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## COMMITTEES

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### Health Committee:

Chairman: Ald. William Parry.

Vice-Chairman: Ald. Mrs. C. Lloyd.

Members: All members of the County Council,  
together with the Chairman and  
Vice-Chairman of each of the  
District Health Committees, and  
the following

Co-opted Members: Mrs. R. I. Affleck, Wrexham.  
Mrs. Christopher Davies, Wrexham.  
Miss E. M. Evans, Ruthin.  
Mrs. W. A. Evans, Denbigh.  
Mrs. Llewelyn Hughes, Llangollen.  
Dr. Trevor Hughes, Ruthin.  
Mrs. Cyril O. Jones, Gresford.  
Mrs. May Jones, Wrexham.

### Health Sub-Committee:

Chairman: Ald. William Parry.

Members: Ald. E. A. Cross.

Ald. Mrs. C. Lloyd.

Ald. Edward Williams.

Ald. Mrs. Florence Jones.

Coun. J. H. Williams.

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## Foreword

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I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health Services in the County for the year 1954.

From the statistical tables in Part I it will be noted that there was a decrease in the birth rate, infant mortality rate and the maternal mortality rate, while the death rate had increased. There were no significant changes in the causes of death, although there was an epidemic of influenza towards the end of 1954, which, fortunately, did not prove exceedingly lethal.

The administration of the Department changed but little during the year. Mr. G. L. Britton, who was appointed Senior Administrative Officer, commenced duties on the 5th April, 1954, and brought to the Department a wealth of experience gained in the service of the West Riding County Council.

The maternity and child welfare services have continued as previously with but a few variations. The proposals of this Local Health Authority were amended to permit mothers and their children being sent for recuperation to a suitable home. The Brentwood Recuperative Centre has been established for this purpose and, in addition, instruction is given in how to run a home efficiently. These facilities, used wisely, can be a most valuable adjunct to the Local Health Authority services in preventing the degeneration and disintegration of families.

The introduction of a male district nurse in Wrexham was another important development. It was soon evident that this appointment met a great need, and consideration will have to be given to introducing male nurses to other areas. The two-fold increase in the number of patients attended by district nurses shows that the staff has been able to meet additional demands, but obviously they are extended to the limit and if the small increase in the percentage of domiciliary births should continue, then additional nurses would be needed.

The establishment of a Part II Midwifery Training School in Wrexham reflects credit on the domiciliary midwifery service and also upon the organising ability of the Superintendent Nursing Officer, Miss W. M. Chune, who has been the motive force behind this new development. The hospital authorities have also acknowledged their indebtedness for the help they received from Miss Chune.



The transfer of responsibility for welfare foods to this Authority was carefully planned and accomplished smoothly. Once again the Health Department had to rely on the invaluable services of the voluntary helpers, who, both at child welfare clinics and in their own homes, undertook to sell these foods. Locally, the supervision of this work devolves upon the already overloaded health visitors. However, it is pleasing to note that despite the heavy demands on their time, the health visitors paid more first visits to infants than previously.

The number of children vaccinated against smallpox and immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough is far from satisfactory. Children can be protected with little disturbance or risk, but the neglect of parents is depriving approximately half of the next generation of an adequate immunity to these diseases—an ideal situation for an epidemic; but, apart from this, the prevalent disease of today—whooping cough—undoubtedly can permanently harm the lungs, and the number of children in this area diagnosed as suffering from bronchiectasis is far too numerous for complacency.

The Ambulance Service transported over 9,000 more patients than in the previous year, but, by co-ordinating journeys, it was possible to keep the total mileage to nearly the same level. The miles per patient was reduced from 10.9 in 1953 to 8.9 in 1954. The establishment of the Abergelie ambulance station was largely due to Dr. McKendrick's initiative and the success of this station is assured. While I acknowledge with gratitude my indebtedness to the volunteers, I would pay special tribute to the paid drivers and to members of my staff who have undoubtedly raised the efficiency of the service while economising to the limit. The welfare food truck, which can be used as a sitting case car, or one stretcher ambulance, has proved invaluable to meet emergencies in the Wrexham area. Regularly each week this vehicle has been the only one available for collecting a road accident. This by itself has fully vindicated the purchase of a dual purpose vehicle of this nature.

During the year the Mental Health Service re-organisation was completed under the guidance of Dr. T. K. Hughes, and now that its foundations have been appropriately placed in the Health Department it should develop satisfactorily. For a criterion of the work done, I would refer to the case reports on page 65.

Food supplies must be constantly supervised, particularly when potentially dangerous situations arise, and the vigilance of the Health Authorities was exemplified during the anthrax outbreak. The occurrence of undulant fever in young boys emphasised once



again the importance of pasteurisation of milk. How much invalidism has resulted from this disease can only be surmised, but undoubtedly it is an infection that could be prevented.

In this foreword it has been my endeavour to draw attention to matters of particular interest, but for a full appreciation of the work of the Department I would commend the details in the body of the Report.

It is my pleasure to record my appreciation to the members of my staff, the Clerk and chief officers of the County Council, and the members of the Health Committee.

Finally, I would convey my sincere gratitude to Alderman William Parry, Chairman of the Health Committee and, on this occasion, only to you Sir, for at the time of writing this foreword the vice-chair is vacant due to the death of Alderman Mrs. Lloyd. To the many tributes already paid, I would add the sincere appreciation of an official who leaned heavily on the wisdom, kindness and experience of a generous lady. Alderman Mrs. Lloyd had a deep and abiding love for the Health Department, especially the Nursing Service, to which she devoted so much of her energies. Of her manifold activities her main interest lay in the furtherance of good health and the relief of suffering. She has left an indelible impression upon the Health Department of this Authority which will always be an inspiration to all who serve mankind.

M. T. ISLWYN JONES,

County Medical Officer of Health.

County Health Department,  
16 Grosvenor Road,  
WREXHAM.

September, 1955.

# ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1954

## PART I

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the County

|                                 |        |               |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------------|
| Area of Administrative County   | ... .. | 427,677 acres |
| Population (Census 1951)        | ... .. | 170,699       |
| Estimated Population Mid-year   | ... .. | 170,500       |
| Rateable Value                  | ... .. | £923,731      |
| Estimated Product of Penny Rate | ... .. | £3,589        |

### BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

| Live Births.       | M    | F    | Total |
|--------------------|------|------|-------|
| Legitimate .....   | 1186 | 1224 | 2410  |
| Illegitimate ..... | 39   | 65   | 104   |
| Total .....        | 1225 | 1289 | 2514  |

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population .. 14.7

|                    | M  | F  | Total |
|--------------------|----|----|-------|
| Still-births ..... | 35 | 27 | 62    |

Still-birth rate per 1,000 births (live and still births) .. 24.1

|              | M    | F    | Total |
|--------------|------|------|-------|
| Deaths ..... | 1177 | 1106 | 2283  |

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population .. ... 13.3



|   |   |
|---|---|
| Maternal Mortality (Deaths from pregnancy or child-birth) | 1 |
|---|---|

Maternal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live and still-births ... .. .38

| Infant Mortality                                | M  | F  | Total |
|---|----|----|-------|
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year .....            | 41 | 29 | 70    |
| Deaths of Legitimate Infants under 1 year ...   | 37 | 28 | 65    |
| Deaths of Illegitimate Infants under 1 year ... | 4  | 1  | 5     |

Infant mortality rate ... .. . 27.8

### COMPARATIVE RATES

| Rate                      | Denbigh-shire | England and Wales |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Birth Rate .....          | 14.7          | 15.2              |
| Death Rate .....          | 13.3          | 11.3              |
| Maternal Mortality Rate   | .38           | .69               |
| Infant Mortality Rate ... | 27.8          | 25.5              |

### BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES

2,514 live births were registered during the year, as compared with 2,545 in 1953. This gives a birth rate of 14.7 per 1,000 population as compared with 14.9 in the previous year. The birth rate for England and Wales was 15.2.

The following table gives the number of births, deaths and infant deaths for each of the past ten years:

**TABLE I.**

| Year     | Estimated Population | No. of Live Births | Birth-rate per 1000 | No. of Deaths | Death-rate per 1000 | No. of deaths under 1 year of age | Infant death-rate per 1000 births |
|----------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1945 ... | 162390 ...           | 2636 ...           | 16.2 ...            | 2168 ...      | 13.4 ...            | 160 ...                           | 60.0                              |
| 1946 ... | 165020 ...           | 2952 ...           | 17.8 ...            | 2177 ...      | 13.1 ...            | 130 ...                           | 44.0                              |
| 1947 ... | 166430 ...           | 3340 ...           | 20.0 ...            | 2227 ...      | 13.3 ...            | 145 ...                           | 43.4                              |
| 1948 ... | 167493 ...           | 3029 ...           | 18.0 ...            | 2024 ...      | 12.0 ...            | 116 ...                           | 38.2                              |
| 1949 ... | 168452 ...           | 2869 ...           | 17.0 ...            | 2195 ...      | 13.0 ...            | 116 ...                           | 40.4                              |
| 1950 ... | 169686 ...           | 2820 ...           | 16.6 ...            | 2253 ...      | 13.2 ...            | 121 ...                           | 42.9                              |
| 1951 ... | 170400 ...           | 2558 ...           | 15.0 ...            | 2490 ...      | 14.6 ...            | 91 ...                            | 35.5                              |
| 1952 ... | 170700 ...           | 2687 ...           | 15.1 ...            | 2054 ...      | 12.0 ...            | 91 ...                            | 33.8                              |
| 1953 ... | 170400 ...           | 2545 ...           | 14.9 ...            | 2104 ...      | 12.3 ...            | 78 ...                            | 30.6                              |
| 1954 ... | 170500 ...           | 2514 ...           | 14.7 ...            | 2283 ...      | 13.3 ...            | 70 ...                            | 27.8                              |

The birth rate for the County has continued to decline, and this has been particularly so in the rural areas, which is a further indication of not only de-population but also de-vitalisation of the countryside. Furthermore, the death rate has increased on the previous year, which, to some measure, is to be expected with an ageing population.

The infant mortality rate has been further diminished, but even this satisfaction is marred by knowing that the County rate is still higher than that for England and Wales.



TABLE II.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, INFANT DEATHS, TOTAL DEATHS AND  
RATES ACCORDING TO DISTRICTS FOR 1954

| Districts.              | Estimated<br>Population | No. of<br>Live<br>Births | Birth-rate  | No. of<br>Infant<br>Deaths | Rate of<br>Infant<br>Mortality | No. of<br>Deaths | Death Rate  |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| <b>Western No. 1:</b>   |                         |                          |             |                            |                                |                  |             |
| Abergele Urban .....    | 7160                    | 97                       | 13.5        | 2                          | 20.6                           | 104              | 14.5        |
| Colwyn Bay Borough .    | 22090                   | 191                      | 8.6         | 4                          | 20.9                           | 386              | 17.4        |
| Aled Rural .....        | 7060                    | 90                       | 12.7        | 1                          | 11.1                           | 74               | 10.4        |
| <b>Western No. 2:</b>   |                         |                          |             |                            |                                |                  |             |
| Denbigh Borough .....   | 7930                    | 110                      | 13.8        | 2                          | 18.1                           | 194              | 24.4        |
| Llanrwst Urban .....    | 2640                    | 40                       | 15.1        | 1                          | 25.0                           | 48               | 18.1        |
| Ruthin Borough .....    | 3630                    | 42                       | 11.6        | 2                          | 47.6                           | 55               | 15.1        |
| Hiraethog Rural .....   | 5140                    | 83                       | 16.1        | 4                          | 48.2                           | 64               | 12.4        |
| Ruthin Rural .....      | 9560                    | 161                      | 16.8        | 3                          | 18.7                           | 117              | 12.2        |
| <b>Eastern No. 1:</b>   |                         |                          |             |                            |                                |                  |             |
| Wrexham Rural .....     | 62460                   | 1014                     | 16.2        | 40                         | 39.4                           | 768              | 12.2        |
| Ceiriog Rural .....     | 7380                    | 112                      | 15.1        | 1                          | 8.9                            | 81               | 10.9        |
| Llangollen Urban .....  | 3160                    | 35                       | 11.0        | —                          | —                              | 53               | 16.7        |
| <b>Eastern No. 2:</b>   |                         |                          |             |                            |                                |                  |             |
| Wrexham Borough ...     | 32290                   | 539                      | 16.6        | 10                         | 18.5                           | 339              | 10.4        |
| <b>Total County ...</b> | <b>170500</b>           | <b>2514</b>              | <b>14.7</b> | <b>70</b>                  | <b>27.8</b>                    | <b>2283</b>      | <b>13.3</b> |



## MATERNAL MORTALITY

Only one mother died during pregnancy in 1954, and the maternal mortality rate was .38. While this reflects credit on the various services concerned, there is room for further improvement. There should be a closer collaboration in domiciliary and institutional midwifery. General medical practitioners and midwives do not invariably co-operate to their utmost, and while maternity hospitals do alert the Local Health Authority when a mother is being discharged, they seldom give any information concerning ante-natal cases. Much could be done for mothers who are to be confined in hospital before admission, and serious emergencies could have been obviated if the domiciliary midwife had been forewarned.

The following table shows the maternal mortality rate in Denbighshire for the past ten years:

|                           | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Maternal Mortality ... .. | 2.5  | 2.6  | 1.4  | 0.9  | 1.3  | 1.4  | 1.5  | .36  | 1.5  | .38  |

**TABLE III.**

### CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS, 1954

| Disease  | Males | Females |
|--|-------|---------|
| Meningococcal Infection .....                        | 1     | 1       |
| Pneumonia .....                                      | 10    | 5       |
| Bronchitis .....                                     | —     | 1       |
| Congenital Malformations ...                         | 7     | 7       |
| Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases .....         | 22    | 15      |
| Accidents (other than motor vehicle accidents) ..... | 1     | —       |
| Totals .....   | 41    | 29      |

## CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

The principal causes of death are shown in the following table:

**TABLE IV.**

| Causes of Death.                            | 1953           |                            | 1954           |                            |
|---|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
|   | No. of deaths. | Per cent. of total deaths. | No. of deaths. | Per cent. of total deaths. |
| Heart Disease .....                         | 674            | 32.0                       | 725            | 31.7                       |
| Cancer .....                                | 305            | 14.4                       | 362            | 15.8                       |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system ....     | 344            | 16.3                       | 379            | 15.8                       |
| Pneumonia .....                             | 70             | 3.3                        | 85             | 3.7                        |
| Tuberculosis (all forms) .....              | 29             | 1.3                        | 38             | 1.6                        |
| Bronchitis .....                            | 72             | 3.4                        | 88             | 3.8                        |
| Nephritis .....                             | 40             | 1.9                        | 30             | 1.3                        |
| Other circulatory diseases .....            | 89             | 4.2                        | 84             | 3.6                        |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases .... | 218            | 10.3                       | 237            | 14.7                       |
| Hyperplasia of prostate .....               | 38             | 1.8                        | 38             | 1.6                        |

### HEART DISEASE

Heart disease continues to be the principal cause of death. 725 were registered in 1954, as compared with 674 in 1953. This shows a percentage of 31.7 of the total deaths from all causes and is equivalent to a death rate of 4.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Of this figure of 725 total deaths due to heart disease, 572 (or 78.8 per cent) occurred amongst persons of 65 years or over.

The following table analyses the deaths from heart disease at various age groups for the past five years:



**TABLE V.**

| Year | All ages    | 0—5 | 5—15      | 15—45 | 45—65       | 65 and upwards |
|------|-------------|-----|-----------|-------|-------------|----------------|
| 1950 | ... 723 ... | —   | ... 1 ... | 28    | ... 119 ... | 575            |
| 1951 | ... 810 ... | —   | ... — ... | 18    | ... 130 ... | 662            |
| 1952 | ... 743 ... | —   | ... 1 ... | 14    | ... 130 ... | 598            |
| 1953 | ... 674 ... | —   | ... — ... | 8     | ... 127 ... | 539            |
| 1954 | ... 725 ... | —   | ... — ... | 14    | ... 139 ... | 572            |

**CANCER**

Cancer accounted for 362 deaths during the year, as compared with 305 in 1953.

The following table gives the number of deaths from cancer, together with death rates in the Administrative County for the past ten years:

**TABLE VI.**

| Year. | No. of Deaths. | Death-rate per 1000 population. |
|-------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1945  | ... 345        | ... 2.2                         |
| 1946  | ... 343        | ... 2.0                         |
| 1947  | ... 344        | ... 2.0                         |
| 1948  | ... 361        | ... 2.1                         |
| 1949  | ... 347        | ... 2.0                         |
| 1950  | ... 328        | ... 1.9                         |
| 1951  | ... 334        | ... 1.9                         |
| 1952  | ... 328        | ... 1.9                         |
| 1953  | ... 305        | ... 1.7                         |
| 1954  | ... 362        | ... 2.1                         |



**TABLE VII.**

The following table gives the death rates from all causes of Cancer according to Sanitary Districts:

| District.                 | Deaths. |          | Total. | Rate per<br>1000 popula-<br>tion. |
|---------------------------|---------|----------|--------|-----------------------------------|
|                           | Males.  | Females. |        |                                   |
| <b>Western No. 1.</b>     |         |          |        |                                   |
| Abergele .....            | 11      | 9        | 20     | 2.7                               |
| Colwyn Bay ....           | 33      | 36       | 69     | 3.1                               |
| Aled .....                | 3       | 2        | 5      | .7                                |
| <b>Western No. 2.</b>     |         |          |        |                                   |
| Denbigh .....             | 6       | 10       | 16     | 2.0                               |
| Llanrwst .....            | 5       | 6        | 11     | 4.1                               |
| Ruthin B. ....            | 2       | 8        | 10     | 2.7                               |
| Hiraethog .....           | 6       | 6        | 12     | 2.3                               |
| Ruthin R. ....            | 12      | 10       | 22     | 2.3                               |
| <b>Eastern No. 1.</b>     |         |          |        |                                   |
| Wrexham R. ...            | 69      | 46       | 115    | 1.8                               |
| Ceiriog .....             | 7       | 6        | 13     | 1.7                               |
| Llangollen .....          | 7       | 3        | 10     | 3.1                               |
| <b>Eastern No. 2.</b>     |         |          |        |                                   |
| Wrexham B. ...            | 35      | 24       | 59     | 1.8                               |
| <hr/>                     |         |          |        |                                   |
| <b>Total County .....</b> | 196     | 166      | 362    | 2.1                               |
| <hr/>                     |         |          |        |                                   |

**TABLE VIII.**  
**CANCER—AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION.**

| Age Groups.                | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Under 1 year .....         | —      | —        | —      |
| 1 - 5 years .....          | —      | —        | —      |
| 5 - 15 years .....         | —      | —        | —      |
| 15 - 25 years .....        | 1      | —        | 1      |
| 25 - 45 years .....        | 8      | 10       | 18     |
| 45 - 65 years .....        | 68     | 57       | 125    |
| 65 years and upwards ..... | 119    | 99       | 218    |
| Totals .....               | 196    | 166      | 362    |

### ACCIDENTS.

**TABLE IX.**

**Deaths from Vehicular and Other Accidents which occurred  
in Denbighshire during 1954, giving Age and Sex  
Distribution.**

| Age Group.           | Vehicular |    |       | Other Accidents |    |       |
|----------------------|-----------|----|-------|-----------------|----|-------|
|                      | M.        | F. | Total | M.              | F. | Total |
| 0 - 1 year .....     | —         | —  | —     | 1               | —  | 1     |
| 1 - 5 years .....    | —         | 1  | 1     | —               | —  | —     |
| 5 - 15 years .....   | 1         | 1  | 2     | 2               | —  | 2     |
| 15 - 25 years .....  | 3         | 1  | 4     | 3               | —  | 3     |
| 25 - 45 years .....  | 8         | —  | 8     | 7               | —  | 7     |
| 45 - 65 years .....  | 3         | 1  | 4     | 6               | 1  | 7     |
| 65 - 75 years .....  | 2         | 1  | 3     | 4               | 4  | 8     |
| 75 years and upwards | 3         | —  | 3     | 8               | 16 | 24    |
|                      | 20        | 5  | 25    | 31              | 21 | 52    |



**TABLE X.**  
**CAUSES OF DEATH, 1954**

The following Table gives the causes of death and distribution according to districts.

| Causes.                                       | Abergele Urban | Aled R.D. | Ceiriog R.D. | Colwyn Bay Boro | Denbigh Boro' | Hiraethog R.D. | Llangollen U.D. | Llanrwst U.D. | Ruthin Boro' | Ruthin Rural | Wrexham Boro' | Wrexham Rural | TOTAL |
|---|----------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| Tuberculosis respiratory .....                | ...            | 2         | 2            | 4               | 5             | 1              | ..              | 3             | ..           | ..           | 6             | 12            | 35    |
| Tuberculosis Other ..                         | ...            | ..        | ..           | ..              | 1             | ..             | ..              | ..            | ..           | ..           | 2             | ..            | 3     |
| Syphilitic disease ....                       | ...            | ..        | ..           | 1               | 2             | ..             | ..              | ..            | ..           | 1            | 3             | 1             | 8     |
| Diphtheria .....                              | ...            | ..        | ..           | ..              | ..            | ..             | ..              | ..            | ..           | ..           | ..            | ..            | ..    |
| Whooping Cough ....                           | ...            | ..        | ..           | ..              | ..            | ..             | ..              | ..            | ..           | ..           | ..            | ..            | ..    |
| Meningococcal infections .....                | ...            | ..        | ..           | ..              | ..            | ..             | ..              | ..            | ..           | ..           | 1             | 2             | 3     |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ..                        | ...            | ..        | ..           | ..              | ..            | ..             | ..              | ..            | ..           | ..           | ..            | ..            | ..    |
| Measles .....                                 | ...            | ..        | ..           | ..              | ..            | ..             | ..              | ..            | ..           | ..           | ..            | ..            | ..    |
| Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .      | ...            | 1         | ..           | 1               | 2             | ..             | ..              | 1             | ..           | ..           | 1             | 3             | 9     |
| Malignant Neoplasm —Stomach .....             | 4              | 2         | 3            | 10              | 3             | 6              | ..              | 3             | 1            | 6            | 12            | 31            | 81    |
| Malignant Neoplasm —Lung, Bronchus .          | 4              | ..        | 3            | 8               | ..            | ..             | 2               | 1             | ..           | 1            | 7             | 24            | 50    |
| Malignant Neoplasm —Breast .....              | 1              | ..        | 1            | 6               | 1             | ..             | 1               | 1             | 1            | ..           | 8             | 7             | 27    |
| Malignant Neoplasm —Uterus .....              | ..             | ..        | 1            | 2               | 1             | ..             | ..              | 1             | 1            | ..           | 3             | 1             | 10    |
| Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ..... | 11             | 3         | 5            | 43              | 11            | 6              | 7               | 5             | 7            | 15           | 29            | 52            | 194   |
| Leukaemia, Aleukæmia .....                    | ..             | ..        | 1            | 1               | ..            | ..             | ..              | ..            | 1            | ..           | 1             | 2             | 6     |
| Diabetes .....                                | ..             | ..        | ..           | 4               | ..            | ..             | ..              | ..            | ..           | ..           | 2             | 5             | 11    |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system ....       | 10             | 16        | 14           | 60              | 20            | 17             | 12              | 7             | 13           | 25           | 61            | 124           | 379   |
| Coronary disease, angina .....                | 23             | 11        | 9            | 65              | 25            | 9              | 3               | 7             | 8            | 11           | 46            | 85            | 302   |
| Hypertension with Heart Disease ....          | 1              | 1         | ..           | 10              | 6             | ..             | 6               | 1             | ..           | 7            | 2             | 11            | 45    |
| Other Heart Disease .....                     | 8              | 13        | 12           | 59              | 56            | 9              | 10              | 7             | 2            | 25           | 50            | 127           | 378   |
| Other Circulatory Disease .....               | 10             | 5         | 3            | 22              | 2             | 4              | 2               | ..            | 3            | 6            | 8             | 19            | 84    |
| Influenza .....                               | 1              | 1         | 1            | 3               | ..            | ..             | ..              | ..            | ..           | 1            | ..            | 2             | 9     |
| Pneumonia .....                               | 3              | 3         | 1            | 15              | 19            | 2              | 2               | ..            | 2            | 2            | 13            | 23            | 85    |
| Bronchitis .....                              | 4              | 1         | 4            | 13              | 2             | 1              | ..              | 2             | 2            | 3            | 15            | 41            | 88    |
| Other diseases of Respiratory System .....    | 1              | ..        | 3            | 4               | 4             | 1              | ..              | ..            | 2            | ..           | 2             | 9             | 26    |
| Ulcer of Stomach, Duodenum .....              | 1              | ..        | ..           | 5               | 4             | 1              | ..              | ..            | 2            | 1            | 2             | 8             | 24    |
| Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....      | 1              | ..        | ..           | ..              | ..            | ..             | ..              | ..            | ..           | 1            | 3             | 4             | 9     |

(Table continued overleaf).



**Table X. Causes of Death, 1953** (continued).

| Causes.                                    | Abergele Urban | Aled R.D. | Ceiriog R.D. | Colwyn Bay Boro' | Denbigh Boro' | Hiraethog R.D. | Llangollen U.D. | Llanrwst U.D. | Ruthin Boro' | Ruthin Rural | Wrexham Boro' | Wrexham Rural | Totals |
|--|----------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------|
| Nephritis and Nephrosis .....              | 1              | 1         | 1            | 4                | 4             | ...            | 1               | 1             | ...          | 1            | 5             | 11            | 30     |
| Hyperplasia of Prostate .....              | 3              | ...       | 3            | 3                | 2             | ...            | 1               | 1             | 1            | ...          | 13            | 11            | 38     |
| Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion .....     | ...            | ...       | ...          | ...              | 1             | ...            | ...             | ...           | ...          | ...          | ...           | ...           | 1      |
| Congenital malformations .....             | 2              | ...       | ...          | ...              | 1             | 2              | ...             | ...           | ...          | ...          | 2             | 11            | 18     |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... | 14             | 10        | 13           | 20               | 14            | 4              | 2               | 6             | 7            | 7            | 34            | 106           | 237    |
| Motor vehicle accidents .....              | ...            | 1         | 1            | 5                | 1             | ...            | ...             | 1             | ...          | ...          | 3             | 13            | 25     |
| All other accidents ...                    | 1              | 2         | ...          | 13               | 6             | ...            | 3               | ...           | 2            | 4            | 4             | 17            | 52     |
| Suicide .....                              | ...            | 1         | ...          | 5                | 1             | 1              | 1               | ...           | ...          | ...          | 1             | 6             | 16     |
| Homicide and operations of war .....       | ...            | ...       | ...          | ...              | ...           | ...            | ...             | ...           | ...          | ...          | ...           | ...           | ...    |
| All causes .....                           | 104            | 74        | 81           | 386              | 194           | 64             | 53              | 48            | 55           | 117          | 339           | 768           | 2283   |

**TABLE XI.**

The percentages of deaths at different age periods are given below:

| Age Periods.        | No. of Deaths |     |     | Percentage of Total Deaths |
|---------------------|---------------|-----|-----|----------------------------|
|                     | M.            | F.  | T.  |                            |
| 0 - 1 years .....   | 41            | 29  | 70  | 3.0                        |
| 1 - 5 years .....   | 4             | 6   | 10  | .4                         |
| 5 - 15 years .....  | 5             | 2   | 7   | .3                         |
| 15 - 25 years ..... | 15            | 5   | 20  | .8                         |
| 25 - 45 years ..... | 46            | 45  | 91  | 3.9                        |
| 45 - 65 years ..... | 304           | 215 | 519 | 22.7                       |
| 65 - 75 years ..... | 344           | 269 | 613 | 26.8                       |
| 75 years & upwards  | 418           | 535 | 953 | 41.7                       |

## PART II

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### *Administration*

Towards the end of 1954, the staffing situation in the Health Department, due to the return of staff from sick leave and new appointments, approached its full complement. Mr. D. O. Thomas was appointed Assistant Dental Officer, which further eased the staffing situation in the Dental Service.

The post of Senior Administrative Officer was filled in April, 1954, by Mr. G. L. Britton, who came to this Authority from the West Riding. Mr. G. Davies was promoted to the vacant post of Deputy Senior Administrative Officer.

One important re-organisation was the appointment of Mr. J. E. Evans and Mr. H. E. Romney as whole-time Duly Authorised Officers, which permitted the entire centralisation of the Mental Health Service in the Health Department.

Additional appointments were made to deal with Welfare Foods. Miss B. Richards was promoted to take charge of the entire Welfare Foods Scheme throughout the County, while Mr. H. Down became responsible for the distribution of the foods.



# STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

| Designation of Post                    | No. holding post | No. on Establishment | Name of Officer  | Location                                    |
|--|------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| <b>Medical.</b>                        |                  |                      |  |   |
| County M.O.H. and School M.O.          | 1                | 1                    | Dr. M. T. Islwyn Jones   | Wrexham                                     |
| Deputy C.M.O.H. and School M.O.        | 1                | 1                    | Dr. R. G. Davies   | Wrexham                                     |
| District M.O.H. and Assist. C.M.O.H.   | 4                | 4                    | Dr. W. McKendrick<br>Dr. M. Jones Roberts<br>Dr. T. K. Hughes<br>Dr. Evan Williams | Colwyn Bay<br>Denbigh<br>Wrexham<br>Wrexham |
| Assist. C.M.O. and Assist. School M.O. | 3                | 4                    | Dr. Sybil Edwards<br>Dr. A. J. Smith<br>Dr. D. J. Wilson                           | Llangollen<br>Wrexham<br>Colwyn Bay         |

| Designation of Post                       | No. holding post | No. on Establishment | Name of Officer  | Location  |
|---|------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| <b>Dental:</b>                            |                  |                      |  |   |
| Senior Dental Officer                     | 1                | 1                    | Mr. J. G. Roberts  | Wrexham   |
| Assistant Dental Officer                  | 3                | 6                    | Mr. H. E. Fussell<br>Mr. J. P. Reid<br>Mr. D. O. Thomas  | Colwyn Bay<br>Abergele<br>Wrexham   |
| <b>Nursing:</b>                           |                  |                      |  |   |
| Supt. Nursing Officer                     | 1                | 1                    | Miss W. M. Chune   | Wrexham   |
| Deputy S.N.O.                             | 1                | 1                    | Miss Eirlys Jones  | Wrexham   |
| Assistant S.N.O.                          | 1                | 1                    | Miss F. V. Ramsey  | Wrexham   |
| <b>Health Visitors and School Nurses:</b> |                  |                      |  |   |
|   | 19               | 19                   | Miss E. A. Bodsworth<br>Miss D. Brown<br>Miss D. Bryant<br>Mrs. E. A. Beech Davies<br>Miss S. C. Evans<br>Miss M. Wynne Evans<br>Miss E. Foulkes | Gresford<br>Chirk<br>Wrexham<br>Ruthin<br>Denbigh<br>Llangollen<br>Llanrwst |



| Designation of Post                              | No. holding post | No. on Establishment | Name of Officer  | Location  |
|--|------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| <b>Health Visitors and School Nurses (cont.)</b> |                  |                      | Mrs. I. E. Garner<br>Miss E. Griffiths<br>Mrs. A. E. Jones<br>Miss A. E. Jones<br>Miss K. Jones<br>Miss M. E. Jones<br>Miss W. L. Parry<br>Mrs. V. Richards<br>Miss M. Robinson<br>Mrs. M. Williams<br>Mrs. A. Martin<br>Mrs. L. Warne | Abergele<br>Ruabon<br>Broughton<br>Coedpoeth<br>Rhos<br>Colwyn Bay<br>Wrexham<br>Wrexham<br>Wrexham<br>Colwyn Bay<br>Wrexham<br>Wrexham |
| <b>Tuberculosis Visitors:</b>                    | 2                | 2                    | Miss M. Lloyd Edwards<br>Miss M. Thomas  | Wrexham<br>Abergele   |
| <b>District Nurses and Midwives:</b>             | 54               | 54                   | Nurse E. M. Beattie<br>" A. B. Blackwell<br>" M. Cheney<br>" N. M. Crump<br>.. A. Davies   | Holt<br>Wrexham<br>Old Colwyn<br>Gwersyllt<br>Trefnant  |

| Designation of Post                         | No. holding post | No. on Establishment | Name of Officer | Location          |
|---|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>District Nurses and Midwives (cont.)</b> |                  |                      | Nurse C. Davies | Llay              |
|   |                  |                      | E. Davies       | Llansannan        |
|   |                  |                      | M. Edwards      | Wrexham           |
|   |                  |                      | M. H. Edwards   | Wrexham           |
|   |                  |                      | D. Edkins       | Ruabon            |
|   |                  |                      | A. M. Ellwood   | Glan Conway       |
|   |                  |                      | J. Gallagher    | Gresford          |
|   |                  |                      | N. B. Holly     | Llansilin         |
|   |                  |                      | M. Holland      | Clawddnewydd      |
|   |                  |                      | W. Hudson       | Wrexham           |
|   |                  |                      | W. G. Hudson    | Wrexham           |
|   |                  |                      | D. G. Hughes    | Glynceiriog       |
|   |                  |                      | J. H. Jones     | Denbigh           |
|   |                  |                      | M. J. Jones     | Nantglyn          |
|   |                  |                      | N. Jones        | Cefn Mawr         |
|   |                  |                      | E. M. King      | Pentrevoelas      |
|   |                  |                      | G. Llewelyn     | Llanrwst          |
|   |                  |                      | A. M. Lloyd     | Llanrhaiaidr Y.M. |
|   |                  |                      | E. E. Lloyd     | Brymbo            |
|   |                  |                      | F. MacLellan    | Llay              |
|   |                  |                      | F. E. Manning   | Brymbo            |
|   |                  |                      | M. E. Mansley   | Wrexham           |
|   |                  |                      | M. A. Matthias  | Gwersyllt         |



| Designation of Post                         | No. holding post | No. on Establishment | Name of Officer    | Location       |
|---|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>District Nurses and Midwives (cont.)</b> |                  |                      |                    |                |
|   |                  |                      | Nurse E. Jones     | Wrexham        |
|   |                  |                      | " L. Morris        | Wrexham        |
|   |                  |                      | " H. C. Munro      | Cerrigydrudion |
|   |                  |                      | " E. Parry         | Brynteg        |
|   |                  |                      | " O. Parry         | Llay           |
|   |                  |                      | " G. N. Pritchard  | Old Colwyn     |
|   |                  |                      | " O. Prodger       | Cefn Mawr      |
|   |                  |                      | " A. W. Richards   | Ruthin         |
|   |                  |                      | " E. Roberts       | Llangollen     |
|   |                  |                      | " K. Roberts       | Dolwen         |
|   |                  |                      | " G. Jones Roberts | Broughton      |
|   |                  |                      | " F. Rothwell      | Abergele       |
|   |                  |                      | " A. Shaw          | Colwyn Bay     |
|   |                  |                      | " M. Taylor        | Rhostyllen     |
|   |                  |                      | " A. V. Thomas     | Garth          |
|   |                  |                      | " E. M. Thomas     | Wrexham        |
|   |                  |                      | " S. M. Thomas     | Abergele       |
|   |                  |                      | " M. Watson        | Colwyn Bay     |
|   |                  |                      | " G. M. Williams   | Chirk          |
|   |                  |                      | " M. Williams      | Llangerniew    |
|   |                  |                      | " M. M. Williams   | Rhewl          |
|   |                  |                      | " S. Williams      | Bwlchgwyn      |
|   |                  |                      | " F. G. Watkins    | Llysfaen       |

| Designation of Post                         | No. holding post | No. on Establishment | Name of Officer   | Location                                     |
|---|------------------|----------------------|---|--|
| <b>District Nurses and Midwives (cont.)</b> |                  |                      | Nurse S. C. Williams<br>" L. I. Jones<br>" F. G. Wynne                          | Rhos<br>Llanarmon-yn-Ial<br>Rhos             |
| <b>Duly Authorised Officers:</b>            | 2                | 2                    | Mr. J. E. Evans<br>Mr. H. F. Romney   | Wrexham<br>Colwyn Bay                        |
| <b>Dental Attendants:</b>                   | 4                | 6                    | Mrs. M. Jarvis<br>Miss I. E. Sanderson<br>Miss A. Cudworth<br>Miss J. M. Crabbe | Wrexham<br>Colwyn Bay<br>Wrexham<br>Abergele |
| <b>Clerical:</b>                            |                  |                      |   |  |
| Senior Administrative Officer               | 1                | 1                    | Mr. G. L. Britton   | Wrexham                                      |
| Deputy Administrative Officer               | 1                | 1                    | Mr. Gwilym Davies   | Wrexham                                      |
| Senior Section Clerks                       | 2                | 4                    | Mr. Gerald Howard<br>Miss E. Hughes   | Wrexham<br>Wrexham                           |





## PART III

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### *General Provision of Health Services*

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#### CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

The changes that followed the National Health Service Act have now, in great measure, been stabilised; but the need for a closer integration of these services is appreciated in many quarters. With this in mind, the Denbighshire and Flintshire Division of the British Medical Association invited the County Medical Officers of Health of both counties to meet their representatives in order to discuss ways and means of ensuring a closer co-operation between the general medical practitioner and the Local Health Authority services. This fruitful meeting succeeded in establishing a closer relationship and better understanding which will be further improved by local meetings of doctors and staff of the Health Department.

The attendances at the consultative ante-natal clinics have been well maintained and the midwives and health visitors who are always present have seized every opportunity of instructing the mothers on health matters of concern to them and their babies. It has been possible during the past year to organise formal teaching and demonstrations at the Wrexham ante-natal clinic. Mothers have learnt much from such instruction and facilities of this nature should be available at all the ante-natal clinics.

The Assistant Medical Officers' ante-natal clinics have declined proportionately to the decrease in domiciliary births and to the increased keenness of the general medical practitioner in domiciliary obstetrics. As it becomes more universally appreciated that the Local Health Authority clinics are complementary to, rather than a replacement for, general medical practitioner services, so will the attendances at the Local Health Authority ante-natal clinics improve.

The Proposals of the Authority under this Section were amended so that mothers and children could be sent for recuperation to suitable homes. During the year one mother and



her two children were sent to such a home for a period of three months. Not only is the physical condition of the mother and children given attention, but every opportunity is taken to teach the art of household management. Thus a debilitated, harassed and overwrought mother is given a respite from a situation that has overwhelmed her and she is returned home not only better in health but with a much clearer conception of how to perform her household duties.

## ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS

The post-natal clinics are incorporated with the ante-natal clinics and no special sessions are held for this purpose.

The County Obstetric Officer attends at ante-natal and post-natal clinics as follows:—

**TABLE XII**

| Location                     | Day and Time        | Number of sessions per month | Average number of new cases per session | Average number of re-examinations per session |
|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| Colwyn Bay ...               | Thurs., a.m. & p.m. | 2                            | 1                                       | 4   |
| Denbigh .....                | Fri., a.m.          | 2                            | 5                                       | 6   |
| Cefn .....                   | Fri., a.m.          | 2                            | 2                                       | 16  |
| Llangollen ...               | Tues., p.m.         | 2                            | 4                                       | 12  |
| Llanrwst ...                 | Thurs., a.m.        | 1                            | 1                                       | 4   |
| Rhos .....                   | Thurs., a.m.        | 2                            | 3                                       | 10  |
| 1 Grosvenor Rd., Wrexham ... | Wed., a.m.          | 4                            | 10                                      | 22  |

The Assistant Medical Officers attend the ante- and post-natal clinics as follows:

**TABLE XIII**

| Location   | Day and Time   | Number of sessions per month | Medical Officer in attendance |
|------------|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Llanrwst   | Tuesday, a.m.  | 2                            | Dr. D. J. Wilson              |
| Denbigh    | Wedn'day, a.m. | 2                            | Dr. M. Jones Roberts          |
| Colwyn Bay | Friday, p.m.   | 4                            | Dr. D. J. Wilson              |
| Cerrig     | Friday, a.m.   | 1                            | Dr. D. J. Wilson              |

The Wrexham, Powys and Mawddach Hospital Management Committee ante-natal clinics held in Local Health Authority premises are:—

**TABLE XIV**

| Location                        | Day & time  | Number of sessions per month | Average number of new cases per session | Average number of re-examinations per session |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| 1, Grosvenor Rd., Wrexham       | Wed., a.m.  | 4                            | 10                                      | 22  |
| Plas - yn - Rhos, Rhos, Wrexham | Thur., a.m. | 2                            | 3                                       | 10  |
| C'nty Clinic, Cefn.             | Fri., a.m.  | 2                            | 2                                       | 16  |



### **Family Planning.**

The Family Planning Association has continued to provide a weekly clinic both at Colwyn Bay and Wrexham. These clinics function in conformity with prescribed policy and in association with the Local Health Authority service. During the year there were 194 new cases at Wrexham, with a total attendance of 507, and 163 new cases attended at Colwyn Bay, with a total attendance of 642.

### **Puerperal Pyrexia.**

12 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified, and of these 8 occurred in hospital and four in domiciliary cases. Those occurring in domiciliary practice were thoroughly investigated and the appropriate action taken where necessary.

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

One case was notified during the year and this responded satisfactorily to treatment and there was no detectable residual damage to the eyes.

## **CHILD WELFARE**

### **Notification of Births.**

In accordance with statutory requirements, 2,718 live births and 69 still births were notified during the current year. A list of notifications is dispatched at the end of the week to the Registrar of Births.

### **Child Welfare Clinics.**

Only a few alterations were made during the year. Weekly instead of fortnightly sessions were introduced at Llanrwst and Ruthin, although the staff situation had not improved. The needs of the rural areas were constantly stressed in the Health Committee and the claims for clinics at many villages were strongly submitted, but, with the present staff fully committed, it was impossible to accede to such representations. In certain areas a more suitable solution has been to arrange transport from scattered hamlets to a central clinic. Provision of this nature

was made in the district of Llanrhaiadr Y.M. A vehicle conveyed, throughout 1954, mothers from Llansilin and intervening points to and from the clinic at Llanrhaiadr. This service has been greatly appreciated and has met the need of the area satisfactorily. A similar service was arranged in the Llansannan and Llanfair T.H. districts pending the opening of a clinic at Llansannan.

### **CHILD WELFARE CLINIC ATTENDANCES**

#### **Age 0 - 1 year:**

Number of first attendances ... 2,151

Total number of attendances ... 22,687

#### **Age 1 - 5 years:**

Total number of attendances ... 11,956



**TABLE XV**  
**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE**

The following table furnishes information for 1954 with regard to the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres established in the County

| Address                                       | Whether Sessions<br>are held weekly,<br>fortnightly or<br>monthly | Day and time<br>of meeting | Average<br>attendance<br>per session<br>(children) | No. of children who<br>attended during the year<br>1954 and who were born in<br>1953 | No. of children who<br>attended during the year<br>1952-49 | Present<br>arrangements<br>for medical<br>supervision |
|---|---|----------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Abergele, Pentre Mawr .....                   | Weekly  | Thursday p.m.              | 29   | 58   | 53   | 65  |
| Broughton, Church Hall .....                  | Fortnightly   | Monday p.m.                | 24   | 56   | 36   | 22  |
| Brymbo, Council School .....                  | "   | Thursday p.m.              | 31   | 50   | 48   | 24  |
| Cefn, County Clinic .....                     | Weekly  | Monday p.m.                | 36   | 99   | 64   | 46  |
| C'druuidion, Presbyterian Church ...          | Monthly   | Friday a.m.                | 9  | 11   | 11   | 15  |
| Chirk, Ambulance H.Q. ....                    | Fortnightly   | Thursday, p.m.             | 35   | 45   | 54   | 54  |
| Coedpoeth, Penygelli Schools .....            | "   | Monday p.m.                | 27   | 45   | 64   | 30  |
| Colwyn Bay, Nantyglyn Road .....              | Weekly  | Tues., a.m., p.m.          | 39   | 125  | 143  | 229   |
| Church Room, Mochdre                          | Fortnightly   | Monday p.m.                | 30   | 21   | 24   | 52  |
| Church House, Llysfaen                        | "   | Monday p.m.                | 23   | 15   | 15   | 29  |
| Denbigh, County Clinic .....                  | Weekly  | Wednesday p.m.             | 30   | 111  | 106  | 73  |
| Glan C'way, Church Institute .....            | Fortnightly   | Monday p.m.                | 27   | 20   | 25   | 51  |
| Glynceiriog, Ceiriog Institute .....          | "   | Tuesday p.m.               | 8  | 18   | 11   | 5   |
| Gresford, Church House .....                  | "   | Friday p.m.                | 16   | 19   | 19   | 11  |
| Holt, Kenyon Hall .....                       | "   | Wednesday p.m.             | 21   | 13   | 26   | 54  |
| Johnstown, Christchurch Chapel<br>School Room | "   | Friday p.m.                | 18   | 22   | 31   | 17  |
|   |   |                            |  |  |  | Assistant<br>Med. Officer                             |

Table XV (continued).

| Address                                   | Whether Sessions<br>are held weekly,<br>fortnightly or<br>monthly | Day and time<br>of meeting | Average<br>attendance<br>per session<br>(children) | No. of children who<br>attended during the year<br>and who were born in | Present<br>arrangements<br>for medical<br>supervision |
|---|---|----------------------------|--|---|---|
| Llandulas, C.M. Chapel .....              | Fortnightly   | Monday p.m.                | 12   | 8   | Assistant   |
| Llangern'w, Memorial Hall .....           | Monthly   | Thursday p.m.              | 17   | 11  | Med Officer   |
| Llangollen, Welfare House .....           | Fortnightly   | Tuesday p.m.               | 29   | 13  | "   |
| Llanrwst, County Clinic .....             | Weekly  | Tuesday p.m.               | 33   | 38  | "   |
| Llanrhaiadr<br>Y.M., Public Hall .....    | Fortnightly   | Monday p.m.                | 8  | 75  | "   |
| Llay, County Clinic .....                 | "   | Tuesday p.m.               | 27   | 10  | "   |
| Rhos, Plas-yn-Rhos Cty. Clinic .....      | Weekly  | Wednesday p.m.             | 43   | 53  | "   |
| Rhosrobin, County Clinic .....            | Fortnightly   | Friday p.m.                | 23   | 20  | "   |
| Rhostyllen, Church Hall .....             | "   | Monday p.m.                | 25   | 47  | "   |
| Rossett, Men's Institute .....            | "   | Wednesday p.m.             | 20   | 24  | "   |
| Ruabon, Old People's Hall .....           | "   | Thursday p.m.              | 28   | 29  | "   |
| Ruthin, Baptist Chapel .....              | Weekly  | Tuesday p.m.               | 26   | 58  | "   |
| Southsea, Church Institute .....          | Fortnightly   | Thursday p.m.              | 26   | 100   | "   |
| Wrexham, Gatefield .....                  | Weekly  | Monday p.m.                | 45   | 34  | "   |
| Garden Village .....                      | "   | Wednesday p.m.             | 21   | 97  | "   |
| Queen's Park .....                        | "   | Thursday p.m.              | 36   | 36  | "   |
| 1 Grosvenor Road .....                    | "   | Mon., Wed. p.m.            | 35   | 92  | "   |
| Vron-<br>cysyllte, Primitive Chapel ..... | Fortnightly   | Tuesday a.m.               | 6  | 164   | "   |
|   |   |                            | 6  | 10  | "   |



**DENTAL CARE**  
**TABLE XVI**  
**ANNUAL RETURN OF WORK.**  
**EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS.**

January to December, 1954

|                                | Western<br>Area No. 1 | Western<br>Area No. 2 | Eastern<br>Area No. 1 | Eastern<br>Area No. 2 | Total |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| No. referred for treatment ... | 70                    | 50                    | 162                   | 60                    | 342   |
| No. accepting treatment .....  | 65                    | 44                    | 161                   | 60                    | 330   |
| No. completed treatment .....  | 39                    | 21                    | 134                   | 47                    | 241   |
| Attendances for treatment ...  | 82                    | 45                    | 715                   | 270                   | 1132  |
| Sessions devoted to treatment  | 16½                   | 17½                   | 85                    | 55                    | 174   |
| Broken appointments .....      | 17                    | 28                    | 41                    | 5                     | 91    |
| Anaesthetics:                  |                       |                       |                       |                       |       |
| General anaesthetics .....     | 10                    | 14                    | 218                   | 64                    | 306   |
| Local anaesthetics .....       | 12                    | 6                     | 2                     | 13                    | 33    |
| Extractions:                   |                       |                       |                       |                       |       |
| Permanent extractions .....    | 69                    | 54                    | 1111                  | 318                   | 1552  |
| Temporary extractions ...      | 5                     | 17                    | —                     | —                     | 22    |
| Fillings .....                 | 28                    | 21                    | 21                    | 13                    | 83    |
| Dentures supplied .....        | 13                    | 2                     | 146                   | 59                    | 220   |
| Adjustments .....              | 2                     | 1                     | 45                    | 10                    | 58    |
| Repairs .....                  | —                     | —                     | 7                     | —                     | 7     |
| Sundries .....                 | 1                     | 3                     | 6                     | 6                     | 16    |
| Advice .....                   | 10                    | 8                     | 70                    | 21                    | 109   |
| Scaling and gum treatment ...  | 13                    | 4                     | 6                     | 10                    | 33    |

**TABLE XVII**  
**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**  
**DENTAL TREATMENT, 1954**

**(a) Number provided with Dental Treatment.**

|                                     | No.<br>examined. | No. needing<br>treatment | No.<br>treated. | No. made<br>dentally fit. |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Expectant and Nursing Mothers ..... | 342              | 331                      | 330             | 241                       |
| Children under 5 years of age ..... | 148              | 125                      | 125             | 125                       |

**(b) Forms of Dental Treatment provided.**

|   | Extrac-<br>tions. | Local<br>Anaes-<br>thetics. | General<br>Anaes-<br>thetics. | Fillings. | Scalings<br>or<br>Scaling<br>and Gum<br>Treat-<br>ment. | Silver<br>Nitrate<br>Treat-<br>ment. | Dress-<br>ings. | Radio-<br>graphs. | Complete<br>dentures<br>provided. |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Expectant and<br>Nursing<br>Mothers ...   | 1552              | 33                          | 306                           | 83        | 33  | 8                                    | —               | 21                | 220                               |
| Children under<br>5 years of<br>age ..... | 288               | —                           | 119                           | 11        | —   | —                                    | —               | —                 | —                                 |



## CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

During the year, 163 premature babies were born, of which 138 survived until one month old. The following table shows where the premature babies surviving to one month old were born:

| Home | Private Nursing Homes | Regional Hospital Board Accommodation |
|------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 26   | 1                     | 111                                   |

## WELFARE FOODS

On the 28th June, 1954, the Ministry of Food transferred, at short notice, the responsibility for the distribution of

National Dried Milk,

Orange Juice,

Cod Liver Oil,

Vitamin Tablets

to the Local Health Authority. It was decided as a matter of principle to associate the distribution of the Welfare Foods, as far as possible, with the various clinic activities, for in this way mothers already attending clinics were accommodated, and those who were not were given a reason for a periodic visit. Furthermore, the majority of child welfare clinics are well served by a band of faithful, interested and competent voluntary helpers, upon whom the additional task could devolve. Besides, the Health Visitor could maintain supervision over the distribution and ensure that the various returns were promptly completed. As the clinics were only held weekly or fortnightly, this service required reinforcing in some areas and the ready assistance of voluntary helpers who were prepared to distribute from private or business addresses was again enlisted.

Administratively it was considered that this considerable volume of work could be absorbed by the Department with only three additional staff, one of whom would be responsible for the distribution of the stocks from main stores to subsidiary points. A suitable vehicle was purchased for this purpose. The detailed administrative plan was formulated by the Chief Administrative Officer and it is particularly to his credit that, although new to his post, the scheme was launched so smoothly.



Objections raised to the proposed scheme proved later to have no foundation and mothers approved the arrangements as soon as they became accustomed to them. In the initial period there was, inevitably, some confusion, but this cleared with the issue of new vouchers and a better understanding of the system. Evidently those entitled to the benefits are catered for adequately, and the present method of distribution reduces abuses to the minimum.

The sale of proprietary welfare foods has continued as previously, the only change being an administrative one; for the same members of the staff are now responsible for all the welfare foods.

### **PROVISION OF MATERNITY OUTFITS**

Supplies of maternity outfits, containing requisites in accordance with the Ministry's guidance, have been provided for domiciliary confinements. These outfits are supplied from the Health Department direct to the midwives.

576 maternity outfits were issued during 1954.

### **CARE OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN**

The demands on Bersham Hall have not been as great during the past year as was anticipated, and the average number in residence has been low, but this does not reflect the substantial contribution the Home has made to the welfare of the unmarried mothers. Many of those admitted were comparatively young girls and the Home provided a haven during a period of tribulation, which otherwise would have been denied them. Furthermore, under the skilful direction of the staff, their activities were turned to useful channels so that, on leaving, they would have learnt to live a better life. Each mother has her daily set duties, and instruction is given in housewifery and mothercraft.

Bersham Hall has a warm, friendly and homely atmosphere which, in all probability, does more to rehabilitate these unmarried mothers than any formal instruction. Although the high number of babies adopted is rather disappointing—as the loss of the baby removes one stabilising factor—I feel that many of these mothers will leave Bersham Hall with a new conception of home and a desire to have one of their own. With such an



incentive implanted in their hearts, there is a good chance of a mending of the way, with resultant benefits to the community. It is gratifying that some of the mothers have subsequently married and established their own homes.

The following table shows the number of unmarried mothers admitted to Bersham from Denbighshire during 1954, and the number, age, sex and disposal of the children:

| No.<br>Admitted | No. of Births |      | Sex  |        | Remained Adopted<br>with by<br>Mother Relation Adoption |   |   |
|-----------------|---------------|------|------|--------|---|---|---|
|                 | Live          | Dead | Male | Female |   |   |   |
| 6               | 5             | 1    | 3    | 3      | 1   | — | 4 |

### MIDWIFERY SERVICES

For the first time since 1948, the proportion of babies born at home has increased. Due to the considerable decrease in domiciliary midwifery, nurses have been able to undertake a larger proportion of district nursing work. An analysis of the work done by the District Nurse Midwife shows that the staff is completely committed and that, in the event of an appreciable increase in domiciliary midwifery, the present establishment of District Nurse Midwives would have to be revised.

Although the percentage increase in domiciliary confinements in 1954 over the previous year is small it is not without significance, for it shows the public is recognising the sterling qualities of the Domiciliary Midwifery Service. Under the direction of the Supervisor of Midwives, Miss W. M. Chune, the staff has been carefully selected, given a complete set of modern equipment, and kept abreast of recent developments by attending local and special courses at approved centres. It is gratifying that the Local Health Authority midwives in Denbighshire have been attending refresher courses periodically for many years in accordance with a policy which has now become obligatory.

#### Supervision of Midwives.

All midwives notify their intention to practice to the Local Supervising Authority, which has specific duties to perform. These have devolved upon Miss Chune. Previously there has been some doubt as to the responsibilities of a Local Supervising Authority with regard to midwives in hospitals, but these have now been resolved by a Ministerial Circular.



|  | No. of Midwives |
|--|-----------------|
| Employed by Local Health Authority<br>(whole-time or part-time) ... .. | 62              |
| In private practice, domiciliary, private<br>nursing homes ... ..      | 2               |
| In hospitals ... ..  | 45              |

### **Training of Pupil Midwives.**

Towards the end of 1954, final arrangements were made for the establishment of a Part II Training Centre at Wrexham. Previously, the Central Midwives Board had approved the facilities provided by the County Council for the training of pupil midwives, and five Bangor students completed their training in Denbighshire during the year. Trevalyn Maternity Home was eventually approved and the necessary provisions were made and a Sister Tutor appointed, but the first complete course could not be started before the end of the year.

The Hospital Authorities have expressed their appreciation for the invaluable assistance given by Miss Chune in planning and arranging for the Part II Training Centre in Wrexham.

### **Analgesia.**

Forty-five domiciliary midwives have been trained to administer gas and air, and the requisite apparatus has been provided. The results of various trials of the use of Trilene suggested that this method of inducing analgesia had certain advantages, and it was decided to obtain the appropriate apparatus at an early date.

Of the 560 domiciliary births, 558 were attended by the Local Health Authority midwives, either in their capacity as a midwife or maternity nurse. Gas and air was administered in 243 confinements, while pethidine was given in 202 confinements.

### **Comparative Table of Live and Still Births for 1954 Occurring at Home or in Maternity Accommodation.**

|                         | Live Births | Still Births |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Domiciliary ... ..      | 547         | 13           |
| Maternity accommodation | 2171        | 56           |



|   |      |
|---|------|
| Number of cases delivered in institutions but attended by domiciliary midwives on discharge from institutions and before the fourteenth day | 1539 |
|---|------|

Breast Feeding:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Number of domiciliary cases in which the infant was wholly breast-fed at the fourteenth day ... | 435 |
|---|-----|

**Midwives Act, 1951, Section 14**

Medical Aid:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Number of patients for whom medical aid was summoned by a certified midwife ..... | 171 |
|---|-----|

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Total amount of medical claims paid by Local Health Authority ..... | £219 6s. 6d. |
|---|--------------|

# DELIVERIES ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES

DURING 1954

|  | Number of deliveries attended by Midwives in the area during the year |  |   |  |        |
|--|---|--|---|--|--------|
|  | Domiciliary Cases   |  |   |  | Totals |
|  | Doctor not booked   |  | Doctor booked   |  |        |
|  | Doctor present at time of delivery of child                           | Doctor not pre-sent at time of delivery of child | Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked doctor or another) | Doctor not pre-sent at time of delivery of child |        |
| Midwives employed by the Authority .....                                     | 15  | 294  | 58  | 188  | 555    |
| Midwives in Private Practice (inc. Midwives employed in Nursing Homes) ..... | —   | —  | —   | —  | —      |
| Totals .....   | 15  | 294  | 58  | 188  | 555    |



## HEALTH VISITING

When it is realised that the Health Visitors are also School Nurses and that the School Health Service has greatly expanded not only in volume but also in scope, that additional child welfare clinics were held during the year, and that additional responsibilities in respect of welfare foods were placed on the Health Visitors, one can only wonder how they have succeeded in having any time left for their basic duties. Yet a scrutiny of Table XVIII shows that the total number of visits to children under one year of age is greater than in the previous year. Furthermore, it is gratifying that general medical practitioners are relying more and more on the services of the Health Visitors, and from this it is evident that their position as a social worker with an invaluable contribution to the medical welfare of the family is being accepted in that quarter.

The need has been stressed previously for an increased establishment of Health Visitors for the County. The present case load is too heavy and, with increasing demands, the situation is untenable. The increasing number of child welfare clinics has already been mentioned; reference has been made to the closer co-operation between general medical practitioner and Health Visitor, while the community care of the aged is a growing problem, and all of which entail additional responsibilities for the Health Visitor.

**TABLE XVIII.**

**Table (a)**

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| First visits to children under 1 year of age ...   | 3055  |
| Total visits to children under 1 year of age ...   | 20708 |
| Total visits to children between 1 and 5 years ... | 20513 |
| First visits to expectant mothers ... ..           | 439   |
| Total visits to expectant mothers ... ..           | 565   |
| Total visits to other cases ... ..                 | 2407  |

TABLE XIX

## Summary of Work of Health Visitors.

Table (b).

| District.  | No. of visits to children under 1 year. |               | No. of visits to children 1-5 years. | Expectant mothers. |               |
|--|---|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
|  | First visits.                           | Total visits. |                                      | First visits.      | Total visits. |
| Rhos, Penycae and Johnstown .....                                | 183                                     | 1424          | 1936                                 | 56                 | 80            |
| Rhostyllen, Ruabon, Marchwiell, Isycoed, Abenbury and Holt ..... | 253                                     | 1599          | 1121                                 | 6                  | 6             |
| Coedpoeth, Southsea, New Broughton, Bwlchgwyn                    | 113                                     | 1035          | 1225                                 | 111                | 116           |
| Brymbo, Broughton, Summerhill .....                              | 217                                     | 1828          | 1377                                 | —                  | —             |
| Llay, Gresford, Rhosrobin .....                                  | 219                                     | 1537          | 798                                  | 6                  | 6             |
| Llangollen and Cefn .....  | 267                                     | 2253          | 1194                                 | 44                 | 57            |
| Abergele and Part of Aled .....                                  | 125                                     | 1098          | 1259                                 | 47                 | 58            |
| Denbigh and Part of Aled .....                                   | 400                                     | 1226          | 1128                                 | 8                  | 9             |
| Llanrwst Area, Hiraethog .....                                   | 114                                     | 993           | 1674                                 | 50                 | 85            |
| Llansilin, Chirk, Glynceiriog and Vroncysyllte .....             | 144                                     | 1083          | 1564                                 | 17                 | 25            |
| Ruthin Borough, Ruthin Rural and Cerrig .....                    | 238                                     | 1642          | 1619                                 | 6                  | 6             |
| Borough of Colwyn Bay .....                                      | 223                                     | 1889          | 2033                                 | 14                 | 15            |
| Borough of Wrexham .....   | 559                                     | 3101          | 3585                                 | 74                 | 102           |
| Totals .....   | 3055                                    | 20708         | 20513                                | 439                | 565           |



## HOME NURSING

The demands on this service continue to increase and it is gratifying to realise that the number of cases attended in 1954 was nearly double that in 1953, while in addition, 11,000 more visits were paid than in the previous year. This was achieved by the same staff, who had also to cope with a slight increase in domiciliary midwifery. These increases were obtained by greater industry and also by ensuring, at my instigation, a more accurate statistical return from the nurses.

These figures indicate only the extent of the work, and that the quality is also of a high order can be deduced from the numerous letters received in the Health Department from patients who, after recovery, write to acknowledge their appreciation of the excellent services they have received.

During the year a male District Nurse was employed in the Wrexham area. This was in the nature of an experiment, but it soon became evident that this catered for a particular need. The demands on the male nurse were heavy and many difficult cases have been treated at home who would otherwise have been admitted to hospital.

Forty-seven Home Nurses have transport and in the course of their duties travel many miles, which further adds to their burden, especially in rural areas, but the respect and appreciation of the patients does much to maintain their morale. Many nurses participate actively in the social life of their locality and by voluntary effort contribute further to the well-being of the community which they serve.

Periodically each nurse attends a refresher course, thus keeping abreast of developments and maintaining techniques at a high level. They have been supplied with all essential equipment, which is always kept up to standard. Additional or special nursing equipment can be obtained from the central depot. Finally, it is satisfying to see members of the nursing staff carrying out their duties looking trim, spruce and professional in the nursing uniforms.

**TABLE XX**  
**SUMMARY OF CASES ATTENDED AND VISITED BY HOME**  
**NURSES DURING 1954**

| (1)  | (2) Medical | (3) Surgical | (4) Infectious Diseases | (5) Tuberculosis | (6) Maternal Complications | (7) Others | (8) Totals | (9) Patients incl. in (2)-(7) who were 65 or over at time of first visit during year | (10) Children incl. in (2)-(7) who were under 5 at time of first visit during year | (11) Patients incl. in (2)-(7) who have had more than 24 visits during year |
|--|-------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|--|--|---|
| Number of cases attended by Home Nurses during the year    | 4198        | 2041         | 28                      | 174              | 140                        | 3673       | 10254      | 2104   | 557  | 1101  |
| Number of visits paid by Home Nurses during the year ..... | 89386       | 31918        | 168                     | 3504             | 1136                       | 8066       | 134178     | 47445  | 3909   | 54436   |



## VACCINATION

Facilities are available for vaccination against smallpox at all the child welfare clinics, but, despite strenuous efforts by the Department, the percentage of infants vaccinated remains low.

**TABLE XXI**

### Vaccinations performed during 1954

| Primary Vaccinations     | Re-vaccinations.          |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Under 1 year ... .. 700  | Under 1 year ... .. —     |
| 1 - 4 years ... .. 92    | 1 - 4 years ... .. —      |
| 5 - 14 years ... .. 34   | 5 - 14 years ... .. 38    |
| 15 years and over ... 73 | 15 years and over ... 145 |

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Despite strenuous efforts by the staff of the Department, the attitude of the public to diphtheria immunisation is apathetic. The low incidence of this disease has led to a feeling of false security. The need to maintain immunity against diphtheria is constantly being impressed upon the public by every means at the disposal of the Health Department.

The number of children immunised in the County during the year 1954 was as follows:

|  | Under 5<br>years | 5 - 15<br>years | Total |
|--|------------------|-----------------|-------|
| No. immunised with Diphtheria<br>Prophylactic                    | 211              | 213             | 424   |
| No. immunised with combined<br>Diphtheria/Pertussis Prophylactic | 1601             | 17              | 1618  |
| Total no. immunised against Diphtheria ...                       | 1812             | 230             | 2042  |
| " Repeat " doses   |                  |                 | 1437  |

### WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

In 1954, the majority of children were immunised with the combined diphtheria/pertussis vaccine. Many parents were interested only in obtaining immunity against whooping cough, but accepted this combined antigen as it did not entail additional injections.

The distressing symptoms of whooping cough are well known and are the main concern of the parent, but medically the unfortunate sequelae of this disease are of even greater importance. There are indications that the respiratory system may be permanently damaged by whooping cough, especially in young infants, and the fairly frequent diagnosis of bronchiectasis in children has caused me concern.

Whooping cough immunisation was first introduced into this County in 1947 by Dr. McKendrick at Colwyn Bay, and Table XXII shows the notifications in Colwyn and Wrexham Borough. The lower incidence in Colwyn Bay indicates that the vaccine is providing the necessary immunity.



**TABLE XXII**

**Number of cases of Whooping Cough notified  
since 1947 in Wrexham and Colwyn Bay Boroughs  
and the Administrative County**

| Year | Wrexham<br>Borough | Colwyn Bay<br>Borough | County |
|------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| 1947 | 31                 | 21                    | 207    |
| 1948 | 197                | 12                    | 697    |
| 1949 | 20                 | 44                    | 143    |
| 1950 | 238                | 14                    | 213    |
| 1951 | 70                 | 17                    | 321    |
| 1952 | 115                | 12                    | 161    |
| 1953 | 111                | 15                    | 191    |
| 1954 | 45                 | 17                    | 237    |

No. immunised with Pertussis Prophylactic ..... 6

No. immunised with combined  
Diphtheria/ Pertussis Prophylactic 1618

Total no. immunised against whooping cough ... 1624

### **AMBULANCE SERVICE**

The agency agreements with the Welsh Home Service Ambulance Committee and the Colwyn Bay Voluntary Ambulance Corps were continued, and the only change was the re-opening of the Abergele ambulance station in August, 1954. This was achieved after overcoming many difficulties, and even during the short period under review it was evident that the new arrangements were ideally suited for the area.

The Abergele ambulance station is manned by one paid driver and a number of volunteers who are members of the Abergele

Voluntary Ambulance Corps. A light ambulance has been provided by the County Council and use is made of the clinic premises for the volunteers on duty. It will be seen in Table XXIII that the Abergele ambulance carried in four months as many Abergele and district patients as were carried for the whole of 1953. This considerable increase in work could not have been done but for the close co-operation between the volunteers and the paid driver.

The demands on the service generally have continued to grow despite rigorous supervision. Although the total number of patients carried increased from 39,099 in 1953 to 48,634, the increase in mileage was only 5,921. This has been accomplished by centralising the work in East Denbighshire as much as possible on 16, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham. Although the Wrexham ambulances have not been moved completely to 16, Grosvenor Road, they now operate from that address during the day. This has made possible economies in the use of transport throughout the Wrexham area and simultaneously increased efficiency. A further improvement will result when the ambulance station is eventually located at 16 Grosvenor Road and it becomes possible to have a full 24-hour central control, for, despite appeals and administrative instructions, some ambulance stations and doctors are a law unto themselves and the only possible remedy is to have continuous central control.

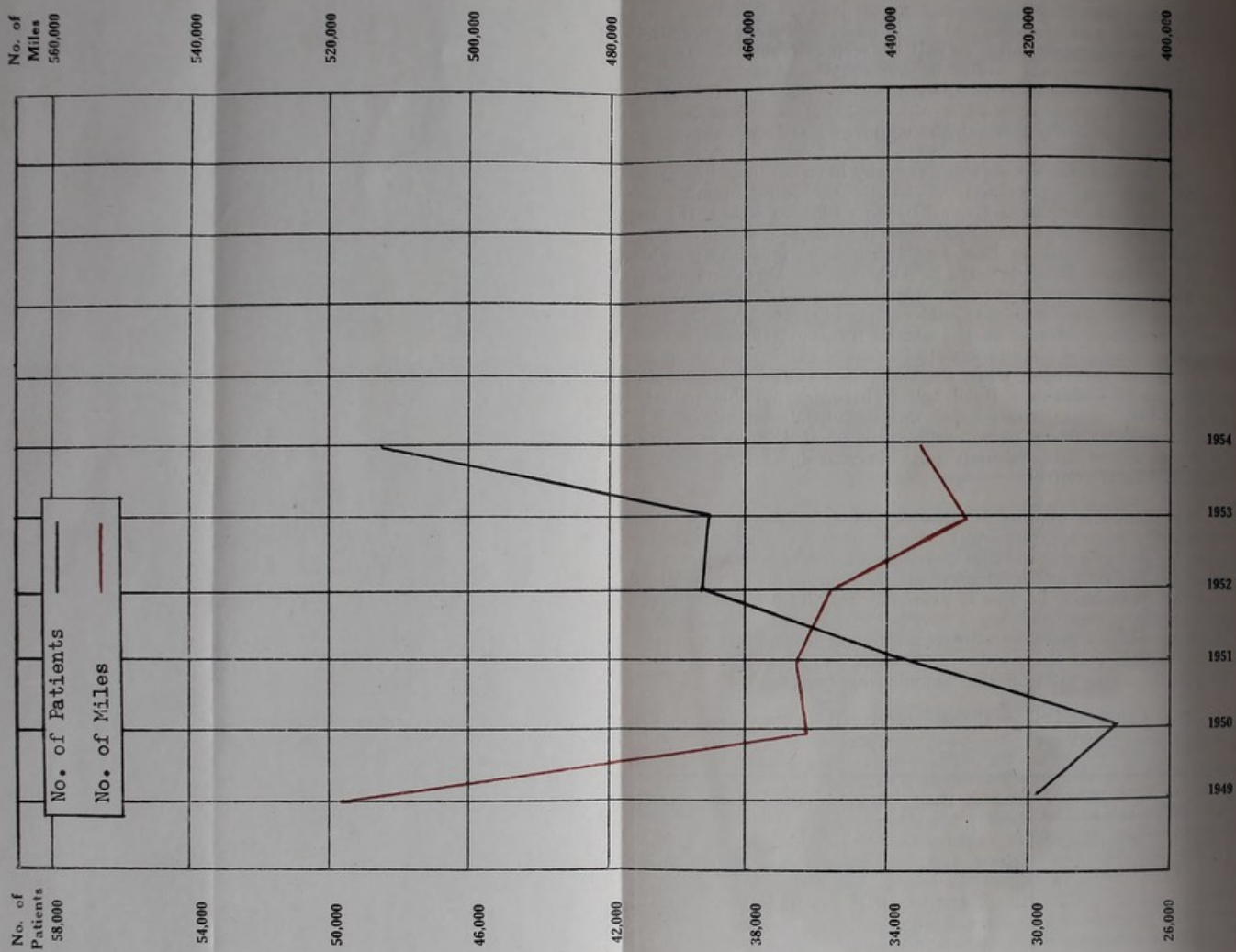
The demands on the Ambulance Service come mainly from hospitals, being approximately three times as great as those made by the general medical practitioners. While the enormous strain on the hospital services is appreciated, it must be realised that the Ambulance Service is primarily for the benefit of transporting the patient and not a means of relieving administrative confusion. Many difficulties were ironed out during the year and it is to be hoped that, with increased co-ordination, there will be less frivolous calls on the Ambulance Service.

The following table shows the trend in the use of the Ambulance Service over the past six years:

|                                      | 1954   | 1953   | 1952   | 1951   | 1950   | 1949   |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total no. of patients conveyed ..... | 48634  | 39099  | 39258  | 33846  | 27500  | 29886  |
| Total no. of miles                   | 434640 | 428719 | 447676 | 452748 | 451087 | 518355 |
| No. of miles per patient .....       | 8.9    | 10.9   | 11.4   | 13.4   | 16.4   | 18.4   |



A Graph showing the number of patients carried and miles travelled annually by Ambulances and Sitting Case Cars.



**TABLE XXIII**

| Name of Ambulance             | No. of cases conveyed | Total mileage |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Abergele .....                | 516                   | 9300          |
| Colwyn Bay .....              | 1249                  | 20419         |
| Colwyn Bay Isolation Hospital | 58                    | 724           |
| Cerrigydrudion .....          | 50                    | 2565          |
| Denbigh .....                 | 439                   | 9159          |
| Llangerniew .....             | 257                   | 7382          |
| Llanrwst .....                | 116                   | 4087          |
| Ruthin .....                  | 300                   | 9057          |
| Brymbo .....                  | 1922                  | 15810         |
| Cefn .....                    | 3587                  | 24059         |
| Chirk .....                   | 450                   | 7381          |
| Llay .....                    | 1686                  | 13171         |
| Rhos .....                    | 5985                  | 29252         |
| Wrexham .....                 | 15901                 | 65384         |
| Wrexham Isolation Hospital .. | 200                   | 1123          |
|                               | —                     | —             |
|                               | 32716                 | 218873        |

**SITTING CASE CAR SERVICE**

It will be noted that there has been an appreciable increase in the number of patients conveyed by sitting-case cars and in the mileage travelled. Whenever possible, especially in rural areas, taxis are used in preference to ambulances for reasons of economy, and also so that an ambulance is kept in its station in readiness for a serious emergency.

Regular use has been made of the voluntary car pool, but calls on this service are declining as greater use is made of rail-



way facilities. Frequently, transporting patients by train is the most suitable arrangement and, whenever possible, the excellent facilities offered by British Railways are used.

The Voluntary Car Pool Service has continued to render valuable assistance, particularly for female patients who have to travel long distances. The number of cases conveyed was 2,148, and the total mileage was 40,104.

**TABLE XXIV.**

| Month       | Taxis | Cases  |       | Taxis  | Mileage |        |
|-------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|---------|--------|
|             |       | W.V.S. | Total |        | W.V.S.  | Total  |
| Jan. ....   | 1008  | 196    | 1204  | 10534  | 1988    | 12522  |
| Feb. ....   | 995   | 241    | 1236  | 12565  | 4028    | 16593  |
| March ....  | 1329  | 266    | 1595  | 15441  | 5300    | 20741  |
| April ....  | 1399  | 218    | 1617  | 16058  | 3982    | 20040  |
| May ....    | 1322  | 208    | 1530  | 14795  | 3472    | 18267  |
| June ....   | 1322  | 170    | 1492  | 16124  | 3248    | 19372  |
| July ....   | 1284  | 144    | 1428  | 17506  | 3216    | 20722  |
| August ...  | 1133  | 105    | 1238  | 17135  | 2408    | 19543  |
| Sept. ....  | 1157  | 127    | 1284  | 16248  | 3301    | 19549  |
| Oct. ....   | 1050  | 113    | 1163  | 13901  | 2889    | 16790  |
| Nov. ....   | 969   | 189    | 1158  | 13353  | 3668    | 17021  |
| Dec. ....   | 902   | 171    | 1073  | 12008  | 2624    | 14632  |
| Totals .... | 13770 | 2148   | 15918 | 175668 | 40104   | 215767 |

## PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE & AFTER-CARE

### Tuberculosis.

The elimination of this disease within a generation is a possibility if the problem were tackled vigorously, for in recent years new methods of detecting, controlling, curing and eradicating the disease are constantly being discovered. Yet the situation is by no means satisfactory, for in 1954 the death rate for the County and the number on the register have increased.

The slight increase in the death rate is not of serious import, but the increased number on the register indicates that the disease is more prevalent in the community and that, therefore, preventive measures are inadequate. In a period of full employment, of improving housing and social conditions, the disease should be retreating instead of spreading. With so much time and energy being devoted to this disease, is it not opportune to enquire whether the facilities available are being used to the best advantage?

In April, 1954, the Health Committee considered Ministry of Health Circular 22/53 on B.C.G. vaccination. It was resolved to await the results of various trials before embarking on a comprehensive scheme as envisaged in the Circular. In the meantime, opportunities would arise of reviewing the present preventive measures and, where necessary, re-marshalling forces before embarking on a new campaign.

The chest physicians in the County have vaccinated with B.C.G. all susceptible contacts.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Denbighshire to examine special groups and the general population. The response of the public has been disappointing in some areas, depending to some measure on the extent of the publicity given to the Unit's visit. A fuller use of local agents would result in a better response.

Total no. of cases on register, 1954:

|  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Pulmonary                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1419 |
| Non-pulmonary                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 371  |
| Total no. of notifications                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 264  |
| No. of new contacts seen of new cases notified | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 448  |
| No. of contacts notified of this number        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17   |
| No. of old contacts seen of old cases          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1903 |



As in previous years, Health Education has been propagated at clinics, schools and exhibitions. Re-housing of tuberculous patients has been given priority by the majority of authorities and the routine X-ray examination of those coming into contact with the children has been the accepted policy.

District Nurses and Home Helps have continued to attend patients in their own homes. During the year, 168 patients received additional nutriments, bedding and comforts. Mainly, patients are given milk, and a few have beds, etc., on loan, while voluntary agencies have given further assistance.

Difficulties have been encountered upon the discharge of patients from sanatoria where home conditions have not been conducive to continued recovery. Garden shelters have been of value in providing isolation for infectious patients being treated at home. During the year three shelters were in continuous use, one shelter being transferred from a recovered patient to another patient newly discharged from hospital.

**TABLE XXV**

**Cases on Tuberculosis Register on 31st December, 1954**

| Respiratory. |     |       | Non-respiratory. |     |       |
|--------------|-----|-------|------------------|-----|-------|
| M.           | F.  | Total | M.               | F.  | Total |
| 785          | 634 | 1419  | 205              | 166 | 371   |

**TABLE XXVI.**

**Comparative Death Rates from Pulmonary Tuberculosis  
in the Rural and Urban Districts, Administrative County,  
and England & Wales, for 1954 and each of the preceding  
ten years.**

| Year | Death Rate per 100,000 of the Population: |       |                 |                    |
|------|---|-------|-----------------|--------------------|
|      | Urban                                     | Rural | Whole<br>County | England<br>& Wales |
| 1944 | 59.4                                      | 46.0  | 52.2            | 52                 |
| 1945 | 56.3                                      | 49.8  | 52.9            | 52                 |
| 1946 | 49.2                                      | 48.9  | 47.9            | 47                 |
| 1947 | 55.5                                      | 46.2  | 50.5            | 44                 |
| 1948 | 42.8                                      | 42.0  | 42.3            | 40                 |
| 1949 | 43.8                                      | 42.8  | 43.3            | 32                 |
| 1950 | 34.4                                      | 35.0  | 34.7            | 28                 |
| 1951 | 29.2                                      | 19.5  | 24.0            | 31                 |
| 1952 | 21.6                                      | 20.6  | 21.1            | —                  |
| 1953 | 17.7                                      | 13.1  | 15.2            | —                  |
| 1954 | 22.8                                      | 18.5  | 20.5            | 16                 |



During the year under review, the number of cases notified was 133 males and 131 females. The age and sex distribution are given in the following table:

**TABLE XXVII**

| Age    | Respiratory |     |     | Non-Respiratory |    |    |
|--------|-------------|-----|-----|-----------------|----|----|
|        | M           | F   | T   | M               | F  | T  |
| 0      | —           | 1   | 1   | —               | —  | —  |
| 1      | 1           | 2   | 3   | —               | —  | —  |
| 2      | 3           | 4   | 7   | 2               | 1  | 3  |
| 5      | 4           | 3   | 7   | 2               | 3  | 5  |
| 10     | 2           | 6   | 8   | 4               | 5  | 9  |
| 15     | 8           | 15  | 23  | 2               | 5  | 7  |
| 20     | 9           | 19  | 28  | 1               | 1  | 2  |
| 25     | 17          | 18  | 35  | 1               | 5  | 6  |
| 35     | 13          | 11  | 24  | 3               | 5  | 8  |
| 45     | 20          | 11  | 31  | 5               | 1  | 6  |
| 55     | 19          | 4   | 23  | 3               | —  | 3  |
| 65     | 12          | 8   | 20  | —               | 1  | 1  |
| 75     | 2           | 2   | 4   | —               | —  | —  |
| Totals | 110         | 104 | 214 | 23              | 27 | 50 |

# TABLE XXVIII

## Tuberculosis

Active Cases on Registers according to Sanitary Areas  
on 31st December, 1954.

| District.             | No. of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at the commencement of the year. |             | No. of cases added to the Register during the year. |             | No. of cases moved from Register during the year. |             | No. of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year. |             |
|-----------------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|--|-------------|
|                       | Pulmon.   | Non-Pulmon. | Pulmon.   | Non-Pulmon. | Pulmon.   | Non-Pulmon. | Pulmon.  | Non-Pulmon. |
| <b>Western No. 1.</b> |   |             |   |             |   |             |  |             |
| Abergele              | 34  | 3           | 5   | —           | 2   | —           | 37   | 3           |
|                       | 17  | 2           | 9   | —           | 6   | —           | 20   | 3           |
| Colwyn Bay            | 56  | 11          | 15  | —           | 11  | —           | 60   | 10          |
|                       | 37  | 6           | 19  | 1           | 9   | 2           | 47   | 5           |
| Aled                  | 17  | 1           | 2   | 3           | 7   | —           | 12   | 4           |
|                       | 16  | 2           | 10  | 2           | 4   | —           | 22   | 4           |
| <b>Western No. 2.</b> |   |             |   |             |   |             |  |             |
| Denbigh               | 67  | 10          | 25  | 1           | 23  | 1           | 69   | 10          |
|                       | 42  | 15          | 13  | 2           | 16  | 4           | 39   | 13          |
| Llanrwst              | 14  | —           | 2   | 1           | 5   | —           | 11   | 1           |
|                       | 11  | 3           | 6   | 1           | 4   | 2           | 13   | 2           |
| Ruthin Borough        | 12  | 2           | —   | —           | 3   | —           | 9  | 2           |
|                       | 15  | —           | 5   | 1           | 3   | —           | 17   | 1           |
| Hiraethog             | 13  | 2           | 3   | 1           | —   | 1           | 16   | 2           |
|                       | 14  | 3           | 6   | —           | 7   | 1           | 13   | 2           |
| Ruthin Rural          | 30  | 9           | 5   | —           | 4   | 1           | 31   | 11          |
|                       | 29  | 13          | 6   | 3           | 8   | 10          | 27   | 6           |



Table XXVIII (cont.)

## Tuberculosis (continued).

| District.                 | No. of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at the commencement of the year. |             | No. of cases added to the Register during the year. |             | No. of cases removed from the Register during the year. |             | No. of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year. |             |
|---------------------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|--|-------------|
|                           | Pulmon.   | Non-Pulmon. | Pulmon.   | Non-Pulmon. | Pulmon.   | Non-Pulmon. | Pulmon.  | Non-Pulmon. |
| <b>Eastern No. 1.</b>     |   |             |   |             |   |             |  |             |
| Wrexham                   |   |             |   |             |   |             |  |             |
| R.D.C. Males .....        | 367   | 143         | 55  | 7           | 46  | 7           | 376  | 143         |
| Females .....             | 290   | 97          | 31  | 6           | 19  | 1           | 302  | 102         |
| Ceiriog .....             | 30  | 6           | 2   | 2           | 7   | 3           | 25   | 5           |
| Females .....             | 18  | 7           | 4   | 1           | —   | 1           | 22   | 7           |
| Llangollen .....          | 15  | 1           | 3   | —           | 3   | —           | 15   | 1           |
| Females .....             | 8   | 1           | —   | —           | —   | —           | 8  | 1           |
| <b>Eastern No. 2.</b>     |   |             |   |             |   |             |  |             |
| Wrexham Bor. „Males ..... | 113   | 12          | 21  | 4           | 10  | 3           | 124  | 13          |
| Females .....             | 97  | 16          | 14  | 5           | 7   | 1           | 104  | 20          |
| <b>Totals .....</b>       | <b>1362</b>   | <b>365</b>  | <b>261</b>  | <b>46</b>   | <b>204</b>  | <b>40</b>   | <b>1419</b>  | <b>371</b>  |

The following table gives details of the work done by the Mass Radiography Unit in Denbighshire during 1954.

**TABLE XXIX**

| Location        |         | No.<br>X-rayed | No.<br>re-X-rayed<br>with larger<br>picture | No. referred<br>to Chest<br>Clinic as<br>query T.B. |
|-----------------|---------|----------------|---|---|
| Ruthin .....    | Males   | 409            | 41  | —   |
|                 | Females | 515            | 66  | 3   |
|                 | Total   | 924            | 107   | 3   |
| Rhos .....      | Males   | 2039           | 224   | 14  |
|                 | Females | 2005           | 94  | 4   |
|                 | Total   | 4044           | 318   | 18  |
| Coedpoeth ..... | Males   | 316            | 72  | 1   |
|                 | Females | 288            | 32  | 1   |
|                 | Total   | 604            | 104   | 2   |
| Brymbo .....    | Males   | 99             | 19  | 1   |
|                 | Females | 98             | 9   | —   |
|                 | Total   | 197            | 28  | 1   |
| Grand Total ..  | Males   | 2863           | 356   | 16  |
|                 | Females | 2906           | 201   | 8   |
|                 | Total   | 5769           | 557   | 24  |

## OTHER ILLNESSES

### After-care.

The gradual expansion of activities in this sphere continued during the year under review. Both the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society have equipment depots which adequately cover the County. The co-operation of these voluntary organisations is greatly appreciated, and it is pleasing to reciprocate by advising local organisations of the equipment to hold, methods of storage and sterilisation.



Periodically requests are received for special nursing equipment and such items are supplied from the Health Department central depot. One recurring need is for Dunlopillo mattresses for patients returned home who have suffered permanent injury to the spine. These cases require not only nursing of a high order but special equipment, and all this has been supplied by the Local Health Authority for every patient in such need throughout the County. Furthermore, each District Nurse holds a supply of nursing equipment sufficient to meet ordinary needs.

Representations made by the staff of the Department have resulted in deserving patients obtaining either equipment, furnishings or comforts from other than official sources. By co-ordinating the efforts of the various organisations participating in this work the utmost use is being made of the available resources for the benefit of the patient.

### Venereal Disease.

While satisfaction can be gleaned from the decrease since the war in this group of communicable diseases, it is disturbing to find a residual core which persists. Yet it is seldom that a request is received from the Consultant Venereologist for a Health Visitor to follow-up any patients. During 1954 a few patients who had failed to attend for treatment were interviewed by Health Visitors and convinced of the need to continue treatment until finally cured.

The number of Denbighshire patients dealt with for the first time during 1954 at treatment centres was 143, which were classified as follows:

|                                  | Syphilis |   |     | Gonorrhoea |   |     | Other Conditions |    |
|----------------------------------|----------|---|-----|------------|---|-----|------------------|----|
|                                  | M        | F |     | M          | F |     | M                | F  |
| Llandudno Gen. Hospital          | 2        | 2 | ... | 3          | 2 | ... | 15               | 2  |
| St. Asaph Gen. Hospital          | 3        | 1 | ... | 3          | 2 | ... | 13               | 8  |
| Wrexham War<br>Memorial Hospital | 1        | 4 | ... | 15         | 1 | ... | 40               | 26 |
| Total .....                      | 6        | 7 | ... | 21         | 5 | ... | 68               | 36 |



## **Community Care of the Aged.**

It is gratifying that there has been such a close collaboration between all those who, in any way, have a responsibility for the care of the aged living in the community. Some people never grow old and are fortunate in retaining good physical and mental health to their dying day, but only a few are so fortunate.

Most people are beset with various disabilities in old age and it is for this group of people that so much can be done. The District Nurse and the Home Help are the mainstay of the domiciliary care of the aged, together with the general medical practitioner.

Various statutory and voluntary associations also help in other directions and it would be only just to refer to the sympathetic approach of the National Assistance Board officers who have co-operated so well with my Department in this work.

The provision of Old People's Clubs undoubtedly meets a need but somehow those most desperately needing help hardly ever belong to such organisations. It is for this group that the Health Visitor can do so much by bringing the personal touch to an individual problem. Undoubtedly, the curse of old age is the feeling of being useless, unwanted, uncared for, and to have nothing to contribute to a community life.

To overcome such feelings, arrangements have been made for old folk to be registered as out-workers for certain industries, thus providing light employment and a small income. It is hoped that this experiment will grow and prove successful, for, undoubtedly, the old folk are happiest while living in the community. The Health Department endeavours to keep the old people for as long as possible in their own homes, but in the majority of instances the admission to a welfare home or a hospital for chronic aged sick is deferred too long. Periodically statutory powers have to be used in order to remove an old, sick and neglected person to accommodation where they can be properly cared for and treated. It is in this type of case particularly, where the cordial relationship of all responsible officers contributes so much to the welfare of the patient. District Medical Officers of Health who have powers under Sect. 47 of the National Assistance Act have been consulted by the staff of the County Health Department from the initial stages and are, therefore, completely informed regarding patients that are submitted to them for authority to remove.



In the majority of cases it would seem that once they have been admitted to institutional care there is little prospect of them being returned to the community. I regret that it is rarely that an aged patient being discharged from institutional care is referred to the Health Department for after-care, and I am sure that closer co-ordination of the various services would be of considerable benefit to the patient.

### Blind Persons.

During 1954, the Health Department, which is responsible for ascertainment of the blind, examined 104 blind persons and informed the Welfare Department that 60 should be registered as blind persons.

|   | Males | Females |
|---|-------|---------|
| No. of cases on Register .....                                      | 199   | 251     |
| No. of cases ascertained during 1954 .....                          | 34    | 26      |
| No. of cases ascertained during 1954<br>with:                       |       |         |
| (a) Cataract .....  | 19    | 17      |
| (b) Glaucoma .....  | 6     | 4       |
| No. of cases of Blindness due to Retro-<br>lental Fibroplasia ..... | —     | —       |

### Epileptics.

#### Number of Ascertained Epileptics According to Age and Sex Distribution, and in Residential Accommodation

| Age         | Number Ascertained |         | Number in<br>Residential Accommodation |         |
|-------------|--------------------|---------|--|---------|
|             | Males              | Females | Males                                  | Females |
| 0 - 10      | 3                  | 2       | 1                                      | —       |
| 10 - 15     | 2                  | 3       | 1                                      | —       |
| 15 - 25     | 4                  | 3       | 1                                      | 2       |
| 25 - 50     | 2                  | 6       | 2                                      | 6       |
| 50 and over | 3                  | 3       | 3                                      | 3       |

## **Spastics.**

### **Number of Ascertained Spastics according to Age and Sex Distribution, and in Residential Accommodation**

| Age     | Number Ascertained |         | Number in<br>Residential Accommodation |         |
|---------|--------------------|---------|--|---------|
|         | Males              | Females | Males                                  | Females |
| 0 - 10  | 2                  | 7       | —                                      | —       |
| 10 - 15 | 1                  | 3       | —                                      | —       |
| 15 - 25 | 3                  | 1       | —                                      | 1       |

## **Convalescent Homes.**

During 1954, arrangements were made for ten patients to go to convalescent homes for an average period of two weeks.

## **DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE**

With each successive year the volume and diversity of work by this service has gradually increased and but for very careful supervision there would have been an inordinate expansion if all demands had been met. The differences between this service and a domestic agency have to be explained constantly. Many receiving this service pay part or whole of the charge, but a large proportion receive a free service. It is galling to find that a few families who, according to the County Assessment Scale, should pay a small weekly sum ignore all demands for payment. The money recovered for this service is small, but this is not surprising as approximately 75 per cent of recipients are old age pensioners.

The majority of recruits to this Service are not only interested in the wages earned, but also are anxious to participate in a social service. For this reason the service given is excellent and greatly appreciated, especially by the old folk.

The co-operation of the National Assistance Board has gone a long way towards solving the difficult border-line case and it is pleasing to record that those needing help can be assured of getting it, either from the National Assistance Board or the Health Department.



The number of Domestic Helps employed on the 31st December, 1954, was:

|                |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) Whole-time | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1   |
| (b) Part-time  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 105 |

The number of cases where domestic help was provided during the year was:

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| (a) Maternity (inc. expectant mothers)  | 59              |
| (b) Tuberculosis                        | 30              |
| (c) Chronic Sick (inc. aged and infirm) | 167             |
| (d) Others                              | 107             |
|   | <hr/> 363 <hr/> |

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

In the previous year the administration of this service had been centralised in the Health Department, with a resultant improvement in co-ordination. This was further improved when two whole-time Duly Authorised Officers were appointed, while a small proportion of four other officers' time was retained for Duly Authorised Officers' duties.

The focusing of energies by two officers on mental health has resulted in closer collaboration with the staff of the North Wales Mental Hospital. These two Local Health Authority officers attend hospital staff conferences, maintain regular contact with psychiatric social workers and take over the supervision of discharged patients. This arrangement has been of value to all concerned.

During the year, the number of patients from the North Wales counties admitted to the Mental Hospital under Section 20 of the Lunacy Act increased appreciably and this threw a heavier load on my Duly Authorised Officers and the local magistrates. Of those patients admitted under Section 20, approximately 75 per cent only need formal certification. While this will probably reduce the total number of patients certified in North Wales, it does entail additional work for the Denbighshire Duly Authorised Officers.

# Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.

## TABLE XXX

Cases dealt with by the Duly Authorised Officers.

|                                    | M. | F.  | T.  |
|------------------------------------|----|-----|-----|
| <b>Lunacy Act, 1890.</b>           |    |     |     |
| Summary Reception Order .....      | 17 | 31  | 48  |
| "Three Day" Order, Sect. 20 .....  | 7  | 7   | 14  |
| Urgency Order, Sec. 41 .....       | —  | —   | —   |
| <b>Mental Treatment Act, 1930.</b> |    |     |     |
| As Voluntary Patient .....         | 98 | 150 | 248 |
| As Temporary Patient .....         | —  | —   | —   |

## TABLE XXXI

Mental Hospital Admissions, Discharges and Deaths.

|  | M. | F.  | T.  |
|--|----|-----|-----|
| No. of patients certified under the above Acts and removed to the North Wales Hospital for Nervous and Mental Disorders, Denbigh, during the year 1954 ..... | 17 | 31  | 48  |
| No. of patients discharged during the year .....   | 23 | 35  | 58  |
| No. of patients who died during the year .....   | 8  | 14  | 22  |
| <b>Voluntary Patients.</b>   |    |     |     |
| No. of voluntary patients admitted to the North Wales Hospital for Nervous and Mental Disorders, Denbigh, during the year 1954 .....                         | 97 | 150 | 247 |
| No. of voluntary patients who left the Hospital during the year 1954 .....   | 93 | 151 | 244 |
| No. of voluntary patients who died during the year 1954 .....  | 1  | 2   | 3   |
| <b>Temporary Patients.</b>   |    |     |     |
| No. of temporary patients admitted to the North Wales Hospital for Nervous and Mental Disorders, Denbigh, during the year 1954 .....                         | 1  | —   | 1   |
| No. of temporary patients discharged during the year 1954 .....  | —  | 1   | 1   |
| No. of temporary patients who died during the year 1954 .....  | —  | 1   | 1   |



## **Mental Deficiency.**

Mental defectives are ascertained by Health Visitors, School Medical Officers and Paediatricians. Some defectives can be ascertained at an early age but the decision to take statutory action is deferred until the child is between five and seven years of age. Many defectives are discovered in school and, after being notified to the Education Committee as being ineducable, they are excluded from the educational system and transferred to the care of the Health Committee.

### **Community Care of Mental Defectives,** resolves itself to:

(a) Statutory Supervision. — Where the defective is adequately protected, supervised and cared for in good home surroundings, there is little needed except a periodic visit to advise the parents on any particular problem that might arise.

(b) Guardianship. — This course can be adopted when there are no close relatives to take responsibility for the defective, or where additional powers are needed for maintaining satisfactorily the defective in the community.

(c) Licence. — Defectives who have had a period of training in hospitals are allowed into the community on trial. Usually they are placed on licence either with their parents or a suitable person and are kept under the periodic supervision of the Local Health Authority.

During 1954, in Denbighshire, 131 defectives were under Statutory Supervision, 10 under Guardianship and 22 on Licence.

At the present time, the Local Health Authority renders material assistance to defectives by supplying nursing equipment, Home Helps, and by helping to obtain from other statutory bodies either monetary assistance in the form of a weekly allowance or in kind, such as the issue of bedding or night clothes. Several defectives were successfully placed in residential employment who had previously never earned. Placings of this nature have to be carefully selected and constantly supervised, for without patience and understanding on the part of the employers the trial is very liable to fail. In addition to difficulties arising from the work, it is also necessary to supervise the defective's leisure hours, entailing advice on money, purchases, clothing, entertainment and holidays.

The following case reports from the Mental Health Social Worker exemplify the problems that have to be dealt with constantly.



**Case No. 547, B.H., Male, 30 years.**—B.H. was reported by an officer of the National Assistance Board as being a person in need of care and attention. A domiciliary visit was paid, when it was found that B.H. was a feeble-minded person living in what can only be described as appalling conditions. The house was virtually uninhabitable, with no heating or lighting, and it was elicited that B.H. lived mainly on bread and margarine. He was formally ascertained by the Health Committee as a mental defective in need of care and attention and placed under the supervision of the Duly Authorised Officer.

Shortly afterwards he was admitted to the local hospital suffering from bronchitis, and on admission his clothes and effects had to be burnt. While in hospital, residential employment of an unskilled nature was secured for him. The National Assistance Board made a special grant towards re-clothing him and upon discharge from hospital he took up his employment. At present, despite being untrained, he is retaining his employment under continued supervision. Regular consultation with, and advice to, the employer are still very necessary.

**Case No. 514, R.M., Male, 23 years.**—R.M. was referred to the Health Department by the Probation Officer. Upon examination he was found to be a physically strong feeble-minded youth who was in lodgings which were exceedingly poor, both morally and materially. His "land-lady" took R.M.'s wage packet each week—his earnings were £6 8s. nett—and returned 5/- for pocket money. He was formally ascertained as a mental defective and then immediately transferred to a relative who was paid an agreed sum for caring for him. His clothing consisted of one dilapidated suit, one coat and one pair of shoes—he had no underclothes. His financial affairs were then taken over by the Duly Authorised Officer and a Post Office saving account commenced for him. In exactly three months he has spent £28 on clothes (under supervision) and is now adequately dressed and has £5 to his credit in his Post Office savings bank. Direct saving has now earnestly started and he is now realising the value and use of money. He continues to report to the Duly Authorised Officer each week and it can plainly be seen that the direct guidance and supervision he receives has successfully proved to him the benefits of a well regulated life.



**TABLE XXXII**

**Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938.**

|  | M. | F. | T.  |
|--|----|----|-----|
| No. of mental defectives in institutions at 31/12/54   | 62 | 86 | 148 |
| No. of mental defectives under guardianship at 31/12/54 .....  | 5  | 5  | 10  |
| No. of mental defectives in "Place of Safety" at 31/12/54 .....  | —  | —  | —   |
| No. of mental defectives under Statutory Supervision at 31/12/54 .....   | 65 | 66 | 131 |
| No. of mental defectives awaiting removal to an institution during the year 1954 .....                                       | 19 | 32 | 51  |
| No. of mental defectives (new cases) reported during the year 1954 .....   | 18 | 17 | 35  |
| No. of mental defectives admitted to institutions during the year 1954 .....   | 2  | 3  | 5   |
| No. of mental defectives taken to "Places of Safety" during the year 1954 .....  | —  | —  | —   |
| No. of mental defectives placed under Statutory Supervision during the year 1954 .....                                       | 13 | 13 | 26  |
| No. of mental defectives that ceased to be under care by reason of death or removal from the area during the year 1954 ..... | 6  | 2  | 8   |

## PART IV

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# *Environmental Hygiene*

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### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### **Influenza.**

Towards the end of 1954 an influenza epidemic affected the schoolchildren of the County. The outbreak first affected the western part of the County around Colwyn Bay about the 15th October, 1954, from where it spread steadily east, reaching the Wrexham district at about Christmas-time.

In response to a request from the Virus Reference Laboratory, the course of the epidemic was plotted by obtaining from schools the attendance figures from the beginning of the term, and subsequently to submit percentage returns to the County Health Office only when attendances fell below 80%. Several head teachers enclosed with the statistical return explanatory notes which further assisted in plotting accurately the course of the epidemic. The first indication of a school being affected was a gradual fall in attendance to 80%, which was then followed by a dramatic fall to as low as 33% attendance, with a subsequent gradual return to normal as the epidemic passed on. The primary infection wave afflicted the 7 - 11 year age group, but usually there followed a secondary wave which had a predilection for the infants and senior pupils. The disease started with naso-pharyngeal or gastro-intestinal symptoms, accompanied by a high temperature, with some photophobia. Temperature afterwards fell by lysis, leaving the child with lassitude and weakness for a week or so. Fortunately, no deaths occurred in school children attributable to this disease. Warnings were given to head teachers of the impending spread of the epidemic, which, in several instances, enabled suitable adjustments to be made in the school curriculum. Furthermore, being able to predict the advance of the epidemic permitted the Health Department to mobilise its forces. Prior arrangements were made for a reserve of District Nurses and Home Helps to be available for the area afflicted. These services were fully committed when the epidemic was at its peak but all demands were met, which appreciably relieved the strain on the Hospital Service.



**TABLE XXXIII**  
**INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

The following table furnishes particulars respecting the notifications received during 1954 and, for comparative purposes, the nine preceding years are shown.

|                                  | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Scarlet Fever .....              | 276  | 157  | 149  | 273  | 249  | 264  | 123  | 141  | 123  | 69   |
| Whooping Cough .....             | 175  | 256  | 259  | 906  | 207  | 465  | 408  | 288  | 317  | 237  |
| Diphtheria .....                 | 86   | 38   | 25   | 8    | 7    | 4    | —    | 1    | —    | —    |
| Measles .....                    | 2252 | 659  | 1317 | 1537 | 820  | 1979 | 1849 | 712  | 2149 | 511  |
| Acute Pneumonia .....            | 167  | 177  | 197  | 205  | 150  | 149  | 204  | 81   | 129  | 63   |
| Meningococcal Infection .....    | 9    | 1    | 10   | 10   | 3    | 4    | 9    | 9    | 6    | 4    |
| Acute Poliomyelitis:             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Paralytic .....                  | 3    | 1    | 25   | 1    | 4    | { 26 | 6    | 12   | 7    | 2    |
| Non-Paralytic .....              |      |      |      |      |      | { 29 | 2    | 1    | 4    | 2    |
| Acute Encephalitis:              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Infective .....                  | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | { —  | 2    | 1    | —    | 3    |
| Post-Infectious .....            |      |      |      |      |      | { 5  | —    | —    | —    | —    |
| Dysentery .....                  | 49   | 46   | 2    | 9    | 4    | 45   | 41   | 23   | 8    | 3    |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....      | 3    | 4    | 6    | —    | —    | —    | 10   | 6    | 1    | —    |
| Puerperal Pyrexia .....          | 15   | 8    | 3    | 7    | 1    | 1    | 6    | 13   | 18   | 10   |
| Smallpox .....                   | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    |
| Paratyphoid Fever .....          | 7    | 3    | 2    | 4    | 1    | { —  | 1    | 5    | —    | —    |
| Enteric or Typhoid Fever .....   |      |      |      |      |      | { 1  | —    | —    | —    | —    |
| Food Poisoning .....             | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | 19   | 112  | 4    | 3    | 11   |
| Erysipelas .....                 | 42   | 37   | 39   | 55   | 41   | 31   | 14   | 32   | 26   | 19   |
| Chickenpox .....                 | —    | —    | 7    | 10   | 1    | 15   | 5    | —    | 10   | —    |
| Malaria .....                    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | 1    | —    | —    |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....     | 212  | 214  | 195  | 173  | 212  | 169  | 165  | 231  | 202  | 231  |
| Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..... | 37   | 30   | 41   | 40   | 49   | 41   | 21   | 37   | 25   | 51   |
| Totals .....                     | 3333 | 1631 | 2277 | 3238 | 1749 | 3228 | 2866 | 1598 | 3028 | 1216 |

TABLE XXXIV

The allocation of the several Infectious Diseases to the Sanitary Districts is shown in the following table:—

|                       | Scarlet Fever. | Whooping Cough. | Diphtheria. | Measles. | Acute Pneumonia. | Meningococcal Infection. | Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic). | Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic). | Acute Encephalitis (Infective). | Acute Encephalitis (Post-Infectious). | Dysentery. | Ophthalmia Neonatorum. | Puerperal Pyrexia. | Smallpox. | Paratyphoid Fever. | Enteric or Typhoid Fever. | Food Poisoning. | Erysipelas. | Chickenpox. | Malaria. | Pulmonary Tuberculosis. | Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. |    |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|----------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|----------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----|
| <b>Western No. 1.</b> |                |                 |             |          |                  |                          |                                  |                                      |                                 |                                       |            |                        |                    |           |                    |                           |                 |             |             |          |                         |                             |    |
| Abergele .....        | 5              | 33              | —           | 32       | 5                | —                        | 1                                | —                                    | —                               | —                                     | 2          | —                      | —                  | —         | —                  | —                         | —               | —           | 1           | —        | —                       | 12                          | 2  |
| Colwyn Bay .....      | 2              | 17              | —           | 7        | 3                | —                        | —                                | —                                    | —                               | —                                     | 1          | —                      | 3                  | —         | —                  | —                         | —               | —           | 3           | —        | —                       | 27                          | —  |
| Aled .....            | —              | 11              | —           | 22       | 5                | —                        | —                                | —                                    | —                               | —                                     | —          | —                      | 1                  | —         | —                  | —                         | —               | —           | 2           | —        | —                       | 11                          | 6  |
| <b>Western No. 2.</b> |                |                 |             |          |                  |                          |                                  |                                      |                                 |                                       |            |                        |                    |           |                    |                           |                 |             |             |          |                         |                             |    |
| Denbigh .....         | —              | 57              | —           | 319      | 3                | —                        | 1                                | —                                    | —                               | —                                     | —          | —                      | —                  | —         | —                  | —                         | —               | —           | 2           | —        | —                       | 38                          | 13 |
| Llanrwst .....        | —              | 1               | —           | 2        | 1                | —                        | —                                | —                                    | —                               | —                                     | —          | —                      | —                  | —         | —                  | —                         | —               | —           | —           | —        | —                       | 7                           | 2  |
| Ruthin Borough .....  | 2              | 1               | —           | 6        | 12               | —                        | —                                | —                                    | —                               | —                                     | —          | —                      | —                  | —         | —                  | —                         | —               | —           | —           | —        | —                       | 2                           | 1  |
| Hiraethog .....       | 1              | —               | —           | —        | —                | —                        | —                                | —                                    | —                               | —                                     | —          | —                      | —                  | —         | —                  | —                         | —               | —           | —           | —        | —                       | 6                           | 1  |
| Ruthin Rural .....    | 3              | 14              | —           | 38       | 1                | —                        | —                                | 1                                    | —                               | —                                     | —          | —                      | —                  | —         | —                  | —                         | —               | —           | —           | —        | —                       | 10                          | 3  |
| <b>Eastern No. 1.</b> |                |                 |             |          |                  |                          |                                  |                                      |                                 |                                       |            |                        |                    |           |                    |                           |                 |             |             |          |                         |                             |    |
| Wrexham R.D. ....     | 19             | 50              | —           | 73       | 8                | 1                        | —                                | —                                    | 3                               | —                                     | —          | —                      | 3                  | —         | —                  | —                         | 8               | 9           | —           | —        | —                       | 86                          | 13 |
| Ceiriog .....         | 4              | 8               | —           | 1        | —                | 1                        | —                                | —                                    | —                               | —                                     | —          | —                      | —                  | —         | —                  | —                         | —               | —           | —           | —        | —                       | —                           | 2  |
| Llangollen .....      | —              | —               | —           | —        | —                | —                        | —                                | —                                    | —                               | —                                     | —          | —                      | —                  | —         | —                  | —                         | —               | —           | —           | —        | —                       | 1                           | —  |
| <b>Eastern No. 2.</b> |                |                 |             |          |                  |                          |                                  |                                      |                                 |                                       |            |                        |                    |           |                    |                           |                 |             |             |          |                         |                             |    |
| Wrexham Borough ...   | 33             | 45              | —           | 11       | 25               | 2                        | —                                | 1                                    | —                               | —                                     | —          | 1                      | 5                  | —         | —                  | —                         | 3               | 2           | —           | —        | —                       | 31                          | 8  |
| <b>Totals</b> .....   | 69             | 237             | —           | 511      | 63               | 4                        | 2                                | 2                                    | 3                               | —                                     | 3          | 1                      | 12                 | —         | —                  | —                         | 11              | 19          | —           | —        | —                       | 231                         | 51 |



The following table gives the number of deaths from infectious diseases during 1954, together with comparative figures for previous years:

**TABLE XXXV**

|                         | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Meningococcal Infection | 1    | 2    | 3    | 1    | 1    | 4    | 2    | 3    |
| Measles .....           | —    | 2    | —    | 2    | 1    | —    | 1    | —    |
| Whooping Cough ...      | 2    | 2    | 1    | 2    | 4    | —    | 1    | —    |
| Diphtheria .....        | 1    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    |
| Acute Poliomyelitis .   | 3    | —    | —    | 5    | 2    | —    | —    | —    |
| Tuberculosis:           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Pulmonary ....          | 69   | 63   | 62   | 51   | 36   | 26   | 26   | 35   |
| Non-pulmonary           | 15   | 8    | 11   | 8    | 5    | 8    | 3    | 3    |
| Pneumonia .....         | 80   | 73   | 75   | 63   | 63   | 44   | 70   | 85   |

### **Tuberculosis.**

Thirty-five deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis occurred during the year, as compared with 26 in 1953. Only three deaths from non-pulmonary causes were recorded, the same number as in 1953.

The death rate per million of the population of the County was 222.2.

TABLE XXXVI TUBERCULOSIS.

Number of Cases on the County Tuberculosis Register for the years 1945-1954

| Year | No. on Register |               |       | Deaths |               |       | Death Rate per Million<br>of Population |
|------|-----------------|---------------|-------|--------|---------------|-------|---|
|      | Pulm.           | Non-<br>Pulm. | Total | Pulm.  | Non-<br>Pulm. | Total |   |
| 1945 | 1593            | 692           | 2285  | 72     | 14            | 86    | 529.6                                   |
| 1946 | 1568            | 645           | 2213  | 67     | 12            | 79    | 479.0                                   |
| 1947 | 1616            | 650           | 2266  | 69     | 15            | 84    | 505.0                                   |
| 1948 | 1591            | 595           | 2186  | 63     | 8             | 71    | 423.8                                   |
| 1949 | 1293            | 434           | 1727  | 62     | 11            | 73    | 433.2                                   |
| 1950 | 1371            | 450           | 1821  | 51     | 8             | 59    | 347.7                                   |
| 1951 | 1393            | 435           | 1828  | 36     | 5             | 41    | 240.6                                   |
| 1952 | 1436            | 418           | 1854  | 26     | 8             | 34    | 193.3                                   |
| 1953 | 1347            | 362           | 1709  | 26     | 3             | 29    | 170.1                                   |
| 1954 | 1419            | 371           | 1790  | 35     | 3             | 38    | 222.2                                   |



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

### Water Supply and Sewerage.

Throughout the year, at regular intervals, samples have been collected from the various water supplies in the County for bacteriological examination. Copies of the reports are forwarded to me by the Public Health Laboratory Service. With few exceptions, these have been most satisfactory, but it has been necessary in a few instances to investigate the reason for a piped supply not being up to the requisite standard. Defective mains or inadequate supervision of chlorination is more often than not the cause for an unsatisfactory bacteriological report. The independent sampling of water supplies ensures unbiased information and a more stringent supervision of the supply.

The County Sanitary Officer reports as follows:

" **Water Supply and Sewerage.**—An adequate supply of pure water and the safe removal of waste products are the basis and the essentials of public health.

" Some progress has been made during the year under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Acts, 1944-51, in providing a piped supply of water to many districts which previously were without a supply.

" All the County District Councils are very much alive to their duty to provide schemes that will serve the entire needs of their districts.

" They are, however, finding that the financial burdens imposed by such schemes are becoming excessive. This is particularly evident in the truly rural areas, where taking supplies to sparsely populated areas is always expensive and the income derived can never be commensurate with the outlay. The grants made by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the County Council are of assistance to the County District Councils. It is, however, found that as the programme of new works proceeds, the accumulated cost of each successive scheme adds to the rate-burden of the Local Authority, which must be reflected in the rate to be levied. The question which naturally arises—when will the rate-point of saturation be reached? Before or after the completion of all schemes?. The needs of every village and hamlet are identical and they must be respected and met by providing the essentials to healthy living and the well-being of the people. This may make it necessary for the Ministry and County Council to review their grants to the rural authorities in the not too distant future.



"The following new works have been put in hand during the year:

"Aled Rural District Council.—The scheme based on Llyn Bran, which is situated on the Bylchau - Pentrefoelas road, to supply the parishes of Bylchau, Llansannan, Llannefydd and Nantglyn, is nearing completion. The Council have decided to proceed with further extensions of the scheme and approval has been given to proceed with the first part of that contract."

"Graig - Glan Conway.—The County Council have approved a water scheme to serve Graig and district in the Parish of Llan santffraid Glan Conway, at an estimated cost of £3,743. It is proposed to take a supply from the Conway and Colwyn Bay Joint Water Supply Board by making a new connection to their trunk main and from a ring distribution main. The demand for water in this area is considerable.

"Ruthin Rural District Council.—The scheme to provide a mains supply for parts of the parishes of Llanfair D.C. and Llanellidan has been completed at a cost of £25,534.

"The Council have also completed all works on the borehole and pumping station in the Parish of Llanynys. Their work in bringing into use an existing borehole will considerably increase the quantity of water available for distribution from the network of mains at present supplied by the Clywedog and Nantyre sources. It will also make it possible for extensions to be made from the existing mains to other parts of their district. The total cost of the borehole and pumping station was £12,400.

"Proposed new schemes of water supply have been approved and the Rural Council have now gone to tender for:

- (1) Llanferres - Llanarmon - Llandegla - Bryneglwys—estimated cost, £26,000;
- (2) Wern - Aberwheeler, and new storage reservoir above Llangwyfan Hospital—£40,141;
- (3) Meifod - Gyffylliog - Llanynys—£20,446.

"**Schemes of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**—Aled Rural District Council.—A new sewerage scheme has been installed at Llanfairtalhaiarn at a cost of £7,466.

"The following schemes have been approved during the year:



Betws-yn-Rhos (amended scheme)... £2,785

Llanefydd ..... £4,164

“Ruthin Rural District Council.—The new scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal designed to serve the village of Llanferres has been completed at a cost of £8,104.

“The joint scheme to serve the villages of Rhewl and Gellifor is nearing completion. The estimated cost of the scheme was £29,211.”

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

The following laboratories undertake a variety of examinations for the County Council:

The Pathological Laboratory, Maelor General Hospital;

Public Health Service Bacteriological Laboratory, Conway;

The Pathological Laboratory, Chester Royal Infirmary.

### **Food and Drugs Act.**

Analyses are also undertaken by Mr. F. A. Lowe, County Analyst, Chester.

## PART V

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# Food Control

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The District Medical Officers of Health have taken a lively interest in all matters concerning the supply of clean, wholesome food to the public. In some measure the Food and Drugs Amendment Act, 1954, has clarified and strengthened the law dealing with the preparation, storage and sale of food and drugs containing ingredients which might be injurious to health. With the passing of the Slaughterhouses Act, the responsibility for meat inspection at slaughterhouses has been returned to local authorities. This has entailed a considerable increase in the work of Sanitary Inspectors, who are to be commended for tackling these duties with such zeal.

The Local Education Authority is responsible for the preparation of more meals than any other establishment in the County. During the past year every canteen has been inspected by a School Medical Officer, who was frequently accompanied by a Sanitary Inspector. Lectures on food hygiene have been given by Medical Officers and every member of the canteen staff has been medically examined during the past year.

The Milk in Schools Scheme has been carefully supervised in accordance with the Ministry of Education instructions. All milk supplies were inspected before a tender was accepted and, throughout the year, samples of milk were taken for laboratory examination, all of which proved satisfactory.

### **Milk Supply.**

With each passing year, the position regarding milk production in Denbighshire appears to be improving. It is pleasing to know that every milk producing farm in the County has been thoroughly inspected, that reports have been considered and that action for improving the milk supply has been taken. While appreciable progress has been made, there is yet ample room for improvement. The majority of milk producers maintain a good standard of cleanliness, but a few, even of the designated producers, hardly have a conception of the elementary principles of cleanliness. Ministry of Agriculture pamphlets give simple, clear and concise instructions on clean milk production and these



are further reinforced by advisory visits from specialist members of the staff, yet little improvement results and in a short time their methods gravitate to the old low level. Fortunately, the attitude of the Milk Sub-Committee in Denbighshire is hardening to persistent offenders and in due course the general standard will be raised appreciably.

The County Sanitary Officer has been intimately concerned with the milk supplied in the County, and he reports on his work as follows:—

**“ Pasteurising Plants.**—The County Council have granted to seven dealers Pasteuriser's Licence, but one plant has been idle for part of the year.

“ During the year 330 samples were taken by the Department and sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination; all were reported satisfactory and conformed with the prescribed tests as set out in the regulations.

“ Samples were also taken to test the efficiency of the mechanical bottle washing plants and the Laboratory reports were highly satisfactory. There has been a marked improvement in the proper running and maintenance of plants during the past year. The operatives are becoming more skilled and the effects of a long and constant educational policy by the supervising authority is now bearing fruit.

“ Unfortunately, we have not yet reached the stage when all empty milk bottles are returned to the dairies clean and properly rinsed. In some instances it has been necessary to destroy returned bottles because they could not be properly sterilised. It is therefore necessary that the mechanical washing plants are kept under close supervision.

“ Tests are carried out at regular periods on all plant in the processing dairies and the indicating and recording thermometers periodically checked.

**“ Milk in Schools Scheme.**—Regular sampling is carried out of milk supplied under the Milk in Schools Scheme and all laboratory reports were satisfactory.

**“ Biological Examination of Milk.**—During the year composite samples of milk were taken from 682 herds for biological examination. It is gratifying to report that no sample showed any evidence of tuberculosis.



"The Laboratory reports, however, showed that the milk of 17 herds was infected with brucella abortus. The majority of the herds affected were included in the Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme. One case only of brucellosis in humans was brought to the notice of the County Medical Officer and the milk supply, on examination, was found to be infected. All infected milk was diverted for pasteurisation.

"Brucellosis in man and in animals is not a notifiable disease, therefore full information on its extent is not available. Compulsory notification would be an important factor in the control and possible elimination of the disease in man.

"**Specified Areas.**—The Ministry of Food made an Order declaring the North Wales coast district a Specified Area under the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, and became operative on 1st April, 1954. The areas in the County affected by the Order are the Borough of Colwyn Bay and the Urban District of Abergel.

"It was found necessary at the outset to take firm action so as to enforce the provisions of the Order.

"The Order has now been accepted by all, both retailer and consumer, as a necessity and is working smoothly. It has not been necessary to take any statutory action.

#### "Clinical Examination of Dairy Cattle.—

|   | No. of<br>Herd<br>Inspections | No. of<br>Cattle<br>Examined |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) Tuberculin Tested .....   | 1038                          | 42829                        |
| Accredited and Standard Herds .....   | 212                           | 5680                         |
| Non-designated Herds .....  | 1499                          | 15599                        |
| (b) Tuberculin Testing of Herds Licensed to produce Tuberculin Tested and Certified Milk. |                               |                              |
| No. of Cattle Tested .....  |                               | 42829                        |
| No. of Reactors .....   |                               | 70                           |
| (c) Tuberculous Milk Veterinary Investigations  |                               |                              |
| No. of initial reports from Medical Officer of Health .....                               |                               | —                            |
| No. of cases of tuberculosis of the Udder .....   |                               | —                            |
| No. of investigations not yet complete .....  |                               | —                            |
| <b>Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme 1950.</b>   |                               |                              |
| No. of Attested Herds .....   |                               | 2231                         |
| No. of Supervised Herds .....   |                               | 123                          |



## **Anthrax.**

Towards the end of 1954 several cows in the Wrexham district were notified as having died of anthrax, and this necessitated a careful supervision of the milk. In dealing with each outbreak, the District Medical Officers of Health and myself worked together closely, which was just as well, for the legislation dealing with this disease is ambiguous with regard to the authority responsible for various essential procedures.

As soon as a suspected case was reported, the District Medical Officer prohibited any milk being sold from the farm until the Anthrax Order was removed unless the milk could be sterilised—pasteurisation does not kill the spores. Within a period of 4-6 weeks, 19 cases of anthrax were notified, and of these five cases were confirmed. While this worried the veterinary surgeons, it was also troublesome to the Health Department, for the financial implications were considerable, because it was necessary to consider the entire herd suspect and many of these cases were large producers. Due to stormy weather, many branches of yew trees broke off and fell in fields, to be eaten by cows, causing death from yew tree poisoning. Strangely, only one animal died from anthrax on each farm, with one exception where evidence suggested that two had died but unfortunately the first had been sent to the knacker's yard. The second had definitely died from anthrax but only the hide of a cow which had died the week previously remained. This hide and other contaminated hides were destroyed. Despite careful investigation, no evidence could be found to suggest the source of this outbreak. Furthermore, there is scanty evidence to suggest that the disease had been transmitted by milk; yet it was considered advisable to stop the sale of all suspect milk.

At this time, one clinically diagnosed case of human anthrax, but not supported by pathological investigations, was under treatment at the Wrexham Isolation Hospital. This responded to antibiotics. A small abrasion may have been infected from mixing a bone meal for animals on the farm. Unfortunately, due to early antibiotic treatment, the clinical evidence could not be substantiated by the laboratory.

## **Undulant Fever.**

The disease, caused by *brucella abortus*, is commonly a disease of cattle, but can be transmitted to humans. It is estimated that a fairly high percentage of herds in this country are infected with this disease. At certain stages of the disease, cows excrete the *brucella abortus* in large numbers in the milk, which, if drunk raw, can then infect humans.

Two cases were brought to my notice and the milk suppliers were carefully investigated. In one instance, the milk supplier was a retail producer and until negative biological reports were obtained it was necessary for the milk to be pasteurised. The attitude of this producer seemed to lack a sense of responsibility to the consumer, for, as soon as possible, he reverted to selling his own raw tuberculin tested milk.

This milk-borne disease can be destroyed by pasteurisation and although the known incidence of the disease is not high, undoubtedly many cases labelled rheumatism are suffering from this disease, which can be present in many varying forms and degrees of severity. Chronic invalidism can result from this infection and as yet it is uncertain whether any of the antibiotics can completely eradicate the disease. Pasteurisation and the gradual eradication of the disease from the herds can remove the risk of infection to humans.

#### **Adulteration of Food and Drugs.**

The County Council's duties in connection with sampling under the Food and Drugs Acts, 1938-50, are undertaken by the staff of the Weights and Measures Department.

During the year under review 508 samples were analysed by the Public Analyst, the particulars being as follows:



TABLE XXXVII

| Article.           | No. obtained. | No. certified as adulterated or sub-standard. | Article.              | No. obtained. | No. certified as adulterated or sub-standard. |
|--------------------|---------------|---|-----------------------|---------------|---|
| Milk:              |               |   | Pickled Onions ...    | 1             | —   |
| Retail .....       | 324           | 45  | Dried Mint .....      | 1             | —   |
| On Delivery ...    | 4             | 2   | Sugar .....           | 2             | —   |
| Appeal to Cow      | 2             | —   | Sweets .....          | 4             | —   |
| Butter .....       | 15            | —   | Jam .....             | 13            | 2   |
| Margarine .....    | 4             | —   | Marmalade .....       | 1             | —   |
| Cooking Fat .....  | 2             | —   | Honey .....           | 1             | —   |
| Lard .....         | 1             | —   | Condensed Milk .      | 4             | —   |
| Cheese .....       | 2             | —   | Ice Cream .....       | 22            | 2   |
| Baking Powder ...  | 2             | —   | Fresh Cream .....     | 5             | —   |
| Bread .....        | 2             | —   | Salad Cream .....     | 3             | —   |
| Flour .....        | 2             | —   | Coffee .....          | 2             | —   |
| Buns .....         | 1             | —   | Cocoa .....           | 2             | —   |
| Cakes .....        | 1             | —   | Tea .....             | 1             | —   |
| Sponge Mixture ... | 2             | 2   | Soft Drink .....      | 1             | —   |
| Custard Powder ... | 1             | —   | Lemon Crystals ...    | 1             | —   |
| Blanc Mange        |               |   | Lemonade .....        | 1             | —   |
| Powder             | 1             | —   | Orange Squash ....    | 1             | —   |
| Table Jelly .....  | 1             | —   | Beer .....            | 5             | —   |
| Oatmeal .....      | 1             | —   | Brandy .....          | 2             | 1   |
| Pearl Barley ..... | 2             | 2   | Rum .....             | 1             | —   |
| Sago .....         | 1             | 1   | Whisky .....          | 2             | —   |
| Rice .....         | 2             | —   | Gin .....             | 3             | —   |
| Plum Pudding ...   | 1             | —   | Port Wine .....       | 1             | —   |
| Mincemeat .....    | 1             | —   | Wine (Port type)      | 1             | —   |
| Mixed Vegetables . | 1             | —   | Saccharin Tablets     | 1             | —   |
| Tinned Carrots ... | 1             | —   | Calomel Tablets ....  | 1             | —   |
| Tinned Peas .....  | 2             | —   | Bicarb. of Soda ...   | 1             | —   |
| Tinned Beans ..... | 1             | —   | Pure Borax .....      | 1             | —   |
| Tinned Tomatoes .  | 1             | —   | Aspirin .....         | 1             | —   |
| Tinned Fish .....  | 2             | —   | Gripe Mixture .....   | 1             | —   |
| Fish Paste .....   | 2             | —   | Sweet Spirit of Nitre | 1             | —   |
| Potted Salmon .... | 1             | —   | Amm. Tinc. of         |               |   |
| Meat Paste .....   | 2             | —   | Quinine               | 1             | —   |
| Luncheon Meat ...  | 3             | —   | Olive Oil .....       | 1             | —   |
| Sausage .....      | 14            | 3   | Cream of Tartar ...   | 1             | —   |
| Suet .....         | 1             | —   | Hyd'gen Peroxide .    | 1             | —   |
| Vinegar .....      | 4             | —   | Tinc. of Iodine ..... | 1             | —   |
| Pepper .....       | 2             | —   | Camphorated Oil ...   | 1             | —   |
| Mustard .....      | 2             | —   |                       |               |   |
| Totals .....       | 414           | 55  | Totals .....          | 94            | 5   |

## PART VI

### Miscellaneous

#### REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

(Sections 187 to 194 of the Public Health Act, 1936).

TABLE XXXVIII

|  | Number of<br>Homes. | Number of beds provided for |         |        |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------|--------|
|  |                     | Maternity.                  | Others. | Total. |
| Homes first registered<br>during the year .....                | —                   | —                           | —       | —      |
| Total Homes on the<br>register at the end<br>of the year ..... | 5                   | 4                           | 66      | 70     |

These Homes were regularly inspected by the Superintendent Nursing Officer, who reports that the standard in each one is satisfactory.

#### STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Medical Officers from the Health Department have examined all new entrants to the staff of the County Council and during 1954 the number of such medical examinations totalled 328. In addition, members of the staff absent for prolonged periods owing to sickness have been examined by myself.



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