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### **Contributors**

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### RHAYADER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



### Annual Report

OF THE

### Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1950

Medical Officer of Health: J. D. O'M. POOLE, M.B., Ch.B.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector: H. J. SLEIGH.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:
R. ISHERWOOD
(to 1st November, 1950).



### Annual Report

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1950

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Rhayader.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health.

The general health in the District has been good and the incidence of infectious disease low.

Completion of the Newbridge Sewerage scheme has improved conditions in that area and satisfactory progress has been made on the scheme for Cross Gates. The need for a satisfactory Sewerage scheme in Rhayader is great but the scheme adopted by the Council, when implemented, should improve conditions in Rhayader for very many years.

Steady progress is reported in the construction of houses and if maintained it is possible that the Housing problem in Rhayader District will be solved within the next two or three years.

Water supplies did not present any great problems during the year, all supplies were adequate and with one minor exception the quality of supply was good. The schemes under consideration for Pantydwr and Penybont will provide a water supply in areas where there is a great need. Apart from these two Parishes the Council have now provided a main water supply in every part of the district where it is reasonably possible to do so. Cost per property will be the major factor in the consideration of future schemes.

Approximately one fourth of the houses in the district have been inspected under the Rural Housing Survey. 11% of the houses inspected were good, 70% in need of repairs and 19% could be termed very poor. From this it is apparent that much could be done by the Local Authority to improve housing conditions in the district.

The Death rate per 1,000 population is slightly higher than that for England and Wales but the Still Birth rate is slightly lower. Maternal mortality is nil. The analysis of the causes of death compares satisfactorily with the average for England and Wales.

I should like again to express my appreciation of the cooperation and assistance given me by the officials and to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their consideration during the year.

I am, your obedient Servant,

J. D. O'M. POOLE,

Medical Officer of Health.

### STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area of the District		Complete ata		91,140 acres
Estimated Population				4,679
Number of Inhabited ho	uses			1,811
Rateable Value	24	38 @	£	115,488
Product of a penny rate				£480

Rhayader is an agricultural district in the Cambrian mountains. The principal work is stock and sheep raising. Markets and fairs are held regularly in Rhayader and Newbridge-on-Wye.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT.

The District is served by one part-time District Medical Officer of Health who also performs the duties of Public Vaccinator, one officer with the combined duties of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector and an Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory facilities are provided by the County Analyst, Carmarthen.

Four district nurses provide home nursing services.

Clinics are available for Tuberculosis at Llandrindod Wells fortnightly and for Venereal Disease at Hereford twice weekly. A Mothers' and Children's Welfare Clinic is held in Rhayader every two weeks.

There are no hospitals in the district but local residents have received hospital treatment during the year at the following hospitals:—

Knighton, Llandrindod Wells, Shrewsbury, Gobowen, Birmingham and Llanidloes.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total	Rate p	
Live Births-	Maie	remaie	Total	1,000 populati	
Legitimate	27	33	60	populati	on and wates
Illegitimate	2	_	2		
Totals	29	33	62	13.25	15.8
Still Births-					
Legitimate	_	1	1		
Illegitimate	-	_	-		
Totals	_	1	1	0.22	2 0.37
DEATHS Causes of Dea	ath	olingadiff.	larly is	Male Fe	male Total
Tuberculosis	(Respire	atory)	.7.	3	_ 8
Tuberculosis		ALTO CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT		1	— 1
Malignant no	eoplasm	(stomach)		_	1 1
Malignant n			C V	JAI DAG	2 2
Malignant n	eoplasm	(other)	PATTERN	8	2 5
Leukæmia				1	_ 1
Vascular lesi		ervous sys	tem	3	7 10
Coronary dis	Control of the Contro	"Suo ed 6	20 Y- 1	6	- 6 13 17
Other heart Pneumonia	disease	Stady some		4	13 17 1 1
Bronchitis				2	_ 2
Nephritis				_	2 2
Hyperplasia	of prosta	ate		1	_ 1
Other define				1	2 3
Motor vehicl			30711112	1	_ 1
All other acc	eidents			1	2 3
		То	tals	27	32 59
		,000 popul d and Wal		110	suffy
DEATHS OF I			100 100	Rate pe	
The state of the s	Male	Female	Total		
under 1 year old				Births	and Wales
Legitimate Illegitimate	- Zum	1	1		
under 4 weeks old Legitimate Illegitimate	_	1	1 -	Latinison	beringer avail
Totals	TOTAL	2	2	32.18	3 29.8
				HAIR TOTAL	10 G 11 H 11 J 11 J 17 C 1

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

No infectious disease occurred in serious epidemic form.

	TO THE OF	No.	of cases noti	fied
Diphtheria		8801.0	1*	
Pneumonia	India.		18	
Measles			8	
ordensem action		Total	27	
*(later prov	ed negative	)	CHRONING	

None of the above cases were admitted to hospital.

### Diptheria Immunisation.

Number of children who had completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year was 49.

Number of children who were given a secondary injection during the year was nil.

Total number of children immunised to Dec. 31st, 1950:-

Age Group	Number Immunised	Estimated Child Population
Under 1 year Age 1 year	39	Lopalation
Age 2 years	85	830
Age 3 years	24	
Age 4 years	46	
Age 5-9 years	176]	665
Age 10-14 years	204)	000
Total under 15 years	527	995

### Other Diseases.

In June there was a small epidemic of Catarrhal Jaundice that seemed to centre on the children of Nantmel school. The cases were mild and recovered quickly, no action being necessary by the Local Authority.

In October there was an epidemic of Diarrhæa sometimes accompanied by vomiting. I was unable to trace any infection from water or food and laboratory tests of specimens did not show the presence of any disease-bearing organisms such as are usually associated with this ailment. All cases were mild and recovery fairly rapid and complete.

### BLINDNESS.

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Number of fresh cases notified during the year :-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Male 1	Female 1 2	Total 2 2
Totals	1	8	4

Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1950 :-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Male 10 6	Female 11 8	Total 21 14
Totals	16	19	85

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supply.

General.

The supplies in the district consist of nine separate undertakings, three of which are connections to the City of Birmingham Aqueduct. Seven reservoirs are maintained, a Hydrostat and Petter engine powered pump and 15½ miles of water main. The catchment areas where water is gathered are in the main, hill land that is only used for sheep raising. The risk of contamination is slight. The largest undertaking, that of Rhayader, serving a population of approx. 900 is fitted with a Chlorination plant. Schemes for the provision of chlorination plants at Newbridge and Llanyre are under consideration.

There are a large number of individual supplies to outlying farms where it is not possible to provide public water supplies. A number of these were inspected during the year and thirty-three samples of water were taken from individual wells for analysis. Twenty-six of these proved satisfactory, and advice was given in the remaining seven cases.

A small private supply to a school proved unsatisfactory but after repairs had been carried out to fencing and the reservoir a further sample proved suitable for drinking.

Advice was given in several instances where farmers wished to instal water supplies with assisted schemes under the Hill Farming Act.

### Rhayader and Cwmdauddwr Parishes.

- (i) Apart from a short period when a burst main leading to the Hylrostat coincided with a breakdown of the Petter pumping engine no difficulties were experienced as regards supply.
  - (ii) Samples proved satisfactory.
- (iii) The water has a plumbo solvent tendency. Very few lead pipes are in use and accordingly no precautions have been taken.
  - (iv) No special action was necessary to prevent contamination
  - (v) Statistics of piped supplies :-

Water in house From standpipes
No. of houses served 352 100
Population served 700 approx. 200 approx.

A very large area of Cwmdauddwr has no public supply. The properties are mainly isolated farms with individual supplies from wells and springs.

A number of houses, including one hotel obtain water by private mains from the City of Birmingham Aqueduct.

### Nantmel Parish.

### (a) Nantmel Village.

The Public supply is a small catchment tank serving two houses and a standpipe. Owing to discoloration of the water the main leading to the two houses was renewed in asbestos during the year.

- (i) The quantity was adequate during the year.
- (ii) Samples proved satisfactory.
- (iii) The water is not corrosive.
- (iv) No action was taken regarding contamination.
- (v) Three houses have an internal water supply and a standpipe serves six houses.

During the year the Council decided to extend the main approximately 300 yards to provide a further standpipe where there is a shortage of water.

### (b) Gaufron Hamlet.

- (i) The supply was sufficient throughout the year.
- (ii) One sample proved "suspicious."
- (iii) No lead pipes are used and no precautions were taken.
- (iv) The catchment area was cleared and the reservoir cleansed and disinfected.
- (v) Two dwellings have an internal supply and one dwelling and a school obtain water from a standpipe.

### (c) Gwystre and Clewedog area.

- (i) The supply is obtained from the Birmingham Aqueduct and was satisfactory as to quantity and quality.
  - (ii) Samples were satisfactory.
- (iii) The supply is treated at the source to neutralise the plumbo solvent tendency. Lead is used in several houses but no precautions are necessary.
- (iv) No action was taken by this Council to prevent contamination.
- (v) Thirty-nine houses with a population of 90 have a water supply in the house. Four houses obtain water from a shallow well that supplies one standpipe.

### Llanbadarn Fawr Parish.

- (i) The supply is obtained from the Birmingham Aqueduct and was satisfactory as to quantity and quality.
  - (ii) Samples were satisfactory.
- (iii) The supply is treated at the source to neutralise the plumbo solvent tendency. Lead is used in several houses but no precautious are necessary.
- (iv) No action was taken by this Council to prevent contamination.
- (v) Twenty-six houses with a population of 70 have water supply in the house. Twelve properties with a population of 80 obtain water from standpipes.

In the Penybont area water supplies were inadequate during the summer. A scheme to serve Penybont and part of New Radnor District was considered by both Local Authorities and approved for submission to the Welsh Board of Health.

### Llanyre Parish.

### (a) Llanyre Village.

- (i) Owing to the abnormal rainfall the supply was sufficient during the year. As there is normally a shortage in this area a scheme to supplement the supply by taking water from the Cwmnant was submitted during the year to the Welsh Board of Health.
  - (ii) Samples were satisfactory.
- (iii) So far as is known no lead is used in this supply and precautions are not necessary.
  - (iv) No special action was taken regarding contamination.
- (v) Twenty-six houses with a population of 70 are served by this supply.

### (b) Newbridge-on-Wye.

- (i) The supply was adequate throughout the year.
- (ii) Samples proved satisfactory.
- (iii) So far as is known no lead pipes are used in this supply and precautions are not necessary.
- (iv) The owner of the catchment area ploughed the area. On representation by the Council he agreed not to use any manure on the land and to let it return to pasture after the crop had been gathered. The Council decided to instal a small filter and Chlorination plant to this supply.
  - (v) 125 houses have a water supply. Population served 300.

### Abbeycwmhir Parish.

### (a) Abbeycwmhir Village.

- (i) The supply was adequate throughout the year.
- (ii) Samples proved satisfactory.
- (iii) So far as is known no lead pipes are used in this supply.
- (iv) No precautions were taken against contamination.
- (v) Twelve houses have a water supply serving a population of 30.

### (b) Bwlchysarnau Hamlet.

- (i) The supply was adequate.
- (ii) Samples proved satisfactory.
- (iii) Lead is not used in this scheme.
- (iv) No action was taken against contamination.
- (v) The supply serves a small school and two standpipes population 18.

### Cefnllys and Llanfihangel Parishes.

No developments took place in the provision of public water supplies.

### Pantydwr and St. Harmon Parishes.

The scheme to supply these areas by reservoir, filtration and chlorination and six miles of main was approved during the year, pipes were ordered and contract prepared to go to tender in 1951.

TABLE OF ANALYSES OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES - Chemical and Bacteriological Analyses.

Fæcal Coli per 100 cc	Coliform organisms per 100 cc	during 48 hours at 22° C	d on	during 48 hours at 87° C	ed on	Colour (Hazen Units)	Saturation Index (Langelier)	pH S	pH Value	Total Hardness	Total Alkalinity as Ca CO3	Lime as CaO	", " " in 15 minutes	Oxygen consumed at 27°C in 4 hours	Nitrites	Nitrates	Total Solids	Calculated as Common Salt	Chlorides as Cl2	Albuminoid Ammonia	Free Ammonia	Source	Date
:	:	:	Agar	:	Agar	:	:	:		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		
Nil	Nil	19		2		10	-2.6	9.7	7.1	1.25	1.25	0.84	0.078	0.122	Nil	Nil	5.5	2.80	1.70	0.006	Nil	Cross Gates	31/5/50
1	1	1		1		Ot	-2.7	9.6	6.9	1.5	1.5	0.87	0.060	0.154	Trace	Nil	4.0	8.46	2.10	0.006	Nil	Rhayader	16/8/50
Nil	Nil	580		60		O1	-8.4	9.4	6.0	1.5	1.5	0.68	0.011	0.028	Nil	Nil	4.0	8.47	2.10	0.004	Nil	Newbridge	11/9/50
Nil	Nil	98		10		0	-1.7	8.6	6.9	7.0	7.0	1.46	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	18.5	3.46	2.10	0.008	0.002	B'chysarnau	6/9/50
Nil	Nil	28	dr	00		0	-8.5	9.6	6.1	1.5	1.5	0.56	Nil	Nil	Nil	Trace	6.0	2.48	1.50	Nil	Nil	Llanyre	4/10/50
Nil	Nil	49		OT.		0	-2.7	9.2	6.5	2.5	2.5	0.86		0.008	Nil	Nil	9.0	2.89	1.75	0.006	Nil	Abbeyc'hir	6/11/50

# TABLE OF ANALYSES OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES -

# BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSES.

Remarks	Fæcal coli per 100 cc	Coliform organisms per 100 cc	No. of organisms per cc developed on Agar during 48 hours at 22°C	No. of organisms per cc developed on Agar during 48 hours at 37°C		Date Source
H.S.	Nil	Nil	-1	COL	olias elias	16/8/50 Abbeyc'hi
H.S.	Nil	Nil	410	46		16/8/50 6/9/50 Abbeyc'hir Cross Gates
Susp.	6	16	19	63		8/10/50 Gaufron
H.S.	Nil	Nil	10	1		8/10/50 Gwystre
H.S.	Nil	Nil	7	1	ind is	1/11/50 1/11/50 Cross Gates Rhayades
H.S.	Nil	Nil	œ	ensira kang	ingress integral althur	1/11/50 Rhayader
				11		

Abbreviations - H.S. Highly Satisfactory. Susp. Suspicious.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

### Rhayader and Cwmdauddwr.

No further developments took place regarding the scheme to renew the sewerage for the town of Rhayader. The scheme was submitted to the Welsh Board of Health but no further action could be taken owing to difficulties of negotiating with landowners.

### Newbridge-on-Wye.

The sewerage scheme was completed during the year and a number of properties connected to the sewer.

### Cross Gates and Fron.

Work started on the provision of sewerage in this area and a number of sewers were laid during the year.

### Bwlchysarnau.

The Council decided to provide sewers for the small number of existing properties in Bwlchysarnau in conjunction with a small plant to serve the new housing project.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

District refuse collection covers all centres of population in the district. The collection is divided into three categories:—

- (a) Rhayader and Cwmdauddwr and Elan Valley-twice weekly.
- (b) Newbridge-on-Wye, Llanyre, Fron and Cross Gates and Penybont Villages—weekly.
- (c) Pantydwr, St. Harmon, Bwlchysarnau, Abbeycwmhir, Nantmel, Doldowlod and all premises on the main roads travelled on these routes—fortnightly.

Refuse is being tipped at Gravel Road, Gwystre and the Bog, Newbridge, in addition to the Groe Tip, Rhayader. Controlled tipping methods are used.

### PUBLIC CEMETERY.

During the year a Public Cemetery was laid out and paths made in a field adjoining Heol-y-Brenin, Rhayader. Plans include an entrance building and sanitary conveniences to be constructed at a later date. A portion of the Cemetery was consecrated on October 9th and a further portion dedicated when the Cemetery was formally opened on October 11th, 1950.

Total number of burial plots	1,078
No. of burial plots in consecrated portion	292
No. of burial plots in dedicated portion	895
Area of Cemetery	1.85 acres
There were no burials during the year.	

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

### Rivers and Streams.

No action was taken regarding pollution.

### Moveable Dwellings.

Three caravan camps were inspected during the summer months. No nuisances were found and no action was taken,

### Atmospheric Pollution,

There are no industries in the area producing smoke in quantity to cause nuisance and no action was taken.

### Swimming Baths.

The portion of the River Wye used for bathing is above the highest sewer outfall and free from pollution.

### Vermin.

No case of bed bug or other insect infestation was observed during the year. Rat infestations were dealt with by an operative employed jointly by Knighton R.D.C. and Rhayader R.D.C. The operative works alternate periods of two months in each district.

No. of premises inspected for rats	142
No. of premises treated for rats	87
No. of sewer manholes inspected for rats	92
No. of sewer manholes treated for rats	14
Estimated No. of rats killed during the year	240
No. of farm premises where infestation was reported to A.E.C	3

Owing to illness and difficulties in making the necessary arrangements between the two local authorities the operative was not appointed until August and the above figures are for the period from August to the end of the year.

### Housing.

The Rural Housing Survey was completed in the Parishes of Llanyre and Llanbadarn Fawr where with very few exceptions every house was inspected. Informal notices were served in each case where defects were found causing dampness in the house.

1	No.	of houses inspected during the year	ar (under	
		Public Health or Housing Acts)		303
1	No.	of visits made for the purpose		463
N	No.	of informal notices served		48
N	lo.	of houses repaired as a result of notice	f informal	2
		of statutory notices served (Pub Act, 1936)		21
		of houses repaired as a result of notices		5
1	10.	of houses demolished or closed as	a result of	
		informal action		3
Housing	Su		Llanyre	3 Llanbadarn Fawr
Housing		rvey Categories.	alton sowe	Llanbadarn
			19	Llanbadarn Fawr
Category	y 1	Satisfactory in all respects Minor defects only	19	Llanbadarn Fawr 13
Category	y 1 2	rvey Categories.  Satisfactory in all respects	19	Llanbadarn Fawr 13
Category	y 1 2	Satisfactory in all respects Minor defects only Requiring repair, structural	19	Llanbadarn Fawr 13 2
Category	y 1 2 3	rvey Categories.  Satisfactory in all respects Minor defects only Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement	19 – 134 7	Llanbadarn Fawr 13 2
Category	y 1 2 3	rvey Categories.  Satisfactory in all respects Minor defects only Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement Appropriate for re-conditioning	19 – 184 7	Llanbadarn Fawr 13 2

As a result of this survey the Council decided that further reports should be submitted with a view to taking action on all houses in categories 4 and 5.

No action was taken under sections 11, 12 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

No fresh cases of overcrowding came to light during the year.

### New Houses.

No, of building licences issued to private owners	4
No. of houses completed and occupied by private	
enterprise	5
No. of houses completed and let by Local Authority	14
No. of houses let to contract during the year	Nil
No. of houses, sites selected & preliminary work started	38
No. of houses in course of construction by Local	
Authority	14

### Factories.

No. of non-power factories on register		18
No. of power factories on register		27
No. of inspections of factories		2
Food Premises.		
No. of slaughterhouses (Ministry of Food)		1
No. of ice cream premises on register		9
No. of milk retailers on register		58
No. of food premises on register		28
No. of inspections of premises other than	n	
slaughterhouse		3
No. of visits to slaughterhouse		115

### Meats and Foods Inspection.

				Sheep &		
		(	Cattle.	Calves.	Lambs.	Pigs.
No. killed			96	39	2,325	26
No. inspected			96	39	2,325	26
All diseases except	T.B.—					
Whole carcase cond	lemned		9	18	34	_
Carcases of which so was condemne		_	31	1	568	1
Percentage of the raffected with d		than	42%	36%	26%	4%
Tuberculosis only-	-					
Whole carcase cond	demned		5	_	_	1
Some part or organ	condemned		4	_	_	1
Percentage of the affected with		cted	9%	_	_	8%

The principal diseases noted were strongylus infection of the lungs and distomatosis in livers. These are very prevalent and almost 100% in older sheep and cattle.

Total weight of meat condemned	4 tons 3 cwts. 61 lbs.
No of tins of food condemned	90
Total weight of other food condemned	153 lbs.

Samples of food for adulteration were taken by the County Council.

