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MERIONETH COUNTY COUNCIL



PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

For the year

1966

*Health Department,
County Offices,
Dolgellau.*

EVAN RICHARDS,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

THE HISTORY OF THE

1

1774

1775

1776

MERIONETH COUNTY COUNCIL



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REPORT**

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MERIONETH COUNTY COUNCIL



PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

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WILLIAM BRIDGES
County Officer
Public Health Officer

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County Officer
Public Health Officer

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I am,

Your obedient servant,

WILL RICHARDS

County Medical Officer of Health

Health Department,
County Offices,
Lombard Street,
DOLGELLAU.

to: The Chairman, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Merioneth County Council

From: Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1966.

Once again the Registrar General's estimation of the population decreased, though not as sharply as formerly, the number being 120.

There were 11 fewer live births a decrease less marked than in the previous year when the figure was 75. The number of births has now reverted almost to the level of ten years ago as may be seen in Table IV of the report.

The number of domiciliary births was 18, the lowest yet recorded. Though the actual confinements did not take place at home, domiciliary midwives are responsible for much ante-natal supervision, and for the care of early discharges from hospital, the number of which is increasing. The Council has decided that midwives should attend consultant units, in order to keep abreast with delivery techniques, in addition to the statutory refresher courses.

Still-births at 3 were 8 fewer, while there were 3 more early neo-natal deaths. The perinatal mortality rate was therefore reduced from 23.38 to 14.62. The causes of death of the neo-nates were due to developmental defects, and not as was formerly the case by infection. This is also reflected in the survivors, and out of every 1,000 babies born alive 30 are malformed about a quarter of whom die in the first year of life. The prevention of this situation, and the early detection of defects is now a very important field of work in public health.

An epidemic of measles was carried over from the previous year occurred in 1966. There is still some controversy over the efficacy of general vaccination against this disease, although for "at risk" children it is of value. These cases may be immunised by their own practitioners to whom vaccine is available. In view of this, and of the guidance given by the Ministry of Health, the Authority has decided that as yet it will not amend its scheme for immunisation.

There was a substantial fall in the number of notifications of Tuberculosis. The number of cases on the register again decreased this year by 34.

There was an increase of 45 in the number of deaths. The general pattern of causes of death were much the same as in previous years. The number of deaths from cancer was no more than in the previous year. In this category, cancer of the stomach were 2 fewer and cancer of the lung 4 more than previously.

The demands on the domestic help service was substantially similar - the number of cases being exactly the same as in the previous year, although the distribution in the different categories except for those aged over 65, was slightly different.

Once again there was a substantial increase in the number of patients carried by the Ambulance Service. In spite of this, however, the number of journeys, and the total mileage involved in carrying them out, was less than in the previous year.

I wish to thank the County Council members and especially the members of the Health Committee for their support and encouragement. I am grateful to the General Practitioners, other County Council Departments, voluntary workers and members of my Department for their helpful co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

EVAN RICHARDS

County Medical Officer of Health

September 1967.

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HEALTH COMMITTEE AS AT 31.12.66.

Chairman: Col. Lewis Williams

Vice-Chairman: Ald. E. Cadvan Jones

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the County Council

Aldermen:

R. R. Davies
T. E. Jenkins, O.B.E.
R. O. Griffith

E. Cadvan Jones
I. Pierce Jones
Lewis Williams

Councillors:

F. Webber Davies
G. R. Davies
O. Wynn Edwards
Mrs. Gwyneth Evans
W. T. Evans
R. P. Lloyd Griffith
John Guest
Emyr W. Price

H. J. Rees
Miss Annie Roberts
R. H. Roberts
H.V.W. Robinson, M.B.E.
W. R. Webb
E. Annwyl Williams
J. Arthur Williams

Representing Medical Practitioners:

Dr. R. W. Edwards, Tynycoed, Dolgellau

SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

(i) Care Committee

Aldermen:

R. R. Davies
R. O. Griffith

E. Cadvan Jones
Lewis Williams

Councillors:

Mrs. Gwyneth Evans
W. T. Evans
R. P. Lloyd Griffith

E. W. Price
H.V.W. Robinson, M.B.E.
Miss Annie Roberts

Co-opted Members:

Dr. R. W. Edwards
Dr. E. Clifford Jones (Chest Physician)
Dr. Emlyn Owen (Chest Physician)
Dr. G. O. Thomas (Chest Physician)

(ii) Home Help and Nursing Sub-Committee

The Members of the Care Committee excluding the
three Chest Physicians

(iii) Mental Health Sub-Committee

The Members of the Care Committee excluding the
three Chest Physicians

(iv) Ambulance Sub-Committee

Aldermen:

T. E. Jenkins, O.B.E.
Lewis Williams

E. Cadvan Jones

Councillors:

John Guest

W. R. Webb

STAFF OF THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

County Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer:	Evan F.W. Richards, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.
District Medical Officer of Health and Assistant County Medical Officer:	Hugh Francis, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer	Watcyn R. Williams, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.
Principal School Dental Officer:	E. Clwydwyn Jones, L.D.S.
School Dental Officer:	W. B. Wolfe, L.D.S. (commenced September)
Chief Mental Welfare Officer	H. J. Devey, M.S.M.W.O., C.S.W. (commenced July)
Ambulance Officer:	Idris Ll. Williams
Junior Training Centre:	
Supervisor:	Miss Valerie Davies
Assistant Supervisor:	Mrs. Margaret Owen (commenced September)
Mental Welfare Officers (part-time):	Ieuan Ll. Roberts, Llefenni, Arran Road, Dolgellau. (Tel.No. Dolgellau 329) W. G. Williams (resigned May) T. P. Jones, Reliance House, Corwen. (Tel.No. Corwen 55) Elwyn Edwards, Post Office, Bala. (Tel.No. Bala 317)

CONSULTANTS

Ophthalmic:	G. L. Harper, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O. G. C. Laszlo, M.D., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., D.O. T. Evans-Jones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M
Ear, Nose and Throat:	R. Barraclough, M.B.E., T.D., M.B., Ch.B. D.L.O. Eirion Jones, F.R.C.S. Rowland Hughes, F.R.C.S.
Orthopaedic:	O. Vaughan Jones, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.C
Obstetricians:	J. Gardiner Wigley, F.R.C.S.
Paediatrician:	Gwyn R. Griffith, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Chest Physicians:	G. O. Thomas, M.D. J. Glyn Jones, M.D. E. Clifford Jones, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S. H. Vernon Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.O.
Venereologist:	
Mental Health:	
Physician Superintendent, N. Wales Hospital, Denbigh.	T. Gwynne Williams, M.D.(Lond), D.P.M.
Psychiatrist:	D. Alun Jones, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.M.
Consultant in Subnormality:	M. Craft, M.D., M.R.C.P.E., D.P.M.
Head Psychiatric Social Worker:	M. R. Olsen, A.A.P.S.W.

NURSING STAFF (as at 31.12.66.)

Superintendent Nursing Officer: Mrs. Eleanor Owen, M.B.E., S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.S., H.V.

Deputy Superintendent Nursing Officer: Miss M. Wynne Evans, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.S., H.V.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor: Miss Ceridwen Evans

School Nurse: Miss Olwen Gittins

District Nurses/Midwives/Health Visitors (combined work):

Miss M. E. Davies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Dyffryn Ardudwy
Miss Eluned Griffiths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Corris
Mrs. Enid Evans	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Dinas Mawddwy
Miss Gwen Morgan Jones	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bala
Miss G. Thomas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Penrhyndeudraeth
Mrs. Mair W. Evans	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Barmouth
Miss A. M. Lloyd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Aberdovey
Miss Joan G. Roberts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Harlech

District Nurses/Midwives (combined work):

Mrs. M. E. Jones	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Blaenau Ffestiniog
Miss A. Fielding	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Blaenau Ffestiniog
Miss F. A. Catherwood	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Towyn
Mrs. M. Roberts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Dolgellau
Miss Glenys Jones	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Relief (Full-time)
Mrs. C. Downes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Corwen
Mrs. M. E. Jones	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Corwen
Miss Rhian Wynne Evans	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Fairbourne

Full-time Health Visitors:

Miss M. P. Griffith	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Blaenau Ffestiniog
Miss Megan Jones	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Corwen
Mrs. C. A. Jones	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Towyn
Mrs. Ceri Jones	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ffestiniog
Miss A. J. Hughes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Dolgellau (commenced July)

District Nurses:

Miss Gwyneth Edwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Relief (Full-time)
Mrs. Menai Williams	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Trawsfynydd

Candidates in training:

Miss Joan Nicholson	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Health Visitors & District Nurse Training
Mrs. M. P. Denovan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Midwifery Training

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Senior Administrative Assistant:	Miss E. Eirianwy Roberts
Clerical Staff:	Mrs. Mair Davies Miss M. Elwen P. Evans Mrs. Menna Reed Miss M. Lynne Roberts Miss Ann M. G. Kelly Brian C. M. Jones R. Caerwyn Hughes Griffith Griffiths (commenced October)
Dental Surgery Assistants:	Miss Eira Parker Miss Marian Roberts (commenced September)

ASSOCIATED OFFICERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Clerk of the County Council:	D. W. Jones-Williams, M.C., LL.B.
County Architect:	Norman Jones, L.R.I.B.A.
County Treasurer:	A. A. Hemphill, F.A.C.C.A.
County Welfare Officer:	Emyr Davies
Inspector of Weights and Measures:	R. T. Edwards, F.I.W.M.A.
Children's Officer:	Mrs. A. Humphrey Jones.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area of County (in acres) 422,372

Population of County 37,750
(1966 Mid-year Estimates)

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	544	290	254
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population:	14.41		
Birth Rate England and Wales	17.7		
<u>Illegitimate Live Births</u>	39	20	19
Per cent of Total Live Births	7.17		
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	3	1	2
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births :	5.48		
Still Birth Rate - England and Wales	15.3		
<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u>	547	291	256
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (Deaths under 1 year)	8	5	3
Legitimate Infants	7	4	3
Illegitimate Infants	1	1	-
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 of legitimate infants	13.86		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 of illegitimate infants	25.64		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births:	14.71		
Infant mortality rate for England and Wales:	19.0		
Infant mortality rate for Wales	20.0		
<u>NEO-NATAL DEATHS:</u> (First four weeks)	5	3	2
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births:	9.19		
Neo-natal mortality rate England and Wales	12.9		
<u>EARLY NEO-NATAL DEATHS:</u> (Under 1 week)	5	3	2
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births	9.19		
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY:</u> (Still births & Deaths under 1 week)	8	4	4
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	14.62		
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY:</u> (including abortion)	-	-	-
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 Live and Still Births	-		

Table 1

Giving the population (estimated) mid-year 1966 and the population as enumerated at the Census 1961, rateable value, and the product of a penny rate.

DISTRICT:	Population (estimated) by Registrar General 1966	Population Census 1961	Rateable Value as at 1.4.67.	Estimated Product of a Penny Rate 1.4.67.
County of Merioneth	37,750	38,093	1,204,050	4,753
Total Urban Districts ...	17,040	16,713	534,874	2,076
Total Rural Districts ...	20,710	21,380	669,176	2,677
Urban Districts:				
Bala	1,520	1,603	49,487	185
Barmouth	2,270	2,348	68,087	256
Dolgellau	2,620	2,267	67,042	258
Ffestiniog	6,450	6,677	238,878	943
Towyn	4,180	3,818	111,380	434
Rural Districts:				
Deudraeth	7,090	7,610	362,980	1,460
Dolgellau	6,990	7,064	166,150	693
Edeyrnion	3,910	3,919	76,259	279
Penllyn	2,720	2,787	63,787	245

POPULATION

Table 11

The following Table shows the population of the County for the years 1962-66.

DISTRICT:	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
County of Merioneth	38,360	38,390	38,870	38,270	37,750
Total Urban Districts	16,840	16,890	17,070	17,000	17,040
Total Rural Districts	21,520	21,500	21,800	21,270	20,710
Urban Districts:					
Bala	1,610	1,640	1,640	1,530	1,520
Barmouth	2,190	2,200	2,270	2,270	2,270
Dolgellau	2,470	2,460	2,490	2,550	2,620
Ffestiniog	6,700	6,660	6,560	6,480	6,450
Towyn	3,870	3,930	4,110	4,170	4,180
Rural Districts:					
Deudraeth	7,060	7,060	7,410	7,170	7,090
Dolgellau	7,720	7,740	7,660	7,440	6,990
Edeyrnion	3,940	3,920	3,960	3,940	3,910
Penllyn	2,800	2,780	2,770	2,720	2,720

LIVE BIRTHS

Table 111

DISTRICT:	Total Registered Births	Total Notified Births	DOMICILIARY CASES						Total	Cases in Institutions with -in the County
			Doctor not booked			Doctor booked				
			Doctor present at time of delivery of child		Doctor not present at time of delivery of child	Doctor present at time of delivery of child		Doctor not present at time of delivery of child		
			Doctor present at time of delivery of child	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child	Doctor present at time of delivery of child	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child				
COUNTY OF MERIONETH	544	187	1	2	4	11	18	169		
Total Urban Districts ...	248	175	-	2	1	3	6	169		
Total Rural Districts ...	296	12	1	-	3	8	12	-		
Urban Districts:										
Bala	18	1	-	-	-	1	1	-		
Barmouth	27	40	-	-	-	-	-	40		
Dolgellau	37	79	-	-	-	-	-	79		
Ffestiniog	110	5	-	2	1	2	5	-		
Towyn	56	50	-	-	-	-	-	50		
Rural Districts:										
Deudraeth	108	3	1	-	-	2	3	-		
Dolgellau	93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Edeyrnion	59	8	-	-	2	6	8	-		
Penllyn	36	1	-	-	1	-	1	-		

Table 1V

This Table gives the Number of Births and Birth Rate per 1,000 population during the last ten years :-

Year	No. of Registered Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate England & Wales
1957	535	13.69	16.1
1958	533	13.99	16.4
1959	572	14.82	16.5
1960	590	15.07	17.1
1961	617	16.34	17.4
1962	627	16.34	18.0
1963	633	16.49	18.2
1964	620	15.95	18.4
1965	545	14.24	18.1
1966	544	14.41	17.7

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

Table V

This Table gives details of the illegitimate births in the various Sanitary Districts in the County.

DISTRICT:	No. of registered Births			Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	Illeg. Births	
	Males	Females	Total		No.	Per Cent of Total Births
County of Merioneth	290	254	544	14.41	39	7.17
Total Urban Districts ..	127	121	248	14.55	20	8.06
Total Rural Districts ..	163	133	296	14.29	19	6.41
Urban Districts:						
Bala	5	13	18	11.84	-	-
Barmouth	16	11	27	11.89	2	7.41
Dolgellau	21	16	37	14.12	4	10.81
Ffestiniog	57	53	110	17.05	9	8.18
Towyn	28	28	56	13.40	5	8.93
Rural Districts:						
Deudraeth	56	52	108	15.23	5	4.63
Dolgellau	51	42	93	13.30	4	4.30
Edeyrnion	33	26	59	15.09	7	11.86
Penllyn	23	13	36	13.23	3	8.33

INFANT MORTALITY

Eight infant deaths were recorded during the year a rate of 14.71 per 1,000 live births.

Table VI gives the number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age in the various Sanitary Districts together with the rate per 1,000 live births.

Table VI

DISTRICT:	Early Neo-Natal Deaths (under 1 wk)		Neo-Natal Deaths (Under 4 weeks)		Infant Deaths (Under 12 Months)		Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
County of Merioneth	3	2	3	2	5	3	14.71
Total Urban Districts ...	1	1	1	1	2	1	12.10
Total Rural Districts ...	2	1	2	1	3	2	16.89
Urban Districts:							
Bala	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barmouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dolgellau	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ffestiniog	1	-	1	-	1	-	9.09
Towyn	-	1	-	1	1	1	35.71
Rural Districts:							
Deudraeth	1	-	1	-	1	1	18.52
Dolgellau	-	1	-	1	-	1	10.75
Edeyrnion	1	-	1	-	2	-	33.89
Penllyn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table VII

Giving the causes of deaths of Infants under one year of age.

	Early Neo-Natal Deaths (Under 1 week)		Neo-Natal Deaths (Under 4 weeks)		Infant Deaths (Under 12 months)	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformation ...	1	-	-	-	1	-
Prematurity	3	1	-	-	3	1
Other defined or illdefined causes	-	1	-	-	1	2
All other accidents	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	2	-	-	5	3

Table VIII

Still-births registered and notified together with Still-birth Rates are given in the following Table.

DISTRICT:	No. of Still Births	Still Birth Rate	
		per 1,000 popu- lation	per 1,000 Live and Still Births
County of Merioneth	3	0.08	5.48
Total Urban Districts ..	2	0.12	8.00
Total Rural Districts ..	1	0.05	3.36
Urban Districts:			
Bala	-	-	-
Barmouth	-	-	-
Dolgellau	-	-	-
Ffestiniog	2	0.32	17.86
Towyn	-	-	-
Rural Districts:			
Deudraeth	1	0.14	9.17
Dolgellau	-	-	-
Edeyrnion	-	-	-
Penllyn	-	-	-

DEATHS

Table 1X

The following Table gives the Total Deaths.

	All Ages	Under 1	1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 +
Males ..	282	5	-	1	3	1	5	19	50	88	110
Females	282	3	-	1	1	1	4	5	34	69	164
Total	564	8	-	2	4	2	9	24	84	157	274

Table X

This Table gives the total deaths with the rate per 1,000 of the population.

DISTRICT:	Total Deaths		Rate per 1,000 of population
	M.	F.	
County of Merioneth	282	282	14.94
Total Urban Districts ..	116	140	15.02
Total Rural Districts ..	166	142	14.87
Urban Districts:			
Bala	7	15	14.47
Barmouth	11	23	14.98
Dolgellau	11	15	9.92
Ffestiniog	53	52	16.28
Towyn	34	35	16.51
Rural Districts:			
Deudraeth	62	58	16.92
Dolgellau	57	52	15.59
Edeyrnion	31	20	13.04
Penllyn	16	12	10.29

Death rate England and Wales - 11.7 provisional.

Table XI

CAUSE OF DEATH	URBAN DISTRICTS										RURAL DISTRICTS										TOTAL COUNTY	
	BALA U.D.		BARNMOUTH U.D.		DOLGELLAU U.D.		FFESTINIOG U.D.		TOWYN U.D.		DEUDRAETH P.D.		DOLGELLAU R.D.		EDEYERNION R.D.		FENLLYN R.D.					
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
1. Tuberculosis respiratory ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis other	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	1	-	1	3	3	-	2	2	-	-	17	-	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	1	1	1	-	2	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm breast ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	1	-	-	6	-	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm uterus ..	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	1	2	-	-	2	1	5	1	2	3	1	6	3	1	2	1	1	33	1	1	-
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-	1	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	3	2	-	1	2	8	13	7	7	10	12	10	9	4	5	3	1	100	1	1	-
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	3	3	-	3	2	1	9	11	9	3	14	3	15	7	1	1	6	2	101	2	2	-

19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	14
20. Other heart diseases	1	4	2	7	2	-	-	4	3	10	19	16	1	1	3	2	92
21. Other circulatory disease	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	2	2	2	25
22. Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	
23. Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	4	2	1	-	-	2	18
24. Bronchitis	-	-	-	2	2	-	3	1	-	5	1	1	3	-	-	-	28
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	5
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ..	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	7
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	2	-	1	-	-	4	1	6	4	4	1	6	6	1	2	44
33. Motor vehicle accidents ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
34. All other accidents	-	1	-	3	1	-	1	-	2	-	3	1	1	1	-	1	15
35. Suicide	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

CANCER

Table X11

DISTRICT:	Total Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 of population 1966	Death rates per 1,000 of estimated population in the years				
			1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
County of Merioneth ..	72	1.91	2.62	2.13	2.21	2.31	1.85
Total Urban Districts	34	1.99	2.34	2.13	2.37	2.64	2.12
Total Rural Districts	38	1.83	2.84	2.13	2.09	2.06	1.64
Urban Districts:							
Bala	3	1.97	4.34	3.10	2.44	3.05	4.57
Barmouth	7	3.08	2.66	2.28	3.64	3.96	1.76
Dolgellau	4	1.53	1.61	2.43	2.03	3.21	1.57
Ffestiniog	12	1.86	2.27	1.49	2.55	1.98	1.85
Towyn	8	1.91	1.87	2.58	1.53	2.43	2.16
Rural Districts:							
Deudraeth	11	1.55	3.82	2.69	1.98	2.43	2.23
Dolgellau	15	2.14	2.36	2.20	1.55	1.96	2.15
Edeyrnion	10	2.56	2.81	1.01	3.80	2.02	0.76
Penllyn	2	0.73	1.79	2.14	1.80	1.44	-

Table X111

The following Table gives the sites of Cancer and the number (males and females) who died in each Sanitary District in the County during the year.

DISTRICT:	Cancer of Uterus		Cancer of Stomach		Cancer of Breast		Cancer of lung and bronchus		Cancer of all other sites		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
County of Merioneth	-	4	9	8	-	6	10	2	14	19	33	39
Total Urban Districts ..	-	2	3	3	-	2	8	1	3	12	14	20
Total Rural Districts ..	-	2	6	5	-	4	2	1	11	7	19	19
Urban Districts:												
Bala	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	2
Barmouth	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	2	2	5
Dolgellau	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	2	2
Ffestiniog	-	-	2	2	-	1	1	-	1	5	4	8
Towyn	-	1	1	-	-	-	3	-	1	2	5	3
Rural Districts:												
Deudraeth	-	1	1	3	-	2	-	-	3	1	4	7
Dolgellau	-	-	3	-	-	1	1	1	6	3	10	5
Edeyrnion	-	1	2	2	-	1	1	-	1	2	4	6
Penllyn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1

Table XLV

Deaths from Cancer and the rate per 1,000 of population during the last ten years are given in the Table below:

Year	Total Deaths	Rate per 1,000 of the population
1957	85	2.15
1958	107	2.81
1959	83	2.15
1960	88	2.22
1961	99	2.62
1962	82	2.13
1963	85	2.21
1964	90	2.31
1965	71	1.85
1966	72	1.91

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following Table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Table XV

DISTRICT	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Measles	Puerperal Pyrexia	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas
County of Merioneth ...	-	-	-	221	-	4	1
Total Urban Districts .	-	-	-	97	-	-	-
Total Rural Districts .	-	-	-	124	-	4	1
Urban Districts:							
Bala	-	-	-	30	-	-	-
Barmouth	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
Dolgellau	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ffestiniog	-	-	-	61	-	-	-
Towyn	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Rural Districts:							
Deudraeth	-	-	-	64	-	4	1
Dolgellau	-	-	-	33	-	-	-
Edeyrnion	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Penllyn	-	-	-	24	-	-	-

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics

These clinics are held at four centres in the County and are attended by Consultants by arrangements with the Regional Hospital Board. Clinics are held at:

Blaenau Ffestiniog	Every Monday
Dolgellau	First and Third Monday in the month.
Towyn	First and Third Friday in the month. Also Last Wednesday in the month.
Bala	Second Wednesday in the month.

Details of attendances at these clinics are shown in Table XVI.

Table XVI

	Maternity			Gynaecology		TOTAL
	New	Old	Post Natal	New	Old	
Bl. Ffestiniog ..	143	681	76	4	9	913
Dolgellau	58	141	22	96	138	234
Bala	2	-	-	18	-	20
Total	203	822	98	118	147	1167

Mothercraft Classes

Mothercraft Classes are held at Blaenau Ffestiniog weekly, and the Health Visitor takes charge of these classes. These classes have proved very popular and during the year 51 patients made 208 attendances.

Family Planning Clinics

The Family Planning Association continues to hold clinics at Blaenau Ffestiniog and Dolgellau, and the County Council provides accommodation, free of charge, for the clinic at Blaenau Ffestiniog. An annual financial contribution is given to both these clinics by the County Council.

The clinics are held at :-

Dolgellau Hospital 2nd Wednesday and 4th Mondays
in the month from 2 - 4 p.m.

Isallt Clinic, Bl. Ffestiniog 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month
from 6 - 7 p.m.
2nd and 4th Wednesday in the
month from 2 - 3 p.m.

During the year, the Blaenau Ffestiniog Family Planning Clinic initiated a cervical cytology service, and specimens for testing for an indication of early cancer of the cervix were taken at this clinic. It is hoped that two further clinics will be in operation in the near future.

Child Welfare Clinics

There were fourteen Child Welfare Clinics in the County, and there was a total of 239 sessions held at these clinics during the year. The Local Medical Practitioners act as Medical Officers for these Clinics except at Abergynolwyn, where the Assistant Medical Officer of Health attends. The attendances at all Infant Welfare Clinics throughout the County continue to be good, and a total of 1061 children attended during the year. Table XVll gives the number of children who attended each clinic.

Table XVll

Location of Clinic	Number of children who attended for the first time during the year			Total No. of children who attended
	Born in 1966	Born in 1965	Born in 1961-64	
Aberdovey	6	6	10	22
Abergynolwyn	1	3	6	10
Bala	40	33	11	84
Barmouth	24	20	38	82
Corris	9	11	19	39
Corwen	20	33	48	101
Dolgellau	45	42	47	134
Dyffryn Ardudwy	9	12	24	45
Blaenau Ffestiniog ...	71	59	80	210
Llan Ffestiniog	17	17	9	43
Harlech	20	18	22	60
Penrhyndeudraeth	23	29	26	78
Towyn	21	49	26	96
Trawsfynydd	10	23	24	57
Total	316	355	390	1061

Details of the Medical Officers who attended the Infant Welfare Clinics during the year are given below :-

Abergynolwyn	Dr. H. Francis
Aberdovey	Dr. T. Tibbott Davies
Bala	Dr. M. P. Jones
Barmouth	Dr. R. I. Davies
Corris	Dr. H. C. Pierce
Corwen	Dr. D. G. Roberts
Dolgellau	Dr. R. W. Edwards
Dyffryn Ardudwy	Dr. R. I. Davies
Blaenau Ffestiniog	Dr. D. Whittaker
Harlech	Dr. C. Austin
Llan Ffestiniog	Dr. D. M. Evans
Penrhyndeudraeth	Dr. C. C. M. Watson
Towyn	Dr. J. H. M. Lloyd
Trawsfynydd	Dr. I. W. Griffith

Congenital Malformations

The County Council is required to submit monthly returns to the Registrar General reporting all congenital abnormalities in live and still births observed in new-born babies. This information is sent to the Local Health Authority by the Hospital Consultants, Doctor or Midwife.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and their children

All unmarried expectant mothers are brought to my notice by the Health Visitors, District Nurses and Midwives, and arrangements are made for the admission of the patient to Bersham Hall, Wrexham, which is a Home for Unmarried Mothers. If the child is to be placed for adoption, the mother is advised to contact the Secretary of the Bangor Diocesan Council for Moral Welfare which is a registered Adoption Society. The child then comes under the supervision of the Children's Officer, and reports are submitted regularly by the Health Visitor. Five unmarried expectant mothers were admitted to Bersham Hall during the year.

The illegitimate birth rate for the County in 1966 was 71.29 per 1,000 total live and still births.

Dental Care of Mothers and Young Children

It is not generally known in the County that free dental advice and treatment is available at the dental clinics for expectant and nursing mothers, and pre-school children. Now that the dental staffing position is better, fuller use might be made of the facilities provided.

Advantage has always been taken of offering dental advice to mothers when attending the clinics. When pre-school children accompany their older brother/sister to the clinic they are encouraged to have a ride in the chair, to play with hand instruments and in general to "condition" themselves for future treatment. I consider this to be well worthwhile although to a certain extent time consuming.

Distribution of Welfare Foods

Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice and A. & D. Tablets) are distributed at Welfare Clinics and at other centres in the County. This work is carried out by voluntary workers and the help given by them is greatly appreciated.

The total quantities of Welfare Foods distributed during the year is shown in the following table, together with the figures for the previous year. As will be noted there is quite a decrease in the sale of all these foods during the year.

Table XVlll

	National Dried Milk	Cod Liver Oil	A. & D. Tablets	Orange Juice
	(Tins)	(Bottles)	(Packets)	(Bottles)
1965	7,082	576	447	5,485
1966	6,642	505	335	5,268

At the end of the year, there were 25 Centres distributing Welfare Foods (7 Main Centres and 18 Sub-Centres). The amount of foods sold during the year is divided into areas in Table XLX.

Table XLX

Areas	National Dried Milk	Cod Liver Oil	A. & D. Tablets	Orange Juice
Dolgellau	1663	103	62	1071
Penrhyndeudraeth	1089	51	39	814
Bala	21	62	15	217
Blaenau Ffestiniog ...	1833	110	142	809
Barmouth	1570	89	15	1208
Towyn	293	40	48	661
Corwen	173	50	14	488
Total.....	6642	505	335	5268

The following list gives the names and addresses of the distributors of Welfare Foods as at 31st December, 1966 :-

Centre	Name and Address of distributor	Place and Times of Sale
<u>Dolgellau area</u>		
Health Department	County Offices, Dolgellau.	At the Office, daily.
Dinas Mawddwy	Miss E. E. Thomas, Tegfan	At Tegfan, daily.

Centre	Name and Address of distributor	Place and Times of Sale
<u>Dolgellau area (contd.)</u>		
Corris	Mrs. A. E. Jones, Aber Corris Farm	The Institute - 1st Wednesday in the month.
Fairbourne	Mrs. N. G. Evans, 22, Beach Road	At 22, Beach Road, daily.
Llwyngwrl	Mrs. Baden Jones Tegfan	At Tegfan, daily.
Arthog	Miss M. Williams, Post Office	At Post Office, daily.
Abergynolwyn	Mrs. G. Jones, Pandy Cottage	The Village Hall - last Friday in the month.
Trawsfynydd	Mr. I. Richards, Meirion Stores	At the Shop, daily.
<u>Penrhyndeudraeth area</u>		
Penrhyndeudraeth	Mrs. Jones, Gwynedd Chemist	At the Shop, daily.
Penrhyndeudraeth - I.W.C.	Mrs. M. Williams, Gwynant, 4, Minffordd Road	The Church Hall - alternate Tuesdays in the month.
Harlech	Mrs. M. Gaskell, Merrydown, Llanfair.	The Library - 1st and 3rd Mondays in the month.
<u>Bala area</u>		
Bala	Mrs. M. Williams, Awelon	Hafan Clinic - every Thursday.
Llandderfel	Mrs. M. O. Jones, Maesrhuddallt	Church Hall - alternate Tuesdays.
<u>Blaenau Ffestiniog area</u>		
Blaenau Ffestiniog	Mrs. M. Roberts, Maesgarnedd	Isallt Clinic - Every Tuesday and Friday.
Llan Ffestiniog	Mrs. L. C. Pritchard, Y Bryn, Belle Vue	At the house, daily.
<u>Barmouth area</u>		
Barmouth	Mrs. Hughes, Green Hill	Council Offices, daily.
Barmouth - I.W.C.	Mrs. M. Jones, 1, Epworth Tce.	Park Road Chapel - alternate Thursdays.
Dyffryn Ardudwy	Mr. Foxwell, Botwnog Stores	At the shop, daily.
Llanbedr	Mr. Ross, Wenallt Stores	At the shop, daily.
<u>Towyn area</u>		
Towyn	Council Offices	At the Offices, daily
Aberdovey	Mrs. Gladwin, 12, Penhelig Tce.	Church Hall - Third Tuesday in the month.

Centre	Name and Address of distributor	Place and Times of Sale
<u>Corwen area</u>		
Corwen	Miss Megan Jones, Llawrcilan, Llandrillo.	Glaslwyn Clinic - First Thursday in the month.
Llandrillo	Mrs. Roberts, The Stores	At the Stores, daily.
Cynwyd	Mr. Pierce, The Stores	At the Stores, daily.
Gwyddelwern	Mrs. B. Roberts, Station House.	At the house, daily.

At the majority of Infant Welfare Centres in the County, special brand baby foods are also available for sale to parents who have been advised to obtain a particular food for an infant. These foods are supplied in special clinic packs at a reduced cost to which is added a small charge to cover administrative costs.

MIDWIFERY

The Midwifery and Maternity work was carried out by seventeen Full-time District Nurses/Midwives assisted by two Part-time Relief Nurses/Midwives. The number of cases delivered at home decreased to eighteen during the year. 242 Cases delivered in Maternity Hospitals and Maternity Homes discharged home before the 10th day were attended by the District Nurses/Midwives. The number of visits paid to such cases were 963. The Midwives accompanied 92 cases to Maternity Hospitals in the Ambulances.

Maternity Outfits were issued, free of charge, to domiciliary midwives and 41 were issued during the year.

The Deputy Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives also attended a Midwifery Refresher Course in London.

Four Midwives attended Refresher Courses during the year.

Table XX

No. of domiciliary confinements attended by Midwives under N.H.S. arrangements		
Doctor not booked	Doctor booked	Total
2	16	18

The distribution of these home confinements into the various districts can be found in Table III.

HEALTH VISITING

The Health Visiting duties were carried out by five Full-time Health Visitors and nine District Nurses/Midwives/Health Visitors, who carried out 8384 visits in the homes to all categories of cases. The scope of the Health Visitor as a Health Teacher and qualified Social Worker is expanding as the care of the family as an unit is emphasised.

Many talks on health and allied subjects have been given by the Health Visitors to Women's Institutes, Mothers Unions, British Red Cross Society branches and films have been shown.

Mothercraft classes and discussions have been arranged at the County Council, General Practitioners and at a hospital clinic. The formation of Mothers or Young Wives Clubs has been approved by the County Council. It is hoped to start on these projects during the coming year.

The Health Visitors co-operate with the Family Planning Clinics. Talks and films dealing with this matter was attended by the Health Visitors during the year.

Miss M. Wynne Evans, the Deputy Superintendent Nursing Officer attended the Annual Conference on Maternal and Child Welfare in London in July. One Health Visitor attended a Course on Audiology and Education of the Deaf at Manchester University in March and a short Course on Hearing Testing Techniques held at the Institute of Laryngology and Otology, University of London in November.

During the year Health Visitors visited the following number of cases :-

Table XXI

DISTRICT:	Children born in 1966	Children born in 1965	Children born in 1961-64.
Aberdovey	10	12	36
Bala	33	88	124
Barmouth	36	32	89
Bl. Ffestiniog	77	59	337
Corris	11	11	45
Corwen	59	65	273
Dinas Mawddwy	9	5	21
Dolgellau	62	48	157
Dyffryn Ardudwy	14	18	58
Ffestiniog and Trawsfynydd	62	56	183
Harlech	36	28	86
Penrhyndeudraeth	39	44	167
Towyn	72	128	221
Total	520	594	1797

Other cases visited by Health Visitors and number of visits paid :-

	Cases	Visits
Persons aged 65 or over	205	1010
Mentally disordered persons	5	25
Persons discharged from hospital	18	38
Infant Death Inquiries	8	7
Premature Infants	27	131
Children 'at risk'	42	253
Home Helps	55	417
At risk families	14	56
Others	66	133
	<u>440</u>	<u>2070</u>

Phenylketonuria

Health Visitors undertook the routine testing of babies for phenylketonuria. This is a disease which affects the brain at a very early age and if left undiagnosed and untreated, gives rise to severe mental abnormality. No case was discovered during the year.

HOME NURSING

The County is divided into fourteen districts served by twenty-one Nurses during the year. Ten were engaged in combined work - Home Nursing, Midwifery/Maternity and Health Visiting. Six were engaged in combined duties of Home Nursing and Midwifery/Maternity. Three carried out General Nursing only. The service is staffed by a good percentage of highly qualified Nurses.

State Registered Nurse; State Certified Midwife; Queen's Nurse; Qualified Health Visitor	8
S.R.N.; S.C.M.; Q.N.	6
S.R.N.; S.C.M.	3
S.R.N.	1
S.E.N.; S.C.M.	3

During the year 1828 cases were attended to which 37,841 visits were paid. A high proportion of the work consisted of general nursing of the elderly and long-term illness and Hypodermic Injections.

No nurse attended a Refresher Course during the year, but several talks were given in conjunction with the Merioneth Branch of the Royal College of Nursing.

Several Nurses gave talks on Home Nursing, Safety in the Home, and films provided by the department were shown to Women's Institutes, British Red Cross Classes and Mother's Union.

Inco-Pads for the use of incontinent patients were in great demand by the Nurses during the year and minimised the work of the Nurses and relatives particularly where laundry facilities were difficult.

One State Registered Nurse/Midwife was sponsored for District Training during the year.

Table XXII gives the figures for Home Nursing in the various districts.

Table XXII

DISTRICT:	Total No. of persons nursed during year	No. of persons who were aged under 5 at 1st visit in 1966	No. of persons who were aged 65 or over at 1st visit in 1966
Aberdovey	62	2	49
Bala	77	2	53
Barmouth	96	-	68
Blaenau Ffestiniog	423	40	115
Corris	82	7	24
Corwen	188	14	55
Dinas Mawddwy	142	15	69
Dolgellau	138	5	86
Dyffryn Ardudwy	117	8	62
Celynin	122	14	62
Ffestiniog and Trawsfynydd	138	12	49
Harlech	90	3	56
Penrhyndeudraeth	97	5	51
Towyn	56	2	37
Total	1828	129	836
Total 1965	1846	132	801

HOME HELP SERVICE

The Home Help Service has been provided as in previous years under the supervision of the Superintendent Nursing Officer and Deputy Superintendent Nursing Officer acting as Home Help Organisers, with the occasional assistance of the Health Visitors and District Nurse/Midwives when required, supported administratively by the Clerical Staff. The Home Helps have given invaluable service during the year.

The case-load and type of cases assisted has remained much the same as in previous years with the emphasis on the elderly, infirm and long-term illness. The Home Helps are all engaged on a part-time basis involving much work in recruitment, organisation and supervision. This is off-balanced by the considerable help that the service affords those in need and by the fact that many are able to enjoy the comfort of their home surroundings, and by the gratitude of the recipients. From the Officers and staff point of view the "job satisfaction" is most rewarding.

There has been seasonable and temporary difficulty of recruitment in some areas, but every effort is made to ensure that no real hardship has occurred. There is a small percentage of cases where difficulty has arisen owing to the temperament of the applicant.

Transport problems have been overcome by the provision of taxi service or the use of the Home Help's own car where absolutely necessary.

It was not possible to commence in-service training during the year, but it is hoped to include this in the near future.

Mrs. E. Owen, the Home Help Organiser attended a Refresher Course for Home Help Organisers during the year.

The number and category of cases for whom Home Helps were provided during the year are shown in the following Table :-

	Home Help to households for persons -					Total
	aged 65 or over on 1st visit in 1966	Aged under 65 on first visit in 1966				
		Chronic sick and Tuberculosis	Mentally Disordered	Maternity	Others	
Number of cases	197	12	2	2	22	235

Smallpox Vaccination

Vaccinations against Smallpox are carried out by the General Practitioners and the following Table sets out the number of children under 15 years of age who were vaccinated during the year.

Table XXIII

Age at date of Vaccination	Primary Vaccinations	Re-vaccinations
0 - 12 months ...	21	-
1 year	152	1
2 - 4 years	44	7
5 - 15 years	28	19
	245	27

The above figures compare with the figures for 1965 of 222 Primary Vaccinations, and 92 re-vaccinations.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisation

Immunisation of young children against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus is by means of a triple antigen (a course of three injections giving simultaneous protection against the three diseases). This was carried out at the Infant Welfare Clinics and by the School Medical Officer.

The following Tables show the number of children who were protected against these diseases.

Table XXIV

DISTRICT:	No. of children who received a <u>primary course</u>							Total
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-1962	1949-1958	Others	
Urban Districts:								
Bala	9	7	1	-	-	-	1	18
Barmouth	6	16	3	-	1	-	-	26
Dolgellau	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Ffestiniog	35	33	4	2	1	-	-	75
Towyn	11	26	-	-	-	-	-	37
Rural Districts:								
Deudraeth	21	21	-	2	1	-	-	45
Dolgellau	17	16	2	10	4	-	-	49
Edeyrnion	3	5	-	-	1	-	-	9
Penllyn	7	18	-	1	-	-	2	28
Total	112	143	10	15	8	-	3	291

Table XXV

DISTRICT:	No. of children who received a re-inforcing dose							Total
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-1962	1949-1958	Others	
Urban Districts:								
Bala	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barmouth	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Dolgellau	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	5
Ffestiniog	1	-	1	3	49	2	-	56
Towyn	-	-	3	-	4	-	-	7
Rural Districts:								
Deudraeth	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	5
Dolgellau	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	4
Edeyrnion	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	4
Penllyn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	6	3	67	2	-	82

Immunisation by Quadrilin

During the year, immunisation by Quadrilin continued. This gives protection against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis and is given in a course of three injections. 116 children received this protection during the year.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Arrangements for vaccination against Poliomyelitis of adults and children continued throughout the year both by the Authority's Medical Officers at clinics held in schools and other premises in the County, and by General Practitioners. The following Table gives details of the number of persons who received protection against Poliomyelitis.

Table XXVI

DISTRICT:	No. of persons who received a course of three injections							Total
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-1962	1949-1958	Others	
Urban Districts:								
Bala	-	9	-	-	1	-	2	12
Barmouth	12	9	-	2	1	1	9	34
Dolgellau	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	4
Ffestiniog	41	35	4	2	1	1	21	105
Towyn	1	31	6	1	3	-	-	42
Rural Districts:								
Deudraeth	11	26	1	-	2	5	2	47
Dolgellau	16	23	4	2	3	1	4	53
Edeyrnion	1	7	4	1	2	-	2	17
Penllyn	1	26	3	1	1	-	1	33
Total	86	166	22	9	15	8	41	347

In addition, the following Booster Doses were given :-

Year of Birth	No. given Booster dose
1966	-
1965	-
1964	5
1963	26
1959 - 1962	390
1948 - 1958	35
Others	22
Total	478

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Staff

Miss C. Pugh, who was appointed General Assistant in the Health Department on the 24th February, 1966, commenced duties on the 14th March, 1966 on Ambulance Control and Administration and left on the 20th May, 1966.

Mr. J. Elwyn Jones, who was appointed on the 27th May, 1966, commenced duties on the 31st May, 1966 as General Assistant and Clerk on Ambulance Control.

Mr. Stanley N. Plack, who was appointed full-time Ambulance Driver at Corwen on the 8th June, 1966, commenced duties on the 20th June, 1966.

On the 10th October, 1966, Mr. J. Elwyn Jones was transferred to Clerk's Department and Mr. G. Griffiths commenced duties as General Assistant and Clerk on Ambulance Control.

Corwen Ambulance Station

Following the appointment of Mr. Stanley N. Plack, an additional vehicle was stationed at Corwen, a garage being rented from the Corwen Parish Council. A Driver's room has been provided at Glaslwyn Clinic.

New Vehicles

Two Lomas Omnivan Ambulances were purchased and delivered, and one Appleyard Ambulance with Ferno-Washington equipment was ordered and delivery was anticipated early in the New Year.

WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE AMBULANCE SERVICE DURING THE YEAR 1966

STATION:	No. of Ambulances	No. of S/C Vehicles	Full-time Drivers	Part-time Drivers	Stretcher Cases	Sitting Cases	Total Patients	Journeys	Mileage
Dolgellau - Ambulances	4	-	5	-	395	2897	3292	914	74303
S/C Vehicle	-	1	-	-	-	2014	2014	500	28856
Blaenau Ffestiniog - Ambulances	3	-	4	-	556	3249	3805	1203	60884
S/C Vehicle	-	1	-	-	-	1891	1891	400	26745
Penrhyndeudraeth .	1	-	1	-	113	811	924	261	19317
Corwen	2	-	2	-	71	1556	1627	407	21075
Bala	2	-	2	-	180	1797	1977	513	33047
Barmouth	1	-	-	1	170	1356	1526	349	29380
Towyn	1	-	-	1	236	2388	2624	487	28530
Total	14	2	14	2	1721	17959	19680	5034	322137

HIRED SITTING-CASE CARS

1964			1965			1966		
Patients	Journeys	Mileage	Patients	Journeys	Mileage	Patients	Journeys	Mileage
413	208	9436	315	169	8006	367	163	4755

The figures for 1964 include 46 journeys to and from Manchester and Conway totalling 4495 miles.
The figures for 1965 include 32 journeys to and from Manchester and Conway totalling 3476 miles.
The figures for 1966 include 11 journeys to and from Manchester and Conway totalling 1029 miles.

These journeys are re-chargeable to the Education Committee.

Total number of patients, journeys and mileage for 1966 by County Council Vehicles and sitting-case cars with comparative figures for 1964 and 1965.

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
Total Patients	15,281	17,897	20,047
Total Journeys	4,633	5,246	5,197
Total Mileage	303,665	327,081	326,892

Patients conveyed to distant hospitals and towns :-

Destination	No. of Patients	Journeys	Mileage	Ambulance Station
Birmingham	1	1	204	Dolgellau
Birmingham	1	1	267	Towyn
Cardiff	3	3	875	Dolgellau
Carmarthen	4	3	624	Dolgellau
Carmarthen	2	1	175	Towyn
Liverpool	93	40	7723	Dolgellau
Liverpool	120	46	8244	Blaenau Ffestiniog
Liverpool	24	9	1696	Penrhyndeudraeth
Liverpool	15	12	1579	Bala
Liverpool	5	3	397	Corwen
Llandrindod Wells .	14	7	1201	Dolgellau
Manchester	4	3	681	Dolgellau
Manchester	7	4	900	Blaenau Ffestiniog
Manchester	6	5	783	Bala
Manchester	1	1	158	Corwen
Swansea	1	1	219	Dolgellau
Talgarth	1	1	180	Dolgellau
Tipton	1	1	262	Dolgellau
Walsall	1	1	312	Dolgellau
	304	143	26480	

Patients conveyed by rail during the year 1966 :-

2 patients were conveyed by rail :-

London - 1

West-Cliffe-on-Sea - 1

Patients conveyed by Merioneth Ambulances on behalf of other
Authorities during the year 1966.

Authority	Stretcher Cases	Sitting Cases	Total Patients	Journeys	Mileage	
					Stretcher cases	Sitting cases
Anglesey C.C.	1	-	1	1	18	-
	-	2	x ₂	2 R.A.	-	-
Caernarvonshire C.C.	9	4	13	13	375	136
	-	5	x ₅	5	-	-
Cardiganshire C.C. .	1	-	1	1	17	-
	-	1	x ₁	1	-	-
Denbighshire C.C. ..	6	-	6	6	234	-
	-	4	4	4	-	109
	-	6	x ₆	6	-	-
Flintshire C.C.	1	-	x ₁	1	-	-
Liverpool Ambulance Service	2	-	x ₂	2	48	-
	-	1	x ₁	1	-	-
Montgomeryshire C.C.	-	3	3	3	-	30
	-	10	x ₁₀	10	-	-
Merioneth Education Committee	-	30	30	20	-	2401
	20	66	86	76	692	2676

Merioneth patients conveyed by other Authorities during the
year 1966 :-

Caernarvonshire C.C.	2	-	x ₂	2	198	-
	-	1	x ₁	1	-	-
Denbighshire C.C. ..	6	-	6	6	215	-
Montgomeryshire C.C.	3	-	3	3	94	-
	-	7	7	7	-	143
	-	4	x ₄	4	-	-
	11	12	23	23	507	143

^xR.A. - These patients were conveyed by Reciprocal Arrangements and Authority was not charged.

Total number of patients removed by County Council Vehicles, hired "sitting-case" cars, train and other Authorities.

	1964	1965	1966
Patients	15,281	17,933	20,072
Journeys	4,633	5,276	5,222
Mileage	303,665	328,925	328,102

General

Each year since the 1959 Mental Health Act came into force has brought increasing recognition of the need for Local Health Authorities to provide hostels, training centres and the qualified staff to provide the community care for mentally ill and subnormal persons as envisaged in the Act. The emphasis on care in the Mental Health field is moving from the hospital to the community and this is reflected in the increasing number of psychiatric patients who are cared for in their own homes without being admitted to a psychiatric hospital. It is also reflected in the increase of training and care of subnormal and mentally ill people in local authority training centres and hostels, and in the number of both mentally ill and subnormal patients who, after very often almost a lifetime in hospital, are now being discharged into the care of the local authority mental health service.

This authority has recognised the need for trained and qualified staff from the beginning and has undertaken secondment of staff to suitable courses wherever possible, two persons having been seconded to courses for teachers of mentally handicapped children and two to train as Social Workers. In addition it was agreed in principle this year, that a member of the staff be seconded for training as a supervisor for an adult training centre when this course becomes available.

Unfortunately for the first six months of the year, following the resignation of the previous worker, we were without the services of a qualified Mental Health Worker, and this is reflected in the statistics by a considerable drop in the number of patients visited and referral to the department. Routine and emergency visiting was ably carried out by the Welfare Assistant, but a small service like this is severely handicapped by the loss of one worker.

A qualified social worker who had been seconded for training by the authority, was appointed Mental Health Worker in July and the service came slowly back to normal as contact was re-established with hospitals and doctors. This resulted in an increasing number of referrals to the department from all sources by the end of the year.

Junior Training Centre

The Junior Training Centre at Barmouth continued to operate very successfully throughout the year. At the suggestion of the Supervisor a bath was installed, and at the end of the year a classroom adjoining the present Centre was decorated and made ready for use so that the children might be split into two groups for play and teaching purposes. A new appointment to the staff of part-time caretaker/cleaner was also made.

We were unfortunate to lose the services of the Supervisor who resigned on the 4th January, to take up another appointment. The Assistant Supervisor, who has previously been seconded for training by the Authority and obtained her Diploma the previous year, was appointed in her place, and a qualified infants teacher was appointed as Assistant Supervisor.

The Authority reviewed the staffing of the Centre and decided to appoint a trainee supervisor to second for suitable training. This was done, the trainee appointed was accepted by the college for training, and began her two year course for teachers of Mentally Handicapped Children at the College of Commerce in Cardiff in September. The Assistant Supervisor resigned in July and an unqualified but experienced woman was appointed temporary Assistant Supervisor for a period of two years.

The Consultant in Subnormality visited the Centre during the year to examine children, and to discuss with parents the development and future prospects of their children.

There were six children attending the Centre at the end of the year and it was hoped that three more would be starting soon. Three children who had previously been attending were resident in the special children's unit at Eryri Hospital. These children are undergoing special training and assessment and will return home to attend the Centre in due course.

Mentally Subnormal

A well equipped and staffed Junior Training Centre catered for most of the mentally subnormal children of school age, and in cases of special difficulty arrangements were made for some children to attend special units in hospitals. Pre-school age children were referred to the Consultant in Subnormality for assessment, and their parents were visited by members of the department for guidance and support.

Friendly supervision and support was continued for mentally subnormal adults, most of whom are quite well integrated into the community, many doing simple work on farms. The generally increasing level of unemployment however made the task of finding suitable sheltered employment for these handicapped people much more difficult, and underlined the need for a Senior Training Centre or sheltered workshop within the fairly near future. This need is further endorsed by the discharge from hospital of mentally subnormal adults who are considered to be no longer in need of hospital care. These, in many cases, have been in hospital since youth, are thoroughly institutionalised, and are difficult to integrate once more into what has become over the years a strange, and in many cases estranged, family and community environment.

Some cases of severe subnormality are cared for at home and require extensive support and often utilisation of several branches of the statutory and voluntary social services. In some cases where the need has arisen it has been possible to arrange short-term accommodation in hospital.

Mentally Ill

Referrals of mentally ill people come into the department from a variety of sources, but mainly from hospital psychiatrists following the patients' discharge from hospital, or attendance at out-patients' clinic. These are usually individuals and their families who require case-work help with the emotional and material problems underlying or attendant upon their illness. In many cases it is possible by attendance at out-patients' clinic and close co-operation between psychiatrist and community services, to treat the patient without the need for hospital admission. Where there is need for admission, the vast majority of patients are now admitted informally and only in a very few cases is compulsory admission found to be necessary.

The problem of finding suitable, or indeed, any employment for mentally ill people is, as in the case of the mentally subnormal, an increasing one in spite of close co-operation from the local offices of the Ministry of Labour and the Group Disablement Resettlement Officer. In some suitable cases the authority arranges for admission to a Flintshire Hostel where the patient can live and go out to work until he or she can be found lodgings. There are however a few cases who would benefit from the opportunity offered by a local sheltered workshop.

There was continuing close liaison with the Consultant for Subnormality, the North Wales Hospital, Denbigh, the North Wales Child Guidance Service, General Practitioners, and other statutory and voluntary Health and Welfare agencies.

Statistics

The following tables show the number of admissions to Denbigh Hospital, the number of new patients referred to the Health Department together with the source of referral, and the number of visits made to the Mentally Subnormal and Mentally Ill.

(Other visits are visits to various Agencies, Employers, etc.)

Mentally Ill Patients admitted to Hospital under the Mental Health Act 1959 during 1966

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under Section 5 (Informal)	31	44	75
Under Section 25 (Observation)	-	2	2
Under Section 29 (Emergency observation)	9	7	16
Under Section 26 (Treatment)	-	-	-
Totals :	40	53	93
Patients discharged from Hospital	42	49	91
Patients who died in Hospital	3	1	4

New Patients referred to the Health Department

By General Practitioners	-	-	-
By Hospitals (a) following discharge	-	3	3
(b) following attendance at Out-Patients' Clinic	5	14	19
By Police	2	-	2
By Others	2	12	14
Totals:	9	29	38

Visits made to patients, to relatives and other agencies on their behalf and the number of patients involved

Visited by	MENTALLY ILL			SUBNORMAL			Total Patients	Total Visits
	Home Visit	Other Visit	No. of patients	Home Visit	Other Visit	No. of patients		
Mental Health Worker (From 4.7.66.)	86	36	34	44	21	23	57	187
Welfare Assistant	51	5	11	115	23	40	51	194
Total	137	41	45	159	44	63	108	381

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Tuberculosis

There was a decrease in the number of cases notified during the year as compared to the previous year, and there is also a considerable decrease in the number of cases on the register at the end of the year. Where necessary, and on the advice of the Chest Physician, the Local Health Authority will provide Tuberculosis patients with extra nourishment. These patients are visited regularly by the Health Visitor, and given advice as to contacts and preventive measures which should be taken. The following Table may be of interest in comparing present day figures with those of the previous ten years.

Table XXVII

Year	Population	No. of Notifications of T.B.	Total No. of Deaths from T.B.	T.B. Death Rate per 1,000 population
1957	39,080	44	6	0.15
1958	38,100	46	8	0.21
1959	38,600	47	4	0.10
1960	39,140	39	10	0.25
1961	37,740	35	5	0.13
1962	38,360	26	4	0.10
1963	38,390	19	8	0.20
1964	38,870	28	10	0.25
1965	38,870	28	8	0.21
1966	37,750	16	9	0.24

The Welsh Hospital Board continued to provide a local Mass Radiography Service in the County, and the Unit made regular visits during the year.

Table XXVIII

The following Table shows the number of new cases notified during the year also the number of deaths from Tuberculosis.

DISTRICT:	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
County of Merioneth ..	12	3	-	1	7	1	1	-
Total Urban Districts	8	2	-	-	5	1	1	-
Total Rural Districts	4	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
Urban Districts:								
Bala	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barmouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dolgellau	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ffestiniog	6	1	-	-	3	1	1	-
Towyn	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Rural Districts:								
Deudraeth	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Dolgellau	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Edeyrnion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Penllyn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table XXIX

AGE GROUPS:	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
20-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-	5	-	-	-	3	-	1	-
65-	2	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
75-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total ...	12	3	-	1	7	1	1	-

Table XXX

The following Table shows the number of cases on the register at the end of the year :-

DISTRICT:	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Urban Districts:				
Bala	4	-	-	-
Barmouth	2	3	1	1
Dolgellau	6	8	-	-
Ffestiniog	52	18	6	5
Towyn	3	4	-	1
Rural Districts:				
Deudraeth	26	10	1	3
Dolgellau	20	8	-	3
Edeyrnion	8	3	1	-
Penllyn	1	1	1	-
Total	122	55	10	13
Total - 1965	130	72	14	18

B.C.G. Vaccination

The B.C.G. Vaccination scheme for the thirteen year age group continued to make good progress.

The more forceful policy in getting acceptances introduced last year, has been followed and a greater number of children were vaccinated than in 1965. The number and proportion of positive reactors has fallen and this is a good indication that Tuberculosis is being brought under control although much more work is required before it is eliminated. The number of positive reactors found by the Chest Physician would also appear to be falling.

The number of children tuberculin tested in school is shown in the Table below:-

Table XXXI

Year	No. skin tested	No. found positive	No. found negative	No. vaccinated
1964	278	41	240	207
1965	650	100	550	246
1966	344	34	280	278

The Chest Physicians carry out B.C.G. Vaccination of child contacts of Tuberculosis patients. 105 children were skin tested by them during the year of whom 40 proved positive. Of the 65 who proved negative 60 were successfully vaccinated.

Chiropody Service

The Council's scheme, which was taken over from the Merioneth Rural Community Council in 1960 continued to function well. At the end of the year, four part-time Chiropodists were employed - the ones in the Northern and Southern parts of the County being directly employed by the County Council, and the Chiropodist for the Eastern part of the County through the agency of the Merioneth Rural Community Council.

The following groups are entitled to take advantage of the service :-

- a) Old Age Pensioners
- b) Expectant Mothers
- c) Physically Handicapped Persons.

Domiciliary visits were also paid to certain patients whose medical practitioners certify that chiropody treatment must be provided in the patient's home because they are medically unfit to attend a clinic. This treatment is given at no extra cost to the patient.

Details of the service during the year are given in Table

Table XXXII

Number of new patients registered	Number of treatments given	Number of Domiciliary Visits paid
91	1439	133

Venereal Diseases

A weekly clinic is held at Blaenau Ffestiniog Hospital by a Consultant Venereologist from Bangor, and persons suffering from venereal diseases received treatment as early as possible.

The total number of new cases treated during 1966 in this clinic was :-

Syphilis	2
Gonorrhoea	1
Other Conditions ..	10
	<u>13</u>

Blind Persons

The total number of blind persons on the Register at the end of the year was :

Age distribution	Males	Females
Under 16	1	1
16 - 29	-	-
30 - 49	4	3
50 - 64	14	5
65 - 79	13	25
80 +	15	44
Total :	47	78

Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons

Table XXXIII

	Cause of Disability			Others
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	
No. of new cases registered during the year :				
(a) No treatment recommended	6	2	-	8
(b) Treatment recommended (Medical, Surgical or Optical)	16	4	-	4

There were 11 deaths during the year.

No cases of ophthalmia neonatorum or retrolental fibroplasia were reported during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

The Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures reports the following statistics for the year :-

(a) Compositional Standard

	Samples			Adulterated or not up to standard.			Nature of adulteration or irregularity.	Particulars of non-genuine samples.	
	Formal	Inf.	Total	Formal	Inf.	Total		%Fat	%S.N.F.
	112	214	326	10	-	10			
Milk							(1) 10.1% ext. water.	3.5	8.0
							(2) 7% ext. water.	3.6	7.9
							(3) 13.3% def. in fat.	2.6	7.7
							9.4% def. in S.N.F.		
							(4) 90% def. in fat.	0.2	8.5
							(5) 13.3% def. in fat.	2.6	8.7
							(6) 12.0% ext. water.	3.1	7.4
							(7) 4.7% ext. water.	3.3	8.1
							(8) 3.5% ext. water.	3.2	8.2
							(9) 8.2% ext. water.	2.9	7.8
							(10) 11.8% ext. water.	3.3	7.5

(b) Biological Standard

No. of samples examined	No. of samples reported positive		Individual Cow samples
	Tubercle Bacilli	Brucella Abortus	
272	-	8	87

(c) Bacteriological Standard (Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963)

Class of Milk	No. of samples tested.	Appropriate tests.	Number of samples		
			Passed	Failed	Void
Pasteurised	260	Phosphatase	259	1	-
		Methylene Blue	245	15	-
Sterilised	6	Turbidity Test	6	-	-
Untreated	270	Methylene Blue	236	34	-

(d) Antibiotics

No. of samples examined	No. of samples reported Negative	No. of samples showing positive results
76	75	1

Housing for the Elderly

The Council gave grants to the following Authorities to subsidise new accommodation for the Elderly in continuation of their previous policy -

Dolgellau U.D.C.	- 10 Bungalows and 4 Flats
Towyn U.D.C.	- 15 Bungalows
Deudraeth R.D.C.	- 12 Cottages
Dolgellau R.D.C.	- 8 Bungalows and 7 Flats
Edeyrnion R.D.C.	- 5 Bungalows

Scheme for Water Supplies and Sewerage

The following Schemes were considered and approved by the Council for grant purposes during the year -

Deudraeth R.D.C.

Talsarnau Sewage Disposal Scheme
Penrhyndeudraeth Sewage Disposal Scheme

Dolgellau R.D.C.

Aberllefenni Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme

Merioneth Water Board

Extension of Water Main to Cwm Cynfal
Water Supply to Tanyclogwyn and Hafod Ruffydd
areas of Blaenau Ffestiniog
Extension of Water Main to Tyn-y-Berllan area
of Penrhyndeudraeth and Water Supply to
Llandecwyn.