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Contributors

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DOLGELLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

For the Year 1952

Medical Officer of Health:

EVAN RICHARDS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor:

FFRANGCON EVANS, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.



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DOLGELLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Rees and Gentlemen,

The following is the Health Report for the year ended 31st December 1952.

Dr. W. F. Gapper acted as District Medical Officer of Health during the period after Dr. Evan Williams left until I took up the post on the 1st January, 1953, and I wish to thank him for his kind assistance.

The Registrar General's mid-year estimate showed a population of 2,508 a fall of 27 as opposed to 169 in the previous year. The total of live births for the year was 29 and the number of deaths was 28.

There was only one new case of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) notified during the year—namely one of poliomyelitis, and the general health of the community was good.

The length and success of treatment, and the prevention of spread of tuberculosis depend on early diagnosis. In this connection it is encouraging to note that a greater number of adults availed themselves of the Mass Radiography Service. The numbers can still not be regarded as satisfactory however and publicity must not be abated.

There were no reported cases of food poisoning during the year. In view of the general increase in disease from faulty food handling techniques coupled with the increase in communal feeding the Council should consider the advisability of instituting a clean food campaign.

Housing still presents a formidable problem and a very serious limiting factor is the shortage of suitable sites in the District. The very great cost of new building makes it necessary for the Council to consider the acquisition and rehabilitation of old property. This has been done successfully on a large scale in the Croydon Experiment where old property was bought and brought up to standard and let at a reasonable rent. The Council has done this already in one case, and

an extension of this method would provide an useful adjunct to the building programme.

I wish to thank Mr. Ffrangcon Evans for his co-operation in the compilation of this report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

EVAN RICHARDS,

District Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Urban District in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,127
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£11,603
Population (Registrar General's figures)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,508
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£41 18 0
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books) at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	...	745

Comparability Factors:

Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.16
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.96

VITAL STATISTICS

Nett Births (Live and Still)	...	...	...	...	...	30
Births (Live)	...	...	...	...	...	29
Births (Still)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...	...	11.56

Live Births:

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Total	...	24	5
Legitimate	...	24	5
Illegitimate	...	—	—

Illegitimate Birth Rate (Percentage of Total Live Births) ... Nil.

Deaths:

Total Number	...	...	...	...	...	28
<i>Males</i>						
13						
<i>Females</i>						
15						
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	11.16
1951 figures	...	...	...	...	...	16.57

Deaths of Infants under One Year:

Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
<i>Males</i>							
<i>Females</i>							
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Infant Mortality (Rate per 1,000 Live Births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
1951 figures	...	...	...	...	...	...	64.52
Deaths of Legitimate Infants Mortality (per 1,000 Live Births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths of Illegitimate Infants Mortality (per 1,000 Live Births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Deaths of Infants under 4 Weeks:

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Total	Nil.	Nil.
Legitimate	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—

Maternal Mortality:

Deaths connected with childbirth and pregnancy Nil.

Deaths from Cancer:

Total	6
Rate per 1,000 population	2.39

Deaths from Tuberculosis:

Total	2
Rate per 1,000 population	0.80

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(1) Public Health Officers of the Authority:

One Medical Officer of Health.

One Sanitary Inspector—holding appointment of Sanitary Inspector-Surveyor.

(2) Laboratory Facilities:

Water analysis (Chemical) carried out by the Public Analyst, Chester.

Water (Bacteriological) carried out by the Public Health Laboratory.

Milk (tests for cleanliness, for keeping quality and for tuberculosis). Carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Aberystwyth. No charge is made on the Local Authority for these later tests.

(3) Ambulance Facilities:

3 Ambulances stationed in the Urban area.

(4) Infant Welfare Clinics:

Held twice monthly at the Wesleyan Chapel Vestry.

(5) **Ante Natal Clinics.**

Held at the Cottage Hospital, Dolgelley twice monthly.

(6) **Orthopaedic Clinic.**

Held twice a month at the Cottage Hospital.

(7) **Tuberculosis Clinic. ...**

Held at the Cottage Hospital twice monthly.

(8) **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

Arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health, Immunisation of babies and young children carried out at the Infants' School.

(9) **Hospitals.**

One fully equipped Cottage Hospital.

(10) **Infectious Diseases.**

Total number of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)									
notified during the year									1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Bacillary Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Infantile Paralysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases:

Pulmonary:	Total—3.	
	Males—2	Females—1
Non-Pulmonary:	Total—Nil.	
	Males —	Females —

Tuberculosis Deaths:

Pulmonary:	Total—2.	
	Males—1	Females—1
Non-Pulmonary:	Total—Nil.	
	Males —	Females —

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1952 in age groups.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
2								
5								
10								
15								
20	1					1		
25	1	1						
35								
45					1			
55								
65								
75								

Causes of Death 1952:

	M	F
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Cancer Stomach	1	2
„ Lung	—	—
„ Breast	—	1
„ Other Sites	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	5
Coronary disease, angina	1	2
Hypertension with heart disease	—	—
Other heart diseases	4	1
Other circulatory disease	—	1
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—
Bronchitis	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	—
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All other accidents	1	—
Suicide	—	—
	13	15

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was found necessary during 1952.

GENERAL

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the Urban area. The total number of persons X-rayed being 608, made up as follows:—

<i>under 15 years</i>		<i>over 15 years</i>		<i>Total</i>	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
99	160	162	187	261	347

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

I have the honour of submitting this my fifth Annual Report.

HOUSING

During 1952, 20 houses were completed and occupied on the Froheulog Estate. Two houses built under licence were also completed and occupied during the year.

The Council purchased 1 Sarn Road, and before letting, improved the premises by providing a bathroom, inside watercloset and a hotwater system. I suggest that the Council should consider as a policy the purchasing of properties as they become vacant to supplement their housing programme.

A licence was issued for the sum of £1,750 for reconditioning and extension of an existing private dwelling house. This work has now been completed.

Particulars of other action taken are given below:—

Defects or nuisances found	96 (premises)
Number abated	70

(A number of those unabated were defects in connection with water services and they have since been dealt with).

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal notices	3
--	---

Proceedings under Public Health Act.

Statutory notices served	2
Complied with	2

Proceedings under Housing Acts:

No. of properties regarding which notices of Time and Place under Sec. 11 were served ...	12
No. where a voluntary undertaking not to use as a dwelling was accepted	9
No. where an undertaking to recondition and relet accepted	3
No. of applications for a grant under Sec. 20, Housing Act, 1949	2
No. of houses regarding which grants were agreed	Nil.

Housing Management:

General maintenance work has been carried out on all the Council Estates during the past year and the engagement of a full-time craftsman to do joinery and painting should be an improvement.

I have to draw attention to the special report on Housing Management in relation to the Exchanges of Tenancies and the keeping of lodgers submitted to the Council in March 1952. The Circular issued by the Ministry was commented upon and recommendations made. The Council were asked to consider giving publicity to the matters contained in the Circular and to encourage applications for transfer. It was mentioned that they need not commit themselves but consider each case on its merit. It was suggested that private landlords in the town be asked to co-operate.

Following this report a circular letter was sent to all tenants of Council houses stating that the Council were prepared to consider exchanges as between their own tenants, and also between their tenants and tenants of other local authorities or private landlords. The letter also stated that tenants should apply to the Council in writing if they desired to take in lodgers.

Since then the Council have considered and allowed transfers which have benefited the tenants concerned, allowed accommodation to be in fuller use and reduced the number of applicants for Council houses.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 58.

The property known as Victoria Buildings mentioned in the Annual Report for 1951 is now being reconditioned and satisfactory progress maintained.

Public Cleansing:

All figures under this heading refer to the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1953.

Refuse Collection and Disposal:

The Council continues to make twice weekly collections of household refuse from most dwellinghouses within the area. Tipping was continued at the site on Tallylyn Road, and although attempts were made to control the area I have again to draw the attention of the Council to the desirability of discontinuing tipping on this site and obtain a more suitable one where the tipping could be under control and the resulting area brought into use.

The Bin Service is still available to the general public and at the end of the year there were 150 householders in the scheme, with a total of 180 bins issued.

Salvage:

Salvage collection has been maintained and although the price per ton received for waste paper was considerably less than the previous year it was considered advisable to continue collection for the time being. In addition to waste paper scrap iron and lead were also salvaged.

The cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal including Salvage for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1953, was made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Materials, Rents, etc.	87	18	4
Labour	589	6	0
Lorry Account	143	10	5
	820	14	9
Salvage Income	236	9	10
Nett Cost	584	4	11

The decrease in Salvage Income and the increase in wages over the year are reflected in the final cost.

The cost of the service per 1,000 population being £233/14/0 as compared with £92/9/7 for the previous year. The cost as rate in the £ was 13.4d. as compared with 5.6d. the previous year.

Street Cleansing:

The service included sweeping and gulley cleansing on unclassified roads.

Cost of the service for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1953 amounted to £180/11/3.

Public Conveniences:

The Cae Marian Park Conveniences and the one by the County Hall have been maintained and cleansed daily. Some members of the public do not appreciate this service and the premises have been abused from time to time. Cost for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1953.

	£	s.	d.
Materials	51	2	2
Labour	71	9	6
Total maintenance cost	122	11	8
Income	110	9	3

Disinfection and Disinfestation:

Total No. of houses disinfected ... Nil.

Total No. of houses treated for vermin ... 3

Bedding was collected and destroyed at the request of owners, and in one instance compensation was paid.

Sewerage:

Complaints were received during the year regarding sewage backing up into property in the Arran Road area. This was due to the surcharging of the sewer during storms, and occurred only twice during the twelve months.

The culvert in Maesmawr originally used as the Council's Outfall Sewer was piped a distance of 100 yards, thus eliminating any likely nuisance in the future.

The sewer on the North side of the town was extended to take in the drainage from the new house erected at Cae'r Efail at a cost of £158, the owner to bear a reasonable share of the cost.

Meat and Other Food Inspection:

Slaughtering was continued at the Arran Road Slaughterhouse in the occupation of the Ministry of Food. At the time of writing the premises have again closed down for alterations and it is hoped to have it reopened in approximately four months time.

It is to be regretted that complaints were received during the past year from adjoining tenants regarding nuisances from rat infestation and from unsound meat being retained on the premises for long periods. These matters were reported to the appropriate authorities and eventually dealt with.

Casualties continued to be received at the slaughterhouse and this together with periods of heavy killing necessitated attendance during hours outside normal office hours.

The figures relating to meat and other food inspection are given below:—

Carcases, Part Carcases and Organs Condemned:

	<i>Beasts</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Total</i>
Carcases including all organs	12	9	11	—	32
Heads	16	—	—	6	22
Lungs	11	—	—	—	11

Livers	...	...	...	...	35	—	6	—	41
Hearts	...	...	...	...	7	—	—	—	7
Kidneys	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	2
Intestines	...	...	...	...	3	—	—	—	3
Brisket	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	2
Plucks	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	2	2
Leg	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	1
Part hindquarter	...	...	...	...	1 (45lbs)	—	—	—	1

Carcases Inspected and Condemned:

					<i>Cattle</i> <i>excluding</i>		<i>Sheep and</i>		
					<i>Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	...	...	...	...	117	350	31	3486	174
Number inspected	...	...	...	...	117	350	31	3486	174

All Diseases except Tuberculosis:

Whole carcasses condemned	...	12	—	9	11	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	17	30	3	6	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	...	24.8	8.6	38.7	0.5	1.7

Tuberculosis only:

Whole carcasses condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	4	—	—	—	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	3.4	—	—	—	2.9

Diseases:

	<i>Beasts</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis	...	4	—	5	9
Cirrhosis	...	20	6	—	26
Angioma	...	5	—	—	5
Fevered	...	2	2	1	5
Emaciation	...	1	8	—	9
Abcesses	...	6	2	1	9
Cysts	...	2	1	1	4
Extensive Bruising	...	3	—	1	4
Dropsy	...	3	2	—	5

Joint Ill	...	...	...	...	—	2	—	—	2
Septic Metritis	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	2
Inflammation	...	...	...	...	7	—	—	1	8
Immaturity	...	...	...	...	—	3	—	—	3
Cloudy Swelling	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
Septic Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	2
Moribund	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	1
Actinomycosis	...	...	...	...	4	—	—	—	4
Necrosis	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
Bone Taint	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1

Other foodstuffs surrendered as being unfit for human consumption included the following:—

82 tins Fruit	21 tins Fish
37 lbs. Fruit	1 Box Fish
52 tins Soup	16 tins Baby Food
47 tins Vegetables	11 tins Salmon
56 lbs. Vegetables	11 tins Ham
32 tins Milk	6 tins Steak
30 tins Peas	8 lbs. Sausages
26 tins Meat	216 Savoury Ducks
18 lbs. Meat	27 lbs. Breakfast Fry
24 tins Tomatoes	10 jars Pickled Onions
8 lbs. Tomatoes	9 Cauliflowers

Food thus surrendered was removed for destruction.

All food shops in the area were inspected during the year. Shopkeepers generally observed the conditions laid down in the byelaws for handling, wrapping and delivery of food. Informal action had to be taken and offenders warned where food was exposed to contamination in a shop and in course of delivery.

Notices regarding exclusion of dogs from food premises were issued to all food shops and the notices were displayed without exception.

Water Supply:

The water supply to the town continues to be sufficient and satisfactory.

A detailed report was prepared in March 1952, on the condition of the water undertaking and upon the work required to put the undertaking in order. The work is being carried out by direct labour and premises on the outskirts previously receiving intermittent supply are now adequately provided for.

Sampling:

The results of sampling are shown below:—

No.	Date	Sample taken at	<i>B. Coli</i> per 100 ml.	<i>Faecal Coli</i> , per cent
1.	9/6/52	Llwyn View	900	250
2.	26/8/52	Llyn Cynweh	8	2
3.	3/9/52	Llwyn View	50	25
4.	17/11/52	Town's Main	4	0

The private supply at Llwyn View found unsatisfactory was not used after the results of the samples were made known. A chlorinating plant has since been provided, the premises in the meantime were supplied from the town's main.

Milk Supply:

Dealers licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	1
Persons registered as Milk Distributors	2

Ice Cream Premises:

No. of manufacturing retailers registered	3
No. of other retailers registered	2
No. of new applications (sale only)	1

Although three retailers are registered as manufacturers they do not now manufacture ice cream.

Shops Act, 1950:

The Council accepted delegation from the County Council under the Shops Act concerning the inspection of shops re washing facilities, etc.

Rodent Control:

The joint scheme of rodent control under which a full-time Rodent Officer was appointed to cover the areas of the Dolgelley Urban and Rural Councils and the Barmouth Urban Council has been very satisfactory.

No. of dwellinghouses inspected during the year ...	133
No. of dwellinghouses treated	55
No. of Council premises inspected	24
No. of Council premises treated	17
No. of Farm inspections	14
No. of Farm treatments	7
No. of business premises inspected	123
No. of business premises treated	62

Factories:

52 premises are registered within the Urban area under Factories Act.

No. inspected re Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	12
No. inspected re General Cleanliness	...	...	14
No. inspected re Means of Escape in case of Fire			2
Defects found	...	...	8
Remedied	...	...	8

Civil Building:

No applications were received during the year for licences to build private dwellings. No doubt the difficulty in finding suitable sites accounted for this.

Licences were issued for alterations to dwellinghouses and supplementary to licences for new houses in course of erection. The total cost of this work amounted to £4,147.

In concluding my report I wish to thank the Council for their continued confidence and the other officers for their valued co-operation.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

FF. EVANS,

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.



