[Report 1949] / Medical Officer of Health, Pontypridd U.D.C.

Contributors

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PONTYPRIDD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year ended 31st December,

1949

A.G.M. SEVERN, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

and

Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital.

PONTYPRIDD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR H. G. JOSHUA, J. P.

COMMITTEES - 1949 - 1950

Health Committee

CHAIRMAN: COUNCILLOR ARTHUR BROWN

Councillor	D. G. BALL
II.	ARTHUR BROWN
11	J. R. CLAYTON
11	H. G. A. DARKE
11	JOHN H. DAVIES
11	H. GARDNER
11	A. W. B. HIGGINS
G.	LLEWELYN HOPKIN
11	JOHN HOWELL, J.P.
	C. H. JAMES
- 0	MRS. ANNIE JONES
. 11	J. WYNNE JONES
11	STANLEY JONES
II.	H. G. JOSHUA, J.P.
"	EVAN MORGAN
п	E. W. PECK
u u	
	E. MORGAN PHILLIPS
"	J. POWDERHILL
"	MRS. BLODWEN RANDELL
	D. J. RICHARDS
	EDWIN ROWBOTHAM
"	J. STALLARD
"	F. J. C. WARNER
	A. R. WATKINS
11	E. R. WILLIAMS

Solicitor: Clerk of the Council
MR. H. LEONARD PORCHER.

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Public Health Department, Central Clinic, Pontypridd.

July, 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mrs. Randell and Gentlemen,

Herewith I present for your consideration, my twenty-first annual report on the work of the Health Department for this area.

Mainly from motives of economy, this is stencilled on our office duplicator. The cost otherwise entailed in printing has been devoted to the purchase of a modern duplicating machine which can be used as well for the monthly reports to the Health Committee.

HEALTH AND DISEASE

The past 21 years have seen some changes in the trend of public health. There has been, in Pontypridd, a big drop in deaths from the infectious fevers. Tuberculosis, which caused 39 deaths in 1929 accounted for 19 in 1949. Another gratifying figure is the decrease in maternal mortality from 9 cases in 1929 to 1 in 1949. Childbirth thus carries much less risk today.

On the other hand, deaths from cancer and heart disease have mounted considerably; but this mainly reflects the longer average life of the population, for these terminal diseases are typical of middle and old age. The man dying of cancer or cardiac failure has usually already experienced a full life.

TRANSFER OF OFFICES

Recent Acts of Parliament have caused many of the former functions of the Health Department to be taken over by other Authorities. The Medical Officer of Health of an Urban District is more or less where he started half a century or more ago - thus the wheel has made a complete turn.

In view of these changes, the Council thought fit to remove the offices of the Health Department from the Municipal Buildings to the Clinic premises in Ynysangharad Park. Satisfactory alterations and adaptations of rooms were made and the transfer took place in the summer of the year under review.

FOOD HYGIENE

The Ministry of Health drafted model bye-laws which were considered by the Health Committee during the latter part of the year. These were accepted, with some minor modifications, which we were later advised by the Ministry not to insist upon. Procedure towards the adoption of these bye-laws continued into 1950.

In the meantime, your Sanitary Inspectors have given special attention to this subject, as it affects food generally in this town. A steady, if slow, improvement in the hygiene of food and drink is being built up with the co-operation of the local traders in these commodities.

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HOS PITALS

The full effects of the National Health Service Act became apparent in 1949 as regards hospitals.

Mynydd Mayo Smallpox Hospital was classified as redundant and demolished completely, together with the caretaker's house.

Tonteg Isolation Hospital continued to be supervised by my Department on a short-term agency basis. In the autumn, instructions were received from the Hospital Management Committee that no further cases of infectious disease were to be admitted to Tonteg. All such cases are now notified to the Bed Bureau Office at Church Village Hospital and the patients are accommodated at either Tyntyla Hospital, Rhondda or Canton Hospital, Cardiff. Tonteg Hospital has thus, in effect, been closed since the last patients were discharged on 1st September, 1949.

GYPS IES

Gypsy encampments have given rise to many complaints, more particularly in the Rhydyfelin and Hawthorn districts. Lack of proper sanitation in such camps is the most obvious nuisance, but damage to gardens and allotments caused by the gypsy's horses has led to the greatest outcry.

The Council, while giving the problem and the persons concerned their sympathetic consideration, feel that suitable land and pasturage should be allocated for the purpose of these migrants. Adequate water and sanitation would obviate nuisance and the animals could be better controlled. This matter had not reached finality at the end of the year, although the problem remained acute and occupied a good deal of the District Sanitary Inspector's time and attention.

STAFF

The work of the Department is being carried out exceptionally smoothly at the present time. The newly recruited office staff are proving most efficient and the Sanitary Inspectors make an effective team.

Accordingly, I wish to record my appreciation and thanks for the loyal co-operation and efforts of all members of the staff throughout the year, which has made the work both pleasurable and profitable.

Yours obediently,

A. G. M. SEVERN,

Medical Officer of Health.

ntypridd Representatives on the Pontypridd and Caerphilly Joint Smallpox Hospital Committee (ceased July, 1949)

The Chairman of the Health Committee, and Councillor MRS. ANNIE JONES

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital

A.G.M.SEVERN, M.A. (Camb.), M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer (Part-time):

SYBIL M. MORGAN, B.Sc., M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

a.b. H. Ll. BIRKETT

Sanitary Inspectors:

a.b. W. N. DAVIES

a.b. J. R. PARRY

a.b. H. WILLIS

Clerical Staff:

M. REES

A. L. THATCHER

JOYCE W. FRANCIS

Nurse: (for cleansing centre and general duties)

c. LILIAN P.A.DAVIES

Caretaker, Public Abattoir:

R. J. STROUD

Ambulance Driver & Disinfector:

A. H. SEYMOUR

- a. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Sanitary Inspectors.
- b. Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
- State Registered Nurse.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL STATISTICS

		,		
Population (mid-year, 1949) a				
Population (Census 1931)	istrar Gene	ral		39,440
Area (acres)	040)		•••	8,140
Number of inhabited houses (I Number of families or separat		•••	9,202	
Rateable Value (end of year)	sus 1931)			10,178 L63,555
Sum represented by a Penny Ra	te		•••	£648
SUMMARY OF VI	TAL STATIST	ICS		
	irths 1949			
Legitimate - Males 331 Illegitimate - Males 11				681
Birth Rate	•••		17.3	
Deat	ths 1949			
	ales 223		tal 525	
Death Rate			13.3	
Deaths of Infants (under one y	rear) 1949		
	Females			28
Illegitimate - Males -	Females	- To	tal -)	20
Infant Death Rate per	1,000 Live	Births, 1	949	
	logitimate	- To	tal 41	
Neo-Natal Death Rate	•••		16.1	
Still Bir	rths 1949			
	Females	10 To	tal 23	
IIlegitimate - Males -	Femal es	1 To	otal 1	
Maternal Mon	rtality 1949	2		
Deaths from puerperal causes				
		Rat	e per 1,0	00 live
	Deaths	ar	d still b	irths
(1) Puerperal sepsis	-		0.0	
(2) Other maternal causes	1		1.43	
	Total		1.43	
	Total	Dea	th rate pe	
	Deaths		populati	ion
Cancer (all ages) Measles (all ages	72		1.83	
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-		-	
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	4		0.11	
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VIPAL STATISTICS FOR THE WHOLE DISTRICT DUKING 1949 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

1940	1940	Population For For Birth Dea Rate Rate 38340 383 38550 385	th e	Number 661 708	Rate 17.2 17.8	Total Regist the Di Number 616 639	Total Deaths Registered in the District The District The District Rate 21.1 39 21.1	6 1 8	Transfer Death Of Non- Residents Registered in the District 1 357 1 357	6 1 8	Transferrable Deaths Of Mon- Residents Residents Registered not reg- in the District the District 8 197 105 1 357 85	Transferrable Deaths Of Non- Residents Residents Registered not reg- in the District B 197 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 10	Transferrable Deaths Of Non- Residents Registered not reg- in the District the District 8 197 105 1 357 85
	1942	38550	38550	700	18.4	716	18.6	279		84 73		43	43 60.6
1944	44	38520	38520	778	20.2	668	17.08	238		75		75	75 40
1945	45	38020	38020	696	18.0	749	19.7	310	0	0 67		67	67 58
1946	46	38730	38730	778	20.1	691	17.1	270	0	18 0		18	81 41
1947	47	38800	388.00	853	21.9	704	18.1	278	8	8 104	,	104	104 48
1948	48	38860	38860	779	20.0	579	14.8	190	0	00 100		100	100 21
1949	49	39440	39440	681	17.3	600	15.2	H	175	75 100		100	100 28

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AMBULANCE FACILITIES The transport of cases of infectious diseases to hospital, in which the Council acted as an agent of the Glamorgan County Council from 5th July, 1948, passed completely to that Authority on 12th January, 1949. Patients are now conveyed in ambulances based at the Area Ambulance Station on the Trading Estate. Treforest. CENTRE FOR ADVICE AND INSTRUCTION ON BIRTH CONTROL This centre continues to be administered by the Health Committee but its scope is now curtailed through the transference of all treatment to the Hospitals Board. Therefore its functions as a minor gynaecological clinic pass to another authority. Dr. Sybil Morgan remains the Medical Officer in charge. Women are referred to the centre by the medical staff of the local Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and general medical practitioners. Arrangements have also been approved for the acceptance of patients, from areas outside Pontypridd, recommended by the medical officers of the Glamorgan County Council and the Brecon County Council. These are chargeable to the Authority concerned. Examinations and investigations are also carried out in cases of sterility and advice given. Appliances which may be prescribed are supplied at approximate cost. Particulars of this clinic for the past two years are as follows: -

			1948	1949
Number of Sessions	•••		26	26
New Patients		•••	99	99
Re-visits			186	161
No. of 'sterilities' fo	r examination advice	and	7	Nil
No. of Patients found and referred to the			5	6

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CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES

(a) As in previous years, close contact has been maintained with the Inspector of the local branch of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. There have been numerous cases of joint action between the Public Health Department and the Inspector, and his zeal and tact have been of great help. Complaints are referred to the Inspector by the Medical and Inspectorate staff of this Authority and he in turn advises the Department of items of Public Health concern which he encounters in his work.

I would like to record my appreciation of the Inspector's co-operation and assistance.

During the year the Inspector dealt with 80 cases. Among these were 41 instances of neglect, 9 of children beyond control, 20 advice sought, 2 of moral danger, 8 of ill-treatment; 191 children and 124 parents were covered by these cases. 341 supervision visits were made. In 4 cases the Branch was called upon to take children to a place of safety because the parents were destitute and homeless, and in a further case arrangements were made for two boys to enter a Naval Training School in the hope that they may later join the Royal Navy.

(b) The Pontypridd and Treforest Division of the British Red Cross Society continued its work and maintained its control of the two Depots for the provision of sickroom and surgical appliances.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA REGULATIONS, 1939

Three cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were reported during the year, two from hospitals, and one from the patient's home.

These patients responded to treatment and no deaths resulted.

LABORATORY WORK AND FACILITIES

The Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory examines and reports upon all pathological specimens submitted from the Pontypridd area. The number of suspected specimens sent by the Health Department, the Isolation Hospital and by local doctors during the past year was 86. These included throat and nose swabs, sputa, blood, pus, faeces, cerebro-spinal fluid etc.

Outfits for the collection of specimens for transmission through the post are kept at the office of the Public Health Department for the use of medical practitioners of the town.

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS, AND LOCAL REGULATIONS, RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT

A complete list of the above was given in the 1938
Amual Report. There is nothing to add for the year under review.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA WATER SUPPLY The Pontypridd and Rhondda Joint Water Board provides an ample and constant service of pure water to all houses and premises with the exception of a few scattered cottages and farmhouses on the borders of the Urban Area. All the water is treated by modern approved methods of chlorination and filtration, and it is possible to maintain, in all parts of the district, a reasonable supply even during periods of drought. Bacteriological and chemical examinations of the water are carried out at all stages of its collection, treatment and distribution. These examinations are undertaken by the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory, and they are, in the main submitted by the above named Board. "Spot" samples are taken intermittently by the Sanitary Inspectors. The number of samples so dealt with during the year 1949 was:-(a) Bacteriological: Raw water ... Treated water going into supply (b) Chemical: 14 Raw water ... Treated water going into supply Reports on all the above samples of treated water were satisfactory. With a few exceptions, the raw water was also of adequate purity. The soft moorland water, some 3,200,000 gallons a day, is treated at the Works with lime or chalk, raising the pH figure from 4.5 to 7.6 and there is no action on lead. The Analyst states that this process "Indicates satisfactory treatment." The number of houses supplied direct from the mains in Pontypridd is 9,173. There are no stand-pipes in use within the Pontypridd area. The water supplied to the factories and houses on the Treforest Trading Estate is obtained from the nearby River Taff and is treated by the Estate Authorities at the Estate Water Works. Four chemical and three bacteriological samples were taken during the year, and all were reported to be satisfactory, from the public health standpoint. However, complaints from consumers as to the flavour of this water arise from time to time. One sample was taken from a spring serving bungalows on the mountain side in Treforest and this too was satisfactory. 8 -

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The following statistics of the local rainfall for the year 1949, have been kindly provided by the Joint Water Board:-

Rainfall registered at Lanwood Reservoir, Pontypridd.

Month		Inches
January February March April May June July August September October		3.17 3.72 2.03 5.12 5.26 0.92 1.35 3.54 3.19 11.94
November December		6.09 7.41
	TOTAL	53.74

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A complete water-carriage system of sewerage, seventeen miles in length, controlled by the Pontypridd and Rhondda Joint Sewerage Board, extends from the Rhondda Urban area to the sea. All authorised inhabited houses in the Pontypridd urban locality are connected with this main sewer, with the exception of approximately 110 dwellings which lie outside the statutory distance.

In addition to the above, a number of vans and temporary dwellings in the area are of necessity employing the conservancy system of sewage disposal.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

There are approximately 100 houses in the district without separate closet accommodation, one water closet serving the needs of two houses.

SCAVENGING AND SALVAGE COLLECTION

The collection and disposal of house and trade refuse is under the administration of the Surveyor's Department, and the arrangements for collection are as stated in previous reports.

The collections of refuse and waste material for 1949 amounted to 14,630 tons; 47 tons per working day.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Summary of Inspections and Revisits in the course of Routine Work and "On Complaint" during the year ended 31st December, 1949.

Public Health Acts:-

House Inspection - First Visits ... 1,486 - Revisits ... 3,179

Housing Acts:-

Overcrowding - First Visits ...

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Infectious Diseases	 36
Disinfection	 -
Disinfestation	 -
Public Abattoir	 870
Markets & Shops	 1,312
Bakehouses	 69
Domestic Pig Keepers	 160
Pigsties	 3
Factories	 87
Canteens	 1
Licensed Premises	 71
Workshops	 3
Schools	 1
Common Lodging Houses	 1
Ice-Cream Premises	 215
Fried Fish Shops	 194
Cinemas	 23
Cowsheds	 19
Dairies	 178
Refuse Dumps	 12
Miscellaneous (including flooding,	
smoke nuisances and interviews)	 1,793
Food Samples:-	
Milk, graded and ungraded	 257
Food and Drugs	 44
Ice-Cream	 47
14 May 54 Mit 10 Mit 20	
Notices served:-	
Informal	 340
Formal	 264
Letters sent re Notices	 373

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED DURING THE YEAR 1949

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

655

In the course of the year ended 31st December, 1949, twenty prosecutions were instituted by the Sanitary Inspectors, nine of which concerned occupants of the unauthorised Camping Site at Dynea. Of these, Court Orders were made in four cases, and in another, a fine of £1 and costs was imposed with a daily penalty of £2 if the site remained occupied; the remaining defendants, after repeated adjournments of the hearing, left the site and the cases were withdrawn on payment of costs.

Ten cases concerned non-abatement of nuisances or failure to carry out work at dwelling houses. One Court Order was made; the other charges were withdrawn on payment of costs after the work had been done.

One charge against a Market Stall Holder, brought under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 was dismissed by the Magistrate.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The number of visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors to factories during the year was 208 and, in 15 cases, notices were served to abate nuisances. Fourteen of these nuisances were remedied during the year.

Generally, all the factories were found to be in a satisfactory condition, and in no case was it necessary to take legal action for the contravention of any of the provisions of the above Act.

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CREMATORIUM

The Pontypridd Crematorium is at present the only one in Wales.

The following particulars have kindly been supplied by the Superintendent.

Cremations for year ended December 31st, 1939263

Cromations for year ended December 31st, 1948 1031

Cremations for year ended December 31st, 1949 1314

Increase over 1939 1051 Increase over 1948 283

On account of the mounting number of cremations, it was found necessary to adapt a second chapel for religious services and also to extend the furnace room. This work was completed during 1949.

The Cremation equipment was originally one Lockwood gas furnace built in 1924. To this, an electric furnace was added in 1938, and this was completely rebuilt in 1945. A modern Askam gas furnace has been incorporated in the new extension and this was put into use in the early part of the year.

ICE-CREAM

47 samples were taken during the year and these were bacteriologically graded as follows:-

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
28	9	4	6

Where unsatisfactory samples were found the Sanitary Inspectors advised as to better production methods.

CAMPING SITES

No licences have been issued in respect of camping sites by the Local Authority; nor are there any sites within the area which are approved for these purposes.

RODENT CONTROL - RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919 - INFESTATION ORDER, 1943

Two men are engaged full time to deal with the dayto-day complaints and routine duties of rodent infestation.

The following table gives a summary of the treatment carried out during 1949:-

Number of Premises treated

Rats		Mice
36 385	Business premises Others	13 355
421	Total infestations	368
5872	Estimated kill	5079

The sewers in the area were treated on two occasions at six monthly intervals by the Surveyor's department staff. This work was very successful and reduced to a considerable degree the surface infestation.

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Orerations for year ended Describer 515t, 1957 285

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COMMION LODGING HOUSES There is only one common lodging house in the Pontypridd area. The premises are re-visited periodically by the sanitary staff and are maintained in a satisfactory manner. Registration was renewed in December. VERMINOUS PREMISES - ERADICATION OF BED BUGS The methods employed in this locality for dealing with verminous premises have been outlined in the previous reports. The number of premises dealt with during the year under review was as follows :-(i) Council houses (ii) Other dwelling houses 24 (iii) Other premises This form of nuisance was not pronounced or troublesome in 1949. OFFENSIVE TRADES The following offensive trades are established in the district:-Rag storage and sorting Fellmonger The above premises and trades are conducted satisfactorily in accordance with the Council's byelaws framed for the regulation of offensive trades. RENT AND MORTGAGE RESTRICTION ACTS, 1920 - 1938 One application was received under the above Acts during the year 1949. This was refused. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS Pontypridd possesses a municipal open-air swimming bath and a paddling pool situated in the Ynysangharad Park. The adult bath has a capacity of 460,000 gallons and the juvenile pool 180,000 gallons. A large capacity filtration and purification plant treats the water of both baths by chemical precipitation, filtration, aeration and finally chlorination. Samples of bath water were examined on two occasions. Both results were satisfactory. 13 -

HOUSING STATISTICS

1.	Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year 1949:-	
	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1486
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	4665
	(c) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	6
	(d) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1041
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:-	
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Offices	595
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-	
	(1) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
	(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
	(b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:- (i) By Owners (ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil Nil
	(2) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:-	
	(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	890
	(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:- (i) By Owners (ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners	324 Ni 1
	(3) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	4
	(4) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	2

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HOUSING

In this area, as in practically all other localities, the demand for new houses seems to increase and greatly to exceed the supply. This is perhaps more noticeable in Pontypridd because the sanctioned programme was almost exhausted early in the year and figures of new building show a sharp fall from 1948.

Geographically, Pontypridd is not well suited to the development of large housing estates, and this, together with the problem of subsidence is proving a serious barrier in the negotiating of sanctions for further plans.

During 1949, 28 traditional type houses were erected by the Council and occupied.

Number of houses in course of erection at the end of the year ... 8

Number of houses sanctioned but not commenced at the end of the year ... 21

In addition, private enterprise accounted for the following new dwelling-houses:-

Number of houses completed ... 4

Number of houses commenced ... 8

HOUSING ACT, 1936

The Council took no direct action in connection with overcrowding or slum clearance during the year. Overcrowding was, however, eased to a certain extent by the allocation of Council houses in special circumstances.

COUNCIL HOUSES

Particulars of the dwelling houses owned by the Pontypridd Local Authority at the end of 1949 are set out below: -

Consolidated Housing Scheme ... 1008
Ynys Terrace ... 28
Gwernygervm ... 17

Taken over by the Council:-

Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899-1923 and Housing Acts, 1923-1925

INSFECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936

Tuberculin Tested The licences under the above Order which were in operation at 31st December, 1948 were all renewed for 1949. Six new licences were issued during the year. One licence for pasteurising milk was also issued.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926

One additional producer of milk was registered during the year.

Dairies and Cowsheds

During the period under review, the Sanitary Inspectors paid 19 visits to cowsheds and dairy farms in the urban area, and made 78 inspections of dairies and milk shops.

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949
Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
Regulations, 1949
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The above regulations came into effect on 1st October, 1949, and among the provisions were alterations to the previous legislation affecting registration and licensing of milk producers and dealers.

Following is a brief summary of the provisions in this respect:-

- 1. The Control of all milk production and licensing of producers is transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.
- 2. The Local Authority now controls the distribution of milk from dairies other than those on the producing farms, the licensing of dealers in Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised, Accredited and Sterilised milk, and the corresponding Supplementary Licences.
- The Food and Drugs Authorities license the milk sterilising and pasteurising plants.
- 4. All licence fees are now abolished.

Bacteriological Examination of Graded Milk

The following is a summary of examinations carried out during the past year; all samples being submitted to the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory.

(a) Tuberculin Tested Milk:

No. of Samples

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

(b) Pasteurised Milk:

No. of Samples

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Unsatisfactory

1

Bacteriological Examination of Ungraded Milk

During the year 1949, 15 samples of ungraded milk were submitted to the Cardiff Laboratory for examination, and of these 7 samples were found to be unsatisfactory. During the period 18 samples of milk were examined at the above laboratory for tubercle bacilli under Section 25 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Two samples were positive.

The samples which contained tubercle bacilli were obtained from local farms; the Milk Marketing Board were contacted and immediate arrangements made to have all the milk from these herds collected and pasteurised. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries were also notified and a Veterinary Inspector carried out a clinical examination of the herds and took samples of milk from suspected cows. It was eventually reported that the tubercular cows had been detected and destroyed.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

All four of the Council's Sanitary Inspectors possess the additional qualifications for the examination of meat and other foods and this work is regarded as an important part of their duties.

The Council's Public Abattoir is still operating under the Government's scheme for the centralisation of all slaughtering.

The following are particulars for 1949 of the number of animals slaughtered and examined at the Abattoir:-

Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	TOTAL
2,206	1,910	19,259	569	23,944

The total number of visits paid to the Abattoir and markets by the Sanitary Inspectors for the purposes of inspection of meat and other foods:-

Visits and re-visits made to the Public Abattoir by Meat Inspectors	 870
Visits made to other premises under Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	 1,312

Swamary of unsound meat and other foods surrendered and destroyed during the year ended 31st December:-

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Public Abattoir (Tubercular Meat)	10	15	-	22
Public Abattoir (Diseased Neat)	17	5	1	7
Public Markets and Shops, (Other Foods)	2	19	3	21
Totals	31	0	1	22

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The following table shows the percentage figures for the year ended 31st December, 1949, for those carcases affected with

(1) Diseases other than Tuberculosis

П	(2) Tuberculosis	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Muni	ber inspected	2206	1910	19,259	569
(1)	All diseases other than Tuberculosis; Whole carcases condemned	20	3	17	3
	Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1085	2	1068	18
	Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	50.1%	0,26%	5.63%	3.7%
(2)	Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned	23	4	-	2
	Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	190	1	-	31
	Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	9.65%	0.26%		5.8%

SLAUGHTER OF AN IMALS ACT, 1933

The number of slaughtermen holding valid licences issued by the Pontypridd Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the above Act at 31st December, 1949 was 24.

Section 1 of the Act is applicable within the area to sheep, ewes, wethers, rams and lambs.

PREMISES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED IN THE DISTRICT

Fried fish shops	28
Butchers making sausages,	
faggots etc.	24
Shops retailing ice-cream	58

All the above are regularly inspected by the District Sanitary Inspectors.

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FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

The Pontypridd Council administer the above Act in this area and the Authority's Sanitary Inspectors are appointed Sampling Officers. Mr. D. Evans Jones, F.I.C. of the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory is the public analyst appointed to act for this district.

In the course of the past year, the following samples (formal and informal) were submitted to and reported upon by the analyst:-

	Genuine	Non-genuine
Milk	153	3
Baking Powder	1	
Gustard Flavouring	2	
Fish Paste	1	
Meat Pasto	2	3
Sausages Fruit Flavoured Cordial		1
Orange Crush Cordial	2	
Cream of Tartar	i	
Vinogar	1 2 1 4	
Beer	8	
Butter	4	
Margarine	2	
Pudding Mixture	1	
Sponge flour Mixture	1	
Cake flour Mixture	1 1 1 1 1 1	
White pepper	1	
Raspborry Jam	1	
Coffee essence	1	
Aspirin tablets	1	
Olive oil	1	
Lard	1	
Jam tarts	1	
Sausage rolls Dried peas	1	2
Toffee Crunch	1	-
202100 02 021011		
	193	6
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The percentage of the milk samples found to be not genuine, including both formal and informal samples, for the year 1949 was 1.92.

The average composition of the genuine milk samples for 1949 was 3.56% milk fat and 8.66% solids-not-fat, compared with the standard laid down in the milk regulations of 3% milk fat and 8.5% solids-not-fat.

Following are particulars of the sub-standard foods:-

Milk	P2	14% added water
		70% deficient in meat
Milk		
		Evidence of insect infestation
		Evidence of insect infestation
Milk		

The following action was taken in respect of the above samples:-

P2 - Police Court proceedings taken and retailer convicted. Fine of £3 and costs imposed.

P27 - Police Court proceedings pending.

P32, P193 - Follow-up "appeal to the cow" samples were taken and the results in each case were satisfactory.

Warning letters were sent to the Vendors.

P153, 156P - Both consignments were condemned and voluntarily surrendered for burning at the Refuse Destructor.

- 19 -

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NON-NOTIFIABLE ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

None of the infectious diseases coming within the above heading showed signs of exceeding the average incidence at any time during the year.

There were a few sporadic cases of influenza, not especially severe during the winter months. Nothing in the nature of an epidemic of this depressing disease occurred.

Chicken-pox, mumps, tonsillitis; none gave cause for concern.

Summer Diarrhoea in children under two years of age led to four deaths. This figure impresses one as much too high, in view of the efficient drugs now available.

More prompt and more ready admission to hospital for these young children would appear to be the most obvious means of avoiding this unnecessary loss of infant life.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The notifiable infectious diseases occurring in the Pontypridd area were again of very low incidence generally.

Ten years ago, 123 cases of Diphtheria were reported, with seven deaths. This year only two were notified, with no deaths. Diphtheria has, for the time being, virtually disappeared. This is a remarkable tribute to the value of immunisation.

The 40 cases of Scarlet Fever notified were in the main exceptionally mild. This compares with 95 cases reported in 1939.

Measles was fairly prevalent, and there is little doubt that facilities for Isolation Hospital treatment of the more severe and complicated cases would be greatly to the advantage of the children concerned, as well as relieving the mothers of much anxiety. Overcrowded homes and apartments, so common in Pontypridd, are altogether unsuited for the care of sick children. Steps should be taken to obviate the necessity for such unsatisfactory makeshifts.

Two cases of the Infantile Paralysis group were notified as compared with six in 1948. Both were young children and made a good recovery.

Once again no deaths took place from any of the infectious fevers during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

The arrangements and procedure outlined in my previous reports continued in operation throughout the year.

The number of disinfections carried out in 1949 is as follows:-

- No. of houses fumigated after infectious disease (scarlet fever, diphtheria, etc.) ... 42
- No. of houses fumigated after other diseases (cancer etc.) ... 14
- No. of houses fumigated after pulmonary tuberculosis . 42
- No. of houses from which bedding, infected clothing etc., were conveyed for disinfection at the steam disinfector

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REPLACEMENT OF DESTROYED BEDDING

Authority is given to the Local Authority, by Section 167 SS.4 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to replace bedding soiled and suspected of containing infection after infectious disease.

No such replacements took place in 1949.

CANCER

The recorded deaths from Cancer (all forms) in Pontypridd for the year under review were as follows:-

		Males	Females	Total
1949	 	41	31	72

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOS IS) DURING 1949

DISEASE	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Poliomyelitis	1.	1	-
Policencephalitis	1	1	-
Scarlet Fever	40	39	-
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	-
Pneumonia, Primary	13	_	1
Brysipelas	5	1	-
Opthalmia Neonatorum	4	1	-
Measles	76	2	
Mhooping Cough	10	-	-

Included in the above Table are the following cases which were treated at Hospitals other than the Tonteg Isolation Hospital.

	Graig Hosp.	East Glam.	Mt. Ash	Canton Isolation	Rhondda I. H.
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	2	-	-	-
Policencephalitis Scarlet Fever	-	=	2	ī	12
Erysipelas Diphtheria	1 -	-	-	-	ī
Opthalmia Neonatorum		1			
	1	3	2	1	14

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS NOTIFIED DURING 1949

-			×	36									
	Non-Respiratory	Tuberculosis:- Respiratory	Whooping Cough	Measles	Poliomyelitis	Erysipelas	Policencephalitis	Ophthalmia Meonatorum	Pneumonía	Puerperal Pyrexia	Diphthoria	Scarlet Fever	DISEASE
13	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	4	10	1	1	1	Under 1 Year
222	60	1	Н	17	1	1	Н	1	Н	1	1	1	yrs.
26	1	1	S	19	ı	1	1	1	1	1	1	63	2-3 yrs.
22	1	1	1	15	ب	1	1	1	100			Ci	3-4 yrs.
TS	1	1	Ч	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	ı	9	4-5 yrs.
377	10	200	10	00	1	1	1	1	P	1	نا	22	5-10 years
(JI	100	7	i	1		1	1	-1	1	,	1	60	10-15 years
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34	1	27	1	1	1	1	1	1	٦	C)	1	ю	20-35 years
13		10	1	1	1	1	, 1	1	60	1	Ъ	- 1	35-45 years
12		7	1	1	1	CN	1	1	10	1		I.	years
CI	1	ш		1		10	1	1	10	,	1	1	over 65 &
218	9	54	10	76	1	Ċī	P	4	13	CA	10	40	Totals

[×] Notifiable Infectious Disease Order of Ministry of Health. The Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations dated 23rd October, 1939.

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CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD DURING THE YEAR 1949

Disease	Graig	Rhon- dda	Town	Cil- fynydd	Tra- llwn	Tre- forest	Rhydy- felin	Totals
Scarlet Fever	4	10	5	2	15	1	3	40
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	3
Pneumonia	5		-	-		5	3	13
Erysipelas	2	-	1	1	-	1	-	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	4
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-		-	1	-	1
Policencephalitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Measles	15	9	5	12	15	5	15	76
Whooping Cough Tuberculosis:-	-	1	-	-	-	6	3	10
Respiratory	8	5	8	3	6	15	9	54
Non-Respiratory	1	1	-	1	2	3	1	9
TOTALS	37	26	19	19	40	39	38	218

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TREATED AT THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL, TONTEG

The following table gives the number of cases treated in the Isolation Hospital during 1949.

No.	of	cases	remaining	in hospital at end of	2 1948	•••	5
No.	of	cases	admitted (including observation	n cases)		26
No.	of	cases	remaining	in hospital at end of	£ 1949		Nil

The following table shows the nature of the cases admitted during the year:-

 Scarlet Fever ... 24

 Diphtheria ... 1

 Poliomyelitis ... 1

 26

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otified	Cases at Home	Treated in Hospital	Vision Un- impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blind ness	Deaths
4	3	1	4	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949

ge Perio	ds	New Cases					Deaths Non-				
	Respiratory		Resp	Respiratory			ratory	Resp	Respiratory		
		M.	F.	M.	F.	Totals	M.	F.	М.	F.	Totals
nder 1 y	ear	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 y		-	-		3	3	-		-	1	1
5 to 15	vears	1	2	1	3	7	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 25	vears	4	12	1	1	18	3	-		-	3
5 to 35		5	12		-	17	1	3	-	-	4
5 to 45	vears	5	5	-	-	10	1	-	-		1
5 to 65	vears	6	1	-	-	7	4	2	1	-	7
5 and up		1	-	-	-	1	3	-		-	3
TOT ALS		22	32	2	7	63	12	5	1	1	19

PUBLIC HEALTH TUBERCULOS IS REGULATIONS

NOTIFICATIONS

No. of Deaths Registered	No. Notified to M.O.H.	Percentage
19	11	57.8

Deaths from "Tuberculosis aggravated by Silicosis" here the cases have not been notified, are included in the above, and the percentage is consequently adversely affected.

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATES

The local death rate from Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population for 1949 and the previous five years was as follows:-

	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944
Respiratory	0.43 0.05	0.66	0.77	0.78	0.96 0.14	0.98
Il forms of Tuberculosis	0.48	0.74	0.93	0.80	1.11	1.09

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THE PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

The Local Authority took no action under these Regulations during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925 - SECTION 62 and PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 - SECTION 172

No action was taken under this head by the Health Department in 1949.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1949 DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE IN THE SEVERAL WARDS

				No. of Deaths
Graig				4
Rhondda	• • •	•••		6
Town	•••		•••	1
Cilfynydd	• • •		• • • •	5
Trallwn			•••	2
Treforest			•••	5
Rhydyfelin			•••	5
TOTAL FOR	URBAN I	DISTRICT		28

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (LIEVERICE) OF TURERCULOSIE)

thus a local Authority took an action unier

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1985 - SECTION SE ING

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SCHOOL STATE OF SUL MAN AND ASSESSED REGION SERVING

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All causes:- Certified Uncertified	Convulsions Asphyxia Pheumonia - all forms Encephalitis Atelectasis Heart Failure Premature Birth Enteritis Pink Disease Intestinal Obstruction Peritonitis Congenital Syphilis Bronchitis Septicaemia Kernicterus Sepsis Cranial Haemorrhage	Cause of Death
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		weeks 3 mths.
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CAUSES OF DEATH, 1949

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Influenza Tuberculosis of respiratory system Other Tuberculosis Diseases Syphilitic disease Diabetes Heart Diseases Other circulatory diseases Bronchitis Pneumonia (all forms) Other respiratory diseases Diarrhoea, etc., (under 2 years) Appendicitis Other digestive diseases Nephritis Other maternal causes Premature birth Suicide Other violent causes Cancer of buccal cavity and cesophagus (m) uterus (f) Cancer of stomach and duodenum Cancer of breast Cancer of all other sites Intracranial vascular lesions Congenital debility, malformations etc. Road traffic accidents All other causes	3 12 1 76 11 35 14 16 3 1 1 4 - 4 3 10 3 16 - 22 31 5 4 26	3 5 1 2 6 3 9 8 12 7 1 9 7 1 2 5 7 3 16 25 2 1 30	6 17 2 2 3 139 20 43 26 23 4 1 10 11 1 6 3 12 8 23 38 56 7 5 56
Totals	302	223	525

CLEANS ING CENTRE

This centre, which is mainly devoted to the cure of scabies, continues to be administered by the Health Committee and has been operating now for over six years. Sessions are held daily except for two days per week when the nurse devotes her time to following up contacts at home.

The co-operation of the local medical practitioners and head teachers of the schools has been maintained throughout the year.

The following is a summary of this centre's activities for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

Number of sessions held	220
Number of new cases: under 5 years	
Over 15 years 21	61
Number under treatment at end of previous year	42
Number cured during the year	103
Number under treatment at end of current year	-
Number of attendances for treatment	853
Number of home visits made	614

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BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSES OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1949

ENGLAND AND WALES, LONDON, 126 GREAT TOWNS AND 148 SMALLER TOWNS AND PONTYPRIDD

(Provisional figures based on weekly & quarterly returns)

"management and an arrangement of the second						
	Ponty- pridd	England & Wales		148 Smaller Towns (res- ident popn. 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Admin. County	
Dintha		Rates per	1,000 of Po	pulation		
Births Live	17.3	16.7 a	18.7	18.0	18.5	
Still	0.60	0.39 a	0.47	0.40	0.37	
Deaths	200		20.0		200	
All Causes	13.3	11.7 a	12.5	11.6	12.2	
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Tuberculosis	0.48	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52	
Influenza	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11	
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.11	
Acute Poliomyelitis &	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Policencephalitis	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	
Pneumonia	0.65	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59	
- IIO COMOTILA	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.25	0.00	
Notifications (Corrected						
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	
Scarlet Fever	1.01	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46	
Whooping Cough	0.25	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70	
Diphtheria	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07	
Erysipelas	0.12	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17	
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Measles	1.92	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54	
Pnoumonia	0.32	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55	
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.02	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18	
Acute Policencephalitis	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	
Food Poisoning	0.00	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19	
			1,000 Live		0.10	
Deaths			,			
All causes under					1	
	41.11	32 b	37	30	29	
Enteritis & Diarrhoea						
under 2 yrs. of age	5.87	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7	
	Rates	per 1,000	Total (Liv	e & Still) Bi	rths	
Notifications (Corrected)					1	
Puerperal fever and	- W - W - W -					
pyrexia	4.40	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82	
Ma te	rnal Me	ortality i	in England &	Wolee		
2100 00	Rates	per 1 00	O Total	Rates per m	illian	
*	(Live	and Stil	1)Births	women age	15-44	
Abortion with Sepsis	-	0.11	1000	8	10.12	
Abortion without Sepsis	-	0.05		4		
Puerperal infections	-	0.11		2		
Other maternal causes	1.43	0.71				
(a) Rates per 1,000 tota	l popul	lation. (b) Per 1,00	O related liv	e births.	

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