56	59	88	38	32	29
Whooping Cough ..	19	225	50	184	55	180	36	39	24	59
Puerperal pyrexia ..	-	2	2	-	1	3	3	2	-	3
Ac. primary and influenzal pneumonia ..	3	-	6	5	15	11	3	3	6	3
Erysipelas ..	1	-	4	2	3	3	5	3	1	3
Food poisoning ..	-	-	3	3	1	8	5	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections ..	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	2
Typhoid ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Paratyphoid ..	-	2	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ..	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-
Ophthalmia ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neonatorum ..	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-
Acute Encephalitis ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis: (a) Paralytic ..	1	-	-	8	-	2	1	-	3	2
(b) Non-paralytic ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

It will be noted that this is the third year in succession that no notification has been received for diphtheria. In 1939 the number of notifications was 48 and the deaths from this disease numbered 6. This was an epidemic year for measles and there were 509 notifications.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The number of vaccinations against smallpox carried out in the district during 1955 was as follows:—

Age at date of vaccination	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15+ yrs.	Total
No. vaccinated	199	8	7	7	22	243
No. re-vaccinated	-	-	2	1	25	28
Total	199	8	9	8	47	271

It will be noted that 199 vaccinations were carried out on infants under the age of 1 year, which represents just over 33% of the yearly average of live births allocated to this district for 1954 and 1955. This means that the vaccination rate for this district for children under 1 year for 1955 has been almost precisely the same as for 1954 despite all efforts to encourage an increased vaccination state through the local infant welfare clinics. However, there is every reason to believe that as time goes on this vaccination rate will be improved upon as the younger mothers attending the clinics are becoming more enlightened and less influenced by grandmothers with fixed dissenting ideas towards this aspect of preventive medicine.

It can be safely assumed that all those vaccinated for the first time in the 15+ years group and all the revaccinations were done on persons going abroad in a civilian or service capacity for a permanent or temporary period.

OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

No notifications were received in respect of food poisoning, meningococcal infection, typhoid, paratyphoid, dysentery, ophthalmia neonatorum, acute toxic hepatitis and smallpox.

TUBERCULOSIS

The Chest Clinic arrangements for the district remain unchanged and are adequate and satisfactory for the needs of the area. Two whole-day clinics are held each week at the clinic in the Park Buildings in the town centre.

The notifications for the year of pulmonary tuberculosis showed a further decline with 16 notifications (8 males and 8 females). All new cases are visited by the Medical Officer of Health and an environmental enquiry made so that details can be notified to the County Medical Officer of Health and the Chest Physician.

The Pontypool Urban District Council has instituted an emergency rehousing scheme whereby up to a maximum of two houses per month can be let to persons requiring immediate and absolutely necessary alternative accommodation by virtue of circumstances created by pulmonary tuberculosis arising in a family and where the family's ordinary points allocation would not get them rehoused within a reasonable time. This scheme is working very well and no tuberculous case in need of rehousing exists in this Urban District.

Disinfection in the homes of tuberculous patients when deemed necessary by the Medical Officer of Health is carried out by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors.

Suitable containers of disinfectant are available through the Public Health Department for use in the homes of the tuberculous.

There was no general population mass radiography survey undertaken in the district during the year as it is considered that such x-ray units can be more usefully employed in factories where the response is so much better than if the service is offered to the public at large. Details are given elsewhere in this report of the work of the mass radiography service in factories in this district during the year and the response of the employees seems to have been, on the whole, satisfactory. The mass radiography service was used during the year to x-ray some 60 contacts of a new case of pulmonary tuberculosis occurring on the staff of a large business premises in the town.

	Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary
	31	119	29	163

TABLE XIII Showing the new cases of tuberculosis notified and the deaths due to tuberculosis during 1955, analysed in age and sex groups and by type of disease. Corrected for diagnosis.

Age groups in yrs.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	3	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	8	8	2	1	1	2	—	—

The above male cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were classified as follows:—A1, A2, A2, B2, B2, B2, and two for which classification is unknown.

The above female cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were classified as follows:—A1, A1, A1, A1, A2, A2, B2, and one for which classification is unknown.

It will be noted that there were 16 notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis during 1955—8 males and 8 females. It will also be noted that the notifications were in the younger age groups for women and in the older age groups for men.

There was one death (a male) from pulmonary tuberculosis during the year amongst those notified above.

TABLE XIV Showing the number of cases of tuberculosis remaining on the register at 31.12.55.

Males		Females		TOTAL
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
165	29	119	31	344

TABLE XV Showing the monthly notifications of tuberculosis (all forms) for the year 1955.

Month of year	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		TOTAL
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
January	—	2	—	—	2
February	1	—	—	—	1
March	—	2	1	—	3
April	—	2	—	—	2
May	1	—	—	1	2
June	1	—	—	—	1
July	2	1	—	—	3
August	—	—	—	—	—
September	—	—	1	—	1
October	1	—	—	—	1
November	1	—	—	—	1
December	1	1	—	—	2
TOTAL ..	8	8	2	1	19

The following inward transfers to the district took place during 1955 in addition to the above cases notified for the first time within the district.

Males - Pulmonary	2	Females - Pulmonary	3
Males - Non-pulmonary	1		
Chest Unit, Caspary	1		
Glan Ely Hospital	1		
Emerghyn Hospital	—		
Adelina Patti Hospital	—		
Royal Nat. Hosp., L.O.W.	—		
St. Woolos Hospital,			
Newport	—		
St. Lawrence Hosp., Chepstow	—		
Royal Naval Hosp., Plymouth	—		
TOTAL ..	27	20	26

TABLE XVI Showing the occupations at the time of notification of the new cases of tuberculosis notified during 1955.

Occupation	Males		Females		TOTAL
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Waitress	—	—	1	—	1
Infant	—	—	1	—	1
Steelworker ..	1	1	—	—	2
Shop Assistant ..	—	—	2	—	2
Housewife	—	—	2	—	2
Engine Driver— Railway	1	—	—	—	1
Pre-school	1	—	—	—	1
Machine Operator	1	—	—	—	1
Grocer	1	—	—	—	1
Grammar School ..	—	—	1	—	1
Hairdresser	1	—	—	—	1
Ex-School	—	1	—	—	1
School-mixed	1	—	1	—	2
Railway Plate Layer	1	—	—	—	1
Retired	1	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	8	2	8	1	19

The death rates for tuberculosis for the district for 1955 were:—
(Rates for 1954 in parentheses)

- (a) Tuberculosis (all forms) — 0.02 per 1,000 pop. (0.12)
- (b) Pulmonary tuberculosis — 0.02 per 1,000 pop. (0.12)
- (c) Non-pulmonary tuberculosis — Nil per 1,000 pop. (Nil)

TABLE XIV Showing the number of cases of tuberculosis remaining on the register at 31.12.55.

Males		Females		TOTAL
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
165	29	119	31	344

TABLE XVII Showing the new notifications of all forms of tuberculosis as distributed to the various wards in the Urban District for 1955.

Wards	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Garndiffaith ..	1	2	—	—	3
Abersychan ..	—	1	—	—	1
Pontnewynydd ..	1	1	2	—	4
Wainfelin ..	—	1	—	—	1
Pontypool ..	1	—	—	—	1
Pontymoel ..	—	—	—	1	1
Griffithstown ..	3	—	—	—	3
New Inn and Sebastopol ..	2	3	—	—	5
ALL WARDS ..	8	8	2	1	19

TABLE XVIII Showing the admissions and discharges to institutions for treatment of tuberculosis during 1955.

Institutions	Admissions		Discharges	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
South Wales Sanatorium, Talgarth	3	—	6	—
Sully Chest Unit	6	3	6	1
Cefn Mably Sanatorium	6	3	4	5
North Wales Sanatorium, Denbigh	—	3	—	1
Chest Unit, Chepstow	5	4	4	1
Glan Ely Hospital	3	3	2	1
Energlyn Hospital	—	1	—	2
Adelina Patti Hospital	—	—	1	1
Royal Nat. Hosp., I.O.W.	1	—	1	1
St. Woolos Hospital, Newport	3	3	1	—
St. Lawrence Hosp., Chepstow	—	—	1	1
Royal Naval Hosp., Plymouth	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	27	20	26	14

TABLE XIX Showing the notification rates and death rates for tuberculosis per 1,000 of the estimated mid-year 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
1952	.90	.17	.21	.09
1953	.42	.12	.12	.02
1954	.55	.07	.12	NIL
1955	.38	.07	.02	NIL

The general trend of the above notification and death rates for pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis has been a progressive fall over recent years. It will be noted that the fall in the case of notification rates has not been as steep as the fall in death rates over the same period. The same experience in this respect has been applicable to the country as a whole.

1	2	3	3	..	..	..	Glan Ely Hospital
2	—	1	—	..	..	..	Englyn Hospital
1	1	—	—	..	..	..	Adelina Patti Hospital
1	1	—	1	..	..	..	Royal Nat. Hosp., I.O.W.
—	—	—	—	..	..	..	St. Woolos Hospital
—	1	3	3	..	..	..	Newport
1	1	—	—	..	..	..	St. Lawrence Hosp., Chepstow
1	—	—	—	..	..	..	Royal Naval Hosp., Plymouth
14	26	20	27	..	..	..	TOTAL

TABLE XX

Showing the yearly notifications of tuberculosis (all forms) for males and females, and the yearly deaths from all forms of tuberculosis since 1943. (Corrected for diagnosis)

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	
1943	26	15	4	5	50	12	8	3	1	24
1944	27	29	3	8	67	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	57	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
1952	25	13	5	2	45	5	4	3	1	13
1953	12	6	2	3	23	2	3	1	—	6
1954	13	10	—	3	26	4	1	—	—	5
1955	8	8	2	1	19	1	2	—	—	3

TABLE XXI Showing details of a mass radiography survey carried out at the factory of Messrs. British Nylon Spinners Ltd, Pontypool, during June, 1955.

	GRAND TOTAL	Under 15 years		15-24 years		25-34 years		35-44 years		45-59 years		60 years and over		TOTALS	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total number examined	3,552	-	-	269	364	1,129	136	863	60	605	52	69	5	2,935	617
Number found to be abnormal	133 or 3.74%	-	-	1	5	17	1	26	1	64	-	17	1	125	8
Classification of abnormal cases:-															
(a) Pulmonary tuberculosis	NIL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Requiring further observation	6 or 0.17%	-	-	1	1	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	5	1
(c) Other abnormalities of the Chest	127 or 3.57%	-	-	-	4	15	1	25	1	63	-	17	1	120	7

TABLE XXII Detailed analysis of those found to have other abnormalities of the chest at the mass radiography survey held at Messrs. British Nylon Spinners Ltd., Pontypool, during June, '55.

Nature of Abnormality	M.	F.	TOTAL
Abnormalities of bony thorax and soft tissues (congenital)	2	2	4
Abnormalities of bony thorax and soft tissues (acquired)	7	1	8
Bronchiectasis	2	—	2
Pulmonary fibrosis	11	—	11
Pneumoconiosis:			
Stage I	15	—	15
Stage II	32	—	32
Stage III	12	—	12
Progressive massive fibrosis	11	—	11
Stage not known	2	—	2
Thickened pleura	5	1	6
Abnormalities of diaphragm and oesophagus (congenital and acquired) ..	1	—	1
Congenital abnormalities of heart and vessels	2	—	2
Acquired abnormalities of heart and vessels	2	1	3
Healed primary pulmonary tuberculosis ..	4	1	5
Healed post-primary pulmonary tuberculosis	12	1	13
TOTAL	120	7	127

Total number examined
Total found to be abnormal

(a) Referred to Chest Physician as cases requiring further investigation
(b) Other abnormalities of the chest

A total of 2,521 factory employees were mass x-rayed in the district during 1955. In addition a mass x-ray survey of 2,241 persons at the R.O.F. Glascoed, in November 1955, outside the Pontypool Urban Area covered many persons from this district.

Mass radiography surveys were carried out on employees at the following industrial concerns in the district during 1955.

(I) Messrs. Pilkington Bros. Ltd., Pontypool. (Glass Manufacturers).

June, 1955

Total number examined.. ..	498
Total found to be abnormal cases ..	12
(a) Pulmonary tuberculosis	NIL
(b) Requiring further observation	NIL
(c) Other abnormalities of the chest ..	12

(II) Messrs. Richard Thomas & Baldwins Ltd., Panteg. (Steelworks).

September, 1955

Total number examined.. ..	1,198
Total found to be abnormal cases ..	57
(a) Referred to Chest Physician as cases requiring further investigation ..	13
(b) Other abnormalities of the chest ..	14

(III) Messrs. H. G. Stone & Co. Ltd., Panteg. (Soft Toy Manufacturers).

December, 1955

Total number examined.. ..	273
Total found to be abnormal cases ..	13
(a) Referred to Chest Physician as cases requiring further investigation ..	NIL
(b) Other abnormalities of the chest ..	13

A total of 5,521 factory employees were mass x-rayed in the district during 1955. In addition, a mass x-ray survey of 2,541 persons at the R.O.F., Glascoed, in November '55, outside the Pontypool Urban Area covered many persons from this district.

MISCELLANEOUS

Swimming Baths

As reported previously these baths have had purification and heating plant installed and are working in a satisfactory manner.

The proposed covering for the Pontnewynydd baths is still under consideration by the Council.

Public Conveniences

My previous Annual Reports refer to inadequacy in numbers of these facilities and the dilapidated state of some of the existing conveniences in the district. These deficiencies still remain to be remedied.

Collection and disposal of household and trade refuse

Despite adverse references in previous reports to the unsatisfactory uncontrolled tip at Pontyfelin, this tip is still in use and continues to be a constantly recurring focus of major rat infestation which cannot be properly cleared. During the warm summer months this tip was also a serious menace to the health of the district inasmuch as it was an enormous breeding ground for flies. This tip should be discontinued immediately and sealed over as well as possible by earth.

In my annual report for 1949 and later years it was recommended that a proper type of dust bin should be introduced for all households in the district to ensure more hygienic conditions than at present exist in this connection. At present household refuse is put out for collection in various types of containers varying from cardboard boxes, buckets, wooden boxes, coverless dust bins and only occasionally in the properly covered dust bin. Apart from the unsightliness of these uncovered garbage containers on the sides of streets there is the danger of fly-breeding and the possibility of ashes being blown into food shops. In these days when such emphasis is being placed on better hygienic conditions in shops it is only natural that something should be done immediately about the uncovered dust bins placed on our pavements.

Sewerage

The construction of the subsidiary sewers in the district was in progress throughout the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948

The occasion did not arise during the year for any action under section 47 of the above Act.

Superannuation Act, 1937

There were 29 medical examinations of Council Employees carried out during the year by the Medical Officer of Health.

Attendance at Conferences during 1955

The Medical Officer of Health was not delegated to attend any conference or sessional meeting of the Royal Society of Health during the year. The comment in this connection in the annual report for last year is still appropriate.

Water Supply

The Statutory Water undertakers to the Pontypool Urban District are the Pontypool Gas and Water Company. The supply from the company's mains to all parts of the district is chlorinated.

The Public Health Department procured 82 samples of water from the Company's supply during the year for submission to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport. In only one instance was a sample found to be slightly unsatisfactory for a treated water. The bacteriological quality of the water throughout the year was excellent and there was no curtailment of supplies despite a very dry season.

The results of sampling for recent years is as follows:—

Year	Satisfactory for a chlorinated Supply	Unsatisfactory for a chlorinated Supply	Total
1949	19	13	32
1950	50	10	60
1951	91	10	101
1952	70	7	77
1953	81	3	84
1954	85	—	85
1955	81	1	82

Sampling of untreated supplies

5 samples of untreated supplies were taken and of these 3 were satisfactory and 2 not quite satisfactory.

FOOD INSPECTION, ETC.

Ice Cream Sampling

During the year 27 samples of ice cream were obtained and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, and the results were, on the whole, satisfactory.

The following information shows the results obtained from ice cream sampled in the district during recent years.

Year	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
1949	12	4	4	17	37
1950	34	17	7	8	66
1951	36	12	4	3	55
1952	24	13	—	4	41
1953	31	17	—	5	53
1954	28	5	—	2	35
1955	20	4	2	1	27

A provisional Grade I or Grade II is satisfactory, while Grade III is less satisfactory and Grade IV unsatisfactory.

There are 89 premises licensed for the sale of ice cream within the urban district.

During the year 7 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst and 6 were found to be satisfactory.

Milk

Designated milk only can now be sold in this Urban District.

During the year 154 samples (44 sterilised, 66 pasteurised and 44 T.T. pasteurised) of heat treated milk were obtained and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport. All of these samples were found to satisfy the requirements of the standards laid down.

During the year 27 milk samples were submitted to the Public Analyst and all were found to conform to the requirements of the "Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939."

Sampling of powdered egg and Frozen liquid egg (Chinese)

Twelve samples of these products were obtained from local bakeries during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport. One sample of dried egg gave a culture of *Salmonella thompson* on bacteriological analysis.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

During the year 121 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst and were reported on as satisfactory. These samples included 7 ice creams, 27 milk samples, 9 sausages, 1 orange drink and 77 other items of various food stuffs.

In addition, in view of the difficulties experienced with the use of imported Chinese frozen egg and egg powder during the year, 12 samples of these products were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, and one sample was found to be infected with *Salmonella thompson* on culture.

Meat

This district has been adequately served by two slaughterhouses since the decontrol of meat. A certain amount of fresh meat is also imported from other districts.

Meat inspection in the district's two slaughterhouses is carried out by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors and all condemned items are disposed of at the Council's destructor.

It is very unsatisfactory to note that the meat inspector is still obliged to work so much overtime each week without any extra remuneration. It does appear that with a little adjustment on the part of the Slaughterhouses that there should be little or no need for this overtime on weekdays and weekends.

Inspection of Food Shops, Cafes, etc.

During the year all food shops, etc. continued to be visited by the Council's inspectors and every effort is made to encourage employers and employees in the food trades to maintain a high standard in the clean handling of food. Three large plaques displaying colourful posters illustrating useful hints for food handlers were placed in the Council's market building for the information of the traders renting food stalls therein.

There were 18 premises registered under the Food & Drugs Act, for the manufacture of sausages, etc.

There were 272 visits in all made to food premises during the year.

Classification of food premises by type in the district

Cafes and hotels	16
Industrial canteens	12
Fish and chip shops	11
Registered ice cream manufacturers	5
Premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act, for the manufacture of sausages, etc.	18
Butchers' shops	25
Bakehouses	11
Grocery and greengrocery	91
Greengrocery and fish	15
Registered dairies	2
Licensed premises and clubs	120

Prosecutions in respect of foodstuffs and milk during 1955

There were six prosecutions during the year involving a mildewed Cornish pasty, one case of rodent droppings in bread, one case of fruit grubs in milk, two cases of dirty milk bottles and one case of a drawing-pin in peanuts. A conviction was obtained in all of these cases at the Magistrates' Court. The fines imposed in these cases were £5 in respect of the Cornish Pasty, £5 in respect of the rodent droppings in bread, £10 in respect of the grubs in milk, £10 in each of the two cases of dirty milk bottles and £2 in respect of the drawing-pin in peanuts, making a total of £42.

HOUSING

Return for year ending 31.12.'55

(a)	Number of dwelling houses demolished (Clearance areas)	11
(b)	Housing Act, 1936.	
	(I) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Sec. 11)	8
	(II) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force..	4
(c)	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.	
	Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2)	21
(d)	Repairs	
	(I) Houses in which defects were remedied after informal notice	29
	(II) Public Health Acts – formal notices – defects remedied by owners	90
	(III) Housing Act, 1936 – formal notices.	
	(a) Houses made fit by owners	25
	(b) By local Authority in default of owners	3
(e)	Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.	
	(Unfit houses in temporary use)	
	(I) Houses for temporary occupation (Section 6)	9

The Local Authority built 215 dwellings during 1955, which brings the total number of council-owned houses up to 3,259.

There were 292 local authority houses under construction at the end of the year.

1. Number of separate dwellings owned by the local authority at 31.12.'55.
300 temporary; 2,959 permanent 3,259
2. Number of new dwellings completed during 1955.
 - (a) By local authority 215
 - (b) By private enterprise 18
3. Number of local authority dwellings in course of erection on 31.12.1955 292
4. (a) Number of dwellings for which sanction had been given but which had not been commenced on 31.12.'55, by local authority 200
 - (b) Number of dwellings under construction by private enterprise during 1955, but not completed by 31.12.'55 15
5. Housing Act, 1949.

Improvement grants under the above Act

- (a) Number of improvement grants, 1955 87
- (b) Total number of improvement grants 1949-55 (inclusive) 90
- (c) Amount of improvement grants, 1955 £13,724
- (d) Total amount of improvement grants, 1949-55 (inclusive) £14,040

Improvement loans under the above Act

- (e) Number of improvement loans, 1955 3
- (f) Total number of improvement loans, 1949-55 (inclusive) 3
- (g) Amount of improvement loans, 1955 £763
- (h) Total amount of improvement loans, 1949-55 (inclusive) £763

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

The number of factories in the district and the inspections carried out thereon during the year 1955 are listed in the following tables. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory in relation to the maintenance of satisfactory working conditions.

TABLE XXIII Showing the number of factories and the inspections thereof carried out during 1955.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Occu- piers prose- cuted
		Inspec- tions	Written notices	
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority	40	47	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	70	6	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	15	—	—
TOTAL	79	132	6	—

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

Particulars	Number of defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Insp.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences: (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	5	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	6	5	—	—

PART VIII of the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Two out-workers were concerned in the making, etc., of wearing apparel.

Ten out-workers were engaged in the making of stuffed toys.

Office accommodation for the Public Health Department

This matter has been referred to in my previous annual reports, and it is with regret that I have to labour this question again.

The present office accommodation for this department consists of two rooms situated on the top of the Market Buildings and approached by a dark and dingy stairway of no less than 39 steps. One room was originally allocated to the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the second room used by the assistant inspectors and the clerk/typist. This second room also acts as the storeroom for the department to house disinfectants, stationery and equipment used for sampling. The dimensions of these two rooms are approximately 9ft. x 12ft. (Chief Sanitary Inspector's) and 21ft. x 12ft. (Clerk/typist's, etc.). There is one W.C. to serve this department and that of the Architect with a total staff of 9 males and 4 females. The ventilation in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's room is fair—there being one window opening to the outside. The natural lighting is poor and artificial light is needed for most of the day. The ventilation in the clerk/typist's room is poor as there is no window other than a fixed skylight high in the ceiling. The door must be kept open in this room in the summer for ventilation, but if kept open in the winter it is much too cold for comfort. The means of heating in both rooms is a gas fire which varies very much in heating efficiency with fluctuations in gas pressure. These fires are not properly ventilated to the outside and an asbestos pipe leading up inside the rooms is the only means of taking away fumes. These fires are not efficient as a means of office heating and do not give healthy conditions for the occupants of the rooms.

When a Medical Officer of Health was appointed to the district in January 1949 no provision was made for office accommodation with the result that for the last six years he has had to depend on sharing the Chief Sanitary Inspector's room. It must be said straight away that the Chief Sanitary Inspector has been most patient in this matter and has often been put to a lot of inconvenience by having to leave his office while the Medical Officer is interviewing callers. It can be well imagined how much space is left in a room 9ft. x 12ft. which has two office desks and chairs, three filing cabinets and a gas fire which projects into the room.

There is no waiting room for callers other than a wooden form placed in a draughty passage at the top of the long stairway.

In previous reports this unsatisfactory state of affairs was stressed from the aspect of inconvenience to the general public mainly and reference was made to the frequent sight of breathless elderly people, and of young people too for that matter, at the top

of their long climb, but it is now felt that it is long overdue to complain strongly about the unsatisfactory circumstances of this accommodation from the health and comfort aspect of the department's staff who do not desire anything palatial but something reasonable as would be in keeping with the designation "public health department."

All the problems involved in providing suitable accommodation are well appreciated but no problem is insurmountable if tackled energetically enough.

Retirement of the Council's Chief Sanitary Inspector

It is noted that Mr. F. G. Meek, the Council's Chief Sanitary Inspector, will reach the age limit for retiring by the end of 1956, and it is suggested that the Council should take the necessary action in good time to ensure that the vacancy is filled so that there is no gap involving under-staffing of the Public Health Department sanitary inspector establishment between this retiral and the appointment of a successor.

Rainfall during 1955

The following information on rainfall figures was recorded at Panteg Cemetery and kindly supplied by the Parks, Cemeteries and Allotments Superintendent, Mr. W. R. Dadge, F.INST. P.A., M.INST. B.C.A.

Monthly rainfall for 1955

January	5.64 inches
February	2.24 "
March	3.57 "
April	1.74 "
May	7.12 "
June	6.28 "
July . . . . .	.23 "
August	1.08 "
September	1.72 "
October	3.17 "
November	9.19 "
December	9.19 "

Total rainfall for 1955 = 51.17 inches.

The rainfall for previous years was as follows:—

1951	59.85 inches
1952	51.07 "
1953	47.23 "
1954	63.34 "

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PONTYPOOL

During the year 52 Notices were served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, for repairs to properties, and 38 were complied with.

133 Notices for abatement of nuisances found to exist were served, and 93 were complied with.

29 Nuisances were abated without the serving of Formal Notices.

Always it has to be noted that the Council has had to deal with a large number of cases of ILLEGAL HOUSES.

35 Houses were reported to the Council as unfit for occupation, and of these 10 Demolition Orders and 21 Closing Orders were made.

211 (including) houses were reported as not being safe and suitable for occupation, and 103 houses were reported on accepted undertakings by the owners.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the year 1955

11 Houses were repaired by the Local Authority under Section 10 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Temporary Licences were issued for the use of houses already in confirmed Clearance Areas.

During the year a survey of the district was made under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Repairs Act, and this revealed that the requirements for the area, including houses already in Clearance Areas, and on which Demolition Orders have been made to be set out in the following table:—

Ward	No. of persons displaced	Type of House required for re-housing			Total No. of Houses
		2 B	3 B	4 B O.A.P.	
TOTALS	1,965	438	159	51	692
Abertawe	287	59	26	3	97
Swansea	273	49	19	1	79
Wainman	214	75	10	1	92
Pontypool	82	39	4	18	143
Pontymorle	17	1	1	1	23
Griffithstown	4	1	1	1	6
New Inn	1	1	1	1	18

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, 1955.

HOUSING

During the year 52 Notices were served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, for repairs to properties, and 38 were complied with.

133 Notices for abatement of nuisances found to exist were served, and 93 were complied with.

29 Nuisances were abated without the serving of Formal Notices.

UNFIT HOUSES

35 Houses were reported to the Council as unfit for occupation, and of these 10 Demolition Orders and 21 Closing Orders were made.

3 Houses were repaired on accepted undertakings by the owners, and one allowed to be used as an office, and a block of 4 cottages to be converted into two dwellings.

11 Houses were demolished during the year.

3 Houses were repaired by the Local Authority under Section 10 of the Housing Act, 1936.

9 Temporary Licences were issued for the use of houses already in confirmed Clearance Areas.

During the year, a survey of the district was made under Section 1 of the Housing Rents and Repairs Act, and this revealed that the requirements for the area, including houses already in Clearance Areas, and on which Demolition Orders have been made to be as set out in the following table:—

Ward	No. of persons displaced	Type of House required for re-housing				Total No. of Houses
		2 B	3 B	4 B	O.A.P.	
New Inn & Sebastopol	47	7	5	3	3	18
Griffithstown	11	4	—	—	2	6
Pontymoile ..	162	27	17	—	9	53
Pontypool ..	409	82	39	4	18	143
Wainfelin ..	274	72	10	2	11	95
Snatchwood ..	233	49	19	3	8	79
Abersychan ..	267	59	26	3	9	97
Garndiffaith ..	563	138	43	6	17	204
TOTALS ..	1,966	438	159	21	77	695

The above figures are subject to revision, and form a five year programme.

HOUSING RENT AND REPAIRS ACT, 1954

During the year, 13 certificates of disrepair were issued, and 2 refused.

CARAVANS

7 Licences for the use of caravans were issued. Most of these were issued on a temporary basis to men employed on the Open Cast Mine.

Licences for siting caravans were issued for land at Talywain, Leigh Road and Goverra Farm.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

132 Inspections were carried out on Factories, (including laundries) workshops and workplaces. Six notices were served for defects found therein, and all were complied with.

BAKEHOUSES

32 visits were made to the bakehouses in the area. 4 notices were served for the abatement of nuisances found to exist and were complied with. 5 cases of limewashing were carried out without the service of notices.

FRIED FISH SHOPS

It is pleasing to note that these premises are kept in a clean condition, both shops and utensils being satisfactory.

26 inspections were made, and it was not found necessary to serve notices for infringements.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is one Common Lodging House registered under the provisions of Section 238 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

This house is well kept and maintained.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1937

One Factory is registered under Section 2 of this Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT

One Licence was granted under this Act.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the area is very satisfactory and well maintained.

82 samples were taken from the Company's Mains, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

Only one failed to give a satisfactory result, and this was taken up with the management, and the fault remedied.

During the long drought, the supply from the tank at Penyrheol failed to supply the stand-pipes, and water was conveyed to the houses in tanks supplied by the Engineer's Department.

Water was similarly conveyed to 5 cottages at Abergelli, when the drinking water from a spring on the mountain-side ceased to function during a prolonged period of dry weather, and to other cottages on the mountain.

Two samples were taken from the stand-pipes at Penyrheol, one was unsatisfactory, and the users were advised to boil the water before using. A subsequent sample was satisfactory.

Three samples of Spring Water were taken.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

Heat Treated Milk

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

These samples comprised:—

Pasteurised	Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested	Sterilised	Total
66	44	44	154

Of these, one sample of Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test, and one sample of Pasteurised failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test. Check samples were satisfactory.

In two instances it was found necessary to take proceedings against a firm for using dirty milk bottles. The firm was fined £10 in each case. In another case, grubs were found in the milk, and successful Court Proceedings taken. A £10 fine was imposed.

The licences issued under the Milk and Dairies Regulations were:—

- 4 Supplementary licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk.
- 2 Dealer Pasteurisers licences for carrying out Pasteurisation.
- 22 Dealer's licences for the sale of Sterilised Milk.
- 26 Dealer's licences for the sale of Pasteurised Milk.
- 11 Dealer's licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

ORANGE DRINK

It has recently become the custom of Milk Vendors to sell bottles of Orange Drink, and a sample of this drink was submitted to the Public Analyst, who reported that the sample contained fresh orange solids, together with a total solids content of 5.92% which included 4.5% sugar. Saccharin absent. Vitamin C was present. This was a genuine article.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

77 Samples of various foods, and 27 Samples of Milk were taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and found to comply with the standards applicable to each sample.

UNSOOUND FOODS

The under-mentioned cases were brought before the Magistrates Court and proved:—

For selling a Cornish Pasty which was mouldy, a firm was fined £5.

Peanuts were sold to a child and found to contain a drawing pin, which stuck in the child's gum. The Shopkeeper was fined £2.

A loaf of bread was found to contain Rodent Droppings, and for allowing this to be sold, the baker was fined £5.

SAMPLING OF SAUSAGES

9 samples of Sausages were submitted to the Public Analyst for certification of Meat Content.

8 samples were genuine, and in accordance with the recommended standard.

One sample of Pork Sausage was found to contain 52% Pork and 48% fillers.

In the Analyst's opinion, this sample was deficient in Pork compared with the recommended standard of 65%, and this deficiency was greater than the expected manufacturing variation.

Owing to recent legal rulings on this matter, and the absence of a set standard, no proceedings could be taken.

I took this matter up with the manufacturers.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTORS

The two slaughter houses licensed for the area are meeting the needs of the butchers, and are working satisfactorily.

Meat is inspected daily at the Slaughterhouses, and one inspector is performing this duty full time.

NUMBER OF ANIMALS KILLED

Cattle	Sheep	Calves	Pigs	Total
572	7,168	198	2,987	10,925

MEAT AND OFFAL CONDEMNED

Cattle:	36 lungs: 84 livers: 2 heads: 1 udder.
Sheep:	683 livers: 993 lungs: 2 kidneys: 4 heads: 30 plucks: 22 lbs. mutton.
Pigs:	80 livers: 52 lungs: 24 heads: 3 plucks: 1 kidney: 171 lbs. pork.
Calves:	3 lungs: 3 livers.

41 licences under the "Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933," were issued.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED AT SHOPS AND STALLS

44 lbs. tongue, 106 lbs. corned beef, 87 lbs. brawn, 111 lbs. cake, 26 lbs. sausages, 3 lbs. butter, 123 lbs. ham, 60 lbs. beef, 40 lbs. pork, 5 boxes cheese (processed), 27 tins fish, 49 tins milk, 26 tins beans, 13 tins steak and kidney pudding, 37 tins pineapple, 17 tins peas, 228 tins tomatoes, 18 tins prunes, 25 jars pickled onions, 12 tins apricots, 14 tins strawberries, 15 tins black currants, 14 tins peaches, 14 tins pork roll, 24 fish cakes, 16 tins oranges, 14 tins pilchards, 67 tins meat loaf, 1 christmas pudding, 28 tins savouries, 56 tins gooseberries, 43 lbs. cheese, 6 lbs. black pudding, 36 faggots, 9 apple dumplings, 12 tins pears, 14 tins damsons, 4 tins apple slices, 45 jars red currant jelly and 12 sundries.

ICE CREAM

27 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for Bacteriological examination, and placed in Provisional Grades:—

Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
20	4	2	1

Investigation of the methods of manufacturing and serving in the case of samples graded 3 and 4, demonstrated the need for frequent changing of the water in which the server stands when not in use, as this liquid forms an excellent breeding place for bacteria, especially in hot weather. This was the fault in all cases.

CAFES AND CANTEENS

67 Inspections were carried out at Cafes, Restaurant Kitchens and Industrial Canteens, and 3 notices were served to abate nuisances found to exist. These were complied with. Particular

attention was paid to the equipment used, and the cleanliness of personnel. On the whole, the conditions at all these premises is very satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF SHOPS

272 visits were made to the shops in the area, and it was found that the provisions of the Shops Act governing the well-being of assistants are being observed.

Seats are provided for the assistants, and facilities provided for taking meals.

Sanitary arrangements are suitable and sufficient, and heating, lighting and ventilation satisfactory.

A new heating system has been installed in one instance. A good standard of cleanliness is maintained, and general conditions are good.

LICENSED PREMISES

During the year, 33 visits were paid to Licenced Premises, and 4 notices were served to abate nuisances found to exist.

All notices were complied with.

It is very satisfactory to find that the owners of these premises have co-operated in the effort to bring their premises up to a good hygienic standard.

Separate lavatory accommodation for the sexes has been provided, and washing-up facilities provided behind the bars.

Alterations and improvements are still going on.

VERMIN

Six Infestations by Bed-bugs were dealt with, and during the prolonged hot weather, many homes were over-run by Ants.

These were successfully dealt with by spraying with insecticide.

RODENT CONTROL

Extensive work was carried out during the year on the control of Rats and Mice.

40 Business premises were visited, and found to be infested to the following degrees:—

Minor	Major	Mice Only
19	1	20

1,347 Baiting Points were laid, 991 Prebait Takes and 650 Poison Takes were noted.

Warfarin bait was laid in 9 instances.
275 Private dwellings were inspected, and the following degree of infestation found:—

Minor	Major	Mice Only
213	—	8

3,820 Baiting Points were laid, 2,770 Prebait and 1,842 Poison Takes noted.

Warfarin bait was used in 31 cases. 8 premises were clear.

Council Depots.

16 Inspections were carried out, and 12 Minor Infestations found. 89 Points were laid, 76 Prebait Takes and 54 Poison Takes noted.

Refuse Tips.

20 Inspections were made, 4 Major and 6 Minor Infestations treated. 795 Points were laid, 431 Prebait and 311 Poison Takes noted.

Sewer Beds and River Banks.

13 Minor and 1 Major Infestations were treated, 304 Points laid, 230 Prebait and 178 Poison Takes noted. Warfarin bait was also used.

Pontypool Market.

15 Inspections were made at the Market Stalls, and 10 Infestations of mice treated. 40 Points were laid, 35 Prebait and 29 Poison Takes were noted. Warfarin bait was also used.

Two Sewer Treatments were carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, and 85 farms were inspected.

This continued war on the Rat population is having good effect as demonstrated by the fact that it is now only necessary to bait 10% of our Sewers, and decreased number of Major Infestations.

The "Black Spot" of the area is undoubtedly the Pontyfelin Refuse Tip, and although this tip is continuously treated, rats can always be found there, due to the growth of scrub which surrounds the tip, making complete baiting difficult, and forming a good breeding ground for these rodents.

One pleasing feature of our work on Rodent Control is that the business people still continue to give us every support.

The officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have also been very co-operative, and courses were arranged for the instruction of operatives on Rodent Control.



