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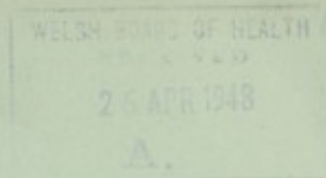
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THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
TREDEGAR

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND
SANITARY INSPECTORS

FOR
THE YEAR

1946



TREDEGAR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman (1946) - Councillor J. Bevan, J.P.

Chairman (1946) Public Health Committee - Councillor E. Meyrick.

Chairman (1946) Housing Committee - Councillor O. Jones.

Clerk of the Council - Oliver Llewellyn, Solicitor.

MEMBERS

WEST WARD

Councillor O. Jones.
Councillor W. Rawle.
Councillor J. Stockton.
Councillor A. Tillings.

CENTRAL WARD

Councillor W. A. Baines.
Councillor G. Gould.
Councillor C. G. Hill.
Councillor J. B. McPherson.

GEORGETOWN WARD

Councillor W. Adams.
Councillor J. Bevan.
Councillor A. L. Coombes.
Councillor E. G. Evans.

SIRHOWY WARD

Councillor W. M. Clarke.
Councillor R. I. Davies.
Councillor T. James.
Councillor E. Meyrick.

* * * * *

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) -

E. T. H. Davies, M.D., M.S.(Lond.), F.R.C.S.(Eng.)

Senior Sanitary Inspector (Whole time) -

C. G. Watkins, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Certificated Sanitary Inspector, The Royal Sanitary Institute ... 1920.

Certificated Inspector of Meat & Other Foods,
The Royal Sanitary Institute ... 1927.

Second Sanitary Inspector (Whole time) -

Emlyn Williams, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Certificated Sanitary Inspector, The Royal Sanitary Institute &
Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board ... 1933.

Certificated Inspector of Meat & Other Foods,
The Royal Sanitary Institute ... 1934.

Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public Health & Hygiene ... 1936.

Clerical Assistant (Temporary) - Mr. T. R. Davies.

Matron, Ashvale Isolation Hospital -

Miss A. E. W. Robjohns, S.R.N., S.C.M.,

Member of the College of Nursing.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

The Grove,
TREDEGAR.

December, 1947.

To the Chairman & Members of the
Tredegar Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year 1946, which has been drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 13/47 (Wales) issued by the Welsh Board of Health.

It has to be regretted that it was not found possible, by reason of the many urgent duties falling upon the department and other circumstances, to prepare and submit the report at an earlier date, thereby, admittedly, detracting from its usefulness, and although its 'make up' is more-or-less statistical in form, yet it is hoped that much of interest and value may be gathered from the apparently bare facts and figures recorded.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of the District:-

Parish of Tredegar	4,360 acres.
Parish of Dukestown	3,780 acres.
	<u>8,140</u> acres.

Rateable Value of the District ... £67,322.

Product of each ld. in the £1 of the
General Rate (Financial Year ended
31st. March, 1947). ... £229. 7s.

Number of inhabited houses ... 5,090.

The Population of the District reached its peak in the years 1924-1925, when the figure given was 26,380. Since then, however, a steady decline is noted, as will be seen below:-

Census 1931	...	...	23,570.
Registrar General's estimate	1935	...	22,120.
"	"	1939	20,620.
"	"	1946	19,970.

The natural and social conditions of the area, which have been fully described in the earlier reports, altered little during the year. Geographically situated at the northern entrance or gateway at the head of the Sirhowy Valley, and lying on either side of the river Howy, almost at its source, the district has an altitude of between 800 feet above sea level at Bedwellty Pits Village on the southern extremity, to 1,350 feet at Trevil Quarries in the north.

Coal mining, which since the development of the district a century or so ago, continues the staple industry, though many of the workmen, because of the gradual closure of local pits are employed at collieries situated outside the Urban Area.

Little progress was made during the year in response to the Council's untiring and protracted efforts for the erection of Government Factories and the bringing of new industries into the area.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

BIRTH RATE

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births (	Legitimate	215	212	427
	Illegitimate	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>18</u>
		<u>225</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>445</u>

producing a Birth Rate of 22.28 per 1,000 population, compared with 19.03 for 1945; 19.62 for 1944 and 16.63 for 1939.

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Still Births (	Legitimate	8	15	23
	Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>8</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>23</u>

which gives a rate of 1.15 per 1,000 population, compared with 0.95 for 1945 and 0.89 for 1944.

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) is as follows:-

1946	...	49.14
1945	...	47.73
1944	...	43.47
1939	...	57.69

DEATH RATE

After correction for inward and outward transfers, as furnished by the Registrar General, the number of deaths during 1946 was:-

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
135.	100.	235.

resulting in a death rate per 1,000 population of 11.77. This is approximately 1 per 1,000 population higher than the figure of 10.74 for 1944 (which was the lowest rate recorded for the district for fifteen years).

Comparable figures for earlier years are:-

1944 - 11.54; 1943 - 11.46; 1942 - 13.32;
1930 - 10.37; 1914 - 17.90; 1901 - 19.93.

An analysis of the causes of death is appended in Table 1.

MATERNAL DEATH RATE

It is highly satisfactory and a pleasing feature to report that there were no deaths recorded under this heading, as compared with one death for each of the two previous years of 1945 & 1944. The death rate from maternal causes for the County was 2.19

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	12	9	21
Illegitimate	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>25</u>

Giving a rate per 1,000 live births of 56.18, a decided increase upon the previous years figure and moreso upon the remarkably low rate recorded during 1943, as will be seen below.

1945 - 50.13; 1944 - 58.08; 1943 - 36.27;
1942 - 62.03; 1941 - 78.88.

The rate of legitimate infants deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births is 49.18, or a ratio of approximately 1 in 20, while the rate of illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births is 22.22 or 2 in 9.

* * * * *

There was one male death from diarrhoea under two years of age, giving a rate per 1,00 live births of 2.24, as against 4.4 for England and Wales.

* * * * *

A summary of the chief vital statistics, compared with England and Wales and the County, is set out in the table below:-

	BIRTH RATE		DEATH RATE	
	Live Births per 1,000 population	Still Births per 1,000 population	All ages per 1,000 population	Under 1 year per 1,000 live births
England & Wales	19.1	0.53	11.5	43.0
Monmouthshire	19.9	0.64	11.7	47.6
TREDEGAR U. D.	22.28	1.15	11.77	56.18

From the comparative point of view, and having regard to all the circumstances peculiar to the area, the "bill of Health" for your district during the year 1946 can be briefly stated as "generally good" and in many respects "highly satisfactory".

The efficacy of the health and sanitary services provided for the area is reflected in the fact that there was no unusual or excessive mortality from any cause, neither was the district visited by any widespread epidemic or virulent disease.

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GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

These facilities remained generally much the same as formerly reported.

During the year under review, the Council's Motor Ambulance made 193 journeys covering a total of 2,971 miles.

The Public Mortuary was used for the reception of 12 bodies (8 males and 4 females).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The water area of the Council has been well supplied, and every effort made to maintain a high standard of purity. The total quantity of water filtered during the year was 450,843,200 gallons. Of this amount, 122,806,300 gallons were delivered in bulk to the Bedwellty Urban District, and 997,945 gallons to the Rhymney Urban District.

The Sirhowy and Dukestown portions of the Area, as hitherto, was supplied by the Ebbw Vale U. D. Council. This water is known to have plumbo-solvent action, and lead service pipes are prohibited. No trace of such contamination was revolved in the results of samples taken.

WATERWORKS CAPACITY

(a) Nantybwyh

Storage Reservoir	...	...	50,000,000 gallons.
Filtration Works	...	...	1,500,000 gallons.
High Level Service Reservoir	...	...	150,000 gallons.

This supply is mainly derived from the Shon Sheffries natural spring, and is treated by Bell's Filtration and Chlorinating Plant.

(b) Georgetown

Storage Reservoir	...	...	14,000,000 gallons.
Service Reservoir	...	...	1,500,000 gallons.
Filter Beds	...	...	350,000 gallons.

This supply was not used during the year, except for the water drawn by the Ty-Bryn County Infirmary, where a small chlorinating plant for dealing with this domestic supply has been fixed.

Extensive schemes for the improvement of both water undertakings prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer, Mr. W. Cory Goddard, M.Inst.C.E., were in the initial stage of progress during the year.

* * * * *

Approximate number of dwelling houses and population supplied from public water mains :-

	<u>Dwelling houses.</u>	<u>Population</u>
(a) Direct to the houses	5,020	19,640
(b) By means of stand pipes	30	110

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SAMPLES (submitted to the County Pathologist during the Year)Bacteriological examination

	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory		TOTAL
	RAW	TREATED	RAW	TREATED	
Tredegar U.D.C. Supply.	9	29	12	6	56
Ebbw Vale U.D.C. Supply.	1	6	-	3	10
Shallow Wells and Springs.	1	-	3	-	4
TOTALS	11	35	15	9	70

Chemical Examination

	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory		TOTAL
	RAW	TREATED	RAW	TREATED	
Tredegar U.D.C. Supply.	5	2	-	1	8
Ebbw Vale U.D.C. Supply.	-	1	-	-	1
TOTALS	5	3	-	1	9

RAINFALL

The rainfall was recorded at "REDESDALE", by Mr. S. Leonard Filer, M.Inst.F., the Council's Gas Engineer and Manager, at an elevation of 963 feet above ordnance datum.

<u>1946</u>	<u>Inches</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>Inches</u>
January	8.18	July	2.59
February	5.79	August	9.41
March	2.62	September	9.07
April	1.99	October	1.67
May	5.13	November	14.33
June	4.94	December	7.11
		TOTAL	72.83

There were 216 rain days and the greatest fall recorded was 3.36 on November 23rd. November proved to be the wettest November on record. November 1945 was the driest.

The previous yearly records taken at the same place were:-

1945 - 58.14	1934 - 57.36	1923 - 60.73
1944 - 56.50	1933 - 42.59	1922 - 45.82
1943 - 62.60	1932 - 49.39	1921 - 27.49
1942 - 56.53	1931 - 56.79	1920 - 51.70
1941 - 51.88	1930 - 63.21	1919 - 40.80
1940 - 57.36	1929 - 54.83	1918 - 50.44
1939 - 59.89	1928 - 59.08	1917 - 41.95
1938 - 57.47	1927 - 62.86	1916 - 47.01
1937 - 52.56	1926 - 52.86	1915 - 44.17
1936 - 64.20	1925 - 57.02	1914 - 56.87
1935 - 60.52	1924 - 65.67	1913 - 61.09

The average rainfall for 26 years, 1881 - 1907, recorded at "The Willows" by the late Dr. J. A. Brown at an elevation of 1,024 feet above ordnance datum, was 58.70 inches.

Extracts from the recordings of Mr. David Davies, the Council's Water Manager, who also takes the rainfall at Shon Sheffreys Spring (1,204 feet above ordnance datum).

Total rainfall for the year 1946 - 71.96 inches.
(as against 61.20 inches for 1945).

Number of rain days during 1946 - 218.

with the exception of March and October, there were at least one day in each month with a rainfall recording exceeding 1 inch and twice in November it reached 2.50 inches.

Between 23rd. January and March 17th, snow fell on twelve days, but in no case was the fall exceptionally heavy.

SWIMMING BATH.

During the 1946 season, mainly because of weather conditions, the Council's Open Air Swimming Pool, Bedwellty Park, was a little less frequented.

	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>
Bathers	22,439	19,284
Spectators	3,948	3,508

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Drainage and Sewerage.

Practically the whole of the district is well provided with stoneware subsidiary sewers, which are linked up to the main sewers laid along the river bed. The Western Valley's (Mon) Sewerage Board (of which the Council for a constituent authority) have control of the trunk sewers.

The cleansing and repair of choked or defective drainage systems, both public and private, is pressed for immediately upon report or discovery.

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Rivers and Streams

The river Howy, with a number of small tributaries, traverses the length of the district. Every vigilance is exercised to prevent the dumping of refuse along the banks.

Closet Accommodation

The water carriage system is almost universal throughout the area. An estimate of the number of each type of closet is as follows:-

(a) Number of pail or privy closets (including several of the chemical type) to isolated farms, cottages and other premises where there is no sewer available	...	53
(b) Number of closets with fixed receptacles	...	9
(c) Number of closets with moveable receptacles	...	5
(d) Number of water-closets (with flushing apparatus)	..	2,946
(e) Number of water-closets (hand flushed)	...	.. 2,285

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Public Cleansing

This important branch of the Public Health Services was well and regularly maintained throughout the year, including the collection and disposal of house and trade refuse, street cleansing, care of public conveniences etc.

The quantity of salvage materials collected and disposed of was 65 tons. 5 cwt. 3 qrs., making a total 855 tons. 2 cwt. 3 qrs. since the inauguration of the Council's Scheme in July, 1940.

ROADS

The mileage of roads in the area is as follows:-

Classified:

Class (1) - A 465	...	...	2.52 miles.
A 4048	...	...	4.01 "
Class (2) - B 4256	...	...	1.36 "
			7.89 "
Unclassified roads taken over	...		32.61 "
			40.50 "

Since April of the year, however, Route A 465 (Merthyr to Abergavenny) has received Trunk Road Status, and a 5.304 mileage of unclassified roads have been given Class III Status.

The number of street gullies in the district is estimated at about 1,500.

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REGISTERED BUILDINGS AND TRADES

Below are given the number of registered premises within the Area at the end of 1946:

Common Lodging Houses	...	1.
Slaughter-houses	...	2.
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	36.
Milkshops	...	7.
Bakehouses	...	14.
Factories and Workplaces	...	75.

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SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

WATERCLOSETS:-

New stone or brick waterclosets erected	21)	
Indoor waterclosets provided	6)	27.
Closet buildings renovated	...	21.
New pans to waterclosets fixed - Pedestal type	22)	
Hopper type	5)	27.
Foul and choked waterclosets cleansed	...	167.
Flush tanks and water supply to waterclosets installed		57.
Flush tanks and water supply to waterclosets repaired		44.

HOUSEDRAINS:-

New stoneware drains laid	...	24.
Choked housedrains cleansed	...	181.
New stoneware gully-traps fixed to housedrains	...	23.
Defective drainage systems remodelled (including the provision of inspection chambers and ventilating shafts)	...	15.

HOUSING DEFECTS:-

Eaves troughing and downpipes provided or renewed	...	19.
Eaves troughing and downpipes repaired	...	43.
Window frames and sashes repaired or renewed	...	31.
Firegrates and ovens repaired or renewed	...	25.
General repairs to houses carried out	...	63.
Yards repaved or concreted	...	14.
Internal floor pavements relaid	...	18.

NOTICES:-

Informal	...	184.
Statutory	...	68.

INSPECTION AND REVISITS:-

Common Lodging Houses	...	62.
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	136.
Slaughter-houses	...	824.
Shops, Stalls etc.	...	322.
Factories & Workplaces (Including Bakehouses)	...	123.
Pigstyes, Stables, Chicken Cots etc.	...	71.
Housedrains and Waterclosets	...	407.
Housing Inspections	...	714.
Infectious Diseases (Investigation and disinfections)	...	192.
Various other inspections (Including verminous infestations)	...	585

3,436

VERMINOUS INFESTATIONS

A large number of complaints of verminous premises and articles were dealt with during the year. Gaseous fumigation by the use of 'Sulphur Dioxide Candles', insecticidal sprays such as 'Zaldicide', 'Solution B' etc., and at times the aid of a blow lamp were employed as the case required.

A number of Scabies cases and other verminous conditions were given hospital treatment.

RODENT CONTROL

In co-operation with the Officers of the Ministry of Food (Infestation Division), work under the provisions of the Pests and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919 and The Infestation Order, 1943, proceeded throughout the year together, the Council continuing the services of the Assistant Rodent Officer (Mr. Gwyn Owen). Two maintenance treatments of the sewer system were undertaken, producing good results, and a start made in December upon the Special Scheme for dealing with Private Dwellings.

HOUSING

As in most other districts up and down the country, "Housing", as ever, remains the major problem confronting the Local Authority. This is especially so in the older mining towns like Tredegar, where low standard dwellings predominate, and despite the appreciable pre-war progress of slum clearance scheme much has still to be accomplished.

For almost a decade, house building operations were at a standstill. This, together with the great difficulty in securing the execution of even the bare minimum of works of repair, coupled with the return of service personnel from the Forces, rendered the position more serious, and added to the previously existing acute shortage of decent housing accommodation. The particulars contained in the twelve hundred or more applications received for tenancies of Council Houses and the investigations that followed, gave emphasis to these facts. The task of members of the Council in arriving at equitable selections from the schedules drawn up for the seventy-one "Arcon" type prefabricated bungalows erected at the Peacehaven site, that became available towards the end of the year, though somewhat in the nature of a "headache" and like the policeman's lot, "was not a happy one", was unmistakeably a success. The Council must most deservedly be credited for the very scrupulous and thorough manner in which it was carried out.

In addition to these bunaglows, progress was being made with the thirty-nine permanent houses in course of erection at Twyn Star site Duketown.

The eagerly awaited fulfilment of the Council's ambitious post-war housing programme for the provision of 2,000 houses, making possible the abolition of existing unfit properties, is as yet, but a dream, and will, undoubtedly, take some years to fructify. Nevertheless, stage by stage, with hopes for quickened pace ahead, the work proceeds.

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No houses were erected during 1946 by private enterprise. Fifteen Certificates were issued upon application to tenants under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts 1920 - 1938.

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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

Every effort was made throughout the year to ensure that the milk supply of the district was clean and safe, attention being paid to all the various stages of production, storage and distribution.

The bulk of the supply is imported, quite a large proportion coming from West Wales and the West of England Counties.

A number of samples were submitted during the year, the results of which were generally satisfactory and are tabulated below:-

GRADED MILK SAMPLES

GRADE	Number of samples which		TOTAL
	Satisfied Test	Did not satisfy Test	
Pasteurised	14	1	15

ROUTINE MILK SAMPLES

	Local Producers	Producers Outside the District	TOTAL
Number of Samples reported as conforming to a satisfactory Bacteriologically standard	24	8	32
Number of samples reported upon as bacteriologically unsatisfactory.	5	1	6
TOTALS	29	9	38

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

NATIONAL MILK TESTING AND ADVISORY SCHEME.

The co-operation of the Department in the working of this Scheme, which became effective locally in October, 1943, was continued during the year. 449 samples in all were taken from local producer-retailers and submitted to the Resazurin Test at the Area Laboratory, Newport. The results were very satisfactory, 83% of the total samples submitted were graded in Category 'A'.

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MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION

A systematic inspection of the food supply of the district was carried out throughout the year and all possible attention was given to this very important and necessary duty.

Government Scheme of Food Control (Controlled Slaughtering) and Meat Distribution for the Year 1946.

The number of animals killed for human consumption at the Government Controlled Slaughter-house, Tredegar, during the year was:-

<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
2,177	7	21,529	1,292	25,005.

(as against a total of 20,172 animals for 1945).

Number of animals killed for human consumption by local pig-keepers etc:-

Pigs - 108. Goats - 2. TOTAL - 167.

(as compared with 117 for 1945).

IMPORTED MEAT received and distributed:-

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
Beef	56	2	0	13
Mutton & Lamb	411	0	3	10
Veal	3	10	1	0
Pork	83	4	0	11
Corned Meat	377	6	3	2
Offal	35	9	3	0
TOTAL:-	966	13	3	8

(as compared with 898 tons. 8 cwts. 0 qrs. 9 lbs. for 1945.)

LICENCES - Slaughter of Animals Act 1933.

New Licences issued for 1946 - 1.
Renewal of Licences - 22.

* * * * *

UN SOUND FOOD

Particulars of meat and other foods, found upon examination to be unfit for human consumption are given below. Where possible, and under guarantee, these were salvaged for industrial purposes or animal feeding, and the remainder destroyed.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	No. of whole carcasses included.
Beef	7	15	3	8	39
Mutton		11	3	2	51
Pork		2	3	7	2
Veal		1	1	12	4
Corned Meat	1	5	0	7	
	9	16	3	8	96
Orfal	3	1	1	6	
	12	18	0	14	
Fish		8	1	0	
Bacon		1	3	6	
Sausage			1	24	
Rabbit		1	2	12	
Potatoes	3	5	0	0	
Other Foods (Miscellaneous)		1	2	6	
Canned Foods (813 containers)		7	1	1	
Bottle Preserves (387 containers)		3	1	23	
TOTAL:-	17	7	2	2	

(as against 12 tons. 14 cwts. 2 qrs. 24 lbs. for 1945).

* * * * *

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Brief Review

Notifications

A table of the ratios per 1,000 civilian population of corrected notifications received during the year 1946 for the District and also for England and Wales, with corresponding figures for 1945 for comparison, is set out below. Reference to the tables appended will give further detail.

	<u>Tredegar Urban Area.</u>		<u>England & Wales.</u>	
	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>
Typhoid Fever	0.10	(0.25)	0.01	(0.01)
Paratyphoid Fever	0.05	(--)	0.02	(0.01)
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.05	(0.05)	0.05	(0.05)
Scarlet Fever	1.85	(2.96)	1.38	(1.89)
Whooping Cough	0.80	(3.76)	2.28	(1.64)
Diphtheria	0.10	(0.15)	0.28	(0.46)
Erysipelas	0.35	(0.95)	0.22	(0.25)
Smallpox	--	(--)	0.00	(0.00)
Measles	0.25	(34.73)	3.92	(11.67)
Pneumonia	1.50	(2.15)	0.85	(0.87)

TYPHOID FEVER

Two cases, both females in the 45 - 65 years age group occurred during the third quarter of the year, one of whom unfortunately died.

It was shown without doubt, that the case which ended fatally had a direct connection with the Aberystwyth outbreak, due to the consumption of ice-cream, partaken during a days outing to that seaside resort. All the members of the party, numbering about forty ladies, were kept under due surveillance, and happily with no further developments.

PARATYPHOID FEVER

Again, during the third quarter of the year, a case of paratyphoid was notified and removed to hospital. The patient, a young girl, 12 years of age, made a good recovery.

CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER

One notification was received in October of the year and the patient treated in hospital. This young woman, however, failed to make recovery and she died towards the close of the year.

SCARLET FEVER

Notifications were considerably less than for the previous years, and the cases were mainly of a mild type occurring sporadically over the area, more prevalent in the first and last quarters and entirely absent during the third quarter of the year. No deaths were recorded.

SMALLPOX

Apart from the surveillance of several service personnel, home on leave from abroad and who had been in contact with smallpox while on board ship, the district was free from this disease throughout the year.

WHOOPIING COUGH

Sixteen cases as against seventy-five for the earlier year, a reduction to below a quarter in the incidence of this dangerous infant disease. This, together with the fact that there were no deaths, is highly satisfactory.

MEASLES

Still more gratifying is the recording of 5 notifications only as compared with 692 for 1945. The absence of cases and freedom from mortality resulting from this highly infectious though preventable disease is somewhat exceptional, and marks an achievement which possibly it would be but vain to hope to indefinitely maintain.

ERYSIPELAS

Though the case rate was considerably higher than that for England and Wales, it was less than half of that for the previous years.

PNEUMONIA

The prevalence of pneumonia, most probably because of the altitude and other environmental conditions of the district, as for 1946, is almost invariably higher than that for England and Wales. The case rate however was considerably less than that for the previous year, while the number of deaths shows a slight increase (12 as against 11, five of whom were infants under the age of one year).

DIPHTHERIA

The efficacy and value of immunisation against diphtheria cannot be denied. Such is evidenced both locally and nationally by the pronounced fall in the occurrence, severity and mortality from this most dreaded disease. Two cases and no deaths was the record for 1946.

Work in connection with this campaign continued throughout the year. Since the inauguration of the Council's Scheme, the numbers of children receiving a full course of immunisation treatment were:-

	<u>Under 5 years</u>	<u>5 - 15 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
During 1941	186	231	417
During 1942	436	1,066	1,502
During 1943	459	1,155	1,614
During 1944	264	202	466
During 1945	273	49	322
During 1946	352	45	397
TOTALS	1,970	2,748	4,718

The state of the register, compiled in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 193/45 (Wales) at the close of 1946, was as follows:-

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31-12-46.								
Age at 31-12-46 i.e. Born in year.	Under 1 1946	1 1945	2 1944	3 1943	4 1942	5-9 1937 1941	10-14 1932 1936	Total under 15
Number immunised	nil	166	230	267	218	1,308	1,223	3,412
Estimated mid-year population 1946	1,740					3,040		4,780

PUERPERAL FEVER

Of the 12 notifications received, giving a case ratio of 12 per 1,000 total births (live and still), as compared with 1.50 for England and Wales, four were patients at local institutions, with home addresses in several instances outside the area.

INFLUENZA

The year was not marked by any severe or widespread epidemic. One male death was recorded from this cause.

SCHOOL EXCLUSION AND RE-ADMISSION NOTICES sent to Headteachers in respect to cases and contacts of infectious diseases amongst scholars at the Local Schools.

	<u>Diphtheria.</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever.</u>	<u>Others.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
Exclusions	9	18	1	28
Re-admissions	5	22	-	27

ISOLATION HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

It can be repeated that the requirements of the district have been amply served and assistance rendered to neighbouring Areas in this respect at the Council's Ashvale Isolation Hospital, where much good work continues to be accomplished by a competent and qualified staff under the direction of the Matron.

Particulars of the number of patients (including observation cases) treated at the Hospital during 1946 were:-

	<u>Diphtheria</u>	<u>Scarlet</u>	<u>Typhoid</u>	<u>Cerebro</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
	<u>Fever</u>	<u>Fever</u>	<u>Fever</u>	<u>Spinel</u>		
				<u>Fever</u>		
<u>ADMISSIONS:</u>						
Tredegar Area	35	3	3	2	6	49
Other Areas	17	14	-	1	1	33
	52	17	3	3	7	82
<u>DEATHS:</u>						
Tredegar Area	-	-	1	-	-	1
Other Areas	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	1	-	-	1

280 throat or nasal swabs (35 of which proved positive) together with other specimens, such as blood, faeces and urine, were sent from the hospital for examination at the County Laboratory. In this work as in other direction, the kind cooperation of the County Medical Officer of Health and his staff has to be gratefully acknowledged.

TUBERCULOSIS

Statistics, showing the number of new cases and mortality during the year, arranged according to age groups, are given in Table IV at the end of the report. For comparison, the figures for 1946 and several previous years are given below:-

YEAR	New Cases		Deaths	
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.
1946	35	7	7	2
1945	25	7	12	-
1944	39	7	13	1
1943	43	11	19	2
1942	22	9	14	3
1941	30	13	9	2
1940	22	10	8	2

The state of the Tuberculosis Register at the beginning, and at the end of 1946 was as follows:-

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	
1st. Jan., 1946	204	74	97	50	325
31st. Dec., 1946	111	74	108	51	344

Total number of notifications of admissions to (Form I), and discharge from (Form II) Institutions during 1946 were:-

	MALES		FEMALES	
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.
ADMISSIONS	12	14	4	1
DISCHARGES	11	11	6	-

Dr. E. Aslett, Tuberculosis Physician, West Carmarthenshire Area, of the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association, has kindly supplied the following information:-

Tredeggar Clinic - Year Ended 31. 12. 46

Number of new cases examined at the clinic	--	238
Number diagnosed:-		
Pulmonary	--	23
Non-Pulmonary	--	6
Number admitted to hospital	--	22
Number admitted to sanatorium	--	5
Total number of attendances at the clinic	---	813

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade) or Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

It was found necessary for the Council to arrange for the destruction of soiled bedding in certain cases and to compensate accordingly.

* * * * *

In conclusion, I again wish to express my appreciation of the continued and willing support of the Council and the loyal service rendered the Department by the Officers and all members of the staff throughout the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

Edwin T. H. Davies.

M.D., M.S.(Lond), F.R.C.S. (Eng).

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar General's Return)

1945				1946		
M.	F.	Total.		M.	F.	Total.
-	1	1	Typhoid Fever	-	1	1
-	-	-	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	1	1
2	10	12	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	2	7
-	-	-	Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	2
1	-	1	Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
1	-	1	Influenza	1	-	1
1	1	2	Measles	-	-	-
-	1	1	Cancer of: Buc.Cav. & Oesophagus (M) and Uterus (F)	1	2	3
8	5	13	Stomach and Duodenum	4	5	9
-	4	4	Breast	-	4	4
9	7	16	Other Sites	6	7	13
1	2	3	Diabetes	-	3	3
14	8	22	Inter-cranial vascular Lesions	15	9	24
18	31	49	Heart Disease	36	28	64
2	2	4	Other diseases of circulatory system	4	2	6
15	7	22	Bronchitis	13	4	17
9	2	11	Pneumonia	7	5	12
1	1	2	Other respiratory Diseases	3	1	4
3	-	3	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	-	-	-
4	-	4	Diarrhoea (under two years)	1	-	1
-	-	-	Other digestive diseases	4	2	6
4	3	7	Nephritis	5	4	9
-	1	1	Maternal Causes	-	-	-
2	3	5	Premature Birth	4	4	8
1	4	5	Congenital malformation, birth injury & infant diseases	4	3	7
1	-	1	Suicide	-	1	1
-	1	1	Road traffic accidents	5	-	5
2	2	4	Other violent causes	7	-	7
12	7	19	All other causes	9	11	20
111	103	214	ALL CAUSES	135	100	235
19,920			POPULATION	19,970		

TABLE III

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during the Year 1946.
(After correction & other than Tuberculosis)

DISEASE	In respect to Quarterly periods of the Year										Total.		
	Jan - March			April - June			July - Sept.			October - December			
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.		F.	Total.
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	2
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever	4	14	18	1	3	4	-	-	-	7	8	15	37
Diphtheria	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Erysipelas	1	2	3	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	1	2	7
Febrile Pyrexia	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	4	4	-	-	-	6
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Measles	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	2	-	2	2	5
Whooping Cough	6	2	8	1	1	2	-	1	1	2	3	5	16
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Pneumonia	9	8	17	2	2	4	6	2	8	1	-	1	30
TOTAL	20	27	47	6	9	15	6	11	17	11	18	29	108

TABLE IV.

TUBERCULOSIS.New Cases and Mortality during 1946according to age groups.

Age Groups.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
15	6	11	2	2	1	-	1	-
25	3	5	-	1	1	2	-	1
35	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55	5	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	17	18	3	4	5	2	1	1

TABLE V
INFANTILE MORTALITY - 1946

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 - 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Premature Birth	7	-	1	-	8	-	-	-	-	8
Congenital Malformation Birth injury & infant diseases	2	-	1	1	4	2	1	-	-	7
Convulsions	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Enteritis	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	1	-	5
Bronchitis	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Scalds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
TOTALS	11	-	3	1	15	5	2	2	1	25

TABLE VI

Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population - 1946.

(Estimated Population - 19,970)

	All Causes.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fever.	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza
England and Wales	11.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.15
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	12.7	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.13
148 Smaller Towns (Resident populations of 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931).	11.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.14
London Administrative County	12.7	0.00	-	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.12
FREDERICK URBAN DISTRICT	11.77	0.05	-	-	-	-	-	0.05



