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HOLYWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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To:

The Chairman and Members of the Holywell Rural District Council.

Madam & 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. 1955.

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

I regret the delay in submitting this report, but a great deal of time has had to be spent on Housing Surveys and in the preparation of documents concerning Clearance Areas. This work must be done if the Council's Slum Clearance programme is to be carried out to schedule.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council as a whole, and the Officers of the Council, for their generous assistance to me throughout the year.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman, Madam & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) D. J. FRASER.

Medical Officer of Health.

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1955.

SUMMARY

The Registrar General's mid-year estimate of the population was 22,280 compared with 22,290 in 1954. The number of live-births rose from 302 in 1954 to 322 in 1955, giving a crude birth rate of 14.45. This is close to the rate for England and Wales, which was 15.0 (provisional), but the "corrected rate" for the district is 16.03.

There were 8 still-births compared with 11 in 1954, giving a still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births of 24.24 which is slightly above the rate for England and Wales of 23.1.

The total number of deaths was 315 compared with 279 in 1954. The crude death-rate was 14.13 per 1,000 population, compared with 12.51 in 1954. The "corrected" death rate was 12.44, compared with the rate for England and Wales of 11.3.

There were no deaths associated with pregnancy and childbirth.

It will be seen that diseases of the heart and circulatory system accounted for 155 deaths, and cancer for 60. There were no deaths due to Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Meningitis, or Poliomyelitis. 14 deaths were due to Pneumonia, 3 to Influenza and 1 to Measles. 10 deaths were due to accidents, compared with 16 in 1954. There were 7 deaths from Tuberculosis, compared with 1 in 1954 and 6 in 1953.

There was a rise in the number of infantile deaths from 5 to 10, eight were under a month old.

There were 32 new notifications of Tuberculosis, (28 pulmonary and 4 cases of Tuberculosis of organs other than the lungs), compared with 30 new cases in 1954.

There were 482 cases of notifiable diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) with 15 deaths. Measles were prevalent, with 394 cases and Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever were less prevalent during the year.

The Housing Survey required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 was continued throughout the year. Of 7,980 houses in the District, 840 were found to be unfit.

During the year the District was included in a "Specified Area", in which only milks bearing a special designation, may be sold. This is a step forward in the eradication of milk - borne tuberculosis.

SECTION 4.

Social conditions including Chief Industries.

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

Areas in area: 58,000  
Population (Registrar General's Estimate):  
Mid-year 1955: 22,280  
Mid-year 1954: 22,290  
Census 1951 : 22,324  
Number of inhabited houses: 7,980  
Rateable Value: £101,063. 0. 0d.  
Product of a Penny Rate: £379. 1. 9d.

Vital Statistics.

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

Births.

Table 1.

| <u>Live Births:</u> | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Totals</u> |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate          | 148          | 159            | 307           |
| Illegitimate        | 9            | 6              | 15            |
| Totals              | 157          | 165            | 322           |

Live-birth rate per 1,000 population:

1954: 13.54  
1955: 14.45

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

1955 15.0  
1954 15.2

The birth rate for England and Wales shows a slight fall, whilst that for Holywell Rural District, shows a rise. The number of live-births was 322 compared with 302 in 1954. There were 15 illegitimate births, compared with 18 in 1954. The comparability factor being 1.11, the corrected birth rate is 16.03 per 1,000 population.

Table 2.

| <u>Still-births.</u> | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Totals</u> |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate           | 4            | 2              | 6             |
| Illegitimate         | 1            | 1              | 2             |
| Totals               | 5            | 3              | 8             |

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

1955 24.24  
1954 35.14

Still-birth rate per 1,000 population.

1955 0.35  
1954 0.49

England and Wales. Still-birth rate per 1,000 Live and Still-bi

1955 23.1  
1954 24.0

The number of still-births was 8 compared with 11 in 1954.

I believe that this number 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 Hospitals' Clinics. These services are not as fully used as they might be.

Deaths (General) Rate.

Table 3.

|                       | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Totals</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| All ages (all causes) | 171          | 144            | 315           |

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population:

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1955 | 14.13 |
| 1954 | 12.51 |

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

|      |      |
|------|------|
| 1955 | 11.7 |
| 1954 | 11.3 |

"Corrected" Death Rate 1955 - 12.44 per 1,000 population.

There has been a rise in the death rate as compared with 1954. There were 315 deaths compared with 279 in 1954. 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 12.43 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 1,000 Population.</u> |
|---|----------|----------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Respiratory Tuberculosis                | 5        | 1        | 6            | 0.26                              |
| Other Tuberculosis                      | 1        | -        | 1            | 0.04                              |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion         | -        | -        | -            | -                                 |
| Malignant Neoplasm stomach              | 7        | 8        | 15           | 0.67                              |
| " " lung, bronchus                      | 9        | 0        | 9            | 0.40                              |
| " " breast                              | -        | 3        | 3            | 0.13                              |
| " " uterus                              | -        | -        | -            | -                                 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 18       | 15       | 33           | 1.48                              |
| Diabetes                                | 2        | 2        | 4            | 0.17                              |
| Vascular lesions nervous system         | 22       | 37       | 59           | 2.64                              |
| Coronary disease Angina                 | 21       | 16       | 37           | 1.66                              |
| Hyper-tension with heart disease        | 9        | 7        | 16           | 0.71                              |
| Other heart diseases                    | 16       | 15       | 33           | 1.48                              |
| Other circulatory diseases              | 2        | 8        | 10           | 0.44                              |
| Syphilitic disease                      | 1        | -        | 1            | 0.04                              |
| Pneumonia                               | 10       | 4        | 14           | 0.62                              |
| Bronchitis                              | 10       | 2        | 12           | 0.53                              |
| Other respiratory diseases              | 4        | 2        | 6            | 0.26                              |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum           | 1        | -        | 1            | 0.04                              |
| Nephritis & Nephrosis                   | 1        | 2        | 3            | 0.13                              |
| Hyperplasia prostate                    | 3        | -        | 3            | 0.13                              |
| Congenital Malformations                | 1        | 1        | 2            | 0.08                              |
| Other defined and illdefined diseases   | 13       | 15       | 28           | 1.25                              |
| Motor vehicle accidents                 | 2        | 1        | 3            | 0.13                              |
| All other accidents                     | 4        | 3        | 7            | 0.31                              |
| Suicide                                 | 4        | -        | 4            | 0.17                              |



Table 4 (Cont'd).

| <u>Deaths (General) Analysis.</u><br><u>Causes of Death.</u> | <u>M</u> | <u>F</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Rate per 1,000</u><br><u>population</u> |
|--|----------|----------|--------------|--|
| Measles  | -        | 1        | 1            | 0.04                                       |
| Influenza  | 3        | -        | 3            | 0.13                                       |
| Gastritis, enteritis and<br>diarrhoea                        | -        | 1        | 1            | 0.04                                       |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>  | 171      | 144      | 315          |  |

There were 7 deaths from Tuberculosis, 6 were respiratory and 1 non-respiratory.

It will be seen that the commonest cause of death was disease of the heart and circulatory system, with 155 deaths, followed by Cancer with 60. Of deaths due to infections or notifiable diseases, 14 were due to Pneumonia, 3 to Influenza and 1 to Measles. There were no deaths from Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Meningitis, or Poliomyelitis. 10 deaths were due to accidents, 3 being motor-accidents. There were 4 cases of suicide, all males.

Table 5.

Deaths: Causes associated with Pregnancy, Childbirth and abortion.

There were no deaths from these causes.

Table 6.

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

|              | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Totals</u> |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate   | 2            | 6              | 8             |
| Illegitimate | 1            | 1              | 2             |
|              | <u>3.</u>    | <u>7.</u>      | <u>10</u>     |

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live-births:

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1955 | 31.05 |
| 1954 | 16.55 |
| 1953 | 40.12 |

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

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1955 | 26.05 |
| 1954 | 14.08 |
| 1953 | 39.21 |

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

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| 1955 | 133.33 |
| 1954 | 55.55  |
| 1953 | 55.55  |

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

|      |      |
|------|------|
| 1955 | 24.9 |
| 1954 | 25.5 |
| 1953 | 26.3 |

Table 6 (Cont'd).

The number of deaths of infants under a year old was 10, compared with 5 in 1954 and 13 in 1953.

Eight of the infant deaths occurred within four weeks of birth. Causes of death included pre-maturity and congenital defects.

SECTION B.

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Clerk of the Council: Richard Jones.

Medical Officer of Health: D. J. Fraser, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector: D.O. Meredith Jones, C.F.S.I.,

Additional Public Health Inspector: O.C.R. Roberts, C.P.S.I.,  
M.S.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector: A. Hughes, C.R.S.I.

Water Engineer: E.A. Iddon, A.M.I., Mun.E.

Architect: R. E. Roberts, B. Arch., A.R.I.B.A.

Laboratory Facilities: Public Health Laboratories,  
Conway and Birkenhead.  
Public Analyst, Chester.

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

Other Services provided by the County Council.

Home helps.

Home nursing.

Domiciliary midwifery.

Health visiting.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough immunisation.

Tuberculosis health visiting.

Mental health visiting.

Prevention of illness, care and aftercare.

Ante-natal clinics.

School clinics and medical examination of school children at the  
Schools.

Infant welfare clinics.

Vaccination (by arrangement) by local medical practitioners.

Dental inspection and clinics.

Ophthalmic clinics.

Distribution of Infant Foods.

Provided by the Regional Hospital Board are:

Hospital and out-patient clinic facilities.

Chest clinics and sanatorium accommodation.

Mental hospital facilities.

Mass Radiography facilities - mobile units.

SECTION C.

Water Supply.

The water supply in the Council's Statutory Area has been generally satisfactory. The consumption of water has risen slightly during 1955 as shown by the following figures:-

Yearly consumption in Million Gallons.

|                                  | <u>1938.</u> | <u>1939.</u>  | <u>1949.</u>  | <u>1953.</u>  | <u>1954.</u>  | <u>1955.</u>  |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Domestic                         | 44.79        | 78.78         | 85.95         | 91.98         | 91.50         | 90.73         |
| Trade (including<br>Agriculture) | 10.25        | 21.64         | 37.91         | 45.24         | 46.21         | 47.00         |
| Bulk supplies                    | .91          | 3.88          | 5.06          | 4.94          | 4.39          | 6.26          |
|                                  | <u>55.95</u> | <u>104.30</u> | <u>124.92</u> | <u>142.16</u> | <u>142.00</u> | <u>143.99</u> |

The reason for this is that the Council's mains are working to capacity and it is not possible to supply more water. The scheme of Distribution was commenced in January and will be in commission in 1956. This will bring additional water into the district and it is estimated that there will be a rise in consumption when this main is in full operation.

The Council have continued their policy of renewing water mains and 334 lineal yards have been renewed.

Details of water supply within the area are:-

|   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| (a) Direct to houses<br>no. of houses<br>4,647. | Population (estimated)<br>13,941. |
| (b) Standpipe supply<br>no. of houses<br>1,787. | Population (estimated)<br>5,361.  |

The Council are still negotiating with the appropriate Statutory Companies for schemes of water supply for  
Hartshoath  
Padeswood  
Bryn-y-Baal

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The disposal works have received regular maintenance and no complaints have been received from the River Board.

Whitford Sewerage Scheme has been completed.

Schemes of Sewerage for Soughton and Pentre Halkyn were approved and work of construction commenced during this year.

Public Cleansing.

The public cleansing of the District is carried out by two systems:- (a) direct labour scheme and (b) contract work.

The Direct labour scheme covers the following districts.

District No. 1. Mostyn, Ffynnongroew, Talacre, Gwespyr and Gronan

## Public Cleansing (Cont'd).

District No. 2. Caerwys, Upper Whitford Parish, Trelogan, Newmarket, Llanasa, Penyfford and the Parish of Ysceifiog.

District No. 3. Northop Hall, Saughton, Mynydd Isa, Newbroughton, Cwernaffield, Pantymwyn and Gwernymynydd.

The Contract scheme covers the following districts:

Contract Scheme No. 1. Brynford Parish, Nannerch, Cilcain and Rhydymwyn.

Contract Scheme No. 2. Rhosesmor, Halkyn, Voel-y-Cric and Rhes-y-Cae.

Due to the scattered nature of the District several tips are in use. The principles of "Controlled tipping" are employed in the maintenance of the tips and generally speaking they are well kept. All tips are regularly treated for rodent infestations when found necessary.

Two of the Council's refuse vehicles were found to require replacement having been in constant use for 7 years. The Council decided to purchase two new refuse collection vehicles and delivery is expected in 1956. It has also been decided to re-condition one of the old vehicles for casual use in the event of one of the regular vehicles being off the road.

### Rivers and Streams.

No complaints were received of unsatisfactory conditions of rivers or streams during the year.

### Camping Sites.

An area, particularly in the coastal region of Llanasa is comprised of licensed camping sites, which in the summer are densely populated, in fact it may safely be said that camping in certain parts has reached its limit.

Regular visits are paid to these Camps during the season in connection with their management and for the securing of proper conditions. Many of the Owners reside on the sites and give them their personal supervision.

Several complaints received were essentially of a private nature between the Owner and Hirer of the Caravan, regarding conditions relating to the hiring of the caravan. Nevertheless each complaint had to be investigated and a Member of the Department's staff figured as a witness in an action between an Owner and Hirer of a caravan heard at the Holywell County Court.

In the main these camping sites are well maintained, and the larger and better organised camps give little cause for complaint.

There has been the usual number of complaints regarding the inadequate water supply to the camping area at Talacre. This is caused by the over loading of the water supply system during the Summer months. As will be seen from the section dealing with water supply, work has commenced on constructing the Council's scheme of Distribution. On completion this will relieve the shortage of water in the camping area.

### Smoke Abatement.

No complaints were received during the year.

### Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No case of bug infestation was found during the year.

### Schools.

The schools in the district are visited regularly. A number of new schools have been built in the district, replacing old and unsatisfactory ones which were lacking in amenities and having inadequate drainage and lavatory accommodation. Much remains to be done in this field, but expenditure is limited by the economic situation.

### SECTION D.

#### Housing.

Housing has again been one of the main features of the work of the Department and a considerable amount of time has been spent on this work.

A considerable amount of repair work was carried out on properties as a result of formal action by the Council or informal action by their Officers. Several of these complaints were received from occupiers living in houses included in the Council's Slum Clearance Scheme covering the years 1955 - 1965. In dealing with these properties only the minimum amount of work necessary to remedy the more urgent defects was requested and obtained.

Many properties are let at uneconomic rents and this appears to retard the improvement of housing conditions. When one considers the progressive developments which have taken place in other spheres, to form this modern and enlightened age, housing does not appear to have kept pace with these trends.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| New Council Houses completed in 1955.                 | 20 |
| New Council Houses under construction<br>at 31.12.55. | 30 |
| Private Houses completed in 1955.                     | 19 |

#### Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954.

The housing survey under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954 commenced in 1954 was completed by the 31st August, 1955.

This survey was of a preliminary nature and a general survey of 4,500 houses revealed that they were 108 individual houses and 732 houses forming suitable clearance areas of a type which were unfit for human habitation.

In determining which houses should be included the standard of fitness for human habitation prescribed under Section 9 of the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954 was adhered to. Properties which were capable of providing a reasonable standard of habitation for a minimum period of 10 years and "borderline cases" were excluded. From a housing point of view the survey revealed the "black spots" of the district to be Most and Leeswood.

The survey was submitted to and considered by the Housing & Town Planning Committee of the Council on the 5th August, 1955.

The Committee accepted the report and recommendations and resolved to deal with 100 unfit houses per annum over the next five years, with the remainder of the properties in the following five year period, these figures have been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The following table gives details of the number of unfit houses in each district forming the area of the Holywell Rural District Council.

| District       | Individual Unfit Houses. | No. of houses in Clearance Areas. | TOTAL.      |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Llanasa        | 21.                      | 95.                               | 116.        |
| Whitford.      | 40.                      | 278.                              | 318.        |
| New Market.    | 11.                      | 27.                               | 38.         |
| Caerwys.       | 7.                       | 31.                               | 38.         |
| Brynford.      | Nil.                     | 21.                               | 21.         |
| Halkyn.        | 11.                      | 35.                               | 46.         |
| Ysceifiog.     | Nil.                     | 2.                                | 2.          |
| Northop.       | 3.                       | 49.                               | 52.         |
| Gilcain.       | 1.                       | 3.                                | 4.          |
| Mold Rural.    | 13.                      | 172.                              | 185.        |
| Nerquis.       | 1.                       | 19.                               | 20.         |
| <b>TOTALS:</b> | <b>108.</b>              | <b>732.</b>                       | <b>840.</b> |

Immediately following the completion of this survey, work was commenced on a detailed inspection of the houses to be dealt with in the parish of Mold Rural, namely in the villages of Llong, Mynydd Isa, Pontblyddyn, Pont-y-bodkin and Leeswood.

Reports upon these properties and the necessary documents in connection with the Clearance Areas and Orders are now in the course of preparation. The Council's Architect is preparing the necessary maps.

The Council is also dealing with houses in other parts of their District included in the survey by the making of Closing Orders when such houses become vacant.

One disturbing feature of the present Housing legislation in force is that Owners' are legally permitted to re-let houses forming part of a declared Clearance Area and also when such Orders have been submitted to the Ministry and confirmed by them.

#### Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.

In accordance with Article 31 of the above Regulations the following information is given in connection with housing inspections:-

- (1) Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation: 440.  
(Housing Survey now completed). Total 840.
- (2) Number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers: 66.
- (3) Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or  
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders  
(a) 1.  
(b) 7.
- (4) Number of notices served requiring the execution of works: 16.
- (5) Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: 16.
- (6) Number of demolition or closing orders made: 14.
- (7) Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (2) of Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1930: Nil.
- (8) Number of houses demolished: Nil.

#### SECTION E.

##### Shops Inspection:

The year 1955 saw the coming into force of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, which represent an advancement in legislation to control food and food premises.

An inspection of all premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale has now been commenced. Several premises inspected require to be improved or altered to bring them in conformity with the requirements of the Regulations.

The implementation of certain requirements is rendered difficult in parts of the area due to the lack of certain essential services. In spite of these difficulties, work is proceeding steadily and the Owners and Occupiers of food premises are endeavouring to carry out the requirements of the Regulations. Prepared summaries of the Regulations are being given to the Occupiers of Food premises. Particular attention has been given to premises which have a seasonal trade, that is shops situated on camping sites which only open for the summer months.

Several applications were received from Owners and Occupiers for the registration of premises for the storage and sale of Ice-cream. Inspections of premises were made and found to be satisfactory before such premises were registered.

A number of applications were received from persons retailing milk in the area for Supplementary & Dealers' Licences under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949. Each application was carefully scrutinised and in certain cases further enquiries were made before the granting of such Licences.

Few complaints were received from the general public regarding food premises, food and the personnel engaged in the handling of food.

### Slaughter-houses:

Slaughtering is carried out regularly in each of the five slaughter-houses licensed by the Council, with occasional slaughtering at other licensed premises. All meat is inspected before leaving the slaughter-house and this, together with irregular hours of slaughtering involves a considerable amount of work outside normal Office hours. Some of the meat inspected is for sale in shops outside the Council's district.

### Meat Inspection:

The following is a summary of meat inspection carried out during the year:-

#### Animals inspected:-

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Beasts:        | 258   |
| Pigs:          | 342   |
| Calves:        | 43    |
| Sheep & Lambs: | 2,666 |

Several improvements have been carried out to slaughter-houses during the year and a reasonable standard of hygiene has been maintained.

### Milk.

An important event in the drive for safe and clean milk was the inclusion of the District in a "Specified Area". This means that only milk bearing a "special designation" may be sold by retail in the District. This legislation is intended to prevent the sale to the public of tuberculous milk. The public can now buy only Tuberculin Tested milk or heat-treated milk, both of which should be free from risk. It is hoped that this measure will assist in the eradication of milk-borne diseases.

### SECTION F.

#### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis).

#### Notifiable Diseases - 1955.

| <u>Diseases.</u>      | <u>Cases Notified</u> |             | <u>Deaths</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|
|                       | <u>1955</u>           | <u>1954</u> |               |
| Scarlet Fever         | 11                    | 14          | -             |
| Whooping Cough        | 20                    | 72          | -             |
| Acute Poliomyelitis   | -                     | -           | -             |
| Measles               | 394                   | 33          | 1             |
| Pneumonia             | 42                    | 35          | 14            |
| Diphtheria            | -                     | 1           | -             |
| Meningitis            | 1                     | -           | -             |
| Food poisoning        | -                     | -           | -             |
| Erysipelas            | 4                     | 3           | -             |
| Dysentery             | 8                     | -           | -             |
| Encephalitis          | 1                     | -           | -             |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1                     | -           | -             |
|                       | -----                 |             | -----         |
|                       | TOTALS: 482           | 156         | 15            |



There were 11 cases of scarlet fever, mostly of a mild type, all in children, the majority occurring the first and fourth quarters of the year. 19 of the 20 cases of whooping cough were in children under nine years of age. It was most prevalent in the first quarter of the year. There were 394 cases of measles with one death, most of the cases in the second half of the year, were in children up to 9 years. There were 42 cases of pneumonia, with 14 deaths. As is usual in this complaint, the deaths occurred in the very young and the elderly. There were no cases of Diphtheria or Poliomyelitis. Three deaths were reported as due to Influenza, though this complaint was prevalent early in the year. There were no outbreaks of food poisoning. The one case of encephalitis occurred in a girl of under five years. She made a full recovery.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified during the year 1955.

| Age groups        | Respiratory |    | Non-respiratory |   |   |
|-------------------|-------------|----|-----------------|---|---|
|                   | M           | F  | M               | F |   |
| Under 5 years     | -           | -  | -               | - |   |
| 5 - 14 years      | -           | 1  | -               | 1 |   |
| 15 - 24 years     | -           | 1  | 1               | 1 |   |
| 25 - 44 years     | 5           | 5  | 1               | - |   |
| 45 - 64 years     | 10          | 2  | -               | - |   |
| 65 years and over | 3           | 1  | -               | - |   |
| Age unknown       | -           | -  | -               | - |   |
| <b>TOTALS:</b>    |             | 18 | 10              | 2 | 2 |

During the year there were 28 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified, and 4 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis (compared with 20 and 10 in 1954). These numbers include transfers in from other districts.

There were 6 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis ( 5 males and 1 female) and one death, (a male), from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

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 some of the notified cases are bad, and I trust that the Housing Committee will continue to give such cases sympathetic consideration.

Throughout the country as a whole, it appears that the number of cases of Tuberculosis are increasing, but the death rate from this complaint is falling. It is probable that under present conditions, many cases are detected which would formerly have gone un-noticed.

From November, 1955 to April, 1956, the Mass X-ray unit of the Welsh Regional Hospital Board visited the county and operated mainly in the urban areas. The response of the public to this valuable service was good. It is hoped that the visits of the Unit will be annual ones. In all, 12,377 persons (5,395 males and 6,982 females), from the general population and the schools, and 6,231 (4,387 males and 1,844 females) from factories, works and institutions were examined. No definite cases of tuberculosis were found, but 124 persons were kept under observation. 690 persons were found to have abnormalities in the chest.

Arrangements were completed for the immunisation of school-children against Tuberculosis. This service is voluntary and free, and is at present confined to children in the 13 years age group.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Part I of the Act.

Inspections.

| Premises.   | No. on Register | Inspections | Number of Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
|---|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.      | 41              | 63          | -                         | -                    |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. | 12              | 15          | -                         | -                    |
|   | 53              | 78          | -                         | -                    |

Cases in which defects were found.

|   | <u>Found</u> | <u>Remedied</u> |
|---|--------------|-----------------|
| Want of cleanliness (S.1)   | 7            | 7               |
| Overcrowding (S.2)  | -            | -               |
| Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)  | -            | -               |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4)  | -            | -               |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)  | -            | -               |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)   |              |                 |
| (a) Insufficient.   | 2            | 2               |
| (b) unsuitable or defective   | 2            | 2               |
| (c) not separate for sexes  | -            | -               |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) | -            | -               |
|   | 11           | 11              |

Part VIII of the Act.

Outwork.

(Sections 110 and 111) NIL

