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WELSH
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27 JAN 1953
A.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF HOLYWELL

FOR THE YEAR

1951



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H O L Y W E L L R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L .

To:
The Chairman and Members of the Holywell Rural District
Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my report upon
the health of the Rural District of Holywell for the year
ended December 31st, 1951.

It will be clear that, having taken up the appointment
on the 1st December, 1951, I am reporting upon events which
mainly took place before my arrival.

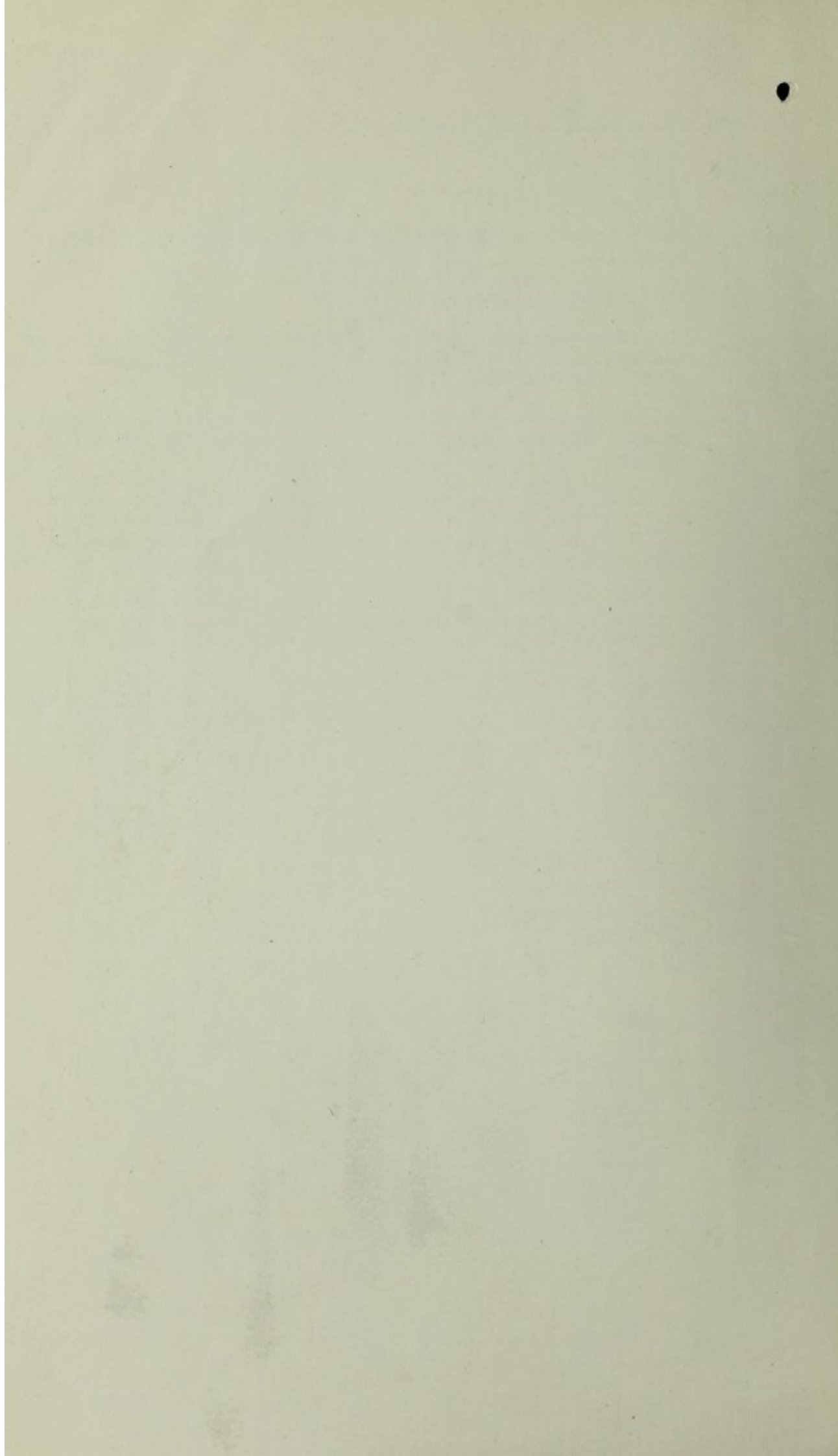
I wish to acknowledge the help given by the Senior
Sanitary Inspector in the preparation of Sections C, D,
and E of the Report, and by the Water Engineer for his
part of Section C.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council as a whole,
and the Officers of the Council, for their generous
assistance to me since I took up the appointment.

I remain,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen
Your obedient Servant,

(signed) D.J. FRASER.

Medical Officer of Health.



ANNUAL REPORT 1951.

The Census (1951) gave a population of 22,324.

It will be seen that the estimated mid-year population shows a fall of 580 to 22,340.

The number of live-births rose from 354 in 1950 to 372 in 1951, giving a birth rate of 16.65 per thousand population, compared with 16.03 in 1950.

The number of still births was 8 compared with 13 in 1950. On the other hand there were 14 deaths of infants under a year old compared with 7 in 1950. Seven of the infants were under a month old.

The deaths from all causes rose from 287 in 1950 to 315 in 1951, giving a crude death-rate of 14.10 per thousand population compared with 12.99 in 1950. The 'corrected' death-rate was 12.26 per thousand.

The commonest cause of death was disease of the heart and circulatory system; next, equal, came malignant diseases and vascular lesions of the nervous system.

There were no deaths associated with childbirth.

During the year 653 cases of infectious or other notifiable diseases were notified, compared with 222 in 1950. Measles and Whooping Cough accounted for most of the increase. There were twelve deaths from pneumonia, one from measles and one from whooping cough. One case of Poliomyelitis occurred, compared with six in 1950. Of the five cases of Paratyphoid fever notified four occurred in one family; all recovered. The Influenza epidemic claimed nine victims.

The number of notified cases of tuberculosis rose from 25 in 1950 to 28 in 1951. (There were four deaths from this disease compared with six in 1950). Four of the cases were transfers from other areas.

SECTION A.

Social Conditions including Chief Industries.

There is no change of importance to report under this heading since the last report.

Area in acres: 58,000
Population (Registrar General's Estimate):
Mid-year 1951 - 22,340
Mid-year 1950 - 22,920
Census 1951 - 22,324
Number of inhabited Houses: 7,081
Rateable Value: £93,241
Product of a Penny Rate: £356.

Vital Statistics.

These are presented in tabular form. For the purposes of comparison figures for last year are given, and, where appropriate the rates for England and Wales as a whole.

Births.

Table 1.

Live-births.

	Males	Females	Totals.
Legitimate	182	177	359
Illegitimate	8	5	13
Totals.	190	182	372

Live-birth rate per 1,000 population:

1951 - 16.65 (Comparability factor is 1.11 thus corrected birth
1950 - 16.03 rate is 18.48)
1949 - 15.33

England and Wales: Live-births per 1,000 population:

1951 (provisional) 15.5
1950 15.8
1949 16.7

While the birth-rate for England and Wales continues to fall, that for Holywell Rural District shows a slight rise. The number of live-births was 372 compared with 354 in 1950.

Still-Births.

Table 2.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	5	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	3	5	8

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total Live and Still-births:

1951 - 21.05
1950 - 35.42

Still-birth Rate per 1,000 population:

1951 - 0.35
1950 - 0.59

England and Wales. Still-birth Rate per 1,000 population:

1951 (provisional) 0.36
1950 0.37

The number of still-births was 8 compared with 13 in 1950. It is satisfactory to note that there has been a considerable fall in the still-birth rate which is now slightly below that

for England and Wales. I believe that this rate could be further reduced if prospective mothers made full use of the facilities available under the National Health Service Act - antenatal attention either from the family doctor, the County Council's Clinics, or from the Hospital's Clinics.

Deaths (General) Rate.

Table 3.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All ages (all causes)	131	134	315

Death Rate per 1,000 population:

1951 - 14.10 (Comparability factor is 0.87; thus the corrected Death Rate is 12.26)

1950 - 12.99

England and Wales: Death Rate per 1,000 population:

1951 (provisional) 12.5
1950 11.6

There has been a small rise in the death rate as compared with 1950. There were 315 deaths compared with 287 in 1950. Applying the Registrar General's comparability factor (which helps to make a true comparison between the rates in the various areas of the country) the death rate is reduced to 12.26 per 1,000 population which compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

Table 4.

Deaths (General) Analysis.

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per</u> <u>1,000 population.</u>
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	-	3	0.13
Other Tuberculosis	1	-	1	0.04
Syphilitic Disease	1	-	1	0.04
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	0.04
Measles	-	1	1	0.04
Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	2	2	0.08
Malignant neoplasm stomach	10	3	13	0.58
" " lung, bronchus	4	1	5	0.22
" " breast	-	8	8	0.35
" " uterus	-	1	1	0.04
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	20	7	27	1.20
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1	0.04
Diabetes	-	2	2	0.08
Vascular lesions nervous system	23	31	54	2.41
Coronary disease, Angina	26	10	36	1.61
Hyper tension with heart disease	3	-	3	0.13
Other heart disease	29	18	47	2.10
Other circulatory disease	6	5	11	0.49
Influenza	3	6	9	0.40
Pneumonia	6	6	12	0.53
Bronchitis	8	3	11	0.49
Other respiratory diseases	4	1	5	0.22
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	2	3	5	0.22
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	2	-	2	0.08
Nephritis & Nephrosis	3	3	6	0.26
Hyperplasia prostate	3	-	3	0.13
Congenital Malformations	4	1	5	0.22
Other defined and illdefined diseases	13	13	26	1.16

Table 4. (continued).

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per</u> <u>1,000 population.</u>
Motor vehicle accidents	2	3	5	0.22
All other accidents	3	6	9	0.40
Totals	181	134	315	

There were 4 deaths from Tuberculosis compared with 6 in 1950. It will be seen that the commonest cause of death was disease of the heart and circulatory system, with 97 deaths. Next came malignant diseases, and vascular lesions of nervous system, with 54 each. It is worthy of note that 14 deaths (4.44 per cent of the total) were due to accident; in fact, more deaths were due to accident than to pneumonia or to the infectious diseases. The epidemic of Influenza at the beginning of the year claimed 9 victims, giving a death rate of 0.40 per 1,000 population; the figure for England and Wales was 0.38. The deaths from pneumonia totalled twelve, compared with eleven in 1950.

Table 5.

Deaths: Causes associated with Pregnancy and Childbirth.

I am glad to report that there was no death from these causes.

Table 6.

Death Rate (Infantile) i.e. Infants under one year old.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	8	5	13
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Totals	9	5	14

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live-births:

1951	-	37.63
1950	-	19.77
1949	-	38.69

Infantile Death Rate of legitimate babies per 1,000 legitimate births:

1951	-	36.21
1950	-	17.92
1949	-	38.31

Infantile Death Rate of Illegitimate babies per 1,000 illegitimate births:

1951	-	76.92
1950	-	52.62
1949	-	100

England and Wales: Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live births.

1951	-	29.6
1950	-	29.8
1949	-	32

It will be seen that there has been an increase in the Infantile Death Rate. The number of deaths of infants under a year old was 14, compared with 7 in 1950. While it is

regrettable that the death rate should be so high in a rural district it must be remembered that the still-births fell from 13 in 1950 to 8 in 1951, and the dividing line between babies born dead and those dying soon after birth is not easily defined. Seven of the infant deaths occurred within four weeks of birth. Causes of death included Prematurity, Congenital Malformation, Bronchopneumonia, Convulsions, and Measles.

SECTION B.

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

Medical Officer of Health:

T.W. Brindle, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (resigned 30/9/51.)

D.J. Fraser, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (from 1/12/51.)

Sanitary Inspectors:

D.O. Meredith Jones, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

F.G. Perry, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Water Engineer:

E.A. Iddon, A.M.I. M.U.E.

Laboratory Facilities: Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

Ambulance Facilities: Provided by the Flintshire County Council. Ambulances are stationed at Flint, Holywell, Mold, and Prestatyn. Sitting case cars are provided by arrangement with the County Welfare Department.

The following services are provided by the County Council:

Home Helps.

Home nursing.

Domiciliary Midwifery.

Health visiting.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Tuberculosis Health visiting

Mental health visiting.

Prevention of Illness, care and aftercare.

Ante-natal clinics.

School clinics and Medical Examination of School Children.

Infant Welfare clinics.

Vaccination (by arrangement) by local medical practitioners.

Provided by the Regional Hospital Board are:

Hospital and out patient clinic facilities.

Tuberculosis clinics and sanatorium accommodation.

Mental hospital facilities.

SECTION C.

Water Supply.

The water supply in the Council's statutory area has been, in general, satisfactory in quality and quantity. However samples from local sources were variable in quality, and the sources have been regularly dosed with Chloros as a precautionary measure.

I am pleased to state that work on the Council's Joint Water Scheme with Holywell Urban District Council was commenced in December.

The Council are not carrying out any water main extensions for the time being but are concentrating on the renewal and enlargement of existing water mains. This policy will continue until more water is available in the District. This will be when the new Joint Main is constructed.

Below are details relating to water supply within the area.

a) Direct to Houses	Population (estimated)
No. of houses	13,179
4,393	
b) Standpipe supply	Population (estimated)
No. of houses	6,123.
2,041	

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The sewage disposal works throughout the area have now been brought to a satisfactory state of repair and the unavoidable neglect caused by the war has been eradicated.

Schemes of sewerage for Soughton and Whitford have been approved in outline by the Council. Soughton Village scheme has been submitted to the Ministry. Work has been commenced on the Saithaelwyd Park Estate sewerage scheme.

Public Cleansing.

The Council have a direct labour scheme of Public Cleansing covering part of the district comprising of the Parishes of Whitford, Llanasa, Newmarket, Gwaenysgor, Ysceifiog and Northop. Two lorries are in use for this purpose, each with a capacity of 10 cubic feet, and 11 men are employed full time with this work. The remaining parishes are done on a contract basis. The direct labour scheme which was put into operation in 1948 is working very satisfactorily, and shows great improvement upon the old method of letting out this work to contractors. It is hoped eventually that the whole area will be covered by direct labour.

Rivers and Streams.

Some complaints were received, and samples were taken and the result proved satisfactory in all cases.

Camping Sites.

There are a large number of Camping sites in the area, chiefly in the coastal district of the Parish of Llanasa. During the Summer Months there is a considerable influx of holiday-makers from the industrial areas of Lancashire and the Midlands. Regular visits are paid to these camping sites, and all sites are well organized and maintained by the owners who have provided main water, refuse receptacles

and lavatory accommodation.

Smoke Abatement.

No complaints were received during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No case of bug infestation was found during the year.

Schools.

Periodical visits are paid to all schools in the district. Whilst the newer schools are quite satisfactory, sanitation in many of the Rural Schools is poor leaving much to be desired. Inadequate drainage and pail closet systems are not satisfactory.

SECTION D.

Housing.

A considerable amount of time is spent by the Department's staff on housing inspection. A great many of the complaints received came from properties which cannot be appreciably improved on account of the general condition of the properties, which in most cases are of a type which should be dealt with under the Clearance Act, 1936. Thirty five Statutory notices were served in 1951, which necessitated several revisits in each case, taking up a great deal of time in an area covering approximately 90 square miles. Legal proceedings were instituted in one case and a Court Order was obtained.

SECTION E.

Shops Inspection

All shops in the area were visited during the year and the Statutory provisions relating thereto were enforced. Some improvements were carried out in a number of premises where food is prepared under Section 13, of the Food and Drugs, 1936, all premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale received visits during the year. Leaflets were distributed to all food traders in an attempt to make them and their staffs conscious of the dangers arising from the bad handling of food. Clean food lectures were given in several Parishes, and the response of the public and members of the food trade was encouraging.

SECTION FPrevalence of and Control of Infectious and other
Notifiable Diseases.Notifiable Diseases.

<u>Diseases.</u>	<u>Cases Notified</u> <u>(Corrected).</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	26	-
Whooping Cough	86	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-
Measles	465	1
Pneumonia	61	12
Dysentery.	2	-
Paratyphoid Fever.	5	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	2	-
Erysipelas.	4	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	-
Totals	653	14

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases.

Diseases.

Number of cases in age groups.

	Under 5 years.	5 - 14	15 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over	age unknown	Total.
Scarlet Fever	8	16	1	-	-	1	26
Whooping Cough	63	21	1	-	-	1	86
Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Measles	224	223	9	-	-	9	465
Pneumonia	8	5	11	13	22	2	61
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Paratyphoid Fever	1	2	2	-	-	-	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas	-	-	2	2	-	-	4
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	305	267	29	16	23	13	653

Most of the cases of Scarlet fever occurred in the second and third quarters of the year. The cases of Whooping Cough were almost trebled compared with last year, the majority occurring in the first half of the year. The case of Poliomyelitis, a man of 25 years occurred at Lixam. This was the only confirmed case in the year compared with six cases in 1950. The heaviest incidence of measles was in the second quarter. Children up to five years and those between five and fourteen, were almost equally affected. Thirty-four of the sixty-one cases of pneumonia occurred in the first quarter, during the epidemic of influenza. The over sixty-five years old age group suffered most with 22 cases.

Of the five cases of paratyphoid fever, four occurred in one family at Brynford. The fifth case occurred at Soughton. The source of the infection was not traced.

In common with the rest of the country, there was an outbreak of Influenza in the area in January and February with 9 deaths, giving a death rate of 0.40 per thousand population. The rate for England and Wales was 0.38 per thousand. The young and the elderly suffered most from the disease and its chief complication, Pneumonia.

The fatal case of whooping cough occurred in a boy aged two years, and the fatal case of measles was that of a girl aged eight months.

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases notified during the year 1951.

Age Groups	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-
1	-	1	-	-
5	-	1	-	1
15	2	2	2	-
25	2	3	-	-
35	3	2	-	-
45	5	-	-	-
55	4	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-
All ages.	16	9	2	1

During the year there were 25 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified, and 3 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis (compared with 22 and 3 in 1950). Three pulmonary and one non-pulmonary cases were transfers from other districts.

There were 3 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and one from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, total 4 compared with 6 in 1950, and 10 in 1949.

I am certain that the close co-operation existing between general practitioners, the chest Physicians and the County Council Health Visiting Staff is leading to the earlier diagnosis of tuberculosis cases, and their quicker restoration to good health. The housing conditions of many notified cases are bad, and I trust that the Housing Committee will continue to give such cases sympathetic consideration.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Part I of the Act.

Inspections.

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Number of Written Occurrences Notices Prosecuted.</u>	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	41	38	6	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	12	18	-	-
	—	—	—	—
Total.	53	56	6	-
	—	—	—	—

Cases in which defects were found.

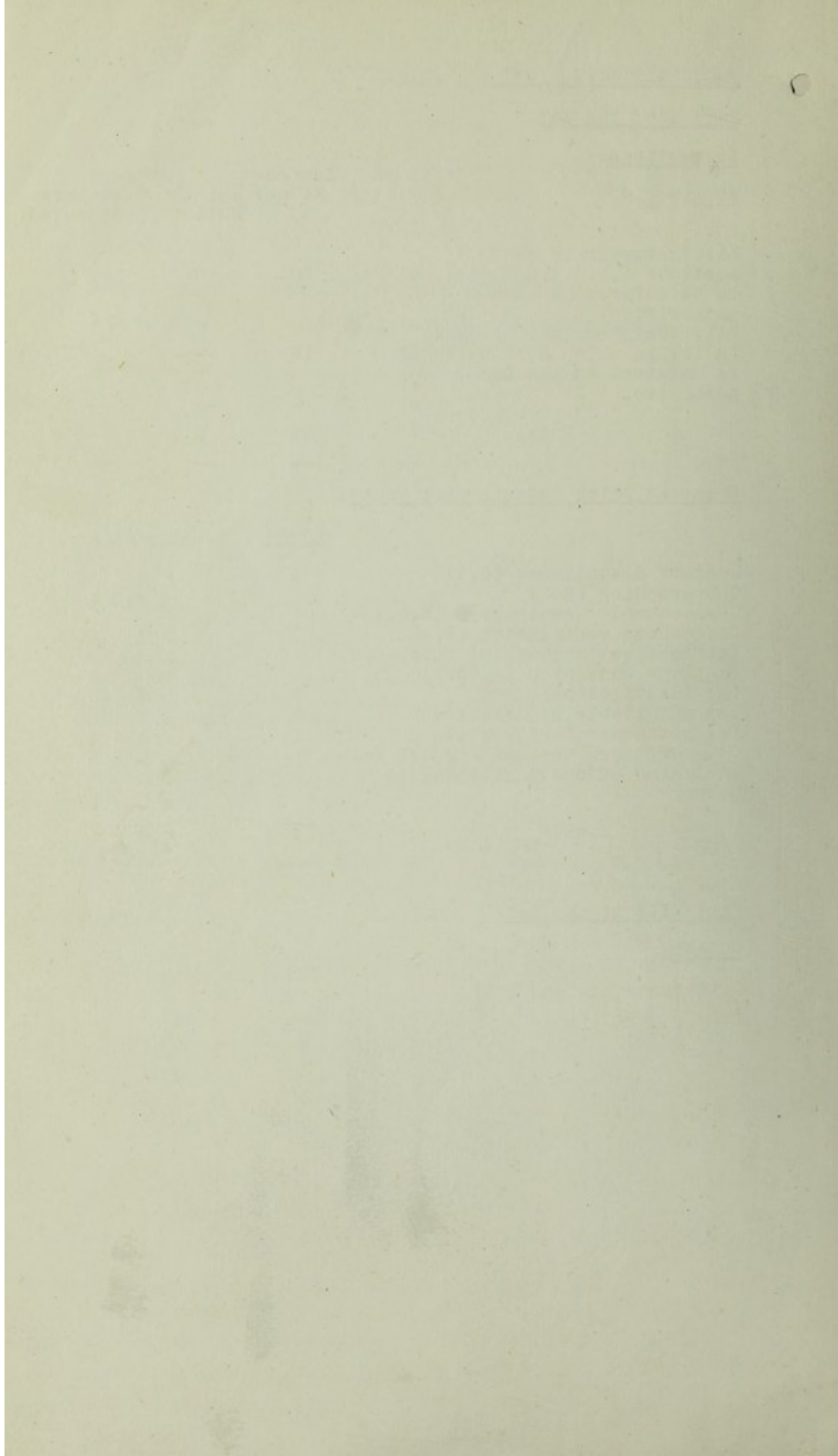
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4
Overcrowding (S.2)		
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)		
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)		
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
(a) insufficient	1	1
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	2
(c) not separate for sexes	1	1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

Part VIII of the Act.

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

NIL.



SECTION D. (continued)

1. Number of new Council houses completed in 1951 - 46.
2. Number of Council houses under construction at
31st December, 1951 - 86.
3. Number of private houses completed in 1951 - 10.

