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Contributors

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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. L. HOWARD WILLIAMS, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

FOR THE YEAR 1940



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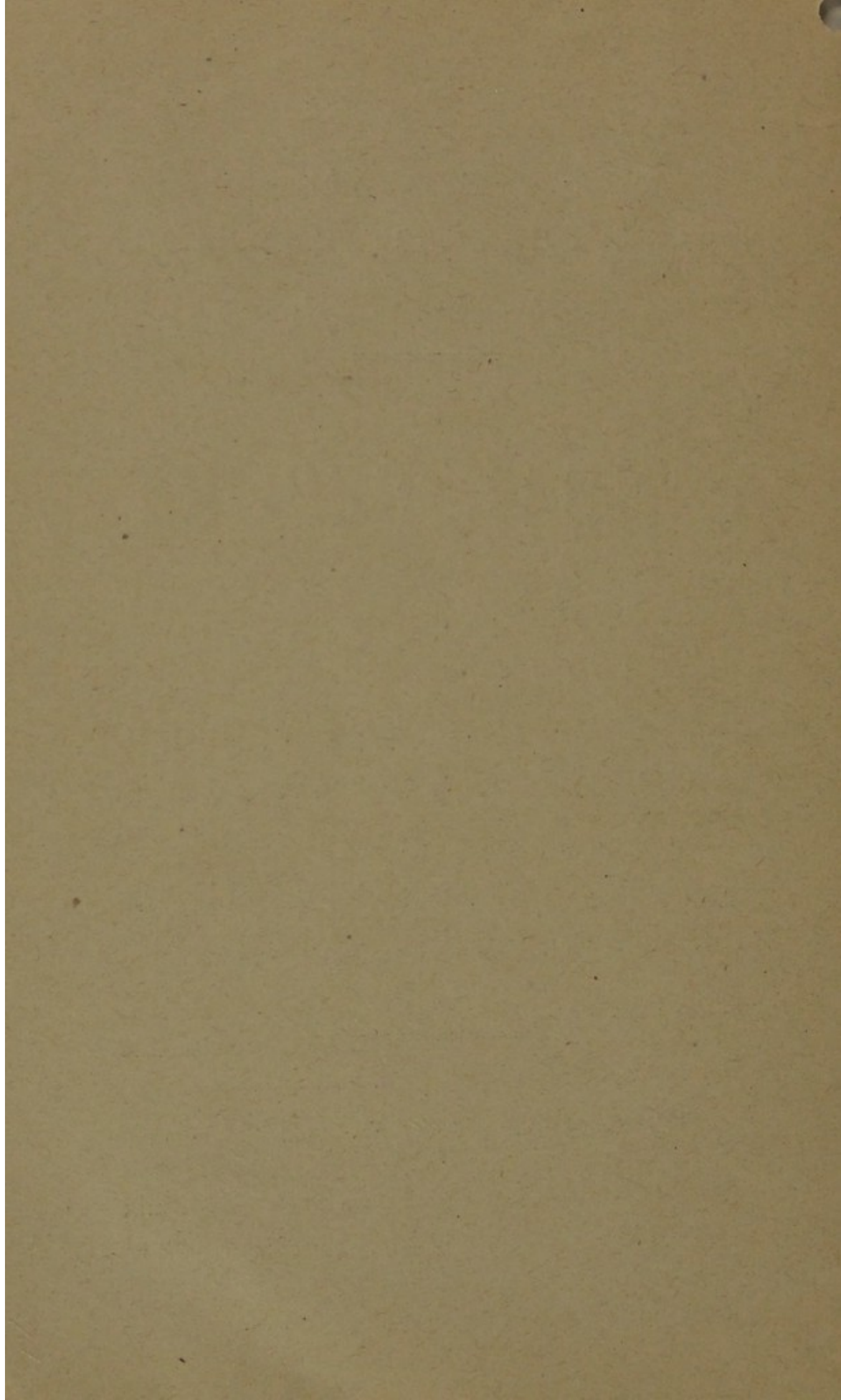
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ANNUAL REPORT

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FOR THE YEAR 1940

To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council.

MRS. EVANS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1940.

It is again, acting upon instructions from the Welsh Board of Health submitted in a modified and condensed form.

As anticipated in my last year's report the advent of troops and evacuees into the Urban Area has imposed a severe strain on the Public Health Services. I roughly estimate that the normal population has been trebled, fortunately up to the present, all the services have functioned without any serious breakdown. If, however, the ratio of the increase in population continues I cannot guarantee that the services will be able to effectively cope with such abnormal conditions.

Water Supply

I am very pleased that the Council are negotiating for the purchase of land adjoining the source of supply at

Marian Mills, with a view to reducing the possibility of contamination, also the Civil Defence precautions which are now in hand at the head works will also materially assist in this direction. Owing to the filtration plant working to full capacity a careful watch is being kept on the Bacteriological examinations of the water which passes through for consumption, and I should like here and now to acknowledge the ready and valuable services given by the Director and Staff of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Conway in carrying out the above mentioned examinations at frequent intervals.

Sewerage System

The new system for the North-west Area has been in commission for the past twelve months and is functioning satisfactorily ; as regards the older system for the remainder of the area, the pumping plant in connection with this has had to be thoroughly overhauled and brought up to date.

It is with pleasure that I am able to report that despite War conditions the health of the community has in my opinion been satisfactory.

The only great increase was in Measles (144). This increase was, however, general throughout the country.

Diphtheria Immunization

During the year the total number of children

immunized against Diphtheria was 567; of these 84 were under five years of age, and 483 were over that age.

Prestatyn Gutter

Once again I refer to this hardy annual. It is regretted that nothing has been done to effectively deal with this vital section of this main water course which flows through the area. Although some work has been done on the upper reaches of the Cut, this work cannot be of benefit until the portion known as the Prestatyn Gutter is dealt with. It is beyond my comprehension why this has not been done by the responsible Authority. I am continually receiving complaints of flooding from the occupants of property bordering on this stream.

Public Cleansing

Here again, as I have already mentioned in my 1938 Report, early action must be taken in acquiring a suitable site for the disposal of house refuse.

General provision of Health Services for the Area is carried out as before.

VITAL STATISTICS

Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	3,655
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	4,083
" " 1931	...	...	...	...	4,511
Registrar General's Estimate, 1940	...	...	...	...	8,874

X
See

Estimated number of inhabited houses (1921) ...	770
" " " " (1931) ...	1,500
" " " " (1933) ...	1,590
" " " " (1940) ...	2,750
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)...	887
" " " " (1931) ...	1,700
" " " " (1933) ...	1,760
" " " " (1940) ...	3,047
Rateable value	£74,521
Sum represented by a 1d. rate ...	£287

	M.	F.	Total
Births { Legitimate	59	60	127
{ Illegitimate	4	4	

Deaths

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth:
 from sepsis—nil.
 " other causes—1.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age: . . . 8.
 Legitimate—7. Illegitimate—1. Total 8.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—nil.

 " " Whooping Cough (all ages)—nil.
 " " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)—nil.
 " " Ophthalmia Neonatorum—nil.
 " " Cancer 24.

Death Rate

In the year 1940 the estimated population as given by the Registrar General is 8,874. It is upon these figures that I have to estimate Birth and Death Rates.

The number of deaths actually registered in the area was 105, giving a rate of 11.83.

Twenty-eight deaths of residents took place outside the area, whilst five deaths occurred in the area of non-residents, giving a net rate for the year of 14.42, as compared with 14.41 for the previous year.

The general death rate for England and Wales for the year 1940 is 14.3.

Births

The number of births registered was 127, sixty-three males and sixty-four females. Illegitimate males 4, females 4, giving a rate per thousand population of 14.31.

Infant Mortality

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was eight.

Still Births

Total	4.	Male	Legitimate	1.	Female
Legitimate	3.	Illegitimate	Nil.		

Cemetery

There have been 38 interments in Coed Bell Cemetery during 1940, as compared with 40 in 1939.

Protestants—34

Catholics—4

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1940.

Disease				Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	8	1	
Diphtheria	...	...	...	10	10	
Erysipelas	...	...	...	4	1	
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	7		
Measles	...	...	...	144		
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	2		
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	4		1
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	7	4	1
Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	...	2		
Lobar Pneumonia	...	...	...	3		

TABLE I.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1940.

DISEASE.	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	1	1	...	...	1	...
Diphtheria ...	10	...	...	1	1	1	3	...	2	2	...	...	...	10	...
Erysipelas ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	...
Whooping Cough ...	7	1	...	2	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	144	7	12	10	1	23	54	15	4	16	...	2	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	4	1
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	...	...
Broncho Pneumonia ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Lobar Pneumonia ...	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	191	8	12	13	4	27	60	19	9	22	2	6	9	16	1

TABLE II.

TUBERCULOSIS—New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
10...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
25...	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
35...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 & upw'ds	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	1	6	5	0	1	0	0	0

TABLE V.—Causes of and ages at Death,

during the year 1940.

Causes of Death	Nett Deaths at the subsectional ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the district.									Total Deaths
	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	
Typhoid and Paratyphoid										—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...		1						1		2
Scarlet Fever ...										—
Whooping Cough ...										—
Diphtheria ...										—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...							2	1		3
Other forms of tuberculosis										—
Syphilitic diseases ...								2	1	3
Influenza ...										—
Measles...										—
Acute Poliomyelitis										—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis										—
Cancer of Bronchial cavity, Oesophagus, Uterus ...								1	2	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...								1	4	5
Cancer of Breast ...							1	2	2	5
Cancer of all other sites ...								1	10	11
Diabetes ...									1	1
Intra-cran: Vasc: Lesions							1	1	11	13
Heart disease ...								6	22	28
Other dis. of circ. system									3	3
Bronchitis ...									7	7
Pneumonia ...		2						3	4	9
Other respiratory diseases									2	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...									1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)										—
Appendicitis ...										—
Other digestive diseases ...										—
Nephritis ...							2	1	5	8
Puerperal post abortis										—
Sepsis...										—
Other Maternal causes ...							1			1
Premature Birth ...										—
Congenital birth malform		4	1							5
Suicide ...										—
Road traffic accidents							1			1
Other violent causes ...		1					2	1	1	5
All other causes ...		1		1			2	1	12	17
All Causes ...		9	1	1	0	0	12	22	88	133

TABLE VI.—Infant Mortality,

During the Year 1940.

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	...					1				1
Convulsions	...					1				1
Laryngitis	...									
Bronchitis	...									
Pneumonia (all forms)	...						2			2
Diarrhoea	...									
Enteritis	...									
Gastritis	...		1							1
Syphilis	...									
Rickets	...									
Suffocation, overlying	...									
Injury at Birth	...									
Atelectasis	...									
Congenital Malformations	...									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...									
Premature Birth	...	2								2
Atrophy, Debility, and Mar-	...									
sumus	...					1				1
Other causes	...									
Total		2	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	8

Total Births in the Year:—127. Males, 63; Females, 64.
(Illegitimate 8).

ADULTERATION, ETC.

Food and Drugs Act

Your Inspector under this Act has reported as follows :—

I beg to furnish you with the following particulars of Samples purchased under the above Act in your district during the year ended 31st December, 1940.

Description of Sample	No. of Samples taken	Genuine
New Milk ...	11	11
Rice ...	1	1
White Bread ...	3	3
Tinned Milk ...	1	1
Tinned Tomatoes ..	1	1
Tinned Peas ...	1	1
Total	18	18

Yours faithfully,

A. E. LINDSAY,

Superintendent.

CLIMATOLOGY OF PRESTATYN, 1940

Facts and Figures

1. The same as 1938.
2. The same as 1938.
3. Latitude 53°, 70, 10 : Longitude 7°, 74, 15.
4. Visibility Excellent. The average number of days when visibility range is under 1,000 yards is 4
5. Snow fell on six days. During January, remained three days.
6. Relative humidity 70.5, slightly above normal.
7. Sunshine hours, 1440.8 hours.
8. Maximum Temperature 56.3.
Minimum ,, 44.1.
9. Rainfall 24.60 inches. Below normal
10. Other features of the year :
 - (1) Absence of near thunder storms.
 - (2) A long spell of cloudless days from May 30—June 7.

July 14, 1941,

I. C. ROBERTS,
F.R. Met. Soc.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1940

Inspections

Total number of visits and inspections ... 1120

Infectious Diseases

Number of Cases reported by the Medical Officer of			
Health	...	...	191
Number of Inquiries	...	...	225
„	„ Cases removed to Isolation Hospital	...	16
„	„ Rooms disinfected with lamp & Spray		150
„	„ Rooms disinfected with Spray only	...	72
„	„ Bedding destroyed	...	25

Dwellings

Total number of houses erected	..	...	24
Number with State Assistance	...	...	—
Number of houses made fit for habitation		...	—
Number of cases of overcrowding	...	...	6

Drainage, Etc.

Number of drains connected with Public Sewers	...	30
„	„ new Water Closets	—
„	„ repairs to Water Closets	—
„	„ complaints received	550
„	„ choked and defective drains dealt with	210

Number of Miscellaneous sanitary defects	...	84
„ „ Smoke Tests	...	4
„ „ Preliminary Notices served	...	57
„ „ Statutory Notices served	...	5
„ „ times Cesspools emptied	...	48

Scavenging

Number of ashpits emptied	...	2
„ „ ashbins emptied	...	144418
„ „ shops cleared	...	7701
„ „ loads of refuse removed (tractor)		858
„ „ houses needing dustbins—notice sent		121
„ „ Sacks of Paper	...	6453

Average weekly Collection :—

(a) Ashpits	...	.0384
(b) Ashbins	...	2777.27
(c) Shops	...	148 09
(d) Loads	...	16.5
(e) Sacks of Paper	...	124.9

Refuse

Number of accumulations removed	...	18
---------------------------------	-----	----

Bakehouses

Number of places under inspection	...	17
-----------------------------------	-----	----

Water

Number of new places supplied	...	24
Number of repairs, fittings, etc.	...	120
Number of notices re waste of water	...	9

Dairies, Cowsheds and Slaughterhouses

Number of dealers operating in the district :—

Number of Resident Retailers of Milk...	...	3
„ „ Resident Cowkeepers and Retailers	...	10
„ „ Resident Wholesalers	...	3
„ „ Non-resident Retailers	...	6
„ „ Visits and Inspections	...	240

Offensive Trades

Number dealt with	...	...	...	...	—
-------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

General

Dampness reported	...	...	...	...	12
Waste Pipe defects	...	...	...	...	42
Bedding burned	...	...	...	...	25
Bad smells	...	...	...	...	10
Cellar flooded	...	...	...	...	3

Animals

Number causing nuisance	...	...	...	4
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Lodging Houses

Number Registered	...	...	...	—
-------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Legal Proceedings

Number of Prosecutions	...	...	...	Nil.
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	------

Factories & Workshops

Number on Register ...	...	...	...	44
Number of Written Notices ...	...	...	...	2

(Signed)

L. HOWARD WILLIAMS, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

Camping Sites

1. The number of sites in the area which are used for camping purposes totals 5.

2. The number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936, is 4.

Swimming Baths

There is one privately owned pool open to the public, and it is satisfactorily maintained by the proprietors.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

1. Methods employed for freeing houses infested with bed-bugs ... Sulphur fumigation and insecticide
2. The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses ... Nil. None required.
3. Whether the work of disinfection is carried out by Local Authority ... Yes.

Smoke Abatement

There has been no cause for complaint under this heading. The local steam laundry is the only industry in the area, but by co-operation with the owners the smoke nuisance is reduced to a minimum.

Schools

The sanitary conditions and water supply of the Public Elementary Schools continue to be maintained in a satisfactory manner. Headmasters of all the Public Elementary Schools are at once notified of any cases of infectious diseases occurring amongst the scholars or in their homes.

HOUSING

During the year 24 houses were erected. Of these all were built by private enterprise.

1 Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

- | | |
|--|---------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 214 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | ... 240 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | ... 152 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | ... 184 |

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 1
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 42

2 Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 42

3 Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners nil

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners nil

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | ... | nil. |

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil |

4. Housing Act, 1936 (*Overcrowding*).

- | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |

Houses owned by the Local Authority

The following is a list of properties owned by the local Council.

Caradoc Terrace	...	15 houses
Dawson Park	...	66 „
Bryn Melyd Road	...	22 „
Cefn-y-Gwrych	...	22 „

Premises & Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations

Periodical inspections are made with a view to ensuring that the houses are maintained in a clean and tidy condition.

There are no common lodging houses in the area, nor any other place falling within this category.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

Careful supervision has been carried out during the year of farms and dairies, and there is a continued improvement in the methods of both production and distribution by producers and retailers.

Forty-two samples were collected and submitted for bacteriological examination.

Meat & Other Foods

Careful supervision as far as possible is kept over slaughter houses and butchers' shops. I would like again to express the hope that some of the older type of slaughter houses will be brought up to date.

Before closing I should like to express my thanks to the Clerk, Water Engineer, and Sanitary Inspector for valuable and ready help given to me at all times.

(Signed) J. TUDOR GRIFFITHS,

Medical Officer of Health.





