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11 NOV 1949
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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
RURAL DISTRICT OF HOLYWELL
FOR THE YEAR
1948.



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT

To:

The Chairman and Members of the Holywell Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As. Dr. Nelis resigned her appointment as Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Holywell as from the 28th February, 1949, after 16 years of loyal and efficient service, it becomes my duty as her successor to present the report on the work of the Public Health Department for 1948. I therefore have the honour to present this report for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff for their assistance in preparing this report.

Section A.

Social conditions including chief industries.

The chief industry of the area is agriculture. Employment for a large number of the population is provided at iron works in the Rural District and also in an adjoining area. A substantial number of people find employment at silk works in adjoining districts. In addition, coal mining, lead mining and quarrying provide employment in the area.

Area in acres	58,550.
Population (estimated at mid year 1948 by the Registrar General)	21,840.
	(1947) 21,410.
Number of inhabited houses	6,660.
Rateable Value	£85,923.
Product of a penny rate	£317.1.1.

VITAL STATISTICS.

These are presented in tabular form and, for purposes of comparison, I have given (where appropriate) the corresponding figures for the previous year. The figures for England & Wales as a whole are also given, where appropriate.

Table 1. Births.

Classification.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 population. 1948. 1947.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) 1948. 1947.
<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>					
Legitimate	166	186	352	16.12	
Illegitimate	11	15	26	1.19	
	177	201	378	17.31	18.3
<u>STILLBIRTHS.</u>					
Legitimate	7	5	12	0.55	30.69
Illegitimate	1		1	0.05	2.56 ^f
	8	5	13	0.60	33.24 34.48
<u>ALL BIRTHS</u>					
(Live & Still)	185	206	391	17.90	

The live birth rate for - 17.9 per 1,000 civilian
England & Wales for 1948. population.

The still birth rate for - 0.42 per 1,000 civilian
England & Wales for 1948. population.

It will be noted from the foregoing Table that the birth rate has shown a fall as compared with the previous year and also that the rate is below that for England & Wales.

TABLE 2. DEATHS (GENERAL) RATE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 population.	
				1948.	1947.
<u>All Ages (all causes)</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>267</u>	<u>12.23</u>	<u>12.42</u>

The death rate for - 10.8 per 1,000 civilian
England & Wales population.

There has been a slight reduction in the general death rate as compared with the previous year. The crude death rate is, however, higher than the corresponding rate for England & Wales as a whole. The standardised rate is not available.

TABLE 3. DEATHS (GENERAL) ANALYSIS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Heart Diseases.	42.	48.	90.
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions.	12.	18.	30.
Cancer (sites other than those specified)	12.	15.	27.
Causes (other than elsewhere specified)	14.	12.	26.
Cancer of stomach and duodenum.	9.	5.	14.
Pneumonia.	4.	8.	12.
Diseases of circulatory system. (not elsewhere specified)	25.	4.	9.
Nephritis.	4.	5.	9.
Bronchitis.	5.	3.	8.
Digestive Diseases (not elsewhere specified)	2.	5.	7.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	3.	3.	6.
Diabetes	1.	4.	5.
Respiratory Diseases. (not elsewhere specified)	1.	3.	4.
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	3.	1.	4.
Road traffic accidents.	4.	0.	4.
Cancer of Breast.	0.	3.	3.
Premature Birth.	1.	1.	2.
Congenital malformation (birth injury)	2.	0.	2.
Violent Causes (not elsewhere specified)	1.	1.	2.
Cancer of Uterus.		1.	1.
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1.		1.
Maternal Causes (other than specified)		1.	1.
Totals.	<u>126.</u>	<u>141.</u>	<u>267.</u>

TABLE 4. DEATHS - MATERNAL CAUSES.

Puerperal Sepsis.	<u>Nil.</u>
Other Maternal Causes.	<u>1.</u>
Total.	<u>1.</u>

TABLE 5. DEATH RATES (Infantile)
(i.e. Infants under 1 year of Age)

Classification,	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	
				1948.	1947.
Legitimate	5.	3.	8.	22.7	33.
Illegitimate	1.		1.	38.5	41.
Legitimate and Illegitimate.	6.	3.	9.	23.8	35.

The infantile Death rate for England & Wales. - 34 per 1,000 Live Births.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

- (a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (part time)
I. Philippine Melis, L.R.C.P. & S.I., D.P.H.
- (b) SANITARY INSPECTORS (whole time)
D. O. Meredith Jones, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
F. G. Perry., C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
- (c) WATER ENGINEER
L. Darrall, A.M.I.Mun.E.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The officials continued to make use of the service provided by the Public Health Laboratory at Conway.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There is no ambulance stationed in the district. Since July 5th the Local Health Authority have been responsible for the provision of ambulance and sitting cars. The ambulances stationed at Mold, Flint, Holywell and Prestatyn are available for residents in the adjoining districts of the Rural District, and sitting case cars are available by arrangements made with the County Council Welfare Officers.

NURSING IN THE HOME AND DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY.

Until the 5th July these services were provided by voluntary organisations. Since this date the Local Health Authority has assumed responsibility for these provisions.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

TUBERCULOSIS. Clinics are available in Rhyl, Queensferry, Holywell and Wrexham. These were provided by the Welsh National Memorial Association until July 5th and since this date the clinics have been under the administration of the Regional Hospital Board.

ANTE - NATAL, INFANT WELFARE, SCHOOL CLINICS.

These clinics are provided by the Flintshire County Council.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

There is no hospital in the area. The hospital service has been administered by the Regional Hospital Board since July 5th. Patients from the Rural District are admitted into Cottage Hospitals in the areas immediately adjoining and also into hospitals in areas further afield, notably in Chester and Liverpool.

SECTION C.
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(i) The water of the Council's area of supply and its several parts has in general been satisfactory in quantity.

Low pressure was experienced in the coastal area of Llanase Parish being due mainly to the influx of visitors particularly during the months of July and August.

Certain lengths of small diameter mains which had become encrusted have been renewed.

A major improvement has been effected between Penforddlan and Penrallt in the Parish of Whitford.

The water supply of the area and its several parts has in general been satisfactory in quality.

(ii) Bacteriological analysis of two samples of raw water have been made, the certificates stating that although each sample was not unsatisfactory, some improvement was desirable.

(iii) Supplies are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

(iv) Water from the Garth and Mostyn Sources has been dosed with chloros as a precautionary measure.

(v) (a) Direct to houses

No. of houses.	Population (estimated)
4,630.	12,095.

(b) Standpipe Supply

No. of houses.	Population (estimated)
2,340.	7,020.

The above figures include premises supplied by the three statutory Companies operating within the Rural District.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse disposal for the whole area is undertaken by the Council. The work is carried out by means of contracts and for this purpose the Council's area is divided up into 15 separate districts.

Shortage of labour has added to the difficulties of maintaining an efficient cleansing service.

Rivers and Streams.

No complaints of any pollution of rivers and streams were received.

Camping Sites.

All licensed camps were visited regularly. The sites on the whole are well maintained.

Smoke Abatement.

No complaints were received during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No case of bug infestation was found during the year.

Schools.

All schools in the area are periodically visited. The sanitation in many of them leaves a great deal to be desired.

SECTION D.

Housing.

A great deal of the department's time is spent on housing inspection.

The number of houses visited for compliance with the Housing Act, 1936 and Public Health Act, 1936 was 535.

Statutory Notices were served in 54 cases and legal proceedings instituted in 9 cases and Court orders obtained.

SECTION E.

Milk Supply, Cowsheds and Dairies.

The majority of cowsheds and dairies in the districts were inspected during the year.

Milk production has shown considerable improvement recently, the majority of producers making efforts to give the consumers clean milk. Where any signs of laxity on the part of the dairyman or cowkeeper are seen, every effort is made to keep the offenders under observation.

Structural improvements have been made to a number of cowsheds during the year, chiefly relating to lighting, ventilation and drainage systems.

Shops Inspection.

All shops in the area were regularly inspected and the statutory provisions relating thereto enforced.

Notices served in respect of defects were complied with in all cases.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES. (excluding Tuberculosis)

TABLE 6.

<u>Name of Disease.</u>	<u>No. of cases notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Measles.	89.		
Whooping Cough.	84.	2.	
Pneumonia.	31.	6.	12.
Scarlet Fever.	19.	6.	
Erysipelas.	5.	2.	
Acute Poliomyelitis.	2.	2.	
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1.		
<u>Totals.</u>	<u>231.</u>	<u>20.</u>	<u>12.</u>

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.Part I of the Act.INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspect ions.	Number of	
			Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	40.	24.	8.	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	12.	18.	2.	
Total.	52.	42.	10.	

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Found.	Remedied.
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1.	1.
Overcrowding (S.2)		
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)		
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1.	1.
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)		
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
(a) insufficient	2.	2.
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4.	4.
(c) Not separate for sexes	1.	1.
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)		
Total.	9.	9.

Part VIII of the Act.OUTWORK

Nil.

(Sections 110 and 111)

TABLE 7.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The figures shown in Column 1 of the foregoing Table are analysed in age groups below.

Disease.	Number of cases notified as having occurred among persons of the ages immediately below specified.												Total.
	0.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	10.	15.	20.	35.	45.	65.	
Measles.	3.	8.	8.	13.	9.	40.	5.		3.				89.
Whooping Cough.	4.	11.	7.	12.	14.	32.	2.		2.				84.
Pneumonia.	2.	1.	1.		2.	3.	1.	1.	1.		9.	10.	31.
Scarlet Fever.			1.		2.	7.	4.	2.	2.	1.	5.	1.	19.
Erysipelas.								1.					5.
Acute Poliomyelitis.					1.				1.				2.
Puerperal Pyrexia.									1.				1.
Totals.	22.	29.	17.	25.	28.	82.	12.	5.	9.	1.	12.	11.	231.

There were two cases of acute poliomyelitis during the year, neither of them fatal. The incidence of measles was greatly reduced as compared with 1947 and the same is true of Scarlet Fever. There were no deaths from scarlet fever, measles or whooping cough.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

DIPHTHERIA AND MISCELLANEOUS.

As from 1st July, 1948 the Local Health Authority (Flintshire County Council) became wholly responsible for this important service. The position at this date is summarised below.

Estimated Child population at mid year, 1948

Number of children under the age of 15 years who had completed a course of immunisation at July 5th.

5,328.

3,260.

TABLE 8.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Groups.	New Cases notified during the year 1948.				Deaths.		
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.
0.	1.						
1.	1.	1.					
5.		2.		1.			
15.	5.	2.		1.			
25.	4.	3.	1.		2.	2.	
35.						1.	
45.	4.	1.					
55.							
65.							1.
All Ages.	15.	9.	1.	2.	2.	3.	1.

I am,
Your obedient Servant.

(signed) T. W. EXMIDLE.

Medical Officer of Health.

19, Highfield Villas,
MOLD.



Table 14. PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS according to possession of certain HOUSEHOLD ARRANGEMENTS.

Households with Household Arrangements as follows:-												
E - having exclusive use; S - Sharing with another household; N - entirely without.												
Total No. of House- holds.	Piped Water			Cooking Stove			Kitchen Sink			Water Closet.		
	Households	Per Cent	Households	Households	Per Cent	Households	Households	Per Cent	Households	Households	Per Cent	Fixed Bath.
a	S	S or N	S	S	S or N	S	S	S or N	S	S	S or N	S or N.
All Households.	133	51	107	109	23	79	441	56	93	441	58	51
Households sharing dwellings.	91	87	103	15	74	68	73	88	71	67	86	42
All Households Carns.		42%			21			42			43	
England and Wales.		17%			7			13			21	

Households with Household Arrangements as follows:-												
E - having exclusive use; S - Sharing with another household; N - entirely without.												
Total No. of House- holds.	Piped Water			Cooking Stove			Kitchen Sink			Water Closet.		
	Households	Per Cent	Households	Households	Per Cent	Households	Households	Per Cent	Households	Households	Per Cent	Fixed Bath.
a	S	S or N	S	S	S or N	S	S	S or N	S	S	S or N	S or N.
All Households.	218	23	393	393	42	89	441	56	93	441	58	51
Households sharing dwellings.	9	6	16	16	10	2	73	88	71	67	86	42
All Households Carns.								42			43	
England and Wales.								13			21	

All Households Carns.
England and Wales.

