

**[Report 1951] / Medical Officer of Health, Glyncorrwg U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Glyncorrwg (Wales). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1951

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/r8sz6bhk>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.  
25 NOV 1952

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GLYNCORRWG.

-----  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.  
-----

A N N U A L R E P O R T

F O R

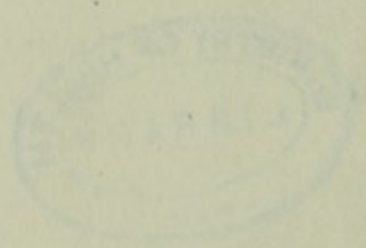
1 9 5 1.

-----oOo-----



Dr. D.J. Davies,  
Medical Officer of Health.

STRAVINSKY



GLYNCORRWG URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1951.

Chairman.

Vice-Chairman.

Councillor F. Marchant, J.P. Cymmer. Councillor J.A. Evans, Glynccorwg.

Councillor I. Davies, Abergwynfi.	Councillor D. Williams, Abergwynfi.
" " A.T. Hunt, " "	" " J. Thomas, Glynccorwg.
" " H. Field, J.P. " "	" " Glyn Williams, " "
" " D. John, " "	" " A. Leonard, " "
" " I. Price, " "	" " T. Williams, " "
" " H. Abraham, Cymmer.	Councillor Mrs. S. Phillips, Cymmer.
" " Wm. Lewis, O.B.E. Cymmer.	" " Mrs. V.E. Howe, "

Councillor Mrs. S. Phillips, Cymmer and Councillor Mrs. V.E. Howe, Cymmer resigned during the year. The following new members took office during the latter part of the year:-

Councillor J.G. Miles, Cymmer.
" " J.E. Hopkins, Cymmer.
" " K. Jones, Abergwynfi.

General Purposes Committee.

Chairman - Councillor A.T. Hunt, Abergwynfi.  
Housing Committee Chairman - Councillor A. Leonard, Glynccorwg.  
Finance Committee Chairman - Councillor A. Leonard, Glynccorwg.

Officials.

Clerk to the Council.....	Mr. T.D. Windsor Williams.
Surveyor and Engineer.....	Mr. T.J. Walker, A.R.I.C.S.
Assistant Surveyor and Engineer.....	Mr. N. Miles, B.Sc. (Civil Eng)
Assistant Surveyor and Engineer.....	Mr. G. Bidder.
Surveying Assistant.....	Mr. H. Thomas.
Engineer's Clerk.....	Mr. P. Evans.
Treasurer & Accountant & Rating & Valuation Officer.....	Mr. Llewelyn Morgan, A.I.M.T.A.
Medical Officer of Health.....	Dr. D.J. Davies, M.B.E., M.D. B.Sc., B.S., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector.....	Mr. John Tate, Cert. Royal San. Institute and San. Inspector's Exam. Joint Board, Meat Insp. Cert. Royal San. Institute.
Indoor Collector and Ledger Clerk.....	Mr. S. Fuge.
Housing Collector.....	Mr. R. Eckett.
" " .....	Mr. E. Hughes.
General Clerk .....	Mr. R.G. Dayson.
Junior Clerk .....	Miss Enid Isaac.

GLYNCORRWG URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the report on the public health of the area for the year 1951. It is prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Welsh Board of Health. I hope that it will be helpful and interesting.

There were no serious outbreaks of infectious diseases. Measles was prevalent but most cases were mild and it caused no deaths. No cases of infantile paralysis were reported. The area was also free from food poisoning. Tuberculosis continued to be a serious problem. It is hoped that recent developments, such as the introduction of immunisation against the disease, improved forms of treatment, the use of home nurses in the home treatment of the disease and the provision of additional hospital beds, will show results in the area.

One of the local features is a continued high birth rate. It remained, in 1951, higher than in most areas of England and Wales. There was a definite reduction in the infant mortality rate. As the rate is based on very small numbers this reduction may have little statistical significance.

During the year, the Council made a series of representations to the Glamorgan Executive Council stressing the need for adequate general practitioner, pharmaceutical and dental services in the area. It is important that the mining valleys should have medical and allied services equal to those of the coast and country towns. Fortunately, the Glamorgan County Council were able to continue the expansion of the clinic services. The only serious clinic deficiency was due to the lack of dental surgeons.

In the report are details of the creditable achievements of the Council and its staff in the sanitary control of the area and the prevention of disease in the community.

Mr. Tate, the Sanitary Inspector, has kindly prepared the sections on general information, housing, water supplies and the hygiene of factories and food. The clerical staff of the Port Talbot and Glyncoerrwg Health Division have tabulated the vital statistics.

This is my last annual report to the Council and I wish to thank, most sincerely, the members, officials and staff of the Council for their courtesy and assistance during my term of office. I also enjoyed much help from the local general practitioners. The Divisional Health Office staff have undertaken in a loyal and efficient manner my clerical and statistical work.

Your obedient servant,

D. J. DAVIES,  
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Prior to the formation of the Glyncoerrwg Local Board in 1893, the Glyncoerrwg Parish was administered by the Neath Sanitary Authority. The following year saw the coming into force of the Local Government Act of 1894, and under its provisions the Glyncoerrwg Urban District Council was formed. The Urban District covers an area of 13,925 acres.

For administrative purposes the Urban District is divided into three wards, namely the Abergwynfi, Cymmer and Glyncoerrwg wards. The Council Offices are situated at Cymmer which is the approximate centre of the area.

The most prominent physical features in the area are the deep valleys of the rivers Coerrwg and Afan. These rivers have their sources near Glyncoerrwg and Abergwynfi respectively, and their confluence at Cymmer. The main river flows thence to the sea at Port Talbot down the Afan Valley through Duffryn Afan and Cynon Afan.

The banks of these rivers rise steeply and merge into the mountain slopes, consequently there are very few level sites in the valleys for housing sites and industrial development. The mountain sides and uplands were mainly used for sheep farming, but extensive afforestation is now being carried out by the Forestry Commission. The rainfall in the area is very high and has averaged 73 inches during the past ten years.

The mining of coal is the chief industrial activity carried out in the district, and it is understood that the National Coal Board has scheduled the area for development. Coals being mined include bituminous, dry steam and anthracite.

The growth and development of the area are shown by the population figures which are as follows:-

For the year	1901	the census population was	6,452
" "	" 1911	" "	" 8,689
" "	" 1921	" "	" 10,772
" "	" 1931	" "	" 10,208
" "	" 1951	" estimated	" 9,343

The rateable value of the area for the year ended 31st. December 1951, was as follows:-

	s.	s.	d.
General Rate Purposes	30,268.	0.	0.
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	109.	0.	0.

The main sewer, which has its outfall in the sea at Port Talbot, is laid in the beds of the river Afan and its tributaries. Practically the whole of the houses in

4.

the area with the exception of a few outlying farms and dwellinghouses are connected to the main sewerage system.

The Council have their own refuse collection motor vehicles of an approved type. Collections are made on alternate days. The refuse is disposed of on tips in various parts of the district which are sited as far from dwelling houses as possible. Controlled methods of tipping are not, at present, being used.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In contrast to a general practitioner, who has to assess the health of the individual patient, a medical officer of health has to judge the state of health of the community. He bases his judgment on certain figures, called vital statistics, which are obtained from the registration of deaths, births and stillbirths and the notifications of tuberculosis and certain infectious diseases.

At present, he cannot present a complete picture as it is impossible to obtain figures of the prevalence of certain forms of ill-health, such as rheumatism and minor mental complaints, which cause so much unhappiness and loss of work. It is hoped that in due course the Ministry of National Insurance and the Regional Hospital Board will be able to provide reliable illness statistics.

The detailed statistical tables, required by the Welsh Board of Health, are given at the end of the report. In this section, a general explanatory review of the main statistics is given.

1. POPULATION.

The population of the Urban District was estimated by the Registrar General to be 9,343 for the mid-year 1951 as compared with 9,156 for the previous year.

2. BIRTHS.

There were 220 live births, 120 males and 100 females, during the year. 5 stillbirths were recorded. 3.18% of all live births were illegitimate.

The birth-rate was 23.55 per 1000 population as compared with 19.55 in 1950.

The following table is of interest:-

Number of live births at home in the area:-	120
Number of live births (Glyncorrwg U.D.C. mothers) in Neath General Hospital:-	81
Number of live births (Glyncorrwg U.D.C. mothers) in Maesteg Maternity Home and Bridgend General Hospital.	19

45.45% of all live births either occurred in a hospital or maternity home. This percentage has increased markedly in recent years.



3. DEATHS.

The total number of deaths during 1951 was 122, comprising 82 males and 40 females. The death rates per thousand of the population in recent years are as follows:-

1951.	1950.	1949.	1948.	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.
13.06	9.61	11.2	11.9	14.9	11.8	12.3	11.3	11.3

The death rate for the whole of England and Wales during 1951 was 12.5.

The main causes of death were diseases of the heart and blood vessels, cancer, bronchitis and influenza.

4. INFANT MORTALITY.

9 infants, under one year of age, died during the year. The infant mortality rate - number of deaths of infants under one year per 1000 live births - was 40.91. The figure for the whole of England and Wales was 29.6. Comparisons of the annual rates are as follows:-

1951.	1950.	1949.	1948.	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.
40.91	72.63	56	74	56	71	64	56	45

It is pleasing to note the reduced infant mortality rate in 1951. It is hoped that the provision of a premature baby unit at Neath General Hospital, the recent improvements in the home nursing of the premature babies at home, the additional clinic sessions and the improvements in housing will result in a further reduction of this loss of infant lives.

5. MATERNAL MORTALITY.

It is pleasing to report that, during 1951, there were no deaths of mothers due to pregnancy or childbirth.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE URBAN AREA.

In this section, a brief general description of the services will be made. Full details of the administration and committees which are responsible for the local organisation of the health services are not included.

### NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE.

The Urban District Council is not responsible for the planning or administration but it is very pleasing to note that members do take an interest in these matters. Their importance needs no emphasis. Every citizen pays, on an average, approximately nine pounds per year, either by direct or indirect taxation, for this service. For this expenditure, one has the right to expect a first class health service. There are, however, difficulties, such as a shortage of dentists and the need to postpone the construction of health centres, which cannot be surmounted in a few years.

During 1951, there were a number of limited local improvements in the service. These are described in the following paragraphs.

#### 1. HOSPITALS.

The administration of the local hospital services is the responsibility of the Mid Glamorgan Hospital Management Committee - office at 8, Wind Street, Neath. The Consultant and Specialist Services are organised by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board whose central office is at Cathays Park, Cardiff.

##### (i) MEDICAL AND SURGICAL PATIENTS.

Neath General Hospital, a fully equipped hospital, provided treatment for the majority of the above patients from the area. A limited proportion were treated at Swansea General Hospital and Morriston Hospital.

The re-opening of Tonna Hospital, Neath as a childrens' hospital improved the local hospital facilities. Children from this area can now have their tonsils and adenoids removed at this hospital and by the end of 1951, there was a considerable reduction of the waiting list.

##### (ii) MATERNITY PATIENTS.

The majority of patients, requiring a hospital confinement, were admitted to Neath General Hospital.

The booking of the non-emergency maternity beds was arranged by the Port Talbot and Glyncoerrwg Health Division. This scheme was a success as the domestic, medical and housing problems of each applicant could be considered.

(iii) INFECTIOUS PATIENTS.

Such patients, whose doctors requested hospital treatment, were admitted either to Port Talbot, Maesteg or Bridgend Isolation Hospitals. The decline in recent years of diphtheria has fortunately lessened the need for isolation hospital beds.

(iv) TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS.

With the opening of a number of wards for tuberculous patients at Cefn Hirgoed Hospital, Bridgend, there has been a reduction of the waiting period for hospital or sanatorium treatment. Further hospital and sanatorium beds are however still required for such patients.

(v) MENTAL (PSYCHIATRIC) PATIENTS.

Mental illness is common. There are all degrees of such illness, from the mild, which often responds to treatment by the family doctor, to the more severe which necessitates treatment at a mental hospital.

Out-patient facilities for this area were provided at Neath General Hospital. Most in-patients were treated at the Morgannwg Mental Hospital, Bridgend.

In recent years, the treatment of mental patients has advanced considerably and a moderate proportion of cures are obtained.

2. VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.

This clinic is situated at the Station Approach, Port Talbot.

3. GENERAL PRACTITIONER, DENTAL, PHARMACEUTICAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY OPHTHALMIC SERVICES.

These services are controlled locally by the Glamorgan Executive Council whose office is at 47, Park Place, Cardiff. There are three general practitioners in the urban area. The dental, pharmaceutical and ophthalmic services are extremely limited. Most adults receive their dental treatment at Maesteg or Neath.

4. ANCILLARY HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE GLAMORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL.

The majority of these services are under the day to day control of the Port Talbot and Glyncoerrwg Divisional Health Committee whose office is at Park House, Theodore Road, Port Talbot. They include the home nursing, health visiting and midwifery services, the ante-natal and infant welfare clinics and the home helps service.

The ambulance service in the area is under the direct control of the Glamorgan County Council. The local sub-station is at Neath.

5. SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

This service is not part of the National Health Service. It is controlled by the Glamorgan County Council and the local office is at Park House, Port Talbot. All school children in certain age groups were medically examined and arrangements for eye and orthopaedic treatment were made.

Unfortunately, it was only possible to maintain a limited school dental service in the area.

6. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

During 1951, all bacteriological examinations for the area were undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

H O U S I N G .

No new houses were completed by the Council during the year under review.

Eight houses for employees of the Forrestry Commission are in an advanced state of construction at Cynonville and two houses for colliery officials are being completed at Duffryn Rhondda by the National Coal Board.

Work is proceeding on the erection, for the Council, of 86 "Cornish" type houses at the Croeserw site, Cymmer and on this site too, work is well advanced on the roads and sewers for a further 100 Unity type houses.

These houses, together with the 287 dwellings completed by your Authority since the war, will represent a major contribution to the housing needs of the area.

The extent of the present demand for housing accommodation is shown by the following table which has been compiled by the Treasurer's Department:-

Number of applicants who are now living in apartments.	-	304
Number of applicants who are householders.	-	238
Number of applicants who are already tenants of Council houses.	-	80
Number of applicants who are not resident in the Glyncorrwg Urban District.	-	99
Total number of applicants.		<u>721</u>

The number of applicants from each ward, of persons resident in the Glyncorrwg Urban District, is as follows:-

Abergwynfi Ward	-	155
Cymmer Ward	-	310
Glyncorrwg Ward	-	157

The general standard of repair of dwelling houses in the area continues to improve but progress is still much hampered by the prevailing shortages of skilled labour and material. This is particularly evident in the Cymmer ward.

Many house owners make every effort to maintain their property in good condition. In this connection a word of commendation is due to the National Coal Board for their work during the year, particularly for the extensive reconditioning they have carried out to the fifteen houses in Western Terrace, Blaengwynfi.

Health department notices are, however, stubbornly disregarded by a minority of house owners and it was found necessary in twenty instances to take proceedings in Magistrates' Courts to secure the necessary repairs.

The following housing details are of interest:-

1.	Number of new dwelling houses erected during the year:-	
	(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) )	0
	(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:-	
	(i) Built by the Local Authority.....	0
	(ii) Built by other bodies or persons.....	0
2.	Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.	
	1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.....	137
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	472
	2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925.....	0
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	0
	3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	1
	4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	118
3.	Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.	
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.....	53
4.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
	A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of Housing Act, 1936 -	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in which notices were served requiring repairs.....	0
	(2) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of Formal Notice:	
	(a) By Owners.....	0
	(b) By Local Authority.....	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts -		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	55
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice:	
	(a) By Owners.....	47
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners.....	0
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 Housing Act, 1936 -		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....	0
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order.....	0
D. Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act, 1936 -		
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.....	0

5.	Housing Act, 1936 - Part iv. - Overcrowding:-	
	(a) - (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	} Information not available.
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein.....	
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein.....	
	(b) - Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	0
	(c) - (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	0
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases..	0
	(d) - Number of cases in which dwellings have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding...	0

6. Bed Bug Infestation: the sanitary inspector's services are available for all householders. Whenever there is any suspicion, he inspects the bedding and furniture of incoming tenants of council houses.

The disinfection is by means of the insecticide known as D.D.T. either in liquid or powder form.

Number of council houses disinfected.....	2
Number of other houses disinfected.....	5

7. There are no common lodging houses, camp sites or inhabited tents, vans and sheds in the area.

W A T E R S U P P L I E S .

An elementary need of a civilised community is an ample and pure water supply. No effort should be spared to ensure the purity of a public water supply.

The main sources of water supply in the area are as follows:-

1. High Level Tank, Glyncorrwg. This water is taken from the stream Nantyrallor which has its source and gathering ground on the slopes of Mynydd Ynyscorrwg. This tank supplies the village of Glyncorrwg.
2. Low Level Tank, Glyncorrwg. The gathering ground of the stream Nantygroes which supplies this tank is also on the western slopes of Mynydd Ynyscorrwg. Abercregan and the north side of Cymmer are supplied from this source.
3. Gwynfi Reservoir, Blaengwynfi. Water from the Gwynfi reservoir is impounded from the Gwynfi brook, which has its source and gathering ground on Mynydd Abergwynfi. It supplies the south side of Cymmer, including the Croeserw Housing Estate, and the villages of Duffryn Rhondda and Cynonville.
4. East Level Waterworks, Abergwynfi. This is an underground source of supply taken from the stream which issues from the mouth of the old and disused colliery working known as East Level. The needs of the whole of Abergwynfi and Blaengwynfi are met from this source of supply.

The seven houses in Fforchlas, Abercregan, are supplied from a spring about 70 yards to the north west on rising ground. A small concrete tank is installed and the water conveyed to a stand pipe in the middle of the terrace.

Cwmcas houses, fourteen in number, have a private piped supply to each house from a concrete tank on rising ground at the rear. This tank is also supplied from an adjacent spring.

About half the farms in the area take their supplies from nearby springs. The remainder are connected to the Council's mains.

A chlorinating plant has been installed for each of the four main sources of supply.



The rainfall during the summer of 1951 was fairly high, averaging 5.61 inches during the months April to September, consequently a plentiful supply of water was maintained to all parts of the area.

The development of a small neighbourhood unit, to house eventually a population of approximately 2,500 is proceeding at the Croeserw Site, Cymmer.

To date 242 houses have been erected and occupied whilst 86 are under construction. A contract has also been let for the erection of a further 100 houses.

Due to the altitude of the site which at its highest point is 980 feet A.O.D. special measures have to be taken to ensure that an adequate supply of water will be available at all levels.

A small re-inforced concrete service reservoir is being constructed at a position above the highest point to be supplied. Duplicate pumping plants are being installed at a lower level and are being connected to the existing water main. A separate column of pipes from the pumps to the reservoir will also be laid.

Twenty-four samples were taken during the year for bacteriological examination; twenty were satisfactory, one was just outside the limit for a satisfactory result and three were unsatisfactory.

Owing to the plumbo-solvent character of the water supplies in the area, all service pipes conveying water for domestic consumption are of galvanised wrought iron.

Seven dwelling houses with a total population of 33 were supplied from public water mains by means of standpipes. 2324 dwelling houses with an estimated population of 9227 were supplied from public water mains direct to the houses.

HYGIENE OF FACTORIES.

The supervision of factories is carried out partly by Government Home Office Factory Inspectors and partly by officers of the Local Authority.

Local Authorities are responsible for administering the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, relating to sanitary conveniences in all factories, and the provisions relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors in all factories where mechanical power is not used.

District Councils are also responsible for securing adequate means of escape in case of fire in all factories.

Factories Act, 1937.Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.Part 1 of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health - 1951  
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspections	Number of	
			Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	17	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	13	51	3	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	4	7	-	-
Total	21	75	4	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

	Number of Cases in which Defects were found.		Referred.		Number of cases in which pros- ecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>

Outworkers.

3. There were 48 outworkers in the August list required by Section 110, Factories Act, 1937. No action was necessary to be taken under Section 110 and 111 of the Act.

HYGIENE OF FOOD.

It can be claimed that, during the year, an improvement has taken place in the area in the observance of hygienic practices in the preparation, handling and storage of food for sale.

The distribution last year to food manufacturers, shopkeepers etc., of copies of the Council's new Byelaws and the opportunity then taken by the Sanitary Inspector to explain their provisions, has no doubt largely contributed to this desirable result.

The continued interest shown by the national press in matters appertaining to the hygienic handling of food is also most encouraging. It makes the general public aware of some of the consequences of unhygienic methods and stimulates them to demand greater care from their suppliers.

It has been found that food traders in the area are generally most willing to co-operate and in only one instance, after several warnings, has it been found necessary to serve a written notice pointing out a breach of the Byelaws and the possibility of further action in the event of non-compliance.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

1. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

During the year 252 visits of inspection were paid to premises where food was prepared, stored and sold. Five notices were served under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Defective W.C.'s were the subject of two notices and the removal of an accumulation of refuse and the provision of a covered refuse bin was called for in another notice. Two notices required the limewashing of walls and ceilings of warehouse rooms.

All the notices were satisfactorily complied with.

The following articles of food, which were found to be diseased, unwholesome or unsound, were surrendered and destroyed, or otherwise disposed of:-

Beef	-	10	lbs.
Poultry	-	19	"
Tinned meat	-	102	"
Kippers	-	28	"
Fish frying oil	-	9	galls.
Tomatoes	-	76	tins
Fruit	-	57	"
Peas	-	11	"
Beans	-	16	"
Evaporated milk	-	17	"
Condensed milk	-	3	"
Fish	-	7	"
Meat paste	-	2	"
Soups	-	3	"
Spaghetti	-	2	"
Infants foods	-	4	"
Cheese	-	4	cartons
Jam	-	3	jars
Honey	-	1	jar
Sweetened Sponge flour	-	16	packets
Margarine	-	28	lbs.

The number and classification of premises in the urban area used for the preparation of food for sale are given below:-

Fried Fish and Chip Shops	-	8
Butchers making Sausages, Faggots etc.	-	5
Ice-cream makers	-	2
Colliery and Factory Canteens	-	5
School Canteens	-	6
Cafes	-	7

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the area.

There are five butchers' shops. These shops are well lighted and ventilated and good standards of cleanliness are maintained. All have refrigerators. Adequate hand washing facilities are provided in each of the premises.

Much of the meat consumed in the area is sold from motor vans, and the regulations in respect to these are strictly enforced.

There are four bakehouses in use in the area situated as follows:-

Abergwynfi - 2                      Cymmer - 2

The total number of persons employed in these bakehouses does not exceed twenty. Regular deliveries of bread are also made in the area by large outside firms. It was found necessary in three instances to serve notices requiring bakehouses to be limewashed. A defective drain from a bakehouse was also the subject of a notice.

## 2. ICE-CREAM.

There are two premises registered in the area for the manufacture of ice-cream. Both of these premises are situated in the Glyncoirwg ward. The manufacturing capacity of these plants is small and the ice-cream is sold within the area.

By far the greater quantity of ice-cream consumed in the district is produced outside the urban area and there are twenty-five premises registered for the sale and storage of ice-cream.

Twenty samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and were subjected to the methylene-blue reduction test for bacterial growth at the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

No result was obtained in regard to six of the samples owing to unsatisfactory pre-incubation temperatures at the laboratory.

Results of the remainder were as follows:-

### Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

Number of Samples attaining Provisional Grade 1	=	12
" " " " " " " 2	=	0
" " " " " " " 3	=	2
" " " " " " " 4	=	0
		<u>14</u>
Grade 1 is provisionally interpreted as "Satisfactory"		
" 2 " " " " " " "Fair"		
" 3 " " " " " " "Unsatisfactory"		
" 4 " " " " " " "Very unsatisfactory"		

Following the receipt of the fair and unsatisfactory samples, an effort was made to trace the method of contamination.

3. MILK.

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, the Milk (Special Designation) Act, 1949, and the Regulations made thereunder came into operation on the 1st. October, 1949.

These enactments implement the policy defined by the Government in July, 1943, in the White Paper "Measures to Improve the Quality of the Nations Milk Supply".

Broadly speaking the supervision of milk production on the farm becomes the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, and local authorities retain the duty of controlling the distribution and sale of milk.

Although local authorities cease to be responsible for the supervision of milk production on dairy farms, it is desirable that close co-operation should be maintained between the Ministry of Agriculture Officers and Sanitary Officers of the Local Authorities as the local authority still retain duties at farms in connection with building construction, water supply, sewerage and sewage disposal.

Part VI1. of the new Milk and Dairies Regulations, containing provisions with regard to the infection of milk is also administered by local authorities, whether at dairy farms or other dairy premises.

The following table gives the number and classification of registered persons engaged and registered premises used in the production, sale and storage of milk:-

Cowkeepers	-	6
Retail purveyors of milk	-	12
Milk shops where milk sold in sealed bottles	-	6
Premises used as dairies	-	12

Four retailers were licensed to sell pasteurised milk and one to sell tuberculin tested milk, during the year.

Fourteen samples of milk produced by registered cowkeepers within the Glyncoirwg Urban District were examined during the year for the presence of tubercle bacilli. All the samples proved to be negative.

During 1951, twenty-six samples of ungraded milk and nine samples of pasteurised milk were taken by the Sanitary Inspector from retailers of milk in the area, and taken to the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

The ungraded milk is subjected to the methylene-blue test. This test is a simple and practical method of finding the degree of bacterial cleanliness of a sample of milk.

The basis of the test is that the dye in methylene-blue is decolourised by bacterial growth.

The sample is regarded as satisfactory, if, in summer the dye is not decolourised in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours and in winter in  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

It is stressed, however, that the bacterial quality of the milk should not be assessed on the basis of a single sample.

The pasteurised milk has to satisfy a methylene-blue test and a phosphatase test.

The phosphatase test is based on the fact that the enzyme phosphatase is destroyed by efficient legal pasteurisation. The test is deemed to be satisfied by pasteurised milk which gives a reading of 2.3 Lovibond blue units or less.

Sixteen of the ungraded milk samples were of milk produced on farms within the Glyncorrwg Urban District and ten were of ungraded milk produced outside the area.

Two of the samples of ungraded milk were unsatisfactory.

There were nine samples taken during the year of pasteurised milk. All attained the required standard.

#### 4. RODENT CONTROL.

The officer appointed to supervise the execution and enforcement of this work in the Glyncorrwg Urban District is the Sanitary Inspector - Mr. John Tate.

The sewerman acts as a part-time rodent operative.

Poisoning was the form of rodent control used by the operative during the year, and the method of application was as recommended by the Infestation Division, Ministry of Agriculture.

Infested premises are pre-baited with biscuit meal or stale bread crumbs for two or three days. On the third or fourth day when the rats are readily consuming the



pre-bait, a poison is mixed with the bait. Poisons used are zinc phosphide, arsenic and barium carbonate.

The Council's sewer manholes are poison baited twice a year.

From the amount of poison bait taken it is possible to make an estimate of the number of rats and mice destroyed.

The following table gives a summary of the results achieved.

Ward.	Classification of premises etc. treated.	Number of premises and manholes treated.	Number of Baiting Points.	Estimated number of Rodents destroyed.
Abergwynfi.	Business Premises	8	26	19
"	Dwelling Houses	5	12	11
"	Council Premises	2	6	5
"	Sewer Manholes	146	146	119
"	Refuse tips	4	29	23
"	River banks	-	25	37
"	Schools	1	6	13
Cymer.	Business Premises	5	14	17
"	Dwelling Houses	10	23	21
"	Council Premises	2	5	8
"	Sewer Manholes	242	242	163
"	Refuse Tips	2	17	11
"	River Banks	-	27	31
"	Schools	2	11	8
Glyncorrwg.	Business Premises	8	28	24
"	Dwelling Houses	4	9	7
"	Council Premises	1	4	6
"	Sewer Manholes	132	132	107
"	River Banks	-	113	122
"	Refuse Tips	2	23	31
Total		576	898	783

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

In accordance with the Sanitary Officers' Order, Mr. John Tate, the Sanitary Inspector, has, by inspection of the area, to keep himself informed of the sanitary circumstances of the district and in respect of nuisances that require abatement. Under other Acts, Regulations and Orders, he has a variety of other duties.

A summary of his inspections and visits during 1951 is as follows:-

<u>GENERAL DISTRICT INSPECTIONS:-</u>	<u>Number.</u>
Abergwynfi and Blaengwynfi.....	16
Cymmer.....	9
Duffryn Rhondda and Cynonville.....	5
Glyncorrwg.....	9
 <u>HOUSING AND BUILDING INSPECTIONS:-</u>	
Dwelling Houses in respect of defects and nuisances due to dis-repair.....	137
Re-visits to dwelling houses - as above.....	335
Defective and new drains.....	42
Cinemas and Halls.....	27
Dangerous and dilapidated buildings and structures....	23
Stables.....	3
Piggeries.....	18
 <u>HYGIENE OF FOOD INSPECTIONS:-</u>	
Dairies, and milk shops.....	52
Butchers' shops, fish shops, grocery stores and food preparation places.....	252
<u>FACTORY INSPECTIONS</u> .....	75
<u>INSPECTIONS UNDER SHOPS ACT 1934</u> .....	37
 <u>PEST CONTROL INSPECTIONS</u>	
Rodent Control.....	29
Bed Bug infestation.....	18
 <u>MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS.</u>	
Miscellaneous nuisances.....	36
Defective sewers.....	9
Water works and water supply.....	33
Infectious disease and disinfections.....	41
Total number of inspections.....	<u>1206</u>

Action taken in cases of breaches of Acts, Orders and Regulations discovered during inspections is summarised as follows:-

Subject of inspections.	Nature of breaches of Acts, Orders and Regulations.	No. of Informal Notices.	No. of Statutory Notices.	Number of Notices complied with.	
				Informal	Statutory
Dwelling Houses under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	Dampness, Disrepair, Defective paved areas, W.C's	118	55	53	49
Dwelling Houses on complaint of a nuisance.	Drainage, etc.				
Miscellaneous nuisances.	Dead Sheep, Deposits of Manure, Deposits of house refuse, etc.	7	0	7	0
Dairies and Milkshops.	Churns not cleansed before returning to wholesale producer. Name and address of distributor not on vehicle. Dairy premises requiring repair.	9	0	9	0
Dangerous or dilapidated buildings and Structures.	Buildings or Structures dilapidated or dangerous.	5	2	3	1
Butcher shops, Fish shops, Grocery and Provision Stores and places where food is prepared.	Removal of refuse, Cleansing and Limewashing required Provision of adequate washing facilities etc.	4	2	2	2
Factories, Work-shops and Work-places (including Bakehouses)	Cleansing and Lime-washing required. Defective drainage.	4	0	4	0
Pigstyes.	Cleansing and Lime-washing required.	3	0	3	0
Drains.	Defective & Choked.	14	5	9	5
Domestic Water Supplies.	Insufficient.	4	4	0	4
" "	Houses without water supply.	-	-	-	-
" "	Wastage.	3	0	3	0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES OR FEVERS.

To preface this section, I feel that it is best to repeat three paragraphs which were contained in the previous year's report.

One of the features of the last hundred years in this country has been the remarkable decline and in some instances the virtual disappearance of certain of the more severe infectious diseases. A century ago our towns and countryside were not infrequently ravaged by epidemics of cholera, smallpox, typhoid fever and even that dread louse borne disease known as typhus fever.

It was these pestilences which stimulated the government of the day to pass laws enforcing certain standards of sanitation and requiring local authorities to employ medical officers of health.

We cannot at present be complacent and regard our community as free from the danger of such fevers. Any lapse of preventive measures or some accident of circumstance can lead to an outbreak. The outbreak of smallpox at Brighton is an example.

In the urban area, there were no serious outbreaks of fevers during the year. Measles was prevalent. Most cases were, however, mild and it caused no deaths. The area was fortunately free from cases of infantile paralysis. Two cases of dysentery were notified. They were diagnosed clinically but the infecting organism was not found. The source of infection could not be discovered.

The following table shows the distribution of notified infectious diseases and tuberculosis in the different wards of the area:-

Disease.	Glyncorrgw.	Cyammer.	Abergwynfi.	Total for 1950.	Total for 1951.
Meningococcal Infection.	-	1	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever.	1	1	-	20	2
Diphtheria.	-	1	-	1	1
Measles.	64	79	-	46	143
Whooping Cough.	-	18	-	3	18
Pneumonia.	-	10	-	15	10
Erysipelas.	-	1	-	1	1
Dysentery.	2	-	-	-	2
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary.	3	7	9	13	19
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary.	-	2	-	4	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1951, there were 79 patients on the tuberculosis register for the area:-

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males	29	7
Females	33	10

During the year 21 notifications of all forms of tuberculosis were received:-

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males.	11	1
Females.	8	1

There were 2 deaths due to tuberculosis as compared with 5 in 1950.

The ages of the new cases during 1951 are contained in Table 4 at the end of the report.

The following measures were taken in an effort to control the spread of tuberculosis:-

1. Regular visits were made by the health visitors to the homes of all tuberculosis patients and careful attention given to the prevention of the spread of the disease - both in and outside the house.
2. A serious effort was made to ensure that contacts of the disease attended for examination at the chest clinic.
3. Parents were advised strongly by the health visitors and medical officer to give pasteurised or tuberculin tested milk to their children.
4. Child contacts in certain tuberculosis cases were referred to the Chest Physician for consideration of B.C.G. immunisation against the disease. The latter procedure is still in the experimental stage in this country though very good results are claimed on the Continent of Europe.
5. The Hospital Management Committee provided extra accommodation for tuberculous patients at Cefn Hirgoed Hospital. This action reduced the local waiting list for hospital and sanatorium treatment.

TABLE 1.SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT FOR 1951.

These statistics have been confirmed by the Registrar General.

<u>Live Births:-</u>	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	213	117	96
Illegitimate	7	3	4

Birth-rate per 1,000 population - 23.55

<u>Still-Births:-</u>	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	4	4	0
Illegitimate	1	-	1

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births - 22.73

<u>Deaths:-</u>	Total.	Males.	Females.
	122	82	40

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population -- 13.06

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

Death-rate of infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births.....	40.91
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births.....	42.25
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	14
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	2

TABLE 2.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1951. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126 C.B's and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Res-ident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Admin. County	Glyncorrwg Urban District Council.
Rates per 1,000 Home Population:-					
<u>Births</u>					
Live Births	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8	23.54
Still Births	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37	0.53
<u>Deaths</u>					
All Causes	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1	13.06
Typhoid and paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00
Whooping cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.38	0.20
Influenza	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.23	1.29
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.61	0.32
<u>Notifications (Corrected)</u>					
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.11
Scarlet fever	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10	0.21
Whooping Cough	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11	1.92
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.11
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15	0.11
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00
Measles	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64	15.31
Pneumonia	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72	1.07
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.00
Non-paralytic	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00
Food poisoning	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23	0.00
<u>Deaths</u> Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-					
All causes under 1 year of age	29.6(a)	33.9	27.6	26.4	40.91
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.7	9.0
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births					
<u>Notifications (Corrected)</u>					
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	10.66	13.77	8.08	14.90	-

TABLE 2 (continued)

## Maternal Mortality in ENGLAND and WALES.

Intermediate List No. and cause	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
A115 Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	70	0.10	
A116 { Abortion with toxæmia Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	3	0.00	0
	167	0.24	
A117 Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	91	0.13	
A118 Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	37	0.05	4
A119 Abortion with sepsis	66	0.09	7
A120 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	125	0.18	

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.

TABLE 3.

ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF INFANTS' DEATHS DURING 1951.

NEONATAL DEATHS : 7 : NEONATAL DEATH RATE : 31.82 per thousand  
live births.

	<u>1st. 24 hours of life.</u>	<u>One day - one month.</u>
Prematurity.....	-	5
Haemorrhagic disease of new born...	-	1
Broncho-pneumonia	-	1

DEATHS DURING ONE MONTH TO ONE YEAR OF AGE : 2

Enteritis..... 2



TABLE 4.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases during 1951:-

	<u>PULMONARY.</u>		<u>NON-PULMONARY.</u>	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-
Over 1 year and under 5 years.	1	-	-	1
Over 5 years and under 10 years.	1	-	1	-
Over 10 years and under 15 years.	-	1	-	-
Over 15 years and under 20 years.	1	2	-	-
Over 20 years and under 25 years.	1	1	-	-
Over 25 years and under 35 years.	3	3	-	-
Over 35 years and under 45 years.	1	1	-	-
Over 45 years and under 55 years.	2	-	-	-
Over 55 years and under 65 years.	1	-	-	-
Over 65 years.	-	-	-	-
Totals	11	8	1	1

TABLE 5.

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1951.

(as recorded by Registrar General)

	Males.	Females.
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory.....	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, Non-Respiratory.....	0	0
3. Syphilitic Disease.....	0	0
4. Diphtheria.....	0	0
5. Whooping Cough.....	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infections.....	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.....	0	0
8. Measles.....	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	0	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	3	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, Bronchus.....	0	0
12. Malignant neoplasm, Breast.....	0	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, Uterus.....	0	0
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	2	3
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	0	0
16. Diabetes.....	0	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	7	3
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	6	1
19. Hypertension, with heart disease.....	4	1
20. Other heart disease.....	16	9
21. Other circulatory disease.....	4	2
22. Influenza.....	9	3
23. Pneumonia.....	2	1
24. Bronchitis.....	7	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.....	5	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	0	0
27. Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea.....	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	0	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	2	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	0	0
31. Congenital malformations.....	2	0
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	8	3
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	0	1
34. All other accidents.....	2	0
35. Suicide.....	1	0
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
All causes.....	82	40
	<hr/>	<hr/>

