

BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1944.

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To The Chairmen and Members of the
Public Health Committee of the
Borough of Cowbridge.

August, 1944.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit, for your consideration, my Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough for the year 1944.

The report has been prepared in accordance with Circular 49/45 (Wales) dated 19th. March, 1945, the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926.

Restrictions, on the grounds of national security, previously imposed on the publication of population figures etc., in Annual Reports have now been removed.

Mr. C.E. Symonds, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor to the Borough Council since July, 1939 relinquished his appointment at the end of the year to take up duties with the Barry Borough Council. I wish Mr. Symonds every success in his new appointment.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DAVID J. EVANS.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres.	84.
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book.	290.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£21. 18. 7.
Population (Mid Year, 1944) Registrars Returns.	1,262.
Rateable value of district.	£5450.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

LIVE BIRTHS.

Births registered during 1944.

Male. Female. Total.

STILL BIRTHS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate Still Births.	1.	-	1.

BIRTH RATE.

Crude Birth Rate Cowbridge Borough.	17.4.
Birth Rate for England and Wales.	17.6.
Birth Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan.	19.4.
Birth Rate for Urban Areas in Glamorgan.	19.2.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Number of deaths under 1 year of age.	2.
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births (Cowbridge Borough)	91.
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales.	46.
Infant Mortality Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan.	48.
Infant Mortality Rate for Urban Areas in Glamorgan.	50.

DEATH RATE.

Crude death rate Cowbridge Borough.	5.5.
Death Rate for England and Wales.	11.6.
Death Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan.	12.3.
Death Rate for Urban Areas in Glamorgan.	12.7.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1944.

<u>Cause of Death.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pneumonia.	1.	-	1.
Premature Birth.	-	1.	1.
Nephritis.	1.	-	1.
Heart Disease.	1.	1.	2.
Other Causes.	1.	1.	2.
Total.	4.	3.	7.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN THE BOROUGH.

(a) Medical Officer of Health.

David J. Evans, M.R.C.S. (Eng) L.R.C.S., (Lond) N.O.H. (Part-time).

(b) Other Officers.

Miss. E. Rawnsley, Health Visitor (Part time). Full General Training, Qualified Midwife and Health Visitor's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

As there are no laboratory facilities within the District arrangements have been made for the examination of Pathological and Bacteriological specimens at the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory, The Parade, Cardiff. A number of samples of water and milk have been sent for analysis during the period under review.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Monthly Ante-Natal and Child Welfare Clinics are held in the Town Hall in conjunction with the Cowbridge Rural District Council.

The attendances during 1944 from residents in the Borough are as follows:-

Ante Natal.

Number of Sessions. 12.

Number of names on register. 9.

Child Welfare Clinics.

No. of sessions. 12.

Number of Names on register. 32.

Average attendances per clinic. 7.4

Visits to homes made by Health Visitor 1944..... 70.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified etc., during the year 1944.

Disease.	Cases notified.
Scarlet Fever.	1.

Tuberculosis.

No notifications were received during the year and no deaths occurred.

The following cases were on the Register at the end of the year 1944:-

Males.	Females.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGES:-

The old town drains discharge into the River Thaw which passes through the centre of the town. The discharge of such a considerable amount of untreated sewage into the river, especially during periods of drought, is a most serious Sanitary Nuisance. Most of the Old Town Drains are of the Box type and it can easily be imagined how the soil for some distance around the drain must be sewage sick.

The more modern portion of the town drain into cesspools situate in the gardens of the houses concerned.

In conjunction with the villages of Aberthin, Llanblethian in the Cowbridge Rural Area a joint scheme for Sewerage and Disposal of the Borough and these districts is being prepared with a view to a Government Grant under the Rural Water and Sewerage Act, 1934. It is sincerely hoped that this present attempt to modernise the drainage system of the town will meet with success.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

As stated above the river Thaw passes through the Borough and it is seriously polluted by crude sewage from the Town and other drains.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

W.Cs. connected to Cesspools.	145.
Closets connected to Town Drain.	50.
Closets emptying direct to River.	5.
Pail Closets.	16.
Middens.	161.

PUBLIC CLEANSING:-

A contract is placed with a local Contractor for a twice weekly removal of house refuse within the area. The disposal site at Three Ashes has been closed and arrangements made with the Cowbridge Rural District Council for the refuse to be disposed of at the latter's disposal site at Llanthangel, Nr. Cowbridge.

A Sanitary Cart is kept by the Local Authority for the purpose of emptying the contents of the cesspools within the Borough at the owners expense. The contents are disposed of by emptying over agricultural land.

SHOPS.

The Sanitary Inspector holds the appointment of Shops Inspector and periodical inspections are made to ensure that the requirements of the Shops Act, 1934, Public Health Act, 1936 and Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 are carried out.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

It has not been necessary to take any action for smoke nuisances during the year.

RODENTS.

Numerous inspections and advisory visits were made during 1944. The Old Town drain, with no manholes, provide excellent cover for rats and are almost impossible to treat by the Ministry's methods.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For Infectious Cases:-

The Cowbridge Borough Council is a constituent authority of the Bridgend Joint Hospital Committee and infectious cases requiring admission to Hospital have the use of the Ambulance provided by the Committee.

For Non-Infectious Cases.

No Ambulance is available within the District for Non-Infectious and Accident Cases. Whenever an Ambulance is required for these cases, arrangements are made with the St. John's Ambulance.

HOSPITALS.

(a) General Hospitals:-

(a) Cardiff Royal Infirmary. (b) Bridgend Cottage Hospital. and (c) Bridgend Infirmary.

(b) Orthopaedic Hospital:-

The Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff has a Convalescent Hospital at Crossways, Cowbridge at which Orthopaedic cases are treated.

(c) Infectious Cases:-

Cases from this area are admitted to the Joint Hospital situate at Cefn Hirgoed, Bridgend.

(d) Maternity Hospitals:-

There are no Maternity Hospitals or Nursing Homes in the area. Cases from this District can be admitted to the Maternity Block of the Bridgend Infirmary. Difficult cases may be removed to Cardiff Royal Infirmary.

Other treatment centres:-

Disease.	Clinic.
Tuberculosis.	Welsh National Memorial Association Clinic Bridgend.
Venereal Disease.	Clinics are held at Barry and Cardiff.
Mental Diseases.	School Clinic at Bridgend.

SECTION C

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other diseases.

(a) Diphtheria:

No notifications were received during the year.

Immunisation:-

Every effort was made to attract further children to be immunised. The following table indicates the numbers immunised under the age groups:-

CHILDREN IMMUNISED DURING, 1944.	
Half year to 30/6/44	

(b) Scarlet Fever:

There was one case of Scarlet Fever reported during the year.

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply:-

A constant supply of water is available in the Borough from the mains of the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board which pass through the town. The supply is satisfactory as regards purity but the excessive hardness is the cause of much complaint.

98.6 percent of the houses in the Borough are connected to the public mains.

All samples of water for Chemical and Bacteriological purposes during the year proved to be satisfactory.

Swimming Baths and Pools:-

The Council operate a swimming bath constructed on the River Thaw. The pool is periodically emptied and cleansed. During the summer months a caretaker is in attendance at the pool.

Schools:

Two schools (Cowbridge Grammar School and Pontfaen Elementary School) are situated in the Borough.

Grammar School:- Mains water is provided and water closets installed. Showers and baths are also available.

Pontfaen School:- Mains water is provided. Pail closets are available and there are regularly cleansed and the contents buried. It is to be hoped that the Education Authority will give serious consideration to the installation of water closets in the immediate post war years.

MILK SAMPLES:

Samples for Bacteriological Examination.

Samples were taken from purveyors in the Borough during 1944.

9.

The results are, on the whole, very good.

Samples of milk for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli.

The Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory extended their facilities for the biological testing of samples of milk during the year. This area is allocated six samples in a full year. It is, therefore, possible to have the milk supplied by each retail purveyor examined annually for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli.

No. of samples taken for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli during 1944.

3 (All negative)

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 etc.

No. of producers of milk registered.

1.

Meat and other foods:-

The meat supplied to Butchers in the Borough is obtained from the Ministry of Food's Slaughterhouse at Barry.

Butchery and Grocery Shops are regularly inspected and unsound foodstuffs dealt with according to the Ministry of Food's instructions.