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Contributors

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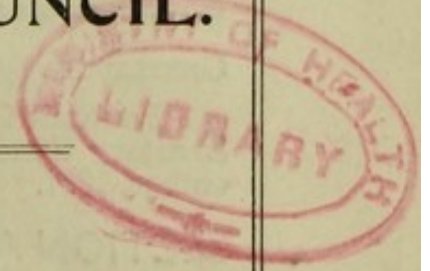
A. 1.

EDEYRNION
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
FOR THE
YEAR 1937.

CORWEN :

Printed by Ernest Whitaker, "Adsain" Office, Corwen.



Edeyrnion Rural District Council

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1937.

GENTLEMEN,

I submit for your consideration my report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

SECTION A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of the District in Acres.....	43,449
Estimated Population.....	4,365
Inhabited Houses.....	1,340
Rateable Value.....	£20,176
Product of a Penny Rate.....	£78 2s 4d

No changes have occurred in the boundaries of the district, which is entirely rural. Agriculture is the chief industry with the addition of the three quarries. The Social Conditions therefore, remain stationary, and Unemployment is still very rife in the district.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The rates are per 1,000 population unless otherwise stated.

General Death Rate from all causes	14.20
Total Tuberculosis Death Rate46
Total Phthisis Death Rate46
Cancer Death Rate	2.29
General Birth Rate	11.00
Legitimate Birth Rate	10.54
Illegitimate Birth Rate46
Still Birth Rate46
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	40.00
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Live Births	41.67
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 Live Births	Nil
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 Live and Still Births	Nil

Total Number of Births registered, 48—28 Males and 20 Females, which gives a General Birth Rate of 11.00 per 1,000 population. This a very low rate, the lowest with the exception of 1933 for the decennial period 1925-1935.

Total Legitimate Births ... 46 ...	27 Males and 19 Females.
Total Illegitimate Births ... 2 ...	1 Male and 1 Female.

Deaths registered, 62—28 Males and 34 Females, giving a Death Rate of 14.20. The rate for the whole County is 16.76.
 Infantile Deaths 2 ... 1 Male and 1 Female.

EXAMINATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

Cardiac Disease is responsible for 17 deaths.

Cancer is recorded in 10 cases.

Tuberculosis of Respiratory System, 2—1 male and 1 female.

CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO AGE.

Death under 1 year	1
Over 2 years and under 5 years of age ...	0
Over 1 year and under 2 years of age ...	1
Over 5 years and under 15 years of age ...	0
Over 15 years and under 25 years of age...	2
Over 25 years and under 45 years of age...	4
Over 45 years and under 65 years of age...	14
Over 65 years and upwards	40

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(1) Public Health Officers of the Authority:

(a) Part-time Medical Officer of Health.

(b) Sanitary Inspector.

(c) Veterinary Surgeon for consultation when required.

(2) (a) **Laboratory Facilities.**—Examination of Swabs, Analysis of Water are made by Evans' Biological Institute, by arrangement. Examination of Spuhum is arranged by the Welsh National Memorial Association.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**—There are no facilities provided for Non-Infectious diseases. This non-provision has frequently been pointed out and the district is very badly in need of such a provision.

The Wrexham Isolation Hospital provides this facility for infectious diseases.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**—Home nursing is provided by two Nursing Associations, which are supported by voluntary subscriptions, aided by County Council grants. Three nurses are engaged, but no nursing service is provided for infectious diseases.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics**—Arrangements are made for ante-natal examination and consultation with Dr Wigley, Obstretic Specialist, through County M.O.H.

A Child Welfare Centre is held once a month in Corwen.

The County Council provides for Clinics for Ears, Eyes, and Tonsils.

Artificial Light. No provision.

Tubercular Dispensary. The County Tuberculosis Medical Officer attends at Corwen once a month.

(e) **Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.**—No arrangements have been made in the event of an outbreak of Small-pox. Fever cases which cannot be efficiently isolated in the home, are admitted to Wrexham Isolation Hospital. Sanatoria and Hospitals provided by the Welsh National Memorial Association receive Tuberculosis cases. Orthopaedic Treatment is maintained by the County Maternity and Child Welfare and the County Education Committee.

Homeless children are admitted to the Children's Home, Fronhyfryd, Corwen, but no provision is afforded to the unmarried mother apart from the Poor Law Institution.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supplies.

The town of Corwen and the villages of Glyndyfrdwy, Cynwyd, Carrog, Llandrillo and Cynfal are provided with service supplies. Part of the village of Gwyddelwern is provided with a piped supply.

CORWEN.—Corwen derives its supply from a mountain stream which is soon affected by a period of drought. An impounding reservoir was constructed in 1926 to provide sufficient storage in times of drought. After the completion of the works, the town was no better off owing to leakages in the dam and in 1935 very effective and satisfactory works were carried out to render the dam water-tight by means of Cementation process. Because of the continued drought of last year, extending from the end of May until the middle of October, the supply had to be turned off at night during the latter part of the autumn. The rainfall for the district during the year under review was just over half the ordinary rainfall.

GLYNDYFRDWY.—This village is provided with two separate supplies, one for each portion of the village. Both are derived from springs and the water collected into covered tanks. The supply known as Pig-y-Bont which supplies the major portion of the village ran low on several occasions during the year, although the storage accommodation had been increased by the construction of an additional tank in 1935. Upon inspecting the works, it was found that this tank was leaking and the spring to the collecting tank. A new collecting tank was constructed and all the pipes relaid from the gathering ground to the tank. The old service reservoir was also examined and rendered water-tight. It will be difficult to render the new storage tank water-tight as the walls are built of porous common bricks and the inside rendered in cement which is also porous. There was no necessity to construct this tank at all, as it was obvious that the cause of the shortage was the loss of the bulk of the water between the source and the service reservoir.

CYNWYD.—This village has a very good supply, and has been looked upon as the most reliable supply throughout the

district. But on one occasion during last summer, the service reservoir, which has a capacity of about 30,000 gallons, ran dry and the amount of water running into it was much below the normal flow. It transpired that certain works had been carried out at the source of supply a few years back for the purpose of increasing the supply. But, instead of preventing any loss of water, the works as carried out then, accounted for increased losses. In excavating the ground for puddling with clay around the collecting tank and the gathering ground, fresh outlets were provided for more water to run away. It was found necessary to excavate as deep as possible in front of the gathering ground and to construct a dam in hard bricks and cement upon a concrete foundation, as this was the only means of collecting all the water available. Since these works were completed, there has been a continuous overflow from the service reservoir.

CARROG.—This village derives its supply from various springs, which are collected into a tank, and hence from the collecting tank into a covered service reservoir. Several of these springs dry up during long periods of drought. In spite of an exceptionally long period of drought last year, the supply kept up exceeding well and the water had to be turned off at night for about a week only, at the end of September. The reservoir had been filled up again and the supply had become consistent before the weather had broken, which shows that there must be deliberate wastage of water at times.

CYNFAL.—This village is supplied with water from the Birkenhead Trunk Main.

LLANDRILLO.—The inhabitants of this village have suffered much inconvenience for several years from the lack of an efficient and reliable water supply. They had been provided with a piped supply which had been in existence for over 46 years. This comprised of a storage tank and a 2in. Galvanised Service Main, with 1½in. and 1in. Galvanised Pipes as branch lines. The 2in. main had become very badly corroded and at one time the Council considered the advisability of laying new mains and also of increasing the storage accommodation. A scheme was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health for their approval. An Inspector of the Ministry called at the Council Offices to enquire into the details of the scheme. Upon being notified that the output at the source of supply amounted only to 500 gallons per day during the dry summers of 1934 and 1935, the Inspector advised the Council to seek an alternative reliable supply. He was informed that an abundant supply was available at Blaendre Uchaf, Llandrillo, and he accompanied the Surveyor to the Council to inspect the new source of supply. He advised the Surveyor to have the supply gauged and analysed and if these were satisfactory, to prepare a Detailed Scheme for a supply from this source. This was evidently done and the scheme approved of by the Council. Owing to the difficulty to arrive at a satisfactory settlement with the owner of the land with regard to the water rights and way-leave, the scheme could not be forwarded to the

Ministry of Health for their approval during the year under review. The position at Llandrillo had become very serious at the beginning of November as there was hardly any water available at the old source of supply. I immediately reported the situation to the Council and advised them to proceed with the new scheme without any further delay. A copy of my report was forwarded to the Ministry of Health, accompanied by an application for permission to proceed with the work of laying new pipes from Blaendre Uchaf to the village. Permission was granted on the condition that favourable terms were obtained with regard to the water rights and way-leave. Having secured these concessions, the work was proceeded with with due haste, and the new supply was brought to the village within eight weeks from the time of the commencement of the works. The village is now provided with a supply which is abundant and reliable at all times.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

CORWEN.—The whole of the town of Corwen is effectively drained and sewered, and every house is practically connected with a sewer. The main sewers discharge into the river Dee. A new sewage Disposal Scheme has been prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer to deal with all the sewage of Corwen. This scheme has been adopted by the Council and submitted for the consideration and approval of the Ministry of Health.

CARROG.—This village is not sewered and most of the houses are efficiently drained, their drains discharging into cess-pools or septic tanks. One of these septic tanks was not functioning very satisfactorily during the year, and was a source of nuisance at times. This was due to its inability to deal with the quantity of effluent, which was far in excess to what it was capable of dealing with. The attention of the owners was called to this defect, and they have undertaken to enlarge the tank.

The villages of **CYNWYD** and **LLANDRILLO** are partly sewered, with effluents discharging direct into the river Dee. **Glyndyfrdwy** and **Gwyddelwern** are partly sewered, the sewers at the former discharging into septic tanks. The sewer at the latter discharges into a brook which runs outside the village.

The Council have considered schemes to provide efficient Disposal Works at all these villages, including **Llidiart-y-Parc**, which is at present partly sewered, and all the schemes will be carried out in due course.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Cases of pollution were reported during the year at **Cynwyd**, **Llandrillo**, and **Melinywig**, which was caused by the depositing of excrete into the rivers. Signs have been up prohibiting this practice, which is done at night time, and this makes it difficult to find who the guilty persons are. It was discovered that the pollution at **Melinywig** was caused through depositing the contents of the School Closets into the river, and the School Man-

agers have made arrangements since for the closets to be periodically emptied out and the contents properly buried and covered in a suitable pit.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Every house in Corwen is provided with a water closet which discharges into the town's sewers. The houses situated outside the town have their own drainage systems and most of them have water closets.

The closet accommodation at Carrog, Glyndyfrdwy, Llandrillo, and Cynwyd is partly water carriage and partly conservancy.

The accommodation at the other villages is mostly on the conservancy system, but there are a few houses at these villages and in other parts of the district which are provided with water closets discharging into cesspools and septic tanks.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A weekly collection of refuse is provided for the town of Corwen, which is disposed of by controlled tipping.

The villages of Cynwyd, Llandrillo, Gwyddelwern, Carrog and Glyndyfrdwy have a fortnightly collection of house refuse. The refuse at these places is also disposed of by controlled tipping except Gwyddelwern, where it is spread on the land outside the village.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The district is regularly inspected for the purpose of detecting Nuisances and whenever any defects are reported or discovered, the necessary procedure is taken to have them remedied with the least possible delay. The usual custom is to approach the owner or whoever the responsible party may be with a request to have the necessary work carried out to abate the nuisance or remedy the defect. This procedure has been found to be the most effective, but when any person fails to comply with such request or cannot be approached in person, an Informal Notice is sent to him. Should this procedure fail again, the matter is reported to the Council, and a Statutory Notice is served upon him. A tabular statement by the Sanitary Inspector is given elsewhere.

SHOPS.—No action was taken during the year under the provision of the Shops Act, 1934.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No action had to be taken for the abatement of Smoke, the district being practically agricultural, is never liable to nuisance from smoke.

ERADICATION OF BUGS.—No premises were found to be infested with bugs.

SCHOOLS.—The sanitary condition of all the schools is good. The schools at Corwen, Llandrillo, Cynwyd, Carrog, Gwyddelwern, Glyndyfrdwy and Melnywig, have a service supply of

water. The schools at Bettws Gwerfil Goch and Plas Adda are without a supply.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—There are 17 Registered Purveyors and 21 Producers of Milk in the district.

The cowsheds and dairies were periodically inspected and were on the average found quite satisfactory. Samples of milk were taken in conjunction with the Welsh Board of Health for the examination of T.T. Milk under the Milk (Special Degradation) Order, 1936. Samples were also taken at the request of the County Medical Officer of Health.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—The slaughter-houses are regularly visited and the carcasses inspected during slaughtering as far as is practical in a Rural District. The bulk of the slaughtering is done by butchers on the same days, and at practically the same time, and it is impossible for the Inspector to supervise them all. This difficulty can only be overcome by centralisation when all the meat slaughtered for human consumption could be thoroughly examined and inspected at a Public Slaughter-house or abattoir, before it is offered for sale to the public.

No samples of Food were taken as the County Council administer the Food and Drugs Act.

The bakehouses throughout the district were periodically inspected and all were found to be very clean and the walls regularly whitewashed.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

OVERCROWDING CONDITIONS.—Conditions as regard overcrowding remain the same, overcrowded families being unable to obtain suitable alternative accommodation owing to the shortage of working class dwellings throughout the district. The Council so far have failed to provide alternative accommodation in the form of new houses. They have, however, purchased Six New Dwelling Houses at Cynwyd, and these will be offered to families living in unfit houses, and most of these families are also overcrowded, so conditions at Cynwyd will eventually improve.

As previously reported, most of the overcrowded houses are amongst those classified either as Individual Unfit Houses or forming part of one of the Slum Clearance Areas.

The Council are now making good progress with their Rehousing Schemes and Schemes have been prepared for the erection of houses at Corwen, Carrog, Glyndyfrdwy, Cynwyd and Llandrillo.

(Signed)

D. R. EDWARDS,
Medical Officer of Health.

JUNE, 1938.