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PRESTATYN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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 1943

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

REPORT

1924

1924

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FOR THE YEAR 1943

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

FOR THE YEAR 1899

WASHINGTON, D. C.

1900

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1943

Coun. A Nuttall (Chairman).

Coun. Mrs Eleanor Evans, J.P. Coun. Norman Stewart

„ E. T. Williams, A.C.P. „ C. Lloyd Ellis

„ E. O. Jones „ T. M. Dowell

„ J. W. Nicholson „ J. E. Evans

Coun. J. H. Dicken

Chairman of the Council : Coun. R. E. Barnes, J.P.

Staff of the Public Health Department—

Medical Officer of Health

DR. J. TUDOR GRIFFITHS, J.P.

Sanitary Inspector : Meat & Food Inspector :

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

Pupil Sanitary Inspector :

NEWTON F. WATSON, M.R.I.P.H.

(Serving with H.M. Forces)

Clerk :

MISS M. H. ROBERTS

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1943

To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council

MRS. EVANS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your information and consideration my report as your Medical Officer for the year 1943. As in previous reports during the war period, its compilation is as brief and concise as possible, in accordance with the request of the Ministry of Health. Certain facts and figures which would normally appear have therefore been withheld.

I am glad to say that the health of the population under your control is better this fifth year of the war than in previous years. I think this is very remarkable, proving that the food and other rationings have been worked out on a sound scientific basis by the responsible authorities.

The number of deaths is lower this year by thirty four as compared with the previous year. Twenty five deaths occurred in persons eighty years and upwards.

Infectious Diseases, owing to epidemics of whooping cough and measles, show an increase, scarlet

fever cases show a decline. No doubt during the year there has been a drift back of some of the evacuees to the industrial areas.

All health services, inspections of meat and food, etc., have been satisfactorily carried out.

My work and responsibility during the year has been greatly helped by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr L. Howard Williams, his keenness and tact in dealing with infectious cases and other multifarious and additional war-time duties within his province, have been much appreciated by me. He has also dealt with and organised diphtheria immunisation sessions regularly throughout the year in a most capable and satisfactory manner.

The Water Engineer, Mr Burge, has never relaxed his watch on the purity of the water supply. In this matter I should like to express my thanks to Dr Hoare of the Government Laboratory, Conway for his numerous examinations and reports on samples submitted for analysis.

I extend my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement and support in my work.

Water Supply

The town's water supply continues to be of an excellent standard. As regards purity and clarity constant supervision is carried out by the Water

Engineer and his Staff. In addition to daily routine tests for clarity, chlorine content, etc., the following Bacteriological examinations have been made by Dr. Hoare at Conway :-

- (a) On the raw water - 21 examinations.
- (b) On filtered water - 21 examinations.
- (c) On filtered and chlorinated water - 24 examinations.

The latter proving the water to be classed as of A.1. Standard. In addition chemical analysis have been made which indicate that the supply is fully maintaining its high standard as a drinking water.

Sewerage

This continues to function well both as regards the low level ejector and the high level gravity systems. The independent system at Meliden is in good working order and has its own disposal works.

It is pleasing to note, that despite the fact that the town is full to capacity, both systems are coping with their extra loads in a very satisfactory manner. Should the occasion arise, the Public Health Committee deal immediately and energetically with any defects which might occur. Recent improvements to the system have proved beneficial.

The General Purposes Committee is installing an electric pumping station at the Ffrith. This, I hope, will soon be in commission and will be of sufficient capacity to cope with any future extension. When installed it will come under the supervision of my Department.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The collection and disposal of refuse together with the additional strain of the salvage collection has, owing to the increased population and the lack of manpower and transport, been a major problem. Unfortunately you were reluctantly compelled to adopt a fortnightly collection in place of the usual weekly collection. This to my mind is not in the best interests of public health. However, following my last year's representations, I am pleased to note that your Public Health and Transport Committees are most eager to bring this most important health service up to date and that efforts are being made to provide the service with two modern hygienic vehicles which will enable a systematic and efficient weekly collection in the future. I must say that this is a step in the right direction.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The Council were very alive to the importance of this work, for it was in 1940 that application was made to the Ministry of Health for approval of a Scheme for the District under Section 177 (1) of the Public Health Act 1936. The Scheme came into operation on the 3rd June, 1940, and my department have since carried out, with the willing co-operation of the local medical practitioners, a regular series of sessions. The Scheme covers all children of school age and in addition children of pre-school age are included on behalf of the County Authority.

During the year the total number of children immunised against Diphtheria was 362, of these 134 were under 5 years of age, and 228 were over that age.

The total number immunised since the inception of the Scheme to the 31st December, 1943 is :—

Under 5	...	497	
Over 5	...	1020	Total 1517.

Scabies

Cases of scabies are immediately dealt with. There are centres for treatment in the County at Rhyl and Hawarden. All bedding, clothing, etc., of patients and contacts are steam disinfected.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

These remain unchanged. Swabs and other material are forwarded to the Government Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Conway.

Ambulance Facilities

An ambulance is available for cases of accidents or illness. Infectious cases are dealt with by an ambulance used specially for that purpose

Nursing in the Home

A District Nurse is maintained by the Prestatyn Nursing Association.

Clinics

Ante Natal and Child Welfare Clinics are under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health and his Assistants. There is an Orthopaedic Clinic at Rhyl. Ante-Natal Clinic held at the Presbyterian Church Hall first and third Fridays, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon. Child Welfare Clinic held at Presbyterian Church Hall every Friday, 1-30 p.m. to 4-30 ; Medical Officer attends first and third Fridays. Orthopaedic Clinic held at the Old Emmanuel School, Rhyl second and fourth Friday afternoons, 1-30 to 3 ; Orthopaedic Nurse every opening ; Surgeon attends every four months. No Day Nurseries have been instituted in the Area.

Venereal Diseases

Treated at the Chester Royal Infirmary.

Hospitals

There are none in the Urban Area.

Maternity Facilities

There are two private Maternity Homes in the Area, and there is also an Emergency Maternity Home run under the auspices of the Liverpool Public Health Authorities.

Nutrition

The Council do not provide free food or meals.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

One case has been reported during the year.

Rag and Flock Act

No action necessary.

Public places of Entertainment

Under Circular 120 of the Ministry of Health the above are inspected and kept under supervision as regards general cleanliness, sanitary conveniences, fire appliances and exits.

Propaganda

No health week was held during the year. Classes in First Aid and Home Nursing were carried out by the British Red Cross and St. John's Associations.

Schools

Are under the supervision of the County Council.

Tuberculosis

No action required to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis). For new cases, etc., see Table.

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.

Swimming Pool

There is one Swimming Pool privately owned in the district, which is under supervision.

VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	3,655
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	4,083
" " 1931	...	...	...	...	...	4,511

Estimated number of inhabited houses (1921) ...	770
" " " " (1931) ...	1,579
" " " " (1933) ...	1,590
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)...	887
" " " " (1931) ...	1,592
" " " " (1933) ...	1,760
Rateable value	£75,255
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£300

		M.	F.	Total
Births	{ Legitimate	65	54	} 133
	{ Illegitimate	7	7	

Deaths

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth
from sepsis—Nil.

 " Cancer 16.
 " other causes—2.

Death Rate

For the year 1943 Birth and Death rate figures have been worked out from figures submitted to me by the Registrar General and are as follows :—

The number of deaths actually registered in the area was 107, giving a rate of 12·68. Twenty-five deaths of residents took place outside the area, whilst fourteen deaths occurred in the area of non-residents, giving a net rate for the year of 15·76, as compared with 15·49 the previous year.

Births

The number of births registered was 133, seventy-two males and sixty-one females. Illegitimate males

7, females 7, giving a rate per thousand population of 15.64.

Infant Mortality

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

Still Births

Total	9.	Male	Legitimate	5.	Female
Legitimate	3.	Male Illegitimate	1.		

Cemetery

There have been 60 interments in Coed Bell Cemetery during 1943, as compared with 49 in 1942.

Protestants—49

Catholics—3

Military—Nil

Common Grave—8

TABLE I.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1943.

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 ...	16	...	1	3	1	2	7	...	...	1	1	1	...	12	...
Diphtheria ...	17	...	1	1	1	...	5	1	1	2	2	1	...	17	...
Erysipelas ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Whooping Cough ...	79	4	14	8	13	14	23	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	120	4	8	10	10	31	47	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Broncho Pneumonia ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Lobar Pneumonia ...	9	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	4	...	...	6
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	8	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	2	...	5
Pleuro Pneumonia ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	257	9	24	24	25	47	82	10	2	14	6	10	4	33	13

TABLE II.

TUBERCULOSIS—New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...
5...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
25...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35...	4	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
45...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55...	...	1	...	...	2	1	...	...
65 & upw'ds	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	7	4	2	2	5	1	1	0

TABLE III. - Causes of and ages at Death,
during the year 1943.

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 ...										—
Scarlet Fever ...										—
Whooping Cough ...										—
Diphtheria ...										—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...								1		1
Other forms of tuberculosis				1				1		2
Syphilitic diseases ..										—
Influenza ...										—
Measles... ..										—
Acute Poliomyelitis										—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis										—
Cancer of Bronchial cavity, Oesophagus, Uterus ..								1	2	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...									1	1
Cancer of Breast ...								1		1
Cancer of all other sites ..								5	4	9
Diabetes ...									1	1
Intra-cran: Vasc: Lesions								11	19	30
Heart disease ...		1						6	15	22
Other dis. of circ. system										—
Bronchitis ...								1	4	5
Pneumonia ...		1	1					5	6	13
Other respiratory diseases								1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...								1		1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)										—
Appendicitis ...								1		1
Other digestive diseases ...										—
Nephritis ...							1		3	4
Puerperal post abortis Sepsis... ..										—
Other Maternal causes ...						2				2
Premature Birth ...		3								3
Congenital birth malform.		3								3
Suicide ...							1			1
Road traffic accidents ..								1		1
Other violent causes ...					2		1			3
All other causes ...		2					3	5	13	23
All Causes ...		10	1	1	2	2	6	41	69	132

TABLE IV.—Infant Mortality,

During the Year 1943.

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	...									
Laryngitis	...									
Bronchitis	...									
Pneumonia (all forms)	...						1			1
{ Diarrhoea	...									
{ Enteritis	...									
Gastritis									
Syphilis									
Rickets									
Suffocation, overlying	...									
Injury at Birth	...									
Atelectasis	...									
Congenital Malformations	...	3								3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...									
{ Premature Birth	...									
{ Atrophy, Debility, and Mar-	...									
sumus	...	3								3
{ Other causes	...	3								3
Total	...	9	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	10

Total Births in the Year:—133. Males, 72; Females, 61.
(Of these 1 was Illegitimate).

ADULTERATION, ETC.

Food & 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, 1943.

Particulars of Sample	No. taken	Genuine	Prose- cutions	Cautioned
New Milk' ...	17	13	2	2
Bread ...	3	3		
Rice ...	1	1		
Flour ...	1	1		
Beef Sausage ...	1	1		
Pancake Mixture	3	2	1	
Total ...	26	21	3	2

Yours faithfully,

WM. WASLEY,

Superintendent.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1943

Inspections

Total number of visits and inspections ... 4632

Infectious Diseases

Number of Cases reported by the Medical Officer of

Health	...	...	...	257
Number of Inquiries	...	...	...	421
„ „ Cases removed to Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	33
„ „ Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	303
„ „ Bedding destroyed	...	...	...	73

Drainage, Etc.

Number of repairs to Water Closets	...	...	42
„ „ complaints received	...	...	928
„ „ choked and defective drains dealt with	...	...	614
Number of Miscellaneous sanitary defects	...	...	419
„ „ Preliminary Notices served	...	...	187
„ „ Statutory Notices served	...	...	8
„ „ times Cesspools emptied	...	...	334

Scavenging

Number of ashbins emptied	...	...	96582
" " shops cleared	...	...	4469
" " loads of refuse removed (tractor)			757
" " houses needing dustbins—notice sent			16
" " Sacks of Paper	...	...	5656

Average weekly Collection :—

(a) Ashbins	...	...	...	1856.4
(b) Shops	...	...	...	85.9
(c) Loads	...	...	...	14.5
(d) Sacks of Paper	...	...	...	108.8

Salvage

Amount Disposed :

				Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Paper	...	...	...	88	2	2	16
Ferrous Metals	...	...	...	26	4	1	0
Non Ferrous Metals	...	...			11	2	26
Rags and Bagging	...	...		4	5	0	4
Bones	...	...	...	4	11	1	0
Rubber	...	...	...		13	0	0
Bottles and Jars	...	...	...	2	0	0	0

Bakehouses

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

Water

Number of new places supplied	...	7
Number of repairs, fittings, etc.	...	50
Number of notices re waste of water	...	5

Dairies and Cowsheds

Number of dealers operating in the district :—

Number of Resident Retailers of Milk...	...	4
„ „ Resident Cowkeepers and Retailers	...	11
„ „ Resident Wholesalers	...	3
„ „ Non-resident Retailers	...	6
„ „ Visits and Inspections	...	447

Offensive Trades

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

General

Dampness reported	...	...	...	...	21
Waste Pipe defects	...	...	...	...	66
Bedding burned	...	...	...	...	73
Bad smells	...	...	...	...	112

Animals

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

Lodging Houses

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

Legal Proceedings

Number of Prosecutions	1.
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

Factory & Workshops

Number on Register	47
Number of Written Notices	8

Eradication of Bed Bugs

1. Methods employed for freeing houses infested with bed-bugs 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.

Camping Sites

The number of sites in the area which are used for camping purposes and in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936, is 3.

HOUSING

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 411
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 492
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... 421
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 312

- (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 ... 83

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 82

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 2

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

(a) By owners 2

(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 61

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

(a) By owners 61

(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 nil.

- (2) Number of families dwelling therein ... nil.

- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... nil.

- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 3

- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 3

- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 35

- (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 the improvement in the methods of both production and distribution is being maintained.

The Council have agreed to co-operate in the collection of milk samples in connection with the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.

Bakehouses, Meat and Other Food Shops

Careful supervision is kept over these. Numerous articles of food have been inspected in the shops and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

All meat is now centrally slaughtered under the Government Scheme at an abattoir controlled by a neighbouring local authority, and inspected by the Meat and Food Inspector.

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

Before closing I should like to express my thanks to the Clerk, Mr J. Lloyd Hughes for his valuable help during the year and to the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Roberts for his advice and co-operation in matters appertaining to the health of the Area.

I should also like to express my thanks and grateful appreciation to all members of the various voluntary organisations for their unstinted and faithful services during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant

(Signed) J. TUDOR GRIFFITHS,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE CLIMATOLOGY OF PRESTATYN

Facts and Figures.

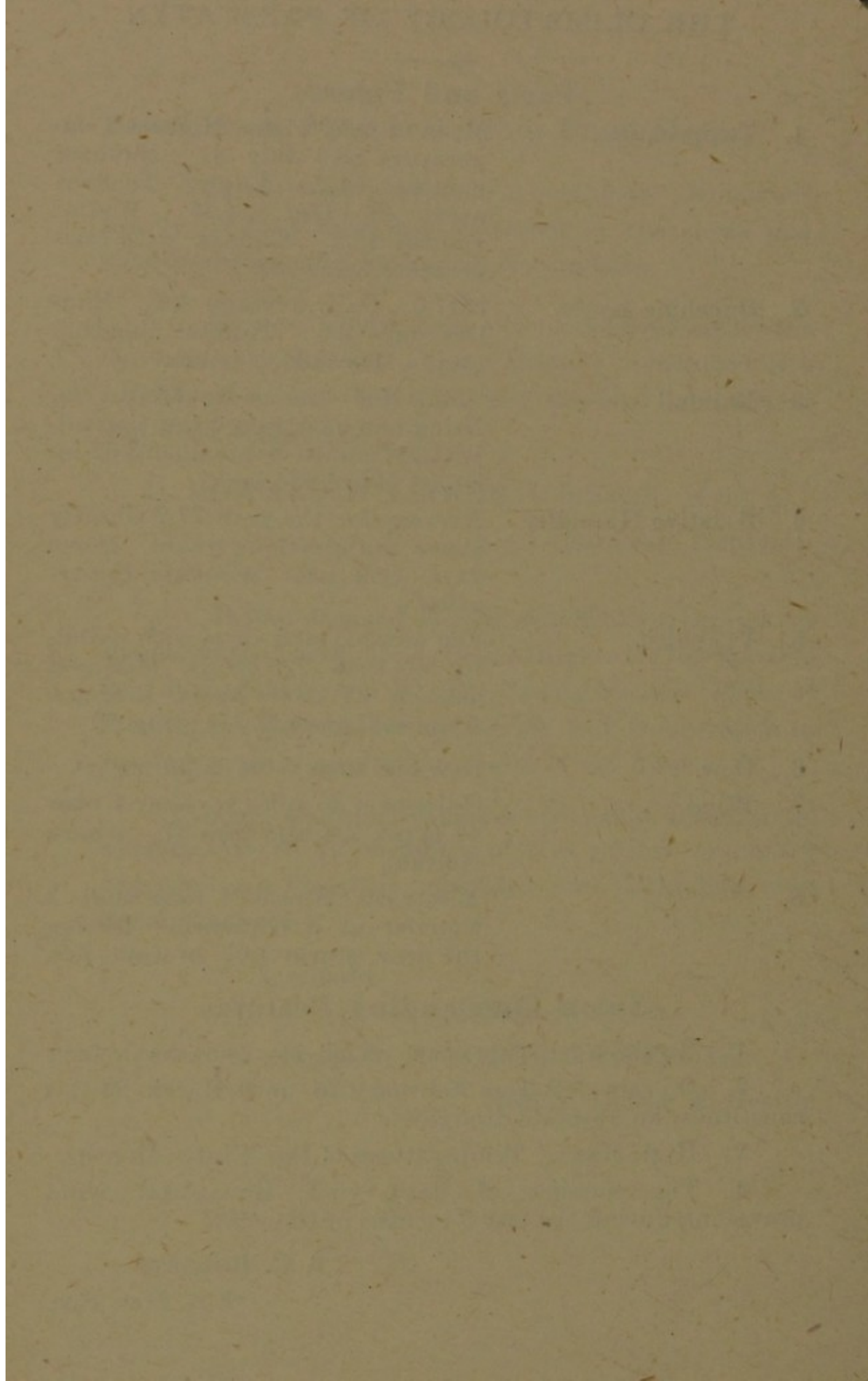
1. Temperature. Mean of year 51.6. Highest Temperature 88.9 July 31. Summer months 54.2. Lowest Temperature 26 Dec. 14.26. Winter months 46.2. 82 days with temperature below 32.
2. Sunshine hours. 1317.6. Daily average 3.61. Sunless days 63. Highest monthly total—May 186.9. hours.
3. Rainfall Total for the year 26 76. in. Being one inch below the normal. Wettest month September 3.82 in. Driest March .85 inch.
4. Relative Humidity. Average for the year 77.2 slightly above the previous years. Some days with near Absolute Saturation.
5. Visibility. Fog occurred on 9 days with visibility less than 220 yards. Mist and haze on 24 days above average. Abnormal visibility on July 16.
6. Dew. Dew and hoar frost on 29 nights.
7. Wind. Gales over 35 miles per hour 4, over 42 m p h. 2. Calm days 47. Above Normal.
8. Electrical Storms 1 near and 3 thunder at a distance. During the near storm 1.07 of rain fell.

Some Outstanding Features

1. No snow fell this year, which is a remarkable fact.
2. No rain fell from February 26 until March 23 this constitutes an absolute drought.
3. High Mean. Temperatures of the Winter Months.
4. The number of days with Equatorial wind prevailing during the last 6 months of the year.

I. C. ROBERTS

F.R. Met. Soc.





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