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#### **Contributors**

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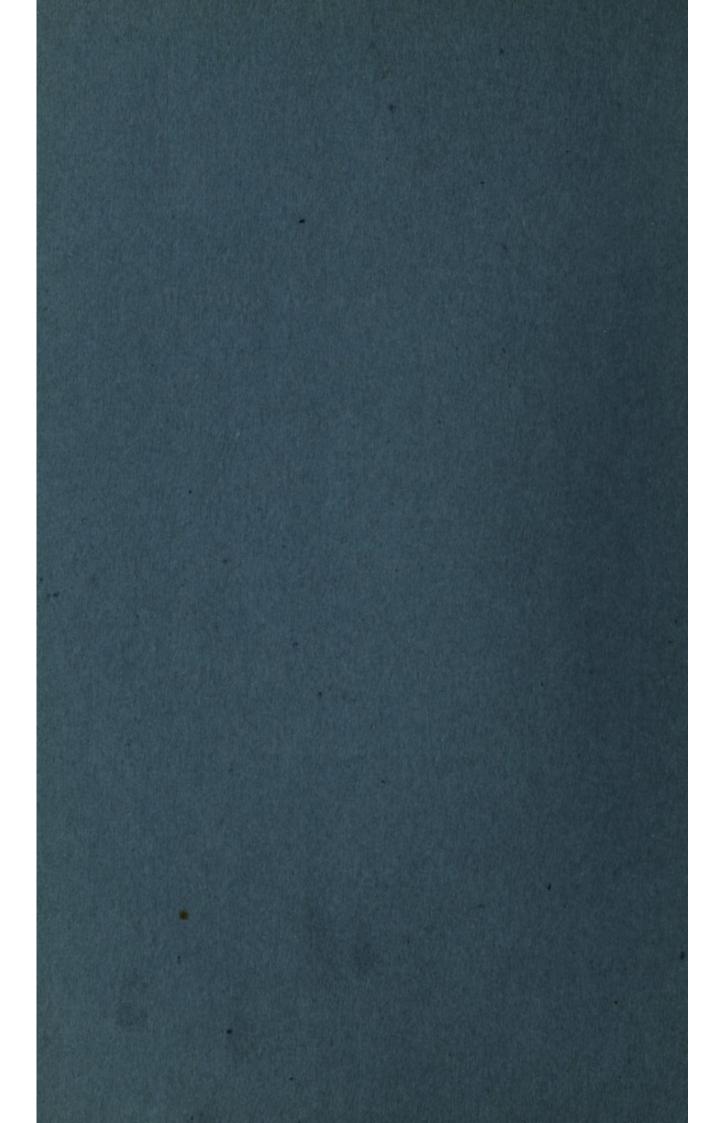
## HOLYWELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1955





# Holywell Urban District Council

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

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HOLYWELL URBAN DISTRI

Town Hall,

Holywell,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended December, 31st 1955.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid-year was 8,200. The population at the Census (1951) was given as 8,196.

The Pirth Rate shows a slight fall. The number of live-births was 139 compared with 166 in 1954. There were 6 illegitimate births, compared with 11 in 1954. There were no still births, compared with 3 in 1954.

The Death Rate showed a fall, while the rate for England and Wales rose slightly. The total of deaths was 79 compared with 86 in 1954. 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 34 of the deaths, and cancer for 12, there being a reduction in those two causes.

There was a fall in the Infantile Death Rate from 18.07 per 1,000 live births to 14.38. Two infants under a year old died compared with three in 1954. There were no deaths associated with childbirth. Eight deaths were due to accidents (including three from motor accidents).

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 43 per cent of the deaths. The number of deaths from cancer in one form or another was 12 compared with 15 in 1954. There were three deaths from hotifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis). No deaths from Tuberculosis were reported.

It will be seen from the reports upon samples, that the quality of the water supply is satisfactory, and the quantity is becoming more adequate.

The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified rose from 46 in 1954 to 236 in 1955 the main cause of the increase being due to measles, which totalled 211 cases.

There were 16 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, close co-operation between the various authorities responsible for the health of the population bring many of the unsuspected cases to light.

Information regarding the Housing Survey will be found in the Report.

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 1954.5

#### 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 steel works, and iron foundry, quarrying, coal mining, and distributive trades. Holywell is the market town for a large rural area.

Area in acres - 2,428 - Statutory acres.

Population - Census 1951 - 8,196.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate).

Mid-Year 1955 - 8,200.

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.

2,332 £51,266 £205. 13. 7.

#### 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.

Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate 71	62	133
Illegitimate 2	14	6
Total. 73	66	139

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population.

1955 - 16.95

1954 - 20.22

England and Wales. Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population. 1955 (Provisional) - 15.0

The birth rate fell slightly but it is still above the rate for England and Wales. 139 live births occurred compared with 166 in 1954. There were 6 illegitimate births, compared with 11 in 1954.

The Registrar General's Comparability Factor being 1.01, the corrected Birth Rate is therefore 17.11 per 1,000.

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Population (Sections describe Estimate).

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#### TABLE 11, Still Births.

М	ale.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	0	0	0
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total.	0	0	0

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

1955 - Nil

1954 - 17.75 1953 - 24.53

1952 - 26.84

#### Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 population.

1955 - Nil.

1954 - 0.36

1953 - 0.49 1952 - 0.49

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

1955 - 23 . 1

There were no still-births in the Holywell Urban area, in 1955, compared with three in 1954, and four in 1953.

TAPLE 111, Deaths (General) Rate.		Males.	Females.	Totals.
All agos (all causes).	1955 -	46	33	79
	1954 -	53	33	86
	1953 -	44	46	90.

#### Death Rate per 1,000 population.

1955 - 9.63

1954 -10.47

1953 -11.04

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

1955 - 11.7

1954 - 11.3

The crude death rate has fallen slightly and it is lower than the rate for England and Wales. The Registrar General's "Comparability Factor" being 1.11, the corrected death rate is 10.68. There were 79 deaths, compared with 86 in 1954 and 90 in 1953.

#### TABLE 1V. Deaths (General) Analysis.

See Next Page.

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Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate per population.
Tuberculosis respiratory.	-	-		0
Hyperplasia Prostate.	1	-	1	0.12
Malignant Neoplasm stomach	1	-	1	0.12
" lung bronchus.	3	-	3	0.36
" breast	_	-	-	-
" utorus.	-	-	-	-
Other Malignant and lymphatic				
neoplasms.	6	2	8	0.97
Hypertension with heart disease	1		3	0.36
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	6	5	11	1.34
Coronary diseases, angina	7	5 7	14	1.70
Other heart diseases.	4	1	5	0.60
Other circulatory diseases.	_		5	0.12
Other respiratory diseases.	3	1	4	0.48
Bronchitis.	3	1	4	0.48
Ulcer stomach and duodenum.	_	1	1	0.12
Pregnancy, childbirth Abortion.	_	-	_	_
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	4	2	6	0.73
Accidents (motor)		1 1	3	0.36
Suicide.	2	1	2	0.24
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoca.	_	1	1	0.12
Loukaemia, aloukaemia.	ī	-	1	0.12
Diabetes.	-	1	1	0.12
Influenza.	1	-	1	0.12
Pnoumonia.	1	2	3	0.36
Other Accidents.	1	4	5	0.60
Total.	16	33	79	

It will be seen from this table that 34 deaths were due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system, a reduction of twelve. Twelve deaths were due to cancer in one form or another compared with 15 in 1954. There were no deaths from Tuberculosis, compared with three in 1954. There were no deaths from Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Meningitis, Poliomyelitis, Measles. Pneumonia accounted for three deaths, influenza for one and accidents (including motor accidents) for eight deaths.

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

There were no deaths from those causes, compared with one in 1954.

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

Male.		Female.	Totals.	
Legitimate.	1	1	2	
Dlegitimate	-	-	-	
Totals.	1	1	2	

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

1955 - 15.03

1954 - 12.90

1953 - 46,66

1952 - 21.12

1951 - 33.48

		Mallo.	
0.36			
1.70			
91.0			
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There were no deaths from these causes, compared with one in 1954.

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

1955 - Nil 1954 - 90.90 1953 - Nil 1952 - Nil 1951 - Nil

Infantile death-rate per 1,000 live-births (legitimate and illegitimate).

1955 - 14.38 1954 - 18.07 1953 - 44.02 1952 - 20.68 1951 - 32.25

England and Wales, infantile death-rate per 1,000 live-births.

1955 (Provisional) - 24.9 1954

It is shown that two infants under a year old died compared with three in 1954.

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

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 and Whooping Cough Immunisation. Tuberculosis health visiting and after care. Mental Heath visiting. Prevention of Illness, Care, and after care. Antenatal Clinics. School clinics and examination of school children. Infant wolfare clinics.

Vaccination (by arrangement) by local medical practitioners, and by the medical

officer on request.

Dental Clinics. Care of the aged and provision of residential accommodation.

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

Hospital and out-patients climic lacture Accommodation.
Tuberculosis climics and sanatorium Accommodation.

Date and Times Hospital and out-patients clinic facilities.

Treatment Clinics. Tuberculosis. School Clinic. Antenatal. Clinic.

Infant Welfare Clinic. Infant Walfare Clinic. Orthopaedic Clinic.

Immunisation. Ophthalmic Clinic. Dental Clinics.

Situation. Cottage Hospital. The Clinic Holywell Fridays 9.30.a.m. The Clinic Holywell.

Cottage Hospital, Holywell. 2nd &4th Fridays 10a.m.

2nd & 4th Thursday of each month. 9.30. a.m.12 noon The Clinic Holywell Thursdayl 30p.m.-4.30p.m. Church Hall Greenfield. Tuosday 1.30p.m.-4.30p.m. Thursdayl30p.m.-4.30p.m.

Tuesday 10.30 a.m.

- 12 noon.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough The Clinic Holywell. Onco monthly 1st Thursday 10 a.m.

> The Clinic Holywell. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9 30. The Clinic Flint. By appointment.

of opening.

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#### Hospitals.

The provision of all types of hospital accommodation is the responsibility of the Clwd 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, for persons temporarily or permanently houseless.

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 an aged woman unable to look after herself, she was removed under a magistrate's order to a local hospital, after her livingroom went on fire due to the use of candles for lighting.

#### SECTION C. WATER SUPPLY.

The arrangements made with Birkenhead Corporation to augment the Authority's insufficient water supply have proved to be 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.

Numerous repairs on services, ball valves, overflow pipes etc. were carried out in 1955 which reduced wastage.

Bryncelyn and Station Road water schemes were put into operation.

The Bryncelyn scheme enabled approximately 40 additional houses to be served with piped supply if required. Approximately 12 properties have taken advantage of this service and have been connected.

The Station Road scheme provided a better supply to the properties abutting this road. The old main was too small to provide adequate water.

The Holway water scheme was put into operation to supply high points in this area. A tapping was taken from the 9" Holywell Rural District Council main from which Birkenhead water was drawn and supplied to the Council's reservoir. There are no premises in this area now with low pressure difficulties.

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.

1955 - 96,547,642 gallons.

20 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 2,045 approximately; by stand pipes 315 approximately; springs and other sources 10 approximately.

Rofuse Disposal.

This 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 muisance.

of the part of all sales because Is appear to now its to mineral and in the part of the pa To see at the second of the se The place of the party of the p The state of the same of the s

#### Sanitary Inspection of the Area. TABLE VII.

Particulars of Notices and Inspections during the year ended 31st December, 1955 (required by Statute to be included in the Medical Officer's Report).

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

Number.	Naturo.
394 762 235 207 94 8 25 121 4 7	Visits re complaints of sanitary defects. Inspections of dwelling houses. Shops and food stores. Slaughterhouses. Re refuse collection and disposal. Re Infecticus diseases and disinfection. Factories Act. Interviews with owners or agents. Dirty or verminous premises. Dakehouses. Sewage Works.
39 21 25 32	Sampling. Inspection under building byelaws. Shops Act. Licensed premises.

#### TABLE VIII. No. of Notices Served.

Informal	Formal	Nature of Notices.	Result.
151	13 - P.H.A. 1936	Nuisances 5. S.39 (cesspool).	Abated.
64	5 P.H.A. 1936		Abated.

#### SECTION D. Housing.

The requirements of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 were complied with and a survey made of all dwellings in the Urban Area. The Sanitary Inspector carried out this preliminary survey and his report revealed the considerable number of unfit houses in the area.

In all 393 houses were recommended for action under the Housing Acts in a period of nine years, dealing with 188 in the first five years. I am pleased to report that the Council accepted the report, together with the recommendation, without any hesitation and the suggestions were sent to the Minister for his observations. They were approved without any modification.

The work of inspecting, representing etc. the first of the above programme is now under way and it is hoped that the programme set out will be proceeded with without undue delay.

During the year 12 houses were closed or demolished as being unfit for human habitation.

Numb	er on w	aiting :	list	at the	en	d of	1955	350
How	council	houses	comp	le tod	in	1955		124.
NOW	privato	houses	COM	leted	in	1955		14.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF Print 1950 6.19 (orders). off the state of t The property of the principal and the first that the principal and the following the following the following the principal and the princip of the second second on the pulse of the second sec

#### TABLE 1X.

Dwelling houses inspected for defects under the Public Health Acts - 343.

Inspections made for the purpose of the above. - 510.

#### 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. - 143

#### SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The quality of milk from the point of view of composition is the reponsibility of the County Council, as the Food and Drugs Authority.

On 1st October 1955 only designated milks, i.e. Tuberculin Tosted or Heat Treated, were saleable in the area due to this district being included in a "Specified Area" declared by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. This is a great step forward in the total elimination of tuberculosis in humans. There were 10 retailers selling milk in the Urban Area and samples were taken regularly, all were satisfactory.

TABLE XI. Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle. Excl. Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed.	390	81	26	3,656	719
Number Inspected.	390	81	26	3,656	719
All diseases except Tubercul- osis whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis.	7.87	19.75	-	0.52	-
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned.	-	1	1	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned due to Tuberculosis.	4	9	-	-	10
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	1.03	12.34	3.84	-	1.39
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned due to diseases other than Tuberculosis.	31	16	-	19	-

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#### Slaughtering Facilities:

After a hearing at the local Court

the Council issued a further slaughterhouse licence making a total of two slaughterhouses in the area. The quality of cattle etc. slaughtered has improved enormously since decentral, with the supply of younger animals.

#### ICE 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 22 premises retailing ice cream are registered with the local authority and regular inspection is carried out. All the samples taken for testing as to clearliness were satisfactory.

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food-shops.

Being the market town for a large rural area, Helywell centains 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 has been done also by regular visits by the Sanitary Inspector. 212 visits were made to food-shops in this connection. Shop Keepers must be made to realise that they have a reponsibility to the public in this matter.

#### Condemned Food - 1955.

Luncheon Meat 13	tins.	Pears.	5	tins.
The state of the s	tins.	Bilberries.		tins.
	tins.	Apricots.		tins.
	tins.	Oranges.		tins.
	tin.	Milk.		tins.
	tins.	Carrots.		tin.
	tin.	Brisling.		tin.
	tin.	Cream.		tin.
	tins.	Red Currants.		tin.
	tins.	Gooseberries.		tin.
	tins.	Pickles.	1	tin.
	tins.	Pilchards.		tin.
	jars.	Plum Pudding.		tins.
	tins.	Pineapples.	22	10
The state of the s	tins.	Sauce.	6	bottles.
CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE	tins.	Frozen Imported B	eef.170	lbs.
The contraction is the contraction of the contracti	tins.	Cake Mixture.		pkts.
THE RESERVE OF THE PROPERTY OF	tins.	Sandwich Spread.		jar.
	tins.	Semolina		nkts.
Grapofruit. 2	tins.	Tomato Juice.	1	bottle.

#### TABLE XII. Food Poisoning.

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

Factories 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.) 1955.

Promises.  (i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	M/C Line No.2.	Register	Number of Inspect- ions. (4)	Written	Occupier Prosectuted. (6)
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	28	27	_	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-	3		_	_	
TOTAL.		33	38	-	_

### (2) Cases in which defects were found.

	M/C Line No.	def	Cocts v	To H	ound. By H.	chNo. of cases in which prosecut- ions were instituted.
Want of Claininess. S.l.	4	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding S.2.	5	-	-	-	-	_
Unreasonable Temper- ature. S.3.	6	-	-	-	-	_
Inadequate Ventilation S.4.	7	-	-	-	-	_
Inoffective drainage. of floor. S.6.	8	3	3	-	_	_
Senitary Coveniences S.7. (a) insufficient (b) unsuitable or	9	1.	1	-	-	-
defective. (c) not separate for somes Other offences.	10	3	3	-	-	-
against the Act (not including. offences relating to outwork).	12	_	_	_	_	-
TOTAL.		8	8	-	-	-

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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. 1955.

DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED.	DEATHS.
Scarlet Fever.	0	0
Whooping Cough.	0	0
Measles.	211	0
Acute Pneumonia.	24	3
Erysipelas.	0	0
Ophthalmia Noonatorum.	1	0
TOTAL.	236	3

# Analysis of Infectious and Other Notifiable Diseases. Diseases 1955.

DISEASE.	No. of cases notified as having occurred among persons of the ages immediately below specified.							
	at all ages.	under 1 year.	1-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25 and over.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	211	8	46	66	85	3	2	1
Acute Pneumonia.	24	3	2	1	1	-	1	16
TOTAL.	236	12	43	67	86	3	- 3	17

The incidence of measles was high, in the first and third quarters of the year. There were no cases of whooping cough or scarlet fever notified, and no cases of policydities were reported.

There were 24 cases of acute pneumonia notified (compared with 16 in 1954) The very young and elderly were most affected. There were 3 deaths from pneumonia. There were no outbreaks of food poisoning. There were no cases of diphtheria.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

#### New Cases Notified in 1954

There were 16 new cases notified during the year, 14 pulmonary, 2 non pulmonary, compared with 18 and 3 in 1954. The cases analysed in their age groups thus:-

5 - 14 years. 15 - 24 years. 25 - 44 years.	1 1 -	2 4 4	5 4
45 - 64 years. 65 and over.	_	ī	1
TOTAL.	4	12	16

There were no deaths from pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year compared with three deaths in 1954. 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.

#### Mass Radiography. 1955-56.

In the autumn the Mass Radiography Unit of the Welsh Regional Hospital Board visited Holywell. and were stationed at the Clinic. 2,359 persons (1,060 males 1,299 females) were examined during this visit. The above figures include children attending local grammar and secondary schools.

Of the total numbers examined, 25 persons (14 males 11 females) required further observation and 53 (22 males 31 females) were found to have chest abnormalities.

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

The Mass X-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. In many parts of Wales, the old fear of Tuberculosis shows itself in the reluctance of people to attend for X-ray examination, but in this area the enlightened view that early detection means a quick return to health, fortunately prevails. The provision of immunisation against Tuberculosis is approved by the Government, and arrangements have been made for this protection to be made available to children in Flintshire. A start will be made with 13 year olds in grammer and secondary schools. The service is of course entirely voluntary. Immunisation against Tuberculosis is already available to infants and older children, on the recommendation of the Chest Physician, where there is danger to the children due to the presence of a case of Tuberculosis in any family.

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