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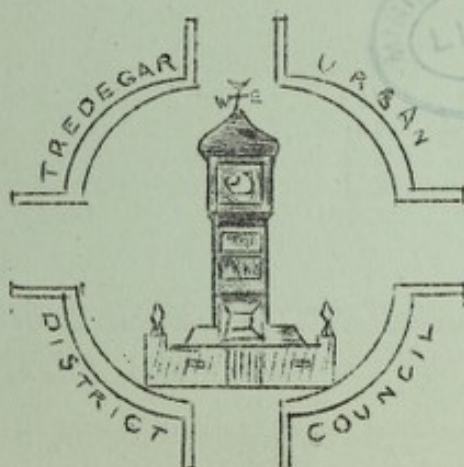
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A.

THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
TREDEGAR



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTORS
FOR
THE YEAR
1948.

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TREDEGAR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman (1948) - Councillor W. A. Baines, B.E.M., J.P.

Chairman (1948) Public Health Committee - Councillor J.B.McPherson.

Chairman (1948) Housing Committee - Councillor J. Bevan.

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., M.R.San. I.

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

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

Second Sanitary Inspector (Whole time) -

O. Griffiths, M.R.San.I.

Certificated Sanitary Inspector, The Royal Sanitary Institute
and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board ... 1937.

Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public Health & Hygiene ... 1938.

Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods,
The Royal Sanitary Institute ... 1939.

Certificate of Food Hygiene, The Royal Sanitary Institute ... 1939.

Clerical Assistant - Mr. D. J. Turner.

Assistant Rodent Officer - Mr. I. Gwyn Owen.

Matron, Ashvale Isolation Hospital.

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

Member of the Royal College of Nursing.

* * * * *

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

The Grove,
TREDEGAR.

November, 1949.

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

Mrs. Powell and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year 1948, which has been drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 3/49 (Wales), issued by the Welsh Board of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of the District :-

Parish of Tredegar	4,360 acres.
Parish of Dukestown	3,788 acres.
	<u>8,148 acres.</u>

Rateable Value of the District ... £68,584.

Estimated product of ld. rate ... £240.

Amount per Pound of Rates Levied
for the District (year ended 31/3/49) £1. 1. 6d.

The population of the district reached its peak in the years 1924-1925, when the figure given was 26,380. Since then a steady decline is noted, as will be seen below. The estimated figure given for 1948, however, credits the district with an upward trend again.

Census 1931	...	...	23,570.
Registrar General's estimate	1935	...	22,120.
"	"	1939	20,620.
"	"	1947	19,810.
"	"	<u>1948</u>	<u>19,930.</u>

The natural and social conditions of the area, fully described in 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.

Physically, the upper portion of the district lies above the outcrop of the South Wales Coalfield upon the Farewell Rock or Millstone Grit and Limestone Rocks which still continue to give employment to a considerable number of workmen at the Quarries, feeding the limestone for use at the Ebbw Vale Steelworks. The lower portions of the district have on either side of the valley, mountainous ridges, formed of Pennant Sandstone overlying the coal measures.

In shape, the map of the district resembles the form of a "kite", being over seven miles in its length, through which the river Howy traverses, the mountain morelands in the northern limits stretching to a width of about three miles, tapering along the valley to a few furlongs in width at the southern extremity.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTH RATE.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Live births (Legitimate	194.	190.	384.
(Illegitimate	6.	2.	8.
	<u>200.</u>	<u>192.</u>	<u>392.</u>

Producing a Birth Rate of 19.67 per 1,000 population, compared with 21.35 for 1947; 22.28 for 1946; 19.03 for 1945 and 16.63 for 1939.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Still births (Legitimate	7.	2.	9.
(Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>7.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>9.</u>

Which gives a rate of 0.45 per 1,000 population as against 0.50 for 1947; 1.15 for 1946 and 0.95 for 1945.

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

1948	...	...	22.44.
1947	...	...	23.09.
1946	...	...	49.14.
1945	...	...	47.73.
1939	...	...	57.69.

DEATH RATE.

After correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General, the number of deaths during 1948, was :-

<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
126.	105.	231.

Resulting in a Death Rate per 1,000 population of 11.59. This is considerably lower than the rate of 13.52 for the previous year.

Comparable figures for earlier years are :-

1946 - 11.77;	1945 - 10.74;	1944 - 11.54;
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 to report that under this heading, no deaths were recorded for the year 1948. This makes the fourth year since 1940 that a "nil" return as shown.

Year	1947	-	1	Maternal Death.
"	1946	-	Nil.	"
"	1945	-	1	"
"	1944	-	1	"
"	1943	-	Nil.	"
"	1942	-	Nil.	"
"	1941	-	3	"
"	1940	-	2	"

The Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births for :-

England and Wales	...	1.02.
Mon. Administrative County.	...	1.92.

The ratio for England & Wales per million women aged 15 - 44, is :-

From Abortion with Sepsis	...	9.
From Abortion without Sepsis	...	4.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one year of age :-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	8.	8.	16.
Illegitimate.	-	-	-

Giving a rate per 1,000 live births of 40.82, again a very decided improvement to the year previous. Except for the year 1943, when the remarkably low figure of 36.27 was given, it is the next best achievement ever to be shown for the district, a few comparative figures are given below :-

1947 - 47.28;	1946 - 56.18;	1945 - 50.13;
1924 - 73.4;	1914 - 125.00;	1904 - 190.00.

The rate of legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births is 41.66, a ratio of exactly 1 in 24. There were no illegitimate infant deaths during the year.

* * * *

It is a pleasing feature also to report that there were no deaths from enteritis and diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) during 1948, as compared with a mortality of three males for 1947.

* * * *

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

	<u>BIRTH RATE.</u>		<u>DEATH RATE.</u>	
	Live births per 1,000 population.	Still births per 1,000 population.	All ages per 1,000 population.	Under 1 yr. per 1,000 Live Births.
England & Wales.	17.9.	0.42.	10.8.	34.
Monmouthshire.	19.2.	0.51.	11.1.	43.7.
TREDEGAR U.D.	19.67.	.45.	11.59.	40.82.

"The Health of a Community" is surely reflected in its vital statistics, and certainly they have a bearing as to the efficiency or otherwise of its "Health" and "Sanitary" Service.

A glance at the comparative figures given will indicate the position locally in this respect.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality from any cause, neither was the district visited by widespread epidemic or und virulent disease.

You may therefore, I think, rightly conclude with me that having regard to all the circumstances of your district, that "the Health of Tredegar" for the year 1948, was generally satisfactory, and compares favourably with the remainder of the County and also the rest of the Country taken as a whole.

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

In common with all other Local Authorities throughout the Country, many changes took place in the Local health services by the coming into operation of the National Health Services Act, 1946, on July 5th. of the year.

In effect, for you, it meant the handing over of your Ashvale Isolation Hospital to the Regional Hospital Board, the merging of your Ambulance facilities into the new scheme controlled by the County Council, and the transfer of responsibility for the immunisation of children against diphtheria etc., to the County Council.

In the matter of ambulance facilities, it may be of interest to note that you had for the past twelve years or so maintained a local ambulance service, during which time approximately 2,500 journeys had been made, covering a total of some 36,000 miles. For a district of its size and character, Tredegar can claim to have been fairly well catered for in this direction and you were, on many occasions, able to assist neighbouring areas who were without such a service. In welcoming the new ambulance service, it is opportune, in retrospect, for the Council to feel some gratification that they made such a service available, at nominal charges, to the public for a number of years in advance of the present free service, a convenience that certainly met many emergencies, and which was no doubt much appreciated by those who had occasion to call upon its use.

* * * * *

The Public Mortuary was used during the year for the reception of 22 bodies. (18 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 :-

At the Nantybweh Filtration Plant	...	418,478,700	gallons.
At the Georgetown	" "	28,154,900	"
		<u>446,633,600</u>	"

Of this amount :-

126,030,300 gallons were supplied in bulk to the
Bedwellty U.D.C.

1,008,899 gallons were supplied in bulk to the
Rhymney U.D.C.

The comprehensive Scheme of Works for the improvement of both water undertakings (prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer, Mr. W. Cory Goddard, M. Inst. C.E.), was well advanced by the end of the year. Certain sections had reached the stage of fruition and were in operation, including :-

- (a) The raising of the bank of the Nantybweh Reservoir by eight feet (six feet for holding additional water and two feet free board.)
This increases the capacity of the Nantybweh Reservoir from 50,000,000 to 77,000,000 gallons.
- (b) The provision of a new Filtration Plant, housed in a spacious building at the Georgetown Waterworks.

The plant consists of three Paterson Gravity Filters with a filtering capacity of 800,000 gallons per day, and fitted with dry feed hoppers and the latest measuring recorders. The chemicals used are :-

Lime (before and after filtration), and
Chlorine on the outlet.

In addition, two underground concrete tanks, (each of 7,500 gallons capacity) have been constructed above the Filter House. One for the purpose of supplying the Tredegar County Infirmary and other high levels; and the other for washing out the plant.

* * * * *

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

	<u>Dwelling Houses.</u>	<u>Population.</u>
(a) Total in district.	5,168.	19,930.
(b) Direct services to houses.	5,110.	19,750.
(c) By means of st and pipes.	30.	100.

SAMPLES (submitted to the County Pathologist during the year).

Bacteriological Examination.

	Satisfactory.		Unsatisfactory.		Total
	RAW.	TREATED.	RAW.	TREATED.	
TREDEGAR U.D.SUPPLY.	5.	20.	8.	1.	34.
EBBW VALE U.D. "	-	4.	-	1.	5.
Shallow Wells & Springs.	-	-	1.	-	1.
TOTALS :-	5.	24.	9.	2.	40.

Chemical Examination.

	Satisfactory.		Unsatisfactory.		Total.
	RAW.	TREATED.	RAW.	TREATED.	
TREDEGAR U.D. SUPPLY.	3.	3.	-	-	6.
EBBW VALE U.D. "	-	1.	-	-	1.
Shallow Wells and Springs.	-	-	1.	-	1.
TOTALS :-	3.	4.	1.	-	8.

The supply of the Ebbw Vale U.D. now only serving but a small portion of the Sirhowy district, has a tendency to plumbo-solvency. The use of lead pipes is prohibited in this area. No instance of contamination by lead was revealed, neither was trace of same detected in samples taken during the year.

* *

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

Total rainfall for the year 1948 -- 67.63 inches.

The three wettest months of the year were :-

January with a rainfall of	--	13.09 inches.
December " " " "	--	10.25 "
June " " " "	--	6.95 "

The three driest months of the year were :-

July with a rainfall of	--	1.88 inches.
March " " " "	--	2.27 "
November " " " "	--	3.27 "

Number of dry days during the year --- 137.

Number of days with a fall of snow --- 8.

Open Air Swimming Bath.

Situated in ideal surroundings and within the precincts of Bedwellty Park, the open air swimming pool continued during its fifteenth season to be a great attraction to the younger element for healthy exercise and recreation.

	<u>1946.</u>	<u>1947.</u>	<u>1948.</u>
Number of bathers ---	19,284.	36,549.	25,147.
Number of spectators --	3,508.	5,991.	3,968

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 form 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 receipt or discovery.

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 its 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 ...	... 52.
(b) Number of closets with fixed receptacles ...	... 8.
(c) Number of closets with moveable receptacles ...	... 5.
(d) Number of water-closets (with flushing apparatus)	3,160.
(e) Number of water-closets (hand flushed) ...	2,245.

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 81 tons. 17 cwts. 1 qtr, making a total of 980 tons. 18 cwts. 1 qtr. since the inauguration of the Council's Scheme in July, 1940.

ROADS.

Of the total of approximately 41 miles of roads in the district, 13.204 miles are classified as under :-

- (a) Trunk Road. A 465.
Merthyr - Abergavenny Road. From Waenpound to the boundary of Rhymney U.D. at Princetown. -- 2.50 miles.
- (b) Class 1 Road. A 4048.
From Sirhowy Bridge to Pochin. (Northern boundary of Bedwellty U.D.) -- 4.01 miles.

(c) Class 11 Road. B 4256.

From Queen Victoria Street to the Rhymney
U.D. boundary at Heath Cock.

.. 1.39 miles.

(d) Class 111 Roads.

(1) From A 465 near Crown Inn, Nantybwhch to
Quarrymen's Arms, Trefil.

.. 1.85 miles.

(2) From A 465 near Railway Hotel to Station
Road near Crown Inn, Nantybwhch.

.. 1.21 miles.

(3) From A 4048 at Morgan Street via Shop Row
to Ebbw Vale U.D. boundary, near Mountain
Air gate.

.. 1.112 miles.

(4) From B 4256 near Cefn Golau Cemetery to
U.D. boundary south of Mountain Ash Inn

.. 1.132 miles.

The number of street gullies in the district is estimated
at about 1,800.

* * * *

REGISTERED BUILDINGS AND TRADES.

Below are given the number of registered premises within
the area at the end of 1948 :-

Common Lodging Houses.	...	...	1.
Slaughter-houses.	...	...	2.
Cowsheds and Dairies.	...	...	32.
Bakehouses.	...	...	12.
Factories and Workplaces.	...	...	73.

Verminous Infestations.

A large number of complaints of verminous premises and articles
were dealt with during the year, D.D.T. and Gammexane preparations
were mainly used for treatment, in either powder or liquid spray form,
with very good results.

In several instances of heavy infestation, a blow lamp was used
to augment the chemical treatment.

Rodent Control.

Work under the provisions of the Rats and Mice (Destruction)
Act 1919, and the Infestation Order, 1943, continued throughout the
year, in close co-operation with the Infestation Control Officers of
the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, South Wales Division, whose
ready advice and assistance at all times is much appreciated.

Two maintenance treatments of your sewer system were again
undertaken during the year, with satisfactory results.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

WATERCLOSETS.

New stone or brick waterclosets erected	27)		
Indoor waterclosets provided	8)	...	35.
Closet buildings renovated	...	...	53.
New pans to waterclosets fixed	...	...	70.
Foul and choked waterclosets cleansed	...	...	177.
Flush tanks and water supply to waterclosets installed			56.
Flush tanks and water supply to waterclosets repaired			60.

H SEDRAINS :-

New stoneware drains laid	...	...	...	34.
Choked housedrains cleansed	...	...	...	233.
New stoneware gully-traps fixed to housedrains	...			62.
Defective drainage systems remodelled. (including the provision of inspection chambers and ventilating shafts)	...			22.

HOUSING DEFECTS :-

Roofs, eaves troughing & downpipes provided or renewed				116.
Window frames and sashes repaired or renewed	...			47.
Firegrates and ovens repaired or renewed	...			15.
General repairs to houses carried out	...			77.
Yards repaved or concreted	...	...		11.
Internal floor pavements relaid	...	...		32.
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...		21.
Doors and doorframes renewed or repaired	...			22.
Internal wall & ceiling plasterwork repaired or renewed				59.
External wall rendering renewed or repaired	...			7.

NOTICES :-

Informal	...	...	...	...	261.
Statutory	...	...	...	...	123.

INSPECTION AND REVISITS:-

Common Lodging Houses	...	...		37.
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...		146.
Slaughter-houses	...	...		721.
Shops, stalls etc.	...	...		314.
Factories & Workplaces (including bakehouses)	...	...		148.
Pigstyes, stables, chicken cots etc.	...	...		54.
Housedrains and waterclosets	...	...		329.
Housing Inspections	...	...		562.
Infectious Diseases (Investigation and disinfection)	..	...		127.
Various other inspections (Including verminous infestations).	...			682

3,120.

1. - INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health,
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

PREMISES.	No. on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	42.	70.	2.	--
(11) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	31.	51.	1.	--
(111) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises.)	18.	27.	1.	--
TOTAL	91.	148.	4.	--

2. - DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	No. of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspec- tor.	By H.M. Inspec- tor.	
(S.1.) Want of clean- -liness.	7.	7.	-	2.	-
(S.2.) Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-	-
(S.3.) Unreasonable temperature.	-	-	-	-	-
(S.4.) Inadequate ventilation.	-	-	-	-	-
(S.6.) Ineffective drainage of floors.	2.	2.	-	-	-
(S.7. San. Conven.					
(a) Insufficient.	1.	1.	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	2.	2.	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork.	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.	12.	12.	-	2.	-

HOUSING.

Despite the progress made during the post-war years, and the "push" and "drive" expanded in all directions to secure the provision of adequate accommodation, the question of "Housing" still remains the "spotlight" in Local Government Administration throughout the country.

Instances revealed of dire living conditions, never fail to find their way in the headlines and catch the public eye. This focusing and clamour for better housing conditions, is perhaps, to the good, for the stronger the demand for decent habitations for all, the nearer will be its fruition and fulfilment.

Locally, the Authority is all too well aware of and fully alive to the deplorable circumstances existing, which have to be endured by many families, if only by their onerous and exacting experience in dealing with applications for tenancies of Council Houses, and it would appear superfluous to again recount the many cases of bad housing, overcrowding etc., within the area, and the evils resulting therefrom.

Action taken by the Council, to the extent of Legal Proceedings for the remedy of defects and disrepair, merely touches the fringe of the problem, inasmuch that the preponderance of aged properties, lacking modern facilities and convenience, contain a high proportion of worn-out and totally unfit dwellings. In this direction, may it be not far distant, when resumed schemes for the development and improvement of certain sections of the town itself can be tackled.

Without in any way mitigating against the progress of the Council's present ambitious programme of house building, evidenced in the most excellent schemes accomplished to date, but rather in conjunction with same, the acquiring of sites so cleared for development, where such services as roads, sewerage, water, gas, electricity etc., already exist, would help to stem the process of deterioration now steadily taking place in some portions of the older parts of the town. This would also assist in bringing conditions more in keeping with the splendid environments of the new Housing Estates being constructed along the perimeter of the district, and lessen the necessity of migration, especially in the case of older people, to distances further removed from many of the social amenities to which they have been so accustomed.

* * * *

Certificates were issued during the year, upon application, to tenants under the Rent & Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts 1920 - 1938.

* * * *

Housing Progress.

	<u>Temp.</u> <u>Pre-Fabs.</u>	<u>Perm.</u> <u>Pre-Fabs.</u>	<u>Traditional.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Number of houses completed during 1948.	8.	-	31.	39.
Number of houses in course of erection at the end of 1948.	-	150.	43.	193.
Number of houses sanctioned by the Welsh Board of Health during 1948.	-	-	70.	70.
Number of Houses sanctioned but not commenced during 1948.	-	-	48.	48.

No houses were erected by private enterprise during 1948.

Total number of occupied houses owned by the Local Authority at the end of the year -- 645.

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 in production, storage and distribution.

The bulk of the supply is imported, and is heat treated, a large proportion coming from distribution centres in West Wales and the West of England Counties.

The results of samples taken, tabulated below, emphasises, from the point of view of "safety", the advantages, though by no means complete, from the consumption of pasteurised or "heat treated" milk. No positive results however, were reported of tuberculosis discovered by guinea-pig inoculation in respect to any of the samples.

"Designated" Milk Samples.

GRADE.	Number of samples which		TOTAL.
	Satisfied Test.	Did not satisfy test.	
PASTEURISED.	13.	2.	15.

Routine Milk Samples.

	Raw Milk.	Heat Treated Milk.	TOTAL.
Number of samples reported as conforming to a satisfactory Bacteriological Standard.	16.	47.	63.
Number of samples reported upon as Bacteriologically unsatisfactory.	17.	2.	19.
TOTAL	33.	49.	82.

Licences granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936 to 1941, were :-

Pasteuriser's Licence	--	1.
Dealer's Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk	--	1.

ICE-CREAM.

Visits of inspection were made to all premises where ice-cream was manufactured or retailed, the number being :-

Manufacturers	--	12.
Retailers	--	22.

With one or two exceptions, the complete cold-mix process was in use for the manufacturers of ice-cream. While conditions were found to be generally good, in a number of instances the attention of those concerned had to be drawn to the provisions of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations 1947. It was not found possible during the year to arrange for the bacteriological examination of samples.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

Systematic inspection of the food supply of the district was carried out throughout the year, and all the attention possible given to this very important and necessary duty at all places where food is prepared, deposited or exposed for sale.

Government Scheme of Food Control (Centralised Slaughtering), and Meat Distribution for the year 1948.

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>
2,249.	10.	13,832.	534.	16,625.

(as against a total of 17,107 for 1947.)

(128 pig carcasses were also inspected, slaughtered by local pig-keepers under the provisions of the Ministry of Food, Self-Suppliers Scheme, Live Stock (Restrictions in Slaughtering) Order, as against 146 for the previous year.)

IMPORTED MEAT received and distributed during 1948.

			<u>Tons.</u>	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qtrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Beef	...	...	398.	15.	2.	22.
Mutton & Lamb	...	...	552.	2.	0.	14.
Veal	...	...		14.	1.	16.
Pork	...	...	4.	9.	0.	25.
Corned meat	...	...	139.	10.	3.	3.
Offal	...	...	53.	19.	0.	5.
			<u>1,149.</u>	<u>11.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>1.</u>

Licences issued to slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933, during 1948 :-

New licences	2.
Renewal of licences	21.

Unsound 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 salvage for industrial purposes or animal feeding, and the remainder destroyed :-

			<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>	<u>No. of whole carcasses included.</u>
Beef (Home killed)	...	...	6.	12.	0.	11.	24.
Mutton "	"	...		9.	1.	13.	31.
Veal "	"	...		1.	1.	10.	5.
			7.	2.	3.	6.	60.
Offal	...	...	12.	16.	3.	5.	
			19.	19.	2.	11.	
Imported Meat	...	...		6.	2.	7.	
Corned Meat	..	...		9.	3.	2.	
Fish	...	...		16.	1.	14.	
Bacon	...	...				25.	
Potatoes	...	...		2.	3.	0.	
Butter	...	...			3.	12.	
Canned & Bottled Foods.				1.	2.	6.	
Various other foodstuffs					3.	16.	
			<u>21.</u>	<u>18.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>9.</u>	

(as against 11 tons. 2 cwts. 2 qrs. 23 lbs. for 1947).

INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES.Brief Review.Notifications.

A Table of the rates per 1,000 civilian population of corrected notifications received during the year 1948 for the district and also for England and Wales, with corresponding figures for 1947 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>1948.</u>	<u>1947.</u>	<u>1948.</u>	<u>1947.</u>
Typhoid Fever.	-	-	0.01.	(0.01).
Paratyphoid Fever.	-	-	0.01.	(0.01).
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	0.10.	(0.10).	0.03.	(0.05).
Scarlet Fever.	0.90.	(2.17).	1.73.	(1.37).
Whooping Cough.	0.50.	(0.10).	3.42.	(2.22).
Diphtheria.	-	(0.10).	0.08.	(0.13).
Erysipelas.	0.45.	(0.25).	0.21.	(0.19).
Smallpox.	-	-	-	(0.00).
Measles.	10.35.	(1.36).	9.34.	(9.41).
Pneumonia.	-	(0.45).	0.73.	(0.79).
Acute Poliomyelitis.	0.10.		0.04.	
Ac. Polioencephalitis.	0.05.		0.00.	

As shown above, the district was free throughout the year from Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers, Diphtheria and Smallpox.

Cerebro Spinal Fever.

Two cases were notified, both infants (one female and one male during the first and last quarters of the year respectively). They were treated in hospital, but both cases ended fatally.

Scarlet Fever.

Eighteen cases in all, half of whom were within the 5 - 10 age group, occurring sporadically over the district, and of a fairly mild type. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.

The incidence of this distressing child disease amounted to ten notifications and it is highly satisfactory to note that no deaths resulted.

Erysipelas.

Nine cases were notified, and no deaths recorded. Five were in the 65 and over age group. Five and seven respectively were the number of notified cases for the two previous years.

Measles.

1948 was a "peak" year for this highly infectious, though preventable disease, the number of notifications rising from the exceptionally low figure of five for 1947 to a total of 207 with one infant male death. The cases generally mild in character, which were fairly evenly distributed between the age groups up to 10 years, and over all parts of the district, occurred mostly during the two middle quarters of the year.

Pneumonia.

Notifications received - none.

Deaths from this cause - Males 8. Females 7.

Whilst, admittedly, only certain forms of this disease are notifiable, it is apparent that failure to notify, accounts in some measure, for the paradoxical situation stated above.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

Two cases, both (male) infants, were notified during the last quarter of the year and were discharged after treatment in hospital.

Acute Polioencephalitis.

One notified case, male aged 8 years, occurred during the third quarter of the year, and was discharged after hospital treatment.

Ashvale Isolation Hospital.

The number of patients, many of whom were admitted from neighbouring districts, treated during the first half of the year, when, on the 5th. July, the Hospital was taken over by the Regional Hospital Board, was forty three.

It is fitting at this juncture, and change-over in management, to recall the very great interest always taken by the Council throughout the years in the administration of their hospital and their keen and ever-ready desire to support any recommendations put forward for its improved equipment and facilities.

The Council, on their part, will doubtless wish to join in tribute to the splendid work accomplished by the staff and to record their appreciation of the unceasing labours of Miss Robjohns, who, for the past fourteen years has been in charge as Matron at the hospital, and whose excellent services and capabilities it is no idle boast to state, has been the means of relieving the sufferings of many, and the saving of not a few young lives to Tredegar and surrounding areas.

Your thanks are also due to the County Medical Officer and his Laboratory Staff for their kind co-operation at all times, as in other directions, by the examination of throat and nasal swabs and other pathological specimens, which in total must have reached a fairly large number.

* * * * *

As a matter of interest, the total deaths for 1948, classified into age groups were :-

	<u>Under</u> <u>1.</u>	<u>1 - 5.</u>	<u>5 - 10.</u>	<u>10 - 20.</u>	<u>20 - 35.</u>	<u>35 - 45.</u>
Males.	8.	1.	1.	-	7.	9.
Females.	8.	1.	-	1.	9.	7.
Total.	16.	2.	1.	1.	16.	16.
	<u>45 - 65.</u>	<u>65 - 70.</u>	<u>70 - 80.</u>	<u>80 & over.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	
Males.	26.	17.	38.	19.	126.	
Females.	28.	17.	24.	10.	105.	
Total.	54.	34.	62.	29.	231.	

TUBERCULOSIS.

The state of the Tuberculosis Register at the beginning, and at the close of 1948, was as follows :-

	<u>MALES.</u>		<u>FEMALES.</u>		<u>TOTAL.</u>
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>	
1st. January, 1948.	108.	74.	110.	54.	346.
31st. December, 1948.	119.	75.	115.	56.	365.

Statistics showing the number of new cases and mortality during the year, arranged to age groups, are given in Table III at the end of the report. For comparison, the figures for 1948 and several previous years are given below :-

Year.	New Cases.		Deaths.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pul.
1948.	33.	4.	13.	1.
1947.	21.	5.	17.	2.
1946.	35.	7.	7.	2.
1945.	25.	7.	12.	-
1944.	39.	7.	13.	1.
1943.	43.	11.	19.	2.
1942.	22.	9.	14.	3.

The total number of notifications of admission to (Form 1) and discharge from (Form 11) Institutions during 1948 were :-

	Males.		Females.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
ADMISSIONS.	13.	3.	9.	1.
DISCHARGES.	10.	2.	14.	1.

Dr. T. F. Jarman, Chest Physician, The Clinic, Pontllanfraith, kindly supplied the following figures in respect to the year 1948 :-

Number of cases examined at the Clinic ... 185.
(including 6 home visits)

Total number of attendances at the Clinic ... 625.
(including 63 home visits etc)

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 take the opportunity 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, Lady and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

EDWIN T. H. DAVIES.

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

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

(Registrar General's Returns).

1947.			1948.		
M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
2.	-	2.	1.	1.	2.
-	1.	1.	-	-	-
10.	7.	17.	5.	8.	13.
2.	-	2.	1.	1.	2.
2.	-	2.	1.	-	1.
-	1.	1.	-	-	-
-	-	-	1.	-	1.
1.	-	1.	-	-	-
-	1.	1.	-	-	-
Cancer of :-					
3.	-	3.	2.	-	2.
-	2.	2.	-	1.	1.
9.	7.	16.	13.	4.	17.
-	-	-	-	2.	2.
17.	10.	27.	20.	11.	31.
1.	2.	3.	1.	3.	4.
22.	18.	40.	12.	16.	28.
35.	24.	59.	23.	23.	46.
6.	3.	9.	4.	3.	7.
12.	7.	19.	10.	3.	13.
8.	2.	10.	8.	7.	15.
2.	1.	3.	1.	2.	3.
3.	-	3.	2.	-	2.
3.	-	3.	-	-	-
-	2.	2.	-	-	-
1.	3.	4.	2.	3.	5.
5.	3.	8.	1.	6.	7.
-	1.	1.	-	-	-
2.	2.	4.	2.	2.	4.
3.	2.	5.	4.	-	4.
2.	1.	3.	3.	-	3.
1.	1.	2.	-	1.	1.
4.	1.	5.	5.	1.	6.
8.	2.	10.	4.	7.	11.
164.	104.	268.	126.	105.	231.
ALL CAUSES.					
19,810.			19,930.		
POPULATION.					

TABLE 11.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1948.
(After correction and other than Tuberculosis).

DISEASE.	AGE GROUPS.												Total at all ages.
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over.	
Scarlet fever.	-	-	2	3	3	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	18.
Cerebro-spinal fever.	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.
Ac. Poliomyelitis.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.
Op. Neonatorum.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.
Puerperal Pyrexie.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	7.
Measles and German measles.	14	29	28	24	35	77	-	-	-	-	-	-	207.
Whooping Cough.	-	2	1	2	-	4	1	-	-	-	1	5	10.
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	9.
Ac. Pol. Encephalitis.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.
Dysentery.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.
TOTALS.	18	33	33	29	38	91	2	-	7	1	3	5	260.

TABLE 111.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during
1948 according to age groups.

Age Groups.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	5	6	-	-	-	3	1	-
25	4	6	1	1	2	3	-	1
35	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
45	5	1	-	-	2	1	-	-
55	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	18	15	2	2	5	8	1	1

TABLE IV.
INFANTILE MORTALITY - 1948.

<u>CAUSE OF DEATH.</u>	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.	3	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
Congenital malformation, Birth injury and Infant disorders.	3	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	5
Bronchitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Broncho Pneumonia.	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	-	1	5
TOTALS.	6	1	1	-	8	3	4	-	1	16

TABLE V.

Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population - 1948.

(Estimated Population - 19,930.)

	All Causes.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever.	Smallpox.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis.	Pneumonia.	Tuberculosis.	Influenza.
England and Wales.	10.8.	0.00.	--	0.02.	0.00	0.01.	0.41.	0.51.	0.03.
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	11.6.	0.00.	--	0.02.	0.00.	0.01.	0.38.	0.59.	0.03.
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population of 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931.)	10.7.	0.00.	--	0.02.	0.00.	0.01.	0.36.	0.46.	0.04.
London Administrative County.	11.6.	0.00.	--	0.01.	0.01.	0.00.	0.54.	0.63.	0.02.
TREDEGAR URBAN DISTRICT.	11.59.	--	--	--	--	--	0.75.	0.75.	--

