LLANGOLLEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year

1954

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

T. KENRICK HUGHES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR.

ERNEST FENTON, M.S.I.A., M.R. San.I.

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN --- MR. H. GRAINGER

The Committee consists of all Members of the Council.

I have the honour to present my fourth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Llangollen Urban District for the Year ended 31st December 1954 together with the information supplied by the Sanitary Inspector for the same period.

Two important changes occurred during the Year. These were first the decontrol of meat which came into force in July and secondly the Housing Rents and Repairs Act 1954 which gave an impetus to slum clearance schemes.

Until we have made provision for a Sewage Disposal Works our Housing Programme will be held up and this also means that we cannot proceed with slum clearance as the displaced families must be rehoused.

It is therefore imperative that the Sewage Disposal Scheme should be got under way as soon as possible so that this bottle neck can be broken.

I should like to acknowledge the great help and assistance I have received from Mr. Fenton during the year for which I am very grateful.

I should also like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their kind consideration throughout the year.

Finally I would express my indebtedness to the Clerk and his Staff for the help I receive at all times and for their valuable assistance in the compilation of this report.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the District (in acres) . . . . . 3,107.

Registrar General's Estimated population . . . . . 3,160.

Number of inhabited houses . . . . . 1,074.

Rateable Value of the District as at 1st April 1954. £19,270.

Sum represented by the product of a Penny rate for the Year ended 31st March 1954 . . . . . £75/11/7d

POPULATION.

The estimated population of the town in 1954 is given by the Registrar General as 3,160 as compared to 3,171 in 1953 and 3,207 in 1952.

Thus we find a gradual fall in the population during the last three years. This is only to be expected while our building programme is at a standstill, thus preventing any influx of people into the town. The present tendency is to drift away to where houses can be obtained.

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS - - - (Comparability factor 1.03)

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Legitimate	22.	13.	35.
Illegitimate	--	--	--
TOTALS.	22.	13.	35

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population - Crude --- 11.08
Adjusted -- 11.40

During the Year there were 35 live births as compared to 45 in 1953.

In the previous years 1952, 1951, and 1950 there were 48, 54 and 64 respectively. It is alarming to find that the number of births has dropped to nearly half of the 1950 total. This may be due to the fact that at present young married couples cannot obtain houses in Llangollen and consequently the proportion of older persons is getting higher. Only the recommencement of building can reverse this trend.

The Birth Rate for the Year was 11.40 as compared to 14.04 in 1953. That for England and Wales was 15.2 so that we are now well below the Birth Rate for the Country as a whole, whereas before 1952 our birth rate was always above that for England and Wales.

STILL BIRTHS.

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Legitimate	1.	--	1
Illegitimate	-.	--	-
Totals.	1.	--	1.

Still Births per 1,000 population - Crude -- .31
Adjusted - .30

Only one still birth was notified during the Year, which is the same as for 1953.

The excellent supervision at the Ante-Natal Clinic has done much to keep this figure down.

DEATHS: (Comparability factor .80)

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
	25.	28.	53.

Death Rate per 1,000 population --- Crude --- 16.77
Adjusted --- 13.41

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks old. --- --- NIL

Deaths of Infants under 1 year. --- --- --- NIL.

The causes of the 53 deaths in the area can be summarised as follows :-

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Malignant neoplasm - lungs/bronchus	1.	1.	2.
- breast.	-	1.	1.
Other malignant lymphatic neoplasms	6.	1.	7.
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5.	7.	12.
Coronary disease - angina.	2.	1.	3.
Hypertension with heart disease	2.	4.	6.
Other heart diseases.	4.	6.	10.
Other circulatory diseases.	-.	2.	2.
Pneumonia.	1.	1.	2.
Nephritis and hephrosis.	-.	1.	1.
Hyperplasia of prostate.	1.	-.	1.
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1.	1.	2.
All other accidents.	1.	2.	3.
Suicide.	1.	-.	1.
TOTALS.	25.	28.	53.

The total number of deaths that occurred during the Year was 53 as compared to 45 in 1953.

The crude death rate was 16.77 which was reduced to 13.41 when multiplied by the comparability factor of .80, which allows for age and sex distribution and points to the fact that Llangollen contains a large proportion of old people.

The crude death rate in 1953 was 14.19 while the adjusted rate was 10.64.

The death rate for England and Wales was 11.4.

There were 25 male deaths and 28 female. The main causes of death were :

1. Diseases of Heart and circulation..... 33.
2. Cancer..... 10

so we find that out of 53 deaths, 43 were caused by diseases of the heart and circulation and cancer, which mainly affect aged persons, while of the remaining 10 only 6 died of other diseases. The remaining four being caused by accidents and suicide.

INFANT DEATHS.

One of the most satisfactory things to report is that there have been no infant deaths during 1954 or 1953, which is a distinction that very few places can boast of. Although the number of births has been low, the quality has been good, as evidenced by the healthy condition of infants attending the Clinic, which does a great service in promoting health and proper rearing of children.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE:

Throughout the year 1954 only one case of infectious disease was notified.

One case of Tuberculosis.

All cases of notifiable infectious disease should be reported to the Medical Officer of Health immediately. As soon as this is done, it is the responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health to see that reasonable precautions are taken to prevent the spread of infection by means of isolation and the disinfection of infected articles and premises.

All too frequently infectious cases are allowed to mix freely with other children in contravention of the Public Health Act 1936.

During the Year there was only one case of infectious disease notified, this being a case of tuberculosis. Although no infections were notified to me it seems almost too good to be true that the town was completely free from these diseases, in view of the considerable number of children in the town who are liable to infection of all kinds.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

The County Council provide the facilities for the carrying out of immunisation and vaccination. Children can be immunised against Diphtheria or Whooping Cough or both together. The service can be had at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, at School or by the Family Doctor.

There have been no cases of diphtheria for many years and whooping cough may follow suit when sufficient children are immunised.

It is necessary to pursue the diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation campaign with vigour if we are to keep these diseases at bay.

The numbers immunised in 1954 were :-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Diphtheria Immunisation.			Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.		Whooping Cough.	Booster Doses.	
0 - 1:	1 - 4:	5 - 14.	0 - 1:	1 - 5	0 - 14.	0-5.	5-14.
2	3	0	21	9	0	1	1.

VACCINATION.

Primary Vaccination					Re-Vaccination				
0 - 1.	1 yr.	2 - 4.	5-14.	15	0-1.	1 yr.	2-4.	5-14.	15
13.	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-	-	2.

HEALTH SERVICES.

There have been no changes in the general provision for Health Services since 1948, and the Clinics available are :-

1. The County Council Child Welfare Clinic at Llangollen.
2. The Ante-Natal Clinic at Llangollen taken by the County Obstretician.

The larger hospitals available in the immediate neighbourhood are :-

1. The Wrexham War Memorial Hospital.
2. The Wrexham Emergency Hospital - Plas Maelor.
3. The Wrexham Fever Hospital.
4. The Wrexham Tuberculosis Dispensary.
5. The Park Hall Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

The Ambulance Service is by arrangement with the Cefn Mawr St. John's Ambulance Brigade and since July 1948 the Ambulance Service is the responsibility of the Denbighshire County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Sanitary Inspections.

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the Year under the various Acts, Orders and Byelaws within the Area :-

Housing Matters -	First visit.	68.
	Repeat visit.	152.
Dangerous structures.		2.
Nuisances. -	First visit.	41.
	Repeat Visit.	79.
Water Supply.	Works.	84.
	Samples from private supplies.	1.
	Public supplies.	3.
	Defective services & wast ges	56.
Disinfestation and disinfection.		8.
Drains sewers cesspools and privies.		76.
Food premises.		53.
Slaughterhouses.		69.
Milk and Dairies.		32.
Factories.		21.
Storage - Petroleum.		11.
Amusement houses.		7.
Schools.		6.
Scavenging and disposal.		50.
New buildings and alterations.		84
Markets		54
Miscellaneous.		76
	TOTAL	1033.

Summary of Notices served	Informal.	Remedied.
Dwellinghouses - structural defects	51.	35.
Nuisances - not included above.	36.	33.
Water supplies.	55.	52.
Drainage.	17.	13.
Privies cesspools &c.	4.	4.
	Formal.	**Remedied.**
Housing.	5.	3.

-: 6 :-

WATER SUPPLY.

The works are situated to the west of Llangollen about 2 miles from the centre of the town. For the major part of the year upland surface water is obtained from the valley stream at Vivod but during dry periods a supply is pumped from the River Dee at the Horseshoe Falls.

Even though the Year 1954 was regarded by most people as a damp year the Vivod Stream was lower than average for the season and as a consequence we had to resort to using the auxiliary supply more than for the previous year. At one period during the month of August notices had to be issued restricting the use of water for non-essential purposes.

In order to cope with the ever-increasing demand for water the Council have submitted outline reports of proposals to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for extending the works in order to deal with an increased through-put per hour. In accordance with what appears to be general policy the Department has informed the Council that before sanctioning an extension all parties must be satisfied that wastage is reduced to a minimum. The Council is therefore arranging for the installation of a permanent chart recorder on the supply main from the reservoir so that the quantity of water being distributed can be ascertained. The equipment is on order but will not be delivered until the middle of 1955.

During the year three bacteriological samples of water have been taken and on each occasion the results have been HIGHLY SATISFACTORY.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Negotiations are still taking place for the provision of a Sewage Treatment Works and in the meantime the numerous sewer outfalls continue to discharge crude sewage into the River Dee. These are conditions to be deplored but the Council is pursuing the matter with all haste and it is hoped that 1955 will be the year of glory. Until the scheme is sanctioned the Council's house building programme remains at a standstill.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The majority of bins in the area are emptied weekly with the properties in the more rural part of the area emptied monthly. Owing to a slight alteration in the rota a few more premises have been brought within the scope of the weekly service.

The tip at Wenffrwd continues to be used for disposal and treatments are given periodically for the eradication of rats and insect pests.

HOUSING.

Whilst 3 houses were erected by private enterprise during the year it is with regret I have to repeat the phrase incorporated in former reports - "That no houses were erected during the year by the Local Authority".

Unsatisfactory housing conditions prevail in some parts of the area, but when opportunity has permitted, action has been taken by the Council to terminate or ease these conditions. One house has been closed under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 as "unfit" and Section 11 Notices were served on four more houses. Offers were made by the owners to do certain works, with the result that two cottages with services in excess of the required standard have been produced. It is hoped that more work can be done in this direction to improve the housing position without relying on actual building.

RODENT CONTROL.

Whilst the rodent population has diminished during the last few years, the Health Department is ever mindful of the menace and destruction brought about by this pest. In all cases where rodents have been found results have been produced by informal action.

Sewers and other public properties are treated by the Council's own staff.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Four licences remain in force for caravans to be stationed on land subject to such conditions as have been imposed by the Council. Inspections are made from time to time to ascertain that the conditions are complied with.

FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Food premises are inspected as often as time permits, but there are in Llangollen a vast number of catering establishments when compared to other areas of similar size. A list of the foods surrendered voluntarily by traders is given below :-

Boiled ham - tinned.	61 lbs.
Tinned fish.	5
Tinned vegetables.	48
Tinned soup.	4
Tinned milk	28
Tinned fruit	80
Tinned meats.	38
Tinned puddings	2
Jam.	6
Total	272 lbs.

SLAUGHTERING FACILITIES.

In July when livestock controls were relaxed the Council reviewed the position and decided that out of the four establishments previously used as slaughterhouses only one could be brought up to a reasonable standard to tie over the interim period. The premises of Messrs. Edwards & Son, 21 Castle Street were licensed for a period of thirteen months. Meat inspections are carried out by arrangement and the following are details of the animals killed and examined. Ante-mortem inspections are made whenever possible.

	PIGS.	SHEEP.	BOVINE.	CALVES
Number of animals killed and examined.	36.	763.	43.	14.
Number passed as fit for human consumption.	36.	763.	43.	14.
Quantities condemned as unfit for human consumption. MEAT	16 lbs.	NIL.	NIL.	NIL.
OFFAL	Nil.	118½ lbs	77½ lbs.	NIL.

ICE CREAM.

All Icecream sold is manufactured outside the area. Twenty premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act for sale only.

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

Six premises are registered for the purpose of preparation of food in accordance with Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 and inspections are made periodically to ensure that a reasonable standard of hygiene is maintained.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

One dairy from which milk is distributed is licensed in the area and three supplementary licences have been issued for the distribution of designated milks.

MARKETS.

For the first part of the Year Livestock Sales were held on every second Tuesday. When controls relaxed in July a combined Pig and Sheep Weigher together with a proper guillotine pen were installed and the market was authorised as a Certified Livestock Centre. From then onwards weekly sales have been held and the indication is that the quantity of business may develop to pre-war levels.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

	Number of Register.	Number of Inspections	Written Notices.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	3	5	Nil.
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	23.	16.	Nil.
	26.	21.	Nil.

Cases in which defects were found.		Remedied.	Referred to H.M.Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective	3	3	1.

Yours obediently,

T. K. HUGHES.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

AUGUST 1955.