

**[Report 1939] / Medical Officer of Health, Holywell U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

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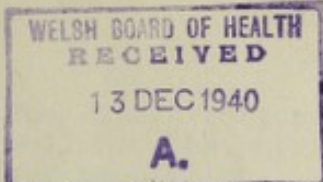
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Brynford House,  
Holywell.

1st October, 1940.

TO:-

THE URBAN COUNCIL OF HOLYWELL.

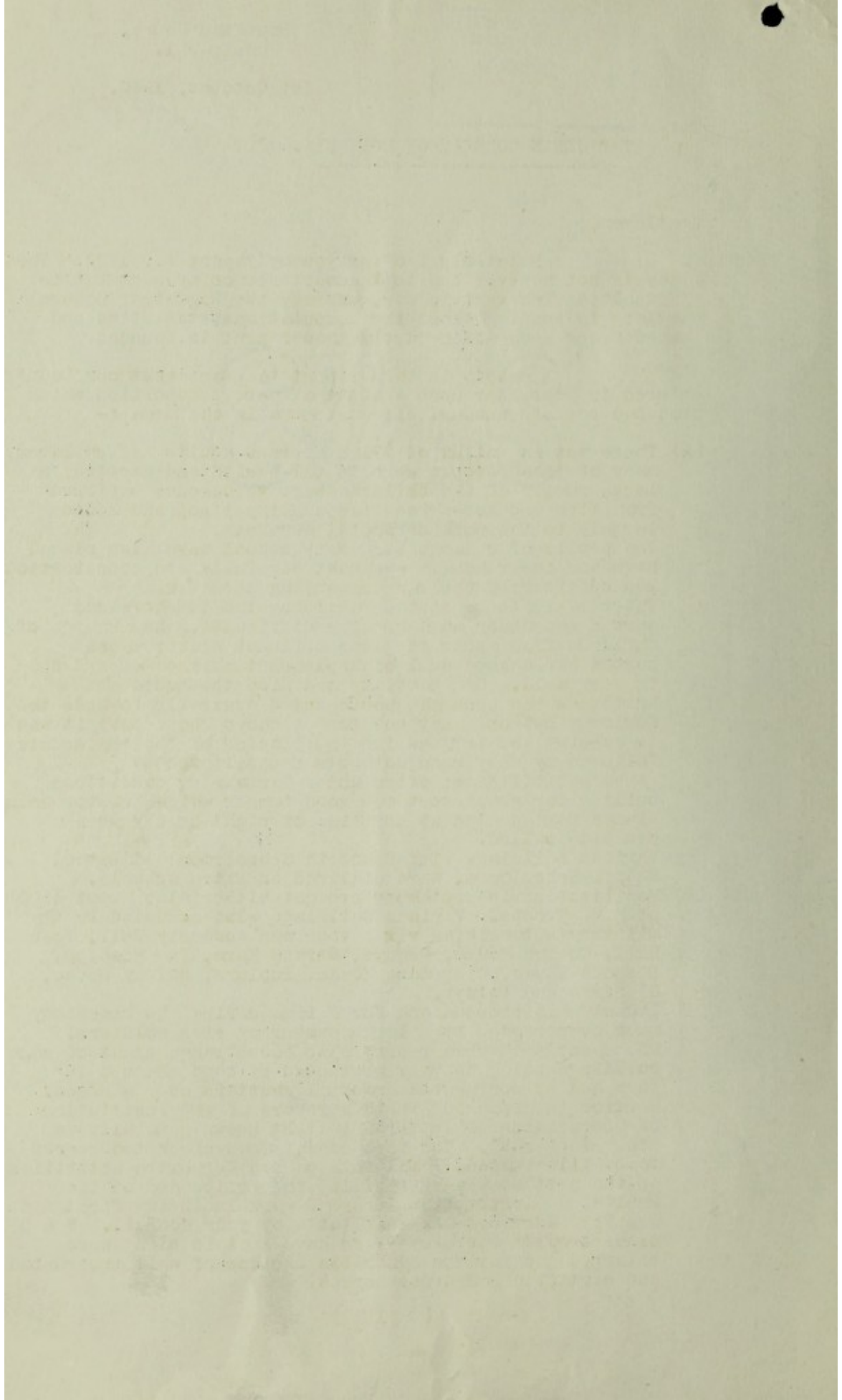


Gentlemen,

Belatedly I offer you my report for 1939. The delay is not however due to inadvertence on my part but to difficulties inherent in war, whereby the Registrar General was late in sending to me the computations, statistics and instructions upon which partly this report is founded.

I embody in this report the fact that our Country entered in September upon a state of war, a condition which produced certain unusual circumstances in the area :-

- (a) There was an influx of 771 dispersed adults and children, many of these people were in ill-health and excited; a large number of the children were verminous, suffered from itch and sores (scabies and impetigo) and added largely to the work of social servants. The pupils of a large secondary school were also placed here and their health was most carefully and conscientiously looked after by their accompanying teachers. The same is to be stated regarding the teachers and nurses who under much greater difficulties had charge of children from among the less affluent class; these nurses had a good deal of unpleasant work to do and did it very well. One complimented also the hosts and hostesses who upon the whole acted admirably towards the forlorn, but one must not forget those whose duty it was to receive and arrange for the placing of the immigrants followed by many readjustments necessitated by incompatibilities; often under harassing conditions calling for great tact and good temper which however were always forthcoming at any time of night or day when occasion called.
- Various buildings viz: Rehobeth Schoolroom and Bathel Chapel Schoolroom, were utilized as extra schools.
- (b) Mobilization in September brought hither also about 1000 of H.M. Troops. Various Buildings were occupied by the Military Authorities viz: your own Assembly Hall, Town Hall, Church House, Pendre, Strand Farm, The Hospice, Desmond House, Claremont House, Poplars, Holway House, Glasfryn and Islwyn.
- Lluesty was crowded and for a time during the emergency much overcrowded by a large number of sick soldiers. One records in this report also the strange sight of some buildings being heavily protected by sand encased in bags and by corrugated external shutters over windows. Mention is also made in this record of the Institution of Obscuration of artificial light known generally as "the Black out". The face of the Town clock too ceased to be illuminated. All this called for extra activities on the part of your officials, the Police and of the Public. Instruction in A R P work including First Aid and Fire Services was instituted by your Council. V A D classes which for many years have kept in being were enlarged and form an admirable nucleus of well instructed and certified Red Cross nurses.





The Public responded with an enthusiasm which speaks well for the patriotism and self sacrificing spirit of our population.

Circular 1961 (Wales) from the Welsh Board of Health requires information to be submitted to you in the following form which I now offer. It is to be noted that where as normally the deaths in the area of persons from other districts are transferred to their home areas and are not included in the statistics of this area. This rule is altered as from 1st 1939; the effect of this is that deaths in Llamesty of persons from other districts go to increase our death rate. This applies to other districts, but computation is rendered slightly more difficult.

# SECTION "A".

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## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

|                              |                    |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Area ( in acres )            | ..                 | 2,532.                         |
| Registrar General's estimate |                    |                                |
| Resident population (a)      | 6590               | for calculation of birth rate. |
| Registrar General's estimate |                    |                                |
| Resident population (b)      | 6918               | for calculation of death rate. |
| Rateable Value.              | ..                 | £35,428.                       |
| Product of a Penny Rate      | ..                 | £ 120.                         |
| Total. M. F.                 | Birth Rate. 18.36. | Rate for                       |
| Live .. Legitimate           | 121. 70.51.        | England &                      |
| Births. Illegitimate         | 0. 0. 0.           | Wales 15.                      |
| Still Births.                | 4. 4. 0.           | Rate per 1000 total births 32. |
| Deaths.                      | 108. 54.54.        | Rate per 1000 pop - 15.6.      |
|                              |                    | Rate for                       |
|                              |                    | England and                    |
|                              |                    | Wales is 12.1.                 |

## Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

No.29 Puerperal sepsis. - - 0.  
No.30. Other puerperal causes - 1.

1.

## Death rate of infants under one year of age.

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| All infants per 1000         | 82.6. |
| Legitimate infants per 1000. | 82.6. |
| Illegitimate do do           | 0.    |
| Deaths from Cancer all ages. | 17.   |
| Measles                      | 0.    |
| Whooping Cough.              | 0.    |
| Diarrhoea under 2 years.     | 1.    |





S E C T I O N " B ".  
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(1) Public Health Officers of the Sanitary Authority consist of one part time Medical Officer of Health, C. E. Morris, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P London and one full time Sanitary Inspector D. L. Morgans B.Sc.

(2). (a) Laboratory facilities - No Change.

(b) Ambulance - A R P services have an ambulance which is strictly reserved for war emergencies only.

(c) Nursing in the home, carried out by one District Nurse. There is much enthusiasm shown by a large class of V.A.D of the Red Cross Association, which will tend to provide an extension of nursing care in the home.

(d) Treatment Clinics are conducted by the staff of the County Council.

(e) Hospitals - One public hospital which contains no accommodation for normal or serious emergencies in obstetrics. In my opinion it is time that the County Authorities provided in this centre where the birth rate is high suitable hospital accommodation for serious cases. At present much money is expended in transport to Mancot and St Asaph distant Hospitals. Moreover friends and relatives of patients find it difficult to visit especially St Asaph, because the Railway journey thither through Rhyl is devious and expensive, especially the obstetricians of this District have no accommodation for Hospital treatment of their patients when the sudden emergencies, inseparable from this work do unfortunately occur. One Voluntary Hospital - whence all confinement cases (whatever the emergency) are specifically excluded.

S E C T I O N " B ".  
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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Extension of sewage system for Greenfield under construction. Ditches in the marsh are very foul and call loudly for cleaning.

|                                      |                 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Acreage of Urban District.     | .. 2532. acres. |
| No of inhabited houses at 31st Decr. |                 |
| 1939 according to Rate Books.        | 2106.           |
| Rateable Value.                      | ..£35,428.      |
| Product of a Penny Rate              | £ 120.          |

Water Supply. During the latter part of the year, owing to the increased population and decreased pressure at which water was delivered to the Urban District Reservoir from the Birkenhead Waterworks, it was found impossible to maintain a continuous supply of water to the District. Steps were taken to augment the supply by boosting of a temporary nature. A scheme involving the laying of extra supply mains for a distance of approximately 2 miles is now in course of submission to the Ministry of Health and it is hoped that this will be in operation during the current year.

Sewerage and Drainage. Works of sewerage for Greenfield and Holywell are now in course of erection. Under this scheme it will be possible to convert the village of Greenfield into a water carriage system.





Closet Accommodation. - No change in position.

Public Cleansing. - No change in position. A scheme for the salvage of waste paper, metal and bones was prepared and will be in operation during the current year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. Particulars of Notices and Inspections during the year ending Dec 31st 1939 (required Statute to be included in the Medical Officer's Report) :-

| <u>No. of Notices.</u> |                | <u>Nature.</u>  | <u>Result.</u>         |
|------------------------|----------------|---|------------------------|
| <u>Informal.</u>       | <u>Formal.</u> |   |                        |
|                        | 1.             | Notice to provide Dustbins.   | Dustbins provided.     |
| 15.                    |                | Nuisances.  | Nuisances abated.      |
| 65.                    |                | Notice to School Managers Employers &c of the occurrence of Infectious Disease. | Suitable action taken. |

Inspections.

| <u>Number.</u> | <u>Nature.</u>  |
|----------------|---|
| 33.            | Inspections of Dwelling houses for the purposes of the Housing Acts and Public Health Acts. |
| 8.             | Inspection of Slaughterhouses.  |
| 8.             | Inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds.  |
| 15.            | Inspections of New Buildings for the purposes of Building Byelaws.                          |
| 38.            | Inspections made in connection with case of Infectious Diseases.                            |
| 6.             | Inspection of Bakehouse.  |
| 3.             | Inspections of Foodshops.   |

Shop Acts. No action taken during the year.

Smoke Abatement. No action taken.

Swimming Baths. No change.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| No of Council Houses found to be infested | .. 1     |
| No of Council Houses disinfested.         | .. 1     |
| No of other houses found to be infested.  | .. Nil . |
| No of other houses disinfested.           | .. Nil.  |

SECTION " D ".  
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Housing - In abeyance, No Change.



100 100 100

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year.

- 1 (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts). 18.  
(b) No of inspections made for the purpose 18.
- 2 (a) (i) No of dwellinghouses (included under subhead (1) above) which were included and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932. .. 18.
- (2) No. of inspections made for this purpose. - 18.
- (3) No. of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 18.
- (4) No. of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. Nil.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.

No. of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. Nil.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.  
(1) No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil.  
(2) No. of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices.  
(a) by owners. Nil.  
(b) by local authority. Nil.
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-  
(1) No. of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 7.  
(2) No. of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice  
(a) By owners. 7.  
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil.
- (c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.  
(1) No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which demolition Orders were made. Nil.  
(2) No. of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of demolition Orders Nil.
- (d) Proceedings in respect of Section 2, Housing Act, 1936.  
(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made. .. Nil.  
(2) No of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined. .. Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part 4 Overcrowding.

- (a) (1) No of dwellinghouses overcrowded at end of year. .. 28.  
(2) No of families dwelling therein. 28.  
(3) No of persons dwelling therein. 160.  
(4) (b) No of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. .. 1.  
(c) No of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. .. 1.



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No of persons concerned in such cases.      ..      ...

8.

These figures are approximate only. Owing to the violent movement of population towards the end of the year it is impossible to give an accurate picture of the present overcrowding position.

# S E C T I O N " E " \*\*\*\*\*

Milk Supply.      The milk supply was maintained at its usual standard throughout the year. Inspections of farms were carried out as time permitted. During the year two County Council smallholdings were connected with the Town water supply as a result of representations made by this Council. Two private farms were also connected.

| <u>Meat and Other Foods.</u> | <u>Cows.</u> | <u>Calves.</u> | <u>Sheep &amp; Lambs.</u> | <u>Pigs.</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Number killed.               | 360.         | 70.            | 3,500                     | 700.         |
| Number inspected             | 65.          | 10.            | 79.                       | 20.          |

Number of slaughterhouses in area - 5. (All Licensed).

Infectious Diseases.      14 cases of Scarlet Fever and 23 cases of diphtheria were notified during the year. In addition to 7 deaths from tuberculosis, 3 cases of scarlet fever and 1 case of diphtheria included in the above figures occurred amongst evacuated school children from Liverpool.

Generally.      The outstanding events of the year were the declaration of war of Sept 3rd 1939, the arrival of approximately 800 evacuees on the same date, and the arrival of certain companies of troops on Sept 2nd. The evacuation scheme and the reception of the children was supervised from this department and the billeting was completed for each batch before nightfall, many members of the Council and the general public giving every assistance.

# S E C T I O N " F ". \*\*\*\*\*

## Prevalence of and control over Infectious and other diseases.

Your Council is now a contributor to the St Asaph Joint Hospital Board. No immunization has so far been officially adopted.

### Notifiable diseases during the year 1939.

| <u>Disease.</u>        | <u>Total cases notified.</u> | <u>cases to hospital.</u> | <u>total deaths.</u> |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Smallpox.              | nil.                         |                           | nil.                 |
| Scarlet fever.         | 16.                          | 1.                        | nil.                 |
| Diphtheria.            | 25.                          | 3.                        | nil.                 |
| Enteric Fever.         | nil.                         |                           | nil.                 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia.     | 1.                           |                           | nil.                 |
| Pneumonia.             | 29.                          |                           | 4.                   |
| Measles.               | 2.                           |                           | nil.                 |
| Whooping Cough.        | 2.                           |                           | nil.                 |
| Ophthalmia neonatorum. | 1.                           |                           | nil.                 |
| Erysipelas.            | 1                            |                           | nil.                 |





Table showing age incidence of diphtheria.

|       |          | <u>No. of Cases.</u> |
|-------|----------|----------------------|
| Under | 1 year.  | 1                    |
| "     | 3 years. | 3                    |
| "     | 5 "      | 2                    |
| "     | 10. "    | 5                    |
| "     | 15 "     | 4                    |
| "     | 20. "    | 4                    |
| "     | 35 "     | 5                    |
| "     | 65 "     | 1                    |

Table showing age incidence of Scarlet Fever.

|       |          |    |
|-------|----------|----|
| Under | 3 years. | 2  |
| "     | 4 "      | 1  |
| "     | 5 "      | 1  |
| "     | 10 "     | 10 |
| "     | 15 "     | 1  |
| "     | 45 "     | 1  |

Table showing age incidence of Pneumonia.

|       |         |          |
|-------|---------|----------|
| Under | 2 years | 5        |
| "     | 3 "     | 1        |
| "     | 4 "     | 3        |
| "     | 10 "    | 1        |
| "     | 15 "    | 0        |
| "     | 20 "    | 1        |
| "     | 35 "    | 4        |
| "     | 45 "    | 5        |
| "     | 65 "    | 9        |
|       |         | <hr/> 29 |

Tuberculosis.- Particulars of new cases and of deaths.

| <u>Age periods.</u> | <u>New Cases.</u>   |                         | <u>Deaths.</u>      |                  | <u>Deaths.</u>      |                  | <u>Deaths.</u>      |                  |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|                     | <u>Respiratory.</u> | <u>Non-respiratory.</u> | <u>Respiratory.</u> | <u>Non-resp:</u> | <u>Respiratory.</u> | <u>Non-resp:</u> | <u>Respiratory.</u> | <u>Non-resp:</u> |
|                     | M.                  | F.                      | M.                  | F.               | M.                  | F.               | M.                  | F.               |
| 0.                  | -                   | -                       | -                   | -                | -                   | -                | -                   | -                |
| 1.                  | -                   | -                       | -                   | -                | -                   | -                | -                   | -                |
| 5.                  | -                   | -                       | -                   | -                | -                   | -                | -                   | -                |
| 15.                 | -                   | 1                       | -                   | -                | -                   | -                | -                   | -                |
| 25.                 | -                   | -                       | -                   | 1                | -                   | 3                | -                   | -                |
| 35.                 | 1                   | 4                       | -                   | -                | -                   | -                | -                   | -                |
| 45.                 | 1                   | 1                       | -                   | -                | -                   | -                | 1                   | -                |
| 55.                 | -                   | -                       | -                   | -                | 1                   | -                | -                   | -                |
| 65 &<br>upwards     | -                   | 1                       | -                   | -                | 1                   | -                | -                   | -                |
| Totals.             | 2.                  | 7                       | -                   | 1                | 2                   | 3                | 1                   | -                |

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. E. Morris.

Medical Officer of Health.



