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Flintshire County Council.



REPORT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

ON THE

HEALTH

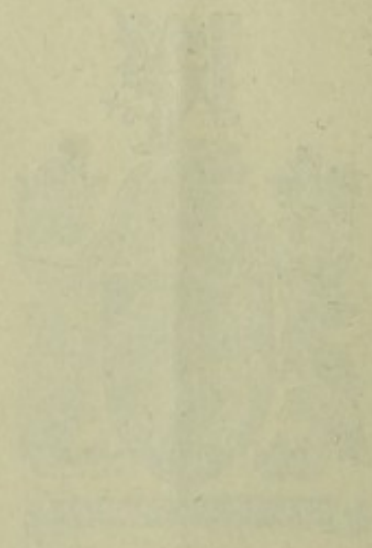
OF

FLINTSHIRE

DURING THE YEAR

1947.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER



REPORT

MEDICAL OFFICER

THE

REPORT

THE

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Flintshire County Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In submitting to you my seventh Annual Report on the health of Flintshire I gratefully acknowledge the assistance I have received from you as a Council, from your Administrative Officers, from the District Health Authorities and their Officers, and from my Departmental Staff.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. E. ROBERTS,

County Medical Officer.

County Health Offices,

MOLD, October, 1948,

ADMINISTRATION.

A.—DEPARTMENTAL STAFF.

County Medical Officer of Health : Aneurin Evan Roberts, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Liverp.).

Assistant Medical Officers : A. E. Gwladys Rowlands, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. ; G. Wynne Griffiths, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Left 31/10/47), T. Wynne Brindle, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. ; Betty J. McConnell, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch. (Left 30/9/48) ; Edna Pearse, M.B., Ch.B., P.H.Cert.

School Dental Surgeons : Peter Lunt, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.) ; W. B. Glynn Jones, L.D.S. ; Leslie E. Hanson, L.D.S. ; Betty E. Williams, B.Ch.D., L.D.S. One Dental Attendant assists each Dental Surgeon.

County Sanitary Inspector : Elwyn Lewis, Adv.Cert., R.San.Inst., etc. (Since 1/7/48).

Supervisor of Midwives : Mrs. Frances M. Williams, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., R.San.Inst.Cert.

Matron-Supt. of Mental Deficiency Institution :

Miss A. E. Fletcher, S.R.N., C.R.M.P.A., F.B.C.N.

Matrons of Maternity Homes : (Mancot) Miss Elizabeth Waring, S.C.M. (Retired 15/5/47) ; Miss E. B. O'Connor, S.R.N., S.C.M., S.R.F.N. (Began 1/5/47) ; (Prestatyn) Miss M. Newell, S.R.N., S.C.M.

District Health Visitors acting jointly as Health Visitors and School Nurses :

Buckley—Miss L. M. Eyes, T.N., S.C.M.

Caergwrle—Mrs. M. E. Pearse, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (1/1/47 to 9/5/48. Transferred to Hawarden 10/5/48). Miss M. Prince, S.R.N., H.V.Cert. (Since 10/5/48).

Caerwys—Mrs. M. Edwards (Retired 31/12/47. District re-arranged).

Connah's Quay—Mrs. Hampson (Died 28/3/48). Miss Elizabeth Jones (Temporary).

Flint—Mrs. M. M. Nield, S.R.N., S.C.M., Tb. Cert., H.V.Cert.

Hawarden—Miss M. A. Owen (from 1/1/47 to 7/6/47—resigned) ; Mrs. D. Thompson, C.M.B., H.V.Cert. (from 1/8/47 to 10/5/48) ; Mrs. M. E. Pearse (from 10/5/48).

Holywell—Miss A. M. Whitaker, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

Maelor—Mrs. M. P. Thomas, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

Mold—Mrs. J. Thomas, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

Northop—Miss A. Molloy, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

Prestatyn—Miss M. E. Roberts, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Rhyl—Miss M. Ayrton, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. ; Assistant, Mrs. D. Sheppard.

Saltney—Mrs. Thompson (since 10/5/48).

St. Asaph—Miss Freda S. Evans, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (since 10/5/48).

Infant Life Protection Visitors : The above-named Health Visitors and School Nurses, and the Supervisor of Midwives.

County Tuberculosis Visitors : Miss D. V. Gray, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., M.S.R., and Miss Gwenneth Jones, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

County Domiciliary Midwives : (Queensferry) Mrs. E. Barker ; (Flint) Mrs. D. E. Williams ; (Buckley) Mrs. A. M. Saunders ; (Connah's Quay) Mrs. J. E. Bennett ; (Saltney) Mrs. M. E. Gibson ; (Flint) Miss Ivy Leece ; (Shotton) Mrs. A. M. Jenkins.

Chief Clerk : William Davies, A.R.I.P.H.H. (Also Chief Clerk School Health Department).

Senior Clerks : William Ithel Roberts (County Health) ; Arthur Whitley (School Health).

B.—HEADQUARTERS.

County Health Offices, County Buildings, Mold.
Telephone : 106 Mold.

C.—ASSOCIATED OFFICERS.

Clerk to the County Council : Mr. W. Hugh Jones, County Offices, Mold.

County Surveyor : Mr. P. J. Maddicks, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., County Buildings, Mold (Since June, 1947) ; Deputy County Architect : Mr. W. Griffiths, L.R.I.B.A.

Supervising Officer under the Food and Drugs Act, &c. :

Mr. J. Fenlli Roberts, M.B.E. (Chief Constable), Police Headquarters, Mold. (Executive Officer since 1/7/48—Mr. E. Lewis, County Sanitary Inspector).

County Treasurer : Mr. R. J. Jones, County Offices, Mold.

Public Assistance Officer : Mr. Isaac Hughes (National Assistance Administrative Officer since 5/7/48), Holywell.

D.—PART-TIME OFFICERS.

(Directly Employed).

Obstetric Consultant (Honorary) to the Catherine Gladstone Maternity Home :
Mr. J. Gardiner Wigley.

Puerperal Fever and Obstetric, &c., Specialist (Fee-paid) : Mr. J. Gardiner Wigley.

Ophthalmic Consultants (Fee-paid) : Mr. E. F. Wilson, Chester, and Mr. Shuttleworth, Colwyn Bay.

Public Assistance (Institutional) Medical Officers (Salaried) : (Holywell) Dr. A. O. Jones ; (St. Asaph) Dr. A. H. Holmes.

Public Vaccinators (Fee-paid), also Public Assistance Medical Officers :

Drs. Herford, Buckley ; Wm. A. Hennessey, Marford ; J. G. Ll. Jones, Hawarden ; R. R. Dalling, Caergwrle ; I. P. Nelis, Mold ; L. M. E. Milne, Flint ; Jones and Morris, Holywell ; E. O. N. Armstrong, Prestatyn ; H. S. Bell, Prestatyn ; E. O. Lakey, Rhyl ; A. H. Holmes, St. Asaph ; W. M. Casper, Overton ; R. B. McColl, Hanmer.

Health Officers for the various Sanitary Districts.

District.	Medical Officer.*	Senior Sanitary Inspector. †
Buckley Urban	Dr. D. Fraser, Post Office House, Brunswick Road, Buckley	Mr. A. G. Watkin, Council Chambers, Buckley.
Connah's Quay Urban	Dr. H. H. Montgomery, Dee View, Church Street, Connah's Quay	Mr. Henry Jones, Council Offices, Connah's Quay.
Flint Municipal Borough	Dr. W. A. F. Twemlow, Ivy Bank, Flint	Mr. W. J. Avery, Council Offices, Flint.
Holywell Urban	Dr. C. E. Morris, Bodowen, Holywell	Mr. J. Topham, U. D. C. Offices, Holywell.
Mold Urban	Dr. I. Philippine Nelis, The Manse, Mold	Mr. George Horn, U. D. C. Offices, Mold.
Prestatyn Urban	Dr. J. Tudor Griffiths, Leaton, Prestatyn	Mr. I. W. Jones, Council Offices, Prestatyn.
Rhyl Urban	Dr. E. Hughes Jones, Council Offices, Rhyl	Mr. E. L. L. Jones, Council Offices, Rhyl.
Hawarden Rural	Dr. J. Llewellyn-Jones, Hafod, Station Road, Hawarden	Mr. M. Emlyn Thomas, Council Offices, Hawarden (No. 1 District); Mr. Watkin Williams, Hawarden Road, Abermordau (No. 2 District).
Holywell Rural	Dr. I. P. Nelis, The Manse, Mold	Mr. D. O. M. Jones, R. D. C. Offices, Holywell.
Overton Rural	Dr. W. M. Casper, Overton Hall, Ellesmere	Mr. R. L. Higgins, Willow Street, Overton.
St. Asaph Rural	Dr. A. H. Holmes, Angorfa, St. Asaph	Mr. R. P. Barlow, Council Offices, St. Asaph

* Part-time.

† Full-time.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE COUNTY.

1. AREA.

Comprising the land and the inland water while disregarding tidal water and foreshore the area of the County is 255.7 square miles, or 163,707 statutory acres, that of its separate geographical divisions being respectively : Main Division, 133,308 acres ; the Maelor Hundred, 29,749 acres ; the Civil Parish of Marford and Hosely, 650 acres.

2. POPULATION.

The population of the County, estimated as at mid-year, 1947, was 134,480, which is an increase of 2,610 on the previous year's figures.

3. FINANCIAL.

The product of a penny rate, computed for the County in respect of the year 1948-49, was £2,984.

4. SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

There is no important change to record under this head.

5. BIRTHS.

During the year under review, 3,574 births were registered as pertaining to the County, that total being made up as follows :—

Description.	Live.	Still.	Total.
Legitimate	3238	88	3326
Illegitimate	245	3	248
Totals	3483	91	3574

During the early years of the present century, the live birth-rate in the County of Flint and throughout the country generally was declining, but it rose in 1919 at the termination of World War I to approximately its former level of 25 per 1,000 population. From 1920 onward, however, it again declined and by 1932 had reached the low level of 14.2 per 1,000 population. Since 1932 there has been an appreciable upward trend, which became more evident during the years of World War II. By 1946, the live birth-rate had risen to 19.3 per 1,000 population, and in 1947 there was a very sharp rise to 25.9 per 1,000 population, which is considerably higher than the figure of 20.5 for England and Wales as a whole. In fact, the birth-rate in the County of Flint during the first quarter of 1947 was the highest in the country.

It is pleasing to record that the still-birth rate has at the same time fallen considerably. In 1945 it was 36.5 per 1,000 total births; in 1946 it was 34.2 per 1,000 total births; and in 1947 it fell to 26.0 per 1,000 total births.

The causes of still-births are many and often difficult to determine, but modern science continues to make great strides, and such discoveries as the effect of the Rh. Factor may enable us to save many young mothers great disappointment.

The proportion of illegitimate to legitimate births still remains high—69.3 per 1,000 total births.

6. DEATHS.

During the year under review, a total of 1,731 were ascribed to the County, representing a death rate of 12.1 per 1,000 population, which is slightly higher than the rate for England and Wales, namely 12.0.

Table 2 sets out the various causes of death.

It will be observed that, as in previous years, Heart Disease is responsible for the largest number of deaths—442 or 25.5 per cent. of the total deaths.

Next follow in order of incidence Cancer with 243 deaths or 14.0 per cent. of the total, Intracranial Vascular Lesions with 211 deaths or 12.2 per cent. of the total, while Tuberculosis (all forms) was responsible for 83 deaths, or 4.8 per cent. of the total. The following table shows the ages at which death occurred:—

Cause.	No. of Deaths.	Ages.				
		Under 15.	15-45.	45-65.	65+.	
Heart Disease ...	442	1	14	93	334	
Cancer ...	243	1	23	81	138	
Int. Vasc. Les. ...	211	0	3	49	159	
T.B. (all forms) ...	83	5	46	27	5	

INFECTIOUS DISEASE—There were no deaths from Typhoid Fever or Scarlet Fever. There were 5 deaths, however, from Whooping Cough, 1 death from Diphtheria, 3 from Measles, and 6 from Poliomyelitis.

Of the 5 deaths from Whooping Cough, 4 occurred in persons aged under 1 year, the fifth being a child of school age.

The 1 death from Diphtheria occurred in a person over 45 years of age.

The 3 deaths from Measles occurred in children aged under 5 years.

While of the 6 deaths from Poliomyelitis or Polioencephalitis (Infantile Paralysis), 1 occurred in a child between the ages of 1 and 5 years, 1 in a child between the ages of 5 and 15 years, 3 in persons between the ages of 15 and 45 years, and 1 occurred in a person over the age of 65 years.

INFANT DEATHS—166 deaths occurred in Infants under one year of age, giving an Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) of 47.7, which is greater than that for England and Wales, namely, 41. The principal causes of infantile deaths (as shown by the Registrar General) were:—

Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, etc.	...	...	61
Premature Births	...	...	34
Pneumonia	...	...	29
Diarrhoea	...	...	13

During the last 36 years, the Infant Mortality Rate has been reduced by more than 50 per cent.—in 1911 it stood at 108, in 1947 it is 47.7. This is a considerable achievement but it still leaves room for further improvement. The table given above shows that 34 or approximately one-fifth of the deaths of infants under one year of age were ascribed to prematurity. This points not only to the need for much research into the causes and prevention of premature births but also to the need of adequate facilities for the care of premature infants.

Of the 3,483 infants born alive, 63 failed to survive the first month of life, giving a neo-natal death of 18.1 per 1,000 live births. In 39 of the 63 neo-natal deaths, the cause of death was attributed to prematurity; in the remaining 24, congenital malformations were given as the chief cause of death.

The following table shows the number of premature infants born (all infants under 5½ lbs. in weight at birth are considered to be premature), the number who died during the first month and the number who survived the first month.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

(Ministry of Health Circular 20/44).

		Number of Premature Infants who :—						
Description.		Died						
Where born.		Were notified.		Died during the first 24 hours.		after 24 hours but before expiry of one month.		Survived one month.
At own home	...	58	...	11	...	8	...	39
In Private Nursing Home	...	10	...	—	...	2	...	8
In a Flintsh. Maternity Home (Mancot, Prestatyn or St. Asaph)		57	...	9	...	7	...	41
In a Flintshire Voluntary Hospital		—	...	—	...	—	...	—
In a Hospital outside Flintshire	...	14	...	1	...	1	...	12
In a Home outside Flintshire	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	1
Total	...	140	...	21	...	18	...	101

MATERNAL MORTALITY—Only two deaths were ascribed to causes connected with childbirth, giving a maternal mortality rate of 0.6 per 1,000 total births (live and still). No deaths were ascribed to puerperal or post-abortive sepsis.

7. OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES.

As I have said in previous reports, many Flintshire men are engaged in occupations regarded as having a prejudicial effect on health. The incidence of sickness and invalidity resultant thereon, however, is very low, and there is every reason to believe that the officers of our local authorities and of our quarries and other centres of employment are very careful and conscientious in their observance of the necessary precautions.

Table 1.

AREA AND POPULATION.

District.	Area in Statute Acres (Land & Inland Water)	Population.		
		Estimated Mid-year.		
		1945	1946	1947
Urban—				
Buckley ...	2646	6837	7348	7470
Connah's Quay	4214	6369	6811	7102
Flint (M.B.) ...	6243	11650	13160	13554
Holywell ...	2532	7397	7785	7931
Mold ...	1164	5514	6085	6202
Prestatyn ...	3219	7873	8051	8171
Rhyl ...	1700	17990	18300	18400
Rural—				
Hawarden ...	31576	29700	31050	31920
Holywell ...	58515	20550	21270	21410
Overton ...	29749	4536	4580	4857
St. Asaph ...	22149	7254	7430	4763
Total Urban ...	21718	63630	67540	68830
Total Rural ...	141989	62040	64330	65650
Whole County ...	163707	125670	131870	134480

Table 2.

DEATHS—GENERAL.

Summary of Causes.

Cause of Death	1947.		
	Males	Females	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	1	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	3	5
Diphtheria	—	1	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	41	29	70
Tuberculosis—other forms	8	5	13
Syphilitic diseases	2	3	5
Influenza	8	9	17
Measles	1	2	3
Poliomyelitis and Polio-enceph. (acute)	3	3	6
Encephalitis—acute Inf.	2	3	5
Cancer—Malignant Disease	120	123	243
Diabetes	7	8	15
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	89	122	211
Heart Disease	240	202	442
Other Diseases of the circulatory system	46	36	82
Bronchitis	37	31	68
Pneumonia	42	33	75
Other respiratory diseases	15	13	28
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	17	1	18
Diarrhoea (under two years)	7	7	14
Appendicitis	4	3	7
Other Digestive diseases	24	15	39
Nephritis	26	21	47
Puerperal and Post-abortion sepsis ...	—	—	—
Other maternal causes*	—	1	1
Premature birth	19	15	34
Cong. Malf'n, Birth Injuries, &c. ...	41	25	66
Suicide	7	1	8
Road traffic accidents	12	2	14
Other violent causes	24	12	36
All other causes	80	76	156
Totals	924	806	1,730

Section B.

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.**

1. OFFICERS.

The names of the Officers engaged in the various branches of the public health service in Flintshire are given in the early pages of this Report.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Continued use was made during the year of all those facilities which have been previously described. In particular the services rendered by the Public Health Laboratory, Conway, in connection with the bacteriological examination of water samples, etc., have been invaluable, and are greatly appreciated by all the Local Sanitary Authorities.

3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Under arrangements made between the Flintshire County Council and the Chester City Council, Chester ambulances were available within a radius of 15 miles from the Cross, Chester, for the conveyance of persons suffering from injury or sickness. These were the only facilities provided by the County Council, but voluntary ambulance associations and private firms provided ambulances at Ffynnongroew, Flint, Prestatyn, Rhyl and Shotton, while ambulance facilities at Mold and Holywell were provided by the respective Urban District Councils.

When the National Health Service Act becomes operative on July 5th, 1948, the duty of providing adequate ambulance facilities, free of charge, will rest with the County Council as the Local Health Authority. Proposals for the performance of each duty were submitted for the approval of the Minister of Health during the year under review.

4. DOMICILIARY NURSING SERVICE.

Up to the present, the County Council has had powers to provide domiciliary midwifery services, but no powers to provide domiciliary nursing services for the nursing of the sick. The National Health Service Act, however, imposes upon the County Council the duty of providing all home nursing services, and proposals have been submitted for the approval of the Minister under which all district nurses at present employed by District Nursing Associations will be offered employment in the service of the County Council,

In previous Reports, I have referred to the necessity for providing all nurses with adequate transport facilities. Many of the nurses are perfectly willing to purchase cars, but unfortunately considerable time must elapse between order and delivery, in spite of a certain degree of priority given to nurses by some manufacturers, and the position is slightly deteriorating. The Government should be pressed to release more cars for Nurses.

5. CENTRES AND CLINICS.

(Arranged alphabetically).

ANTE-NATAL—The following is a list of the Ante-Natal Centres which operated in the area during the year under review :—

Bagillt—Tabernacle C. M. Chapel Schoolrooms. First and third Thursdays of each month. 1-30 to 2-30 p.m.

Buckley—Welsh C. M. Chapel, Mold Road. First and third Mondays. 1-30 to 2-30 p.m.

Caergwrle—Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Schoolrooms. First and third Tuesdays. 10-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Flint—The Clinic, Borough Grove. First and third Thursdays. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Holywell—County School Grounds. Second and fourth Thursdays. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Mold—The Clinic, King Street. First and third Mondays. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Prestatyn—Presbyterian Church Hall. First and third Fridays. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Prestatyn—Chatsworth House. First and third Thursdays. 2 to 4 p.m. (Originally for "evacuee" patients).

Rhyl—The Clinic, Old Emmanuel School, Vale Road. Second and Fourth Wednesdays. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Saltney—The Clinic, Cinder Lane. First and third Mondays. 2 to 4-30 p.m.

Shotton—The Clinic, Central School. Every Tuesday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

DENTAL—Four portable dental clinics, each in the charge of a fully qualified Dental Surgeon, operated throughout the year in the interests of the children attending the primary, secondary and grammar schools.

Four female Dental Attendants also assist in the work—one with each Dentist.

In order to satisfy the requirements of the Education Act, 1944, a further increase in the staff of the Dental Service may be necessary later on.

INFANT WELFARE—The following is a list of the Infant Welfare Centres which, conducted by officers of the County Council with the efficient and generous assistance of local voluntary workers, operate in Flintshire in the interests of children of pre-school age :—

Bagillt—Tabernacle C. M. Chapel Schoolrooms. Every Thursday. 2-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer first and third Thursdays of each month.

Broughton—The Institute. Every Wednesday. 2 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Buckley—Welsh C. M. Chapel, Mold Road. Every Monday. 2-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer first and third Mondays.

Caergwrle—Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Schoolrooms. Every Tuesday. 2-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer first and third Tuesdays.

Flint—The Clinic, Borough Grove. Every Monday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer second and fourth Mondays.

Holywell—County School Grounds. Every Thursday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer second and fourth Thursdays.

Mold—The Clinic, King Street. Every Wednesday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer first and third Wednesdays.

Mostyn—Robert Davies' Memorial Hall. Fridays. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer second and fourth Fridays.

Prestatyn—Presbyterian Church Hall. Every Friday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer first and third Fridays.

Rhyl—Old Emmanuel School, Vale Road. Every Wednesday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer second and fourth Wednesdays.

Saltney—The Clinic. Every Friday. 2 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer attends second and fourth Fridays.

St. Asaph—Ebenezer Chapel. Every Thursday 2-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer attends at every opening.

Shotton—The Clinic, Central School. Every Tuesday. 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. Medical Officer at every opening.

MENTAL HEALTH—Since January, 1947, a Psychiatric Clinic and Child Guidance Clinic have been operating at Rhyl under arrangements made with the Medical Superintendent of the North Wales Counties Mental Hospital. These Clinics provide services for the north-western part of Denbighshire as well as for Flintshire.

Similar Clinics are held at Wrexham and provide similar facilities for persons from the eastern end of Flintshire.

The Clinics are held weekly, and the staff, consisting of a Psychiatrist, an Educational Psychologist, and a Psychiatric Social Worker, are provided by the North Wales Mental Hospital. In the morning, a Child Psychiatric Clinic is held at the School Clinic, and this is followed by play therapy, etc., in the afternoon. The Psychiatrist conducts an Adult Psychiatric Clinic in the afternoon at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

MINOR AILMENTS—Established by the County Council's Education Committee for the treatment of minor ailments in school children, eight Clinics operated in Flintshire throughout the year under review as follows:—

Buckley—Welsh C. M. Chapel, Mold Road. Every Tuesday. 2 to 4-30 p.m.

Caergwrle—Wesleyan Chapel Schoolrooms. Every Tuesday. 1-30 to 2-30 p.m. Medical Officer attends first and third Tuesdays of month.

Flint—The Clinic, Borough Grove. Every Tuesday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Holywell—County School Grounds. Every Friday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Mold—The Clinic, King Street. Every Wednesday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Rhyl—Old Emmanuel School, Vale Road. Every Monday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Saltney—The Clinic. Every Friday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

St Asaph—Ebenezer Chapel. Every Thursday. 1-30 to 2-30 p.m. Medical Officer attends at every opening.

Shotton—The Clinic, Central School. Every Monday and Thursday. 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

NOSE AND THROAT—The treatment of children of school and pre-school age suffering from chronic tonsillitis and/or adenoids is carried out at the Hospitals of Chester (Royal Infirmary), Ellesmere, Flint, Holywell, Mold, Rhyl (both the Royal Alexandra and the Prince Edward Memorial), and Wrexham (Wrexham and East Denbighshire) under arrangements made by the Authority with the respective Boards of Management.

ORTHOPAEDIC—The following are three Clinics at which the treatment of crippling conditions was available to Flintshire children of both school and pre-school age throughout the year reviewed:—

Holywell—Out-patient Department, Cottage Hospital. Second and fourth Friday mornings of each calendar month. Orthopaedic Nurse attends every opening. Surgeon attends every four months.

Rhyl—Clinic Rooms, Old Emmanuel School. Second and fourth Friday afternoons. Orthopaedic Nurse every opening. Surgeon attends every four months.

Shotton—Central School. First and Third Friday mornings. Orthopaedic Nurse at every opening and Surgeon every two months.

POST-NATAL—To all women who desire them, consultations with the Authority's Medical Officer are available at the Ante-Natal and the Infant Welfare Centres already described.

TUBERCULOSIS—The following Clinics—conducted by Medical Officers of the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association—operated throughout the year under report:—

Holywell—Cottage Hospital. Every Tuesday. 10-30 a.m.

Penyffordd—Meadowslea Hospital. Monday and Thursday afternoons (by appointment only).

Queensferry—Oaklands, near The Cross. Every Wednesday. 10 a.m.

Rhyl—27, Edward Henry Street. Every Friday. 10 a.m.

The Queensferry Clinic above referred to serves for the time being the areas of Queensferry, Shotton, Connah's Quay, Sandycroft, Sealand, Hawarden, Buckley and Mold.

VENEREAL DISEASE—A Department of the Royal Infirmary, Chester, is an approved Treatment Centre—within the meaning of Article III of the Public Health (Venereal Diseases) Regulations, 1916—where treatment is available to Flintshire patients under an agreement made between the Infirmary's Board of Management and the Flintshire County Council. Opening four times weekly, the Centre's arrangements are as follows :—

Male Patients—Every Wednesday, 5 to 7 p.m., and every Saturday, 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Female Patients—Every Monday, 5 to 7 p.m., and every Thursday, 5 to 7 p.m.

The number of persons who availed themselves of these treatment facilities during 1947 is given in Section F of this Report.

Flintshire patients may also be treated at the Wrexham and East Denbighshire War Memorial Hospital, Wrexham, which opens for males on Mondays, 5 to 7 p.m., and for females on Fridays, 5 to 7 p.m.

VISUAL DEFECTS—Prior to 1947, children suffering from visual defects were either examined by an Assistant School Medical Officer or were referred to the Ophthalmic and Orthoptic Clinic at the Royal Infirmary, Chester. This Clinic had become greatly overworked, and attendance by children and parents entailed much travelling and much waiting time. To obviate this, arrangements were made for the Ophthalmic Surgeon to hold Clinics at four centres in Flintshire—Rhyl, Holywell, Mold, and Shotton—and these clinics have been in operation throughout the year under review. Each clinic is open once a month, and the arrangements have been greatly appreciated by parents and children.

6. HOSPITALS.

(Arranged alphabetically).

GENERAL—Available to local patients, the general (voluntary) hospitals situated in the County are the Cottage Hospitals of Flint, Holywell and Mold, the Prince Edward War Memorial Hospital, Rhyl, and the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl.

The Public Assistance Hospital at St. Asaph admits maternity, acute and chronic medical, and acute surgical cases. The Public Assistance Hospital at Holywell admits chiefly cases of the chronic medical type.

Of the hospitals situated outside the County those most frequently used by Flintshire residents are the Royal Infirmary, Chester, the Denbighshire Infirmary, Denbigh, the Ellesmere Cottage Hospital, the various large hospitals of Liverpool, the Whitchurch Cottage Hospital, the Wrexham War Memorial Hospital, and the Wrexham Emergency Hospital.

It has long been apparent that the hospital accommodation provided in the County has been inadequate to meet the needs of the population and this is stressed in the Report on the regional survey made by Sir Ernest Rock Carling and Dr. McIntosh on behalf of the Minister of Health. The Report recommends the provision of a 500 bedded hospital in the Rhyl-St. Asaph area, which would provide for the needs of the population in not only the western portion of the County of Flint but also the neighbouring portion of the County of Denbigh, covering approximately 100,000 persons.

Under the National Health Service Bill of the Coalition Government it would have been the duty of the County of Flint, or the Counties of Flint and Denbigh jointly, to give due consideration to that recommendation. Under the National Health Service Bill of the present Government, however, the planning and administration of all hospital and consultant services are to be transferred to the Regional Hospitals Boards which will be appointed by the Minister of Health.

These Regional Hospital Boards will have a vast amount of work before them and when formulating their plans for the new Hospital services will in all probability consult the Local Health Authorities (County and County Borough Councils). In order to be fully prepared, the Council has established a Joint Hospitals Committee consisting of members of the Public Health Committee, the Public Assistance Committee and representatives of the voluntary hospitals, in order to investigate fully the hospital needs of the County.

ISOLATION—Two Isolation Hospitals served the needs of the County—those at Hawarden and St. Asaph.

MENTAL—The County is served by the North Wales Mental Hospital, Denbigh, in respect of the treatment of lunatic and certain other mentally defective persons, including voluntary patients.

ORTHOPAEDIC—Flintshire cripples are treated at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Gobowen, Shropshire, in accordance with the arrangements described in previous Reports.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE—Situated within the County, and owned by the County Council, there were two Public Assistance Hospitals—one at Holywell and one at St. Asaph.

Also utilised under arrangement, but situated outside the County, were the two Public Assistance Hospitals of Ellesmere and Whitchurch.

SMALLPOX—The Smallpox Hospital at Rhydtalog is available for the admission of both Flintshire and Denbighshire patients, the Councils of both Counties constituting a Joint Authority.

TUBERCULOSIS—The examination, supervision and treatment of persons suffering, or suspected to be suffering, from this disease, is carried out on behalf of the County Council by the Welsh National Memorial Association, whose several modern and well-equipped Hospitals are available to Flintshire patients.

The only tuberculosis Hospital actually within the County is that known as "Meadowslea" and situated at Penyffordd, half-way between Mold and Chester.

7. INSTITUTIONS.

(Arranged alphabetically).

BLINDNESS—The "Llys Onnen" Home for the Blind, situated at Abergele, Denbighshire, is a residential and holiday home for blind persons who are under the supervision of the North Wales Society for the Blind. Opened during the later months of 1942, it can accommodate one blind person permanently from Flintshire, and others, temporarily, for short holiday periods.

The education of blind children at special schools is, of course, arranged by the Education Committee.

CONVALESCENCE—The convalescent homes in the County are all situated at Rhyl. Voluntarily established and controlled, they comprise:—The Royal Alexandra Convalescent Home, The William and John Jones Convalescent Home, The Men's Convalescent Institution (Bedford Street), The South Yorkshire Miners' Home (Colet House, East Parade), The Stoke-on-Trent Children's Convalescence and Holiday Home (Chester Street) and The Women's Convalescent Home (Church Street).

The Royal Alexandra Convalescent Home, Rhyl, which was only available to a very limited extent for convalescents during the war years, has now been able to extend its facilities so as to reach almost normal capacity.

The following Rhyl Convalescent Homes have resumed normal activities: The South Yorkshire Miners' Home (Colet House, East Parade), The Stoke-on-Trent Children's Convalescence and Holiday Home (Chester Street), and The Women's Convalescent Home (Church Street).

MATERNITY—Accommodation is provided for normal maternity cases at the Catherine Gladstone Maternity Home, Mancot, and at Chatsworth House, Prestatyn, for normal and abnormal cases at the St. Asaph Public Assistance Hospital, and for other abnormal cases (after consultation with Mr. Wigley, the Consulting Obstetrician) at the Chester City Hospital.

In addition, maternity beds to the total number of 21 are available at the 7 private Nursing Homes in the County, to which Nursing Homes the Council's Supervisor of Midwives paid 105 inspectional visits during the year.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY—Three Institutions serve the County as certified Mental Deficiency Institutions—those at Broughton (temporarily removed to Fronfraith, Rhyl), St. Asaph, and Holywell. The Board of Control's renewed approval of these has been received.

The Institution situated at Coed Du, Rhydymwyn, Flintshire, belongs to Denbighshire.

NURSING—Registered under the Nursing Homes Registration Act there are 7 private Nursing Homes in the County, all of which are periodically visited and supervised by the Council's Supervisor of Midwives.

Of the beds provided at these Homes, 21 are for maternity and 1 for general nursing cases.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE—The Public Assistance Institutions which served the needs of Flintshire during the year under review are those previously mentioned under this heading as Hospitals.

8. HEALTH SERVICES—NON-INSTITUTIONAL.

(Arranged alphabetically).

ANTE-NATAL—The welfare of Expectant Mothers who do not attend the Authority's Ante-Natal Centres is supervised in Flintshire by the private medical practitioners, the several practising midwives, county and private, and by the County Council's Health Visitors.

BIRTH NOTIFICATION—As will be gathered from Table 12 of this Report, the requirements of the Notification of Births Act are conscientiously observed in Flintshire.

BLINDNESS—Non-Institutional provisions made by the Council in favour of the blind persons of Flintshire include—(1) medical examination by a Specialist; (2) direct medical advice and treatment; (3) financial aid; (4) material aid in kind, i.e., clothing, boots, etc.; (5) home teaching; (6) visitation by expert supervisors.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION—The Council's Health Visitors are also Child Life Protection Visitors within the meaning of Section 209 of the Public Health Act of 1936, and all the foster children who are statutorily registered as such are duly visited and supervised.

CONVALESCENCE—A section of the work of the Flintshire Ailing Children Trust (Organiser: Miss Gwendolen Davies-Cooke) is devoted to the interests of children aged under 5 years, and in recognition of this the

County Council make a small grant annually towards the Trust Funds. Owing to abnormal conditions, however, only a limited number of children can now be admitted to the Convalescent Home (at Rhyl).

HOME NURSING—Home Nursing was carried out in this County only by the District Nurses belonging to the various Nursing Associations and by Nurses practising independently.

INFANT WELFARE—Twelve trained and experienced Nurses serve the County as Health Visitors, their duties including the regular and systematic visitation of children aged under five years. These Nurses are notified of all births occurring in their areas and they visit the infants as soon as possible after the Midwife has ceased to attend. Repeat visits are then made as and when required until the children reach the age of five years.

An additional Nurse assists in the Rhyl District.

LABORATORY WORK—Reference to Section B (2) of this Report will indicate that the County is very well served by the facilities provided (at Conway) by the Medical Research Council.

MATERNITY (GENERAL)—Available to the women of Flintshire the following services—all elsewhere mentioned in this Report—have been provided by the Authority:—ante-natal supervision, hospital treatment, maternity home accommodation, medical aid (to midwives), obstetric consultations (specialistic), post-natal supervision and puerperal fever consultations (specialistic).

To this list may of course be added the treatment of tuberculosis and venereal disease, free of cost to patients desiring it.

MATERNAL MORTALITY—The previously described assistance rendered to the Ministry of Health Maternal Mortality Committee was continued throughout the year.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY—The welfare of mentally defective persons not in institutions is supervised, under the direction of the Authority's Mental Deficiency Committee, by members of the County Council, the Authority's Medical Officers, and Health Visitors. These visit the defectives at their homes and report to the Committee quarterly and at other times as may be necessary.

MIDWIFERY—The County possesses an efficient midwifery service consisting of privately practising Midwives, Midwives belonging to District Nursing Associations, Institutional Midwives and County Domiciliary Midwives.

Particulars of these are given in Section H of this Report.

Medical aid is, of course, available to all Midwives under Section 14 of the Midwives Act, 1918.

MILK—Since the 6th August, 1946, Pasteurised or other approved milk has been supplied by the Education Committee free of charge to all children attending schools maintained by the Authority.

The quality of this milk is supervised by the School Medical Officer, who frequently takes samples for bacteriological examination.

The general milk supply is supervised in the County by the Local Sanitary Authorities, whose officers periodically visit and report upon the milk shops, dairies, etc., and the work of eliminating tuberculosis from the milk produced in the County is carried out by the resident Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

OBSTETRIC DIFFICULTIES—As mentioned in the early pages of this Report, the services of Mr. J. Gardiner Wigley, of Chester, are available to Flintshire patients requiring expert treatment under this head.

ORTHOPAEDICS—Provision exists for the orthopaedic treatment of infants aged under five years who are suffering from crippling defects. Similar arrangements, conducted by the Education Committee, exist on behalf of children of school age, and persons aged over sixteen years are likewise provided for by the voluntary body known as the Flintshire Orthopaedic Voluntary Organisation.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—Every case notified is referred to the Authority's Supervisor of Midwives who immediately visits to ensure that efficient treatment is made available to the infant. When medical treatment is domiciliary unavailable or inadequate, the child concerned is admitted to the Royal Infirmary, Chester—usually under voluntary arrangements but at the expense of the County Council if the parents cannot privately afford the Infirmary's fees.

The issue to the Midwives of a prophylactic drug for use in preventing the onset of this disease is still continued.

OUTBOARDED CHILDREN—Children who have been outboarded with foster parents by the Education Committee and also those outboarded by the Public Assistance Committee are under the supervision of the Authority's Health Visitors. The Nurses pay domiciliary visits and report periodically on each child to the School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE—For the purpose of administering this form of relief the County was divided into four Districts (Hawarden, Holywell, Overton and St. Asaph) each under its "Guardians Committee" and having its own medical staff. Of these medical officers, none was engaged in such work in a whole-time capacity.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA—The provision made by the Authority on behalf of women suffering from puerperal pyrexia include the following:—Hospital Accommodation (at St. Asaph Isolation Hospital), Specialistic Aid (the services of a Consultant), Home Nursing (by experienced Nurse) if considered necessary, and Bacteriological Examinations (services of Pathologist).

SCHOOL AND SCHOOL CHILDREN—The supervision of the health of the children attending the Schools of our County—a duty which devolves upon the County Council as the Local Education Authority—forms the subject of a separate Report submitted annually to the Authority's Education Committee.

TUBERCULOSIS—The "After-care" Scheme instituted by the Authority in 1941 continued to function throughout the year under review. Designed to expedite the recovery of persons suffering from tuberculosis by assisting them financially and/or in kind, thereby eliminating their domestic anxieties in a substantial degree, it very soon showed its value as a health measure, and is now an important branch of the Council's health services.

Under this scheme maintenance allowances, discretionary allowances and special allowances are available to persons who are suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and who have given up remunerative employment in order to undergo treatment. Such allowances continue, under periodical review, so long as the Tuberculosis Physician certifies that there is a prospect of the patient being restored to working capacity. All expenditure under this scheme is fully reimbursed to the Authority by the Ministry of Health.

205 persons received assistance, and the Authority's two Tuberculosis Visitors paid an aggregate of 3,059 visits to the homes of these persons during the year under report.

VENEREAL DISEASES—Mention has already been made of the hospital and clinical facilities provided for the treatment of these diseases. Arrangements exist, however, for the payment of the expenses incurred by patients in travelling to and from the Treatment Centre. These are paid in the first instance directly to the patient by the Hospital authorities, and the amounts are refunded quarterly by the County Council. It is perhaps unnecessary to add that this provision exists only on behalf of patients who cannot afford the payments themselves.

Section C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

The supervision of closet accommodation, provision for refuse collection and disposal, cesspool cleaning, the sanitary inspection of their respective areas, the inspection and supervision of shops, offices and camping sites, the abatement of nuisances, including any arising from smoke, the supervision of swimming baths and pools, disinfection and disinfestation—all these are included in the duties which devolve primarily upon Local Sanitary Authorities and upon which the respective District Medical Officers of Health are required to report annually and, when necessary, specifically.

Concerning drainage and sewerage, rivers and streams, school sanitary conditions, water supplies, etc., there is nothing of special interest to report in respect of the year under review.

Section D.—HOUSING.

HOUSING—The various Acts and Regulations pertaining to this subject are administered by the Local Sanitary Authorities, whose duties also include the inspection and supervision of the housing conditions of their respective areas.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

ADULTERATION—The arrangements made to ensure that food-stuffs sold to the public for human consumption are unadulterated, are outlined in the various appropriate paragraphs of this Section.

ANALYSIS OF FOODSTUFFS—The specimens of food and drugs taken by the various Inspectors for analysis are sent to the County Analyst, whose reports are submitted to the Council's Public Health Committee.

FOOD AND DRUGS—The provisions of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, which is administered by the County Council (the executive work being carried out by duly appointed officers of the County Police acting under the direction of the Chief Constable) have been outlined in previous Reports.

328 samples were formally taken during the year under review, and of these, 68 were found to be below standard. Appropriate action was taken by the Chief Constable against the offenders.

The "below standard" articles were:—Milk, 64; Creamola, 1; Non-brewed Vinegar, 1; Malt Vinegar, 1; Scone Mixture, 1.

ICE CREAM—1 sample was taken during the year and found to be genuine.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS—The supervision of the general food supply, involving at least the registration, inspection, etc., of bakehouses, slaughter-houses, shops, stalls, vehicles and all the other places where food is prepared, commercially handled or exposed for sale, is a duty which devolves upon the Local Sanitary Authorities.

MILK (ARTIFICIAL CREAM)—No sample was taken for analysis during the year under report.

MILK (CONDENSED)—No sample of milk thus described was analysed during the year under report. Two samples of evaporated milk were informally taken, however, and found to be genuine.

MILK (DRIED)—No sample of this was taken during the period under report.

MILK (HOUSEHOLD)—No sample taken.

MILK (FRESH)—The parts of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, administrable by the Local Sanitary Authorities were duly observed by the various Authorities and their requirements carried out.

Also carried out were the requirements of Part IV, which, formerly devolving upon the County Council, now form part of the duties of the Ministry of Agriculture's Divisional Inspector.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) Order of 1936, certificates issuable by the Clerk of the County Council were held by Flintshire producers at the close of 1947, as follows:—For the sale of milk with the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" 88; for the sale of milk designated "Accredited" 651.

The corresponding figures on the 30th September, 1948, were respectively, 105 and 644.

One report only was received concerning unsatisfactory milk alleged to have been sent by Flintshire producers to neighbouring authorities. This was from Shropshire, and was duly investigated and satisfactorily dealt with.

NUTRITION—Except by the means ordinarily employed in the Maternity and Child Welfare Services in connection with the dissemination of information relating to food values and nutrition generally, the Authority took no action during the year in regard to this subject.

PRESERVATIVES—The arrangements made to ensure that the foods consumed by the public are free from dangerous preservatives are outlined in a preceding paragraph. Regulations bearing on the subject are issued by the Ministry of Health from time to time.

SHELLFISH (MOLLUSCAN)—The duty of reporting upon shellfish beds or layings, is one which devolves upon the Medical Officer of Health of the Sanitary Districts in which such beds or layings are situated.

Section F.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

A.—ADMINISTRATIVE.

DISINFECTION—The disinfection of premises, clothing, bedding, etc., after infectious disease, is a duty which devolves upon the Local Sanitary Authorities, the work being generally carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

INCIDENCES—The diseases which were notified in Flintshire during the year under review are shown numerically in Table 5 of this Report. No case was notified of any notifiable disease which is not named in such table.

LABORATORY WORK—The laboratory facilities available at Conway were extensively used during the year by medical officers of the County Council and the Local Sanitary Authorities, and also by many general medical practitioners. This laboratory also rendered invaluable assistance in connection with the supplying of material for diphtheria immunisation work and in other ways.

SERA, SPECIAL TESTS, ETC.—The availability to the public of sera such as diphtheria anti-toxin or anti-meningococcus serum is a matter which primarily concerns the Local Sanitary Authorities.

B.—DISEASES.

CANCER—There were during the year under report 10 fewer deaths from this disease in Flintshire than during the preceding year, the respective figures being (1942) 208, (1943) 223, (1944) 240, (1945) 243, (1946) 253, (1947) 243.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER—11 cases of this disease among civilians were notified during the year, and 1 death occurred.

It is interesting to note that in 1940 and 1941 the notified cases numbered 111 and 85 respectively.

DIPHTHERIA—Only 15 cases of Diphtheria were notified in the County during the year, and one death occurred—a person over 45 years of age.

The following table shows the great reduction which has occurred in the number of notifications received since immunisation has been widely practised.

DIPHTHERIA—FLINTSHIRE.

1937 to 1947.

Year.	Cases notified.			Deaths.						Total.
				0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—	
1937	...	221	...	1	7	5	—	—	—	13
1938	...	268	...	2	3	10	1	—	—	16
1939	...	200	...	1	—	3	6	1	1	12
1940	...	202	...	—	1	3	2	—	—	6
1941	...	342	...	2	6	5	1	1	—	15
1942	...	255	...	1	3	1	—	—	—	5
1943	...	208	...	—	4	2	2	—	—	8
1944	...	316	...	—	3	6	—	—	1	10
1945	...	108	...	1	—	3	—	1	—	5
1946	...	34	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
1947	...	15	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1

The work of immunising the juvenile population goes on systematically. At the end of the year under report, according to figures supplied by our District Health Visitors, 5,040 children aged under five years had been immunised, i.e., 58.2 per cent. of the child population of the "under 5" age group. Of this number, 2,880 were reported to have been immunised during the year under review.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—Statistics relative to this disease appear in the Section of this Report which relates to Infant Welfare.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA—Additional particulars concerning this condition will be found in the Section headed "Welfare of Mothers."

SMALLPOX—841 successful primary vaccinations of children born in 1946 were effected during the year under review.

VENEREAL DISEASES—The number of Flintshire persons newly dealt with at the Treatment Centre (Chester) during the year under report, excluding those known to have been treated elsewhere, was 137, the figure being made up as follows:—Syphilis, 33; Gonorrhoea, 64; Soft Chancre, 0; Non-venereal or Undiagnosed Conditions, 40.

These patients made 1,921 attendances during the period reviewed, and 1,047 pathological examinations were carried out at the Treatment Centre's Laboratory.

In addition to the foregoing the following Flintshire patients exclusive of 12 diagnosed as "non-venereal" were treated at the Treatment Centres specified:—Bangor, 2; Liverpool, 5; Shrewsbury, 0; Wrexham, 8.

TUBERCULOSIS—Numerical particulars of the deaths registered during the year as due to this disease are reported in Tables 3 and 4 of this Report.

The number of formal primary notifications received under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, was 163, made up as follows:—Pulmonary 132 (Males 80, Females 52); Non-pulmonary 31 (Males 15, Females 16).

Otherwise than by formal notification, 13 cases came to the Authority's notice during the year, the number being made up as follows:—Pulmonary 13 (Males 9, Females 4); Non-pulmonary 0.

No special action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

The beneficent work of the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association was of course continued throughout the year.

During the year under report, 205 applicants received assistance in cash and/or in kind under the After-care Scheme, as compared with 237 in 1946, 216 in 1945, and 161 in 1944.

POLIOMYELITIS AND POLIOENCEPHALITIS—During 1947, Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) became pandemic throughout the country, spreading fairly rapidly from east to west. In all, 31 cases were notified in the County of Flint, and 6 deaths resulted. The following table shows the number of cases notified in the different county districts and the ages of the persons attacked.

The cause of this disease is known, but our knowledge of its spread is extremely scanty. Cases occur sporadically, and there is apparently no connection between one case and another. It is uncommon for more than one member of a family to be affected, even when those families are living under overcrowded conditions, and it must be admitted that although various precautionary methods have been adopted, they cannot be proved to have had the slightest effect in limiting the spread of the disease.

POLIOMYELITIS NOTIFICATIONS, 1947.

District.	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25 & Age un-		Total.
							over.	known.	
Buckley ...	1	1	—	—	3	—	1	—	6
Connah's Quay ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Flint ...	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	6
Holywell ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mold ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prestatyn ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Rhyl ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	—	5
Hawarden ...	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	5
Holywell Rural ...	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	3
Overton ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
St. Asaph ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Grand Total ...	2	5	6	6	6	—	5	—	30

Polio-encephalitis—(5). 1 case St. Asaph R.D.

Table 3.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN THE SEVERAL DISTRICTS.

District.	Pulmonary.				Non-Pulmonary.				All Forms.				Grand Total.	
	M*		F†		M*		F†		M*		F†			
Urban—														
Buckley	...	—	...	1	...	1	...	—	...	1	...	1	...	2
Connah's Quay	...	1	...	4	...	1	...	2	...	2	...	6	...	8
Flint (M.B.)	...	4	...	3	...	2	...	—	...	6	...	3	...	9
Holywell	...	2	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	2	...	—	...	2
Mold	...	1	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	1	...	2
Prestatyn	...	5	...	3	...	—	...	—	...	5	...	3	...	8
Rhyl	...	8	...	4	...	—	...	—	...	8	...	4	...	12
Rural—														
Hawarden	...	9	...	9	...	2	...	1	...	11	...	10	...	21
Holywell	...	9	...	3	...	2	...	—	...	11	...	3	...	14
Overton	...	1	...	1	...	—	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	3
St. Asaph	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	2
Urban Districts	...	21	...	16	...	4	...	2	...	25	...	18	...	43
Rural Districts	...	20	...	13	...	4	...	3	...	24	...	16	...	40
Whole County	...	41	...	29	...	8	...	5	...	49	...	34	...	83

* Males.

† Females.

Table 4.

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Group.	Pulmonary.				Non-Pulmonary.				All Forms.				Grand Total.	
	M		F		M		F		M		F			
0—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
1—	...	—	...	1	...	3	...	1	...	3	...	2	...	5
5—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
15—	...	18	...	22	...	4	...	2	...	22	...	24	...	46
45—	...	21	...	4	...	1	...	1	...	22	...	5	...	27
65—	...	2	...	2	...	—	...	1	...	2	...	3	...	5
Totals	...	41	...	29	...	8	...	5	...	49	...	34	...	83

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (GENERAL)—The following notifications of Infectious Disease were received from the District Medical Officers of Health during the year :—Cerebro-spinal Fever, 11 ; Chicken Pox, 0 ; Diphtheria, 15 ; Dysentery, 6 ; Encephalitis Lethargica, 0 ; Enteric Fever (Typhoid), 1 ; Erysipelas, 24 ; Malaria, 1 ; Measles, 1035 ; Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 5 ; Paratyphoid, 3 ; Pemphigus Neonatorum, 0 ; Poliomyelitis, 30 ; Polio-encephalitis, 1 ; Pneumonia, 101 ; Puerperal Pyrexia, 5 ; Rubella, 0 ; Scarlet Fever, 171 ; Smallpox, 0 ; Tuberculosis (see Special Tables) ; Whooping Cough, 253.

Section G. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

Particulars of the Institutions concerned with, and the personnel engaged in, the administration of public assistance have been given in early pages of this Report.

I now present statistics relative to this Service in its association with Maternity and Child Welfare :—

Table 6.
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTIONS.
(Maternity Service).

Description.	Holywell.	St. Asaph.
1. No. of Maternity Beds on last day of year ...	—	24
2. Beds (included above) reserved for expectant mothers in need of hospital treatment ...	—	3
3. Maternity cases admitted during the year ...	—	308
4. Women (included in No. 3 above) treated during the year in the beds referred to under No. 2 (above)	—	20
5. Average duration (in days) of treatment of expectant mothers in the beds shown against No. 2 (above)	—	14
6. Average duration of stay of cases included against No. 3 (above) ... Days	—	11
7. Cases delivered by Midwives	—	279
8. Cases delivered by Doctors	—	29
9. Cases in which medical assistance was sought by a Midwife in emergency	—	—*
10. Cases admitted after delivery	—	1
11. Cases notified as Puerperal Pyrexia	—	2
12. Cases of Pemphigus Neonatorum	—	—
13. Infants not entirely breast-fed	—	13
14. Infants wholly breast-fed on leaving	—	305
15. Cases notified as Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—
16. No. of Maternal Deaths	—	—
17. No. of Stillbirths	—	21
18. No. of Infant Deaths	—	9

* Medical Officer notified of every case when in labour.

Section H.

WELFARE OF MOTHERS.

ANTE-NATAL SERVICES—The activities of the Ante-natal Centres mentioned in this Report are indicated, in respect of the year under review, in the following Table :—

Table 7.

ANTE-NATAL ATTENDANCES OF WOMEN AT CENTRES.

Centre.	Number		Patients dealt with.		Aggregate
	of	Sessions.	Old*	New	Attend-
			Cases.	Cases.	ances
Bagillt	...	21	4	30	80
Buckley	...	21	20	21	94
Caergwrle	...	22	2	31	100
Flint	...	21	20	124	493
Holywell	...	21	26	121	380
Mold	...	21	15	10	424
Prestatyn	...	21	19	80	417
Rhyl	...	21	20	90	428
Saltney	...	21	6	48	167
Shotton	...	48	50	254	1136
St. Asaph	...	21	—	8	24
Totals	...	259	182	817	3743

* Patients whose names were on the books at the beginning of the year.

Midwives are strongly encouraged in this County in connection with the work of supervising expectant mothers and it can truthfully be said that the great majority of those who book their Midwives reasonably early are visited and re-visited by the Midwives concerned.

During the year under review the Midwives of Flintshire—in their capacity as Midwives, not as Maternity Nurses—paid 7,912 ante-natal visits to patients. As Maternity Nurses they paid an additional 2,054 visits.

The Authority's Health Visitors also render useful service in connection with the supervision of expectant mothers. They paid 1,195 visits during the twelve months under report.

POST-NATAL SERVICES—It is highly gratifying to find that so many women attend the Centres after their confinement, as such consultations enable the Medical Officer to ascertain whether the patient is suffering from any disability consequent upon parturition, and, if so, to advise her appropriately regarding treatment.

Table 8.
POST-NATAL ATTENDANCES OF WOMEN AT CENTRES.

Centre.	Patients dealt with.			Aggregate Attend- ances.
	Old* Cases.	New Cases.	Total Cases.	
Bagillt	1	3	4	9
Buckley	3	2	5	5
Caergwrle	1	2	3	3
Flint	4	5	9	12
Holywell	5	4	9	10
Mold	1	11	12	15
Prestatyn	1	6	7	12
Rhyl	3	8	11	22
Saltney	—	—	—	—
Shotton	6	10	16	20
St. Asaph	—	—	—	—
Totals	25	51	76	108

* Patients whose names were on the books at the beginning of the year.

MATERNITY INSTITUTIONS—The oldest established of these is of course the Catherine Gladstone Maternity Home, Mancot, particulars of which have been given in past Reports. At this Maternity Home no fewer than 310 patients were admitted during the year under review.

Women admitted to the Chatsworth House Maternity Home, Prestatyn, during the year numbered 230, and to the St. Asaph Public Assistance Hospital 308.

At the 7 private institutions registered under Section 187 of the 1936 Public Health Act, 21 beds were provided for the accommodation of maternity cases and 1 for others. 105 visits were paid to these Nursing Homes by the Authority's Supervisor of Midwives during the year under report.

MIDWIFERY—From a Table which follows, it will be gathered that 82 Flintshire Midwives were in practice in the County at the end of the year, 29 of these being in the direct employ, institutionally or otherwise, of the County Council.

The supervision is maintained on behalf of the Council by the County Medical Officer, the visitation and executive work being carried out by a full-time Supervisor who, in the course of the year under report, paid 415 inspectional and 332 special visits (vide Table 10).

The number of cases attended by the Midwives acting as Midwives during the year was 1,906, and the number attended by them as Maternity Nurses was 763.

The various notifications received from the Midwives during the year totalled 599, of which 485 announced their having "called in medical aid."

Midwives were temporarily suspended from practice (to prevent the spread of infection) on 2 occasions.

Table 9.
MIDWIVES IN PRACTICE.
At the end of year 1947.

Classification.	Trained and Cer- tified.	Certi- fied only.	Uncer- tified.	Total.
Employed by County Council—				
At Mancot Maternity Home ...	2	1	3	6
At Holywell P.A. Institution ...	1	—	—	1
At St. Asaph P.A. Institution ...	4	2	3	9
At Prestatyn Maternity Home ...	3	1	2	6
As Domiciliary Midwives ...	2	5	—	7
Employed by Voluntary Associations—				
Flintshire Nursing Association ...	10	20	—	30
Royal Alexandra Hospital ...	3	—	—	3
Independent—				
In private practice ...	8	11	1	20
Total in practice at end of year ...	33	40	9	82

Table 10.
SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES.

Classification.	Number of Inspections.		
	Routine.	Special.	Total.
Employed by the County Council—			
At the Mancot Maternity Home ...	—	12	12
At the Prestatyn Maternity Home ...	—	4	4
At the St. Asaph P.A. Institution ...	—	2	2
As Domiciliary Midwives ...	32	119	151
Employed by Voluntary Organisations—			
Royal Alexandra Hospital ...	—	3	3
Flintshire Nursing Association ...	175	128	303
Independently employed—			
In Private Nursing Homes ...	113	8	121
In General Practice ...	95	45	140
As Unregistered Women ...	—	11	11
Total Inspections ...	415	332	747*

* The Midwife was inspected while actually at work in 454 of these cases.

The special visits referred to in the foregoing Table were paid mainly for the reasons specified below:—

Table 11.
SPECIAL VISITS TO MIDWIVES.

Reason for Special Visitation.	No. of Visits.
Maternal Death Investigation	2
Infant Death Investigation	1
Stillbirth Investigation	4
Puerperal Pyrexia Supervision	19
Ophthalmia Neonatorum Supervision	9
Other Emergencies	214
Non-emergency Special Visits	83
Total Special Visits	332*

* The Midwife was inspected while actually at work in 189 of these cases.

Interviews with the County Medical Officer concerning midwives and midwifery numbered 127.

OBSTETRIC, ETC., DIFFICULTIES—The number of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia brought to the Authority's notice was 6, all of whom recovered.

The Authority's Consultant was called in during the year as and when required.

MATERNAL MORTALITY—1 woman died during the year from a cause associated with pregnancy or parturition.

STILLBIRTHS—Statistical particulars of the still-births which occurred during the period reviewed are given in an early Section of this Report.

Section I. WELFARE OF INFANTS.

BIRTH NOTIFICATION—Under the provisions of the Notification of Births Act, 2,789 births were notified to the Authority during the year, the figure being made up as follows :—

Table 12.
BIRTH NOTIFICATION.
Births notified during the year.

By whom notified.	Number.		
	Live.	Still.	Total.
Domiciliary Midwives	1607	39	1646
Medical Practitioners	320	7	327
Parents (or Relatives)	—	—	—
Maternity Homes (County)	762	37	799
Royal Alexandra Hospital	16	1	17
Totals	2705	84	2789

CENTRES—The activities of the Authority's Infant Welfare Centres—now numbering eleven—are given in Table 13.

Table 13.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Summary of Attendances, etc.

Description	Bagillt	Broughton	Buckley	Caergwrle	Flint	Holywell	Mold	Mostyn	Prestatyn	Rhyl	Saltney	Shotton	St. Asaph	Total
Number of Sessions held, i.e., number of times Centre opened during the year	48	48	48	49	48	49	48	21	48	49	48	49	40	593
Children who attended the Centre during the year for the first time and who, on the date of their first attendance, were—														
Aged under 1 year ..	75	54	138	104	185	185	230	67	135	366	94	439	66	2138
Aged 1 to 5 years ..	2	7	36	3	99	26	120	18	6	17	13	21	50	418
Total	77	61	174	107	284	211	350	85	141	383	107	460	116	2556
Children who attended the Centre during the year and who, at the end of the year, were—														
Aged under 1 year ..	66	45	146	93	167	174	188	60	242	245	77	364	45	1912
Aged 1 to 5 years ..	53	80	89	179	170	154	233	60	36	301	10	372	71	1788
Total	119	125	235	272	337	308	421	120	278	546	87	736	116	3700
Attendances made at the Centre during the year by children—														
Aged under 1 year ..	494	734	1121	676	1150	1146	2851	319	3045	2676	1321	4544	942	21019
Aged 1 to 5 years ..	349	226	212	1021	1322	155	322	91	401	492	319	420	479	5809
Total	843	960	1333	1697	2472	1301	3173	410	3446	3168	1640	4964	1421	26828

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION—At the end of the year under review, 9 persons were registered as having the care of children within the meaning of Section 206 of the Public Health Act of 1936, the number of children concerned being (at the end of the year) 8. No death was notified during the year.

As accredited Child Life Protection Visitors the Authority's Health Visitors paid 622 visits to the said children.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN—Notices (15) were received during the year under Section 7 (3) of the Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939, in respect of 15 children.

HOME VISITATION—The work of the Authority's Nurses acting in their capacity as Health Visitors is detailed in Table 15 of this Report. From this Table it will be gathered that the Nurses paid an aggregate of 26,141 visits to children under five years of age.

MILK (SUPPLY OF)—No issue of milk was found necessary to supplement the provisions made during the year under the National Cheap Milk Scheme.

Table 14.

THE WORK OF THE COUNTY HEALTH VISITORS.

NOTE—(1) Except in relation to adult persons, the words "First Visits" throughout this Table mean first visits literally, the infants referred to never having been visited in this County at any time before. (2) The work of the County Supervisor of Midwives is excluded herefrom.

GENERAL VISITS AND RE-VISITS TO INFANTS.

	A.	B.	C.
Aged under 1 mth.—First Visits (A) ; Re-Vis. (B) ; Total (C)	2404	543	2947
Aged 1 to 12 months do. do. do. ...	366	10419	10785
Aged 1 to 5 years do. do. do. ...	50	12359	12409
Total aged under 5 do. do. do. ...	2820	23321	26141

CONDITIONS FOUND ON FIRST VISITS.

Feeding—Breast only(A) ; Breast and other (B) ;			
Other foods only (C)	1599	506	1129

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—CASES VISITED, ETC.

(.Note—This Section relates to infants aged under 5 only).

Epid. Diarrhoea—First Visit (A) ; Re-vis. (B) ; Total (C)	10	10	20
Pemphigus Neo. do. do. do. ...	1	2	3
Other Infec. Diseases do. do. do. ...	260	282	542

Table 14 (continued).

	A.	B.	C.
OTHER ROUTINE VISITS.			
Expectant Mothers—First Visits (A) ; Re-vis. (B) ; Total (C)	604	591	1195
Deaths (Under 1 mth.) do. do. do. ...	31	7	38
do. (Aged 1—12 mths.) do. do. do. ...	21	2	23
do. (Aged 1—5 years) do. do. do. ...	—	—	—
SPECIAL ENQUIRIES, INVESTIGATIONS, ETC.			
Doctors' Fees—First Visits (A) ; Re-vis. (B) ; Total (C) ...	303	222	525
Maternity Home Cases do. do. do. ...	9	—	9
Mental Health Cases do. do. do. ...	14	16	30
Orthopaedic Cases do. do. do. ...	4	1	5
Infant Life Protection do. do. do. ...	51	542	593
Convalescence do. do. do. ...	9	3	12
Other Enquiries, etc. do. do. do. ...	7	13	20
WELFARE CENTRES.			
Ante-Natal—Attendances by Nurse	—	—	274
Infant Welfare do.	—	—	785
Orthopaedic do.	—	—	85

MORTALITY—Figures relative to the year's deaths of infants aged under one year are given in an early Section of this Report.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—9 cases of "Discharging Eyes" were brought to the Authority's notice during the year under review, and it is gratifying to be able to report complete recovery in every case—although one infant subsequently died of heart trouble in a Liverpool Hospital. The issue of prophylactic drug to Midwives was continued throughout the year.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT—The number of children who attended the Orthopaedic Clinic during the year was 439. Of these, 146 were under five years of age, and 293 over five but under sixteen years. The attendances of such children totalled 806.

Those who attended for the first time (i.e., new patients) numbered :—Aged under 5, 43 ; aged 5 to 16, 85 ; Total 128.

Of these cases the names of 167 were removed from the books during the year under review.

34 children were newly admitted to Hospital during the year, 19 being of, and 15 below, school age.

Section J.—BLIND PERSONS.

The number of Flintshire persons who, on the 31st December, 1947, were registered in the Authority's books as blind, and were being visited by the Home Visitors of the two Blind Welfare Societies, was 216, those supervised by the Chester Society numbering 149, and by the North Wales Society 67.

Section K.—MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

By the courtesy of the Clerk of the County Council, I am able to give below an extract from a return submitted by him to the Board of Control giving particulars of Flintshire Mental Defectives as on 1st January, 1948 :—

Table 15.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

Defectives "Subject to be dealt with" by the County Council.

Description.	Aged under 16 years.				Aged over 16 years.				Total Persons.	
	M.		F.		M.		F.			
Under " Order " :—										
In Institutions	...	3	...	1	...	22	...	43	...	69
On Licence from Institutions	...	—	...	—	...	3	...	2	...	5
Under Guardianship	...	—	...	—	...	7	...	2	...	9
In " Places of Safety "	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	3	...	3

The number of defectives "under statutory supervision" at the end of the year was 109, comprising 62 males and 47 females. Of these, 10, at the end of the year, were awaiting removal to an Institution.

There was at the end of the year no known "subject to be dealt with" defective in the County respecting whom action had not been taken under any of the above headings.

Cases notified to the Council by the Local Education Authority during the year numbered 8 (males 4; females 4) and all of these were placed under statutory supervision.

The question of providing institutional accommodation for mental defectives still presents many difficulties not only in this County but throughout the country generally. It is impossible to obtain vacancies, particularly for cases in which mental deficiency is combined with physical disability.

The question of providing a joint institution for the North Wales Counties has been under consideration for many years, but so far without result. Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision of institutional accommodation will be the duty of the Regional Hospital Board and it is hoped that this question will receive early consideration by that Board.

The Authority's Institutions at Holywell, Rhyl (Fronfraith), and St. Asaph have been visited by an Inspector of the Board of Control and duly reported upon.