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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Sanitary Conditions

of the Rural District of
Vaynor and Penderyn
in the County of Brecknock;
for the Year,
1943

By . . .

T. H. STEPHENS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.



ANNUAL REPORT

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Rural District of Vaynor and
Penderyn in the County of
Brecknock, for the Year 1943

By

T. H. STEPHENS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

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of Vayno and
County of
for the Year 1943

By

STATEMENT AND OLD D.P.H.
of Health

Vaynor and Penderyn Rural District Council

Chairman, 1943-44 :

Councillor IDRIS SILVANUS, J.P.

Members :

Alderman DAVID HARRIS, J.P.

Councillor EVAN L. LEWIS (died April, 1943).

„ TUDOR S. DAVIES.

„ ISAAC MORRIS.

„ W. G. ECKLEY.

„ DANIEL E. WATKINS, J.P.

„ DANIEL JENKINS.

„ PENRY MORRIS.

„ Rev. MORGAN JONES.

„ Rev. E. L. JONES.

Clerk :

Mr. RONALD H. ROSE,
25, Victoria Street, Merthyr Tydfil.

Medical Officer :

Dr. T. H. STEPHENS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Danybryn, Merthyr Tydfil.

Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. E. J. H. HUGHES, A.R.San.I.,
25, Victoria Street, Merthyr Tydfil.

Treasurers :

BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED,
Merthyr Tydfil.

London and Westminster Bank (London) Limited
Incorporated in England
Registered Office: 1, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4

Capital: £10,000,000
Reserves: £1,000,000
Total Assets: £11,000,000

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Incorporated in England
Registered Office: 1, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4

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Registered Office: 1, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE VAYNOR
AND PENDERYN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

Gentlemen,—

I beg to submit for your consideration the Annual Report of the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions of the Rural District for the year 1943. The report is in accordance with the memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health and is an outline only of the main conditions relating to the health of the Rural District and the activities of the Department. This report should not be commenced without paying tribute to the valuable work of my predecessor, Dr. W. W. Jones, who was so valiant at all times in the defence of Public Health principles. He resigned in July, 1943, after serving the Council faithfully for over 23 years. Another change in the staff was the appointment of Edgar Hughes, Esq., A.R.San.I., as Sanitary Inspector on April 1st, 1943. He succeeded Mr. W. G. Bond, who died in July, 1943, after a serious illness. Mr. Bond had served the Council with geniality, humour and efficiency for over 17 years.

It is to be noted that for security reasons certain particulars are not furnished in relation to the population and other matters, but the estimates of the Registrar General in determining the birth rates and death rates and other vital statistics have been accepted. One feature during the year has been the increase in the Infantile Mortality rate, which has increased from 92 to 102 per 1,000 births. Further comment will be made about this in the body of the report. Generally speaking, the public health has been maintained at a reasonably high level, and there has been no evidence of mal-nutrition. In fact, from a superficial judgment one would state that the general nutrition of the people has improved, this being undoubtedly due to the better economic circumstances consequent on the greater facilities for employment in and near the area.

TOPOGRAPHY.—There has been no alteration of the boundaries of the area, which covers approximately 60 square miles; the greater part of it is agricultural and lies on the hilly escarpment of the Brecon Beacons, at heights ranging from 263ft. to 2,250ft. above sea level. Sheep farming and cattle raising are the chief agricultural occupations owing to the scarcity of arable land.

RATEABLE VALUE AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER, 1943.

Parish of Vaynor	£19,478	0	0
Parish of Penderyn	£13,559	0	0
Parish of Ystradfellte	£6,498	0	0
	<hr/>		
Total	£39,535	0	0
	<hr/>		

PRODUCT OF A PENNY RATE.

Parish of Vaynor	£78	10	0
Parish of Penderyn	£60	13	3
Parish of Ystradfellte	£27	1	6
	<hr/>		
Total	£166	4	9
	<hr/>		

POPULATION (CENSUS RETURN).

	Males	Females	Total
Vaynor	1544	1619	3163
Penderyn	973	885	1858
Ystradfellte	341	309	650
	<hr/>		
			5671
			<hr/>

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—The Births registered in the district in 1943 numbered 49 (26 male, 23 female), the annual birth rate being 9.07 per 1,000. The county rate in 1942 was 16.40, and in 1943, 15.96. The rate in this district in 1942 was 14.8. The rate recorded for England and Wales for 1943 was 16.5. Of the total births in the area, 2 males were illegitimate.

STILL-BIRTHS.—These numbered 2; the rate per 1,000 of the population being 0.36, the county rate being .84, and for England and Wales, .5.

DEATHS.—The total number of deaths assigned to this district was 72 (44 males, 28 females); this figure takes into account 21 inward transfers during the year; there were no outward transfers. The death rate for the year 1943 was 14.4, in the previous year it was 11.8; the county rate 13.18. The death rate for England and Wales was provisionally stated to be 12.1 per 1,000 in 1943.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.—These numbered 5, being two less than the previous year—they were legitimate infants; 4 males and 1 female. The rate as mentioned earlier in the report, was 102. The rate for the county in 1943 was 42.35. The deaths took place at the following periods.

Under 1 week—1. General debility.
Under 1 month—1. Acute bronchitis.
1 month to 3 months—1. General debility.
3 months to 6 months—2. 1 Infantile convulsions
1 Asthma.

It is to be noted that whilst the number of deaths was 2 less than the previous year, the infant mortality rate has increased from 92 to 102. This large increase is more apparent than real because the calculation is made on such a small number of births.

DEATHS UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE FROM DIARRHOEA.—There was no death recorded.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL SEPSIS OR OTHER DISEASES FROM MATERNAL CAUSES REGISTERED.—There were none under this heading.

DEATHS FROM CANCER.—Deaths from all forms of Cancer remain high, numbering 7, whereas last year this figure was 9, the female deaths being 4 and the male 3. The percentage of deaths of all causes of deaths was approximately 8.7. This treacherous disease has taken a great toll of life and the facilities for proper treatment of this disease are limited. The Cancer Act has not been put into operation owing to wartime conditions, but the Breconshire County Council has been represented on meetings in relation to this project during the year. It is to be hoped that radio therapy and all modern treatment will be available for all the inhabitants of Wales as soon as hostilities are terminated. It is gratifying to know that continued research has found a remedy for one of the common conditions, that is, cancer of the prostate gland.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.—Tuberculosis was responsible for 2 deaths (1 male and 1 female), the percentage of the total deaths being approximately 2.9. It is to be noted, therefore, that cancer is a much more killing disease than tuberculosis.

Your statistics are in accordance with the general trend of other areas. In my view the death rate and incidence from tuberculosis, apart from certain natural biological tendencies, will never be reduced to the minimum that it should be unless we get, first of all, compulsory pasteurisation of milk to eliminate bovine tuberculosis, and until satisfactory housing conditions are obtained for the inhabitants in the area, together with adequate nutrition.

DEATHS FROM HEART DISEASE.—Heart disease was responsible for 11 male deaths and 7 female deaths, that is 25%. This really heads the list of diseases because it is usually a corroborative concomitant condition associated with other diseases, but often registered simply as heart disease.

DEATHS FROM BRONCHITIS.—Bronchitis was responsible for 2 male deaths and 2 female deaths, totalling 4, and making an average of 6%.

HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY SERVICES FOR THE AREA.—Dr. R. Pendrill Charles, who is a Public Analyst for many authorities, has been responsible for the analysis of milk supplies, water and swabs. It was felt that having regard to the fact that the Emergency Public Health Laboratory was in closer proximity that a more expeditious service would be obtained by submitting swabs to this laboratory and this was done during the year.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—These are available from Merthyr and Aberdare General Hospitals and from Mardy Isolation Hospital. Arrangements were made during the year for ambulance facilities for Ystradfellte and Hepste with the Priory for Wales and for Pontneathvaughan with the Neath R.D.C.

NURSING AT HOME.—This is undertaken by voluntary associations, assisted by grants from the County Council.

CLINICS are carried on by the County Council for expectant mothers and infant welfare at Cefn and Penderyn.

HOSPITALS.—Owing to the close proximity of the area to urban areas like Merthyr and Aberdare, we are fortunate in our hospital facilities. With regard to hospitals for infectious disease, an agreement has been reached with the Merthyr Corporation to nurse infectious diseases from our area at the

Mardy Isolation Hospital at a cost of £4 4s. 0d. per week, plus ambulance fees. I am advised that there was a project on prior to the war for erecting an Infectious Diseases Hospital in Brecon.

WATER SUPPLY.—The district has been reasonably satisfactorily supplied with a good water supply: Cefn Coed from the mains of the Taf Fechan Water Board. Pontneathvaughan is supplied by the mains of Neath Rural District Council; Hirwaun is supplied by the mains of the Aberdare Urban District Council.

Penderyn is our own supply by mains from the Cadlan and Ogaf-fawr regions. The latter has given considerable trouble during the drought periods regarding its quantity. This has been examined by Mr. Edgar Hughes, in consultation with Mr. Marshall, and several leaks were found in the mains. The condition now is more satisfactory. I observed during the course of my inspection of the filtering plant that the water from this gathering ground was not chlorinated; since then the local authority have embarked on a scheme for chlorinating and filtering the water. The apparatus has been installed at the Filter House, Cadlan Road, Penderyn.

In the village of Ystradfellte, which comprises 10 houses, a school and some scattered farms, unfortunately, there is no water supply from the main. The Council has been very concerned about this matter, and has approached the Neath R.D.C. on several occasions for a piped supply. The objection raised to this has been that the pressure at these points has been too high. This does not seem to me to be an insuperable difficulty. It is necessary that this sanitary defect should be remedied, for it is perfectly obvious that no efficient cleansing of utensils in farms where milk is produced or washing down of the udders and flanks of cows can reasonably take place without a good and sufficient water supply, which at the present time does not exist.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.—The Council has now provided efficient drainage and sewage works for all the area, except the small village of Ystradfellte, where a small sewage disposal works was under contemplation prior to the outbreak of war. This proposal has of necessity been suspended. The sewage works at Hirwaun needs to be modernised, and this will undoubtedly have your consideration on the termination of hostilities.

REFUSE COLLECTION.—This collection takes place on three days a week in the Cefn Coed and Hirwaun areas; two days a week at Pontneathvaughan, and once at Pontsticill and Ystradfellte. There is only one motor lorry, which is owned by the Council itself. It appears to me that the question of an incinerator at Hirwaun should be examined very seriously at the end of the war.

MILK, MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—Since the outbreak of war, as you are aware, meat has been slaughtered at various Government slaughterhouses, where inspection has taken place. The necessity, therefore, has not arisen for such detailed examination of meat as has been the practice in the past. With reference to milk and other foods, close inspection has been maintained. The number of samples of milk taken for cleanliness has been 54. This number includes the following grades: 2 tuberculin tested; 3 pasteurised; 1 accredited.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN 1943.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	6	0	0
Diphtheria	1	1	1
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	10	0	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Erysipelas	2	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0	0
Measles	9	0	0
Whooping Cough	1	0	0

These figures are above those for last year.

I regret to report the death of one case of diphtheria during the year. This man was admitted into hospital in a very toxic condition about the fifth day of the disease.

HOUSING.

Prior to the war it was ascertained that 202 new houses would be required, 102 of which have already been erected,

thus leaving 100 houses for erection immediately the war has ceased. The Council has already in contemplation the erection of 132 houses, but this is a figure which undoubtedly will have to be revised in the light of a more detailed inspection of the area, where a large number of houses are over 100 years old. I hope to make a detailed investigation of overcrowding and slum clearance houses during the coming year.

IMMUNISATION.

The immunisation of children under 5 years and between 5-15 years, which was commenced in 1941, has continued in a very satisfactory manner. During the year 313 children of ages ranging from 1 to 15 years were immunised. Up to the 30th June, 1944, 92.7% of the children aged 1-5 years have been immunised in the area. In the age group 5-15, 74.0% of the children have been immunised, which can be considered a reasonably satisfactory state of affairs.

SCHOOLS.

There have been no major repairs to schools during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

T. H. STEPHENS.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME		£	s.	d.
BALANCE brought forward from 31st March, 1942	...	3699	12	6½
Rate Income—				
General Expenses chargeable on whole district, including additional Items of General Rates	...	32187	0	10
Special Rates	...	2240	7	10
Water Rates and Charges (Penderyn)	...	79	12	6
Water Charges (Ystradfellte)	...	0	6	0
Ministry of Health—				
Parochial Exchequer Grants	...	191	10	0
Exchequer Grant—Capitation Sum	...	63	0	0
Tithe Act—Grant	...	274	16	1
Government Evacuation Scheme—Reimbursement	...	410	0	0
Ministry of Labour—				
Grant—Penderyn Waterworks	...	97	12	8
Brecon County Council—				
Salaries of Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector—Grant	...	227	5	7
Proportion of Parochial Exchequer Grants	...	95	15	0
Air Raid Precautions—Reimbursement of Expenditure	...	5	8	3
British Restaurant, Cefn Coed—				
Income from Sale of Meals, etc.	...	1289	15	2
Other Income—				
Rental of Garden—Cefn Sewage Works	...	£0	6	0
Sale of Hay do.	...	1	1	0
		1	7	0
Rent of Garden—Cefn Isaf	...	0	1	0
Receipts from Public Conveniences	...	2	8	10
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts	...	16	3	0
Sale of Salvage	...	40	8	10
Searches—Land Charges Registry	...	2	13	0
Petrol Licences	...	4	0	0
Bank Interest	...	15	12	7
Public Lighting—Compensation for Damage to Lamp	...	11	19	6
Miscellaneous Income	...	21	3	9

£40,977 19 11½

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1943.—Part I.

Due Under Precepts— EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
Breconshire County Council	...	28091	5	0
Breconshire Assessment Committee	...	40	17	6
Vaynor Parish Council	...	30	0	0
Penderyn Parish Council	...	30	0	0
Ystradfellte Parish Council	...	81	4	6
Other Expenses—				
Cefn Coed Sewage Works—Working Expenses	...	302	12	11
Pontsticill Sewage Works—Working Expenses	£204 12 4			
do. do. Loan and Interest	89 13 8			
		294	6	0
Hirwaun Sewage Works—Working Expenses	295 14 4			
do. (Housing Scheme) Loan & Interest	8 10 2			
		304	4	6
Ystradfellte Sewage Disposal—Working Expenses		1	10	0
Penderyn Sewage Works—Working Expenses	88 19 2			
do. do. Loan and Interest	192 11 1			
		281	10	3
Pontneathvaughan Sewage Works—Working Exes.	181 1 3			
do. do. Loan & Interest	132 6 2			
		313	7	5
Penderyn Waterworks—Working Expenses	160 6 0			
do. do. Loan and Interest	288 19 8			
		449	5	8
Cross Bychan Water Supply—Loan and Interest		9	6	6
Penderyn Water (Ogof Fawr) do.		127	6	9
Children's Playing Field, Cefn Coed—Working Exes.	21 1 1			
do. do. do. Loan & Interest	8 5 0			
		29	6	1
Financial Adjustment—Loan and Interest		458	6	4
Notification of Disease and General Disinfection		55	15	7
Salaries, etc.—Health Services		721	19	4
British Restaurant, Cefn Coed—Working Expenses, Goods, etc.		1255	10	3
Scavenging—Vaynor Parish	681 14 6			
do. Penderyn Parish	203 12 2			
do. Ystradfellte Parish	78 16 8			
		964	3	4
Public Conveniences—Ystradfellte	15 6 4			
do. Penderyn	0 4 9			
do. Cefn Coed	8 7 9			
		23	18	10
Maintenance of Fever Patients		167	11	0
Diphtheria Immunisation		57	16	6
Returns of Births and Deaths		1	15	3
Brecon Isolation Hospital—Contribution		41	2	3
Public Lighting—Vaynor Parish	93 11 2			
do. Penderyn Parish	107 18 0			
		201	9	2
National Fire Service—Contribution		160	0	0
Additional Rate Fund Contrn.—Housing Rev A/c.	109 3 9			
Annual Contribution do.	319 16 9			
		429	0	6
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts		15	0	6
Salaries of Officers		368	0	3
Valuation Expenses		216	4	5½
Telephone Kiosk, Cefn Coed		2	2	0
Yard and Shed Rentals		15	16	0
Establishment Charges		757	17	4
Salvage—Cost of Collection		91	2	4
War Damage Contribution		95	8	3
Cost of Collection—General Rate	670 3 11			
do. Special Rate	47 16 8			
		718	0	7
Brecon County Council—Superannuation Fund		181	7	8
Air Raid Precautions		65	5	11
Ystradfellte Water Supply—Working Expenses		2	9	0
Government Evacuation Scheme—Expenses		657	1	5
Miscellaneous Payments:				
National Insurances	46 0 9			
Vaynor and Hirwaun Nursing Associations	40 10 0			
Other Payments	78 7 2			
		164	17	11
BALANCE carried forward		2702	14	1
		£40,977 19 11½		

INCOME.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD :						
Sewage Disposal Works ...	56	1	8			
Playing Field	31	18	9			
Housing	2147	10	6			
	<hr/>			2235	10	11
SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION :						
Repayment of Advances ...				17	6	8
HOUSING :						
Revenue and Special Accounts	577	0	6			
Written off	0	3	1			
	<hr/>			577	3	7
BRITISH RESTAURANT, CEFN COED :						
Repayment of part Capital Ex- penditure by Ministry of Food				340	0	0
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD :						
Small Dwellings Acquisition ...	8	13	4			
British Restaurant, Cefn Coed	118	9	9			
	<hr/>			127	3	1
				<hr/>		
				£3297	4	3
				<hr/>		

Audited and found correct,

(Signed) A. R. PARR,

Assistant District Auditor.

12th November, 1943.

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD :						
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts				8	13	4
SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION :						
Capital Expenditure				17	6	8
HOUSING :						
Revenue and Special Accounts				478	18	8
BRITISH RESTAURANT, CEFN COED :						
Capital Expenditure				458	9	9
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD :						
Sewage Disposal Works	56	1	8			
Playing Field	31	18	9			
Housing	2245	15	5			
				2333	15	10
				£3297	4	3

RONALD H. ROSE,
Chief Financial Officer.

1st April, 1943.



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