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Contributors

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Prestatyn
Urban District Council

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ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

Medical Officer of Health
(DR. J. TUDOR GRIFFITHS, J.P.)

TOGETHER WITH THE

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector
(MR. S. TREVOR ROBERTS).

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

PRESTATYN :
Leigh & Williams, Ltd. (Opp. Palladium), High Street.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the Prestatyn
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

According to instructions received from the Ministry of Health, my report this year has to contain the physical features and a general summary of the district, together with its progress during the past five years.

Physical Features & General Character of the Area

The Urban District of Prestatyn is situated in Flintshire on the coast line of the Irish Sea, is bordered on its western side by the parishes of Meliden and Dyserth, on the east and south-east by the parish of Llanasa. Since my last Summary Report it has incorporated the Towyn part of the parish of Meliden, and consequently its area has increased by some 446 acres, and at present the area under the Urban administration extends to about 2,081 acres.

In contour it rises by a gentle slope in a southerly direction from 17 O.D. to between five and six hundred feet.

The Geological formation consists of limestone, gravel, sand and peat.

The area is exceptionally favoured in its climatological readings, fog is almost unknown, as also are severe frosts and snow ; whilst its rainfall is small, owing, no doubt, to the lime-stone hills at the back, which repels rain clouds. Its sunshine record compares favourably with any part of the British Isles. The prevailing winds are those from the west and south-west, whilst the range of hills at the back screens from the east winds ; all these conditions make the winters mild. Prestatyn will, as it becomes more widely known, increase its popularity as a winter residence and health resort.

Social Conditions

These are identically those of a seaside health resort, no industrials of any description being in the area or near vicinity.

I consider the health of the district has been very good.

Sewerage and Drainage

The urgent need for the remodelling and

extension of the Town Sewerage became of pressing importance as far back as 1913, and an Engineer was at that time instructed to report and prepare a suitable scheme. It was not however until after 1918 that definite progress could be made, and then only by the substantial financial aid granted by the Government.

In the year 1921 active operations were commenced on the low level or No. 2 Scheme; two years later the No. 1 or high level scheme was commenced, and last of all the Towyn or No. 3 Scheme, and now the whole area has been efficiently sewered, together with storage tanks and sea outfall, making full provision for the future expansion and development of the town.

The No. 2 and 3 Schemes are worked by the compressed air and ejector pumping systems. No. 1 is operated by gravitation. The whole three combining and discharging by a common outfall well out to sea on the ebb tide.

At the time of writing this report the whole scheme is in active commission, working with the most satisfactory results, and doing completely away with long standing nuisances.

The carrying through of the works, involving as it did the spending of large sums of public monies

has, I know, entailed a great deal of arduous work by the members of the Council, and the many difficulties, legal, financial, and technical which cropped up were at times particularly baffling, but now happily surmounted will always compensate for the trouble involved, and marks a great stride forward towards the growth and prosperity of the town.

Water Supply

For several years I have drawn your attention to the pressing need of enlarging the existing mains and conduits, so as to keep up to and well ahead of the rapidly increasing population. I am well aware that the Council is fully alive to its obligations in this matter, which brooks no further delay.

When considering this matter I should be glad if you would bear in mind the advisability of providing for the softening of the water supply. Many disabilities are put down to the hardness of the water. From the medical point of view this is a very debatable point, but from a purely domestic outlook it would be welcomed by residents and visitors alike. I hope, before my next report is due a concrete scheme will have been formulated and actually started.

Housing

Private enterprise has been very active and

should receive every encouragement and support. fourteen houses have been erected by the Council on the Dawson Estate, and it is contemplated proceeding with the erection of a further twenty, which will be a help to alleviate the shortage of working class accommodation.

Infectious Disease Hospital

The difficulty which has always been encountered in dealing with infectious diseases has happily been surmounted by an arrangement made with the St. Asaph Joint Hospital Committee, and on whose Board Prestatyn is represented by three members, and bears its quota of expenses involved in the upkeep.

I understand the present Hospital is to be enlarged and improved so as to cope with its greater obligations.

I hope that cases will in future be removed by Ambulance and attendants specially provided by the Hospital Committee.

Public Abbatoir

An improvement has certainly been effected in the Slaughter Houses, but I still maintain that a Public Abbatoir is a necessity in every community, and is the only means of thorough supervision and inspection

of carcases before being exposed for public consumption.

Cemetery

The Council has encountered many obstacles in its efforts to provide a Public Cemetery, which is a very pressing need, the present burial ground being full. I have, in company with the Surveyor, inspected a site and found it suitable in every way, and hope its purchase will be carried through. I know of no valid reason why any objections should be forthcoming to its use as a Public Burial Ground, being convenient and easy of access.

General Statistics

Area of the District (land and inland water)	2,081 acres
Total Population (census 1911)	2036
Population (census 1921)	4085
Rateable Value	£30,510
Assessable	£27,550
Produced of 1d. Rate	£114,100

Death Rate

According to the return of the Registrar General the total number of deaths assigned to the district was 50, which gives a death rate of 16·3. The

number of deaths actually registered in the district as shewn by the Local Registrar's returns were 56, of these ten were of persons who resided outside the district and were allocated to their respective areas ; but there were also ten residents who died in other areas, and whose deaths had to be included in this district. After making the proper corrections the total deaths of actual residents were 56, which makes a death rate as above. From these figures it is very evident that there is a considerable rise in the rate as compared with the previous year. The explanation is to be found in the fact that of the total deaths 38 or 67% were of people over 65 years of age.

A further analysis of these figures show that seven were between 65 and 70, twenty-five were between 70 and 80, and seven were over 80 years of age, really leaving only 18 deaths of persons below the age of 65 years.

I have to work out the death rate on a population given by the Registrar General, who estimates the population at 3,494, which is obviously far below the actual one.

Birth Rate

The number of births registered in the district were 48, i.e., 23 males and 25 females, giving a rate of 16.3 per 1,000 compared with 14.5 in the previous year.

Zymotic Disease

Only two cases, both Scarlet Fever. Deaths nil.

Infant Mortality

There were three deaths in children under one year of age.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Two deaths only recorded, one of these was a visitor.

Other Tuberculosis Diseases only one death notified.

Deaths from Cancer

Six deaths from this cause took place during the year.

List of Acts in Force

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Part II and III, Sections 52—56. Section 18 of Part IV, and Part X.

The Health Resorts and Watering Places Act, 1921.

Regulations : Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Public Health Act, 1925.

Public Health Staff

The Staff consists of a Medical Officer of Health (part time) and one Sanitary Inspector,

Venereal Diseases

Under the County Authorities with whom I co-operate, the Clinic being at the Chester Royal Infirmary.

Maternity and Child Welfare Notification of Births

Both under the control of the County Council, the Local Welfare Centre being at Rhyl.

Schools and Medical Examination of Schools

This important matter is under the control of and carried out by the County Medical Officer and Staff. I consider it to be an invaluable work and of incalculable benefit to the young generation.

Nursing in the District

The Local Nursing Association maintains a whole time nurse, whose services are of great benefit to the community.

There are also private nurses and three registered midwives practising in the district.

Sanitary Administration

It was not considered necessary to take legal action in any case dealt with under this heading.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1925 and Previous Years.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births			Total Deaths registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett						Under 1 year of age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Of non-residence registered in the District	Of Residents not registered in the District	Number	Rate per 1000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1919	2518		48	19.29	36	14.29	2	4	2	41.66	34	13.50
1920	2613		37	14.12	33	12.61	0	5	3	81.08	38	14.51
1921	2946		30	10.1	32	10.8	6	0	1	33.3	26	8.8
1922	2938		44	14.97	28	9.53	4	6	1	22.72	30	10.21
1923	2959		35	11.22	34	11.48	6	8	1	28.57	36	12.13
1924	3302		47	14.54	28	8.47	3	7	3	63.82	32	9.69
1925	3494		48	16.3	46	15.8	10	10	3	62.5	56	14.8

TABLE II.—Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1925.
(Provisional figures. The Rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to Civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.	ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS			
	All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two Years)	Total Deaths under One Year	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases	Uncertified causes of death		
England and Wales	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0	
	105 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6
	157 Smaller Towns (1921 Ad- justed Pop. 20,000—50,000)	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1
	London	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0

TABLE III.—Causes of and Ages at Death

during the year 1925.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subsectional ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the district.									
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	Total Deaths
Enteric Fever										
Small-pox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough										
Diphtheria										
Influenza										
Encephalitis lethargica										
Meningoc'1 meningitis										
Tuberculosis of respiratory system						1	1			2
Other tuberculous diseases							1			1
Cancer malignant disease								1	5	6
Rheumatic Fever										
Diabetes										
Cereb'l Hæmorrhage, &c.								5	9	14
Heart disease									2	2
Arterio sclerosis								1	2	3
Bronchitis		1						1	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms)									5	5
Other respiratory diseases								1		1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum										
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)										
Appendicitis and Typhlitis										
Cirrhosis of Liver										
Acute & chronic nephritis									1	1
Puerperal sepsis... ..										
Other accidents & diseases of Pregnancy										
Congenital Debility and premature birth										
Suicide										
Other deaths from violence					2	1	2			5
Other defined diseases		1							11	12
Causes ill-defined or unknown										1
Special causes (included above										
Total		2			2	2	4	9	37	56

TABLE IV.—Infant Mortality.

During the Year 1925.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under
One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	1-3 months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes	{ Certified Uncertified									
{ Small-pox ...	...									
{ Chicken-pox ...	...									
{ Measles ...	...									
{ Scarlet Fever ...	...									
{ Whooping Cough ...	...									
{ Diphtheria and Croup	...									
{ Erysipelas ...	...									
{ Tuberculosis Meningitis	...									
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis	...									
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases	...									
{ Meningitis (not Tuberculosis)	...									
{ Convulsions ...	...			1						
{ Laryngitis ...	...									
{ Bronchitis ...	...									
{ Pneumonia (all forms)	...									
{ Diarrhœa ...	...									
{ Enteritis ...	...									
{ Gasritis ...	...									
{ Syphilis ...	...									
{ Rickets ...	...									
{ Suffocation, overlying	...									
{ Injury at Birth ...	...									
{ Atelectasis ...	...									
{ Congenital Malformations	...									
{ Premature Birth ...	...	1								
{ Atrophy, Debility, and Mar-	...									
asmus ...	...		1							
{ Other Causes ...	...									
Total ...	...	1	1	1						3

Nett Births in the year :—Legitimate, 48 ; Illegitimate, 1 ;
23 Male ; 25 Female.

Defects found in Factories, Workshops & Workplaces.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Numer Prose- cutions (5)
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>			...	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	...	...
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	...	...	...	...
Sanitary } insufficient	...	...	...	...
accommoda- } unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	...
tion } not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>	...	...	...	...
Illegal occupation of underground house (s 101)	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	...	...	...	...
Other offences	...	...	...	...
Total	2	2	...	...

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces,

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecution (4)
Factories (Including Factory Lauudries)	2	...	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	4	...	...
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	...	...	...
Total	6	...	...

Table V.—Infectious Diseases.

Number of Cases reported by M.O.H. and Enquiries made	2
Number of Cases removed to Isolation Hospital ...	1
„ „ Cases removed from outside the district	Nil
„ „ Rooms Disinfected Lamp and Spray ...	18
„ „ Rooms Disinfected Spray only ...	6
„ „ Taxis Disinfected	3

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

The following table gives the number of dealers operating within the district :—

Resident Retailers	3
Resident Cowkeepers and Retailers	9
Resident Wholesalers	1
Non-Resident Retailers	3

Food and Drugs Act.

I beg to furnish you with the following particulars respecting Samples purchased by me under the above Act during the year ended 31st December, 1925.

Description of Article			No. of Samples		Genuine	Doubtful		Remarks		
Milk	...	...	...	12	...	9	...	3	...	—
Tomato Ketchup			...	1	...	1	...	—	...	—
Bread	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	—	...	—
Jam	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	—	...	—
Self Raising Flour			...	1	...	1	...		...	—

I also purchased under the Fertilizers and Feeding
Stuffs Act, the following samples :—

Thirds	...	...	...	2	Satisfactory.
Indian Meal	...	...	...	1	„

(Signed) A. E. LINDSAY.

Superintendent.

Before closing I should like to thank the Clerk
and Surveyor for valuable help willingly given to me
on all occasions.

(Signed) J. TUDOR GRIFFITHS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1925.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Number of Complaints received	...	...	...	272
Number of drains released and cleansed by Department and Owners	...	...	...	149
Number of Nuisances abated...	...	...	...	108
Number of Disinfections	...	...	...	6
Number of Smoke Tests	...	...	...	1
Number of Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	5
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	—
Number of visits to Cowsheds, Dairies, Slaughterhouses, Van Dwellers, Cinemas, etc ...	...	...	...	...
Number of visits to Infectious Diseases and Enquiries	...	...	...	2

SANITARY DEFECTS.

Chocked and Defective Drainage and W.C.'s	...	...	...	175
Damp Rooms and Dwellings ...	...	...	...	1
Nuisance from keeping animals	...	...	...	—
Accumulation of Manure and Refuse	...	...	...	—
Houses without Dustbins	...	...	...	79
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	—
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	—

FACTORIES AND BAKEHOUSES.

Limewash Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	1
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE REMOVALS.

Ashbins cleared annually	...	...	...	...	47,656
Ashpits cleared as required	...	...	...	...	245
Trade refuse cleared including offal, fish, etc.	...	...	...	...	3,844
Loads of refuse to "tip"	...	...	...	...	1,562

There are no unhealthy areas in the district.

Number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	35
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Number of Dwellings found defective	...	...	...	...	1
-------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Number of Dwellings found defective and incapable of being made fit	...	...	...	...	Nil
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Number of Dwellings in which notices were issued or other remedial measures taken	...	...	...	...	1
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Number of Dwelling Houses closed	...	...	...	...	Nil
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All action or notices served were dealt with under the Public Health Acts and not under any other Statutory Powers.

(Signed)

S. TREVOR ROBERTS, C.R. San. I., M.I., M.C.E.
Sanitary Inspector.



