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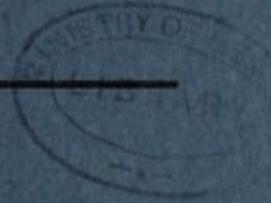
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HOLYWELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



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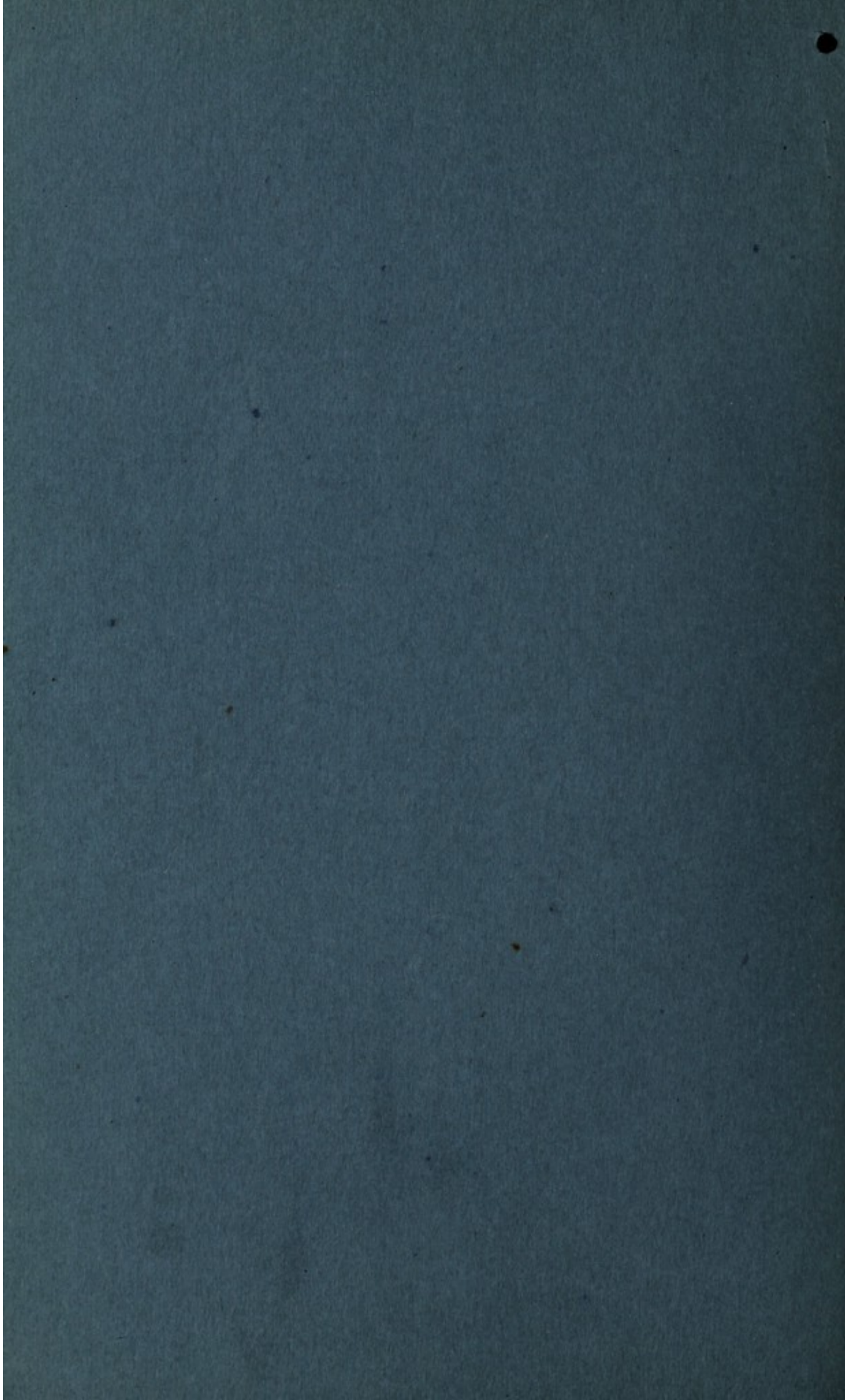
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

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1952.





# Holywell Urban District Council

Medical Officer of Health,  
Dr. D. J. FRASER,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Town Hall,  
Holywell.*

To the Chairman and Members of the Holywell Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended December, 31st 1953.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid-year was 8,159. The population at the Census (1951) was given as 8,196.

The Birth Rate shows a slight fall. The number of live-births was 145, compared with 155 in 1951.

The Still Birth rate rose slightly. The actual number of still births was 4, as in 1951.

The Death Rate showed a fall, as did the Death Rate for the country as a whole. The total of deaths was 100 compared with 105 in 1951. With the ever increasing number of elderly persons in the population, a rise in the death rate must be expected in the future.

There was a fall in the Infantile Death Rate from 32.25 per 1,000 live births to 20.68. Three infants under a year old died compared with five in 1951. One of those three infants was under a month old.

I am glad to report that once again there were no deaths from pregnancy or childbirth.

The analysis of the causes of death amongst the population as a whole shows that diseases of the heart and circulatory system, followed by cancer in one form or another, were the two largest causes accounting for 65% of the deaths. It must be admitted that the death rate from cancer is rising, but cancer is chiefly a complaint found in old age, so that with an ever increasing proportion of elderly people in the population, there are bound to be more cancer deaths. As to the causes of cancer, constant research is going on. In this County, every death from cancer is investigated, and details of the patients' life, work and even the preferences regarding food are recorded.

It will be seen from the reports upon samples, that the quality of the water supply is satisfactory, although the quantity is inadequate.

Holywell was visited in July by a Mass Radiography Unit of the Welsh Regional Hospital Board, and 143 males and 312 females, total 455 were examined. No definite cases of Pulmonary tuberculosis were found, and only one person was referred for observation. In nine persons abnormal conditions of the chest were found. It should be realised that Mass Radiography is used not only for the detection of tuberculosis but also to reveal other conditions which may otherwise remain undetected. During the year the Unit visited most of the works in the district, and several thousand workers were examined. It is hoped that the Unit will visit the area regularly in the future.

The total number of cases of disease notified fell from 316 in 1951 to 145 in 1952, the main cause of the decrease being due to a fall in the incidence of measles in children.

There were seven new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year - all males. There is no doubt that unsuspected cases of tuberculosis are at large amongst the population. Modern methods of diagnosis, and close co-operation between the various authorities responsible for the health of the population bring many of the unsuspected cases to light. The death rate from tuberculosis in Holywell is lower than that for England and Wales.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council as a whole, and your Officers, for their assistance which has been so readily given to me.

I remain, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

D.J. Fraser.

Medical Officer of Health.



SECTION A.Social Conditions including chief industries.

There has been no change in conditions during the year. Employment within the Urban District is provided mainly in paper works, woollen and other textile works, and in artificial silk works. Many residents work in neighbouring districts at a steel works, an iron foundry, quarrying, and at coal mining.

Area in acres - 2,428. Statutory acres.

Population - Census 1951 - 8,196.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) Mid Year 1952. 8,159.  
Mid-Year 1951. 8,162.  
Mid-Year 1950. 7,950.

Number of inhabited houses. 2,219.

Rateable Value. £17,269.

Product of a Penny Rate. £187 9s. 3d.

Vital Statistics.

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

TABLE 1. Births.

Live-Births.

	Male.	Female.	Totals.
Legitimate.	76	66	142.
Illegitimate.	3	-	3
TOTAL.	79	66	145.

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population.

1952 - 17.77

1951 - 18.99

1950 - 18.24

England and Wales. Live Birth rate per 1,000 population.

1952 (Provisional) - 15.3

1951 ----- 15.5

The birth rate fell slightly but it is above the rate for England and Wales, which has continued to fall. 145 live births occurred, compared with 155 in 1951.

TABLE 2. Still Births.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	3	-	3
Illegitimate.	-	1	1
TOTAL.	3	1	4

Still-birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births.

1951 - 25.15.

1952. - 26.84.

Still-birth Rate per 1,000 population.

1951 - 0.49

1952. - 0.49.

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

1952 (provisional) - 0.35.

1951 ----- 0.36.

There has thus been no change in the still-birth rate for the Holywell Urban area. The actual number of still-births was four, compared with four in 1951.

TABLE 111. Deaths (General) Rate.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
All ages (all causes)	48	52	100
Death Rate per 1,000 population.			
1952-----	12.25.		
1951-----	12.86.		
1950-----	11.69.		

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

1952 (Provisional) 11.3

1951 ----- 12.50

The crude death rate has fallen slightly and it is slightly higher than the rate for England and Wales. The Registrar General's "Comparability Factor" being 1.00, the corrected death rate is 12.25. There were 100 deaths compared with 105 in 1951.

TABLE 1V. Deaths (General) Analysis.

See next page.



Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 population.
Tuberculosis respiratory,	-	1	1	0.12
Hyperplasia Prostate.	1	-	1	0.12
Malignant Neoplasm stomach.	1	3	4	0.49
" " lung-bronchus.	1	1	2	0.24
" " breast.	-	1	1	0.12
" " uterus.	-	2	2	0.24
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	5	10	15	1.83
Diabetes.	-	1	1	0.12
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	6	7	13	1.59
Coronary diseases, angina.	8	4	12	1.47
Hypertension with heart disease.	-	1	1	0.12
Other heart diseases.	5	9	14	1.71
Other circulatory disease.	-	1	1	0.12
Congenital Malformations.	2	1	3	0.36
Pneumonia.	1	1	2	0.24
Bronchitis.	2	1	3	0.36
Ulcer stomach and duodenum.	1	-	1	0.12
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	1	-	1	0.12
Nephritis & nephrosis.	-	-	-	-
Other defined & ill-defined diseases.	7	7	14	1.71
Accidents motor:-	2	-	2	0.24
other:-	5	-	5	0.61
Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	1	1	0.12
<b>TOTAL.</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>	

It will be seen from this table that 41 deaths were due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system: 24 deaths were due to cancer in one form or another. There was 1 death from Tuberculosis, compared with 2 in 1951. There were no deaths from Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Meningitis, Poliomyelitis or Measles.

TABLE V. Deaths (associated with Pregnancy and childbirth).  
I am glad to report that once more there were no deaths from those causes.

TABLE VI. Deaths (Infantile) i.e. infants under one year old.

	Male.	Female.	Totals.
Legitimate.	1	2	3
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
<b>TOTALS.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

Infantile death-rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births.

1952 -21.12

1951.-33.48

1950 -49.65

Infantile death-rate of illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births.

1952 -nil.

1951 -nil.

1950 -nil.



Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 live-births (legitimate & illegitimate).

1952 - 20.68  
1951 - 32.25  
1950 - 48.27

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

1952 (Provisional) - 27.6  
1951 -----29.6

It is pleasing to note that the Infantile Death-rate has fallen, and it is below the figure for England and Wales. Three infants died compared with five in 1951. One of those three was under four weeks old.

#### SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

OFFICERS. Medical Officer of Health: Dr. D. J. Fraser, M.B.Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor. John Topham (Resigned, 19/7/52).  
J. Farrall M.B.S.I., M.S.I.A., (From 13/10/52).

#### Laboratory Facilities:

The Public Health Laboratories at Conway and Birkenhead.

Ambulance Service provided by the County Council. An ambulance is stationed in Holywell on a 24 hour service. Sitting case transport is provided by arrangement with the County Welfare Department.

#### Other services provided by the County Council are:-

Home Help.  
Home nursing.  
Domiciliary midwifery.  
Health visiting.  
Diphtheria Immunisation.  
Tuberculosis health visiting and after-care.  
Mental Health visiting.  
Prevention of Illness, Care, and after-care.  
Antenatal clinics.  
School clinics and examination of school children.  
Infant welfare clinics.  
Vaccination (by arrangement) by local medical practitioners.

#### Provided by the Regional Hospital Board are:-

Hospital and out-patients clinic facilities.  
Tuberculosis clinics and sanatorium Accommodation.  
Mental Hospital Facilities.

<u>Treatment Clinics.</u>	<u>Situation.</u>	<u>Date and times of opening.</u>
Tuberculosis.	Cottage Hospital.	Tuesdays 10.30a.m.
School clinic.	The Clinic, Holywell.	Fridays 9.30 a.m.
Antenatal Clinic.	The Clinic, Holywell.	2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month. 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon.
Infant Welfare Clinic.	The Clinic, Holywell.	Thursdays 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic.	Cottage Hospital, Holywell.	2nd & 4th Fridays 10 a.m. - 12 noon.
Diphtheria. Immunisation.	The Clinic, Holywell.	Once monthly. 1st Thursday 10a.m.



## Hospitals.

The provision of all types of hospital accommodation is the responsibility of the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee. There are two small general hospitals within the Urban Area.

National Assistance Act 1948. (Section 47) (removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention). No cases were dealt with under this heading during the year.

## SECTION C. WATER SUPPLY.

The arrangements made with Birkenhead Corporation to augment the Authority's insufficient water supply have proved to be reasonably satisfactory. The problem of water supply is one which is troubling most local authorities in North Wales. It is to be hoped that more water will be available from the Birkenhead Corporation's supply, when that authority will have completed its scheme for extraction of water from the River Dee.

Ten samples were taken during the year in the Urban area. Of those, eight were Class 1 (highly satisfactory) and 2 were unsatisfactory. Repeat samples were taken, and found to be satisfactory.

There is no record of chemical analysis of water having been made. This is done by the supplying authority.

The number of dwelling houses supplied from water mains direct to the houses is 1,976 approximately: by stand-pipes 210 approximately: springs and other sources 7 approximately.

Refuse Disposal is carried out by direct labour, and there is a weekly collection from every house in the area. Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping. Some nuisance has been caused by unauthorised tipping of animal and vegetable refuse. Strict supervision of tipping is necessary, or the tip gets out of control, and much expense may be caused in having to hire machinery to get the tip into order.

## Sanitary Inspection of the Area. TABLE VII.

Particulars of Notices and Inspections during the year ended 31st December, 1951 (required by Statute to be included in the Medical Officer's Report.)

TABLE VII. Number of visits made in connection with Public Health matters:-

<u>Number.</u>	<u>Nature.</u>
122.	Visits re complaints of sanitary defects.
432	Inspections of dwelling houses.
94	Shops and food stores.
156	Slaughterhouse.
31	Re refuse collection and disposal.
28	Re Infectious diseases and disinfection.
19	Factories Act.
19	Interviews with owners or agents.
21	Dirty or verminous premises.
16	Bakehouses.
18	Sewage works.
6	Dairies.
12	Water sampling.
81	Inspection under Building Byelaws.
37	Shops Act.



TABLE VIII. No. of notices served.

<u>Informal.</u>	<u>Formal.</u>	<u>Nature of notices.</u>	<u>Result.</u>
38	8	nuisances.	abated.
4	-	P.H.A. 1936.8.39 (cesspool).	abated.
1	-	P.H.A. 1936 S.75 (dustbins).	abated.

SECTION D.

Housing.

This, as in most areas is the most pressing problem of the present. There are numbers of old and insanitary houses in Holywell fit only for demolition. Until new houses can be provided the old ones must be patched up. In many cases, the houses are in such a state of dilapidation that money spent on them is wasted.

Number on the waiting list at the end of 1952. - 335  
New Council houses built in 1952. - 22  
New Private houses built in 1952. - 4

TABLE IX.

Dwelling houses inspected for defects under the Public Health Acts - 182.  
Inspections made for the purpose of the above - 212.

TABLE X. Remedy of defects without service of formal notice.

No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action - 62.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The quality of milk from the point of view of composition is the responsibility of the County Council, as the Food and Drugs Authority. Inspections of Farms were carried out throughout the year. All samples of milk taken conformed to their respective standards.

TABLE XI. Carcasses inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excl. Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed.	697	335	355	6110	420
Number inspected.	697	335	355	6110	420
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole Carcasses condemned.	3	5	4	23	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	22.81	65.7	.02	5.82	3.09
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned.	3	4	-	-1	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	79	54	-	-	18
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	11.78	17.91	-	.016	4.18
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	156	220	3	333	9

TABLE XIV. Food Poisoning.

There were no outbreaks of food-poisoning in the area during the year.

ICE CREAM.

No ice cream is manufactured in the district. All ice-cream is made in factories outside the area, and sampling for composition and cleanliness is done in the areas of manufacture. All premises retailing ice-cream are registered with the local authority and regular inspection is carried out.

Inspection and supervision of Food-Shops.

Being the market town for a large rural area, Holywell contains many food-shops. The standard of food hygiene has risen, but much remains to be done in educating those who handle food. If the public refused to buy from dirty shops the standard of hygiene would rise rapidly. Much can be done also by regular visits by the Sanitary Inspector.

Condemned Food. 1952.Tinned Goods.

Minced Beef loaf.	6	Peas.	10
Ham	15	Fruit Salad.	3
Jellied Veal.	8	Strawberries.	44
Luncheon Meat.	7	Plums.	43
Pork	7	Pineapple.	1
Stewed S. sak.	12	Oranges.	2
Pork Luncheon Meat.	12	Cherries.	34
Rabbit.	1	Apple Puree.	14
Minced Meat.	1	Peaches.	1
Gelatine.	2	Grape Fruit	-
Vegetable Soup.	3	Juice.	1
Tomatoes.	28	Pears.	3
Beans.	11	Grapes.	1
Spaghetti.	1	Lime Juice.	13
Darrots.	1	Evaporated Milk.	12
		Condensed Milk.	13



Other Foods.

2 Stones Smoked Cod Fillets. 4 bags Flour.  
60 Jars Fish Paste. 64 Jars of Pickles.  
1 Jar Meat Paste. 24-30z. Packets Processed Cheese.  
Factories 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to  
health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>M/c</u> <u>line.</u> <u>No.2</u>	<u>No. on</u> <u>Regis-</u> <u>ter.</u> <u>(3)</u>	<u>Inspec-</u> <u>tions.</u> <u>(4)</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Written</u> <u>notices.</u> <u>(5)</u>	<u>Occupier</u> <u>Prosecuted.</u> <u>(6)</u>	<u>M/C</u> <u>line.</u> <u>(7)</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	1	5	8	-	-	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	28	31	-	-	
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises.	3	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTAL.</b>		33	39	-	-	

(2) Cases in which defects were found.

<u>M/C</u> <u>line</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Number of cases in which</u> <u>defects were found.</u>				<u>No. of cases</u> <u>in which pro-</u> <u>secutions were</u> <u>instituted.</u>
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Rem-</u> <u>edied.</u>	<u>To H.</u> <u>M. I.</u>	<u>By H. M.</u> <u>I</u>	
Want of Cleanliness. S.1.	4	2	2	-	-
Overcrowding S.2.	5	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temper- ature. S.3.	6	1	1	-	-
Inadequate ventilation S.4.	7	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors. S.6.	8	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences. S.7.(a) insufficient.	9	1	1	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective.	10	5	5	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes.	11	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	12	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL.</b>		9	9	-	-



Outworkers:- There are no records of any out workers in the Holywell Urban Area.

SECTION F. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other notifiable diseases.

DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED.	DEATHS.
Scarlet Fever.	1	0
Whooping Cough.	29	0
Measles.	68	0
Acute Pneumonia.	40	2
Erysipelas.	2	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	5	0
TOTAL.	145	2

Analysis of Infectious and other notifiable Diseases.

Diseases 1952.

DISEASE.	No. of cases notified as having occurred among persons of the ages immediately below specified.							
	at all ages.	under 5 yrs.	5-14.	15-44	45-64	65& over.	Age unknown.	1951 figures)
Dysentery.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Scarlet Fever.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles.	68	47	21	-	-	-	-	221
Wh. Cough.	29	21	7	1	-	-	-	38
Acute Pneumonia.	40	11	2	6	7	12	2	48
Erysipelas.	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	5	2	-	-	-	-	3	-
TOTALS.	145	82	30	7	9	12	5	316

Two cases of scarlet fever were notified as in 1951 Whooping Cough cases numbered 29 compared with 38 in the previous year. The incidence of measles was less heavy, 68 notifications.

There were 40 cases of acute pneumonia notified (compared with 48 in 1951) The very young and the elderly were most affected. There were 2 deaths from pneumonia. There were no cases of Diphtheria no outbreaks of food-poisoning, and no cases of poliomyelitis.



# TUBERCULOSIS.

## New cases notified in 1952.

There were 7 new cases notified during the year 5 pulmonary, 2 non pulmonary compared with 15 pulmonary and 20 non-pulmonary cases in 1951. The cases are analysed in their age groups thus:-

<u>Ages.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
0-4 years.	-	-	-
5-9 "	-	-	-
10-14 "	1	-	1
15-19 "	-	-	-
20-24 "	1	-	1
25-34 "	1	-	1
35-44 "	-	-	-
45-54 "	2	-	2
55-64 "	2	-	2
65 and over.	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL.</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

There was one death from pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year compared with 2 deaths (one pulmonary, one non-pulmonary tuberculosis ) in 1951.

