[Report 1954] / Medical Officer of Health, Holywell U.D.C.

Contributors

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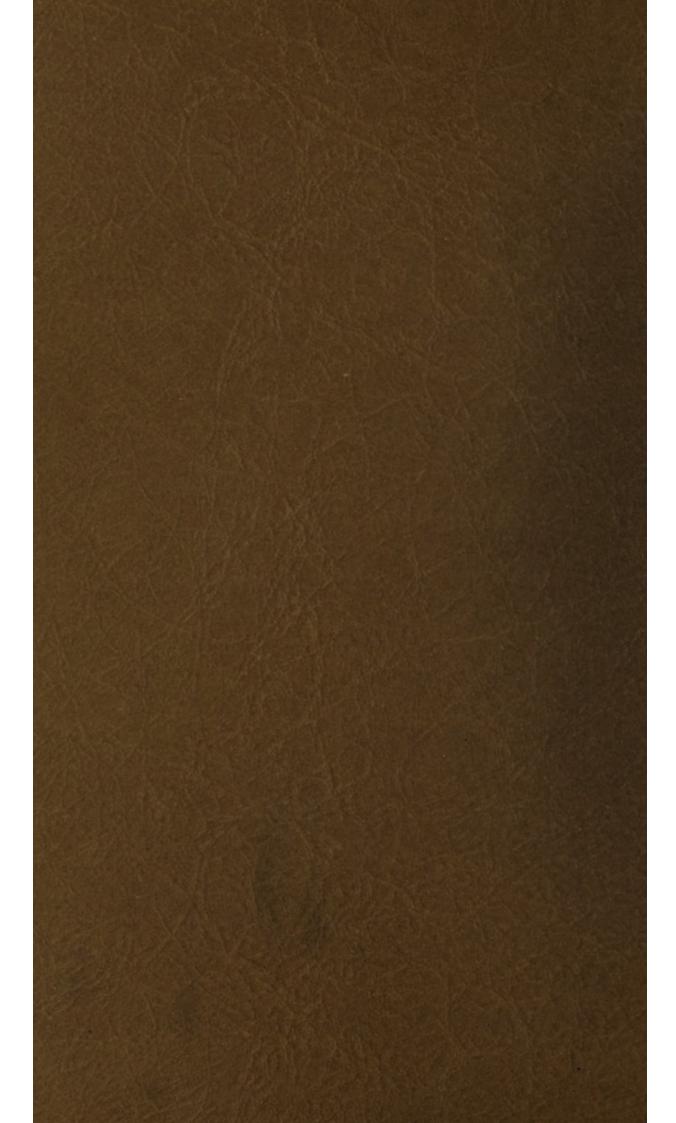
HOLYWELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

1954.



Holywell Urban District Council

Medical Officer of Health, Dr.B.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 Gontdomen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended December, 31st 1954.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid-year was 8210. The population at the Census (1951) was given as 8,196.

The Birth Rate shows a slight rise. The number of live-births was 166 compared with 159 in 1953. There were 11 illegitimate births, compared with 9 in 1953.

The Still Birth rate fell slightly. The actual number of still births was 3 compared with 4 in 1953.

The Death Rate showed a fall, while the rate for England and Wales also fell slightly. The total of deaths was 86 compared with 90 in 1953. With the ever increasing number of elderly persons in the population, a rise in the death rate must be expected in the future. Approximately 11 per cent of the population is 65 years old or more. Diseases of the heart and circulatory system accounted for more than half the total deaths.

There was a fall in the Infantile Death Rate from 44.02 per 1,000 live births to 18.07. Three infants under a year old died compared with seven in 1953. One of those three was under a month old.

There was one death associated with childbirth.

The analysis of the causes of death amongst the population as a whole shows that diseases of the heart and circulatory system, were the largest cause, accounting for 53 per cent of the deaths. The number of deaths from cancer in one form or another was 15 compared with 10 in 1953. There were no deaths from notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis). Three deaths from Tuberculosis were reported.

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

The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified fell from 81 in 1953 to 46 in 1954 the main cause of the diseases being due to a fall in the incidence of whooping cough in children.

There were twenty one new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year. 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.

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 servent.

D.J.FRASER. Medical Officer of Health.

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ANNUAL REPORT 1954.

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, woulden and other textile works and in artificial silk works. Many residents work in neighbouring districts at steel works, an iron foundry, quarrying, coal mining, and distributive trades.

Area in acres - 2.428 - Statutory acres.

Population - Census 1951 - 8,196.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate)

Mid-Year 1954 - 8,210 Mid-Year 1953 - 8,150

Mid-Year 1952 - 8,159

Number of inhabited houses -Rateable Value. Product of a Penny Rate.

\$ - 2,308 £49,002 £ 195..5..0.

Vital Statistics.

These are presented in tabular form. For purposes 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.

6	Male.	Female .	Total.
Legitimate.	78	77	155
Illegitimate.	6	5	11
TOTAL.	84	82	166

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population.

1954 - 20:22

England and Wales. Live Birth rate per 1,000 population. 1954 (Provisional) - 15.2

The birth rate rose slightly and it is well above the rate for England and Wales. 166 live births occurred compared with 159 in 1953. There were 11 illegitimate births, compared with 9 in 1953.

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Cana at Dard	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	2	1	3
Illegitimate.	-		0:30
TOTAL.	2	1	3

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

1954 - 17.75

1953 - 24.53

1952 - 26.84

Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 population,

1954 - 0.36

1953 - 0.49

1952 - 0.49

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

1954 - 24.0

There has thus been a fall in the still-birth rate for Holywell Urban area. The actual number of still-births was three, compared with four in 1953.

TAPLE 111. Deaths (General)	Rate.			
		Males.	Females.	Totals
All ages (all causes)	1954 -	53	33	86
	1953 -	1114	- 46	90

Death Rate per 1,000 population.

1954 - 10.47

1953 - 11.04

1952 - 12.25

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

1954 - 11.3

The crude death rate has fallen slightly and it is slightly lower than the rate for England and Wales. The Registrar General's "Comparability Factor" being 1.11, the corrected death rate is 11.62. There were 86 deaths compared with 90 in 1953 and 100 in 1952.

TABLE 1V. Deaths (General) Analysis.

See next page.

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Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 population.
Tuberculosis respiratory.	2	1	3	0:36
Hyperplasia Prostate.	2	-	2	0.36
Malignant Neoplasm stomach	2	1	2	0.24
" lung-bronchus	3	-	3	0.36
" breast.	,	-	2	0.36
" " uterus.		-	-	-
Other Malignant and lymphatic	-	T	1	0.12
neoplasms.	7	7	8	0.00
Hypertension with heart disease.	1	4	5	0.97
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	9	7	16	0.60
Coronary diseases, angina	0	6		1.94
Other heart diseases.	5		15	1.82
Other circulatory disease.	2	4	9	1:09
Other respiratory diseases.	ī	1	1	0.12
Bronchitis.		T	2	0.24
Acer stomach and duodenum.	2	-	2	0.24
regnancy, childbirth Abortion.	7	-		0.12
lephritis and nephrosis.	-	1	1	0.12
Other defined and ill defined a	2	1	3	0.36
other defined and ill defined diseases.	4	3	7	0.85
decidents (motor)	1	-	1	0.12
	1	1	2	0.24
astritis, enteritis, diarrhoea.	1	-	1	0.12
OTAL.	53	33	86	

It will be seen from this table that 46 deaths were due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system; 15 deaths were due to cancer in one form or another compared with 10 in 1953. There were 3 deaths from Tuberculosis, as in 1953. There were no deaths from Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Meningitis, Policmyelitis, Measles, or Pneumonia..

TABLE V. Deaths (associated with Pregnancy and Childbirth).

There was one death from those causes, giving a Maternal Death Rate of 5.91 per 1,000 live and still births. The patient aged 28 years died in hospital, following childbirth.

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

Manage 1	Male.	Female.	Totals.
Legitimate.	2	-	2
Illegitmate.	1	will,	1
TOTALS.	3	Holeson	3

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

1954 - 12.90 1953 - 46.66

1952 - 21.12 1951 - 33.48

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

1954 - 90.90

1953 - nil 1952 - nil

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Infantile death-rate per 1,000 live-births (Legitimate and Illegitimate).

1954 - 18:07 1953 - 44.02 1952 - 20:68 1951 -32:25 1950 48.27

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

1954 (Provisional) - 25.5

It is shown that 3 infants under a year old died compared with 7 in 1953. One of those was under a month old.

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

OFFICERS. Medical Officer of Health: D.J.Fraser, M.B.Ch.B., D.P.H., Sanitary Inspector. G.A.Wynne, M.S.I.A.,

Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratories at Conway and Birkenhead. The Public Analyst, Chester.

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 Immunsiation, 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.

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TTO	atmen	10	V L L		CS.

Situation.

Date and Times of opening.

Tuberculosis. School Clinic. Antenatal Clinic.

Cottage Hospital. The Clinic, Holywell. The Clinic, Holywoll.

Infant Welfare Clinic. Infant Welfare Clinic. Orthopaedic Clinic.

The Clinic, Holywell.

Diphtheria Immunication. The Clinic, Holywell.

Ophthalmic Clinic. The Clinic, Holywell.

Tuesdays 10.30 a.m. Fridays 9.30 a.m. 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month. 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon. Thursdatel. 30p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Church Hall, Greenfield. Tuesdays 1.30p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Cottage Hospital, Holywell. 2nd & 4th Fridays 10 a.m

- 12 noon. Once monthly 1st Thursday 10 a.m. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9.30 a.m.

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Hospitals.

The provision of all types of hospital accommodation is the responsibility of the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee. There are two general hospitals within the Urban Area. "Part 3 Accommodation" is provided at Lluesty General Hospital, and at St.Asaph.

National Assistance Act 1948. (Section 47). (removal to some suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.) One case was dealt with under this heading during the year. The person was a woman of 79 years, who was bedridden and unable to look after herself, was removed under a magistrate's order to a local hospital.

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.

Joint Scheme.

There do not appear to be any gross leaks in the water mains but considerable wastage of water occurs from defective water taps and water closet cisterns. In times of shortage householders are apt to draw water at night for use next day, in case the water is cut off. This water is usually wasted.

The Joint Water Scheme, brought about in close co-operation with Holywell Rural District Council is doing much to alleviate periodical shortages in different parts of the town, but it will have to be remembered that the suppliers, Birkenhead Corporation have little water to spare.

Figures for water consumption in the district are as follows:-

1952 - 73,218,000 gallons. 1953 - 73,968,000 gallons. 1954 - 87,844,263 gallons.

22 samples were taken during the year in the Urban area. Of those all were Class 1 (highly satisfactory).

Chemical analysis of water is done by the supplying authority.

The number of dwelling houses supplied from water mains direct to the houses is 2,033 approximately; by stand pipes 327 approximately; springs and other sources 10 approximately.

Refuse Disposal.

This is carried out by direct labour and a regular weekly collection is maintained despite several difficulties the chief amongst which is the labour shortage. Great difficulty is experienced in obtaining suitable men for this important but unglamorous work.

Disposal of the refuse is by controlled tipping and this is now subject to the necessary supervision to prevent nuisance. The Council will however, soon have to give serious thought to piping the brook which runs alongside the existing 'tip' and purchasing land on the other side. This will double the 'life' of the existing area and will in the long run, be advantageous to this Council.

Another condition - State and Another condition on Advice - State and Another - State and Another and offerent, he sevent mercus to With Council,

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. TABLE VII.

Particulars of Notices and Inspections during the year ended 31st December, 1954 (required by Statute to be included in the Medical Officer's Report.)

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

Number.	Nature.
433	Visits re complaints of sanitary defects.
726	Inspections of dwelling houses.
184	Shops and food stores.
156 30 10	Slaughterhous as
30	Re refuse collection and disposal.
10	Re Infectious diseases and disinfection.
30	Factories Act.
133	Interviews with ownersor agents.
6	Dirty or verminous premises.
8	Bakehouses.
20	Sewage Works.
3	Dairies.
47	Sampling.
74	Inspection under Building Byelaws.
17	Shops Act.
10	Licensed Premises.

TABLE VIII. No. of Notices Served.

Informal.	Formal.	Nature of Notices.	Result.
132	10	nuisances. 6. S.39 (cesspool). 36. S.75 (dustbins).	abated.
7	- P.H.A.193		abated.
73	8 P.H.A. 19		abated.

SECTION D.

Housing.

This continues to be one of the most pressing problems and it is to be hoped that the rate of house building will increase so that people living in poor conditions can be properly housed.

I am glad to report that action is being taken to prevent families entering houses from which people have just been re-housed.

This method has been frequently practised in the past and the closure or demolition of such houses does prevent the constant re-housing of different people from the same house.

The new Housing Repair and Rents Act shows the Governmen's intention of replacing all sub-standard property with modern houses. This will involve a tremendous amount of work but will provide an excellent opportunity to remove some of the old unfit houses in the area.

Number on the waiting list at the end of 1954. - 330

New Council Houses built in 1954. - 6

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Particular of Sounce and Inspections during the year onder

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Hamber on the waiting list at two and of 1984, - 12 few Commatl Scenes bills in 1984, - 52 few Frigues bedies in 1984, - 6

TABLE 1X.

Dwelling houses inspected for defects under the Public Health
Acts - 374.

Inspections made for the purpose of the above. - 533.

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

No. of defective dwelling houses in which repairs were carried out in consequence of informal action. - 130.

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. There is one premises registered as a dairy in the district. All samples taken during the year complied with the respective standards. On October 1st it became illegal to sell 'Accredited' Milk and a number of Fetailers changed to other designations such as 'Tuberculin Tested' rather than sell raw milk with no designation.

TABLE X1. Carcases inspected and condemned.

ex	ttle cl. ws.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed. 35	2	173	108	5998	1021
Number inspected. 35	2	173	108	5998	1021
All diseases except Tubercul- osis whole carcases condemned.	-	2	6	8	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than 16.2 Tuberculosis.	47	46.82	5.55	2.55	2.25
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned.		2	-	_	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned due to Tuberculosis.	6	18	-	-	10
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis. 1.7	70	11.56	-	_	1.07
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned due to diseases other than 5 Tuberculosis.	58	79	6	1.45	21

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Slaughtering Facilities. During the year the Government released control of slaughtering and local authorities were faced with the problems of seeing that facilities were available for butchers in the town. This was done very successfully by the Council taking over the lease of the old Ministry slaughterhouse and, in turn, sub-letting it to be butchers who formed themselves into a group. This sytem has functioned quite well and I would say that this authority has been luckier than most in having those facilities available.

IGE CREAM.

No ice cream is manufactured in the district. All ice-cream is made in factories outside the area, and sampling for composition is done in the areas of manufacture. All 2 premises retailing ice-cream are registered with the local authority and regular inspection is carried out. All the samples taken for testing as to cleanliness were satisfactory.

Inspection and Supervision of Food-shops.

Being the market town for a large rural area, Holywell contains many food-shops. The standard of food hygieno 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 has been done also by regular visits by the Sanitary Inspector. 184 visits were made to food shops in this connection.

Condemned Food - 1954.

164man 1 70 - 0 7 - 0					
Minced Beef Loaf	14	tins.	Fruit Salad.	6	tins
Jellied Veal	1	"	Strawberries.	1	tin
Luncheon Meat	10	11	Plums.	5	tins
Stewed Steak	6	11	Pineapple.	6	11
Rabbit.	3	11	Cherries.	25	11
Corned Beef.	4	11	Peaches.	9	11
Corned Mutton.	1	11	Grapefruit.	6	11
Steak.	6	11	Poars.	27	11
Sardines.	1	11	Damsons.	2.	tin
Crab.	1	11	Blackcurrents.	4	tins.
Tongue:	2	11	Bilberries.	3	II
Salmon.	3	11	Apricots.	7	11
Ham.	34	lbs:	Blackberries.	1	tin
Meat Paste.	1	Jar.	Oranges.	1	11
Vegetable Soup.	3	Tins.		32	tins.
Stew.	2	11	Creamola.	7	packets.
Mushroom Soup.	1	11	Rusks.	1	packet.
Tomatoes.	37	11	Oats.	5	packets.
Beans.	3	11	Split peas.	21	lbs.
Spaghetti.	3	11	Coconut Ice.	12	11
Chutnoy.	12	Jars.	Dried Fruit.	7	11
Peas.	13	Tins.	Flaked Rice.	45	11
Barley.	4	-11	Butter.	11	11
Beetroot.	4	11	Ground Rice.	8	11
Jam.	2	Jars.		16	"
Chocolate.	32	Bars.	Cheese Spread.	113	11

TABLE X11. Food Poisoning.

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

And the Liverick was force force or a large force or a second or a

Factories 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

		No. on	Number of				
Promises.	Line.	Regis- ter.	Inspec- tions.	Written	Occupier		
	No.2	(3)	(4)	notices.	Prosecuted.		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	1	5	13	_	- 1		
(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 i enforced by the Local Authority					,		
(excluding out- workers premises.	3	-	-	-	-		
TOTAL		33	44	-	-		

(2) Cases in which defects were found.

line	defe	Rem-	re foun To H. M.I.	d. Bý H.M.	No. of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted.
Want of Cleanliness. S.1. 4	2	2			
Overcrowding, S.2. 5	-	-	-	-	
Umreasonable temperature. S.3. 6	-	-	-	-	
Inadequate ventilation.	1	1	-	_	
Ineffective drainage of floors. S.6. 8	2	2	-	-	_
Sanitary conveniences. S.7 (a) insufficient 9 (b) unsuitable or 1 defective. 10	2 5	2 5	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes. 11 Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-	-
(not including offences relating to outwork) 12	_	-	_	-	_
TOTAL.	12	12	-	-	-

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Factories Act, 1937. Part VIII. Sections 110,111).

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.	4	0
Whooping Cough.	14	0
Measles.	9	0
Acute Pneumonia.	16	0
Erysipelas.	2	0
Diphthoria.	1	0
TOTAL.	46	0

Analysis of Infectious and Other notifiable Diseases. Diseases 1954.

No. of cases notified as having occurred among persons of the ages immediately below specified.								
	at all ages.					10-14 yrs	15 - 24 yrs	25 and over.
Diphtheria.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever.	4	-	-	1	-	3		-
Measles.	9	1	2	2	4	-	-	-
Wh.Cough.	14	3	2	5	3	-	1	-
Acute Pneumonia.	16	2	1	-	3	1	4	5
Erysipelas.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
TOTAL.	46	6	5	8	10	4	6	7

Four cases of scarlet fever were notified. Whooping Cough cases numbered 14 compared with 38 in the previous year. The incidence of measles was almost the same.

four these the compared town own negligible, thought town to produce the transfer of the trans

There were 16 cases of acute pneumonia notified (compared with 23 in 1953)
The very young and the elderly were most affected. There were no deaths
from pneumonia. There were no outbreaks of food-poisoning. There was one
case of diphtheria. This case was a girl of 17 years, a student nurse at a
local hospital. A throat swab was found to be positive. She was admitted
to the Isolation Hospital and discharged within a week. Her family and
contacts on the hospital staff were examined, but no further cases were found.
The patient had been immunised against diphtheria whilst at school.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified in 1954.

There were 21 new cases notified during the year, 18 pulmonary, 3 non pulmonary. The cases analysed in their age groups thus:-

TOTAL.	7	14	21
45 - 64 " 65 and over.	1	1	2
and the same of th	1	2	3
25 - 44 "	_	3	3
15 - 24 "	3	1	7
5 - 14 "	-	4	4
Under 5 years.	2	-	2
AGES.	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS

There were three deaths two males one female from pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year compared with 3 deaths all females in 1953. There were no deaths from non-pulmonary Tuberculosis. The continued incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis does not necessarily mean that the complaint is more prevalent than before. It results from the vigilance of the general practitioners, and the co-operation between them and the Chest Clinics. Many of the cases were mild ones which might easily have escaped notice. The Chest Clinics are fully used. Of the 21 new cases, one was a transfer from another area. During the year, 12 cases were removed from the register, being quiescent or recovered.

Mass Radiography.

In March the Mass Radiography Unit of the Welsh Regional Hospital Board visited Holywell and were stationed at the Clinic. 1,246 persons (533 males 713 females) were examined during this visit. The above figures include children who were roexamined, following the occurrence of a chest complaint in a female teacher. No Tuberculosis was found in the children concerned.

Of the total numbers examined, 13 persons (7 males 6 females) required further observation and 100 (41 males 59 females) were found to have chest abnormalities.

In addition to the above totals, the workers at local factories were examined.

The Mass K-ray service is a most valuable one in the prevention and spread of disease, and it is hoped that the unit will visit the district every year.

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