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**BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT**

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

AND THE

**Chief Public Health Inspector**

For the Year ended 31st December,

**1961**



1962

D. W. Jones (Printers) Ltd.,  
Port Talbot. 116447



**BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT**

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**Medical Officer of Health**

For the Year ended 31st December,

**1961**



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## STAFFS

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### **Medical Officer of Health.**

D. H. J. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (also Medical Officer of Health, Glyncorwg Urban District Council and Divisional Medical Officer, Glamorgan County Council).

### **Chief Public Health Inspector.**

G. A. MORGAN (C.R.S.H. as Public Health Inspector; C.S.I.B. as Public Health Inspector; C.R.S.H. as Meat and Food Inspector; C.R.S.H. School Hygiene and Physiology; Diploma, Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene; Certificate, School Hygiene, Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene; Testamur Sanitary Science, University College of Wales). Fellow Royal Society of Health. Fellow Association of Public Health Inspectors.

### **Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.**

L. J. CARTER (C.S.I.B., as Public Health Inspector and C.R.H.S as Meat and Food Inspector). Fellow Association of Public Health Inspectors.

### **Additional Public Health Inspectors.**

I. G. HEYCOCK (C.S.I.B. as Public Health Inspector and C.R.S.H. as Meat and Food Inspector).

L. MORGAN (C.S.I.B. as Public Health Inspector and C.R.S.H. as Meat and Food Inspector, also Diploma as Smoke Inspector of Royal Society of Health).

W. CORNELIUS (C.S.I.B. as Public Health Inspector and C.R.S.H. as Meat and Food Inspector, also Diploma as Smoke Inspector of Royal Society of Health).

D. H. W. GRIFFITHS (C.S.I.B. as Public Health Inspector and C.R.S.H. as Meat and Food Inspector).

### **Student Public Health Inspector.**

R. WATKINS.

### **Draintester and Disinfector.**

L. GEORGE.

### **Rodent Operative.**

D. MAINWARING.

T. D. REES.

### **Clerks.**

Miss L. WILLIAMS. Miss S. A. KENT.

## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1961.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of  
Port Talbot.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the requirements of Circular 1/62 (Wales) issued by the Welsh Board of Health, I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the twelve months period ended the 31st December, 1961.

In this report the statistical details of factors bearing upon the health of the community are brought together for your information. Details of the work being undertaken to preserve and improve the health of the community are included under various headings and as submitted by the various agencies.

The Borough Council is concerned mainly with the environment of the population. The homes, the food, the air we breathe, our water supplies, sewage and refuse disposal, the cleanliness of our streets and highways. The Borough Council also interests itself in the vital statistics for the area and to these may be added the prevalence and control of infectious diseases.

Much work relating to health falls to be dealt with by other bodies and agencies. The Hospitals come under the control of the Regional Hospital Boards; the day-to-day administration coming under Hospital Management Committees. The General Practitioners, Pharmacists and Supplementary Ophthalmic Services, are controlled by Executive Committees, this area falling under the mantle of the Glamorgan Executive Council: a body separate from and not to be confused with the Glamorgan County Council.

The Glamorgan County Council is the Health and Welfare Authority and is responsible for Domiciliary Midwifery, Home Nursing, Home Help, Clinic and Health Visiting. The County Council also has responsibilities under Mental Health and provides an Ambulance Service for the transportation to and from hospital as required.

Under its provisions for the prevention of spread of infectious diseases, the County Health Authority provides for immunisation and vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, smallpox and tuberculosis. Details of immunisations and vaccinations carried out in the Port Talbot and Glyncoirwg Health Division are included in the body of the report.

The County Council is also the Welfare Authority and under the aegis of the Welfare Department, unhappily separate from the Health Department, maintains Residential Hostels for the Aged, arranges visits to and the provision of aids to registered handicapped persons in the area. In suitable cases the Welfare Committee authorises structural and other alterations to premises to assist the more severely handicapped to maintain a degree of independence. Whilst the nearest area office is situated in Neath, I am glad to state that problems frequently brought to my office and channelled to Neath receive courteous and prompt attention from Area Staff. Whilst it is not premature to mention it now, I am glad to record that by the end of 1962 it is hoped that the first hostel in Port Talbot will be opened. This will serve to meet the needs for such a facility in the Borough. I believe that the application list for admission into this hostel has far outstripped the places available.

One form of housing accommodation brings to mind another—caravans. With the exception of an occasional squatter, moved on under the vigilant eye of the Public Health Inspectorate, the Borough caravan population is confined to two sites, one small and restricted site at Caegarw Farm, Pyle (just within the Borough Boundary on the east), and the main Municipal Caravan Site on the Little Warren, Aberavon.

There is little to report in respect of the former but the latter, although of a temporary nature, causes much distress to the staff responsible for its control and maintenance. Some three main categories of caravanners have been met on the site. Firstly the holidaymakers who come and go at regular intervals, secondly the big contractors' employees who move with their work and who remain on site only as long as their jobs keep them in the Borough. Thirdly, we have the resident caravanners, the young couples who prefer this type of home to apartment life with relatives and other couples and their children with no other type of home of their own, including families evicted from their homes for one reason or another.

Whilst a caravan is accepted as a happy holiday home, few "vans" can claim to be anything but substandard as a permanent residence for a family with children. Few "vans" can be considered ideal for confinement purposes. They therefore create problems for the Housing Department and problems to your Medical Officer of Health who has, out of his limited maternity bed allotment, to allocate beds for the confinement of pregnant women from the caravans.

It is proposed in the near future to clear this site and construct a permanent site at the western end of the sea front. It is to be hoped that the lesson learned here will serve in good stead when the new site is opened.



In the body of the report reference is made to the sewage disposal system with particular reference to Aberavon and Sandfields to the west of the River Afan. This is a problem that is causing increasing anxiety.

A detailed analysis of the existing Borough water supplies was made in the Annual Report for 1960. On this occasion therefore, a precis of the supplies together with the Borough Engineer's estimated quantities have been included. The Borough having examined all resources available within its boundaries is looking towards the River Neath for a temporary relief to its necessities. But more on this subject in next year's report.

During the early part of the year the Port Talbot Steelworks gave its last paroxysmal gasps of red fumes. Since mid-year the air over Station Road has cleared and the smoke and grit problem has receded further to the east, for in July production at this plant which had served the area for about half a century came to an end. Such an ending of course, could not but bring a problem of redundancy and unemployment. On the other hand however, a heavy and outdated plant has now ceased to breathe fire and fume in the very centre of the Borough.

I would like, in concluding these introductory remarks, to express my thanks to you Mr. Mayor, the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Aldermen and Members of Council for the interest you have at all times evinced in the health of the Borough, and to my colleagues in all departments for their friendly and loyal co-operation during the period under review.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. J. WILLIAMS,  
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Dept.,  
Park House,  
Theodore Road,  
Port Talbot.

Port Talbot 2137/8.

## SUMMARY OF GENERAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1961.

Area of Borough (inclusive of foreshore) .....	23,444 acres
Population (Registrar General's Estimated mid-year, 1961) .....	50,020
Rateable value at 31st March, 1961 .....	£1,617,944
Product of Penny Rate for year ended 31st March, 1961 .....	£7,188
Rainfall in inches at Town Centre .....	43.72
Number of Houses erected in 1961 .....	339
(i) By Local Authority .....	223
(ii) By other Bodies or Persons .....	116
Number of houses connected to Corporation Mains Water Supply .....	15,500
Number of houses supplied from standpipes .....	20
Average daily consumption of water per person in gallons .....	27

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

#### Live Births.

	Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate .....	467	420	887	887
Illegitimate .....	14	10	24	24
Total number of live births .....	481	430	911	911
		Crude	Adjusted	
Live birth rate per 1,000 population .....		18.21	17.30	
Live birth rate for England and Wales ...		17.4	—	
Illegitimate Live Births. Per thousand of total Live Births .....				26.3

#### Still Births.

	Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate .....	12	7	19	19
Illegitimate .....	1	—	1	1
Total number of stillbirths .....	13	7	20	20

Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births .....	21.48
Total Live and Still Births .....	931

The following table is of interest :—

Number of live births at home in the Borough .....	296
Number of live births (Port Talbot mothers) at Neath General Hospital .....	516
Number of live births (Port Talbot mothers) at Bridgend General and other hospitals .....	99

Of all live births 68% occurred in hospital. In 1960 the percentage of births in hospital was 63 and in 1959, 59.

Whilst this is the highest percentage recorded in recent years, this figure has been brought about by a reduction in the total number of births during the year rather than an increase in the number of hospital places.

Although the hospitals never refuse to find a place for emergency cases there has been no increase in the number of places for allocation by your Medical Officer of Health.

### Comparison of Crude Birth Rate with National Rate.

The Crude Birth Rate for the Borough continues to be higher than the national figure as can be seen from the following chart. This position has maintained itself consistently for the past ten years.

Year	Live Births	Crude Rate per 1,000	Crude Rate (England & Wales)
1952	826	18.69	15.3
1953	836	18.51	15.5
1954	834	18.19	15.2
1955	877	18.79	15.0
1956	883	18.74	15.6
1957	899	18.82	16.1
1958	1,002	20.71	16.4
1959	934	19.19	16.5
1960	1,034	21.17	17.1
1961	911	18.21	17.4

### Applications for Non-Emergency Hospital Beds.

Patients due to be confined during	1959.		1960.		1961.	
	APPLICATIONS Received. Refused.		APPLICATIONS Received. Refused.		APPLICATIONS Received. Refused.	
January	53	8	70	15	59	3
February	51	5	73	13	67	11
March	67	24	54	0	64	8
April	53	10	72	11	64	8
May	73	29	62	5	64	8
June	46	1	69	12	57	1
July	66	9	66	10	53	0
August	63	9	59	2	56	0
September	56	3	67	12	68	12
October	53	0	66	9	65	9
November	51	0	68	10	51	0
December	56	1	68	9	54	0

### Deaths.

Deaths from all causes in the area (Male 271 Female 238)	509
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population Crude, 10.18      Adjusted	13.44
Death rate for England and Wales	Crude 12.0

The Crude death rate for the past nine years is summarised below :—

1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
11.50	10.07	10.89	10.57	10.52	10.05	9.97	11.09	9.57

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

There was one death from puerperal causes during 1961.

### Infant Mortality.

Neonatal deaths—12. Neonatal death rate per 1,000 live births—13.17.

Cause of death	First 24 hours of life	One day— One week	One week— One month—
Prematurity	1	—	—
Haemorrhagic Pneumonia	—	—	1
Multiple Congenital Abnormalities			
Incompatible with life	1	—	—
Intracranial Haemorrhage—			
Birth Injuries	—	—	1
Cerebro Vascular Lesion	—	—	1
Hydrocephalus	—	—	1
Prematurity Abnormality of Left Ear	—	1	—
Acute Broncho Pneumonia—			
Coarctation of the Aorta	—	1	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage— Forceps			
Extraction, Brow Presentation	1	—	—
Septicaemia—Broncho Pneumonia	—	1	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage— Birth Injury	1	—	—
Atelectasis—Prematurity	1	—	—
	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

Deaths during one month to one year of age—7.

Acute Tracheo Bronchitis	1
Aspiration of Food Material	1
Acute Infantile Gastroenteritis	1
Gastroenteritis, Pneumonia, Mongolian	1
Congestive Cardiac Failure, Congenital Heart Disease, Atrio-Ventricula Communis	1
Venous Sinus Thrombosis: Birth Trauma	1
Acute Bronchitis, Mongol Child	1

For comparison purposes I append below the Infant Mortality rate for the Borough for the last ten years :—

1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
20.86	36.75	26.95	37.92	38.93	28.31	34.21	22.78	19.4	29.06

### **Infant Mortality Rates.**

Total infant deaths (under 1 year) .....	19
Rate per 1,000 total live births .....	20.86
Legitimate infant deaths .....	19
Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	21.4
Illegitimate infant deaths .....	—
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	—

### **Neo-Natal Mortality Rate.**

Total neo-natal deaths (under 4 weeks) .....	12
Rate per 1,000 total live births .....	13.17

### **Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate.**

Total neo-natal deaths (under 1 week) .....	8
Rate per 1,000 total live births .....	8.78

### **Perinatal Mortality Rate.**

Total still-births and deaths under 1 week (combined) .....	28
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births .....	30.1

### **Maternal Mortality (including Abortion).**

Number of deaths .....	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births .....	1.1

### **Deaths (all Ages).**

The main causes of death in the Borough during 1961 were:—

1. Cardiovascular conditions .....	159
2. Cancers of various kinds .....	85
3. Vascular lesions of the nervous system .....	63
4. Respiratory diseases (excluding Tuberculosis and Cancer) .....	74
5. Accidents .....	20

There were 23 deaths due to cancer of the lung, 21 amongst males and 2 amongst females.

This compares with:—25 deaths (19 males, 6 females) in 1960.

Of the 159 deaths from cardiovascular conditions, 91 were attributed to coronary disease. 69 men and 22 women died of coronary disease. In the previous year there were 97 deaths from coronary disease, 62 being males and 35 being females.

GLAMORGAN (ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY)—VITAL STATISTICS, 1961.

	Estimated Population 1961	BIRTHS		DEATHS		INFANT MORTALITY		NEO-NATAL MORTALITY			
		Number of Births	Rate per 1,000 Population Crude Adjusted	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population Crude Adjusted	Deaths under 1 Year	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Deaths under 4 weeks	Rate per 1,000 Live Births		
England & Wales	804,120	17.4	—	551,783	12.0	—	17,211	21.4	—		
Administrative County	743,870	12,668	17.03	16.69	9,230	12.41	14.40	290	22.89	212	16.74
Urban Districts	522,460	8,830	16.90	16.56	6,581	12.60	14.62	203	22.99	150	16.99
Rural Districts	221,410	3,838	17.33	17.16	2,649	11.96	13.99	87	22.67	62	16.15
<b>HEALTH DIVISION.</b>											
<b>CONSTITUENT DISTRICTS.</b>											
<b>Aberdare and Mountain Ash—</b>											
Aberdare Urban	38,970	597	15.32	15.78	569	14.60	15.04	12	20.10	9	15.08
Mountain Ash Urban	29,550	475	16.07	15.91	342	11.57	14.00	7	14.74	4	8.42
<b>Caerphilly and Gelligaer—</b>											
Caerphilly Urban	35,930	709	19.73	18.74	414	11.52	15.09	23	32.44	15	21.16
Gelligaer Urban	34,770	634	18.23	18.78	396	11.39	14.35	20	31.55	17	26.81
<b>Mid-Glamorgan—</b>											
Bridgend Urban	14,890	260	17.46	16.59	182	12.22	13.20	7	26.92	5	19.23
Maesteg Urban	21,680	379	17.48	17.48	278	12.82	16.15	5	13.19	5	13.19
Ogmore & Garw Urban	20,980	388	18.49	18.49	249	11.87	14.36	5	12.89	5	12.89
Porthcawl Urban	10,890	174	15.98	15.82	151	13.87	12.90	6	34.48	5	28.74
Penybont Rural	41,450	828	19.98	19.98	545	13.15	14.07	22	26.57	16	19.32
<b>Neath and District—</b>											
Neath M.B.	30,520	457	14.97	13.92	392	12.84	14.25	7	15.32	3	6.56
Neath Rural	40,800	632	15.49	15.18	490	12.01	15.25	16	25.32	13	20.57
<b>Pontypridd and Llantrisant—</b>											
Llantrisant Rural	26,850	522	19.44	18.66	281	10.47	13.40	13	24.90	12	22.99
Pontypridd Urban	35,480	559	15.76	15.13	501	14.12	14.26	15	26.83	11	19.68
<b>Port Talbot and Glyncoerwg—</b>											
Glyncoerwg Urban	9,930	210	21.15	20.73	131	13.19	18.86	8	38.10	3	14.29
Port Talbot M.B.	50,020	911	18.21	17.30	509	10.18	13.44	19	20.86	12	13.17
<b>South East Glamorgan—</b>											
Barry M.B.	41,850	762	18.21	17.48	444	10.61	11.78	13	17.06	10	13.12
Cardiff Rural	49,000	848	17.31	16.62	582	11.88	12.47	13	15.33	8	9.43
Cowbridge M.B.	1,100	9	8.18	8.51	16	14.55	15.13	—	—	—	—
Cowbridge Rural	20,050	360	17.96	19.94	148	7.38	12.84	7	19.44	4	11.11
Penarth Urban	20,410	341	16.71	16.04	252	12.35	12.10	7	20.53	6	17.60
<b>West Glamorgan—</b>											
Gower Rural	12,520	224	17.89	18.78	198	15.81	14.55	6	26.79	4	17.86
Llwchwr Urban	24,890	369	14.83	15.13	317	12.74	14.91	7	18.97	5	13.55
Pontardawe Rural	30,740	424	13.79	13.93	405	13.18	14.37	10	23.58	5	11.79
<b>Rhondda—</b>											
Rhondda M.B.	100,600	1,596	15.86	15.54	1,438	14.29	16.58	42	26.32	35	21.93

Public Health Department, County Hall, Cardiff.

15th May, 1961.

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## CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS DURING 1961

as recorded by the Register General.

	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	2	1
2 Tuberculosis, other .....	—	—
3 Syphilitic disease .....	1	—
4 Diphtheria .....	—	—
5 Whooping Cough .....	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections .....	—	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis .....	—	—
8 Measles .....	1	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	2	—
10 Cancer of stomach .....	7	7
11 Cancer of lung .....	21	2
12 Cancer of breast .....	—	4
13 Cancer of uterus .....	—	5
14 Other forms of cancer .....	19	17
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .....	1	2
16 Diabetes .....	—	5
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	23	40
18 Coronary disease, angina .....	69	22
19 Hypertension with heart disease .....	2	5
20 Other heart disease .....	22	39
21 Other circulatory disease .....	13	21
22 Influenza .....	2	2
23 Pneumonia .....	17	17
24 Bronchitis .....	25	7
25 Other diseases of respiratory system .....	2	2
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	1	1
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	2	1
28 Nephritis and nephrosis .....	4	4
29 Hyperplasia of prostate .....	5	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	—	1
31 Congenital malformations .....	4	2
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	15	17
33 Motor vehicle accidents .....	4	1
34 All other accidents .....	6	9
35 Suicide .....	1	4
36 Homicide and operations of war .....	—	—



## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease during 1961 as compared with 1957, 1958, 1959 and 1960.

Disease	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Scarlet Fever	27	140	54	19	5
Whooping Cough	107	9	5	213	12
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1156	115	702	197	1210
Meningococcal Infection	3	3	1	—	1
Dysentery	4	—	—	11	9
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—
Peurperal Pyrexia	1	—	1	3	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid B.	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	3	—	5	1
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	2	1	—	1	6
Food Poisoning	3	2	4	4	1
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (infectious)	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	3	2

### Distribution by Wards.

	Margam West	Margam Central	Margam North	Aberavon South	Aberavon North	Aberavon East	Aberavon West	Cwmavon	TOTALS
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	5
Whooping Cough	—	3	1	—	2	1	4	1	12
Measles	134	102	81	148	150	187	383	25	1210
Dysentery	—	1	—	1	—	5	2	—	9
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	6
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Tuberculosis—									
Pulmonary	5	—	2	4	3	3	1	2	20
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

In 1961 8,002 people in the Division completed two injections, 3,781 people were given their third injections and 5,968 children received their fourth doses. The total number of administrations during the year was 26,409.

### Poliomyelitis.

Six cases of Poliomyelitis were notified during 1961.

During the last week in March two young children from the Sandfields Housing Estate were admitted to Hill House Isolation Hospital via Neath General Hospital as suspected cases of paralytic poliomyelitis. Although other children in each family had received protective vaccination, neither of these two had been protected.

During the period 20th to 27th May four more cases of paralytic poliomyelitis were admitted to Hill House Isolation Hospital.

An intensive investigation failed to elicit a direct contact between these cases or their relatives. Our efforts were therefore, turned to minimising as far as possible the danger of further infection. Disinfection in the homes was carried out where required and advice given to the relatives on the segregation of children and the avoidance as far as possible of crowded gatherings by the adults.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis was given to all eligible and consenting family contacts. Whilst it was noted that none of the cases themselves had been protected, several members of their families had received some if not complete protection. These readily presented themselves for the required injections.

Having dealt with the immediate families, attention was now directed to the end of making the vaccination available to the community at large. It should perhaps be pointed out that immediately prior to this outbreak vaccination by appointment was being carried out in centres throughout the Borough—on average between 900 and 1,000 per week being done.

During the last week in May, five extra open sessions were organised, the work being concentrated on those persons who had never yet been done. The response was excellent, the average attendance per session being in the region of 350 to 400. During this particular week, some 2,500 vaccinations over the normal weekly quota were carried out.

In order to meet the requests from members of the public unable to attend day time sessions, arrangements were made to hold evening sessions in Sandfields (Dew Road) and in the town centre (Taibach) during the week ended 10th June. These sessions were, of course, additional to the nine already arranged in the area. The figures for the total attendance for this week are given below:-

<i>Firsts</i>	<i>Seconds</i>	<i>Thirds</i>	<i>Fourths</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
1,106	563	161	216	2,046

Attendances at evening sessions (included in above figures):-

Dew Road: Wednesday, 7th June—164.

Friday, 9th June—205.

Taibach: Thursday, 8th June—218.

Total number of injections given in the period 24th April to 10th June inclusive—8,428.

To meet this demand members of my Divisional Medical and Health Visiting Staff gave unstintingly their time and effort and I would like to record my appreciation of their loyal and willing co-operation.

### **Tuberculosis—B.C.G. Vaccination.**

This valuable form of protection against tuberculosis was made available to a further age group of school leavers, this being the seventh year of the scheme.

The parents of 953 children agreed to the procedure and the children were given the preliminary skin test. Of this number 689 were found to need vaccination of which 682 submitted to and were duly vaccinated.

Those children who gave a positive reaction to the skin test were invited to the Chest Clinic where they were duly X-rayed. Four children were invited back for repeat X-ray after a period with satisfactory results.

### **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

During the period under review 2,386 children received their primary course of injections, 787 of these being born in 1960 and 1961. Some 2,379 older children were given their booster injections.

During recent years a certain apathy with particular reference to booster immunisations has manifested itself but this year the occurrence of an outbreak in the adjoining area of Neath stimulated a renewed interest. Believing in striking whilst the iron was hot, special clinics were arranged and the offer of booster injections made with renewed vigour. This stimulated a tremendous interest and this manifested itself mainly in the secondary schools.

### **Whooping Cough.**

12 children were notified as suffering from Whooping Cough during 1961. The number given protective injections amounted to 930.

### **Smallpox Vaccination.**

In spite of constant reminders from the staff, the numbers presenting themselves for smallpox vaccination was disappointing. Out of a total of 320 vaccinations, 250 were amongst children under the age of one year. This was the apathetic bill before the storm—a storm that will be described in detail in the 1962 report.

## Tuberculosis.

I append below particulars of the number of cases on the tuberculosis register at the beginning and at the end of the year, together with details of the notifications broken down into the various age groups.

### Number of Cases on Register on 1st January, 1961—481.

	Males	Females
Pulmonary .....	208	223
Non-Pulmonary .....	22	28
<hr/>		
Total .....	230	251

### Number of cases on Register on 31st December, 1961—434.

	Males	Females
Pulmonary .....	189	196
Non-Pulmonary .....	20	29
<hr/>		
Total .....	209	225

Number of New Notifications .....	22
No. of In-Transfers .....	7
Total .....	29
Number restored to Register .....	1
<hr/>	
Total .....	30

Number left district .....	8
Number died .....	7
Number recovered .....	60
Number removed from Register — Diagnosis not confirmed .....	0
Unable to trace Patient .....	2
<hr/>	
Total .....	77

## Removals.

Over the years, the list of names on the Tuberculosis Register had grown. A careful screening of patients' records would suggest that many can be considered to have reached a state of good recovery. In order therefore, to present more realistic details of the problem, your Medical Officer of Health maintains a very close liaison with the Chest Physicians serving the district. By close consultation, it has been possible over the past two years to remove

many recovered cases from the register. As this calls for careful screening and medical examination which necessitates appointments and visits to the Chest Clinic, it will be realised that much effort is involved. This year sixty patients screened were considered to have recovered and their names were removed from the active register.

Whilst this work is going on the ascertainment and search for hidden cases continues. From the chart below it will be seen that the new cases are being discovered amongst the older age groups. This is significant as these are usually highly mobile who can disseminate infection widely before being spotted.

**New Cases during 1961 (formally notified):—**

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year .....	—	—	—	—
Over 1 year and under 5 years .....	—	—	—	—
Over 5 years and under 10 years .....	—	—	—	—
Over 10 years and under 15 years .....	—	1	—	—
Over 15 years and under 20 years .....	1	1	—	—
Over 20 years and under 25 years .....	—	1	—	—
Over 25 years and under 35 years .....	—	—	—	2
Over 35 years and under 45 years .....	3	1	—	—
Over 45 years and under 55 years .....	5	1	—	—
Over 55 years and under 65 years .....	1	1	1	—
Over 65 years .....	2	1	—	—
Totals .....	12	7	1	2

**Cases not formally notified**

(taken from local Registrar's returns):—

	Pulmonary
Over 65 years .....	M. 1 (died)

**Disinfection.**

This is done in three different ways depending on the condition and type of infection dealt with.

1. Local disinfection in the sick room.
  2. Disinfection by formalin.
- and 3. Disinfection at the Steam Disinfector at Groeswen Isolation Hospital by arrangement with the Hospital Authority.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT.

As, in addition to being your Medical Officer of Health, I hold the appointment of Divisional Medical Officer for the Port Talbot and Glyncorwg Health Division, I am in the fortunate position of administering the day to day activities of the Divisional personnel. For the information of Council, I give below statistical details of the work carried out in the various fields of endeavour in the Division.

These statistics, of course, refer to the whole division and therefore include Glyncorwg Urban District and part of Neath Rural District in addition to the Borough of Port Talbot.

### Domiciliary Midwifery Service.

Total domiciliary confinements .....	401
Doctor present .....	30
Gas and Air given .....	301
Pethidine given .....	226
Trilene given .....	166

### Domiciliary Nursing Service.

Total number of patients .....	1,501
Types of cases :	
Medical .....	1,062
Surgical .....	356
Infectious Diseases .....	2
Tuberculosis .....	62
Maternal Complications .....	19
Total number of visits .....	42,248

### Medical Comforts.

Total Issues .....	501
Greatest demand:	
Air Rings .....	65
Bed Pans .....	83
Bed Rests .....	62
Rubber Sheets .....	86
Male Urinals .....	48
Invalid Chairs .....	38

### Home Help Service.

Total Part-Time and Casual Helps .....	57	
Types of cases attended:		
Maternity .....	12	
Tuberculosis .....	2	
Chronic Sick (Including Aged and Infirm) .....	274	
Other .....	28	
Total .....	316	
Costs Charged :		
	No.	%
Full Cost .....	41	13
Part Cost .....	87	28
Free .....	188	59

### Clinic Services.

#### Ante-Natal and Post Natal Clinics.

Total New Ante-Natal Cases .....	1,092
Total New Post-Natal Cases .....	84
Total Attendances .....	6,263

#### Infant Welfare Clinics.

No. of Attendances during year:	
of Children under one year .....	14,587
of Children over one year but under two years .....	3,038
of Children over two years but under five years .....	3,113
Total .....	20,738

#### Health Visitors.

Visits to expectant mothers .....	851
Visits to children under one year .....	5,735
Visits to children over one year but under two years .....	3,312
Visits to children over two years but under five years .....	7,336
Visits to tuberculous households .....	1,309
Visits to other cases .....	1,751
Total .....	20,294

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

### Removal of Persons in need of Care and Attention.

Although some four borderline cases were brought to my attention, it did not become necessary to institute Statutory Action under the National Assistance Act during 1961.

### HOUSING.

During 1961, 339 permanent houses were completed of which 223 were built by the Council and 116 by other bodies or persons.

In order that easy comparison may be made I give below the figures for the past ten years in tabulated form.

Year.	Houses Completed by Local Authority.	Houses Completed by others.	Total
1961	223	116	339
1960	210	103	313
1959	256	63	319
1958	156	35	191
1957	454	48	502
1956	287	66	353
1955	420	63	483
1954	642	55	697
1953	630	32	662
1952	575	—	575

The waiting list for re-housing by the Local Authority remains high. At the end of 1961 the Housing Manager states that 1,700 names remained on his file.

This compares with the waiting list for previous years thus:—

December 31st, 1960	1,760
" " 1959	1,550
" " 1958	1,865
" " 1957	1,695
" " 1956	1,834
" " 1955	1,699
" " 1954	1,540
" " 1953	1,650
" " 1952	1,340
" " 1951	1,732
" " 1950	1,940



I give below a table that gives an indication of some of the special categories of applicants where re-housing was effected during the period under review.

Families suffering from or exposed to Tuberculosis .....	3
Families from Condemned Houses .....	46
Families from overcrowded houses .....	3
Key Workers in Industry .....	7

The re-housing from Squatters' Camps was completed last year.

#### **Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding.**

No cases of statutory overcrowding within the meaning of the Act were brought to the notice of the Department during the period under review.

#### **WATER SUPPLIES.**

I summarise below a list of the sources of water brought into use during 1961.

##### (a) Permanent Supplies.

Cwmwernderi	—	50,000,000	galls/capacity.
Cwmgwineu	—	138,000	galls/capacity.
Ynysygwas	—	6,000,000	galls/capacity.
Cwm Varteg	—	30,000	Bryn only.
Parc-y-Bryn	—	1,700	Bryn only.
Cwmwernderi Intake	—	2,000	
Neath R.D.C.			
Cwm Philip Abst.			

##### (b) Temporary Auxiliary Supplies.

Glenhafod Colliery.  
Pwlllyglaw.  
Borehole.  
Ffrwdwyllt.

The temporary supplies were brought into supply as follows:-

Pwlllyglaw	—	10th March to 8th April.
	—	18th May to 5th Sept.
Glenhafod	—	20th May to 10th Sept.
Ffrwdwyllt	—	20th May to 10th Sept.

The Borehole supply was unfortunately not available to us during the whole of the period under review due to a major breakdown of the electric pumping motor.

The average daily intake (in gallons) into the mains was as follows:—

Cwmwernderi	—	700,000
Cwmgwineu	—	500,000
Ynysyguas	—	500,000
Pwlllyglaw	—	450,000
Glenhafod	—	300,000
Ffrwdwyllt	—	220,000

The Borough Engineer informs me that the average daily supply for industry amounts to 1,300,000 gallons.

Regular sampling for bacteriological and chemical purity is undertaken by the department and details of the samples taken are given by the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Month	Rainfall in inches Town Centre	State of Reservoirs		Restriction Districts (if any)
		Cwmwernderi	Ynysyguas	
January	6.38	O.F.	O.F.	—
February	3.50	O.F.	Down 2'1"	—
March	.20	Down 3'2"	Down 7'0"	—
April	6.17	O.F.	O.F.	—
May	1.60	Down 4"	Down 2'4"	—
June	1.57	Down 5'3"	Down 10'5"	—
July	1.81	Down 18'10"	Down 14'9"	—
August	4.47	Down 7'10"	Down 12'0"	—
September	1.86	O.F.	Down 3'7"	—
October	7.85	O.F.	Down 3'10"	—
November	5.41	Down 5"	Down 10'8"	—
December	2.90	Down 4"	Down 11'1"	—

### REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Travellers approaching Port Talbot from the west are impressed with the tremendous development taking place in the Baglan area. On the left the active housing programme in the Baglan Hall Grounds, on the right the Evans Bevan Playing Fields, with carefully tended playing pitches and pavilion. It is difficult to recall that only a short time ago this land was low-lying, boggy and unproductive. The Corporation's policy of tipping and covering on this type of land has produced high dividends—easy on the eye and readily appreciated by those who use and those who pass by.

In former days refuse was made up mainly of ashes with a sprinkling of tins and bottles. Today modern trends of heating and food packaging has reduced the ash content and increased the soft paper and carton content of the refuse received on the tips. This of course, presents its own problems, not the least of which is

adequate compaction. The need for adequate coverage is also apparent particularly when high winds affect the sites.

As long as the residents resist the Cleansing Department's efforts towards the establishment of a proper dustbin for every household, I cannot report that the collection arrangements are satisfactory in Port Talbot, and the Department's operatives who find themselves called upon to lift old tin baths, rusty paint drums, ancient buckets and cardboard boxes agree with me. It is felt that this feature of the work would merit corrective action.

### **SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**

As this matter has received fairly exhaustive consideration in the last year or two, an outline of the general arrangements for sewage disposal is not included in the Report on this occasion. I would however, like to draw attention to the arrangements for the disposal of sewage for that part of Aberavon to the west of the River Afan and the Sandfields Estate.

All the sewage from these areas is discharged from a number of outfalls into the tidal reaches of the river. The residential population in the area amounts to well over fifteen thousand persons. The amounts of urine and faeces discharged into the river daily are therefore quite considerable. At the moment, this is carried out into the bay by river and tide action. The amount that is deposited on the beach largely depends on the degree of dispersal and the direction of wind and currents.

This is a problem that is becoming increasingly more serious particularly as Council is making such progress in developing Aberavon Beach as a seaside resort. The discovery of certain offensive objects and matter on the tideline can quickly undo all the good work being attempted by the Publicity and Entertainment Department.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936**

#### **PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.**

In accordance with Ministerial requirements, I have to report on the Public Swimming Baths provisions being made by the Corporation.

At present the Public Swimming Baths are situated in Forge Road. The Bath, of some 56,000 gallons capacity, sixty feet long and forty feet wide and ranging in depth from three feet at the shallow end to seven feet at the deep end, is of the indoor type and is tiled in white.

\* Continuous filtration and chlorination to a concentration of 2.0 parts per million is maintained whilst the baths are in use, the temperature of the bath water being raised to some 80° fahrenheit. The water change-over of 14,000 gallons per hour ensures a four hourly change for the complete bath. Water comes in at the shallow end ensuring a satisfactory state of chlorination at the most thickly populated region and is drawn off at the deep end.

Two urinals and water closets opening off the main bath house serve male users whilst females have toilet arrangements adjoining the female changing rooms.

From the statistics given below it will be seen that good use is made of the auxiliary slipper baths adjoining, of which three are available to the public.

#### Public Baths Attendances, 1961.

Admission tickets @ 8d. ....	17,513
Admission tickets @ 4d. ....	10,925
Club Members .....	5,356
Hot Baths @ 9d. ....	1,200
Hot Baths @ 6d. ....	43
Towels .....	1,114
School Classes .....	860
Police .....	5

During the periods the Baths were available to the public bacteriological samples to the number of eleven were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory with satisfactory results.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION.

##### Education.

The following information has been provided by Mr. Eben Jones, the Divisional Education Officer :—

1. Average number of pupils attending primary and secondary schools in the Borough during 1961 ..... 8322
2. Daily average number of pupils receiving school meals during 1961 ..... 2534
3. Daily average number of pupils receiving milk in school during 1961 ..... 6578

## Children's Department.

Miss Beti Jones, the Glamorgan County Council Children's Officer has kindly supplied the following details:—

1. Number of children admitted to Children's Homes in 1961 .....	24
2. Number of children admitted to Approved Schools in 1961 .....	4

## Juvenile Court.

Mr. P. H. R. Thomas, the Clerk to the Court, states that 324 children between the ages of eight and seventeen years were brought before the Juvenile Court during 1961.

## Welfare Services. Part III—Accommodation.

Seven males and four females from Port Talbot were admitted to County Council Hostels during 1961.

## Employment of Disabled Persons.

	Males.	Females.
Number Registered Disabled in December, 1961 .....	919	72
Number Registered Disabled placed in Employment in 1961 .....	214	11
Number Registered Disabled wholly Unemployed in December, 1961 .....	81	8

I append below details of the unemployment figures for Port Talbot for the past ten years:—

	Males.	Females.
December, 1952 .....	76	61
„ 1953 .....	80	30
„ 1954 .....	77	39
„ 1955 .....	60	41
„ 1956 .....	89	43
„ 1957 .....	87	51
„ 1958 .....	230	123
„ 1959 .....	225	70
„ 1960 .....	188	70
„ 1961 .....	276	137

In June 1961, the number of persons wholly employed in the Borough was 29,576 males and 4,904 females. This is the total figure as kindly supplied by Mr. K. Johns, the Manager of the local office of the Ministry of Labour. It is of course, realised that these figures include workers whose homes are outside the Borough Boundaries.

### **Industrial Medical and Amenity Services.**

To illustrate the extent of the Industrial medical and amenity services provided by our major industrial concern, the Steel Company of Wales (Steel Division), the annual statistical details kindly provided by Mr. R. V. Tovey, Secretary and Chief Accountant of the company, are given. It is of particular interest to note the expansion that is going on apace.

#### **1. Strength of Labour Employed (end December, 1961).**

Works Operatives .....	13,417
Works Staff .....	2,399
General Office Staff .....	1,039
Monthly Paid Staff .....	685
	<hr/>
	17,540
	<hr/>

#### **2. Percentage of Registered Disabled Persons.**

3.39% at end of December, 1961.

#### **3. Canteen Services—**

The Main Canteen at Abbey and the Margam Canteen are for staff only and operate for lunch from 12.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. and again for teas from 5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. These canteens also provide a trolley service for morning coffee and tea in the afternoon.

There are ten canteens serving operatives on a platter meal service which operates at breakfast and lunch in ten different departments with provision for late teas in three departments.

In two canteens we are operating a "drug store" type service which is basically, a kitchen-to-counter arrangement, in one of these locations we provide a 24-hour 7 day week service, the other operates for breakfast and lunch.

In addition to these services there are automatic vending machines which dispense a variety of snacks of particular benefit to night shift workers. An Automatic Vending Machine Company is in addition operating machines dispensing cigarettes, sweets, milk and hot and cold beverages.

#### 4. Welfare Activities—

The Sports and Social Club continues to be subsidised by the Company and provides the following facilities:—

(a) There are 28½ acres of grounds laid out so as to provide—

One 9 Hole Short Golf Course;

Four Tennis Courts;

One Bowling Green;

An 18 Hole Putting Green;

Two Cricket Squares and 3 Temporary Wickets.

These provide facilities for the Summer Games and are used extensively. In addition, there are arrangements for the conduct of motor Rallies and sailing "Enterprise" dinghies in Port Talbot Harbour.

(b) Winter Sports consist of Rugby Football, Association Football and Hockey (Men and Women) for which there are five pitches.

(c) Internally, the Club has Changing Rooms, Lounges with bar facilities. Provision is made for the playing of Darts, Badminton, Table Tennis, Snooker and Billiards. At the moment the subscription is 3d. per week for employees of the Company.

(d) In addition to the Bars, there is also a catering service operating whereby members can have either snacks or full meals at practically any time.

Two Industrial Chaplains are working in the plant with the support of the Church of England in Wales and the Free Churches.

**BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT**

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Chief Public Health Inspector

For the Year ended 31st December,

1961





## BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Port Talbot.

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Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the Year 1961. This is the twenty-seventh of a series of such Reports that I have had the pleasure to provide upon the work of your Chief Public Health Inspector's Department. I also realise that it is my last Annual Report after a period of time in your service of approximately 41 years.

Our sanitation problems today are many and often complex, but I venture to think that our tasks are rarely, if ever, so appalling in scope as those that we faced with not a little courage and certainly much determination in the early twenties. Nevertheless, such a period was rich and rewarding and provided a fascinating experience.

Handing over to a very capable successor, whose promotion gives me much satisfaction, I cannot but recall my own first impressions early in 1922 of the amalgamated areas of Aberavon Borough, Margam U.D.C., and parts of Neath R.D.C., which had just become known by the contentious and, at the time, highly controversial name of the Borough of Port Talbot. Over such a period of years, reminiscences crowd into one's mind. It is good, therefore, that Annual Reports should continue to be submitted to Council and retained as a record of the living and environmental conditions experienced in the earlier years and the remarkable progress achieved during such periods in the realm of environmental hygiene in an area where so many progressive changes are now being experienced and appreciated.

In the earlier days an enthusiastic pioneering spirit was not enough; one had to be tough and courageous for in any attempts towards reform one experienced very pronounced opposition from vested interests, and this was often discovered in unexpected places. However, one is very happy to relinquish office feeling that the ugly and degrading housing conditions of the past have been eliminated. The many foul and insanitary conditions and other environmental blots in the social and living conditions of our Borough have been removed. Our people are now protected from the dangers of the consumption of diseased and tubercular meat and milk, the sale of which was shockingly common and disturbed me very much when I commenced duties. Having regard to the sordid housing conditions, the sale of tubercular meat and again the sale of tuberculous milk, it was not surprising that so many of our local people suffered and died from tuberculosis in the twenties and early thirties.

Unfortunately, in the excitement of having new fields to conquer, most of this good work tends to be forgotten or taken for granted. It is, nevertheless, satisfying at the close of such a long period of public office to receive so many messages of good will from so many citizens of this Borough. It gives me reason to believe that I have at least earned the gratitude of the community which I have honestly and faithfully served.

It is pleasing to record that over the years I have been faithfully supported and assisted by a very loyal staff, which has always given of its best, often under difficult circumstances. I leave the members of my staff with a deep sense of gratitude and appreciation knowing that they are well equipped to serve with credit the best interests of the Community.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. A. MORGAN,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Report of Mr. G. A. Morgan, Chief Public Health Inspector  
and Inspector under the Factories and Housing Acts, etc.

**GENERAL INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.**

Housing Inspections and re-inspections .....	4249
Structural defects .....	1843
Drains, Yards, W.C's etc. ....	2657
Common Lodging Houses .....	33
Amusement Houses and Cinemas, etc. ....	104
Verminous Premises .....	319
Dirty Conditions .....	372
Accumulations .....	194
Ash Pits, Privies and Cesspools .....	37
Tents, Vans, sheds and caravans .....	43
Dairies and milk shops .....	101
Food premises, kitchens and food vehicles .....	2314
Houses let in lodgings, tenements, etc. ....	61
Offensives trades .....	73
Factories .....	493
Fish Friers .....	46
Ice-cream .....	344
Bakehouses .....	97
Want of cleanliness .....	11
Overcrowding .....	2
Drainage of floors .....	6
Insufficient sanitary accommodation .....	5
Need of Separate Sanitary Accommodation for Sexes .....	2
Schools .....	84
Pig-styes and Swine Keeping .....	77
Stables, Refuse and Manure .....	21
Rats and Mice .....	7015
Smoke Nuisances .....	401
Animals improperly kept .....	18
Meat inspections and other food .....	2302
Slaughterhouses .....	745
Water supplies .....	397
Water Sampling (a) Bacteriological .....	314
(b) Chemical .....	15
Food and Drugs Sampling .....	308
Milk Sampling .....	65

Interviews with owners, etc. ....	1908
Atmospheric pollution checks .....	63
Court Cases .....	4
Infectious Diseases .....	21
Re-visits to shops .....	148
Offices .....	359
Tenements .....	61
Overcrowding dwellings .....	15
Farms .....	32
Community Centres .....	3
Ice-Cream sampling .....	6
Smoke observations .....	16
Mobile Shops .....	143
Shops .....	147
Hospitals .....	16
Hotels and Public Houses .....	183
Disinfestation .....	293
Noise Nuisances .....	24
Insects, Pests .....	152
Oil Pollution on foreshore .....	31
Other nuisances .....	103
	<hr/>
Total .....	28,896
	<hr/> <hr/>

### HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

Number of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts .....	931
Number of visits of inspection in respect of same.....	3614
Number of houses found unfit for human habitation	122
Number of houses found not in all respects to be reasonably fit for human habitation .....	353
Number of houses rendered fit after service of Notices .....	476

Some of the houses found not in all respects fit for human habitation in the latter part of 1961 would not be rendered fit until sometime in 1962, whereas some of the houses rendered fit in 1961 followed Notices served in the latter part of 1960.

The number of nuisances discovered, together with the number of Notices served during the year were as follows:—

Nature of Inspection	Nuisances discovered	Informal Notices served	Abatement Notices served
Structural defects	201	201	79
Drains, Yards, W.C's, etc.	249	249	147
Dirty Conditions	37	37	6
Pig-Styes and Swine keeping	16	16	2
Water Supplies	34	34	18
Food Premises	29	29	—
Atmospheric Pollution	8	8	—
Rats and Mice	14	14	—
Accumulations	24	24	2
Verminous infestations	27	27	—
Overcrowding—Housing Act	4	4	—
Factories	27	27	—
Tenements	19	19	3
Dairies	3	3	—
Stables, Manure and Refuse	5	5	1
Animals improperly kept	14	14	1
Mobile Shops	30	30	—
Shops and Offices	21	21	6
Tents, Vans and Sheds	16	16	—
Noise Nuisances	1	1	—
Offensive trades	1	1	—
Cinemas	3	3	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>275</b>

The nature of the work carried out to abate the various nuisances and contraventions was as follows:—

### Houses :

Walls repointed 8; Walls repaired 12; Outside plastering repaired 24; Inside plastering repaired 86; Floors renewed/repared 61; Floors ventilated 18; Roofs renewed/repared 149; Chutes, downpipes or gutters renewed/repared 105; Chimneys repaired 41; Ceilings repaired 18; Doors and frames repaired 36; Lighting and ventilation of rooms improved 7; Window sashes or frames renewed/repared 48; Window cords renewed 53; Staircases repaired 8; Grates or ovens repaired/renewed 17; Boilers provided or repaired 3; Food stores repaired or improved 6; Outbuildings repaired 11; Walls or ceilings cleansed or dedecorated 18; Yards repaired or relaid 24; Yard gates or frames renewed/repared 16; Skirting boards renewed/repared 61; Dampness remedied 46.

### Drainage :

Drains tested, smoke and chemical 49; Drains relaid 41; drains repaired 74; Intercepting traps fixed 3; Gullies fixed 12; Urinals provided 6; New W.C. pans provided 4; Drains cleansed 103; Inspection or intercepting chambers provided or repaired 18; Soil pipes or ventilation shafts fixed or repaired 24; Sinks trapped or waste pipes repaired 17; New W.C's provided 4; New sinks provided 3.

### Toilets, Fittings, etc.:

Additional toilets provided 14; Toilets reconstructed or repaired 26; Lighting and ventilation improved 3; New pans fixed 33; Toilets cleansed 16; New flushing apparatus provided 12; Flushing apparatus repaired 28; Toilet seats provided or repaired 16; Miscellaneous repairs 32; Flush pipes repaired 3.

### Ashpits, Privies and Cesspools:

Septic tanks repaired and made good 3; Cesspools emptied 4; New Cesspools constructed 2; Refuse dump rendered innocuous and covered 1; Accumulations removed 55;

### Verminous and dirty houses:

	<i>Bed Bugs.</i>	<i>Fleas.</i>	<i>Cock- roaches.</i>	<i>Earwigs.</i>	<i>Ants.</i>
Houses infested .....	49	15	13	9	34
Disinfestation by occupier .....	30	9	13	9	34
Disinfestation by Local Authority	19	6	—	—	—

### Tents, Vans and Sheds :

Removed 11; Caravans removed from unauthorised sites 8; Structures demolished 2.

### Pigstyes and Swine Keeping :

Pig keeping discontinued 23; New styes constructed 4; Drainage of styes improved 3; Cesspools cleaned or reconstructed 2; Accumulations removed 6; Pig Styes cleansed and limewashed 6; Nuisances from boiling of offal abated 3.

### Stables, Refuse and Manure:

Stable cleansed limewashed and drained 1; Accumulations removed 4.

### Rats and Mice :

Infestations removed 1182; Rat and Mice proofing carried out 7; Premises baited—dwelling houses 709; Council premises 29; Business premises 67; Agricultural premises 60.

### Cinemas:

Cleansed or redecorated 3; W.C's repaired 2; Walls replastered 3; Ceilings plastered 1.

### Food Vehicles :

Warnings issued in 30 cases complied with. Names and addresses provided on vans 3; Clean head covering provided 2.

### Food Shops, Kitchens, etc. :

Rooms redecorated 19; Cleanliness improved 12; Washing facilities provided 9; Kitchens reconstructed 2; Toilets improved 2; Food store reconstructed 2; Floors repaired 4; Wallplaster repaired 4; Provision of Nail rushes 4; Provision of dustbins 4.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

An important part of the duties of your Public Health Inspectors is the inspection of meat at the Public Abattoir. Here the Inspector is on duty before slaughtering commences and does not leave the premises until slaughtering has discontinued. The methods and criteria of meat inspection recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are strictly complied with. The quantity of disease and unsound meat condemned at the Abattoir during the year, was as follows:—

### Bulls, Bullocks and Heifers.

#### TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Lungs .....	1	Mesenteries and Intestines .....	1
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#### DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

1 Part Leg	—	Bruising.	
Heads and Tongues	—	2 Fibrosis; 1 Pyaemia.	
Lungs	—	137 Pleurisy; 10 Cysts; 3 Abscess; 36 Congested; 15 Pneumonia.	
Part Livers	—	149 Distomatosis; 11 Cirrhosis.	
Spleens	—	11 Peritonitis.	
Livers	—	56 Distomatosis; 19 Abscess; 1 Peri- tonitis; 5 Cirrhosis; 5 Angioniata; 5 Cysts; 6 Necrosis.	
Kidneys	—	4 Nephritis.	
Skirts	—	7 Pleurisy; 1 C. Bovis.	
Omentum and Stomach	—	10 C. Bovis; 1 Peritonitis.	
Mesenteries and Intestines	—	10 C. Bovis; 1 Peritonitis.	
Hearts	—	5 Pericarditis; 3 C. Bovis.	

### Calves.

#### DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

1 Liver	—	Necrosis.	
1 Lung	—	Abscess.	
1 Heart	—	Abscess.	
Kidneys	—	2 Abscess; 2 Degenerated.	

### Cows.

#### DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

Carcase and all organs	—	Septic Metritis.	
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## Pigs.

### TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

2 Fores	—	1 Flank.
2 Lungs	—	1 Liver.
1 Heart	—	6 Stomachs and Intestines.
60 Heads and tongues.		

### DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

Head and Tongue	—	1 Abscess; 1 Medicinal Odour.
Fores	—	1 Fractured; 1 Bruising.
Fore Leg	—	1 Arthritis.
Lungs	—	300 Congested; 336 Pneumonia; 34 Pleurisy.
Livers	—	140 Cirrhosis; 26 Peritonitis; 29 Necrosis; 10 Cysts; 1 Degenerated.
Hearts	—	54 Pericarditis.
Kidneys	—	48 Nephritis; 4 Cysts.
Spleen	—	9 Peritonitis.
Stomachs and Intestines	—	24 Peritonitis.

## Sheep.

1 Dead on arrival	—	8 Dropsy and Emaciation.
1 Bruising	—	1 Fevered.
1 Pleurisy and dropsy	—	1 Fevered.
1 Dead in lairage	—	1 Immature.
Legs	—	2 Abscess; 1 Bruising.
Shoulder	—	1 Bruising.
Lungs	—	193 Strongyli; 194 Congested; 6 Cysts; 193 Pneumonia; 21 Pleurisy; 248 Parasitic.
Livers	—	70 Distomatosis; 454 Parasitic; 13 Peritonitis; 74 Cysts; 2 Abscess; 10 Degenerated; 1 Cirrhosis.
Hearts	—	11 Pericarditis; 6 Parasitic; 7 Systs.
Kidneys	—	1 Nephritis; 2 Fat Necrosis; 2 Degenerated.
Messenteries and Intestines	—	1 Cyst.



The percentage figures for the various diseases over a period of 14 years are as follows:—

### Tuberculosis.

Year.	Cattle excluding			Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
	Cows.	Cows.	Calves.		
1948	4.13	29.2	.066	—	4.8
1949	12.86	29.5	.109	—	6.8
1950	11.2	24.4	.026	—	5.2
1951	8.63	30.6	.036	—	12.8
1952	7.41	20.57	.051	—	13.17
1953	7.98	15.74	.074	—	7.53
1954	4.63	9.14	.08	—	5.26
1955	7.79	8.21	—	—	3.64
1956	7.55	8.93	—	—	3.11
1957	3.53	16.66	.25	—	1.24
1958	6.22	20.0	—	—	2.36
1959	16.25	—	—	—	2.4
1960	.67	—	—	—	1.82
1961	.093	—	—	—	2.81

### Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

Year.	Cattle excluding			Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
	Cows.	Cows.	Calves.		
1948	39.5	62.8	.84	37.4	24.7
1949	48.0	56.8	1.34	41.36	34.5
1950	57.1	66.1	3.6	45.1	43.4
1951	58.19	62.2	5.5	50.0	53.99
1952	64.71	76.04	7.05	46.8	52.5
1953	53.0	63.3	5.26	43.75	50.3
1954	53.1	68.57	5.66	32.04	53.32
1955	40.2	80.67	6.6	18.24	26.25
1956	54.16	69.64	3.22	18.3	7.7
1957	48.82	84.72	3.51	19.88	27.04
1958	48.22	53.33	1.70	28.11	31.73
1959	50.7	50.0	2.0	21.3	27.6
1960	43.19	50.0	1.86	12.9	28.02
1961	32.92	40.0	.79	14.6	35.57

### Bovine Cysticercosis.

Year	CATTLE OTHER THAN COWS.			Cows.		
	Examined	Affected	Percentage	Examined	Affected	Percentage
1950	2003	64	3.19	1078	43	3.99
1951	2629	66	2.51	677	8	1.19
1952	2171	75	3.45	409	10	2.24
1953	1991	38	1.91	578	6	1.03
1954	2590	33	1.27	525	4	0.76
1955	2015	20	0.99	207	4	1.93
1956	1549	18	1.17	56	1	1.78
1957	1415	19	1.34	72	—	—
1958	1012	23	2.27	15	—	—
1959	785	11	1.4	2	—	—
1960	889	11	1.23	2	—	—
1961	1069	10	.93	5	—	—

**UN SOUND OR UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED  
OR SURRENDERED FROM FOOD PREMISES  
THROUGHOUT THE BOROUGH DURING THE YEAR :**

The details of foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered during the year would appear to be formidable. We have found during our visits to food stores that unsound food was segregated and stocked in various parts of such premises, and we were informed that it was being kept on one side for inspection by the Firm's Inspectors. Such a practice could lead to all sorts of abuses and in particular the food could, in error, be sold for consumption. I have, therefore, arranged that all firms may call in the Public Health Inspector for expert advice to ensure that no doubtful commodity is offered to the public for human consumption. All foods that are accordingly condemned are surrendered to us and Certificates are issued so that the retailer can obtain credit (by production of such a Certificate) and his stocks can be properly checked by his firm on production of such a Certificate. There were no cases during the year where powers of seizure were used.

During the year, a few complaints were received of foreign matter in foodstuffs; the incidents were fully investigated and, in each case, the facts were reported to Council who decided that warnings should be issued.

The food condemned or surrendered during the year was as follows:—

**Tinned Meat.**

*Cooked Ham*—2 x 14 lb. 10 ozs.; 41 x 13 lb. 4 ozs.; 8 x 12 lb. 5 ozs.; 7 x 11 lb. 13 ozs.; 4 x 10 lb. 9 ozs.; 9 x 9 lb. 15 ozs.; 30 x 8 lb. 8 ozs.; 1 x 6 lb.; 7 x 3 lb.; 2 x 2 lb.; 4 x 12 ozs.; 17 x 17 ozs.; 48 lb. *cooked fores*; 13 lb. *raw ham*. *Corned Beef*—1 x 15 lb.; 1 x 7 lb.; 23 x 6 lb.; 1 x 4 lb.; 6 x 3 lb. 6 ozs.; 1 x 16 ozs.; 13 x 12 ozs.; 1 x 8 ozs.; 13 x 7 ozs.; 2 x 6 ozs. *Chopped Pork*—1 x 18 lb.; 1 x 11 lb. 14 ozs.; 1 x 13 lb. 5 ozs.; 2 x 8 lb. 7 ozs.; 13 x 2 lb.; 7 x 4 lb.; 9 x 12 ozs.; 13 x 8 ozs.; 3 x 4 lb. *Pork Shoulder*—28 lb. raw pork. *Stewed Steak*—69 x 16 ozs.; 4 x 10 ozs.; 8 x 8 ozs. *Steak and Kidney Pie*—2 x 8 ozs. *Tongue*—1 x 6 lb.; 2 x 4 lb.; 1 x 16 ozs.; 2 x 12 ozs.; 1 x 6 ozs. *Luncheon Meat*—1 x 6 lb.; 4 x 4 lb.; 1 x 2 lb.; 9 x 12 ozs.; 22 x 7 ozs.; 6 x 6 ozs. *Beef*—248 lb. *Jellied Veal*—3 x 6 lb. *Sausage Meat*—41 lb. *Chickens*—14 x 3 lb 4 ozs.; 5 x 3 lb.; 12 x 2 lb. 14 ozs.; 102 x 24 ozs. *Brawn*—3 x 12 ozs. *Ham and Chicken*—1 x 12 ozs. *Spam*—2 x 12 ozs. *Chicken Fillets*—1 x 4 ozs.

**Tinned Fruit.**

*Pears*—5 x 2 lb. 8 ozs.; 17 x 1 lb. 13 ozs.; 6 x 16 ozs.; *Peaches*—2 x 2 lb. 13 ozs.; 51 x 2 lb. 8 ozs.; 3 x 2 lb.; 23 x 1 lb. 15 ozs.; 61 x 16 ozs.; 6 x 8 ozs. *Fruit Salad*—1 x 7 ozs. 1 x 2 lb.; 5 x 1 lb. 4 ozs.; 9 x 16 ozs.; 1 x 14 ozs.; 1 x 8 ozs. *Oranges*—95 x 11 ozs.; 4 x 10 ozs.; 11 x 5½ ozs. *Apricots*—8 x 2 lb. 8 ozs.; 28 x 16 ozs.; 6 x 15 ozs. *Strawberries*—6 x 16 ozs.; 1 x 1 lb. 13 ozs.; 2 x 15 ozs.; 3 x 10 ozs. *Raspberries*—2 x 16 ozs. *Rhubarb*—1 x 11 lb. 3 ozs. *Grapefruit*—39 x 1 lb. 4 ozs.; 15 x 18 ozs.; 11 x 12 ozs.; 8 x 11 ozs.; 30 x 8 ozs. *Pineapple*—4 x 2 lb. 8ozs.; 14 x 1 lb. 4 ozs.; 76 x 16 ozs.; 8 x 12 ozs.; 1 x 10 ozs. *Loganberries*—1 x 9½ ozs.; 52 x 8 ozs. *Prunes*—2 x 16 ozs.; 28 x 8 ozs. *Plums*—3 x 16 ozs. *Damsons*—1 x 16 ozs.

### **Tinned Vegetables.**

*Tomatoes*—11 x 2 lb. 8 ozs.; 55 x 16 ozs.; 38 x 14 ozs.; 41 x 8 ozs.  
*Beans*—12 x 16 ozs.; 6 x 12 ozs.; 2 x 10 ozs.; 6 x 8 ozs. *Peas*—21 x 1 lb.  
3 ozs.; 25 x 16 ozs.; 10 x 10 ozs.; 2 x 8 ozs.; 1 x 5 ozs. *Spaghetti*  
*Bolognaise*—1 x 16 ozs.; 8 x 8 ozs. *Mixed Vegetables*—1 x 16 ozs.  
*Carrots*—1 x 1 lb. 14 ozs.

### **Tinned Fish.**

*Salmon*—1 x 16 ozs.; 7 x 8 ozs.; 12 x 7½ ozs.; 1 x 4 ozs. *Shrimps*—1 x  
3½ ozs. *Crab*—4 x 4 ozs. *Brisling*—1 x 3½ ozs. *Kippers*—1 x 8 ozs.; 1 x  
4 ozs. *Pilchards*—2 x 16 ozs.; 3 x 7 ozs. *Tuna Fish*—1 x 8 ozs. *Herrings*—  
3 x 16 ozs.

### **Tinned Milk.**

*Condensed Milk*—3 x 1¼ pints. *Evaporated Milk*—2 x 15 ozs.; 7 x 8 ozs.;  
4 x 6 ozs.

### **Miscellaneous.**

*Devon Cream*—6 x 6 ozs.; 5 x 5 ozs.; 2 x 4 ozs. *Sago Pudding*—1 x 16 ozs.  
*Fish Paste*—1 x 2¼ ozs. *Soups*—27 x 15 ozs.; 2 x 10 ozs.; 5 x 8 ozs. *Jam*—  
9 x 2 lb.; 1 x 16 ozs. *Marmalade*—1 x 2 lb. *Icing Powder*—12 x 8 ozs.  
*Shredded Wheat*—1 x 12 ozs. *Cheese* 28 lb. *Raisins*—54 lb. *Honey*—  
3 x 16 ozs. *Macaroni*—11 x 1 lb. 3 ozs. *Fruit Cake Mixture*—2 x 14 ozs.  
*Rice*—13 x 16 ozs. *Cabbage*—176 x 20 lb. *Crates*. *Lettuce*—21 x 10 lb.  
crates.

The total weight of the foregoing foodstuffs amounted to: 3 ton, 4 cwt.,  
0 qtr., 7 lb., 12 ozs.

## **FOOD SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS.**

### **Inspection and Sampling of Foods to safeguard quality, description, etc.**

During the year 308 samples of various foods were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst at the County Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

Constant sampling over a wide range of foodstuffs is carried out in order to check that a proper level of quality and food value is maintained in accordance with the law and the standard set by reputable manufacturers. Emphasis on sampling of the commodities varies from time to time with changing trends and practices in the food trade.

Your Inspectors are constantly looking out for misleading descriptions and labels on all articles of food which lend themselves to such treatment, e.g. extravagant claims as to beneficial effects of consumption of the particular foods, inferior fruit labelled as being of a more choice variety, or absence of statement as to country of origin, thus implying that the food is English.

The number and variety of foods submitted for analysis were as follows:—

Milk 44; Condensed Milk 4; Sterilized Cream 7; Butter 6; Margarine 2; Sweetened Coconut 1; Bovril 1; Pickled Beetroot 1; Sauce 8; Canned Stew 1; Canned Meat Product 35; Canned Fish 5; Canned Fruit 7; Canned Breakfast Grill 2; Canned Baby Food 1; Canned Spaghetti 1; Sausages 5; Ham Rolls 1; Fish Spread 1; Soft Drink 4; Fruit Juice Syrup 4; Coffee and Chicory Essence 3; Sugar Confectionery 8; Extract of Herbs 1; Herbal Cough Mixture 2; Cough Mixture 1; Syrup of Figs 1; Iron Jelloids 1; Tonic Mixture 1; Teething Mixture 1; Yeast Vite Tablets 2; Vitamin Capsules 1; Shredded Beef Suet 1; Sago 1; Christmas Pudding 2; Piccalilli 2; Tomato Catsup 1; Dried Sage 1; Soup Powder 2; Canned Soup 2; Canned Vegetables 7; Polony 3; Meat Paste 2; Whisky 3; Vodka 1; Tea 1; Dried Coffee Extract 1; Marmalade 2; Black Treacle 1; Food Flavouring 2; Sultanas 1; Dried Fruit 1; Virol Food Supplement 1; Extract Malt and Cod Liver Oil 1; Headache and Influenza Tablets 1; Milk of Magnesia 1; Zinc and Castor Oil Ointment 1; Dried Milk Powder 1; Ice-cream 3; Ice-cream powder 1; Cooking Fat 1; Ground Almonds 1; Almond Marzipan 1; Flour Confectionery 1; Pie Filling 1; Sage and Onion Stuffing 1; Liquid Seasoning 1; Meat Extract Cubes 1; Vinegar 1; Pickle 2; Parsley Sauce Mix 1; Italian Dressing 1; French Dressing 1; French Mustard 1; Ground Ginger 1; Dried Parsley 1; Powdered Soup 2; Canned Pudding 3; Beef Curry and Rice 1; Marmite 1; Sandwich Spread 2; Chocolate Spread 1; Cheese Spread 3; Glucose Drink Crystals 1; Food Drink 1; Bournvita 1; Cocoa 1; Viennese Coffee 1; Table Jelly Compound 1; Fruit Pectin 1; Concentrated Tomato Paste 1; Glucose D 2; Glace Cherries 1; Indigestion Mixture 1; Parrish's Chemical Food 1; Aldrox 1; Fever Mixture 1; Nurse Harvey's Baby Mixture 1; Olive Oil 1; Dripping 1; Rice 2; Biscuits 3; Pancakes and Pudding Mixture 2; Instant Bread Sauce Powder 1; Starch Reduced Rolls 1; Chutney 1; Mayonnaise 1; Mint Jelly 1; Capers in malt vinegar 1; Curry Powder 1; Mixed Herbs 1; Solami Sausage 1; Bacon 1; Meat Pie 2; Fish Paste 2; Instant Welsh Rarebit 1; Sunny Spread 1; Beverage Powder 3; Lemon Juice 1; Wine 3; Gin 3; Rum 1; Honey 1; Mincemeat 1; Chocolate 1; Sugar 1; Essence of Rennet 1; Essence of Anchovy 1; Prepared Jelly and Fruit 1; Apple and Blackberry Pie Filling 1; Blackcurrant Pastilles 2; Cough Pastilles 1; Radiostoleum 1; Vitamin Syrup 1; Vitaminized Iron Jelloids 1; Vitamin Capsules 1; Glaubers Salt 1.

Total Number of Samples .....	308
Genuine .....	307
Adulterated .....	1

The comparison with the previous years is as follows :—

Year	No. of Samples taken	Genuine	Not Genuine
1949	249	249	—
1950	242	232	10
1951	229	220	9
1952	259	250	9
1953	274	267	7
1954	240	236	4
1955	300	299	1
1956	312	304	8
1957	323	320	3
1958	337	326	11
1959	307	304	3
1960	307	305	2
1961	308	307	1

Number of samples taken per 1,000 of population—Estimated 49,000 .....	6.3
Percentage of Milks taken not conforming to standards in relation to number taken .....	Nil.
Percentage of Foods other than Milk not conforming to standards in relation to number taken .....	.37%

### ADULTERATED SAMPLES.

Only one sample which was Informal was found on analysis to be adulterated. It was a meat pie which showed on analysis to have a low meat content of 15%. The matter is being kept under observation, but no follow up measures were taken in connection with this particular sample as there is no legal standard for the meat content of a meat pie.

### Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations 1925/1953

All the samples of milk, condensed milk, sterilised cream, cream and ice-cream were free from preservatives.

The following foods were reported upon as being free from sulphites:— Pickled Beetroot; Bovril; Sauce; Fish Paste; Fish Spread; Soft Drinks; Sugar Confectionery; Sago; Christmas Pudding; Piccalilli; Tomato Catsup; Meat Paste; Dried Coffee Extracts; Marmalade; Black Treacle; Sultanas; Dried Fruit; Flour Confectionery; Pie Filling; Sage and Onion Stuffing; Meat Extract Cubes; Liquid Seasoning; Pickle; Parsley Sauce Mix; Pineapple Juice; Glucose Drink Crystals; Beverage Powder; Food Drink; Bournvita; Viennese Coffee Concentrate; Coffee and Chicory Essence; Table Jelly Compound; Fruit Pectin; Concentrated Tomato Paste; Glucose D; Glace Cherries; Rice; Biscuits; Pancake and Pudding Mixture; Instant Bread Sauce Powder; Soup Powder; Starch Reduced Rolls; Chutney; Mint Jelly; Capers in Malt Vinegar; Meat Pie; Bacon; Polony; Solami Sausage; Honey; Mincemeat; Chocolate; Prepared Jelly with Fruit; Apple and Blackberry Pie Filling.

The analysis of the following foods showed them to be free from Boric Acid:—Sterilised Cream; Butter; Margarine; Sausages; Fish Spread; Meat Paste; Fish Paste; Cheese Spread; Meat Pie; Bacon; Polony; Solami Sausages; Instant Welsh Rarebit.

The following were free from Benzoic and Salicylic Acids:— Pickled Beetroot; Bovril; Sauce; Soft Drinks; Fruit Juice Syrup; Coffee and Chicory Essence; Piccalilli; Tomato Catsup; Dried Coffee Extracts; Pickle; Parsley Sauce Mix; Rose Hip Syrup; Pineapple Juice; Viennese Coffee Concentrate; Chutney; Mint Jelly; Capers in Malt Vinegar.

The following were within permissible limit of Sulphur Dioxide:— Sausages; Fruit Juice Syrup; Soft Drinks; Rose Hip Syrup.

## THE SALE OF MILK REGULATIONS.

The regulations provide that unless milk contains a minimum of 3% fat and 8.5% milk solids other than milk fat, it shall be presumed—until the contrary is proved, that the milk is not genuine. It is claimed that there is a steady decline in the composition of milk in various parts of the country. The average percentage composition of the whole of the milk samples in the Borough of Port Talbot in 1961, was as follows:—

Number of milk samples taken.	Milk fat Percentage.	Non-fatty solids— Percentage.
44	3.71%	8.64%

The figures for the ten previous years were as follows:—

Year	No. of milk samples examined	Milk fat percentage	Non-fatty solids— percentage
1951	126	3.49%	8.65%
1952	133	3.55%	8.65%
1953	128	3.62%	8.66%
1954	104	3.66%	8.63%
1955	84	3.53%	8.66%
1956	72	3.60%	8.75%
1957	65	3.66%	8.45%
1958	69	3.66%	8.45%
1959	40	3.77%	8.64%
1960	62	3.66%	8.65%

### The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

### The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960.

### The Milk and Dairies (Channel Islands and South Devon Milk). Regulations, 1956.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food remain responsible for duties in connection with dairy farms, and the registration of persons carrying on or proposing to engage in the business of a dairy farmer.

The Local Authority's duties are to enforce the Regulations relative to the treatment and handling of milk; the provisions regarding the infection of milk and protection against contamination, the cleansing and storage of vessels, utensils and appliances, the conveyance and distribution of milk; the registration of dairies, other than dairy farms, and of distributors.

The number of Licences granted for the sale of pasteurised, sterilised, and tuberculin tested milk in this Borough are 49.

All dairies and milk shops, etc. were regularly inspected throughout the year. Judicious sampling of all milk sold from wholesale and retail establishments and during delivery to various parts of the Borough was maintained. The number of samples procured, the examination undertaken, and the result of such examinations were as follows:—

**Milk Sampled for Bacteriological Purposes:**

	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised .....	11	—
Pasteurised .....	14	—
C.I. Pasteurised .....	6	—
Sterilised .....	11	—

**Milk Sampled for Adulteration:**

	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised .....	12	—
Pasteurised .....	15	—
C.I. Pasteurised .....	6	—
Sterilised .....	11	—

It is pleasing to note that the results of the examination of all samples of milk taken were satisfactory.

Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order 1955, the sale of raw undesignated milk within the Borough of Port Talbot has been prohibited and all milk must now conform to one of the special designations, and delivered to the customer in sealed containers. These designations, of course, are sterilized, pasteurised and tuberculin tested. The most difficult factor in milk distribution today is the sale of milk in dirty bottles, or bottles containing some foreign body. It is not often that there is cause for complaint on these grounds, nevertheless, a thorough investigation is undertaken in respect of each case which comes to our notice. It is certainly not the desire of the dairies to allow such bottles to be circulated. In fact, the trade is doing all it can to detect the offending bottles, but it is obvious with the vast number of bottles in daily use sooner or later milk in a dirty bottle will be delivered to the consumer. Every effort is made by incentive bonuses and otherwise to eliminate such bottles during the cleansing and filling processes. In spite of these elaborate measures instituted by the dairies, the problem has not been solved. I believe that prosecution is not the answer if the offending dairy is taking every reasonable precaution to detect these bottles and is not a persistent offender. There is, on the other hand, a tendency to place all the blame on the dairy concerned and to forget the way in which so many people mis-use milk bottles before they are returned to the dairy. When so much care, time and money has been spent in the production, processing, storage and transport, there is certainly a need of a sense of responsibility and appreciation on the

part of the milk consuming public to at least regard milk bottles as returnable food containers, the protection of which would naturally help the dairy to eliminate the delivery of milk in contaminated bottles.

There is an obvious case to be made out for the use of non-returnable containers, if these can be used at a cost comparative with the returnable milk bottles. Already the Steel Company of Wales prohibits the sale of milk on its sites other than in sealed cartons. The accumulation and smashing of empty bottles giving rise to possible accidents to workmen may have prompted such a course of action, but the public health dangers I have already referred to are also eliminated. However, adverse factors such as economics and public opinion will have to be overcome before we have the ultimate solution in the use generally of non-returnable containers.

### **Sale of Milk from Shops and Vending Machines.**

There is an increasing sale of milk from our shops. The shop cannot, of course, be registered as a dairy for the milk is supplied in properly closed and unopened vessels in which it is delivered to the shop. Nevertheless, we register the occupier as a distributor and call for proper conditions of storage of all milk whilst on the premises. We have found shop keepers responding readily.

A modern development is that of retailing milk through vending machines. This method is essentially hygienic in concept and allows people to obtain milk at all times of the day when perhaps it is unobtainable from regular sources. We have had a substantial experience of the servicing of food through vending machines at the Steel Company of Wales' premises. It is essential that such machines should be well-designed and constructed of suitable materials, that they should be capable of maintaining the required temperatures, and be easily maintained and cleaned.

We require that:—

- (a) The interior surface of all machines should be regularly cleansed.
- (b) All milk cartons be dated or coded so as to be identifiable on the day of sale.
- (c) No Milk to be kept for a period in excess of 24 hours in machine.
- (d) Proper containers to be fixed near machines for deposit of cartons by persons who would drink milk on the spot.

Effective servicing can easily ensure that all these conditions are complied with, but as one of the principles of operation is that the machine must never be empty, there is a temptation to over-



estimate requirements, and as the demand for milk varies according to the weather, trouble may be experienced where a warm spell is followed by cooler conditions.

Four machines are now installed in public thorough-fares in the Borough from which milk may be obtained. 21 machines are also sited in the Abbey Works and 6 in the Margam Works of the Steel Company of Wales, Ltd. Samples of milk are taken from these machines and submitted for analysis. To the present, satisfactory results are obtained.

### **Ice Cream.**

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1959, have made little difference to the administration and supervision of ice cream manufacturing premises in the Borough as no premises are manufacturing ice cream by the new process of sterilization.

A development in the Borough, however, in the manufacture and sale of ice cream has been the appearance of sales vans equipped with freezers operated by an engine sited at the rear of the van. These vans are generally well constructed and in addition to the refrigerating plant have storage capacity for the ice cream mix and other frozen commodities, water heating and washing facilities. Ice cream mix is made in the factory, stored in closed containers in a cold cupboard on the van and fed into the freezer as required. It is served direct from the freezer and gives a softer ice cream than the factory made type which undergoes a period in a hardening room. Many people prefer this soft ice cream to that which they are accustomed to.

The equipment on the vehicle must, of course, be kept properly cleansed and sterilized, which is dependant on the proper training and efficiency of the person in charge of the vehicle. When such production and sale of ice cream is undertaken by reputable firms one finds adequate control practised. There is a danger, however, of finding these vehicles in the control of less responsible persons who have little or no training and experience of food hygiene techniques so necessary when handling so susceptible yet popular food supply. All vehicles plying locally are inspected and checked. Vans based locally are also checked for storage and sterilizing conditions and the quality and quantity of the water supply. One would like to exercise a little more control on the registration, manufacture, sale and storage conditions in respect of these vans. The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, provides only for the registration of ice cream "premises" and not of a "vehicle." Provision is, however, made in the same Act for the Ministers to make Regulations for the control and licensing of such vehicles, but to the present this has not been done.

## **Food Hygiene.**

When taking a walk along our shopping streets it becomes obvious to us that the conditions associated with the exposure of food for sale in our Borough have, in a quiet and unobtrusive way, undergone considerable change during the last few decades. The protection of exposed foods by glass, cellophane and refrigerated cabinets; the general provision of refrigerators, hot and cold water and sinks and clean washable overalls for the employees; the closure of all shop fronts, the complete prohibition of food exposed for sale in shop dorways and shop fronts, and the elimination of street stalls; the increase in processed, pre-packed, and the merchandising miracle of the development of the frozen food sales; the introduction of auto vending food machines, our self-service stores and supermarkets, and our own municipal market exemplify this trend. Fortunately, food hygiene has now become an important sales factor and some of the additional work called for by the Food Hygiene Regulations is being tackled voluntarily by food firms.

Much of our time, however, is still given to the maintenance of good standards of food hygiene practice. The time spent on the processing of food and its proper preparation for the market, free from disease and of a good quality can, of course, be of no avail unless food is properly protected from all manner of contamination during transport, storage and exposure for sale. Even all this attention is useless if food hygiene principles are not complied with in our homes, where, I regret to say, much neglect and indifference still prevails. During food poisoning outbreaks there is a tendency to blame the food trade or certain foods or to indict, without evidence, suspected sources, whereas more effective enquiries could be directed to the habits and practices of the victim's household and the conditions under which food is stored and handled in the home.

Generally speaking, the conditions found in our food premises during the year were satisfactory. There were a few premises, however, where we had to exercise constant vigilance to maintain standards. In a few cases, too, where we have given much time, guidance and advice, we have, unfortunately, not succeeded in securing desirable improvements, and have had to admit failure. In two cases we prevailed upon tradesmen to recognise the futility of endeavouring to carry on under such circumstances and as a result they retired from business, whereas in another two cases we were reluctantly obliged to undertake Magistrates' Court Proceedings.

Criticism I have to offer in respect of our food premises generally is the failure to provide adequate food storage facilities. I regret to find that even in the planning and construction of new premises, sufficient consideration is still not being given to the provision of, and conditions for, food storage. Insufficient attention

is also given to ventilation of toilet arrangements ventilating directly into food storage rooms, whereas in the home we find an internal pantry or food store being converted into a W.C. which ventilated directly into the scullery where food was prepared and cooked. One still finds faulty food handling techniques. Temperature control for the prevention and limitation of bacterial multiplication is, as well, not sufficiently understood, and perhaps more education in this aspect of the work is needed.

It is discouraging to observe, occasionally, food handlers who still neglect elementary food hygiene practices and under-mine much of the good work already carried out in this sphere, and certainly make a mockery of our up-to-date food premises. Each year we find new entrants into the food and catering business who know very little about the techniques of these trades and there does not appear to be the facilities for their proper training and instruction. One wonders whether we have reached a stage when we should once again undertake another campaign to further publicise food hygiene practices and provide a further course of lectures on clean personal habits in relation to our food supplies, for complacency and indifference can be the enemies to the maintenance of good standards.

### **FOOD STANDARDS.**

Composition and bacteriological standards of our food supply have been notably advanced in the past few decades. Gross adulteration of foods, especially milk and milk products, is a thing of the past. Milk-borne tuberculosis is a rarity and the sale of T.B. meat has been eliminated. The control of chemical preservatives and additives in food, of colouring matters and dyes, of bleaches, anti-oxidants, etc., are advances of recent years. Much however, still remains to complete the pattern of our food control; we see some of it taking shape in the work of the Food Standards Committee, and the work of the Committees dealing with labelling and advertising, and the control of emulsifiers and stabilizers. The considerable public anxiety about the dangers of using insecticides in the food trade and in the home and the inadequate control exercised, has also received consideration by a Research Study Group under the Chairmanship of Professor H. J. Sanders. Interesting findings of this Committee have already been published.

The public concern was classified under 4 main headings:—

1. Risks to Man and Domestic Animals.
2. Effect of pesticide residues in food.
3. Risks to Wild Life.
4. Possible disturbances of "Balance of Nature."

Accidental contamination of food by insecticides does, however, from time to time occur, and a serious case affecting a number of people occurred in the area of a neighbouring authority some years ago.

One appreciates that the use of insecticides to protect and preserve our growing crops and other food supplies is necessary, yet some legislative control is certainly needed over the use of insecticides in relation to our food supply. One also realises that if an expanding population has to be fed, food must be preserved and safe-guarded by the use of chemical and other additives. It is, therefore, vitally necessary that rigid control should be exercised over the introduction of any such toxic substances into the food we eat.

### **PUBLIC HOUSES.**

All the work that we have asked for following a survey of Public Houses in 1954 has now been completed. One must pay tribute to the efforts of the owners of these several houses for the extensive alterations and improvements undertaken. We still make regular visits at the close of each year. A Public Health Inspector accompanies a Police Officer to each premises so that the Magistrates are in possession of the general public health etc., conditions of premises subject to Licencing at a Special Court held in January of each year.

### **PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955:**

Premises registered under the above Act are:—  
Ice-cream premises 137; Fish frying premises 14; Sausage and prepared meat premises 41.

The general standard of these premises continues to be good and the improvements that have been carried out during recent years have been well maintained.

### **Number, Type and Classification of Food Premises.**

The following are the variety of food premises for which complete records are now filed at the office:—

Licensed premises .....	40
Bakehouses .....	7
Wet Fish, Fruit and Vegetables .....	9
Greengrocers .....	12
Grocers .....	166
Catering Establishments .....	11
Butchers .....	40
Wet Fish .....	3
Fish Friers .....	14
Miscellaneous .....	23

We have, in addition to our Municipal Market, a variety of food stalls, 38 works or industrial canteens, 26 stalls at the Beach, and 34 Mobile Shops or Street Trading Vans.

### **Water Supplies.**

Two hundred and seventy-eight samples of water were taken by your Public Health Inspector for bacteriological examination. Most of these were obtained from various points along the course of your several water supplies, so that an adequate check could be maintained on the general purity of our drinking water. Samples were also taken from other sources in order to ascertain whether the quality and bacterial condition of the water could justify its use as an augmented emergency supply during periods of drought. Of the 278 samples taken, 51 failed to reach the bacteriological standard required. Of the 51 unsatisfactory samples, 32 were of unchlorinated water, whereas 19 were of water after treatment; the particulars being as follows:—

**Before Chlorination:** River Ffrwdwyllt 18; Leat Margam 3; Brombil Reservoir of the British Transport Commission 7; Proposed emergency supply from Neath Canal 3; Stream, Pencastell Farm, Bryn, 1.

**After Chlorination and/or Treatment:** Ffrwdwyllt supply 4; Margam area 9; Aberavon (North Ward) 2; Wharf Row, Docks 1; Beach 1; Cwmavon 1; Bryn 1.

The Port Talbot Docks which comes under the jurisdiction of the Swansea Port Health Authority are nevertheless supplied by water from the Transport Commission Reservoir at Cwmbrombil, augmented by our own Council supply. The water from the Cwmbrombil supply is chlorinated just before it enters the Dock Premises. Whilst the Council supply is regularly sampled, frequent sampling is also undertaken by the Officers of the Transport Commission. Thirty-six (35 bacteriological and 1 chemical) of this supply were accordingly taken during the year, all of which proved satisfactory.

### **SLAUGHTERING FACILITIES WITHIN THE BOROUGH.**

The Slaughtering Act of 1958 which became Law in August, 1958, required that each Local Authority should submit to the Minister a Slaughterhouse Report containing a survey of the Slaughterhouse requirements of its area and the facilities available and proposed to meet these requirements. Under the Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order, which came into operation on the 1st February, 1959, these Reports were to be submitted in the twelve months ending 2nd November, 1960. Having carried out all statutory requirements which included meeting and discussing slaughterhouse facilities with all interests concerned, our Report was presented and accepted by the Minister.

Up to the time when we submitted our Report, traders locally were free to apply for a new Slaughterhouse Licence, but after submission of our Report, any application made subsequently could only be granted with the Minister's consent.

Each Report was to include a recommendation of date which the Minister should appoint for the full application of the structural requirements in our area (that is the date by which our Slaughterhouse should be brought up to the new standards).

It was noted by the Minister that we intended to close our Slaughterhouse by the appointed day, 1st January, 1963, for we were of opinion that it fell short of the structural requirements of the Regulations to such an extent that the Council considered it impracticable to carry out the required improvements or extensions. Having regard to the delay in finalising arrangements for a new Slaughterhouse and following correspondence with the Ministry I advised "as the Minister has not adversely commented on this date it would seem appropriate to recommend to Council that the day should now be fixed as 1st April, 1963, to give adequate time for the Minister's approval, as well as planning permission, for a new abattoir. This should allow for a new building to be erected and ready for occupation without any risk of a break in continuity from the old building to a new." The appointed day was, therefore, finally decided as 1st April, 1963. It must now be appreciated that unless the proposed new private abattoir has been brought into operation by the 1st April next, all slaughtering in the Borough must cease for it would be an offence to use the existing premises.

### MEAT INSPECTION AT THE ABATTOIR

Your Inspectors continue on duty at the abattoir throughout the whole process of slaughtering. A hundred per cent meat inspection service continues to be maintained. All meat inspected is marked with the approved official stamp. The times of slaughtering varied considerably during the year. Your officers are still obliged to work much overtime. Slaughtering took place on Saturdays and a substantial number of Sundays, but I am pleased to report that Sunday slaughtering has at the time of writing this report discontinued.

Particulars of diseased and unsound meat condemned at our Abattoir are found elsewhere in this report under the heading of "Meat and Other Food Inspection."

A total number of 13,019 animals were killed and examined during the year, the figures for the previous ten years being as follows:—

1951	—	23,924	1956	—	18,721
1952	—	26,058	1957	—	11,047
1953	—	27,383	1958	—	12,590
1954	—	44,497	1959	—	12,795
1955	—	30,693	1960	—	11,549

## ANNUAL SLAUGHTERHOUSE RETURNS.

The weekly slaughtering returns for 1961 were as follows :—

1961 Week Ending	BULLS, BULLOCKS AND HEIFERS												COWS		CALVES		SHEEP		PIGS	
	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total				
Jan. 8	238	238	24	24	—	—	13	13	160	160	41	41	41	41	41	41				
15	210	448	27	51	—	—	16	29	120	280	47	88	47	88	47	88				
22	198	646	24	75	—	—	10	39	120	400	44	132	44	132	44	132				
29	198	844	23	98	—	—	15	54	112	512	48	180	48	180	48	180				
Feb. 5	176	1020	21	119	1	1	8	62	93	605	53	233	53	233	53	233				
12	184	1244	20	139	—	—	21	83	96	701	47	280	47	280	47	280				
19	149	1353	23	162	—	—	16	99	60	761	50	330	50	330	50	330				
26	152	1505	19	181	—	—	18	117	65	826	50	380	50	380	50	380				
March 5	132	1637	20	201	—	—	11	128	64	890	37	417	37	417	37	417				
12	124	1761	18	219	—	—	10	138	59	949	37	454	37	454	37	454				
19	88	1849	17	236	—	—	10	148	43	992	18	472	18	472	18	472				
26	119	1968	22	258	—	—	15	163	40	1032	42	514	42	514	42	514				
April 2	161	2129	18	276	—	—	20	183	76	1108	47	561	47	561	47	561				
9	97	2226	22	298	—	—	—	183	33	1141	42	603	42	603	42	603				
16	109	2335	18	316	—	—	10	193	43	1184	38	641	38	641	38	641				
23	127	2462	18	334	—	—	8	201	54	1238	47	688	47	688	47	688				
30	116	2578	15	349	—	—	8	209	57	1295	36	724	36	724	36	724				
May 7	132	2710	17	366	—	—	7	216	72	1367	36	760	36	760	36	760				
14	145	2855	18	384	—	—	12	228	80	1447	35	795	35	795	35	795				
21	146	3001	9	393	1	1	4	232	97	1544	35	830	35	830	35	830				
28	157	3158	17	410	—	—	5	237	103	1647	32	862	32	862	32	862				
June 4	165	3323	16	426	—	—	8	245	107	1754	34	896	34	896	34	896				
11	181	3504	18	444	—	—	7	252	123	1877	33	929	33	929	33	929				
18	202	3706	19	463	—	—	12	264	136	2013	35	964	35	964	35	964				
25	235	3941	18	481	—	—	6	270	203	2216	8	972	8	972	8	972				
July 2	188	4129	17	498	—	—	8	278	158	2374	5	977	5	977	5	977				
9	215	4344	14	512	—	—	4	282	174	2548	23	1000	23	1000	23	1000				
16	221	4565	18	530	—	—	15	297	155	2703	33	1033	33	1033	33	1033				
23	267	4832	14	544	—	—	12	309	214	2917	27	1060	27	1060	27	1060				
30	281	5113	17	561	—	—	9	318	227	3144	28	1088	28	1088	28	1088				
Aug. 6	253	5366	15	576	—	—	7	325	193	3337	38	1126	38	1126	38	1126				
13	344	5710	24	600	—	—	6	331	281	3618	33	1159	33	1159	33	1159				
20	263	5973	22	622	—	—	8	339	194	3812	39	1198	39	1198	39	1198				
27	357	6330	20	642	—	—	19	358	277	4089	41	1239	41	1239	41	1239				

### Annual Slaughterhouse Returns—Continued.

1961 Week Ending	BULLS, BULLOCKS AND HEIFERS										COWS		CALVES		SHEEP		PIGS	
	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total
Sept. 3	377	6707	20	662	—	2	18	376	304	4393	35	1274						
10	426	7133	23	685	—	2	11	387	350	4743	42	1316						
17	437	7570	20	705	—	2	7	394	367	5110	43	1359						
24	384	7954	22	727	—	2	7	401	310	5420	45	1404						
Oct. 1	443	8397	24	751	—	2	12	413	362	5782	45	1449						
8	423	8820	22	773	—	2	14	427	334	6116	53	1502						
15	427	9247	26	799	—	2	14	441	346	6462	41	1543						
22	447	9694	25	824	—	2	13	454	365	6827	44	1587						
29	413	10107	28	852	—	2	6	460	333	7160	46	1633						
Nov. 5	431	10538	29	881	—	2	2	462	349	7509	51	1684						
12	405	10943	28	909	—	2	7	469	325	7834	45	1729						
19	395	11338	27	936	1	3	4	473	309	8143	54	1783						
26	436	11774	26	962	—	3	7	480	341	8484	62	1845						
Dec. 3	295	12069	21	983	—	3	9	489	216	8700	49	1894						
10	259	12328	24	1007	2	5	8	497	172	8872	53	1947						
17	292	12620	22	1029	—	5	3	500	215	9087	52	1999						
24	234	12854	16	1045	—	5	5	505	77	9164	136	2135						
31	165	13019	24	1069	—	5	—	505	103	9267	38	2173						

### Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condenned in Whole or in Part during 1961.

Number Killed Number Inspected	Cattle, excluding Cows		Cows	Calves		Sheep & Lambs		Pigs
	1069	1069		505	505	9267	9267	
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCOSIS.								
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	1	—	—	14	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	352	—	2	4	1353	—	—	768
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	32.92	—	40	.79	14.6	—	—	35.57
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.								
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	61
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.093	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.81
CYSTICERCOSIS.								
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Cysticercosis	.93	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



## OIL CONTAMINATION OF BEACH

Arising out of complaints of oil contamination on the Aberavon and Morfa Beaches, several inspections of the foreshore were made at different tide levels. No serious oil pollution was discovered but some of the alleged oil deposits were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. The report of the Public Analyst in respect of these reads as follows:—

1. **“Query Oil Deposit, Morfa Beach:** Total Ash 18.7%; Chlorides (as NaCl) 3.2%. This material did not contain oil and was similar in nature to peat.”

2. **“Query Oil Deposit, Aberavon Beach:** The material consisted of hydrocarbons similar in composition to paraffin wax. It is not likely that the material was discharged in the melted or emulsified form but in the solidified form as found. (Saponification value—0)”.

At this time quantities of fish were being found dead on the Aberavon Beach. It was alleged that quantities of oil exuded from these fish and it was accordingly assumed that the fish had succumbed to oil pollution off the foreshore. A large percentage were cuttle fish which lie under the sand and which naturally exude a black inky fluid. At this time, however, there were heavy explosive underwater detonations associated with the removal of the wrecked ships on the beach. I have reason, therefore, to believe that it was the under-water explosions and not oil pollution which took such a heavy toll of fish life in the area.

### **Discharge of Sewage in River Estuary.**

During 1960 and again during 1961, I drew Council's attention to the several sewer outfalls in river estuary above the Newbridge Road Bridge. Sewage discharged in this part of the river especially at low tide gives rise to bad odours and the river bed is certainly unwholesome, giving cause to much complaint in the area. In 1958 your Medical Officer suggested a linking up of the Sandfields and Aberavon sewers with that of the Glyncoirwg and Port Talbot joint outfall. This is not something that has recently manifested itself, for as far back as 1935, however, I presented a special report on the pollution of the Estuary of the river Afan, with a recommendation that we connect all these outlets up to one trunk sewer carried out some considerable distance to sea. Initial steps were taken by Council to undertake such a task, but were unable to proceed following upon an Inquiry. Whatever are the problems and difficulties of a permanent remedy by carrying a new trunk sewer out to sea or connecting up to the joint sewer outfall, as suggested by the Medical Officer, I can only repeat the suggestion I have made during the last two or three years that an immediate and temporary

expedient towards the abatement of the nuisance in the River bed between the road bridge and the railway bridge, would be the connecting up of all these subsidiary sewer outlets to one main sewer made to discharge at least below the weir in the river estuary where large quantities of water exist.

I have also to refer to two conduits which have become sewers and which call for attention. I have to refer to:—

(a) The ditch or channel receiving some of the Aberavon Moor's drainage and passing through the old Burrows Works to discharge under the Rhondda and Swansea Bay Railway bridge at Aberavon. This channel has now become a sewer as a result of some of the sewage from the lower parts of Sandfields and the Dunraven/Marsh Street areas being drained into same. The outlet has also become somewhat silted up and calls for attention; and

(b) The stone culvert of the old Forge Works which comes from the site of the old Works near Velindre Bridge and at one time discharged into the River Afan at a point below where the main railway line crosses the River Afan and the Rhondda and Swansea Bay Railway. I understand that this culvert is approximately 9 to 10 feet in diameter. Being at a lower level than the Port Talbot sewerage system was used to take the drainage of Bethany and Tabernacle Chapels, our Public Baths, and other buildings in this area. It also receives an overflow from our sewers. Following the construction of the weir at the lower end of Green Park, the River silted up and gradually over the years the outlet of this culvert has closed up. I can, however, recall sewage discharging from this outlet into the River. Back flooding has already affected both Bethany and Tabernacle Chapels. With the closing up of its outlet one can assume that there is now a subterranean lagoon of sewage along the course of this culvert. During our initial treatment of sewers for rats during war years, a grant could have been obtained for the cleansing of this culvert. I reported extensively of its state at this time and again quite recently. By our use of such a culvert for the drainage of properties we must accept our liabilities for it has, as a result, become a sewer. We must also appreciate the need for its proper maintenance so as to avoid possible dangers that may arise from neglect.

### **REFUSE DISPOSAL NUISANCES.**

There were serious complaints during the year from the Ynysyguas area in respect of the Corporation Refuse Tip on land in close proximity to the residential area. Following the distress and ill feeling in the area, steps were eventually taken to cover properly the refuse tip and abate the nuisance, whereas if properly controlled tipping been undertaken, no nuisance need have arisen

and good public relations could have been maintained in this very desirable hamlet. There is much low lying land within the Borough which could be levelled and reclaimed by the disposal thereon of our Borough refuse. It is unfortunate, however, that much of our refuse is disposed of by what can only be described as the "crude tipping" method. The amount of top soil covering when applied on our tips is simply a veneer, covering being inadequate in quantity and frequency. Disposal of refuse locally does not conform with the accepted "Bradford Tipping" methods or have regard for the precautions suggested for the prevention of nuisances.

The serious nuisances that have arisen from some of our tips in parts of our Borough have given rise to very disturbed public reaction, and whilst the causes giving rise to such nuisances have been pointed out they are, nevertheless, repeated. I was always concerned whenever new tipping sites were utilised, for I was inevitably inundated with complaints from residents and even from Members of Council, when in fact, the service was not under my supervision and the nuisances complained of invariably arose from the disregard of suggestions and recommendations already made. It was also embarrassing to have pointed out to me by aggrieved persons that whereas I took statutory action against individuals who caused a public health nuisance, the Council was permitted to give rise to a major nuisance.

#### **Standardised Refuse Bins:**

Some 9 or 10 years ago, Council decided to implement Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, so as to require the Owners or Occupiers of all premises within the Borough to provide standard refuse bins of approved materials, size and construction. At that time containers varied from standard bins to paint drums, tin baths, wet and soggy cardboard boxes, etc. It is useless to delude ourselves or others that there has been any marked change over the years for such an assorted array of containers still offend the eye on collection days and gives the whole area an untidy appearance and is certainly a reproach to public health standards in a progressive Borough such as ours. Public cleansing is a first priority in a civilized community, and in this respect the men in this service are doing a good job of work, often under difficult and unpleasant conditions. To present these men with offensive waste material other than in approved covered bins, makes an unpleasant task more unpleasant still. This failure to provide proper refuse containers does not appear to be restricted to any particular social class, and is, indeed, very pronounced in what may be considered the best residential parts of the Borough. The time has certainly arrived when the Council's decision of so many years ago should be implemented and standard refuse bins only enforced for all houses and premises within the Borough.

### **Indiscriminate and Illegal Tipping of Refuse:**

It is regrettable that people still flagrantly disregard the service provided by Council for public cleansing and deposit refuse and rubbish from their premises on to waste land, open spaces and back lanes. It is often difficult to discover the guilty persons, and Council is obliged to remove such accumulations at considerable extra expense. When we sometimes investigate cases of rat infestations we find that rats have been encouraged by such accumulations of refuse or waste food, and the people responsible are often the very same people who complained of the presence of rats.

### **RIVER POLLUTION.**

The main rivers in the Borough are those which form part of our Borough boundaries, Neath, Kenfig and Pelena and, of course, the Afan and Ffrwdwyllt. There are small streams at Baglan, Brombil, Margam, Penybryn, Black Wells, Pantdu, Cwmwernderi, Cwmgwineu, Ynysyguas, Mynydd Bychan and Cwm-y-fen-fach the majority of which eventually discharge into the main rivers. I can recall the main rivers being grossly polluted by sewage. Following the construction of drains and sewers in the Baglan, Aberavon and Cwmavon areas and the abolition of the obsolete sewage treatment plant at Bryn much of the pollution of our rivers by sewage has been eliminated. Some sewage pollution, however, still remains in the lower reaches of the Afan. During the earlier years minor pollution by waste discharges and sewage could be dealt with by local authorities, but action in respect of the grosser industrial pollution was subject to Government sanction. Of recent years, however, the general control of our rivers has been transferred to River Boards—in this area the Glamorgan River Board. These Boards also deal with all manner of river pollution. Considerable pollution from Colliery washeries was evident in the Afan during the earlier part of 1961. This was referred to the Glamorgan River Board, and as a result of their action and the co-operation of the National Coal Board, the pollution has not recurred.

### **INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.**

Since 1952 Council has established instruments at sites in this Borough for the recording of Atmospheric Pollution arising from grit, dust and sulphur.

These instruments were sited at Aberavon, Port Talbot and Taibach. The Steel Company of Wales later co-operated by providing three additional sites at which deposit gauges for grit and dust pollution were introduced. These sites were—Employment Exchange, Talbot Road; Talbot Park; and General Offices, Abbey Works. It will be appreciated that the sites for these instruments

were selected with the distinct object of monitoring the pollution contributed by industry to the exclusion of survey records of general pollution throughout the whole of the Borough. On the other hand, there is nothing to prevent instruments being sited in the residential parts of an area far removed from industrial installations. The results from such gauges would reflect less pollution than were they sited near industry; therefore, to compare results obtained under such circumstances in other towns with those obtained in Port Talbot where instruments are sited in close proximity to industry would be unfair and indeed misleading. If comparisons are to be made of the relative purity of the atmosphere of various towns, uniformity of siting of instruments must be established. It was felt during the year that having reached a stage when considerable data from our instruments was now available and dust and grit pollution was beginning to show downward trends, the time was opportune (whilst still monitoring industry by the retention of some of our gauges in well established industrial sites) for us to remove some of our gauges to residential areas of the Borough a little further removed from the local industrial centres. The Steel Company of Wales was invited to co-operate with us in the resiting of our instruments and also to establish, on their sites, instruments for the recording of sulphur pollution. The Steel Company of Wales readily agreed to such a course and also to introduce sulphur recording instruments on their sites. We retained the Taibach site but established a new site at Cwmavon and another at Bryn. We had hoped that the Abbey Works site would have been retained by the Steel Company, but as a result of some misunderstanding this was removed to the College of Further Education, Margam, and the two further sites established were at Baglan and Sea Front, Aberavon. We are now able to record pollution of grit and dust and sulphur at each of our six stations throughout the Borough and not as, hitherto, in the industrial surroundings of the Borough only. It was soon discovered that the Steel Company's instruments at the Sea Front were giving high deposit recordings. The Public Analyst advised that the soluble material recorded at this site contained a very high percentage of Sodium Chloride which suggested serious contamination with sea spray during periods of high winds. It was, therefore, suggested to the Steel Company that consideration be given to the removal of this station further inland. A new station was accordingly established further into the residential area during 1962.

The recordings from these instruments for 1961 and previous years are shown on the following pages. It will be seen from these records that these new stations came into operation on 1st June, 1961.

# RECORDS OF DEPOSITED POLLUTION OF DUST, SOOT, Etc.

(In tons per square mile).

ABERAVON.							
Month.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.	1961.	
January	*	33.20	33.40	24.92	19.55	34.98	
February	14.68	29.72	38.93	14.29	20.90	25.91	
March	26.04	30.39	12.23	27.04	18.95	5.93	
April	14.44	9.08	10.60	23.16	21.18	27.28	
May	11.96	17.20	27.13	9.18	12.39	17.06	
June	17.16	14.09	18.13	19.91	23.09	Instruments re-sited for remaining months of 1961	
July	22.27	22.63	24.99	18.72	23.72		
August	20.81	31.19	18.12	19.62	14.11		
September	25.62	25.32	22.60	14.58	17.56		
October	24.95	32.48	20.84	43.44	26.02		
November	19.05	17.16	10.10	53.08	25.62		
December	49.11	25.81	30.72	48.01	41.83		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>246.09</b>	<b>288.27</b>	<b>267.79</b>	<b>315.95</b>	<b>296.92</b>		<b>111.16</b>

\* No result—broken bottle. Totals for previous years: 1955 (9 months only) 235.81

TOWN CENTRE.								
Month.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.	1961.	
January	17.84	27.76	35.60	24.23	23.31	23.16	27.50	
February	13.43	12.28	26.14	27.37	7.11	22.95	26.90	
March	30.72	12.74	30.36	3.99	40.70	9.85	5.44	
April	22.36	19.93	9.95	10.93	20.08	16.14	31.45	
May	28.69	15.84	18.86	24.60	7.31	18.74	14.26	
June	28.75	19.29	14.06	15.94	17.32	27.96	Instruments re-sited for remaining months of 1961	
July	20.80	21.77	21.25	21.38	19.60	33.33		
August	12.88	30.49	23.18	15.41	12.01	20.38		
September	23.12	19.66	25.13	28.26	8.20	17.12		
October	24.33	19.33	28.32	21.17	22.88	17.95		
November	30.59	14.42	14.39	9.81	38.42	50.52		
December	23.63	33.79	36.39	26.54	53.87	33.52		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>297.14</b>	<b>247.30</b>	<b>283.63</b>	<b>229.63</b>	<b>281.81</b>	<b>291.62</b>		<b>105.55</b>

Totals for previous years: 1952—(5 months only) 112.72; 1953—262.42;  
1954—287.94.

TAIBACH							
Month.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.	1961.
January	45.48	283.90	86.95	55.71	48.79	43.53	70.29
February	33.74	67.77	63.79	68.89	14.30	62.04	74.02
March	51.12	38.12	86.20	15.88	23.30	14.96	13.18
April	69.39	54.14	26.52	32.79	61.47	45.93	58.87
May	99.06	51.26	88.03	82.37	26.97	37.48	27.89
June	128.39	49.63	32.54	41.86	49.62	83.22	35.22
July	64.34	41.65	57.19	72.13	63.28	158.23	39.36
August	76.39	72.78	41.81	53.83	29.91	52.46	44.18
September	82.34	66.56	56.74	58.86	25.58	45.07	54.49
October	98.06	42.12	90.41	37.95	74.37	33.50	58.87
November	82.88	32.30	23.69	24.03	79.28	107.45	*
December	354.40	85.58	63.75	46.91	112.55	77.13	54.79
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1186.23</b>	<b>885.81</b>	<b>717.62</b>	<b>591.21</b>	<b>612.42</b>	<b>761.00</b>	<b>531.26</b>

\* Bottle tampered with.

Totals for previous years: 1952—(5 months only) 727.70; 1953—698.14; 1954—869.81

With the exception of Taibach all the instruments have been re-sited from the 1st June, 1961. The results obtained from these new stations for the remainder of the year are as follows:—

**RECORDS OF DEPOSITED POLLUTION OF DUST,  
SOOT, etc.**

(In tons per square mile)

Months.	Stations.	
	Bryn.	Cwmavon.
June .....	16.40	8.07
July .....	13.65	10.63
August .....	12.56	12.58
September .....	13.65	18.54
October .....	21.93	27.83
November .....	9.74	13.17
December .....	5.73	17.68
TOTAL .....	93.66	108.50

**Taibach**—these figures are shown for the year on records in previous page.

## DEPOSITED POLLUTION OF DUST, SOOT, Etc.

(In tons per square mile).

Records supplied by the Steel Company of Wales.

MONTH	PARK, PORT TALBOT		EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE		GENERAL OFFICES, BLOCK C. ABBAY WORKS.	
	1959.	1960.	1959.	1960.	1959.	1960.
January	34.65	46.99	61.73	60.81	39.30	42.40
February	10.70	34.59	13.41	48.58	17.25	43.65
March	26.18	14.66	32.22	26.91	36.41	20.93
April	27.39	42.01	37.08	60.70	22.36	41.31
May	32.48	20.18	25.15	34.38	38.78	46.39
June	25.85	26.91	32.14	22.60	37.02	73.41
July	23.40	62.89	31.08	52.08	81.79	114.19
August	4.71	46.66	5.41	75.42	18.60	89.55
September	14.29	19.89	15.92	33.50	24.60	52.49
October	47.61	11.43	40.68	42.28	49.05	12.59
November	35.27	43.76	27.48	19.57	59.84	15.31
December	51.17	25.94	68.87	26.94	49.12	21.00
TOTAL	333.70	395.91	391.17	509.77	424.12	573.22

## INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Sulphur Pollution Records as Supplied by Steel Company of Wales.  
(Estimation by lead peroxide)  
STATION.

Month	Four Winds		College of Further Education		Baglan Hall
June	0.43	0.77	0.19	0.19	0.19
July	0.54	0.68	0.20	0.20	0.20
August	0.58	1.29	0.26	0.26	0.26
September	0.46	0.45	0.019	0.019	0.019
October	1.40	1.08	0.26	0.26	0.26
November	1.16	1.30	0.269	0.269	0.269
December	1.49	1.74	0.445	0.445	0.445



With the exception of Taibach all the instruments have been re-sited from the 1st June, 1961. The results obtained from these new stations for the remainder of the year are as follows:—

**DEPOSITED POLLUTION OF DUST, SOOT, etc.,**

(In tons per square mile)

Records supplied by the Steel Company of Wales.

STATIONS.

Month, 1961.	College of Further Education.	Four Winds Hotel.	Baglan Hall.
June .....	32.29	25.86	16.72
July .....	33.20	14.11	15.87
August .....	34.37	35.90	24.52
September .....	24.47	39.03	25.80
October .....	35.33	44.71	18.22
November .....	32.01	20.04	10.87
December .....	36.25	106.82	13.48
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>227.92</b>	<b>286.47</b>	<b>125.48</b>

## SULPHUR POLLUTION RECORDS

(Estimation of Sulphur by Lead Peroxide Method).

Month	1955			1956			1957			1958			1959			1960			1961		
	Town Centre	Taibach	Aberavon	Town Centre	Taibach	Aberavon	Town Centre	Taibach	Aberavon	Town Centre	Taibach	Aberavon	Town Centre	Taibach	Aberavon	Town Centre	Taibach	Aberavon	Town Centre	Taibach	Aberavon
Jan. ....	1.80	1.51	—	1.44	1.42	1.15	1.57	3.58	0.92	1.32	2.01	1.57	1.68	1.65	1.43	1.83	2.12	1.52	1.18	3.10	°
Feb. ....	1.10	1.03	—	1.22	1.08	1.28	1.51	1.76	1.49	1.47	2.22	1.13	1.39	1.72	1.58	1.53	1.81	0.99	1.20	2.40	0.72
March ....	0.92	1.03	—	1.22	1.12	2.09	1.31	1.33	1.55	1.25	1.87	1.09	1.48	2.00	1.65	1.13	1.55	2.21	1.00	1.34	0.64
April ....	0.89	1.06	0.68	1.03	1.17	0.75	0.76	0.83	0.62	1.17	†	0.78	1.82	2.14	0.79	0.95	1.38	0.73	1.00	1.14	0.95
May ....	1.28	1.86	0.76	0.86	0.90	0.52	0.94	0.90	0.39	1.39	2.43	0.63	1.04	0.93	0.78	0.56	0.83	0.61	0.79	1.08	0.63
June ....	0.98	1.01	0.69	1.09	1.54	0.50	0.84	0.68	0.45	0.87	1.47	0.74	0.94	1.22	0.47	0.90	1.43	0.52	§	0.91	§
July ....	0.60	0.66	0.30	1.02	1.58	0.59	0.89	1.62	0.68	1.52	0.98	0.60	0.93	1.35	0.35	0.99	3.32	0.28	0.81	0.81	
Aug. ....	0.64	0.72	0.57	0.95	1.31	0.44	0.91	1.04	0.68	1.01	1.12	0.68	0.64	0.75	0.50	0.76	1.30	0.39	1.18	1.18	
Sept. ....	1.12	0.87	0.65	0.94	1.25	0.94	1.07	0.99	0.89	0.99	1.52	0.89	0.64	0.88	0.85	0.67	1.42	0.68	2.35	2.35	
Oct. ....	1.34	0.85	0.86	1.05	1.27	0.75	1.30	1.91	1.31	•	1.67	0.77	1.11	1.45	1.13	0.81	0.88	1.23	2.76	2.76	
Nov. ....	1.31	1.13	0.89	1.12	1.07	1.19	1.83	1.14	1.31	1.05	1.31	1.23	1.17	2.24	1.19	1.58	3.80	1.49	4.07	4.07	
Dec. ....	1.81	1.81	1.18	1.20	1.59	1.22	1.22	1.75	0.60	1.22	1.45	1.47	1.32	3.56	1.02	1.40	1.76	0.83	2.55	2.55	
TOTAL	13.79	13.63	6.58	13.14	15.30	11.42	14.15	17.53	10.89	13.26	18.05	11.58	14.16	19.89	11.74	13.11	21.60	11.48	5.17	23.69	2.94

° Lead peroxide candle stolen. † Lead peroxide candle blown over by high winds.  
 § Instruments resited for remaining months of 1961.

The average pollution for Summer and Winter is shown in the following table :—

Station.	1954/55		1955/56		1956/57		1957/58		1958/59		1959/60		1960/61	
	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer
Town Centre .....	1.37	0.924	1.282	0.972	1.29	0.90	1.16	1.41	0.84	1.40	0.78	1.27	1.27	Station discontd.
Taibach .....	1.52	1.024	1.312	1.316	1.77	1.01	1.50	2.23	1.03	2.26	1.66	2.48	2.48	1.27
Aberavon .....	0.76	0.594	1.318	0.598	1.19	0.57	0.71	1.37	0.59	1.39	0.496	0.92°	0.92°	Station discontd.
Cwmavon .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	No Station	No Station	0.30†
Bryn .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	No Station	No Station	0.23†

° No result for January. † Station commenced 1st June, 1960.

With the exception of Taibach all the instruments have been re-sited from the 1st June, 1961. The results obtained from these new stations for the remainder of the year are as follows:—

### SULPHUR POLLUTION RECORDS

(Estimation of Sulphur by Lead Peroxide Method)

Month, 1961	Cwmavon	Bryn
June .....	0.23 .....	0.31
July .....	0.30 .....	0.21
August .....	0.29 .....	0.18
September .....	0.39 .....	0.22
October .....	0.48 .....	0.27
November .....	0.71 .....	0.34
December .....	0.80 .....	0.41
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>3.20</b> .....	<b>1.94</b>

### PORT TALBOT RAINFALL.

(Rainfall in inches).

Month.	Aberavon.					
	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.	1961.
January .....	*	3.76	3.92	4.64	4.28	5.01
February .....	0.35	4.93	5.55	0.41	4.07	3.07
March .....	1.45	5.36	0.97	4.47	1.79	0.18
April .....	1.52	0.34	0.83	3.77	2.46	5.71
May .....	1.28	1.91	5.09	0.81	0.58	1.38
June .....	2.58	0.94	4.77	3.33	1.60	†
July .....	4.17	3.89	5.46	2.53	5.79	
August .....	5.27	4.46	4.81	1.56	4.66	
September .....	5.03	5.82	7.08	0.33	4.86	
October .....	1.20	4.77	4.93	5.44	6.26	
November .....	1.07	2.04	3.34	7.17	8.21	
December .....	5.77	2.66	4.93	5.94	5.82	
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>29.69</b>	<b>40.88</b>	<b>51.78</b>	<b>40.40</b>	<b>50.38</b>	<b>15.35</b>

\* No result—Broken Bottle.

† Instruments resited for remaining months of 1961.

<b>Town Centre.</b>						
Month.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.	1961.
January	5.32	3.52	3.76	4.45	4.45	4.93
February	0.32	4.71	4.57	0.38	3.58	3.07
March	1.45	5.06	0.26	4.60	1.91	0.19
April	1.75	0.36	0.65	4.02	2.59	5.92
May	1.17	1.92	3.39	0.67	0.94	1.41
June	2.12	0.64	3.58	2.77	1.75	†
July	4.33	3.69	3.94	2.96	5.90	
August	5.83	4.31	2.98	1.41	4.45	
September	4.93	6.05	6.70	0.35	5.06	
October	1.07	4.50	5.18	4.89	6.26	
November	1.22	2.10	3.31	7.09	7.91	
December	4.28	2.57	4.94	6.05	5.60	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33.88</b>	<b>39.42</b>	<b>43.26</b>	<b>39.64</b>	<b>50.40</b>	<b>15.52</b>

Totals for previous years: Aberavon, 1955 (9 monthly only) 30.37  
Town Centre, 1954, 51.4; 1955, 36.00.

† Instruments resited for remaining months of 1961.

<b>Groes.</b>						
Month.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.	1961.
January	5.52	3.67	3.71	4.89	4.82	5.26
February	0.34	4.72	4.94	0.45	3.51	3.05
March	1.84	5.26	0.91	4.43	2.15	0.60
April	1.75	0.43	0.76	3.59	2.71	5.97
May	1.41	2.24	4.94	0.83	1.09	1.60
June	2.75	1.03	4.51	2.74	2.19	1.82
July	4.13	3.97	4.80	2.90	5.53	2.45
August	5.33	4.37	5.48	1.60	4.08	3.96
September	5.39	6.94	8.62	0.37	6.08	3.83
October	1.28	4.44	4.54	5.24	6.04	6.99
November	1.34	2.06	3.41	6.91	9.77	3.88
December	5.59	2.65	5.25	8.83	5.35	4.34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36.67</b>	<b>41.78</b>	<b>51.87</b>	<b>52.78</b>	<b>54.32</b>	<b>43.75</b>

Totals for previous years: 1954, 61.57; 1955, 38.37.

<b>Taibach.</b>						
Month.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.	1961.
January	5.00	3.03	3.38	4.63	4.66	4.79
February	0.24	4.47	4.92	0.36	3.39	2.91
March	1.45	4.40	0.73	4.79	1.69	0.22
April	1.50	0.24	0.58	4.04	2.46	6.03
May	0.99	1.85	3.91	0.76	1.06	1.47
June	1.92	0.73	4.10	2.42	1.96	1.47
July	4.55	3.37	5.18	3.00	6.29	2.06
August	5.15	4.38	5.05	1.38	4.55	3.68
September	4.84	6.28	7.43	0.28	5.23	3.70
October	0.77	3.99	5.55	5.23	7.62	7.35
November	1.00	1.89	3.20	6.48	7.83	4.10
December	5.41	2.30	2.30	2.00	5.58	4.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32.82</b>	<b>37.03</b>	<b>46.33</b>	<b>39.37</b>	<b>53.32</b>	<b>42.51</b>

Totals for previous years: 1954, 50.52; 1955, 35.11

With the exception of Taibach all the instruments have been re-sited from 1st June, 1961. The results obtained from these new stations for the remainder of the year are as follows:—

### PORT TALBOT RAINFALL

(Rainfall in inches)

Month, 1961	Cwmavon.	Bryn.
June .....	2.11	2.45
July .....	1.96	1.92
August .....	4.91	5.23
September .....	4.91	4.98
October .....	6.82	8.26
November .....	3.59	3.61
December .....	5.36	3.40
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>29.66</b>	<b>29.85</b>

### PORT TALBOT SUNSHINE.

(Sunshine in hours).

Month.	Groes.					
	1956.	1957.	1958.*	1959.	1960.	1961.
January .....	50.2	49.6	51.1	72.3	34.0	41.6
February .....	97.8	91.4	45.1	88.1	82.3	47.2
March .....	163.0	84.3	107.2	93.1	111.0	111.1
April .....	176.4	172.2	108.1	124.7	178.7	105.1
May .....	228.1	205.2	166.0	193.8	181.7	188.0
June .....	153.6	288.3	166.0	208.9	221.7	203.0
July .....	146.7	147.4	107.8	194.0	152.0	189.5
August .....	177.4	147.4	88.0	163.6	156.2	163.8
September .....	74.3	90.0	106.2	206.2	121.5	125.7
October .....	95.0	82.4	85.8	°	88.4	86.5
November .....	60.1	62.3	40.0	°	61.0	71.6
December .....	22.5	56.2	23.4	32.7	64.3	78.9
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>1445.1</b>	<b>1476.7</b>	<b>1094.7</b>	<b>1355.4</b>	<b>1452.4</b>	<b>1412.0</b>

\* Records Incomplete.

Totals for previous years: 1954—1259.5; 1955—1591.8

### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The pollution of the atmosphere is both a social and a public health evil. Whilst much has been done locally and nationally, one is still confronted by protective legislative clauses which are prompted by industrial economics and the recognition of the current state of technical and scientific knowledge. Locally in the last decade or so, we went through a period when gigantic industrial installations came into being and passed into the "going into production teething troubles," at a time when there was a demand

for expanding the manufacture of steel to satisfy the national economy and to meet the needs of export. One could not but be sympathetic with those responsible for so vast an industry under such circumstances. However, the resulting extensive atmospheric pollution experienced and suffered, particularly in the Taibach area, severely tax the tolerance of the citizen and the restraint of Council. As a Public Health Authority charged with the protection of the health of the inhabitants we certainly did not shirk our responsibilities, yet our generous approach and reaction at the time, whilst perhaps an additional source of irritation to those who had such vast problems was something that I feel has yet not been fully appreciated. Prolific sources of grit and dust pollution have by now been eliminated. This has been achieved by strenuous effort and tremendous cost to the Steel Company. We have over the years perhaps been a little impatient with the rate of progress in remedial measures to protect the long suffering public, but it gave much satisfaction to find eventually, substantial sources of dust, smoke and grit nuisance being effectually eliminated.

Much still, however, remains to be done towards the elimination of the considerable red fume pollution now affecting the Margam area and arising from the Open Hearth and Bessemer furnaces. Emissions from such processes are now the responsibility of the Alkali Inspectorate, which is very concerned as to the extensive fume pollution in the iron and steel industry throughout the Country. In his Annual Report for 1961, Dr. J. S. Carter, Chief Alkali Inspector for England and Wales gives interesting details of efforts made towards a solution of such pollution.

Whilst one appreciates the need for a study of industrial economy, increasing efficiency and a saving in administrative costs being vitally necessary for competition in the sale of our products in the international market one would also submit that an integral and equally important consideration should be the effect of implementing such efficiency and reduced costing on the pollution of the atmosphere and its solution. Our experience of recent years is that industry is building up and increasing its output due to improved technical and scientific processes regardless of the polluting material thrown into the atmosphere. Industry claims that it is not reasonably and economically practicable to provide a remedy for some of the pollution. One feels that the technical and scientific potential of modern industry is capable of finding a solution to such pollution if there was a will to do so, or if it was compelled to do so.

## ALKALI WORKS.

Certain functions hitherto administered by Local Authorities in respect of atmospheric pollution from certain processes and types of works have been transferred to the Alkali Inspectorate in accordance with the Clean Air Act, 1956, (Alkali, etc., Works Order 1958). Local works and processes transferred were:—

<i>Name of Firm—</i>	<i>Work or Processes Registered—</i>
Steel Company of Wales Ltd. ....	Sulphate of Ammonia, Benzene, Gas and coke, Iron and Steel (Blast Furnaces), Sinter Plant, Open Hearth Furnaces, Bessemer Furnaces, Oxygen.
Wales Gas Board .....	Gas and Coke.
The Distillers Co., Ltd. ....	Lime.
Metallurgical Chemists Ltd. ....	Nitric Acid, Arsenic.

Where nuisances are discovered or complaints received in respect of the processes now under the supervision of the Alkali Inspectorate no time is lost in providing contact with the local inspector, and one has already experienced excellent co-operation. Many local industrial installations still remain under the administration of your Public Health Inspectors. Over thirty chimney stacks of the Steel Company of Wales still come under the jurisdiction of Council. By arrangement with Mr. Davies, the Chief Fuel Technologist, density meters have been fixed in certain of the stacks in order to record the emission of dark smoke. It is pleasing to record that no serious pollution was experienced from these stacks during 1961.

The electro-static precipitator attached to the new open hearth furnaces at Abbey has during the year certainly reduced to a minimum the red fume emitted into the atmosphere. The emission of red fume, however, from remaining open hearth furnaces and the VLN Bessemer plants is, however, a serious nuisance in this area, for clouds of such fume from time to time float over the residential parts of Margam. We have reason to believe that the progressive increase in the capacity of furnaces and the provision of effective processes for fume elimination will ultimately reduce to a minimum the fume pollution from the Abbey and Margam Works.

### **Smoke Control Areas.**

The intention of Council eventually to establish smoke control areas was reported upon very fully in my Annual Report for 1959.

### **Investigation and Prior Approval of New Furnaces.**

In accordance with Section 3 of the Clean Air Act 1956, all new furnaces (except domestic) are required to be capable of being operated continuously without emitting smoke when burning fuel of a type for which they are designed. The section also requires notification to the local authority when there is an intention to install a furnace exceeding an output of 55,000 B.T.U's per hour. The purpose and advantage of such provisions in the Clean Air Act was referred to in my Annual Report for 1959.

During the year notice of intention to install boiler apparatus was received from:—

- 1.—Midland Bank, Port Talbot. (Gas).
- 2.—Messrs. Taibach and Port Talbot Co-operative Society Ltd., Commercial Road, Taibach, Port Talbot. (Incinerator).
- 3.—Byass Works, Aberavon, Port Talbot. (Oil Fired).

Application for prior approval of boiler equipment was received from:—

- 1.—Aberavon Green Stars, Port Talbot. (Oil fired).
- 2.—Messrs. British Oxygen Ltd. Margam, Port Talbot. (Oil fired).

### **Control of Chimney Heights.**

Section 10 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, controls the heights of chimneys, other than those of residences, shops and offices. Liaison is maintained with the Borough Engineer's Department in respect of plans submitted which indicate the construction of new chimneys or the alteration of existing chimneys. If the plans for a new building, submitted in accordance with the Building Byelaws, show that it is proposed to construct a chimney, they shall be rejected unless Council is satisfied that the chimney will be of a height "sufficient to prevent so far as practicable the smoke, grit, dust and gases from becoming prejudicial to health or a nuisance." Regard must be given to the purpose of the chimney, the neighbouring buildings, the levels of the neighbouring ground, and any other relevant matters. If plans are rejected an Appeal may be made to the Minister.

There are times when architectural and planning considerations compete with Clean Air requirements. Aesthetic considerations are, however, not allowed to prevail over the need to disperse smoke and gases at such a height as not to cause a nuisance to the inhabitants of the Borough.



## NOISE ABATEMENT.

There can be no better definition of noise than "unwanted sound." Being unwanted, and often inescapable, it forms a growing source of tension in our twentieth-century civilisation. Progress has brought with it machinery designed to increase speed and output—machinery which now brings noise to formerly quiet neighbourhoods. As a nation we have in the main become tolerant, oft times oblivious, as to the noise of traffic, machinery, aircraft and the general bustle that surrounds us by day, but when night falls it is then that the noise makes its greatest impact.

Noise affects people in different ways and this is well demonstrated when investigations are carried out into complaints of this character. Some are untroubled by it; some are troubled when a noisy machine stops; others become so conscious of noise that it produces a phobia.

Noise is, of course, the audible result of vibrations and there can be no sound without vibrations. All substances vibrate to a varying degree under stimulation and cause waves of increased air pressure to radiate from the vibratory source. It is these waves of compressed air which in turn stimulate the human hearing mechanism. Noise, like light is reflected and refracted by substances and its wave energy can be converted into other forms of energy. Our approach to the question of noise is from a public health point of view, where we are concerned with the effect of intolerable noise and vibration on the individual. The elimination of noise nuisance can often be complex for it requires causes to be traced and remedies found and this often involves technical and scientific consideration.

The Noise Abatement Act came into operation late in 1960. We have, therefore, had a full year to appreciate some of the problems associated with noise nuisances. Whilst our function is to ensure that the requirements of this Act are made effective, we have, nevertheless, much to learn and have to move very cautiously. We have yet to decide upon a guide or yard stick to determine whether industrial noise affecting people in the surrounding areas is what may be considered a nuisance. It is well-known that the actual loudness of noise is not in itself a nuisance giving rise to annoyance or complaint. The reaction of the hearer is affected, for example, by the kind of noise, whether it occurs during the day-time or at night, by the general level of noise already existing, by whether the hearer has become accustomed to it, and so on.

The permissible noise levels reaching the listener can also cover a very wide range, because the listener's needs vary with his occupation, activity or circumstances at the moment. A worker in parts of our Steel Works will tolerate quite a loud noise because he

is accustomed to it, and perhaps the only factor considered is whether the noise will cause permanent deafness. But the same worker listening to music in a concert hall or lying sick in a hospital, will expect extraneous noise to be kept at a very low level to prevent interference or disturbance. Between these two extremes there are many possible grades of noise criteria appropriate to the listener's various requirements. Some of these grades cannot be formulated until a lot more work has been done on the physiological and psychological effects of noise. Ultimately, the criteria or standards will be a compromise between what people need, what is wanted and what can be afforded; and the latter is very much dependant upon what is technically possible.

### **Sound Insulation and Absorption in Buildings.**

Arising out of research into noise problems we are already introducing into industrial and residential buildings principles which protect against excessive sounds or noise. Sound, as already indicated, is transmitted by vibrations propagated in the air and these can be insulated or absorbed. Sound insulation, or a reduction of sound energy can be achieved by barriers or partitions separating two spaces—enclosure in an office designed to give necessary insulation. Sound absorption prevents the sound being reflected back from a wall surface. The effect of sound absorbent surfaces on the reverberant noise in a room may perhaps be better understood by an analogy with light. Hard sound—reflecting surfaces are equivalent to white surfaces for light reflection. Sound absorbent surfaces being the equivalent in regard to light on black surfaces. A room with a constant light source will vary in brightness according to whether the walls are white, grey or black, and the degree of sound absorption of the room surface will affect the noisiness of the room in a similar manner. The majority of sound absorbents function by their porous nature; the displacement of the air particles due to the sound waves extends into the pores and energy is lost by friction. If the pores are blocked, for example, by paints, the sound waves are reflected from the surface and the material ceases to absorb energy. One of the most efficient of the porous sound absorbing materials is glass wool or mineral wool.

### **Impact Sound Insulation.**

The weight of structure contributes to impact insulation only in so far as heavy structures vibrate less readily in the loud-frequency audio-range and thus produce less boom. There are two forms of impact sound source, the discrete blow which excites the natural resonance of the structure, and the vibrating source which produces forced vibration of the structure. The method of insulation in both cases is to isolate the impact by some form of

shock-absorber. This may be done immediately under the source as in the case of a carpet absorbing the impact of footsteps or of machinery mountings absorbing the vibrations of the machine; or the insulation can be sandwiched in a structure as in the case of the floating floor which is insulated from the rest of the structure. The need for adequate sound insulation is stressed by the A.M.C.'s Health Committee in a Memorandum to the Minister of Science's Committee of enquiry into noise. The A.M.C. Committee suggests that minimum standards of sound insulation for all new dwellings could well be made from results of research into noise. It also suggests that the problem of noise is particularly acute where, owing to lack of sound insulation, ordinary but sometimes pronounced domestic noises create a nuisance "to neighbours." It feels strongly that the ultimate goal should be a dividing wall or structure adequate to provide sound insulation between every terraced house, semi-detached house, flat or maisonette. It is thought that an opportunity of greater consideration of the whole question is presented by the making of new regulations under the provisions of the 1961 Public Health Act.

Two sources of noise were dealt with during the year arising under the same Company but at different sites—one in the Margam area and the other on the Dock Side at Port Talbot. Several complaints were received in respect of both nuisances from people living even some considerable distance from the works. Although suppression involved some technical and scientific problems, it was eventually overcome by the installation of special equipment.

Another nuisance in the Baglan area was in respect of noise from pile-driving at the site of a new works on the Baglan Moors. This noise nuisance was further aggravated inasmuch as pile driving took place throughout the day and night. The nuisance was appreciated by a sympathetic Management which was, however, at a loss to devise a method to reduce the noise. Concern was expressed that factory developments were behind schedule. It was agreed, however, to reduce the duration of the noise by discontinuing pile driving from 10.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m. which at least gave people restful nights. An interesting feature of this case was that whereas the noise was appreciated on the Sandfields Estate in proximity to the works, the vibrating effects were most pronounced on the rising land and hill side at Baglan.

Complaints were also received of the noise emitted by tugs at the Port Talbot Docks whilst engaged in the operating of iron-ore tankers. Some method of signaling is, of course, necessary for such tasks, but it is questionable whether such excessive blasts are necessary, especially during the hours of night or early morning. The matter coming within the jurisdiction of Swansea Port Health Authority was referred to its Officers for attention.

## FACTORIES.

The activities of your Chief Public Health Inspector's Department in relation to those duties imposed upon this Council by the Factory Acts of 1937 and 1948 were as follows:—

### 1.—Inspection of Factories.

Premises on Register (1)	Inspection (2)	Number of written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
316	493	—	—

### 2.—Particulars Found in Factories.

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND									
Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		To H.M.		By H.M.		Cases in which prose- cutions were instituted
			Inspector	Inspector	Inspector	Inspector	Inspector	Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	13	13	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—									
(a) Insufficient	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	27	27	—	—	—	—	3	—	—

In addition to the above, the following works were carried out:—

Redecoration carried out	13
Floors repaired and properly drained	6
New W.C's provided	5
W.C. pans repaired or renewed	1

## RODENT CONTROL.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, imposes three specific duties on Local Authorities in order that rodents may be effectively controlled. The duties constitute taking such steps as may be necessary to secure, as far as practicable, that their district is free from rats and mice. In order to achieve this state of affairs, the Local Authority must:—

- (a) from time to time carry out inspections of their areas;
- (b) destroy rats and mice on land of which they are occupiers;
- (c) enforce the duties of owners and occupiers of land in order that they shall take reasonable steps to destroy rats and mice and keep buildings and land free from this form of infestation.

Rodent control is a community job. Even though premises may be clear of rodent infestation the presence of rats and mice elsewhere can prejudice the health of a community in a number of ways and can result in extensive damage to the structure and fittings of buildings. They attack food supplies in fields, warehouses and all types of food premises, and though they eat a considerable quantity of food an even greater amount becomes unfit for consumption due to contamination by these pests. It is too little appreciated that rats and mice can be the cause of food poisoning outbreaks and are capable of spreading disease fatal to man.

As in every other sphere of environmental health work, scientific methods are now used to reduce the rodent population. Considerable research has been and continues to be carried out into the breeding, feeding and living habits of rodents. To-day there is no place for casual or indiscriminate treatment. Treatment is applied properly and systematically, using poisons, anticoagulants and other approved methods in order that destruction of rodents may be secured. Success in this sphere of our activities relies not only on the work of the rodent officers of my Department, but also on the co-operation of the public. By reporting the presence of rats and mice, refraining from the allowing of waste food to be left around dwellings and other structures, the proofing of buildings against infestation, a considerable contribution can be made towards the continuous campaign being waged against rodents in our Borough.

Close attention was paid during the year to building sites which provide considerable harbourage and where rats are attracted to rubbish and even to waste food indiscriminately thrown about by operatives, allotments—especially where pigs and poultry are kept, refuse tips, culverts, sewers and waste land.

The notifications of rodent infestations from occupiers as required by sub-section 1 of Section 3 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 was as follows:—

Rats	.....	422
Mice	.....	66
TOTAL	.....	<u>488</u>

Our sewers and refuse tips were treated for rat or mice infestation during the year. We also treated 709 dwelling houses and 67 business or other premises.

We treat private dwellings free of any charge to the Occupier, unless, of course, there is gross negligence contributing to the rodent infestation. Work is undertaken on business and industrial premises subject to the reimbursement of the cost of such work to Council. The cost includes the time of the Rodent Operative, plus the cost of bait material and an establishment charge.

On several occasions we treated relatively new dwelling houses for rat infestation in cavity walls and above bedroom ceilings. We discovered in some cases that access to cavity walls was obtained through defective wall ventilators or through openings left after the insertion of water or gas pipes, or sink waste pipes through walls. In other cases alterations had been effected and drain pipes damaged allowing rats to penetrate into dwellings.

## SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING 1961.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority (1)	NON-AGRICULTURAL Dwelling- houses (inc. Council houses) (2)	All Other (inc. Business Premises) (3)	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3 (4)	Agricul- tural (5)
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2) .....	35	14932	2347	17314	58
11. Number of properties inspected as a result of:—					
(a) Notification .....	25	526	82	633	17
(b) Survey under the Act.	11	491	6	508	24
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose ...	40	1162	290	1492	133
111. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections (to be completed only if figures are readily available) .....	220	5602	665	6487	528
IV. No. of properties inspected (in Sec. 11) which were found to be infested by:—					
(a) Rats: Major .....	8	20	7	35	17
Minor .....	21	689	60	770	43
(b) Mice: Major .....	—	—	—	—	—
Minor .....	—	—	—	—	—
V. No. of infested properties (in Sec. IV) treated by the L.A. (Figures should not exceed those given in Sec. IV)	29	709	67	805	60
VI. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments (to be completed only if figures are readily available)	36	1017	88	1141	41
VII. Number of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act—					
(a) Treatment .....	—	—	5	5	7
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing) .....	—	—	5	5	7

### Nature and Number of Baits Laid.

Pre-poisoning baits .....	17,701
Poison Baits:—Red Squill .....	40
Warfarin .....	4,557
Zinc Phosphide .....	40
Arsenious Oxide .....	608

## Maintenance Treatment of Rats in Sewers.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food a percentage of our sewer manholes are treated twice annually. Brief particulars of both treatments during 1961 are as follows:—

TREATMENT	June, 1961	December, 1961.
No. of manholes baited .....	309	..... 252
No. of manholes showing bait taken	252	..... 217
BAIT USED.	Warfarin with Preservatives.	Arsenious Oxide & Sausage Rusk.

## INSECT PESTS.

The insect world is always an interesting one, but at the same time necessitates world-wide research and control in order that man and commodities may be protected from it. The presence of insects can have three possible effects:— they can destroy food; endanger health, or merely be a source of annoyance. Communication between the four corners of the world by land, sea and air is resulting in the migration of insect pests to a stage where they are becoming as cosmopolitan as the human race.

This effect is becoming increasingly evident since the number of species of insect pests have reached the stage where identification is frequently necessary to determine their habits, life history, country of origin, whether they are harmful or harmless in relation to man or his food and the more suitable control measures which must be adopted by way of selective disinfestants in order that infestations may be effectively put down.

A number of requests were made during the year for the identification of insect pests found in food premises, dwelling houses and gardens. Complaints were also received from occupiers of dwelling houses of infestations of bed-bugs; fleas; ear-wigs; steam fly; cockroaches; moths; wood lice; wood worm and wood-beetles; carpet beetles; ants; flies, etc. Amongst infestations dealt with during the year were a severe and stubborn infestation of flies in an attic of a dwelling house at Cwmavon, a blow fly infestation at a food premises, a book-louse infestation in a works office, bees in chimneys of houses and an infestation of wasps.

Advice and assistance is given to householders, and when insecticides are supplied implicit instructions are given as to their proper use. In other cases, complete treatment of dwelling houses and other premises is undertaken by the Department. A variety of insecticides and fumigants are used for this purpose.



### **Other Pests.**

Complaints received during the year included those of rabbit infestation in the Penycae, Upper Forge, Caerhendy, and Lletty Harry areas and badgers in the Church area of Baglan. The blocking of chimneys in the Cwmavon area by birds nests is also a nuisance that is receiving increasing attention by my Department.

### **COMMON LODGING HOUSES.**

Thirty-three visits of inspection were made to our two Common Lodging Houses. The lodging house at Greenpark was included in the Greenpark Clearance Order, 1960, and is now being vacated prior to demolition and clearance. The other lodging house at Cwmavon Road became vacant in January of this year.

In 1922 there were seven lodging houses in the Borough all situated in the Aberavon area. (One in Richard Street, two in Charlotte Street, two in Greenpark and two in Cwmavon Road). Those in Cwmavon Road and Greenpark had the most substantial accommodation and catered for a larger number of lodgers. There appeared, however, to be a more romantic and colourful attraction to the Charlotte Street and Richard Street houses. The house No. 32, at the lower end of Richard Street was kept by Mrs. Florence North and later by Mrs. Ann Mochen and had accommodation for single men and separate rooms to accommodate married couples. Those in Charlotte Street were numbers 2 and 2A kept by Mrs. McGee and 5 Charlotte Street kept by Mrs. Long.

Many of the lodgers were known as regulars and I can recall that several of these resided at our local lodging houses for over 20 years. The majority, however, used these houses as temporary accommodation whilst employed on a particular job in town or in the course of their travels from one town to another. These lodging houses provided shelter and comfort and the lodgers would frequently be seen sitting around a large fire in what was described as a "common room" where cooking and eating took place. Such premises could not be judged by the standards prevailing in the average dwelling house even at that time. The independence, freedom and social atmosphere of such lodging houses was, however, such that many of the regular inmates preferred to be in these establishments rather than reside in the average dwelling house.

For years I have been of the opinion that the presence of common lodging houses in our present social structure was an anachronism. They have long ceased to serve any real need. Those

in the eventide of life who are without a satisfactory home or accommodation are now being provided with accommodation suitable to their particular needs, whilst a large number of industries now provide well equipped hostels to cater for the temporary or itinerant worker. One also feels that no matter how poor the neighbourhood the presence in it of a common lodging house has aesthetically and socially a devaluing effect. It is, therefore, very satisfying to me at the end of a period of over 40 years service to my Council to appreciate that the seven lodging houses that existed when I commenced my service have now disappeared.

### **Offensive Trades.**

The offensive trades within the Borough are those of rag and bone collecting and fat melting and abstraction. Seventy-three visits of inspection were made during 1961. The offensive odours emanating from the fat melting premises were considerably reduced during the year. Although this trade is substantially what it is described—"an offensive trade," I am satisfied that the proprietor is making every effort to avoid the emission of offensive odours from his factory and that the "best practicable means" are being applied towards the suppression of any nuisance.

### **Cinemas.**

Eighty-four visits of inspection were made during the year to our five cinemas. It is pleasing to record that our cinemas are well managed and controlled and that their general hygienic condition is satisfactory. Our Cinemas are licensed annually. A preliminary inspection is made and reports submitted to the proprietors and to the Cinema Licencing Committee some months before re-licencing is due. In this way an opportunity is given to all proprietors to attend to any shortcomings before the Annual Meeting of the Committee. At this meeting consideration is given to our reports and those of the Fire Service Officer and which include the general structural condition of the premises, suitability and sufficiency of ventilation, heating, lighting, cleanliness and means of protection and escape from fire.

## **RENT ACT, 1957.**

### **RENT RESTRICTION REGULATIONS, 1957**

Three applications for Certificates of Disrepair were made during the year. In each case, undertakings to carry out the required work were given by the Landlords. Certificates as to remedying works were granted the Landlords in two instances, and in the third case a Certificate was granted the Tenant, the undertaking not having been carried out.

In another instance, a Certificate of Disrepair was cancelled.

## **INSPECTION OF CORPORATION HOUSES.**

Inspection of Council houses is undertaken at regular periods by the Department. Arising out of 613 such inspections 48 Notices were served on occupiers to abate nuisances arising from accumulations, improper keeping of animals, want of cleanliness, and verminous conditions. Inspection is also made of such houses during exchange or termination of tenancy. Such inspection is concerned with the maintenance of general cleanliness and the detection and eradication of vermin. A total of 539 houses was inspected for such purposes and 6 were found to be verminous and 4 were in need of cleansing.

## **LAND CHARGES ACT, 1935.**

Solicitors, acting on behalf of their clients purchasing houses, enquire by application to the Town Clerk as to the existence of any charges, notices of repair or dilapidations or the proposals of the local authority in respect of such houses. Five hundred and seventy-one enquiries relating to such properties were received from the Town Clerk's Department, and dealt with during the year.

## **APPOINTMENT OF TRAINEE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.**

Towards the end of 1960 a new scheme of training for the Diploma for appointment of Public Health Inspector in England and Wales came into force. The Scheme provides for the introduction of a four years course of full-time practical training under a scheme of paid pupilage with local authorities, theoretical instruction being organised on a part-time day release basis. Mr. Ronald Watkins was accordingly appointed to the Department as a pupil public health inspector. He is already making satisfactory progress.

## **WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION FELLOWSHIPS.**

From time to time the Ministry of Health arrange World Health Organisation Fellowships for visiting Public Health Inspectors from other countries. In response to a request from the Ministry of Health, Council agreed that Mr. T. F. Murray, Chief Public Health Inspector, City and County of Cork, should be attached to my Department for one week in May of 1961. He was desirous of studying our system of supervision of the Public Health Inspectorate; Atmospheric Pollution activities; Food Hygiene and Food and Drugs Sampling; Rodent Control; Implementation of Housing Acts and Public Health Acts routines. Of a month's

study course in Britain, Mr. Murray had been allocated one week at Port Talbot, the remaining three weeks being shared between Southampton, Smethwick, Luton and Ipswich. Mr. Murray expressed himself as very impressed with our methods and standards of administration and was very appreciative of the interest and assistance given him whilst at Port Talbot. I understand that these expressions were also included in his official reports.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of inspections in relation to infectious disease was only 21. Only in 1960, when the number of inspections were 16, have we ever recorded a lesser number of inspections during the last 50 years. It is required of a Public Health Inspector that he should remove or superintend the removal of infectious persons or superintend disinfection following such cases. Much of the Inspector's time and activities in past years were associated with such work when, he would, in addition, invariably help out by investigating all the general conditions associated with such infection, check contacts and possible source of disease. However, having regard to the reduced incidence of infectious disease, the removal of cases to Hospital by the County Ambulance Service, and the personal attention given by your Medical Officer to the investigation of cases notified to him, it is rare for the supervision of removal to be undertaken by the Public Health Inspector or any steps taken regarding investigation, etc., of infectious disease. During 1961 only 5 cases were investigated and in no case was there any supervised removal. The following cases were, however, reported during the year:—

Scarlet Fever 5; Dysentery 9; Meningitis 1; Food Poisoning 1; and Poliomyelitis 1.

The investigation of a case of Leptosporosis (Weil's Disease) during the year by one of your Inspectors, failed to establish the source of infection. The patient, however, was an ex-miner, had worked on his allotment and had picked up some articles on the Council's Refuse Tip, all of which could provide contact with rats or rat contaminated material.

A total of 26 houses and 29 lots of bedding and clothing were disinfected. Some of these were done as a result of requests from people following illness and disease which, whilst not infectious, nevertheless gave rise to concern and fear on their part. Four parcels of clothing to be sent overseas were also disinfected and certified accordingly to comply with conditions of receipt abroad.

## SLUM CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES.

In the approved Five Year Slum Clearance Programme, 43 single or individual houses were selected for demolition by the Demolition Order procedure and 515 houses for demolition by the Clearance and Compulsory Purchase procedure. Total number of houses involved—558.

The progress already made with our five year programme is as follows:—

### First Year Programme:

43 Demolition or Closing Orders were made in respect of individual unfit houses, and following a Public Inquiry the Compulsory Purchase Orders in respect of 128 houses in Clearance Areas were confirmed. These clearance areas were:

Richard Street. Picton Street. Charles Street. Craddock Street.  
Mountain Row. Wern Place. Wern Square.

Total number of houses involved—171.

All families from these houses have been rehoused.

### Second Year Programme:

During the second year's programme the Ministry of Housing and Local Government confirmed Orders in respect of the following houses:—

Area:	No. of houses:
Pantdu (Clearance Orders) .....	43
Cwmavon Road (Clearance Order) .....	4
Cwmavon Road and Talbot Street (Compulsory Purchase Order) .....	4
Greenpark Street (Compulsory Purchase Order) .....	54
Total number of houses involved .....	<u>105</u>

All except two families have been rehoused.

### Third Year Programme:

During the year, orders were made in respect of the following areas:—

Area :	No. of houses :
Tyr Arthur Row, Cwmavon .....	24
Tewgoed Row, Cwmavon .....	18
Engine Row, Cwmavon .....	14
Copper Row, Cwmavon .....	28
Vivian Row, Aberavon .....	9
Water Street and Park Row, Aberavon .....	9
Cross Row, Cwmavon .....	16
Total number of houses involved .....	<u>118</u>

A number of these families have already been rehoused.

In addition, 2 Closing Orders and 1 Demolition Order were made.

Total number of houses involved—121.

### Fourth Year Programme:

We are proceeding with the fourth year as follows:—

Area :	No. of houses :
Balaclava, Taibach .....	16
Constant Hill, Taibach .....	2
Inkerman Row (East), Taibach .....	10
Commercial Road, Taibach .....	3
Merthyr Row, Cwmavon .....	7
Church Square, Cwmavon .....	13
London Row, Cwmavon .....	29
Total number of houses involved .....	<u>80</u>

### **Fifth Year Programme:**

Area:	No. of houses:
Penycae Row, Port Talbot .....	28
Lletty Harry, Port Talbot .....	14
Oakwood Row, Pontrhydyfen .....	29
Schoolroom Row, Pontrhydyfen .....	4
Corlannau, Aberavon .....	12
Total number of houses involved .....	<hr/> 87 <hr/>

### **MAGISTERIAL PROCEEDINGS.**

We were reluctantly obliged during the year to institute Magisterial Proceedings in respect of the following:—

#### **Structural Defects at:**

16 Henshaw Street, Aberavon.

Case adjourned and work completed meantime.

#### **Exchange of toys for rags:**

With Children under 14 years of age at Aberavon.

Fined £6 0s. 0d. and costs.

#### **Contraventions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960:**

At a Cafe at Talbot Street, Aberavon.

Fined a total of £35 0s. 0d. and premises closed for 14 days.

#### **Contraventions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960:**

At a Cafe at Commercial Road, Taibach.

Fined £50 0s. 0d. Premises closed as a result of action by Owner.





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