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The Urban District Council of Tredegar



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

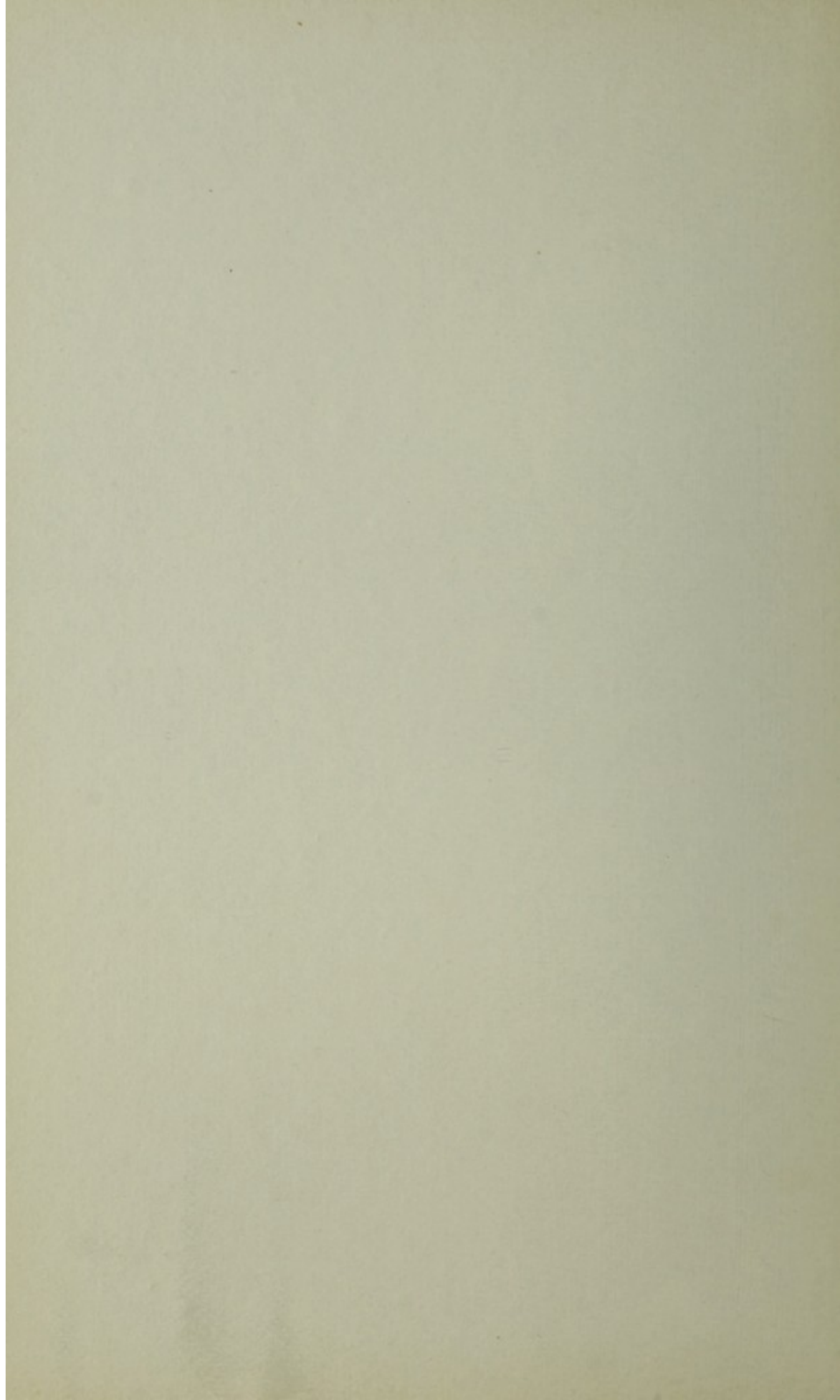
and

Senior Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1959





ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

Dr. M. J. DONELAN, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. I

Tredegar Urban District Council

Chairman (1959) : Councillor G. H. Tuffin, J.P.

Chairman (1959) : Public Health Committee : Councillor I. Williams

MEMBERS :

West Ward.

Councillor W. R. Phillips
Councillor D. T. J. Richards
Councillor J. Stockton
Councillor R. Williams

Central Ward.

Councillor W. A. Baines, B.E.M.
Councillor E. Jones, M.B.E., J.P.
Councillor G. H. Tuffin, J.P.
Councillor G. T. Meredith

Georgetown Ward.

Councillor A. L. Coombes
Councillor H. R. Davies
Councillor J. B. McPherson
Councillor (Mrs.) I. Powell

Sirhowy Ward.

Councillor R. I. Davies
Councillor T. James,
Councillor I. Williams
Councillor M. G. Jones

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. M. J. Donelan, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector :

O. Griffiths, M.R.S.H.

Certificated Public Health Inspector, The Royal Society of Health and Association of Public Health Inspectors Examination Joint Board, 1937.

Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, 1938.

Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, The Royal Society of Health, 1939.

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

Second Public Health Inspector :

K. O. Batten, C.R.S.H.,

Certificated Public Health Inspector, The Royal Society of Health and Association of Public Health Inspectors Examination Joint Board, 1937.

Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, The Royal Society of Health, 1939.

Senior Clerk : Miss R. A. Hitchings.

Junior Clerk : Miss M. Evans.

Cleansing Foreman : Mr. C. Brace.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Bedwellty House,
TREDEGAR Mon.
July, 1960.

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

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Powell and Gentlemen,

It is with much pleasure that I submit to you my Annual Report for the Year 1959, which has been drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular I/60 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
					<hr/> 8,148 acres

Rateable Value of the District £125,351

Estimated Product of Id. Rate £470

Amount per Pound of Rates Levied for the District

(Year ended 30/4/60) 28/-

Number of Dwelling Houses 5,697

The population of the district reached its peak in the years 1924-25 when the figure given was 26,380. The depression during the years that followed brought a gradual exodus, especially of the younger people to more prosperous areas, resulting in a steady decline, leaving in 1939 an estimated population figure of 20,600. This drop continued somewhat during the war years, but an upward trend is again noted for the post war years and the Registrar General's estimate for 1959 is 20,210.

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 of 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 Trefil 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 portion of the district have on either side of the valley mountainous ridges, formed of 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 moorland in the northern limits stretching to a width of about three miles, tapering along the valley to a few furlong : a width at the southern extremity.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTH RATE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Live Births (Legitimate)	170	170	340
(Illegitimate)	3	3	6
	<hr/> 173	<hr/> 173	<hr/> 346

Producing a birth rate of 16.6 per 1,000 population as compared with 17.9 for 1958 ; 16.6 for 1957 ; 13.75 for 1956 ; 16.39 for 1955 ; 17.14 for 1954 16.14 for 1953 ; 17.82 for 1952, 19.05 for 1951 ; 19.67 for 1950 and 21.35 for 1949.

Rate for County ...	16.85.	Rate for England and Wales, 16.5	
Still Births (Legitimate)	13	6	19
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 19

Rate for County ... 0.54 Rate for England and Wales ... 0.04

Which gives a rate of 0.94 per 1,000 population as against 0.89 for 1958 0.49 for 1957 0.74 for 1956; 0.75 for 1955; 0.34 for 1954; 0.48 for 1953; 0.83 for 1952 and 0.49 for 1951 and 0.88 for 1950.

The still-birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) is as follows :

1959	... .. .	52.05
1958	... .. .	48.89
1957	... .. .	27.06
1956	... .. .	42.61
1955	... .. .	51.72
1954	... .. .	21.08
1953	... .. .	27.77
1952	... .. .	49.27
1951	... .. .	26.88
1950	... .. .	44.33
1949	... .. .	15.26
1948	... .. .	22.44

DEATH RATE.

After correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General, the number of deaths during 1959 was :—

Males.	Females.	Total.
139	113	252

Resulting in a death rate per 1,000 population of 12.4.

Rate for County ... 11.75. Rate for England and Wales ... 11.6.

Comparable figures for earlier years were :—

1946	... .. .	11.77 ;	1945	... .. .	10.74 ;	1944	... .. .	11.54
1930	... .. .	10.37 ;	1914	... .. .	17.90 ;	1901	... .. .	19.33

MATERNAL DEATH RATE.

There were no maternal deaths in the district during the year.

The rate for 1959 per 1,000 (live and still) births is as follows :—

Mon. Admins. County	0.52
TREDEGAR U.D.	0.00

For the earlier ten years the number of maternal deaths for the district were :—

1957	...	Nil	1951	...	1
1956	...	Nil	1950	...	1
1955	...	Nil	1949	...	1
1954	...	Nil	1948	...	Nil.
1953	...	Nil	1947	...	1
1952	...	Nil	1946	...	Nil.
Legitimate	...	I.M.R.	...	0.027	
Illegitimate	...	I.M.R.	...	0.005	

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one week :

	Males	Females	Totals	
Legitimate	3	5	8	} Total 9
Illegitimate	1	—	1	

Deaths of infants under one month :

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	5	5	10
Illegitimate	1	1	2

Neo-natal death rate per 1,000 live births, 34.6. Rate for County, 21.28.

Deaths of infants under one year :—

	Males	Females	Total,	
Legitimate	6	5	11	} 13
Illegitimate	1	1	2	

Giving a rate per 1,000 live births of 37.5.

Rate for County, 27.23.

Rate for England and Wales, 22.0.

A few comparative figures for past years are given below :—

1957	...	19.3			
1956	...	20.7	1944	...	58.08
1955	...	51.66	1942	...	62.03
1954	...	47.2	1941	...	78.88
1953	...	50.00	1924	...	73.4
1952	...	48.78	1914	...	125.00
1947	...	47.28	1904	...	190.00

The rate of legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births was 28.9.

Statistical Tables appertaining to your district are appended to the Report.

A comparison of the vital statistics of the district with those for England and Wales also for the County for 1959 are set out in the accompanying tabulation :—

	BIRTH RATE.		DEATH RATE.	
	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 and Wales	16.5	0.04	11.6	22.0
Monmouthshire	16.85	0.54	11.75	27.23
TREDEGAR U.D.	16.6	0.94	12.4	34.6

Comparability Factors : Births, 1.37 Deaths, 1

The average age at death for the year :—

Males 64.4 years (as against 68.3 for 1958).

Females 71.8 yrs. (as against 65.1 for 1958).

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifications.

A Table of the case rates per 1,000 Home Population of corrected notifications received during the year 1959 for the district with corresponding figures for 1958 for comparison is set out below.

Maybe there were a number of "missed" or non-notified cases of the commoner infectious diseases, even so, allowing for a reasonable margin in this respect, the incidence of infectious diseases was fairly low. Reference to Table II will give further details of age groups.

	<i>Tredegar Urban Area</i>	
	1959	1958
Typhoid Fever	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—
Scarlet Fever	0.24	—
Whooping Cough	—	.35
Diphtheria	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—
Smallpox	—	—
Measles	10.2	.15
Pneumonia	0.29	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis (inc. Pol. encephalitis) :	—	—
Paralytic	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—
Food Poisoning	2.1	.15
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—
Sonne Dysentery	0.29	.05

TUBERCULOSIS

The state of the Tuberculosis Register for the district at the commencement and at the close of 1959 was as follows :

	Males.		Females.		Total
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	
1st Jan., 1959 ...	116	72	145	46	379
31st Dec., 1959 ...	111	70	149	45	375

Statistics showing the number of new cases and mortality during the year, arranged in age groups, are given in Table III at the end of the Report. For comparison, the figures for 1958 and several previous years are given below :

Year	New Cases.		Deaths.	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulm'ry
1959 ...	19	2	3	1
1958 ...	14	1	—	—
1957 ...	26	—	7	—
1956 ...	13	1	1	—
1955 ...	30	3	4	2
1954 ...	29	4	5	—
1953 ...	23	3	13	1
1952 ...	20	5	8	2
1951 ...	26	11	9	2
1950 ...	38	10	6	2

The total number of notifications of admission to (Form 1) and discharge from (Form 2) Institutions during the year were :—

	Males.		Females.	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulm'ry
Admissions ...	6	—	11	2
Discharges ...	8	—	10	1

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1926 Relating to persons 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 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 the members of the staff through the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

M. J. DONELAN, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

TABLE I.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

(Registrar General's Return)

	1959		
	M.	F.	Totals
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	3	1	4
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ...	5	5	10
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	6	—	6
Malignant Neoplasm, breast ...	—	5	5
Malignant Neoplasm uterus ...	—	2	2
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	7	8	15
Leucaemia, Aleucaemia ...	1	—	1
Diabetes ...	1	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	6	16	22
Coronary disease, angina ...	21	13	34
Hypertension with heart disease... ..	5	12	17
Other heart disease ...	19	18	37
Other circulatory disease ...	11	6	17
Influenza ...	3	1	4
Pneumonia ...	6	—	6
Bronchitis ...	10	4	14
Other disease of respiratory system ...	6	1	7
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	2	5	7
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	—	1
Congenital malformations... ..	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	12	8	20
Motor Vehicle accidents ...	3	1	4
Other accidents ...	6	4	10
Suicide ...	—	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	2	1	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	—	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	—	1
ALL CAUSES ...	139	113	252

Population ... 20,210

TABLE II

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Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1959. (After correction and other than Tuberculosis).

DISEASE.	AGE GROUPS										Total at all ages
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over	Age unknown	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	5
Measles ...	7	7	28	25	22	117	2	—	—	1	209
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	17	4	11	—	11	—	43
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	—	6
Polio-myelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sonne Dysentery	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	6
TOTALS	8	8	28	28	39	124	14	—	19	1	269

TABLE III.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during
1959 according to age groups.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'y		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'y	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
under 5	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24	1	5	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-44	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
45-64	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
65 & Over	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	6	13	—	2	3	—	1	—

O. GRIFFITHS, M.R.S.H.

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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Public Health Department,

Bedwellty House,

TREDEGAR, Mon.

July, 1960

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

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Powell and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year 1959.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Section I.

WATER.

The water area of the authority 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 Nantybwhch Filtration Plant ... 408,533,000 galls.

At the Georgetown Filtration Plant ... 150,320,000 galls.

Of this amount :—

115,770,000 galls were supplied in bulk to the BEDWELLYTY U.D.C.

5,563,000 galls. were supplied in bulk to the RHYMNEY U.D.C.

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

			<i>Dwelling houses.</i>		<i>Population.</i>
(a) Total in District	...	...	5,697	...	20,210
(b) Direct service to houses	...	...	5,691	...	20,186
(c) Standpipes	...	...	6	...	24

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLIES.

	<i>Satisfactory.</i>		<i>Unsatisfactory.</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Raw</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Raw</i>	<i>Treated</i>	
TREDEGAR U.D.	Nil.	32	22	Nil	54

All samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Newport..

CLIMATOLOGICAL STATION.

Latitude	...	...	...	...	...	...	51° 46' North.
Longitude	...	...	...	...	...	...	3° 22' West.
Height above m.s.l.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1028 feet.
Grid Reference	...	...	...	...	...	...	31/141087
Air Ministry Ref. No. (M.O.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4007/5.

The Council embarked on this scientific work in January, 1949, and observations were commenced in January, 1950. The main difficulty was in siting the instruments satisfactorily, but in June, 1951, an ideal site was obtained in the swimming bath enclosure and the equipment was set up here towards the end of 1951. The station was inspected by a Meteorological Officer of the Air Ministry in the following month.

All the instruments are of standard design and carry certificates of correction by the National Physical Laboratory or the Meteorological Office. Observations of maximum and minimum temperature, wet and dry bulb temperature, humidity, vapour pressure, dew point, grass minimum temperature, rainfall, barometric pressure and sunshine are taken daily throughout the year at 09.00 hours, G.M.T.

All temperatures, except grass minimum, are taken from thermometers exposed in Stevensons Screens standing 4 feet above a grass plot, and are expressed in degrees F. Pressure readings are expressed in millibars and the readings are corrected for temperature, height above m.s.l. latitude and index Error.

The station barometer is a Kew pattern and only reads correctly at a temperature of 285 deg. A. on 52 deg. N latitude at m.s.l. Any deviations from these conditions must be corrected. Rainfall is measured in inches and collected in a standard 5-inch raingauge.

Instruments in use at present consist of:—

Maximum Thermometer, solid stem	...	...	No. M.O.215950
Minimum Thermometer, solid stem	...	...	No. M.O.66104/49
Wet Bulb Thermometer, Glass sheathed	...	...	No. M.O.72135/42
Dry Bulb Thermometer, Glass sheathed	...	...	No. M.O.72634/45
Grass Minimum Thermometer, Glass sheathed	...	...	No. M.O.33511/58
Kew pattern Station Barometer	...	...	No. 3412/49
M.O. pattern Thermograph	...	...	No. M.O.1384/50
M.O. pattern Hygrograph	...	...	No. M.O.954/45
M.O. pattern Open Scale Barograph	...	...	No. M.O.146/44
B.R.O. pattern 5-inch Raingauge	...	...	No. M.O.7093/58
M.O. pattern-taper measure	...	...	No. M.O.13955/58
Campbell Stokes pattern Sunshine—Recorder	...	...
	Bowl	...	No. M.O.367/50
	Sphere	...	No. M.O.1988/58
Dynes Tilting Syphon Rain Gauge	...	...	No. M.O. 651
Direct Reading Anemometer Mk.IB.	...	...	M.O.200/44/50/51
Remote Indicating Indicator	...	...	M.O. 9355/11
Wind Vane	...	...	M.O. 1641/51
Indicator	...	...	M.O. 2841

Thermometers and autographic instruments housed in two-Standard Stevenson Screens.

Summaries of observations are published each month in the "Monthly Weather Report" and each year in the "General Table" of British Rainfall, both of the Air Ministry.

CLIMATOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS 1959

	Temperatures			Mean Temps.			Pressure			Rainfall		Days with Rain	Days with Snow	Nights with Ground Frost	Average Daily Sunshine
	Max.	Min.	Min Grass	Day	Night	M'th	Max.	Min.	Mean	Total	Wettest Day				
	°F	°F	F.	°F	°F	°F	mbs.	mbs.	mbs.	ins.	ins.				hrs.
JAN.	48	19	10	39.5	30.3	34.9	1035.9	975.8	1012.8	8.02	1.34	20	11	22	2.14
FEB.	60	23	19	45.1	33.1	39.1	1045.5	1022.5	1031.9	.49	.32	3	—	14	2.67
MAR.	54	29	21	48.0	37.8	42.63	1027.8	985.0	1010.6	6.19	1.49	20	—	7	2.54
APR.	61	29	24	53.2	39.8	46.5	1027.7	989.7	1008.7	6.65	1.52	20	—	9	4.36
MAY	71	32	25	62.0	43.9	52.9	1029.5	993.5	1021.3	1.91	.35	10	—	4	7.07
JUNE	73	40	34	65.1	48.8	56.9	1039.6	1006.0	1019.2	2.68	.52	15	—	—	7.44
JULY	79	41	35	68.2	51.0	59.6	1028.0	1003.7	1016.7	6.25	2.1	15	—	—	6.21
AUG.	77	41	35	68.3	51.7	60.0	1031.0	1001.5	1018.7	1.50	.7	10	—	—	6.20
SEP.	76	34	24	66.6	46.7	56.6	1029.4	1012.2	1021.6	.31	.26	2	—	3	6.81
OCT.	73	31	23	59.9	44.3	52.1	1031.2	969.6	1013.5	6.26	1.55	14	—	8	4.12
NOV.	58	24	16	48.0	38.0	43.0	1028.8	980.1	1007.1	10.85	2.85	23	—	15	1.52
DEC.	51	29	22	45.2	35.0	40.1	1021.2	977.1	988.2	17.14	2.20	27	—	14	.67
Totals	781	372		669.1	500.4	584.6	—	—	12180.3	68.25	—	179	11	96	51.75
Means	65	31		55.7	41.7	48.7	—	—	1015.0	5.68	—	—	—	—	4.31

Open Air Swimming Bath.

The Pool, which is situated in beautiful surroundings within Bedwellty Park, was opened in July 1932, at a total cost of £10,000. The Pool is constructed of 7-ft. reinforced concrete at the deep end and 5-ft. reinforced concrete at the shallow end with a 4-inch raft of plain concrete under the whole floor. Its length is 200 feet and 50 feet wide with a capacity of 257,000 gallons. It is 8-ft. 6-ins. at the deep end and 2-ft. 6-ins. at the shallow end.

The purification plant consists of two pressure filters 8-ft. in diameter by 10-ft. long. After being filtered the water is dosed with liquid chlorine.

Regular samples of water are taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Newport. All samples were found satisfactory.

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Number of Bathers ...	66,698	29,557	41,804	19,840	38,841
Number of Spectators ...	9,882	3,504	5,042	2,205	7,213

Drainage and Sewerage.

Practically the whole of the district is provided with subsidiary stone-ware 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 is 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 immediately upon receipt of complaint or noted during inspection.

Rivers and Streams.

The river Howy, with a small number of 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:—

(1) Number of pail or privy closets (including several of the chemical type) to isolated farms, cottages and other premises where no sewer is available	...	...	38
(2) Number of closets with fixed receptacles	...	...	5
(3) Number of closets with moveable receptacles	...	...	5
(4) Number of closets with flushing apparatus	...	...	4192
(5) Number of closets (hand flushed)	...	...	2227

Section 2. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Throughout the year this vital Sanitary and Public Health Service was regularly maintained, the frequency of which is shown in the accompanying table.

During the year refuse has been deposited on the modified controlled tips at the north and south ends of the district. A labourer is employed at each tip to ensure proper control and there have been no serious complaints of nuisance or rodents.

Number of Ponds filled in ... 2.

DETAILS OF REFUSE COLLECTION.

The district is divided into five areas for refuse collection with a driver and two loaders allocated to each vehicle, a sixth vehicle being held in reserve.

Area.	Streets	Days per Week
GEORGETOWN	Fields Rd., Ashville, Villas, Hill View, Oakfield Rd., Lower and Upper James St., Walter St., Southend, Georgetown Schools, Gladstone Place, Poplar Place, Rhod Villas and Troedrihwgair ...	5
	Kimberly Tce., Richmond Tce., York Tce., Elmwood, Victoria Tce., Alexander Tce., Edward Tce., Police Station, Prospect Place, Bowens Tce., Park Place, Glyn Tce., Woodfield Rd., Whitworth Tce., St. James Hospital, Rhod Tce., and Arthur St. ...	6
	Bedwellty Pits, Heathfield and Pochin ...	3
	Red and White Depot ...	2
	Total number of premises, Georgetown Area	1171

CENTRAL	Duke St., Iron Row, Iron St., Bridge St., Vale Tce., Pochin Crescent, Brompton Place, Cottage Homes, Market St., Castle St., The Circle, Morgan St., Park Hill, Park Row, Harcourt Tce., Islwyn Tce. ...	6
	Morgan Street, Inkerman Tce., Parkville, Upper and Lower Salisbury St., Park View, Pencoed, Cefn Rhos, Cwm Rhos, Upper and Lower Coronation Street, Shop Row and Vale View ...	5
	Cefn Golau, Aberffrwyd, Tredegar Station ...	3
	Total number of premises, Central Area ...	1240

WEST AREA	Queen Sq., Red Lion Sq., Commercial St., Mount St., Picton St., High St., Earl St., Bournville, West Hill, Glandovey Tce., George St., Union St. ...	6
	Tanybank, Griffiths Gardens and Square, North Ave., Bevans Ave., Pembroke St., Brynbach St., Greenwood Ave., Isolation Hosp., The Crescent, Fairview Bung., Maple Ave., Laburnum Ave., Sycamore Ave.	5
	Total number of Premises, West Area ...	1150
SIRHOWY and DUKESTOWN	Alexandra Place, Railway View, Nursery Tce., Charles St., Arnold Place, Dukestown Rd., Butleigh Tce., Scwrfa, Dukestown, Twyn Star	6
	Tafarnaubach, Tynewydd, Lwynhelyg, Penybont Station Tce., Pantydwr, Bush Bach, Station Road, White Lion Cottages, Minyrafon, Rear Ashvale, Waundeg	5
	Trefil Quarries, Trefil Village	4
	Awelfa	3
	Coach Bach	2
	Total number of Premises, Sirhowy and Dukestown area	1068
BEAUFORT ROAD AREA	Beaufort Rd., Rhoslan, Brynbicca, Ladies Row, King St., Tredegar Tce., Howy Tce., Harford St., Mafeking Tce., part Kimberley Tce., Pretoria Tce., Ladysmith Tce., Buller Tce., Colenzo Tce., Roberts Tce., Greenfield Tce., Bethel Ave., Post Office, Workman's Hall, George St., Pond Row, Temple St., Church Sq., Polar Pl., St. Georges Place ...	6
	Peacehaven, rear Morgan St., Vaughan's Yard, Carpenters Yard, Four Rows	5
	Gelli Cottages	4
	Upper and Lower Mount Pleasant, Penmark ...	2
	Total Number of Premises, Beaufort Rd. Area	1037

Vehicles :

One addition was made to the refuse collecting fleet during the year. The present fleet consists of :—

- 2 Austin, 10 cubic yard freighters.
- 1 Bedford, 10 cubic yard freighter.
- 1 Karrier, Fore and aft tipper.
- 1 Fordson 10 cubic yard freighter.
- 1 Fordson 10 h.p. 2 cubic yard freighter.
- 1 Karrier Gully Emptier and Street Cleaner.
- 1 Bedford-Lacre Sweeper Collector.

This includes a new Karrier, fore and aft tipper and a new Bedford-Lacre Sweeper Collector.

Six vehicles are on the road daily, one being kept at the yard for maintenance and as a spare. The 2 cubic yard Fordson is used for collecting at points which are inaccessible to the larger vehicles and for the weekly collection of boiler ashes from St. James Hospital.

The garage staff under the direction of the chief mechanic are to be congratulated on the manner in which they have maintained the vehicles. On no occasion during the year has a vehicle failed to complete its particular beat owing to mechanical fault.

COST STATEMENT 1959—1960.
REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Items	Particulars	Totals		
		£	s.	d.
1	Gross Expenditure :			
	(1) Labour	7,825	0	0
	(2) Transport	6,031	0	0
	(3) Plant Buildings Land	1,722	0	0
	(4) Other items	169	0	0
	Total gross expenditure ...	15,747	0	0
2	Gross Income	198	0	0
3	Net Cost	15,549	0	0

Sickness.

The high incidence of sickness continues to throw a heavy burden on the Department. The following table shows the time lost per month in days throughout the year.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
197	120	124	124	90	90	57	55	45	87	87	87
TOTAL ...						1,163					

A drop of 201 days on 1958.

Beat.	SUMMER						WINTER					
	Heavy. Day			Light Day			Hvy. Day			Light Day		
	t.	c.	q.	t.	c.	q.	t.	c.	q.	t.	c.	q.
Georgetown ...	7	3	0	5	0	0	11	15	0	8	4	2
Central ...	5	9	0	3	7	0	8	15	3	4	12	1
Town ...	10	3	2	8	7	3	11	1	1	7	7	3
Sirhowy & D'k'town	6	17	0	5	14	2	9	5	2	5	18	1
North ...	9	3	0	4	10	3	10	10	0	6	0	0
TOTALS ...	38	15	2	27	0	0	51	7	2	32	2	3

From these weighings it can be assumed that 37 tons are collected daily. Calculating on a 5 day week the yearly total amounts to 10,582 tons. Further statistics are as follows :—

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
Weight of refuse removed per vehicle :			
Light day ...	5	18	0
Heavy day ...	8	18	0
Weight of refuse removed per 1,000 population per week ...	10	3	0
Weight of refuse removed per 1,000 population per day... ..	1	17	0
Weight of refuse removed per 1,000 properties per week ...	33	16	0
Weight of refuse removed per 1,000 properties per day ...	6	3	0

Test weighings are carried out twice yearly during the summer and winter periods.

Roads and Highways.

Of the total or approximately 43 miles of roads in the district, 13,240 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 I ROAD A.4048 :

From Sirhowy Bridge to Pochin (Northern Boundary of Bedwellty U.D. ... 4.01 miles

(c) CLASS II ROAD B.4256 :

From Queen Victoria Street to the Rhymney U.D. boundary at Heath Cock ... 1.39 miles

(d) CLASS III ROADS.

From A.465 near Crown Inn, Nantybwh to Quarrymen's Arms, Trefil	1.85 miles.
From A.465 near Railway Hotel to Station Road near Crown Inn, Nantybwh	1.21 miles.
From A.4048 at Morgan Street via Shop Row to Ebbw Vale U.D. Boundary near Mountain Air Gate ...	1.11 miles.
From B.4256 near Cefn Golau Cemetery to U.D. Boundary South of Mountain Ash Inn	1.13 miles.
From A.465 along mountain to Groespenmaen via. Manmoel	2.88 miles.

Street Cleansing.

Every effort has been made to man all sweeping beats throughout the year, but the high incidence of sickness has made this part of the service extremely difficult to carry out fully.

In January a Bedford-Lacre street Sweeper/Collector went into service and has been operating throughout the year in all parts of the district. The total mileage swept during the year was 449.1 miles.

One of the biggest problems facing Public Cleansing Departments today is the lack of suitable men to fill vacancies as street sweepers and for this reason the Mechanical Sweeper has filled a pressing need.

Street and Gully Cleansing

Item.	Particulars.	Total		
1	Gross Expenditure :	£	s.	d.
	(1) Labour	2,394	0	0
	(2) Transport	1,616	0	0
	(3) Plant, Equipment and Buildings	—		
	(4) Other Items	145	0	0
	(5) Gross Expenditure ...	4,155	0	0
2	Gross Income : (Excluding reimbursements)	10	0	0
3	Net Cost	4,145	0	0

This Urban Area is unique in having a daily collection of refuse for the greater portion of the town, all refuse being disposed of by modified controlled tipping at a distance of about 2 miles from the town centre.

Street gullies are cleansed by a modern gully cleanser and during periods of dry weather all main road are regularly sprayed and washed.

No. of gullies emptied during the year 2675
No. of miles of streets swept 449.1 (as from 1st April)

Snow Clearance.

The Department's vehicles were again made available to the Surveyor's Department in assisting in the clearance of snow and this cooperation resulted in a minimum delay in transport.

Operational Statistics.

Mileage of streets cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	52
Frequency of cleansing :—						
At least once daily	...	...	...	...	...	7%
Three to five times weekly	...	...	...	...	...	90%
Twice weekly	...	...	...	...	...	2%
Once weekly	...	...	...	...	...	1%
Less than once weekly	...	...	...	...	...	—

Salvage and Other Income.

During the year under review 30 tons 18 cwts. 1 qrs. of mixed waste paper was collected which realised £185 9s. 6d.

A contract is in force with the Fatstock Marketing Corporation whereby all manure is removed weekly from the Slaughterhouse at a charge of 10/- per week. This manure is then sold locally at 10/-d. per load. The amount realised for disposal and sale of manure was £38 10s. 0d.

Other income for hire of gully emptier and mechanical sweeper amounted to £9 13s. 7d.

Income from all sources amounted to £233 13s. 1d.

Public Conveniences.

These are situated as follows :—

Male Conveniences :	Waterclosets.	Urinals.
Church Street	1	1
Park Row	2	1
Vale Terrace	Nil.	1
Commercial Street	5	1
 Female Conveniences :		
Commercial Street	5	
Morgan Street	3	
Castle Street	2	
Park Row	2	

Washing facilities are provided in the female conveniences at Morgan Street and Commercial Street. The new convenience at Commercial Street was completed in 1959.

Due to excessive damage it was found necessary to close the Male Conveniences at the Crown, Nantybwlch and Beaufort Road, Sirhowy.

Section 3.**Housing.**

Total number of houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts. 161

Number of inspections made for the purpose. 249

Number of Council houses inspected. 197

Public Health Acts.

No. of Houses Inspected 144

Visits paid 232

Housing Acts.

Slum Clearance 17

Improvement grants 60

Housing Loans 122

Overcrowding 3

Rents Act 4

List of Individual Unfit Houses**Closed, Closed in Lieu of Demolition or Demolished****Up to 31st December, 1959.**

<i>Address of Property</i>	<i>Date Order Made</i>	<i>Closed, Closed in lieu of Demolition, or Demolished</i>
I & 2 Red Lion Cottages	24th December, 1959	Closing Order

**Schedule of Clearance Orders made by Tredegar U.D. Council.
To 31st December, 1959.**

<i>Name of Order</i>	<i>Properties</i>	<i>Date Operative</i>	<i>Whether Tenants rehoused</i>	<i>Whether demolished</i>
Tredegar Urban (Cross Row) Clear- ance Order, 1959	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, Cross Row	18th Feb., 1960	No.	No.

Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses Elsewhere.

A.—HOUSES DEMOLISHED :

<i>In Clearance Areas :</i> (Housing Act, 1957).	<i>Houses de- molished</i>	<i>Displaced during year</i>	
		<i>Persons</i>	<i>Families</i>
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	9	32	9
(2) Houses included by bad arrangement, etc. ...	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
<i>Not in Clearance Areas :</i>			
(4) As a result of formal or informal action under Sec. 17 Housing Act, 1957 ...	2	12	3
B.—UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED :			
(5) Under Sec. 16(4), 17(1), 35(1), Housing Act, 1957	4	18	4
(6) Housing Act, 1957 sec. 17(3), 26.	—	—	—
(7) Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18 Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—

C.—UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

	<i>By Owner</i>	<i>By Local Authority</i>
(8) After informal action by local authority ...	16	—
(9) After formal notice : Public Health Acts Housing Act 1957	13	—
(10) Under Sec. 24 Housing Act, 1957	—	—

Housing Progress.

Total number of dwelling houses in the district	...	...	5,697
Number of dwelling houses owned and controlled by the Local Authority :—			
Pre-War	...	...	487
Post-War	...	...	1031
Total	...	...	1,518
Total number of applicants for Council houses at end of year	...	...	621

Houses Erected during the Year.

	Temporary Prefabricated.					Permanent
By Local Authority	Nil.	...	...	Nil.
By Private Enterprise	Nil.	...	...	17

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, Sec. 4 (Certificates of Disrepair).

Applications.	Granted.	Refused.
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959. Sec. 43.

Loans for House Purchase.

Of all recent Housing legislation this has, so far as Tredegar is concerned, been one of the most popular. Today, owning one's house is no doubt the best investment possible, as property values are still rising and show no signs as yet of coming to a halt.

The people of Tredegar have used this Local Authority service to the full and over this year alone 81 applications have been received from people wishing to borrow money to buy houses in which they live or in which they intend to live.

One of the conditions attached to the loan is that the house must be fit and in order to satisfy this condition, a complete inspection is made of the property concerned. From this, a list of repairs is drawn up and attached to the mortgage; the mortgagee agreeing to complete the works within a specified time. This list is prepared by my Department and at the end of the period allowed, a further inspection is made to ensure that the repairs have been completed satisfactorily. Facilities are also available to obtain loans for the completion of the repair works, in addition to that for purchase.

As already stated, 81 applications were received for loans for house purchase, 10 of which were declined due to the unsuitability of the property. Twenty applications were received for loans to complete repairs and all were approved, while seven applications were for loans for the purchase of new dwellings, all being granted.

In 1959, 79 advances were made, amounting to £33,853, while at the 31st March, 1959, advances outstanding amounted to £448,040 4s. 0d.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959. Sec. 4. Standard Grants.

This act became law in June and made available to house owners a new type of grant—the Standard Grant—which enabled houses to be provided with five standard amenities :—

- (a) A fixed bath or shower in a bathroom.
- (b) A wash hand basin.
- (c) A hot water supply.
- (d) A watercloset in or contiguous to the dwelling.
- (e) Satisfactory facilities for the storage of food.

Since June, 32 applications have been received, 28 of which were approved. Two were declined and 2 withdrew their applications. The amount involved was £3,445. Of these 28 approved applications, 2 were completed and paid, the amount being £131. This sum was used to provide :—

- 2 bath facilities.
- 2 wash hand basins.
- 2 hot water systems.
- 1 Water closet.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958. Discretionary Grants.

These grants allow more ambitious improvements than the Standard Grant. Certain conditions have to be satisfied to qualify, but in the main the house after improvement must be fit and the standard of fitness is that contained in the Housing Act, 1957.

In 1959, 49 preliminary applications for grants were received, of which 38 were approved, 5 being declined and the remainder either withdrew or did not continue with their applications. Twenty-three formal applications were received and all these were approved, the amount involved being £6,434.

Eleven applications were completed and paid out, involving a sum of £3,278.

In both types of grant, the properties are inspected by a member of this Department and the Council advised as to whether grants should or should not be made.

Camping Sites and Itinerant Caravanners.

The itinerant caravan dweller continues to be a nuisance in this area. They come from, no-one knows where and make their appearance in much the same manner as mushrooms do in the night. They pitch their caravans just where they please, respecting nobody's property and eventually leave, leaving behind them their filth for others to clean.

Their caravans are more often than not, converted van bodies, but occasionally the traditional gaudily painted gipsy-type vehicle is seen. The majority of the occupants are dirty and live with their families in squalor that has to be seen to be believed. One of my biggest worries is the fire hazard that exists in these 'homes' on wheels. Their sole means of cooking is either a primus or a coal stove with open fire that has not been designed for use in such conditions. Rarely, if ever, are the fires protected by a guard, despite the fact that large families of young children is the rule.

Their means of livelihood is as haphazard as their means of living, which is usually rag collecting and scrap metal dealing, sorting out these materials at the side of their moveable dwelling.

It is of course, impossible to make out a case for the rehousing of these families, who one must admit, are a drain on the community, and make not the slightest contribution to the common good either by their own toil or by their obligations to their own family units.

There are no licenced caravan sites in Tredegar at present, partly because no applications have been made and partly because Tredegar is not a suitable place for sites, with its long, cold winters, which is quite unsuitable for flimsy, temporary dwellings.

Section 4.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The regular inspection of food premises was maintained during the year under review and considerable attention was paid to all Licenced premises.

The old type public house is rapidly disappearing with the more discriminating demand of the public. Modernisation has been carried out at several of the premises within the area, while those considered to be too old for treatment have been closed. Registered Clubs show a very high standard, the personal demand now being for comfort, cleanliness and increased social amenities rather than accumulation of profits for the distribution of 'checks' during the Christmas period.

The shopping centre provides a good class shop for the town's residents, and both multiple and private shop owners have completely modernised their premises. It is good to note that competition as well as being good for business, also provides us with a high sanitary standard.

Inspection of Food Premises.

Premises.	Number of Visits.
Butchers	29
Confectioners, Grocers and Greengrocers	128
Fishmongers and Poulterers	18
Fried Fish Shops	2
Icecream Premises	18
Markets and Stalls and Hawkers	59
Cafes	27
Slaughterhouses	456
Unsound Food	108
Licensed Premises	11
Food Hygiene Regulations	20
	<hr/> 867

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Defects Remedied.	Restaurants Kitchens and School Canteens	Bakers and Food Prep'rs.	Grocers and Greengrocers	Wet & Fried Fish Shops	Butchers	Dairies	Licensed Premises
Drainage				1			1
Sanitary Conveniences ...	1	1					3
Wash hand basin, sinks ...		1					1
Hot Water Supply ...		1	1				2
Clothing Accommodation ...		1					
First Aid Materials ...							
Cleanliness and Repair... and Decoration	1	2	1		2		2
Ventilation	1						
Provision of Refrigerators							
TOTAL	3	6	2	1	2		9

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING.

The Food and Drugs Authority is the County Council and during the year 75 samples of food were taken in the Tredegar area.

These were as follows :—

Milk	..	..	..	..	..	40
Other Foods	..	..	..	..	..	30
Ice-cream	..	..	..	..	..	3
Beer	..	..	..	..	..	2

All these samples were found on examination by the Public Analyst to be satisfactory, except for one sample of milk which was slightly down in fat content. The deficiency being slight no legal proceedings were instituted.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

There are two slaughterhouses in the area, one leased from the Local Authority by the Fatstock Marketing Corporation and one licenced as a private slaughterhouse at Highfield, Nantybwch. The latter slaughterhouse is in excellent condition and should comply with all Ministry requirements with the installation of a stunning pen.

Plans and specifications have been prepared for repairs and improvements to the slaughterhouse occupied by the Fatstock Marketing Corporation and these will be submitted to the Ministry during the year 1960. The alterations will include for increased covered lairage accommodation, additional toilet facilities for staff, the provision of a stunning pen, new boiler for pig scalding, a meat conditioning room and general incidental repairs to ensure hygienic working conditions.

Meat is distributed from the slaughterhouse in modern transport vans which are always kept in a hygienic condition and adequate facilities are provided for the staff in the way of overalls to ensure clean handling of meat.

I am pleased to report that both slaughterhouses have been kept in a clean condition and co-operation with both occupiers has been excellent.

Ante-mortem inspection of all animals is carried out as far as is practicable and post mortem inspection is ensured by regular attendance during the slaughtering period at both slaughterhouses.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed ...	573	9	36	18050	4055	Nil.
Number Inspected	573	9	36	18050	4055	Nil.
<u>All Diseases</u> <u>Except Tuberculosis</u> <u>and Cysticerci :</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	—	—	49	4	Nil.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	216	4	—	416	608	Nil.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	37.8	44.4	—	2.5	15.0	Nil.
<u>Tuberculosis Only :</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	—	—	—	1	Nil.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	9	—	—	—	56	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis. ...	1.7	—	—	—	1.4	—
<u>Cysticercosis :</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

CONDEMNATION OF UNSOUND FOOD.

						Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
TUBERCULOSIS :									
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	...	—	5	3	2
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	—	5	1	27
Offal	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	2	14
Total	...	...	...	...	...	—	12	3	15
NON-TUBERCULOSIS :									
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	...	—	18	3	18
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	—	6	2	18
Offal	...	...	...	...	...	1	10	—	25
Total	...	...	...	...	...	2	15	3	5
Total amount—Tuberculosis and Non-Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	3	8	2	20
OTHER FOODS :									
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...		1	—	3
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...		—	2	26
Ham	...	...	...	...	...		—	—	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...		—	3	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total	...	...	...	...	...		2	2	25

2,403 Tins and assorted packets of foodstuffs.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The bulk of the milk is imported, all consisting of bottled milk from Heat Treatment Plants at Merthyr and Trecynon.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949-1954

Number of Licences issued	...	...	26
Dealers Licence to retail Pasteurised Milk	...	...	12
Dealers Licence to retail T.T. Pasteurised Milk	...	...	13
Number of Dairymen registered	...	...	13
Dealers Licence to retail Sterilised Milk	...	...	1

Milk Samples

Designation	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total.
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised...	22	Nil	22
Pasteurised	42	Nil	42
Sterilised	25	Nil	25
	<hr/> 89	<hr/> Nil	<hr/> 89

MILK (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) (No. 3) ORDER, 1953.

From the 1st January, 1954, all milk sold in Tredegar must be one carrying a special designation (i.e. Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested, T.T. Pasteurised or sterilised).

There are no milk producers in Tredegar, milk being delivered to the district in crated bottles by milk producers situated outside the district.

Registration of Ice-Cream Premises. Heat Treatment Regulations

Manufacturers (Cold Mix)	...	...	...	5
Retailers	...	...	...	72

Ice-Cream Sampling.

Grade.	Number.	Percentage.
1	10	66.6
2	4	26.66
3	1	6.66
4	—	—

Number of visits to Ice-Cream Premises 18. ...

The bulk of the ice-cream consumed in the area is prepacked and supplied by the larger distributor manufacturers.

Section 5.

SHOPS ACT.

TREDEGAR (EARLY CLOSING) ORDER, 1925.

Number of visits 133.

Defects.

Remedied.

Inadequate temperature	1
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.

This Act makes it an offence to sell any heating appliance unless fitted with a guard that conforms to the standard set out in the Heating Appliance (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953.

Retailers of Heating Appliances are regularly visited and all heating appliances are examined to ensure that they conform to the regulation.

Public Health Acts Amendments Act, 1907, Section 86.

By the Old Metal Dealers (No. 7) Order made on the 25th October, 1952, the Home Secretary declared Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendments Act, 1907 to be in force in this district.

The number of Old Metal Dealers in the register on the 31st December, 1959 was two.

Public Offices, Bedwellty House.

The Caretaker and Cleansing staff consists of two part time female cleaners and one full time caretaker, Mr. William Lewis. Mr. Lewis is responsible to me for the cleanliness of the Council Offices and this duty he performs admirably. Mr. T. J. Jenkins, the Housing Estates Manager carries out all necessary repairs and decorations.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

Number of Factories on Register ... 31. No. of Inspections ... 23.

Defects found in Factories.

Particulars	Found	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Number of Prosecutions Instituted.
Nuisances under Public Health Act.	—	—	—	—
Drainage	2	2	—	—
Dirty Conditions	2	2	—	—
Total ...	4	4	—	—
Factories Act Sanitary Accommodation Unsuitable or Defective ...	2	2	—	—
Not Separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	2	2	—	—

Factories Act, 1937, Section 34.

Provision of Suitable Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

All factories in the area are inspected with the co-operation of the County Fire Service and I have found this assistance to be most helpful.

Three certificates were issued to bring the factories up to date after alterations had been carried out.

Section 6.

Test Baiting of Sewers.

<i>Manholes baited</i>	<i>Complete takes</i>	<i>Part takes</i>	<i>No takes</i>
669	123	44	502

Number of Visits to Premises.

By Public Health Inspectors	...	...	42
By Rodent Operator	...	...	165
Total	...	...	207

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**Year ending March, 31st 1960.**

	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Dwelling Houses</i>	<i>All other including business premises</i>	<i>Agri-cultural</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total number of properties in Local Authority's Dist.	25	5,697	795	16	6,517
No. of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) By notification	2	28	10	—	40
(b) Survey under Act	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Otherwise ...	—	—	—	—	—
No. of properties Inspected which were found to be infested :					
(a) Rats : Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	1	21	7	—	29
(b) Mice : Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	1	7	3	—	11
No. treated by L.A.	2	28	10	—	40

The Councils sewers were treated twice during the year and all business premises surveyed and suitably treated where found necessary.

Warfarin is used for routine treatments and Zinc Phosphide and Arsenious Oxide for the treatment of sewers.

The use of Warfarin has had a profound effect on the extent and severity of Rodent Infestation, a fact which has been noticed and commented upon throughout the country. No one, of course, can disregard the valuable work done by local authorities in conjunction with the infestation division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the early years of the divisions formation under the Ministry of Food and despite the efficacy of Warfarin as a rodenticide, this early work has no doubt been the biggest factor in reducing the country's rat population to the figure that obtains today.

Comparison of the records of previous years shows a considerable diminishing of the number of treatments required for rodent infestation.

Section 7.

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936.

Preliminary Notices Served	...	...	...	30
Preliminary Notices Abated	...	...	...	26
Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	40
Statutory Notices Abated	...	...	...	24

TABLE I.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

Nature of Visits.							Visits.
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dirty Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
General Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Council Housing Investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	197
Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Means of Escape in case of fire	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Mortuary	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	214
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	259
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	226
Scrap Metal Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Shops Act, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Street Cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	...	296
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Housing Act, 1949, Section 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	122
Licenced Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Improvement Grants (Discretionary)	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
do. (Standard)	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Tents, vans, sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

TABLE II.

General House Defects.

Defects and Nuisances.							Remedied.
Defective Chimneys .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Defective Roofs .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
Defective Spouting .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Defective doors and furnishings			..	..	..	..	8
Defective ceiling plaster .. .. .		..	..	..	..	..	51
Defective wall plaster .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
Defective firegrates and ovens			..	..	..	..	15
Defective Yards .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Dilapidated window frames .. .. .	..		..	..	..	..	77
Defective floors .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	82
Rain water pipes .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Main walls .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Defective staircases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Obstructed light and ventilation			..	..	..	..	30
Inadequate food storage .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Provision of artificial lighting .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Defective Boundary Walls .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Dilapidated Fuel Storage .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Defective Vent Pipes .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total							499

TABLE III.

Drainage and Sanitary Accommodation.

Defects and Nuisances.						Remedied.
Obstructed drains and sewers	...	...	...	...	58
Defective or insufficient drainage	...	...	...	...	6
Defective flushing cisterns	...	...	...	...	24
Broken pans and joints	...	...	...	...	4
Dilapidated water closet compartments	...	...	...	...	6
New water closet compartments constructed	...	...	...	...	1
Defective sinks	...	...	...	...	3
Defective water service	...	...	...	...	2
Hot water supply	...	...	...	...	—
New Sinks	...	...	...	...	5
						<hr/>
						109

TABLE IV.

General Nuisances.

Defects and nuisances :							Remedied.
Accumulations ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
							<hr/> 4

TYPES OF FACTORIES IN THE AREA.

Classification of Trades				Mech. Power	Non-Mech. Power	Total
Abrasives	...	...	...	1	—	1
Bakers	...	...	...	5	—	5
Brickyards	...	...	...	2	—	2
Builders Contractors	...	...	...	7	—	7
Clothing Manufacturers	...	...	...	1	—	1
Crown Corks	...	...	...	1	—	1
Gas Storage	..	..	..	1	—	1
Joinery	..	..	..	3	—	3
Motor Spares—Firestone	...	...	...	1	—	1
Printers	...	...	...	1	—	1
Radio & Television Engr.	...	...	...	5	—	5
Steel Processing	...	...	...	1	—	1
N.C.B. Engineering Shop,	...	...	...	1	—	1
Motor Vehicle Repairs	..	..	..	6	—	6
Wagon Repairs	..	..	..	2	—	2
Ore Crushing	..	..	..	1	—	1
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	2	—	2
Totals	...	...	...	31	—	31

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

No premises in Tredegar is registered under this Act.

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 59.

There are two cinemas and two dance halls in the town, all of which are provided with satisfactory means of ingress and egress, as required by the above section.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.**SMOKE CONTROL AREAS.****Circular 5/59. Ministry of Housing and Local Government.**

The Committee on Air Pollution published its Interim Report on the 18th November, 1953, in which was included a map showing the Distribution of Air Pollution in Great Britain. This map was hatched (wide and purple) to show the main Industrial Areas, hatched (narrow and black) to show densely populated areas and showed these areas with a fog frequency of 30 occasions and over and 30 occasions and under.

Those areas which show both types of hatchings are Potential Black Areas as regard Atmospheric pollution and Tredegar finds itself within such an area.

On the 28th August, the Minister pointed out to the Council the fact that Tredegar was on the area hatched purple and black on the map already referred to and therefore, considered by the Committee to be potentially liable to air pollution because of the presence of industry and the density of population, and asked for a report as to whether smoke pollution presents a problem to the Authority.

This report was prepared and submitted to the Minister and is here quoted in part :—

“ The question that has to be asked now is : “ Does the state of atmospheric Pollution in Tredegar warrant the preparation of a phased programme of Smoke Control Areas ? ”

All members will remember the great London smog of 1952, which resulted in 4,000 deaths between December 2nd and 6th. Observations have since shown that 60% of the pollution in the atmosphere at that time was accounted for by domestic chimneys.

In order to assess the problem, a word or two about the physics of Fog Formation will, I feel, not be out of place.

Fog and smog are rare in Summer because the altitude of the Sun and its consequent heating effect on land surfaces causes sufficient air turbulence to allow warm and cold air to mix. In Winter, however, anticyclonic conditions are necessary. An anticyclone is an area of high barometric pressure and areas of high pressure are characterised by very light winds at the most. More often than not there will be no air movement at all. As anticyclones usually remain stationary for days on end, there is a rapid cooling of the layer of air near the ground and as there is no natural tendency for this air to rise, this cold layer gets thicker each hour. We then have a condition known as an *INVERSION*, when the temperature, instead of falling with increasing altitude, rises with increasing altitude. It will be seen that this layer of cold air, perhaps 100-ft.-800 ft. thick, is capped with a layer of warm air, the warm air forming a lid. Smoke leaving a chimney cannot rise and instead pours like a liquid from the chimney top and flows down to ground level. The water vapour that is held in the cold ground level layers of air now condense out on the dirt suspended in the smoke as minute water droplets, the dirt particles forming the nuclei for condensation. With hundreds of chimneys emitting smoke as well as

motor vehicles, the ground level layers of air become choked with soot, grit, tarry matters, sulphur dioxide, sulphur trioxide, sulphurous and sulphuric acid. If the inversion is high, the smoke will tend to rise to the top of the Inversion and effectively cut off all sunlight. If it is low, the pollution will stagnate at ground level and continue to build up in concentration as long as the anticyclones continues to remain stationary.

In upland areas a further factor comes into effect, i.e. the flowing of cold air down the hillsides into the valleys. Although this phenomenon takes place in Summer, giving the characteristic valley haze the warming effects of the sun rapidly sets up convectional currents which disperse the cold, fouled air from the valley floors. In Winter, however, when the sun is not warm enough to start up convection, these pools of cold air remain undisturbed and smog quickly builds up within them.

Although the town of Tredegar rarely comes under the influence of a widespread inversion, it is particularly prone to local ones. It is a common sight to see the town completely obscured under a blue haze, while the neighbouring heights of Cefn Golau and Whitworth Terrace are bathed in sunlight. As it is indeed an ill wind that blows nobody any good, this haze is regarded as a sign of good weather, as indeed it is, because from what has already been said, this haze cannot build up without high pressure conditions prevailing, but it is after all dilute smoke, which will get thicker and thicker.

There is, however, a tendency for this cold surface layer of air to flow slowly towards Blackwood, taking with it its impurities and this fact is indeed fortunate for Tredegar.

To sum up :—

1. Tredegar is not subject to extensive fog and smoke as the result of widespread inverted lapse rate, this being due in the main to its higher altitude which gives rise to slight air turbulence under all conditions of air pressure.
2. Tredegar is prone to local natural air drainage, which in Winter causes a local inversion. This flow of cold air is able to flow slowly and without restriction towards Blackwood, taking with it all the impurities held in suspension. It is thus rare for a fog to persist in Tredegar for many hours. These inversions are always shallow and even in Winter the sun is warm enough to aid their dissipation.

In answering the question already posed, does the state of Atmospheric Pollution in Tredegar warrant the preparation of a phased programme of Smoke Control, I would suggest the answer at the *present moment* be no, for the reasons already given. I would however, suggest that the following points be carefully considered :—

1. 60% of atmospheric pollution comes from the domestic chimney.
2. Every effort should be made to reduce this heavy pollution.
3. All Council houses being erected from now on be provided with heating appliances approved by the Coal Utilisation Council.
4. Firegrates that are fixed with the aid of Improvement Grants should be those that are approved by the Coal Utilisation Council. In fact, the booklet "New Homes for Old" of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government makes this one of the conditions of grant approval.

5. Further consideration should be given to the adoption of the model byelaw which will make it an offence to instal any fireplace in a new building, that is incapable of burning smokelessly.

The Byelaw is set in full as follows :—

Part IVA—Smoke Prevention.

(106A) (1) There shall be provided in a new building (except in so far as heating is provided by furnaces to which section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, applies) only such appliances for heating or cooking as are suitably designed for burning any of the following fuels, namely :—

- (a) gas,
- (b) electricity,
- (c) gas coke, or anthracite.;

or are appliances of a description exempted conditionally or unconditionally from the provisions of section 11 of the Clean Air Act, 1956 (which relates to smoke control areas) by any order for the time being in force under subsection (4) of that section.

(2) This byelaw shall not apply in relation, to a building begun before the date on which the byelaw comes into operation, or begun after that date in pursuance of plans deposited in accordance with byelaws before that date.

(3) Nothing in the foregoing provisions of these byelaws shall be taken to apply this byelaw when an alteration or extension is made to a building."

The Model Byelaw quoted in full above was considered by the Council later in the year but it was resolved that it be not adopted.

STAFF :

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the members of my staff for their co-operation throughout the year.

Our relations with other Departments—Clerk's, Treasurer's, Housing Manager's and Surveyors—have continued to be friendly and cordial.

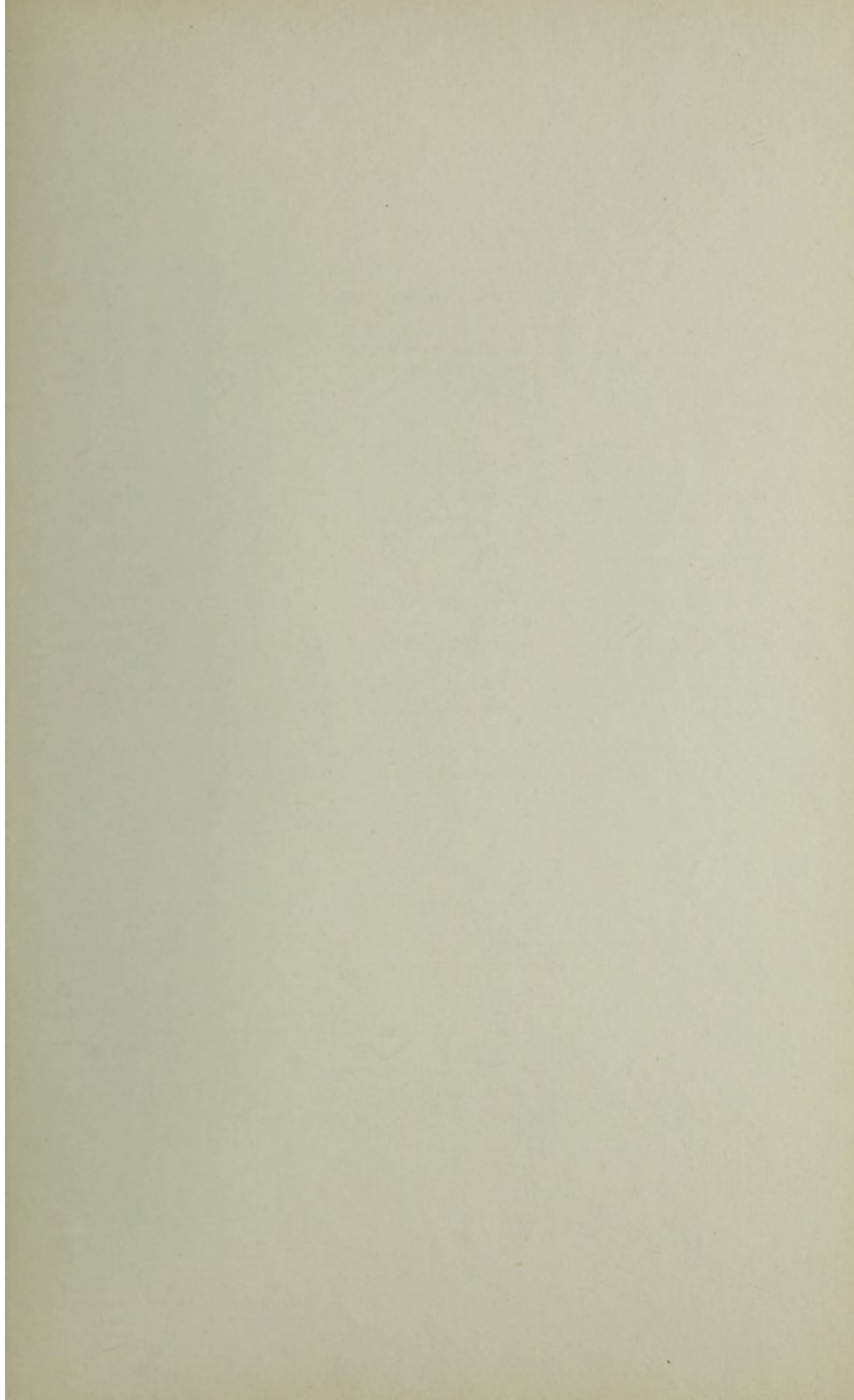
I would also like to thank my Chairman, Councillor Idris Williams, for the interest he has shown in the work of the Department and to all members of the Council for the invaluable kindness they have shown to the Public Health staff.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

O. GRIFFITHS,

Senior Public Health Inspector.



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