# Contributors

Llangollen (Wales). Urban District Council.

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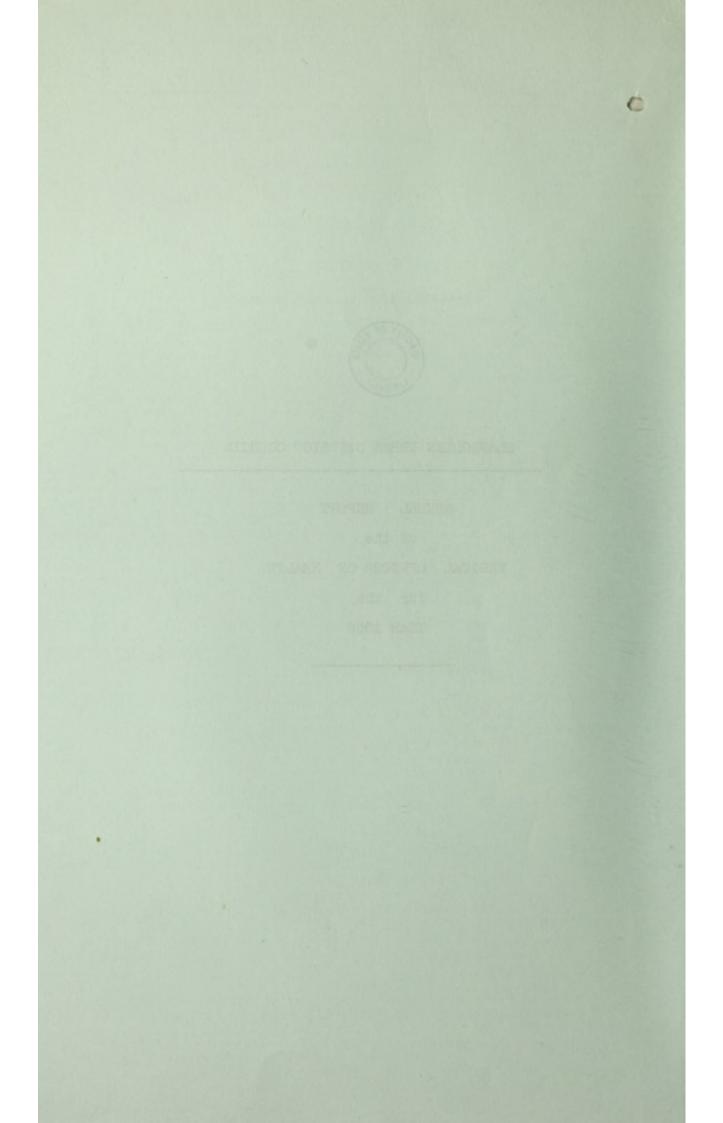
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WELON BOARD OF HEALTH. RECEIVED May. 8 110 ¥ 1957 P. LLANGOLLEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the YEAR 1956



LLANGOLLEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

H. G. FAWCETT, C.S.I.B.

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN ---- MR. K. A. MANN

The Committee consists of all Members of the Council,

I have the honour to present my Sixth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Llangollen Urban District for the year ended the 31st December 1956, together with the information supplied by the Public Health Inspector for the same period.

Mr. Fawcett commenced his duties as Public Health Inspector on the 2nd January, and has carried out his work in a most reliable and efficient way. I certainly hope he will stay for some time as frequent changes disrupt the smooth working of the Health Department.

We have been faced with three major problems for many years but no progress has been made as yet. They are :-

- 1. The provision of a Sewage Works.
- 2. The building of Council Houses.
- 3. Improvement and extension of our Waterworks to meet the increased demands.

The credit squeeze has effectually postponed many such projects so that the sconer it comes to an end the better. As things stand at present the River Dee is an open sewer below Llangollen, which state of affairs cannot be tolerated indefinitely. While there is no Sewage Works the Council is not permitted to build Council Houses and the longer these works are delayed the costs leap ever upwards, and so we find ourselves in a vicious circle from which it will be difficult to break out without a stupendous effort.

During the year we had an epidemic of dysentry which affected most of the children attending the Infants School and which last about three months.

Having been without a Surveyor and Public Health Inspector for two months at the end of 1955, I was glad to welcome Mr. Fawcett to fill the vacancy. He has proved himself a most valuable and helpful colleague and I should like to thank him for all he has done.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration throughout the Year.

I am also indebted to the Clerk of the Council and Mr. Knox for their help and for the assistance I receive from them in the completion of this Report.

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1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

### POPULATION .

The estimated population of the Town in 1956 is given by the Registrar General as 3,150 as compared to 3,140 in 1955 and 3,1060 in 1954. These figures show that our population has remained at about the same level for the past three years. It is unlikely to increase much until more houses can be built.

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births - - - (Comparability Factor - 1.03)

	Legitimate Illegitimate.		MALES. 30.	ZC.	<u>TOTAL.</u> 56. 2.
		Totals	31.	27.	58.
Birth Rate pe	r 1,000 population		Crude djusted		

Birth Rate in England and Wales 1956 - - - - - 15.6

During the year there was a total of 58 live births as compared to 31 in 1955.

This showed a satisfactory but unexpected increase as the trend had been downwards for the past three years.

The Birth Rate was 18.41 compared to 10.16 in 1955 when it was below the figure for England and Wales.

This Year our Birth Rate is well above that for England and Wales which stands at 15.6

Still Births,

Males.	Femalics.	Total.
NiL	NIL	NIL.

No Still Births were notified during the Year.

DEATHS .

Comparability factor - .80

The total number of deaths registered was 31 as compared to 37 in 1956, and has shown a gradual decrease in the last few years. Of these 16 were Males and 15 Females.

The death rate was 9.84 as compared to 9.42 in 1955.

That for England and Wales was 11.7 so that Llangellen has shown a lower death rate than the country as a whole for the last two years which speaks well for the healthy condition of our town.

The chief causes of death are given on the next page.

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Causes of Deaths,	Male.	Female.	Total.
Other infective and			
parasitic diseases.	1.		1.
Malignant neoplasms :			
Stomach	1.	۰.	1.
Other malignant neoplasms.			
Lymphatic.	1.	1,	2.
Vascular lesions of			
nervous system.	6.	5.	11.
Coronary disease Angina.	1.	1.	2.
Hypertension with heart			
disease.	··.	1.	1.
Other heart diseases	1.	4.	5.
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1.		1.
Bronchitis.		ī.	1.
Other defined and ill-defined			
diseases.	2.	2.	4.
Motor vehicle accidents	1.	-	1.
All other accidents.	1.	••• 0	1.
Totals	16,	15.	31.

The chief causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation and numbered 19. As the majority of deaths in Llangollen occur among persons over 70 years of age this is only to be expected.

Contractor of Contractor

There were only 3 deaths from cancer as compared to 7 in 1955. There were no deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus so that we are given no grounds to argue against the ill effects of smoking on the people of Llangollen.

## Infantile deaths.

Only one child died under the age of 12 months and was actually not 4 weeks old. The infantile mortality rate was 17.4 as compared to 23.8 for England and Wales.

There had been no infant deaths during the previous three years.

#### 3. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 90 cases of infectious disease notified in 1956, as compared to none in 1955.

These were largely due to an epidemic of dysentry which invaded the town in January.

Dysontry is a disease which affects the alimentary tract and the infectious organisms are excreted from the bowel. The infection may be conveyed to the mouth by infected food, water, milk, ine cream &c or by the hands if not washed after going to the toilet. There was a total of 88 cases of dysentry notified covering a period of January, February and March. Of these 41 were males and 47 fomales. An analysis of the age incidence showed that 46 cases occurred among children aged 5 to 9 years, 14 children were affected under the age of 5 years, while 28 persons were affected over the age of 9 years. Of these latter cases 20 were over the age of 25 years, and were the older relatives who caught the infection while attending to the young children.

Investigations during the outbreak showed that although notifications first came to hand on February 18th, the disease had been prevalent since the middle of January. At this late date it was impossible to trace the actual source of the infection or even to be sure of the first case in Llangollen.

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mostfied Look there can be hand on February latte the discovery of the second of the second s

Careful enquiry as to dates of onset went back to January 16th, which was the earliest known case discovered. This case lived outside the Llangollen Urban Area but attended the Llangollen Infants School. This child probably started the outbreak which was centred on the Infants School and spread from these children to their families.

Specimens from every child and the Staff of the School were bacteriologically examined, of which 62 gave positive results for dysentry bacilli. These were excluded from school until negative results were obtained. The local Doctors stated that drug treatment had very little effect in producing a negative result as those untreated by drug became negative just as soon. None of the Teachers or Canteen Staff were positive. The epidemic had died out by April.

One factor which was responsible for the rapid spread of infection among the Infant schoolchildren was the inadequate and out-of-date sanitary arrangements at this school.

There were insufficient wash basins, no hot water, insufficient W.Cs so that it was impossible for proper hygenic precautions to be taken.

I am indebted for the help given by the County Medical Officer of Health who allowed Dr. Thomas, the Deputy Medical Officer of Health and the Health Visitor to give their assistance in coping with this epidemic.

#### MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

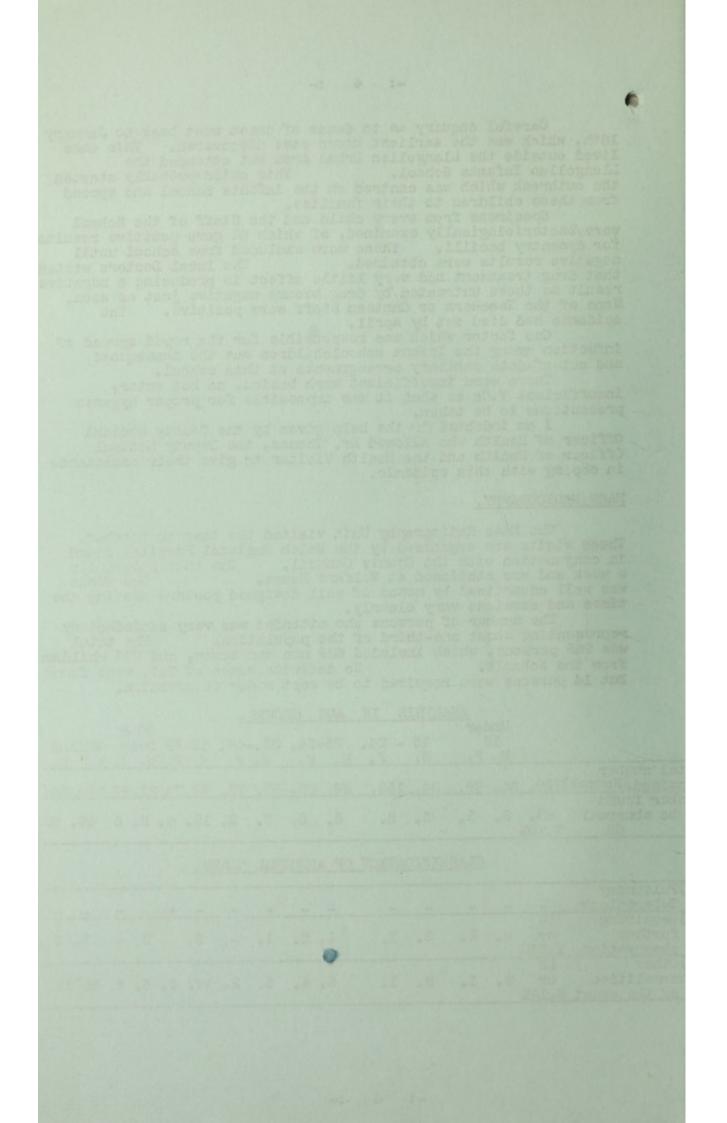
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The Mass Radiography Unit visited the town in October. These visits are organised by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board in conjunction with the County Council. The Unit stayed for a week and was stationed at Welfare House. The visit was well advertised by means of well designed posters stating the times and sessions very clearly.

The number of persons who attended was very satisfactory representing about one-third of the population. The total was 965 persons, which included 689 men and women, and 276 children from the schools. No definite cases of T.8. were found but 14 persons were required to be kept under observation.

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		14			- 24.											
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Total number examined (Normal	)896,	84.	89.	84.	1.52,	52,	89.	57.	78.	82.	70.	31.3	27	290.	50	2
Number found	69. 7.70%	2.			02 (C.17) 12		N SUDY	11111111								
CLASSIFICATION OF ABNORMAL CASES.																
(A)Pulmunary Tuberculosis	-		-				-	-		-	-		-		8=3	
(B)Requiring further observation	14 or 1,56%		2,	з.	1.	1.	2.	1.	,	2 .		2,	-	9.	5	
(C)Other aonormalities of the chest.	55 or 6.14%		1.	2.	1.	5.	4.	6,	2.	17.	4.0	6.	E.	38.	27	

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## IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

The County Council provide the facilities for carrying out these services at the Clinics and Schools.

Children can also be treated by their Family Doctors should they so desire.

The Ministry of Health continue to press forward with their Diptheria Prophylaxis Publicity Campaign. Posters to this effect have been displayed in conspicuous places. The object of the Campaign is to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday.

The numbers immunised during 1956 are shown below :-

Diptheria only:	<u>5 - 9</u> 7.	years		
Diptheria and ) Whooping Cough )	$\frac{0-1}{28}$ .	<u>1 4.</u> 8.	<u>5 9.</u> 1.	
Booster Dose.	<u>0 4.</u> 9.		<u>5 14</u> 37.	Le.
Vaccination against				
Primary.	$\frac{0-1}{17}$	y <u>ears.</u> ]	Lygar. I.	<u>15 plus.</u> 8.

## Revaccination.

#### Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

For the first time protection of children against Polio by vaccination was offered by the County Council. Those parents who wished to take advantage of this offer were required to register their children's names with the County Medical Officer of Health. As only limited supplies of vaccine are available this year only certain age groups will be dealt with. 7 children in Llangollen who had registered came within these groups and were vaccinated.

2.

#### HEALTH SERVICES.

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

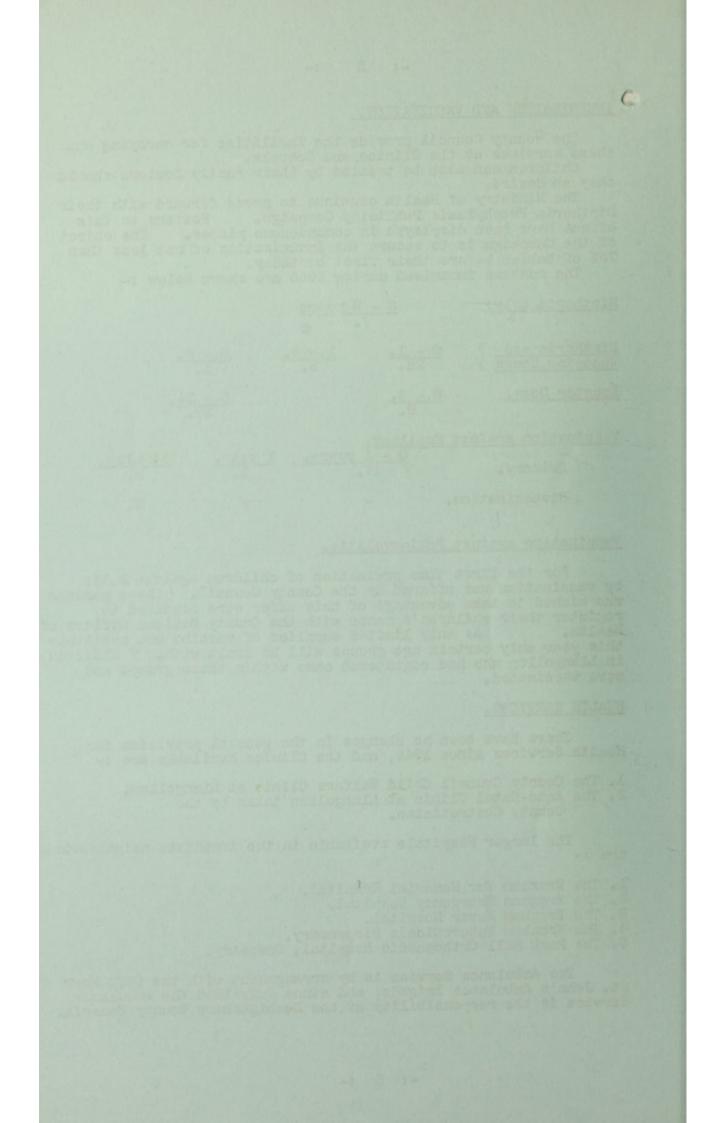
1. The County Council Child Welfare Clinic at Llangellen. 2. The Ante-Natal Clinic at Llangollen taken by the County Obstretician.

The larger Hospitals available in the immediate neighbourhood are :-

- The Wrexham War Memorial Hospital.
  The Wrexham Emergency Hospital.
  The Wrexham Fever Hospital.
  The Wrexham Tuberculosis Dispensary.
  The Park Hall Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

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

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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.		45.
second visit.		98.
Dangerous structures.		1.
Nuisances - first visit		37.
second visit		83.
Water Supply - Works -		116.
Defective services and		
Wastages.		42.
Disinfestation and disinfections.		8.
Drains sewers cesspools and privies.		40.
Food premises.		36.
Slaughterhouses.		98.
Milk and Dairies.		8.
Factories.		30.
Amusement Houses		3.
Schools.		18.
Scavenging and disposal.	•••	52.
	•••	
New Buildings, and alterations.		78.
Markets.	•••	52.
Miscellaneous.		65.

Total.

910.

Summary of Notices served.		
Dwellinghouses - structural defects Nuisances	Informal 3 8	Romedied. 2 8
Water supply.		-
Drainage.	6.	6.

#### Water Supply.

The Water Undertaking's direct source of supply is a gathering ground in the Vivod Area. This gathering ground has an area of 1,100 acres and

comprises woodland and mixed farming. There is no impounding reservoir and the works are fed by

There is no impounding reservoir and the works are fed by the Vivod stream which drains the area. During prolonged periods of dry weather the yield of the stream is insufficient to meet demands and has to be supplemented by pumping from the River Dee.

Water from the Vivod stream and the River Dee are treated in the same plant, first by sedimentation, then by gravity filtration using sulphate of alumina as a coagulent. The water is then passed to a covered storage reservoir and on its way chlorene and ammonia are added.

### Bacteriological Tests of Treated Water.

Number of samples sent to Public Health Laboratory Shrewsbury 13. Number returned 'Highly satisfactory'. ... 13.

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#### Chemical Analysis.

Raw Water from Upland Stream - Publ.	ic Supply:		
In parts per million of water :-			
Total solid matter in solu	tion		160.0
			1.25
Chlorine in Chlorides.			11.0
Oxygen absorbed from Perman	ngate		
in 4 hours at 80° F			1,56
Free and Saline Ammonia.			
			0.12
Lead, Copper, Zinc.			NIL.
Microscopical Examination	of the sea	liment -	
			73.0
pH value .			7.2

Judged by the above analysis this sample is satisfactory, there is probably a little peat or other vegetable organic matter present, which is harmless.

#### New Works.

No major works affecting the water supply were carried out during the year.

The mains were extended a short distance in Willow Street to serve some building land and a start was made to instal the permanent flow recorder at the Waterworks.

## Works under consideration.

During the year the Council instructed Consulting Engineers (Messrs. Richards and Dumbleton) to prepare a report on the Water Undertaking.

#### Bulk Supply to Wrexham Rural District Council.

In October the Liantysilio Water Supply scheme was completed by the Wrexham Rural District Council and we commenced to give them a bulk supply of 5,000 gallons per day. Eventually this amount will be increased to 20,000 gallons per day.

## Drainage and Sewerage.

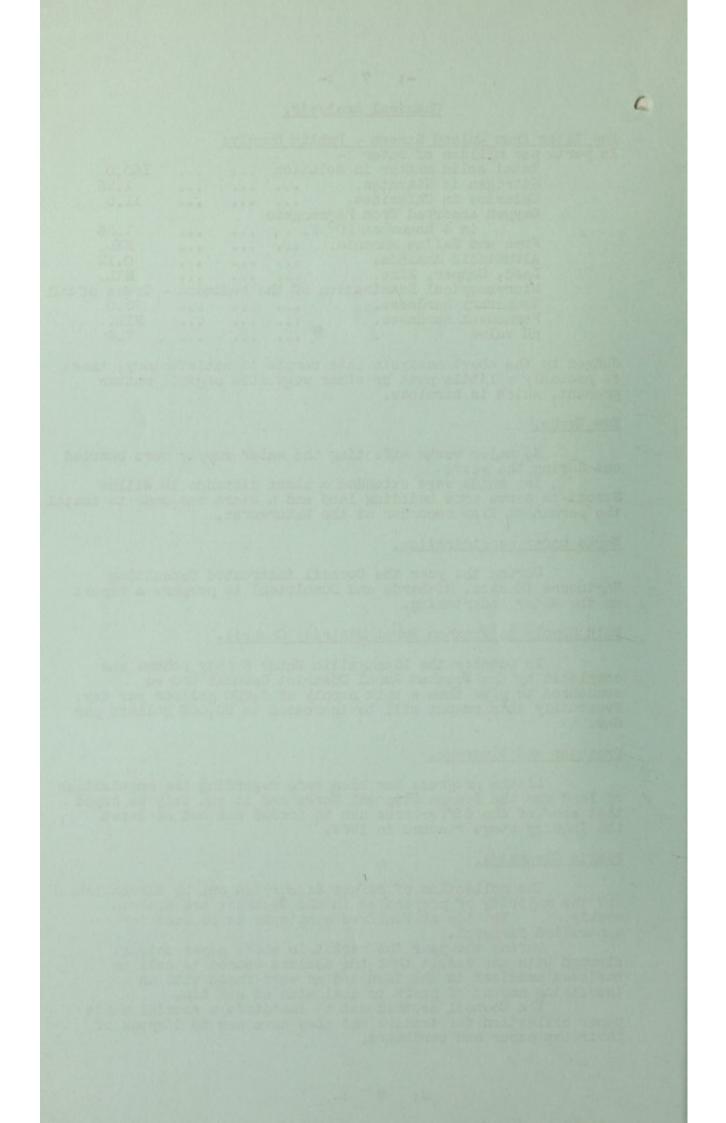
Little progress has been made regarding the acquisition of land for the Sewage Disposal Works and it can only be hoped that some of the differences can be ironed out and at least the Inquiry stage reached in 1957.

#### Public Cleansing.

The collection of refuse is carried out by direct labour and the majority of properties in the district are cleared weekly. The tip at Wenffrwd continues to be used for controlled disposal.

During the year the market in waste paper salvage slumped with the result that the dealers ceased to call on business premises in the Town and we were faced with an increasing amount of paper to deal with on our tip. The Council decided not to institute a special waste

The Council decided not to institute a special waste paper collection for traders and they have now to dispose of their own paper and cardboard.



Over the past few years the character of domestic refuse has changed and we are now having to deal with an ever increasing amount of soiled paper and food tins. As far as possible all paper is sorted from the refuse

on the tip and is burnt separately because there is a potential

fire risk when paper is buried along with the other refuse. During the year the North Wales Section of the Joint Scrap Survey Committee asked the Council to salvage tins and scrap metal from their refuse and they would undertake to remove all such salvage at their own expense as well as paying the Council a nominal sum for salvaging. Up to the end of the year we had salvaged approximately 13 tons of scrap. Since empty tins are bulky and take quite a lot of room to bury, by salvaging we are also conserving tipping space. The fire which had been burning in the tip since August

1955 was finally put out in February and stringent precautions have since been taken to prevent further fires breaking out.

#### Housing:

No Council houses have been erected during the year as the Ministry have withheld consent for building until suitable plans for a Sewage Treatment Plant have been approved. No progress in this respect has been made this year but it is hoped a Public

Inquiry will be held during the coming year. A certain number of private houses have been built during the year which fall into the following categories :-

Completed

In course of erection

4 Police Houses. 2 Houses.

1 House. 3 Bungalows.

2 Bungalows.

Although a survey of houses in the district suitable for Slum Clearance was made in 1955 it has not been possible to deal with them owing to the lack of facilities for rehousing the families who will be displaced. The number of houses requiring to be dealt with under Sections 11 and 25 of the Housing Act 1936 is 101.

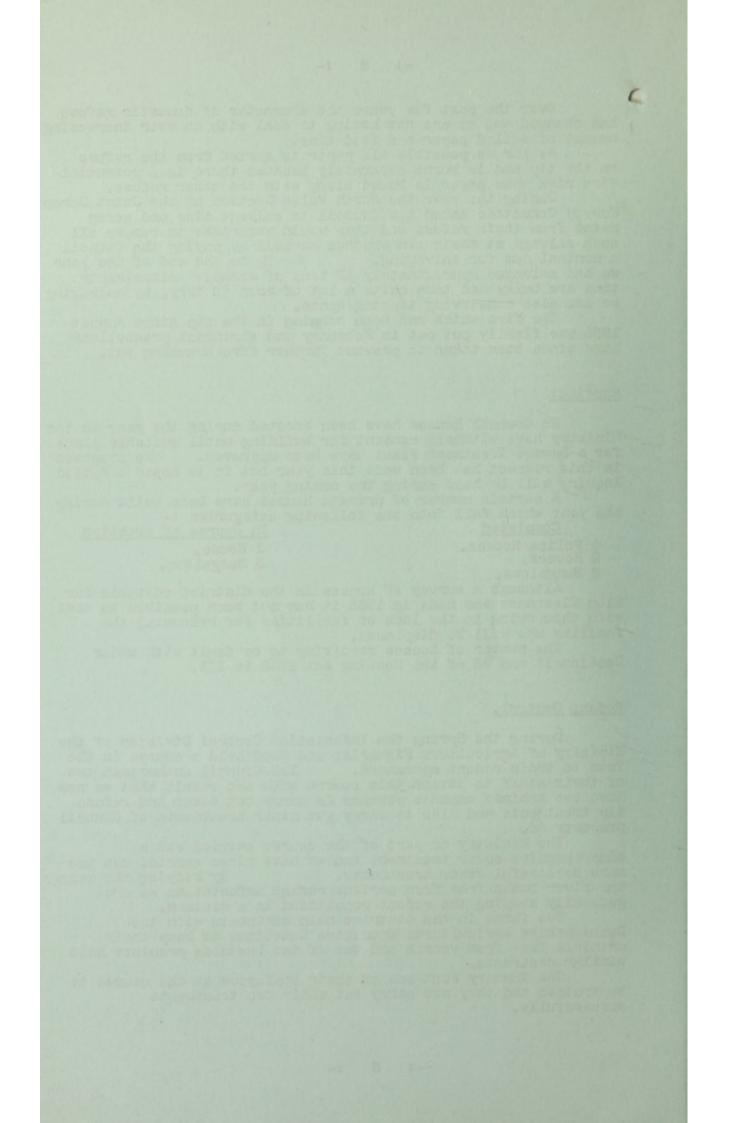
## Rodent Control.

During the Spring the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food held a course in the Town to train rodent operators. The Council authorised two of their staff to attend this course with the result that we now have two trained capable persons to carry out sewer and refuse tip treatments and also to carry out minor treatments of Council property &c.

The Ministry as part of the course carried out a comprehensive sewer treatment and we have since carried out two more successful sewer treatments. By keeping the sewers and river banks free from serious rodent infestation we are generally keeping the rodent population to a minimum. Two farms in the district hold contracts with the

Denbighshire Agricultural Executive Committee to keep their premises free from vermin and two of the business premises hold similar contracts.

The Tannery sent one of their employees to the course to be trained and they now carry out their own treatments successfully.



### Moveable Dwellings.

There are four licensed moveable dwellings in the district Regular inspections are all are situated in one farm. made to secure compliance with the Public Health Act.

#### Food Inspections.

On January 1st 1956 the Food and Drugs Act 1955 became law and with it parts of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1952 which are designed to secure more hygienic conditions in premises where food is prepared and sold. The regulations refer both

to the cleanliness of persons and premises. Inspections have been made at a large number of establishments in the Town but the part of the Regulations dealing with structural alterations did not come into force until the 1st July.

On the whole, food preparing premises in the Town comply reasonably well with the new Regulations and every effort is being made to obtain a hundred per cent compliance. A list of foods surrendered voluntarily by traders is

given below :-

Bacon		67	lbs
Tinned	fruit	120	lbs
Tinned	meat	69	lbs
Tinned	fish	63	oz.
Tinned	tomatoes	3	lbs
Tinned	vegotables		lbs
Evapora	ated milk	6	tins.

#### Ice Cream.

All Ice cream sold in the District is pre-packed and manufactured by reputable firms outside the District. Twenty premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, for sale only.

#### Milk and Dairies.

There is only one Licensed Retail Dairy in the Town. Supplementary Licences have been issued to three distributors who come into the District but have their Dairy outside the area.

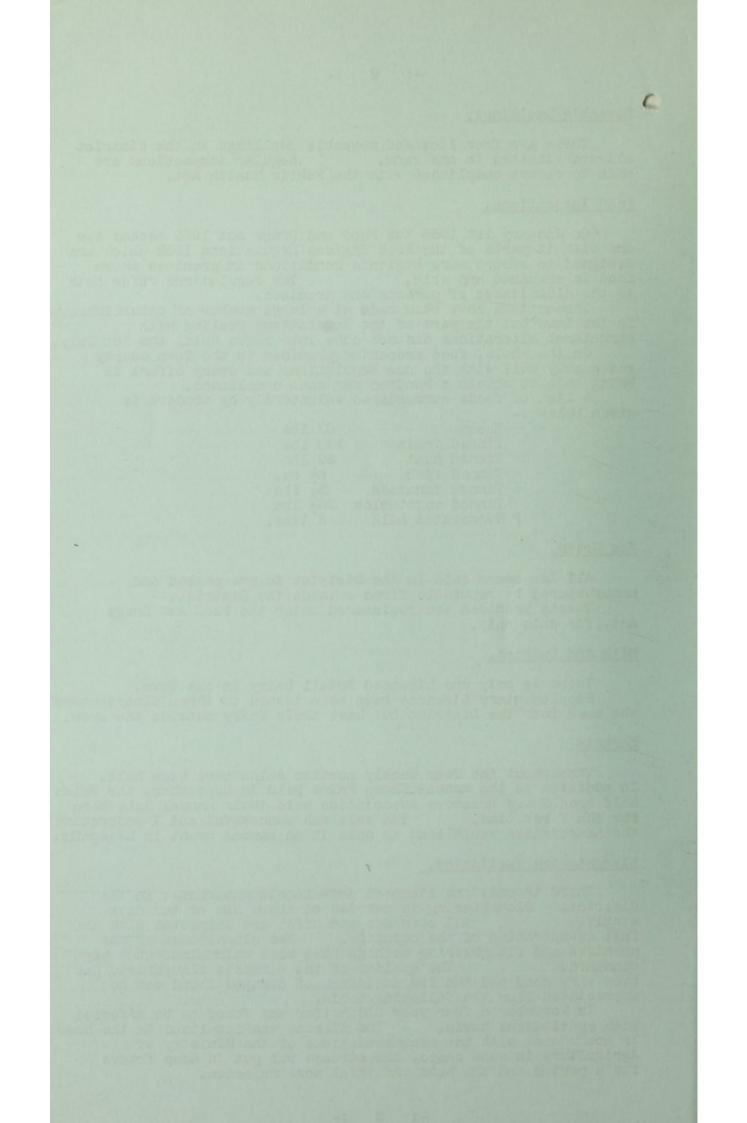
#### Markets.

Throughout the Year weekly auction sales have been held. In addition to the Annual Sheep Fairs held in September, the Welsh Half Bred Sheep Breeders Association held their Annual Sale here for the first time. The sale was successful and I understand the Association would like to make it an annual event in Llangollen

## Slaughtering facilities.

There is only one licensed private slaughterhouse in the district. Slaughtering is carried on there one or two days weekly. All carcases and offal are inspected with the full co-operation of the occupier. The cleanliness of the premises and slaughtering methods have been maintained at a high standard. The quality of the carcases slaughtered has been very good and the low incidence of disease found can be

appreciated from the following table. In November a four year old heifer was found to be affected with cysticercus bovis. The disease was localised to the head. In accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture in such cases, the carcase was put in deep freeze for a period and the head and offal were rejected.



Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned In whole, or in part.

	in mio	10, 01 1	in pear o.		
	CATILE (excluding Cows)	COWS.	CALVES.	SHEEP and LAMBS.	PIGS.
Number killed.	92.	4	44	910	5.
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	2	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	12.	l	-	8	l
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	13.04%	25%	-	1.09%	20%
T. B. only.					
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	7	-
Carcase in which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease					
Summonses were Slaughter of Animal concerning illegal The offences we premises for the pu slaughtering was no also not licensed imposed. <u>Factories Acts, 193</u> Inspections for put	Is Acts again slaughtering are using an urpose of sloot using one to slaughter 37 and 1948.	nst two p g of lam d permit aughterin of the p	persons for bs. ting to use ng. permitted n Fines to	r joint of e unlicens The pers methods an talling <u>£</u> 1	fences ed on d he was
PREMISES	Numb			ber of	
	on Re		Inspection		Prosecution
Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to a enforced by Local Author	be 2. ities		4	Nil	Nil.
)Factories not included in in which Section 7 is end by Local Authorities.	forced 22.		44	2	Nil.
TOTALS.	24.		48.	2	Nil,
Cases in which def	ects were fo	und.			
Particulars. Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective	Foun 2	đ	Remedie 2	d	
		ediently			
	т.	K. HUGH	ES.		

OCTOBER 1957.

Medical Officer of Health.