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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE  
RURAL DISTRICT OF HOLYWELL  
FOR THE YEAR  
1956

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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 .

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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 1956.

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.

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.

WOLFE & BROTHERS LTD. 10, SOUTH STREET, LONDON, E.C. 4.

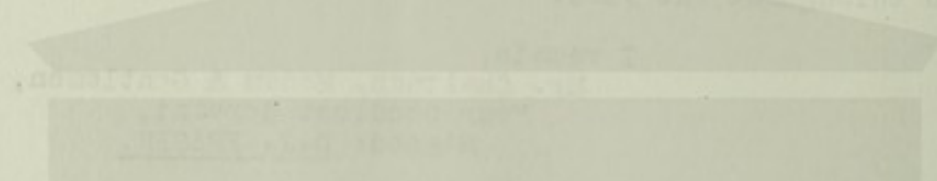
To the Chairman and Members of the National Health Service  
Council.

Dear Sirs,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my report upon  
the results of the Special Committee of Enquiry for the year  
ending December 31st 1955.

I beg to acknowledge the help given by the Senior  
Public Health Officer in the preparation of the report, and  
T. and E. of the report, and by the Director for his part of  
Section D.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council as a whole,  
and the Officers of the Council, for their kind and helpful  
co-operation throughout the year.



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SUMMARY

The Registrar General's mid-year estimate of the population was 22,190 compared with 22,280 in 1955. The number of live-births rose from 322 in 1955 to 339 in 1956, giving a crude birth rate of 15.27. This is close to the rate for England and Wales, which was 15.7 (provisional), but the "corrected rate" for the district is 16.94.

There were 11 still-births compared with 6 in 1955, giving a still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births of 31.42 which is above the rate for England and Wales of 23.0.

The total number of deaths was 324 compared with 315 in 1955. The crude death-rate was 14.60 per 1,000 population, compared with 14.13 in 1955. The "corrected" death rate was 13.87, compared with the rate for England and Wales of 11.7.

There were no deaths associated with pregnancy and childbirth.

It will be seen that diseases of the heart and circulatory system accounted for 162 deaths, and cancer for 60. There were no deaths due to Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Measles, Meningitis, or Poliomyelitis. 9 deaths were due to Pneumonia, 1 to Influenza and 15 to accidents. There were 5 deaths from Tuberculosis, compared with 7 in 1955.

There was a fall in the number of infantile deaths from 10 to 6. Three were under a month old.

There were 35 new notifications of Tuberculosis, (29 pulmonary and 6 cases of Tuberculosis of organs other than the lungs), compared with 32 new cases in 1955.

There were 146 cases of notifiable diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) with 9 deaths. Measles were less prevalent, with 63 cases and Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever were more prevalent during the year. The total of notifications was 146 compared with 482 in 1955.

The Housing Survey required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 was continued throughout the year. Proceedings for the clearance of houses in Loeswood were begun.

## SECTION A.

### Special 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 1956:	22,190
Mid-year 1955:	22,280
Mid-year 1954:	22,290
Census 1951 :	22,324
Number of inhabited houses:	3,010
Rateable Value:	£174,984
Product of a Penny Rate:	£709. 14. 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	167	156	323
Illegitimate	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>16</u>
Totals	<u>177</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>339</u>

#### Live-birth rate per 1,000 population.

1954:	13.54
1955:	14.45
1956:	15.27

#### England and Wales. Live-births per 1,000 population.

1955:	15.0
1956:	15.7

The birth rate for England and Wales shows a slight rise, whilst that for Holywell Rural District also shows a rise. The number of live-births was 339 compared with 322 in 1955. There were 16 illegitimate births, compared with 15 in 1955. The comparability factor being 1.11, the corrected birth rate is 16.94 per 1,000 population.

Table 2.

<u>Still-births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Legitimate	6	5	11
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>

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

1956:	31.42
1955:	24.24
1954:	35.14

#### Still-birth rate per 1,000 population.

1956:	0.49
1955:	0.35
1954:	0.49



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

1956:	23.0
1955:	23.1
1954:	24.0

The number of still-births was 11 compared with 8 in 1955.

I believe that this number could be 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. It must be accepted, however, that with a high birth rate, there must be a number of still-births.

Deaths (General) Rate.

Table 3.

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
All ages (all causes)	167	157	324

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population.

1956:	14.60
1955:	14.13
1954:	12.51

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

1956:	11.7
1955:	11.7
1954:	11.3

"Corrected" Death Rate 1956 - 13.87 per 1,000 population.

There has been a rise in the death rate as compared with 1955. There were 324 deaths compared with 315 in 1955. 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 13.87 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	4	1	5	0.225
Other Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm stomach	6	4	10	0.450
" " lung, bronchus	14	2	16	0.630
" " breast	-	7	7	0.315
" " uterus	-	3	3	0.136
Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	15	9	24	1.061
Diabetes	-	3	3	0.136
Vascular lesions nervous system	24	37	61	2.748
Coronary disease Angina	35	20	55	2.478
Hyper-tension with heart disease	2	5	7	0.315



Deaths (General) Analysis.  
Causes of Death.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000</u> <u>Population.</u>
Other heart diseases	16	23	39	1.757
Other circulatory diseases	5	5	10	0.450
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1	0.045
Pneumonia	3	6	9	0.405
Bronchitis	9	5	14	0.630
Other respiratory diseases	2	1	3	0.136
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3	0.136
Hyperplasia prostate	4	-	4	0.180
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2	0.090
Other defined and illdefined diseases	9	15	24	1.081
Motor vehicle accidents	5	2	7	0.315
All other accidents	4	4	8	0.360
Suicide	3	1	4	0.180
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-	2	0.090
Influenza	1	-	1	0.045
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1	0.045
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1	0.045
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>324</b>	

There were 5 deaths from Tuberculosis, (all respiratory), compared with 7 in 1955.

It will be seen that the commonest cause of death was disease of the heart and circulatory system, with 162 deaths, followed by Cancer with 60. Of deaths due to infections or notifiable diseases, 9 were due to Pneumonia, 1 to Influenza and 5 to Tuberculosis. There were no deaths from Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Meningitis, or Poliomyelitis. 15 deaths were due to accidents, 7 being motor-accidents. There were 4 cases of suicide.

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	4	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live-births.

1956:	17.69
1955:	31.05
1954:	16.55

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

1956:	18.57
1955:	26.05
1954:	14.08

Infantile Death Rate of illegitimate babies per 1,000 illegitimate births.

1956:	Nil.
1955:	133.33
1954:	55.55

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

1956:	23.3
1955:	24.9
1954:	25.5

The number of deaths of infants under a year old was 6, compared with 10 in 1955, 5 in 1954, and 13 in 1953.

Three 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.R.S.I.,  
M.A.P.H.I.

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

Additional Public Health Inspector: A. Hughes, C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.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 Prestatyn. Sitting case cars are provided by arrangement with the County Ambulance Service.

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) and by local medical practitioners.  
 Dental inspection and clinics.  
 Ophthalmic clinics.  
 Distribution of Infant Foods.  
 Anti-poliomyelitis immunisation.  
 B.C.G. vaccination against Tuberculosis.  
 Ear, Nose and Throat clinics.  
 Speech Therapy clinics.  
 Ultra-violet light therapy.

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 fallen slightly during 1956 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>	<u>1956.</u>
Domestic	44.79	78.78	85.95	91.98	91.50	90.73	91.05
Trade (including Agriculture)	10.25	21.64	37.91	45.24	46.21	47.00	44.76
Bulk supplies	.91	3.88	5.06	4.94	4.39	6.26	6.54
	<u>55.95</u>	<u>104.30</u>	<u>128.92</u>	<u>142.16</u>	<u>142.10</u>	<u>143.99</u>	<u>142.35</u>

Work is still proceeding on the distribution scheme and supplies of water are being taken from the new main into Carmel, Whitford Village and Mostyn. It is hoped to complete the main early in 1957.

The Council have continued their policy of mains renewals throughout the area. Birkenhead Corporation are constructing the Dee Scheme and on completion the Holywell Council will benefit. They will be able to make good their deficiency of water and give a good supply in the Talacre camping area.

Details of water supply within the area are:-

(a) Direct to houses		
No. of houses		Population (estimated)
4,711		14,133
(b) Standpipe supply		
No. of houses		Population (estimated)
1,716		5,148

#### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

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

Schemes of Sewerage for Soughton and Pentre Halkyn are in course of construction. Schemes are being prepared for Rhydymwyn and Mostyn.



## 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, Ffynnonogreew, Talacre, Gwespwr and Gronant.

### District No. 2.

Caerwys, Upper Whitford Parish, Trelogan, Newmarket, Llanasa, Ponffordd and the Parish of Ysceifiog.

### District No. 3.

Northop Hall, Soughton, Mynydd Isa, New Brighton, Gwernaffield, 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-Crio, and Rhoswedd.

Due to the Rural District Council covering an area of 53,000 acres it is necessary for reasons of economy and efficiency of service to have several tips, each tip serving a particular District. A system of "Controlled Tipping" is used in the management of all tips, sand being used as a covering material.

All tips are regularly inspected and treated where and when found necessary for rodent infestations. Following representations from the Mold Office of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food it was necessary to fence certain tips used by the Council to comply with Diseases of Animals (Boiling of Food-stuffs) Order, 1947.

The Council took delivery of two refuse collection vehicles during the year to replace vehicles having been in constant use for over 7 years. Work is proceeding on the re-conditioning of one of the existing vehicles which it is proposed to use for casual use when one of the regular vehicles are off the road.

During previous years cesspools of private houses have been emptied by the Flint Borough Council on a private basis. Towards the end of this year the Flint Council informed this Council that owing to pressure of work they could no longer carry out the emptying of cesspools belonging to private houses in the Rural District Council's area.

The Council have now under consideration the purchase of a cesspool emptier of 800 gallon capacity to be fitted with a night-soil attachment. Quotations are being obtained from the Manufacturers' of such vehicles and a scheme is in the course of preparation for submission to the Council for the use of a cesspool emptier in the Council's Cleansing service as the nightsoil attachment will facilitate the removal of nightsoil and will be a considerable improvement on present methods of nightsoil collection.

Should the Council decide to purchase one of these vehicles and operate a scheme as outlined in the previous paragraph it is hoped at a later date to take over another District now serviced by a Contract Scheme without the necessity of providing a further refuse collection vehicle and crew.

## Rivers and Streams.

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



### Camping Sites.

The Council are constantly receiving applications for Licences in respect of camping sites and moveable dwellings. Each application is carefully examined and in certain cases the Council refused to grant a Licence under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Camping sites are situated in all parts of the Rural District, particularly in the coastal region of Llanasa, camping in this part having reached a point of saturation, and the number of campers in this particular area at peak holiday times is estimated to be in the region of 6,000 people, although an estimate of 15,000 people has been given for August Bank Holiday, but this figure no doubt included day visitors and people occupying tents pitched for the weekend.

Periodical visits and inspections of camping sites and dwellings are made throughout the season. It is found that the larger camping sites are fairly well managed being usually supervised by Owners who reside on the sites and employ staff to secure proper sanitary conditions. The Council does not undertake public cleansing services on camping sites.

Several of the complaints received from hirers of caravans were essentially of a private nature between themselves and the Owners of the vehicles concerned, as these complaints often related to the standard of accommodation provided and facilities which did not conform, in the Hirer's opinion to that advertised.

The water supply to the camping area at Talacre is still inadequate. It will be noted that work is in progress on the Distribution Scheme and it is hoped that this new scheme will be providing "new" water next summer. It is my hope that the conditions experienced this year and previous years will cease in 1957.

### 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.

A considerable amount of time has been devoted to Housing work during the year. Many houses have been repaired as a result of formal action by the Council or informal action by their Officers under the Public Health and Housing Acts, either as a result of routine inspections or on complaint.

Works of repair to a lesser degree have been carried out on properties included in the Council's Slum Clearance Schemes covering the years 1955 - 1965. In dealing with this type of property only the minimum amount of work necessary to remedy the more urgent defects and to maintain the house in a weatherproof condition was requested and obtained. It is felt that it is



unreasonable to request Owners' to spend large sums of money on repairs to this type of property and such action by the Council would inevitably prejudice the Council's case when dealing with the houses formally under the Housing Act, 1936 by Clearance Order procedure in event of the lodging of objections by Owners and the holding of Public Inquiries. Nevertheless one must consider the Occupiers of such properties who will possibly in certain cases be in occupation for quite a few years.

The Council has continued with their policy of dealing with individual unfit houses scheduled for action, when such houses become vacant. These houses being subject to action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 and Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 and Closing Orders or Demolition Orders were made according to each individual case. It is proposed to deal with houses subject to Closing Orders forming part of a terrace of unfit houses when the Council deal with the remaining houses by Clearance Order procedure at a later date.

Following the completion of the Housing Survey in 1955 under the provisions of Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, detailed inspections of houses to be dealt with in the Council's Slum Clearance Scheme for the first year, were completed in July, 1956. Properties in the Parish of Mold Rural in the hamlets and villages of Mynydd Isa, Llong, Pontblyddyn, Pont-y-bodkin and Leeswood formed this year's programme. The majority of houses being in Leeswood which together with the Mostyn area formed the two "black spots" from a housing aspect in the rural area. Ten Clearance Areas involving ninety-eight dwelling houses were submitted to the Housing and Town Planning Committee Meeting of the Council held on the 6th day of July, 1956, together with detailed reports on each individual house, general summaries and schedules of defects for each area, an Official Representation by the Medical Officer of Health, and maps prepared by the Council's Architect.

The Committee recommended to the Council at their Meeting on the 20th July, 1956 to declare each area to be a Clearance Area within the meaning of Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 and a resolution to this effect was accordingly passed.

The following table gives details of each Clearance Area together with the total number of houses in each area and the total number of persons occupying such houses on the "specified day" under Section 25 (2) of the Housing Act, 1936 being the 10th day of October, 1956 in the case of Clearance Areas Nos. 1 & 2, and the 11th day of October, 1956 in the case of the remaining Clearance Areas Nos. 3 - 10 (inclusive).

No. of Area.	Address of properties in Area.	No. of Dwellings in Area.	Total number of persons occupying houses in area on 10th/11th day of October, 1956.
1.	Wylfa Cottages, Wylfa Hill, Mynydd Isa.	4.	20.
2.	Church Row, Pontblyddyn.	12.	42.
3.	Glan'rafon Terrace, Pont-y-bodkin.	6.	20.
4.	Nant Cottages, Pontblyddyn.	2.	3.
5.	Lockwood Row, Leeswood.	9.	17.



No. of Area.	Address of properties in Area.	No. of Dwellings in Area.	Total number of persons occupying houses in area on 10th/11th day of October, 1956.
6.	Chapel Row, Leeswood.	10.	19.
7.	Vale View, Leeswood.	18.	45.
8.	New Row, Leeswood.	30.	101.
9.	Manchester House, Leeswood.	3.	13.
10.	"Tyddyn Cottage" and Tyddyn Cottages, Llong.	4.	4.
Totals		98.	284.

The Council at a Special Meeting on the 28th day of September, 1956 made a Clearance Order in respect of each area referred to.

Arrangements are now being made for the transmission of the Clearance Orders and Documents to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for confirmation. The procedure for dealing with Clearance Orders under the provisions of the 3rd Schedule of the Housing Act, 1936 is being carried out.

The results of the Orders submitted are expected in 1957. Work has also commenced on the detailed inspection of properties in the Mostyn area, which is the second "black spot" from a Housing aspect. For the first half year programme it is proposed to deal with one area comprising 46 occupied dwelling houses known as Tai Trevor, Llanerch-y-Mor, Mostyn, this being Clearance Area No. 11. It is hoped to complete this work and forward the Clearance Order for confirmation to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in the early part of 1957.

#### 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: 11.
- (2) Number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers: 61.
- (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) Nil.
  - (b) 11.
- (4) Number of notices served requiring the execution of works: 31.
- (5) Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: 31.
- (6) Number of demolition or closing orders made: 7.
- (7) Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection(3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936: 2.
- (8) Number of houses demolished: Nil.

New Council Houses completed in 1956: 20.

New Council Houses under construction at 31.12.56: 30.

Private Houses completed in 1956: 19.



SECTION E.  
Shops Inspection.

Much time has been devoted to the inspection of premises where food is prepared and/or exposed for sale. Inspections made in 1955 and letters sent regarding provisions of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 to secure compliance with these Statutory enactments are being attended to and works of improvement to premises and equipment are in progress at several shops.

The 1st of July, 1956 saw the coming into force of the remaining provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations which are now being enforced.

Particular attention is also paid in the inspection of Public Houses to the sanitary accommodation provisions under Section 69 of the Public Health Act, 1936 and work has been carried out in several Public Houses both under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 and the Public Health Act, 1936. Particular attention has also been given to food premises situated on camping sites which only open for the holiday season.

Only in a few instances has it been necessary to grant Certificates of Exemption under Regulation 31 of the Food Hygiene Regulations, due mainly to the absence of drainage facilities, restricted accommodation and impending Slum Clearance Order schemes.

Generally it can be reported that progress is being made to secure higher standards of food hygiene, but it is felt that parts of the District present problems for compliance with certain Regulations due to the absence of essential services.

Large areas of the Rural District are catered for by travelling shops and attention has been paid to these vehicles. Many of these vehicles are from premises outside the Council's area.

One complaint was received from the purchaser of a fruit cake which when cut was found to contain a nail. This case was fully investigated and reported to the Public Health Committee, who decided that having regard to the circumstances and in view of the Manufacturer's previous good record a letter warning the Company to exercise greater care in the future be sent to them.

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.

Very few complaints were received from the general public regarding food premises 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 the 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	318
Pigs	186
Calves	17
Sheep & Lambs	2,554

A reasonable standard of hygiene is maintained at all the slaughter-houses. Legislation is now awaited to secure higher standards for slaughter-houses and until this comes into force no improvements are being carried out.

## Milk.

An important event of 1955 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.

The public is now protected against buying raw milk which may be infected, but human nature being as it is, no doubt people will continue to get raw milk, when and where they can.

## SECTION F.

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

#### Notifiable Diseases - 1956.

<u>Diseases.</u>	<u>Cases Notified</u> <u>(Corrected)</u>		<u>Deaths</u> <u>1956</u>
	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	
Scarlet Fever	20	11	-
Whooping Cough	39	20	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	66	394	-
Pneumonia	17	42	9
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	1	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-
Erysipelas	3	4	-
Dysentery	-	8	-
Encephalitis	-	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	1	-
Puerperal pyrexia	1	-	-
Totals	<u>146</u>	<u>482</u>	<u>9</u>

There were 20 cases of scarlet fever, mostly of a mild type, mainly in children, the majority occurring the first and fourth quarters of the year. 29 of the 39 cases of whooping cough were in the second half of the year in children under 10 years of age. There were 66 cases of measles with no deaths, most of the cases being in the first quarter of the year and were in children up to 9 years. There were 17 cases of pneumonia, with 9 deaths. As is usual in this complaint, the deaths occurred in the very young and the elderly. There were no cases of Diphtheria nor of Poliomyelitis. One death was reported as due to Influenza, though this complaint was prevalent early in the year. There were no outbreaks of food poisoning.



## TUBERCULOSIS.

### New cases notified during the year 1956.

Age groups	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	3	1	-	2
15 - 24 years	3	1	2	-
25 - 44 years	1	5	-	1
45 - 64 years	8	3	-	-
65 years and over	2	-	1	-
Age unknown	1	1	-	-
Totals	<u>16</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

During the year there were 29 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified, and 6 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis (compared with 28 and 4 in 1955). These numbers include transfers in from other districts.

There were 5 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis (4 males and 1 female) and no deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, compared with 7 in 1955.

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.

### B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

During 1956 the County Council, as the local Health Authority, introduced a scheme for the protection of school children against Tuberculosis. The object of B.C.G. immunisation is to give a child an artificial immunity or protection where no natural protection exists. The procedure consists of skin-testing the child with Tuberculin. The result of this test shows whether the child has a natural or acquired protection, or has no protection at all. If there is no protection, the child is given one injection into the skin of the upper arm. In a few weeks a small scab forms and falls off and the procedure is now completed.

During 1956, 1,286 children between 13 and 14 years were tested and of 893 found to be suitable for B.C.G. vaccination,



859 were given the necessary injection. There were no ill-effects. It is proposed to extend the scheme, so that all children, by the time they leave school, will be reasonably well-protected. The written consent of the parent or guardian is necessary in each case.

National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47).

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951. (Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention).

No cases were dealt with under these Acts during the year, but many visits were made in this connection. Elderly people, especially those living alone, need sympathetic supervision, and this is carried out in co-operation with the County Health and Welfare Departments. With the ever-increasing numbers of aged persons in the population, there will be a corresponding increase in demand for institutional and hospital accommodation. The general opinion is that elderly people are best left in their homes but cases do occur where the persons are ill and uncared for, unwashed, living in dirty conditions, and are a constant danger to their neighbours through carelessness in regard to fire and gas-fittings. When a person has to be removed against his or her will to hospital, it is necessary to get the patient's doctor, a magistrate, the Welfare Officer, the Medical Officer of Health, the Police, if necessary and an ambulance. And usually at the last moment the patient withdraws his objections to going to hospital. Very few cases are dealt with in a year, but some of them could be avoided if relatives of aged people displayed a little more humanity. Many of the old people on whom I keep a benevolent eye have relatives within easy travelling distance, but who never come near them. On the other hand, some old people can be outrageously difficult and unreasonable that strangers can handle them better than can relatives.

Anti-Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

During 1956, protection against Poliomyelitis was made available to children born between 1947 and 1954. Supplies of vaccine were limited but by the end of the year, 306 children in the County had received the two injections without after-effects. There was considerable doubt in many parents' minds regarding the risks involved. Ill-informed newspaper articles (many of them ostensibly written by doctors, who should have known better) and the absence of lucid official information, served to add to the confusion. But when parents saw that others' children were receiving the injections without dire results, there was a rush to sign consent forms. Since then, the poliomyelitis immunisation clinic sessions have proceeded as regularly as supplies of vaccine permit, and without any ill-effects. It must be recorded that the children are more sensible about the procedure than are some of the parents. There was the same kind of alarm when anti-Diphtheria immunisation was introduced generally in 1940, and it is already clear that anti-Poliomyelitis vaccination will be accepted without undue apprehension.

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

Inspections.

Premises.	No. on Register	Inspec- tions	Number of Written Occupiers Notices Prosecuted
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(i) Factories in which  
Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are  
to be enforced by Local  
Authorities.

41

70

-

-



Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspec- tions.	Number of Written Notices.	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i)	41	70	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	12	18	-	-
Totals	53	88	-	-

Cases in which defects were found.

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	9	9
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
(a) Insufficient	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-
Totals	11	11

Part VIII of the Act.

Outwork.

(Sections 110 and 111) NIL.

