

[Report 1954] / Medical Officer of Health, Denbigh Borough.

Contributors

Denbigh (Wales). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1954

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/q273vkrg>

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
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

RECEIVED
28 SEP 1955

BOROUGH OF DENBIGH



**ANNUAL
HEALTH REPORT
1954**

Medical Officer of Health

M. JONES ROBERTS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

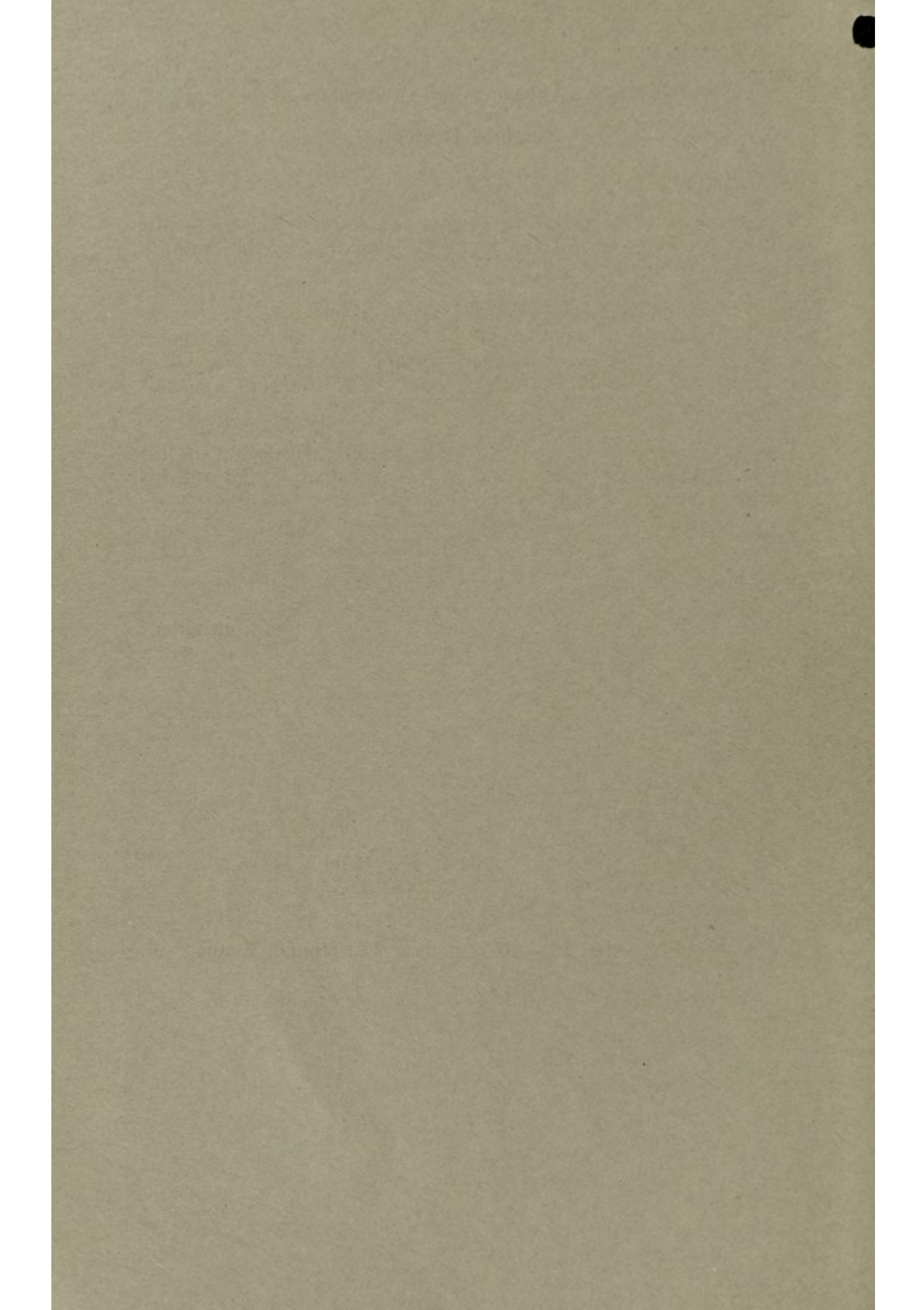
The Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh.

Tel. No. 289.

Sanitary Inspector

TREVOR H. ALDRICH, A.R.San. I., M.S.I.A.

Council Offices, Denbigh. Tel. No. 71.



*With the Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health.*

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Denbigh.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1954 prepared by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

Both the Sanitary Inspector and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Council for all the assistance and co-operation we have received during the year. We would also thank the officials and other members of the staff for their willingness to assist us at all times.

I would personally like to thank the Sanitary Inspector for his readiness at all times to carry out any work asked of him and his assistance has been greatly appreciated by me.

Yours faithfully,

M. JONES ROBERTS.

The Mayor of the Council and Chairmen of the Committees during the year were as follows:—

Mayor of the Borough:—

Alderman Mrs. Eunice Evans.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee:—

January—May 1954—Councillor Emlyn Jackson.

June—December 1954—Alderman Robert Hughes.

Chairman of the Housing Committee:—

January—May 1954—Councillor R. Freeman Evans.

June—December 1954—

Do.

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH

Area of the Borough	9,072 (acres)
Registrar General's estimated population (mid 1954)	7,930
Number of inhabited houses	2,100
Rateable Value (1/4/54)	£39,303
Product of a penny rate	£154

Deaths

Comparability Factor	0.81
----------------------------	------

The number of deaths registered during the year was 194 (97 Males and 97 Females) compared with 173 (87 Males and 86 Females) in 1953.

	1953	1954	<i>England and Wales</i> 1954
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population)	21.4	24.97	11.3
Corrected death rate (per 1,000 population)	19.9	20.21	—
Still birth rate (per 1,000 population)...	0.37	0.75	24.0
Maternal Mortality rate	—	8.62	0.69
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	31.7	18.18	25.5

The causes of death are shown in the following table with the number for 1953 given for comparison:—

	1953 <i>Total.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	1954 <i>Males. Females.</i>
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	3	5	4 1
Tuberculosis—Other	—	1	— 1
Syphilitic Disease	—	2	1 1
Diphtheria	—	—	— —
Whooping Cough	—	—	— —
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	— —
Poliomyelitis	—	—	— —
Measles	—	—	— —
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	2	— 2
Malignant Diseases—Stomach	5	3	2 1
Lungs	1	—	— —
Breast	4	1	— 1
Uterus	1	1	— 1
Other	14	11	4 7
Total Cancer deaths	25	16	6 10

Leukaemia	2	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	12	20	9	11
Coronary Disease	27	25	15	10
Hypertension with heart disease	10	6	2	4
Other heart diseases	49	56	19	37
Other circulatory disease	5	2	1	1
Influenza	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	9	19	12	7
Bronchitis	2	2	2	—
Other respiratory diseases	2	4	3	1
Ulcer of stomach, etc.	3	4	4	—
Gastritis, Diarrhoea, etc.	—	—	—	—
Nephritis, Nephrosis	6	4	4	—
Prostatic Hyperplasia	1	2	2	—
Maternal Causes	—	1	—	1
Congenital Malformations	1	1	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	14	8	6
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	1	—
All other accidents	4	6	3	3
Suicide	—	1	—	1
Homicide	—	—	—	—
<hr/>				
All causes	173	194	97	97

The deaths occurred in the following age groups:—

Under 1 year	2 (Both Males).
1—10 years	Nil.
10—20 years	1 (Male).
20—30 years	3 (2 Males and 1 Female).
30—40 years	8 (1 Male and 7 Females).
40—50 years	6 (2 Males and 4 Females).
50—60 years	19 (10 Males and 9 Females).
60—70 years	45 (24 Males and 21 Females).
70—80 years	64 (33 Males and 31 Females).
80—90 years	41 (21 Males and 20 Females).
90 years and over.....	5 (1 Male and 4 Females).

194 (97 Males and 97 Females).

Of these 198 deaths, 99 (39 Males and 60 Females) occurred at the North Wales Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders, Denbigh.

159 of the 194 deaths occurred in persons aged 60 years and over.

There were five deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis compared

with three deaths in 1953. Of these, four occurred at the North Wales Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders, Denbigh.

There were nineteen deaths from pneumonia, but none of these were due to the three cases of acute primary pneumonia notified during the year.

There were no other deaths from infectious diseases.

Deaths from lesions of the heart and vascular system totalled 109 during the year compared with 97 during 1953.

There were sixteen deaths from cancer of all forms during 1954 compared with 25 in 1953.

Maternal Mortality Rate

The maternal mortality rate was 8.62 compared with 0.69 in England and Wales and Nil in 1953. Actually there was only one death from maternal causes. This occurred in a patient who had come to the North Wales Counties Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders from another area and was only resident at the hospital for a very short period.

Infant Deaths

The infant mortality rate for 1954 was 18.18 compared with 31.7 in 1953. The rate for England and Wales was 25.5 which is the lowest rate ever recorded in this country.

The actual number of infant deaths was two. These deaths were followed up by the Health Visitor. One death occurred at the age of two weeks and the cause of death was pneumonia. The other death occurred at the age of one hour and was due to prematurity. In each case the mother had attended her own doctor for ante-natal supervision and this had been adequate.

Still-births

The still-birth rate for the year was 0.75 compared with 0.37 in 1953.

The actual number of still-births was 6 compared with three during the previous year.

The total loss of infant life during the year was eight.

Births

Comparability Factor 1.09

There were 110 births (58 Males and 52 Females) relating to residents of the Borough during 1954 compared with 126 (71 Males and 55 Females) during 1953. These births were classified as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	55	47	102
Illegitimate	3	5	8
Total	58	52	110

	1953.	1954.	England and Wales 1954.
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population)	15.6	13.87	15.2
Corrected birth rate (per 1,000 population)	22.9	15.12	—

Infectious Diseases

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1954 arranged in the various age groups. The number of cases notified during 1953 is given in the first column for comparison.

<i>At Ages.</i>											
<i>Notifiable Disease.</i>	1953 Total.	1954 Total.	Under 1 year.	1—5 years.	5—15 years.	16—25 years.	26—45 years.	45—65 years.	65 years and over.	Ages unknown.	Number admitted to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Measles	33	319	4	150	161	—	2	—	—	2	—
Whooping Cough	—	57	3	27	24	1	—	—	—	2	3
Meningococcal Infections ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	22	38	—	—	4	3	12	13	5	1	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	2	4	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—
Totals	68	424	7	177	191	4	17	14	8	6	4

The total number of cases of infectious diseases (including tuberculosis) notified during the year was four hundred and twenty-four compared with sixty-eight cases notified in 1953. The reason for the increase is due to a measles epidemic.

No cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year.

There were three hundred and nineteen cases of measles notified during the year compared with thirty-three cases notified in 1953. These occurred during the last two months of the year, except one case which was notified in February.

There were fifty-seven cases of whooping cough compared with none notified in 1953. Forty-three of these cases occurred during the quarter ending 30th September 1954. Several of the cases occurred in children of the older age groups who had not been immunised against the disease during infancy. Several mothers attending the clinic remarked that the infants and toddlers who had been immunised had the disease very slightly. It is interesting to note that only fifty-seven cases occurred, and it does seem as if immunisation against whooping cough has been of value.

There were no cases of meningitis this year compared with two cases notified in 1953.

There was, however, one case of poliomyelitis in a child of seven years of age. The case was removed to hospital. Every precaution was taken to prevent an epidemic and no further cases were notified in the Borough.

Two cases of erysipelas were notified compared with none notified the previous year.

Thirty-eight cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified and of these twenty-two cases were notified from the North Wales Counties Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders, Denbigh. Of these twenty-two cases, eleven were old cases which had not been previously transferred on to the Borough register.

There were four cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, the lesions being in the glands of neck, mesenteric glands, peritoneum and meninges. The milk supply in each of these cases was investigated and found to be satisfactory.

The following table shows the state of the tuberculosis register at the beginning and at the end of 1954.

	<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	
Number on register on 1st January 1954 ...	67	42	10	15	134
Number on register on 31st December 1954	69	39	10	13	131

These figures include 46 cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis (42 Males, 4 Females) at the North Wales Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders, Denbigh, and who are counted as residents of the Borough as they are long-term patients there.

The number of cases of tuberculosis admitted to hospitals or sanatoria during the year was fifteen and the number of cases discharged from hospitals or sanatoria during the same period was ten.

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Whooping Cough and Diphtheria

Immunisation against whooping cough and diphtheria continues and the service is available by the family doctor and at the Infant Welfare Clinic. Unless the child has suffered from whooping cough, inoculation against both these very infectious diseases is given at the same time. Three injections are necessary at monthly intervals.

Diphtheria has disappeared from the area, but parents should remember that the reason for this is immunisation. Unless every child is immunised, there is grave danger of the disease returning to the community. Because there are no cases the child has no chance of acquiring natural immunity, therefore any stray germ is likely to cause a severe illness as the child is not protected. Paralysis, heart lesions, difficulty in swallowing, etc., can be very severe in diphtheria, but parents do not usually realise this. I am sorry to say that there are still a great many children coming into the schools in the Borough without this protection. It means that they must have two injections at school to be protected. When a child enters school at about five years of age, a "booster" dose is recommended. This dose stimulates the doses given during infancy so that the children remain immune and this is most important.

Parents, seeing cases of whooping cough and knowing the hazards, are much more anxious to have their babies immunised against it, and for this reason children are lucky that they can be immunised against diphtheria at the same time. Giving the injections in a combined form protects against both diseases.

The number of children immunised during the year is shown as follows:—

	<i>Diphtheria only.</i>	<i>Booster.</i>	<i>Combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria.</i>
Under 5 years	23		69
Over 5 years	7	51	Nil

Smallpox Vaccination

I would again stress the importance of vaccination during infancy. Owing to rapid air travel from countries where smallpox is found, contacts and even cases in the early stages may come into the country and spread the infection before they become aware of the fact, hence the reason why vaccination is more important now than it was, say, twenty years ago. Vaccination can be given by the baby's own doctor or at the Infant Welfare Clinic.

The number of vaccinations carried out during the year was eighty-eight and six re-vaccinations were carried out during the same period mostly on people going abroad.

Tuberculosis

All cases notified are followed up in detail by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor. She reports on the housing conditions, etc., and any defects reported are followed up. Anyone suffering from tuberculosis and concerned with the handling of milk, food, etc., are seen and advised regarding the danger. All contacts are advised to attend the Chest Clinic for examination which includes a clinical and X-ray examination and, for children and young adults, a skin test. If found to be clear but susceptible, B.C.G. vaccination is offered. Most parents take the advice of the Chest Physician and have their children vaccinated against tuberculosis.

Schoolchildren are not yet receiving B.C.G. vaccination as a routine procedure at school.

All contacts who attend school are reported to the Principal School Medical Officer and a note is made on their school medical inspection cards. In this way they can be seen at school medical inspection and followed up.

Several patients suffering from tuberculosis in the Borough are young adults, some of them married with young children. I am not happy about the position regarding the houses of these people. There are several cases of overcrowding in homes where there are open cases of tuberculosis. Until this is abated it is difficult to prevent the spread of the disease.

The Mass Radiography Unit did not visit the Borough during the year. The Unit did, however, visit the two senior schools in the town. This was because I asked them to do so urgently as several cases of tuberculosis had been notified in young people of fifteen years of age. The Mass Radiography Unit also visited the North Wales Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders, Denbigh, during the year.

The following tables show the result of the visit of the Unit.

WELSH REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD — MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

Survey of Schoolchildren at Denbigh, June 1954

**and Details of Survey carried out at the North Wales Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders,
Denbigh.**

	Total Number X-rayed.	Total Abnormal.	Definite P.T.	Needing further observation for P.T.	Other abnormalities of the chest.
Caledfryn Secondary					
Modern School, Denbigh ...	Males. 162 Females. 118 Total. 280	Males. 6 Females. 2 Total. 8	Males. Females. Total.	Males. Females. Total.	Males. Females. Total.
Grammar School, Denbigh ...	Males. 151 Females. 146 Total. 297	Males. 8 Females. 4 Total. 12	Males. Females. Total.	Males. Females. Total.	Males. Females. Total.
Totals	Males. 313 Females. 264 Total. 577	Males. 14 Females. 6 Total. 20	Males. Females. Total.	Males. Females. Total.	Males. Females. Total.

Total number examined.	Total Abnormal.	Definite P.T.	Needing further observation for P.T.	Other Pulmonary Abnormalities.
North Wales Mental				
Hospital — Patients	1320	14	2	214
North Wales Mental				
Hospital — Staff	156	1	—	27

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH

Laboratory Service

The Public Health Laboratory at Conway is under the direction of Dr. Kingsley Smith. Samples of water, milk and ice-cream are regularly sent there for bacteriological examination. Various types of bacteriological examinations are carried out here to aid in the diagnosis of illness, e.g. food poisoning, scarlet fever, meningitis, etc.

Advice and assistance is always readily given by Dr. Kingsley Smith regarding epidemics, the taking of samples, etc.

Ambulance Service

This service is under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health.

There are five ambulance stations in the Western No. 2 Health Area. These are situated at Denbigh, Ruthin, Llangernyw, Llanrwst and Cerrig-y-Drudion and there is one ambulance at each station, making a total of five ambulances for the area. Each station is manned by voluntary personnel. To supplement the ambulances, use is made of voluntary drivers of the W.V.S. Hospital Car Service and local taxi proprietors for the conveyance of sitting cases. Ambulances for the conveyance of infectious cases are sent from the hospitals concerned at Wrexham and Colwyn Bay.

The following is given for the information of the Council and the numbers refer to cases conveyed by the various ambulances and the mileage for the year commencing 1st December 1953 and ending 30th November 1954.

<i>Name of Ambulance.</i>	<i>Area served.</i>	<i>No. of cases conveyed.</i>	<i>Total Mileage.</i>
Cerrig-y-Drudion.	Upper Hiraethog.	50	2,357
Denbigh.	Denbigh Borough. Parts of Aled R.D. and Ruthin R.D.	451	9,396
Llangernyw.	Llangernyw, Gwytherin, Pandy Tudur and part of Eglwys Bach	274	8,214
Llanrwst.	Llanrwst and district	115	4,102
Ruthin.	Ruthin Borough and Ruthin Rural District	288	8,754

Cases Conveyed by Sitting Case Cars

	<i>No. of journeys.</i>	<i>No. of cases.</i>	<i>Mileage.</i>
1953 December	215	571	8,255
1954 January	185	565	7,417
February	204	522	8,224
March	211	619	9,253
April	184	507	7,746
May	156	437	6,893
June	149	475	7,682
July	184	433	7,740
August	168	371	7,655
September	200	472	9,642
October	179	419	7,467
November	184	467	7,452
Total	2,219	5,858	95,426

Mental Health Service

This service is under the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Much can be done to prevent mental ill-health by the proper housing of the inhabitants of the Borough. There are several cases of problem families who are living in very unsatisfactory homes.

Orthopædic Clinics

Patients from the Borough attend the Orthopædic Clinics held weekly at Rhyl where the Surgeon attends each week, or at the Denbigh Clinic on the first and third Wednesday morning each month (Surgeons from Oswestry Orthopædic Hospital attend once every three months).

Venereal Diseases

These clinics are held at hospitals in Llandudno, Wrexham, Chester and Bangor.

Tuberculosis Clinics

Most patients from the Borough attend the Chest Clinic held every Wednesday morning at the Denbigh Infirmary. Clinics are also held at Wrexham and Rhyl.

Ante-Natal Clinics

This clinic is held on alternate Wednesday mornings and the

Consultant Clinic is held on alternate Friday mornings at which session the Consultant sees cases referred by the patient's own doctor or from the routine clinic.

Patients from Ruthin Rural District and Aled Rural District as well as Ruthin Borough and Denbigh Borough attend at these clinics.

The number of attendances at these clinics during the year was as follows:—

1st Visits	135
Re-visits	170
Post-Natal	14
Gynæ	56
	<hr/>
Total	375

Patients who are admitted to St. Asaph Hospital for their confinements attend the clinic attached to that hospital.

Infant Welfare Clinics

Clinics are held every Wednesday afternoon and full use is being made of this service as shown by the following attendance figures:—

1st Visits	152
Re-visits	1,427
	<hr/>
Total	1,579

Welfare Foods and Cow & Gate Dried Milk are distributed during the clinic sessions on Wednesday afternoons, and Welfare Foods are also available on Friday afternoons. This gives ample opportunity for mothers to obtain National Dried Milk, Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil for their babies. There are two other depots in the town where Welfare Foods are available and there is one depot in Henllan. A fourth depot is to be opened in Lenten Pool in the near future.

Dental Clinics

This Clinic is held once a month at the Denbigh Clinic. Cases are referred from the Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare Clinics. Expectant and nursing mothers and toddlers attend for examination and treatment.

I have not been able to obtain figures for separate clinics, but the following figures show the attendance at the dental clinics in the Western No. 2 Area during the year (Denbigh and Llanrwst):—

Number of cases referred for treatment ...	43
Number completed treatment	14

There has been a shortage of Dental Officers in the County, therefore more frequent clinics cannot be held. It is satisfying to note that the number of cases treated during the year was an increase on the number treated in 1953.

Nursing Services

There is one Health Visitor serving in the Borough. She also covers parts of Ruthin Rural District, Aled Rural District and Hiraethog Rural District.

She carries out domicilliary visits to all babies as soon as possible after the fourteenth day since birth. In addition, she attends at the Infant Welfare Clinics, Ante-Natal Clinics, special clinics such as Ophthalmic Clinics, examination of staff, pupil teachers, etc. She is also the School Nurse and attends at the schools for cleanliness inspection, following up of infectious and contagious diseases and she also attends at the school medical inspections. Extra duties in connection with cancer research, arranging for home helps also come within her domain. These duties mean that the Health Visitor has to put in a great deal of work into her day and often she does not finish until late on in the evenings when she settles down to do her clerical work.

The Tuberculosis Health Visitor working in the Borough also covers the whole of the Western half of the County except the Borough of Ruthin.

There are four District Nurses working in the Borough. They work in the following centres — Denbigh, Nantglyn taking in the top part of the town, Trefnant taking in the lower part of the town, and Rhewl taking in the Brookhouse area.

There are only two Home Helps in the Borough. Every attempt is made by the Health Visitor to find suitable women for this duty. If more suitable women volunteer, a great deal could be done to assist in the nursing of people at home and in the care of the aged.

Care of the Aged

Section 47. National Assistant Act, 1948. Amendment Act, 1951

Several cases of aged people were reported as needing care and attention and these were followed up. Most cases agreed to go into hospital voluntarily or a home help was found for them by the Health Visitor. In no instance was action found to be necessary under the above Act. There are, however, one or two cases who are difficult to deal with and action may have to be taken to place them in a home or hospital by application to a Court.

The W.V.S. are doing very good work in caring for the aged in the Borough. There is a "Meals on Wheels" service and the meals provided are greatly enjoyed by those supplied with them. Hot meals are served twice a week. The Derby and Joan Club is very flourishing and meets weekly. There are 105 members of the Club. In addition to the weekly meetings, they have various parties and outings. Also a Welfare Scheme operates in the Club and this means that a great deal of work for the aged is undertaken by the W.V.S. Generally speaking, the public is aware of this and bring deserving cases to the notice of the W.V.S.

Section 50. National Assistance Act, 1948

No burial of any deceased person by the Council in pursuance of powers granted to them under the above Statute took place in 1954.

Sewerage Scheme

The tender submitted by Messrs. Norman Hughes and Co., Ltd., Ruthin, for the construction of a new sewage disposal works and alterations to the town sewers has been accepted and approved. Work on the scheme is now in progress.

Schools

The Principal School Medical Officer has requested a full report on the condition of the schools in the County so that he may classify them according to defects. In this way he would be able to draw up a list of schools which require immediate attention and would submit a priority list of these schools to the Education Committee. A full report on the schools in the Borough was sent to the Principal School Medical Officer in July.

The Council also considered a report from the Sanitary Inspector on the conditions existing in schools in the Borough and forwarded observations to the Local Education Authority.

Factories Act, 1937—1948

The fifty-one factories on the Council's Register were inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

No serious contravention of the Factories Acts were found, several minor contraventions were dealt with verbally at the time of inspection.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948 **Part I of the Act**

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

<i>Premises.</i>	<i>M/c. line No.</i>	<i>Number of</i>				<i>M/c. line No.</i>
		<i>Number on Register.</i>	<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>Written notices. Occupiers prosecuted.</i>		
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	6	6		Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	39	35		Nil	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	6	6		Nil	3
Total		51	47		Nil	

2.—Cases in which Defects were found.

<i>Particulars.</i>	<i>M/c. line No.</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found.</i>		<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.</i>		
		<i>Referred</i>		<i>M/c. line No.</i>		
		<i>Found.</i>	<i>Remedied.</i>	<i>To H.M. Insp.</i>	<i>By H.M. Insp.</i>	<i>M/c. line No.</i>
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(8)
(1)	4	—	—	—	—	4
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5	—	—	—	—	5
Overcrowding (S.2)	6	—	—	—	—	6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	7	—	—	—	—	7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	8	—	—	—	—	8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	9	—	—	—	—	9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—	10	—	—	—	—	10
(a) Insufficient	11	—	—	—	—	11
(b) Unsuitable or defective	12	—	—	—	—	12
(c) Not separate for sexes	60	3	3	—	—	60
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)		—	—	—	—	
Total		3	3	—	—	

No outworkers are registered under Section 110-111 of the above Act.

Housing

The 89 houses at the Maes-y-Goron housing site were completed during the year. No new schemes were commenced. The need for more houses is still pressing, but the Council experienced difficulty in obtaining new sites.

A survey of all properties in the area was commenced by the Sanitary Inspector under the provisions of Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954. In order to complete this survey in the period, many other matters requiring attention have had to be neglected in the latter half of the year.

Milk Supplies

Samples of milk were taken by the County Sanitary Officer during the year and sent for biological examination. One of these showed the presence of brucella infection, but no tuberculosis. The milk in this case was being sent for pasteurisation prior to it being used for human consumption.

Man can be affected by drinking raw infected milk. The disease is not notifiable, but I have asked the General Practitioners if they will inform me should they come across any cases so that the source of infection may be sought. Control of the disease consists in the adequate pasteurisation of the milk, inoculation of the herds, and, if feasible, the elimination of infected animals.

Although the milk supply is primarily the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, it is felt the Local Authorities still have an important part to play in milk supplies in ensuring that the milk supplied to the consumer is satisfactory.

With this point in view, the Council's Sanitary Inspector took the following samples of milk for bacteriological examination:—

<i>Type of milk.</i>	<i>No. of samples submitted for examination.</i>
Pasteurised milk	6
T.T. Pasteurised milk	2
Tuberculin Tested milk	4
Total samples taken	12

The Public Health Laboratory at Conway, at which Centre these samples were examined, reported all samples to be satisfactory, having conformed to the respective standards.

Attention was also paid to School Milk Supplies, and several of the above samples were taken from School premises within the Borough.

Clean Food Campaign

Slow but nevertheless steady improvement is being made to further the cause of "clean food." Regular inspections were carried out of all hotels, restaurants, kitchens and cafe premises, and advice and guidance is given to management and staff personnel in improvements and corrections necessary.

Denbigh was again fortunate in that no cases of food poisoning were notified during the year and very few complaints regarding errors in food hygiene were received. This latter fact may be attributed more to public apathy and ignorance rather than to a universal absence of the cause of complaint.

Although the authority for the enforcement of Statutes, Regulations and Orders is the Council, the general public can play an important part in securing the hygienic handling and preparation of food by refusing to purchase food from premises lacking in hygienic standards.

The Sanitary Inspector's visits to food premises, etc., were as follows:—

No. of premises registered for the manufacture and sale of Sausage, Preserved Meats, etc.	9
No. of premises registered for the sale of Ice-Cream	31
No. of premises registered for the manufacture of Ice-Cream	2
No. of Ice-Cream Samples sent for examination. All were satisfactory	18
No. of visits made to premises in connection with the manufacture and sale of food	653

All premises used in connection with the manufacture, preparation or sale of food were regularly visited and the general standard of cleanliness was found to be satisfactory.

TABLE OF MEAT, FISH, ETC., CONDEMNED

4 tins Prunes.	14 tins Ham — total weight
78 tins Milk.	120 lbs. 11 ozs.
45 tins Pears.	3 tins Damsons.
1 tin Grapefruit Juice.	6 tins Grapefruit.
11 tins Mince Beef Loaf.	2 tins Pork.
1 tin Luncheon Meat.	1 tin Sausages.
11 tins Tomatoes.	1 tin Vegetable Soup.
10 tins Peas.	4 tins Oranges.
10 tins Strawberries.	16 tins Orange Juice.
3 tins Pineapples.	2 tins Tomato Juice.
9 tins Cherries.	6 tins Pilchards.
14 tins Rhubarb.	1 tin Tuna Fish.
1 tin Bilberries.	1 tin Shrimps.
1 tin Stewed Steak.	1 tin Mixed Chicken.
12 tins Beans.	2 tins Frozen Egg.
1 tin Blackcurrants.	9 tins Plums.
1 tin Grapes.	7 tins Sardines.
1 tin Tomato Soup.	2 tins Chicken Soup.
1 tin Asparagus Spears.	6 tins Corned Beef.
2 tins Salmon.	12 tins Peaches.
23 tins Apricots.	

Slaughtering

July 2, 1954, saw the return to private slaughtering in the Borough of Denbigh, after a lapse of some fifteen years, during which period meat supplied to the Borough was either slaughtered at Ruthin, Rhyl or other Government-controlled slaughter-house premises.

In pre-war times there were some eleven premises registered or licensed for slaughtering and many of the occupiers wished to re-open these premises in July 1954.

The Council met representatives of the Butchers operating in Denbigh, and following discussions, four slaughter-houses were brought to a proper standard of repair and hygiene and were licensed by this Authority.

These slaughter-houses are adequate for the needs of the town and for a large part of the surrounding countryside.

The number of animals slaughtered from July 2nd to 31st December is as follows:—

<i>Feasts.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>
359	124	826	4,199

A postmortem examination of the above carcasses was carried out, and appropriate action was taken where diseased conditions were found.

Diseased meat was disposed of by the Butcher under the supervision of this department, the bulk of such meat being sold for processing for fertiliser and fat.

Water Supplies

The two main water supplies within the Borough are the supply to the town area by the Denbigh Water Co., a statutory undertaking, and the Hafod water supply for the village of Henllan, controlled by the Council.

The Denbigh Water Co. obtain water from a borehole at Llwyn Isaf on the outskirts of the area. Examination of the water has shown it to be at all times highly satisfactory. The water is chlorinated.

The Henllan water supply is chlorinated and all samples have been graded Class I. This is highly satisfactory. The Council is concerned however by the inadequate storage and filtration facilities available and are considering methods of remedying matters.

A number of outlying properties are supplied from the North Wales Counties Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders private supply. This supply is highly satisfactory.

Many houses and farms in other parts of the Borough depend on well water supplies which are not in all instances satisfactory. The Council is endeavouring to find means of providing a satisfactory supply for the Ystrad and Glyn area, where improvement in the present position is urgently needed. The Bryn Mulan water, which is piped to some properties in this area, is not intended for drinking purposes and is heavily contaminated.

Twelve samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination. The public mains supplies were at all times found to be highly satisfactory.

The Sanitary Inspector further reports as follows:—

Hotels and Public Houses

The seventeen licensed premises in the area are provided with suitable sinks, hot and cold water in the bar for glass washing. Conditions were found to be generally satisfactory during inspections.

Separate sanitary accommodation for male and female customers is required at certain premises, but owing to constructional difficulties provision of such accommodation has been delayed.

Common Lodging House

There is one registered Common Lodging House in the area, having accommodation for fourteen males. It has been well managed and maintained during the year.

Rodent Control

1,080 premises were inspected by the Rodent Operator and 76 premises were found to have infestations of rats or mice.

Domestic treatments carried out free of charge numbered 47. Business and agricultural treatments, charged on a time and material basis, numbered 14. Advice was given to persons wishing to disinfest their own premises and inspection made to see the work was properly carried out.

The town sewers and the Henllan sewers were examined and test-baited. Evidence of a very minor infestation only was found. All Council property was kept under constant supervision and infestations were dealt with.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Household refuse is collected weekly in all parts of the Borough other than a number of outlying farms and cottages where refuse is removed monthly or upon request. No charge is made for a weekly removal of trade refuse, and food premises are served twice a week where required.

All refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Meifod Quarry, Henllan. The system is satisfactory and economical. Precautions are constantly taken at the tip to destroy insects, vermin and weeds.

Six men are employed on the refuse collection service, one man being a tip attendant. The Rodent Operator is available as a relief driver in emergencies. Overalls, gloves and waterproof coats are provided for the use of the refuse collectors.

The Council continued to salvage waste paper, rags, metals, and were able to sell all the materials collected. The Council have a contract with Messrs. Thames Board Mills Limited for the sale of waste paper. Rags and metals are sold to local dealers. 65 tons of paper were sold for the year ending 31st March 1954.

General Notices, etc.

Seventy-two premises were found to require structural repairs of a minor or major nature. Forty-seven informal notices were sent to owners under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, and the

Public Health Act, 1936. Ten Statutory Notices were served under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, the remaining premises were dealt with by direct approach to the owners. All the statutory notices were complied with.

Inspection or testing of the drainage of thirty-six premises were carried out during the year. Informal notices were served for the repair or cleansing of drains; all notices were complied with.

Ten complaints of nuisances other than above were dealt with. Informal notices were served, and all nuisances found were abated.

Fourteen premises were treated for the destruction of cockroach infestations. Three houses were treated for heavy infestation of fleas. Four houses were found to be in a filthy state.

Other informal notices served were as follows:—

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 10 served, 10 complied with.

Prevention of Damage by Pests

Act, 1949 1 served, 1 complied with.

Petroleum (Consolidation)

Act, 1928 7 served, 6 complied with.

It was again found that informal action and direct personal approach to the persons concerned proved to be the most expeditious manner of dealing with the majority of matters requiring remedy.

No legal proceedings have been instituted under the above Acts during the year.

COUNTY OF DENBIGH

Particulars of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, in the Borough of DENBIGH, during the year ended 31st December 1954.

<i>Article.</i>	<i>No. taken.</i>	<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Not Genuine, or Sub-standard.</i>
MILK	14	12	2
Margarine	1	1	—
Cheese	1	1	—
Rice	1	1	—
Sago	1	—	1
Sausage	1	1	—
Tinned Beans	1	1	—
Jam	1	1	—
Coffee	1	1	—
Cocoa	1	1	—
Port Type Wine	1	1	—
Solution of Hydrogen Peroxide	1	1	—
Totals	25	22	3

The two samples of milk shown in the above Table as "Not Genuine" were both deficient in solids-not-fat, but in each case the deficiency was too slight to justify any further action. There was no added water present in either of them.

An informal sample bought as sago was certified by the Public Analyst to be tapioca. I visited the shopkeeper by whom the sample was sold and found that a genuine mistake had been made. I had to report a similar occurrence some time ago and it must be admitted that it is indeed difficult to differentiate between sago and tapioca merely by appearance. However, after my explanation the shopkeeper resolved that in future he would only sell sago and tapioca prepacked by the wholesaler with the name of the contents marked plainly on each packet.

All other samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be genuine and free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter.

THOS. H. EVANS,

Chief Inspector,

County of Denbigh.

17 Vicarage Hill,
Wrexham.

25th April 1955.

RAINFALL**At the Mental Hospital during 1954**

January	3.39 ins.
February	2.69 ins.
March	2.54 ins.
April87 ins.
May	4.21 ins.
June	2.25 ins.
July	2.79 ins.
August	3.51 ins.
September	1.88 ins.
October	4.58 ins.
November	7.86 ins.
December	3.51 ins.
Total for year	<u>39.99 ins.</u>

