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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. R. Rhydwen, D.S.C., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

TOGETHER WITH THE

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

Mr. I. WYNN JONES, M.S.I.A.

Cert. Meat and other Foods.

FOR THE YEAR 1949.



HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1948

Coun. Owen Jones (Chairman)

Coun. Mrs. Eleanor Evans J.P. Coun. K. W. Pettegree

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„ Mrs. E. E. Jackson „ W. H. Shepherd

„ J. R. Gilbert, C.C. „ N. Stewart

„ O. D. Owen „ A. Nuttall

Chairman of the Council: Coun. C. Lloyd-Ellis, J.P.

Staff of the Public Health Department—

Medical Officer of Health:

DR. R. RHYDWEN, D.S.C., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector: Meat & Food Insp.:

I. WYNN JONES, M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat & Food Insp.

General Assistant:

J. E. PARRY.

Clerk:

R. B. JONES.

Meteorological Officer:

OSWALD T. JONES.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1949

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1949
for your consideration.

This is my first year as Medical Officer of Health
to the Prestatyn Urban District and I take this
opportunity to pay a tribute to my predecessor Dr. J.
Tudor Griffiths, J.P. for his long and useful service and
to compliment him on the "healthy state" of the Public
Health Department when I took over.

1949 was our first complete year under the
National Health Act, 1946 and though the Act did not
materially affect the Public Health Department it has
caused one or two changes.

In the first place Diphtheria Immunisation which
was administered by the Local Authority until July,
1948 has now become a County Service. During 1949
the number of children known to have been immunised
in the district was 59. Immunisation figures for the
district are showing a tendency to fall, but it is to be
hoped that facilities provided at the new County Health
Clinic, recently opened, will counteract this tendency.

In the second place great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining hospital beds for elderly chronic sick cases. The primary cause of this unfortunate situation is undoubtedly the general shortage of nursing staff. The problem is not peculiar to the Prestatyn Area, indeed it is nationwide and I hope and trust that the Regional Boards will tackle the problem vigorously, for it is likely to become more acute in years to come.

In general the health of the district has been good. Infectious disease cases were not numerous and once again we have had no cases of diphtheria. I would stress here that the maintenance of this desirable state of affairs with regard to diphtheria depends entirely on maintaining a highly immunised child population.

A small epidemic of food poisoning occurred during the summer. The cause of the outbreak was found to be mice carrying the germ responsible for the illnesses and, thanks to the co-operation of the proprietors of the premises and the Public Health Laboratory, Conway, it was possible to control and solve the outbreak once it was discovered.

Housing

Good progress has been maintained in the erection of permanent type houses at Bryn Rhosyn. Thirty-two were completed and occupied by the end of the year, making a total of 164 houses completed and occupied. Ten houses were in course of erection at the end of the year. When these houses are completed, the land at Bryn Rhosyn will be fully utilised. With the 125 houses built before the war, the total of completed houses owned by the Council is now 289.

At the end of the year contracts had been entered into for the construction of 6 permanent houses

at Dawson Park and 26 permanent houses at Wooller's Estate, Meliden.

Before any further houses can be built it will be necessary to acquire additional land and in this connection the Council, in November, decided to make application to the Welsh Board of Health for approval to a site in Fforddisa, Prestatyn, to enable the District Valuer to open negotiations for the acquisition of the land which can accommodate over 100 houses.

There are still a great many applicants on the Housing Lists and several of them are still living under unsatisfactory conditions. It is the intention of the Council to re-house as many of those living under unsatisfactory conditions as possible in the coming year.

Hutments are still occupied at the Hillside Camp, Prestatyn, these huts are substandard dwellings and the Council has resolved to re-house the tenants and demolish each vacant hutment as the opportunities arise. Three huts have been vacated and demolished at the time of compilation of this report.

New Houses Privately Built

Ten new houses were built by private enterprise during the year, the licences for six of these houses were issued in 1948. Seven licenses were issued during the year. Two houses were in course of erection at the end of the year and the erection of the remaining house in respect of which a licence had been issued, had not been commenced.

Statistics

The death rate is bound to be higher than the average for the country and the birth rate lower than the average for the country, owing to the fact that

the Prestatyn population has a very great number of elderly residents. Nevertheless on making allowances for this older than average population our figures are very satisfactory. This year as you will note our infantile mortality rate is very high 69.5 per 100 live births as compared with 32 per 1000 live for England and Wales. The great discrepancy is largely explained by the fact that of the **eight infant deaths which occurred**, three were those of premature triplets, and another was also the death of a premature child.

All our essential services have been carefully supervised as you will note from the report, and the standard of milk and ice cream production has been most satisfactory.

Appended are the Reports of the Sanitary Inspector, the Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act and the Climatology readings as taken by Mr Grant.

My Report would not be complete without an expression of thanks to the Health Committee for their keen interest, activity and co-operation and to the Sanitary Inspector and Staff of the Public Health Department for their keenness and unflagging energy in tackling the problems which arose during the year. To the Clerk and all my colleagues on the Council staff I express my gratitude for making me feel at home in a very short time.

I remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

R. RHYDWEN.

Water Supply

The Urban area derives its supply by a piped line from an underground spring known as Ffynnon Asaph. It is a hard water, and up to the present adequate in quantity, possessing no Plumbo-solvent action. Before distribution for household purposes it is treated by Alum coagulation, chlorination by the Chloramine system, and filtration through a battery of filters. Owing to the rapidly increasing population during the summer months and the increased consumption per head of the population, the future adequacy of the supply calls for investigation. This matter is being investigated by consultants. The whole plant is under strict daily observation, is tested for clarity, pH value, chloride content, and records kept. Samples of water are submitted in special containers for Bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

The number submitted during the year was :—

(a) Raw Water.	...	....	1
(b) Filtered Water	...	...	0
(c) Filtered and Chlorinated Water	51.		

The result of a sample sent for Chemical Analysis is also appended.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

Samples of water received on 24th March, 1949, marked Routine, Prestatyn Main Supply, Meliden School Canteen.

In Parts per 100,000 of Water.			
Total solid matter in solution	...	...	33.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	0.03
Nitrites	...	...	Nil.
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	2.1
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 Hours at 80 deg. F.	...	...	.036
Free and Saline Ammonia	....	...	0.002
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.003
Lead, Copper, Zinc	...	...	Nil.
Microscopical Examination of the sediment	...	...	Nil.
Temporary hardness in degrees Clark			12.6
Permanent Hardness in degrees Clark			1.2
pH Value	...	...	7.2

The above Chemical analysis is very satisfactory.

The water is moderately hard.

(Signed) HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst.

A sample of water from E.W.S. Tank in Warrington Camp was sent for bacteriological examination. The sample was found unfit for drinking purposes, and action was taken to prevent its consumption by squatters in the Camp.

No trouble has been experienced with the operation of the Chlorination Plant as last year, and only one report on chlorinated water was unsatisfactory, all others

being Class I, highly satisfactory. The unsatisfactory sample was due to faulty technique in sampling.

New mains were laid in Gasworks Lane and Brook Park Avenue, Prestatyn, and in Pen-y-maes, Meliden. Renewal of mains with cast iron in place of steel pipes was carried out in Marine Road East, Prestatyn, and Ffordd Ffynnon, Meliden. Practically all houses in the area are supplied from the mains.

Number of dwelling houses served by public mains direct to house...	...	...	...	...	3052
Population of above dwelling houses	..	...	...	...	8659
Number of dwelling houses served by public mains by means of stand pipes	...	...	...	...	22
Population of above dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	79
Four houses occupied by fourteen persons are supplied by wells, springs, etc.					

A small part of the district is supplied from the Holywell R.D.C. supply. Eight samples of this water were taken for bacteriological examination—and were all satisfactory.

The result of a Chemical Sample taken at the Talacre Warren is appended.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

Sample of Water Received 28/6/49, Marked Talacre Warren, Plot II B.

In parts per 100,000 of Water :—

Total Solid matter in solution	...	46.5
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	0.12
Nitrites	...	Nil.
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	2.4
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 80 deg. F.	...	Nil.
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	Nil.
Lead, Copper, Zinc	...	0.2 Zinc
Microscopical Examination of the Sediment	...	Nil.
Temporary Hardness in degrees Clark	...	21.0
Permanent Hardness in degrees Clark	...	4.2
pH. Value	...	7.5

This sample is satisfactory, the water being of great organic purity.

The water is a very 'Hard' one.

The amount of Zinc is too small to cause any harm.

(Signed) HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst.

Sewerage

The sewerage scheme for the area, excluding Meliden, consists of a gravity scheme on the higher levels to which sewage is raised by Ejectors from the low lying areas, and the whole of the sewage is discharged untreated into the sea. The system has worked satisfactorily during the year. There is also a pumping station serving Y Ffrith which has operated satisfactorily.

Meliden Sewerage is also partly on the gravity system and partly pumped. The sewage is purified at a disposal works and discharged into a watercourse. The system has been satisfactory.

The surface water sewerage system is separate from the foul water system and is satisfactory except during abnormal rainfall, when a small amount of flooding occurs, largely due to the unsatisfactory state of land drainage south of the main railway line. None of this flooding occurred during the year.

No major alteration or additions have been carried out during the year; necessary repairs and alterations, due to wear and tear have received attention.

The electrically driven pumping plant erected at Y Ffrith has been effective,

Prestatyn Gutter

Following works in 1948 the condition of the gutter is much improved and in spite of quite heavy rainfall there has been no flooding. Work remains to be done in regard to some tributaries to the gutter on the South side in order to prevent waterlogging of adjoining lands.

Food Supplies

Careful supervision has been maintained over the premises of retailers, especially those of Butchers, Bakeries and Dairies. For number of inspections, see Sanitary Inspector's report. All meat sold in the area is killed and inspected at the Public Abattoir, Rhyl.

The need for the greatest care in the preparation and handling of cooked meats, pies and pastries has been brought home even more forcibly by a small

outbreak of food poisoning. Inspection of premises has revealed a high standard of cleanliness in most premises and the department's advice has been readily accepted when tendered.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

Number of outbreaks	..	...	...	1
Number of cases	...	...	...	14
Number of deaths	...	...	...	0
Organism or other agents responsible:	Salmonella			
	Typhi-murium (1 outbreak)			
Food involved:	Meat Pies (1 outbreak).			

National Assistance Act, 1948

No formal action was taken under Section 47 of this Act during the year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The collection of refuse can now be regarded as satisfactory,

A heavy strain is placed on the service during the summer months due to the influx of visitors, and the occupation of camps.

The need for additional land for refuse disposal which has been known for some years is now an urgent necessity. It is to be hoped that 1950 will see the acquisition of the necessary land accomplished.

Swimming Pools

There are three privately owned pools. Samples of water are taken regularly during the season and are mainly satisfactory.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laaboratory Facilities

These remain unchanged.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations of discharges, throat swabs, etc., are done at the Ministry of Health Laboratory, Conway. During 1949 they numbered 59. Samples of water were despatched for bacteriological examination. Venereal swabs and blood requiring examination for venereal diseases are sent by the patients' doctors to the laboratory of the Chester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Service

Infectious cases are removed to hospital by Ambulance which is afterwards disinfected and all cases of illness or accident are removed by the County Ambulance Service, the County having acquired the duty of the provision of an Ambulance Service since July, 1948. The County Council also supervises the Sitting Case Car Service.

Home Nursing

This is now a County Council Service, the Queen's Nurses being under the direction of the County Health Services.

Home Help

There is one Home Help available in this district. Further particulars can be obtained from the County Health Office, Mold.

Clinics

Ante-Natal and Child Welfare Clinics are under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health. Infant Welfare Centre held at the Prestatyn School Clinic, Kings Avenue, every Friday 1-30 to 4-30 p.m. A Medical Officer attends every first and third Friday.

Orthopaedic Clinic at the Old Emmanuel School, Rhyl every first and third Friday mornings 10-30 to 12-30. Orthopaedic Nurse attends every session. Surgeon attends every two months.

Ante-Natal Clinic at Prestatyn School Clinic, Kings Avenue, first and third Friday, 9-30 a.m.

The Tuberculosis Clinic, in charge of the Medical Officers of the Welsh Regional Board is held at 27 Edward Henry Street, Rhyl, every Friday at 10 a.m.

Free Hospital, Sanatorium, Clinical and Domiciliary treatment is available to all persons suffering from tuberculosis by arrangements made with the Welsh Regional Board.

Venereal Disease

Treated at the Chester Royal Infirmary, Out Patients Department. All forms of venereal disease are examined and treated under conditions of strict secrecy. Cost of travelling to the Infirmary is paid, if patients cannot afford to do so. The tracing of contacts and the follow up of defaulters is undertaken by the County Medical Officer's Department.

Hospitals

There are none in the Urban Area

Infectious cases are treated at the Hawarden and Colwyn Bay Isolation Hospital.

Notification of Births, Maternity & Child Welfare

Entirely under the control of the Flintshire County Council and their health visitors.

Maternity Facilities

There are two private Maternity Homes in the area, and one, Chatsworth House, under the control of the Flintshire County Council.

There are four registered midwives practising in the area.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

No cases have been reported during the year.

Scabies

No cases have been notified during the year.

Tuberculosis

For number of new cases, etc., see Table II.

No action required to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1926 (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)

The aftercare of persons suffering from

Tuberculosis is dealt with by a special Committee, who meet quarterly to consider the needs, financial or otherwise of each individual case.

All patients are visited in their homes by specially appointed nurses under direction of the County Medical Officer and Tuberculosis Physician.

All dwellings are disinfected as and when required. A register is kept of all cases in the area.

Zymotic Diseases

The number notified during the year was 93 (see Table I). Of these 5 received treatment at Isolation Hospitals. Care is taken to see that all necessary disinfection of premises and clothing is carried out.

Immunisation

The above service was inaugurated in June, 1940. During the current year 59 children were treated, 55 of whom were under 5 years of age, and 4 between 5 and 14.

Since 1940, 1720 children have been immunised.

Diphtheria Toxoid (A.P.T. & T.A.F.) are always available to Medical Practitioners at the Public Health Dept. Council Offices.

Immunisation can be done by the Child's own doctor, or at The Welfare Clinic, Victoria Avenue every fourth Wednesday in each month, 2 to 3.30 p.m.

Rag Flock Act, 1911—1928

No action necessary.

Public Places of Entertainment

As required by Ministry of Health Circular 120/1920, all places of entertainment requiring Singing, Music and Dancing licences have been inspected for fire fighting apparatus, exits, general cleanliness, conveniences, etc., and except for minor defects, found to be satisfactory.

Smoke Abatement

There has been no cause for complaint during the year. 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

Are under the control of the County Council Authority. The Heads of Schools are immediately notified of any cases of infectious diseases occurring amongst the scholars or in their homes.

Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses within the district.

GENERAL STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Social Conditions

The district is purely urban, and as a seaside resort its chief interest is the catering for and entertainment of visitors. There is a large amount of residential property which would have greatly increased but for

building restrictions during the war. The population largely consists of retired people.

Two Limestone Quarries are operating in the area. Unemployment is practically nil.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	3,655
Population (Census 191)	...	...	...	...	4,083
" " 1931	...	...	...	...	4,511
Estimated population Mid 1949	...	...	...	...	8,659
Estimated number of inhabited houses 1921	...	...	...	...	770
" " " " (1931	...	...	...	...	1,579
" " " " 1933	...	...	...	...	1,590
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	£80,990
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	£324

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth Rate

The number of births registered was 115.

	M	F	Total
Births { Legitimate	50	53	115
{ Illegitimate	8	4	

giving a rate per 1,000 population of 13.29, compared with the rate for England & Wales which is 16.7.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age were 8, giving a rate of 69.5 per 1,000 of the registered live births.

For England and Wales the figure was 32. This high local rate is due to the death of triplets and one other child, all born prematurely. The rate, excluding these, being 37.7, which is still high.

Still Births

Total 3 Males 3, Females 0, one being illegitimate, giving a rate per 1000 civilian population of 0.34, as compared with 0.39 for England and Wales

Death Rate

The total number of deaths of residents belonging to the area was 165. The number of deaths of residents and non-residents registered by the local Registrar was 116. To this there has to be added 56 deaths of residents who died outside the area and 7 deaths subtracted, being those of non-residents who died within the area, giving a corrected number of 165, which on the civilian population of 8659 gives a crude death rate per 1,000 population of 19.05. Our rate corrected for comparative purposes is 12.57. For England & Wales the rate is 11.7.

The outstanding feature is that 47 deaths were those of people over 70 and under 80 years of age, 33 over 80 and under 90 and 6 over 90.

Heart diseases accounted for 54, Intracranial vascular diseases for 28, Cancer for 30, all essentially diseases of elderly people. Puerperal causes, nil, Measles nil. Deaths from all causes of tuberculosis, 6.

For causes of death see Table iii.

Cemetery

There have been 69 interments in Coed Bell Cemetery during 1949 as compared with 61 in 1948.

Protestants—64
Catholics—4
Common Grave—1

I am,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) R. RHYDWEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1949.

DISEASE.	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—45	45—65	Over 65	Cases admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ...	3	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	3
Diphtheria (Obs.)	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	12	1	3	2	4	1	1	...	...	1
Measles ...	63	2	12	15	31	...	3	...	...	...
Lobar Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning	14	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	5	...
Total ...	93	3	15	18	36	2	10	4	5	4

TABLE II.

TUBERCULOSIS—New Cases and Mortality during 1949.

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

CASES ON REGISTER

	Males				Females				Total
	Pulmon.	Non-Pulmon.	Pulmon.	Non-Pulmon.	Pulmon.	Non-Pulmon.	Pulmon.	Non-Pulmon.	
Dec. 31 st , 1948	... 72	... 11	...	...	32	... 3	...	...	118
Dec. 31 st , 1949	... 73	... 9	...	...	29	... 3	...	...	114

TABLE III.—Causes of Deaths

during the year 1949

			Males	Females	Total
Cerebro and Spinal Fever	...	...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	...	2	4	6
Tuberculosis (other)	...	...	0	0	0
Syphilis	...	...	0	1	1
Influenza	...	...	2	1	3
Cancer :					
Mouth, etc.	...	...	1	3	4
Stomach, etc.	...	...	2	0	2
Breast	...	...	0	5	5
Other Sites	...	...	9	10	19
Diabetes	...	...	1	1	2
Intra-cran: Vasc: Lesions	...	...	9	19	28
Heart diseases	...	...	23	31	54
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	4	5	9
Bronchitis	...	...	2	0	2
Pneumonia	...	...	0	4	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	3	1	4
Ulcer of Stomach	...	...	5	0	5
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	0	0	0
Appendicitis	...	...	0	0	0
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	0	1	1
Nephritis	...	...	1	1	2
Premature Birth	...	...	1	1	2
Congenital Malformation, etc.	...	...	4	1	5
Suicide	...	...	0	0	0
Other violent causes	...	...	1	1	2
Other causes	...	...	3	1	4
Road Traffic Accident	...	...	1	0	1
TOTAL	...	...	74	91	165

TABLE IV.—Infant Mortality,

During the Year 1949

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

Total Births in the Year:—115. Males, 58 ; Females, 57.
 Legitimate Males 50, Legitimate Females 53.
 Illegitimate Males 8, Illegitimate Females 4.

ADULTERATION, ETC.

Food and Drugs Act

Your Inspector under this Act has reported as follows :—

Herewith are the particulars of the samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act 1938, in the Prestatyn Urban District Council area, for the year ending December 31st. 1949 :—

Description of Article	Number of Samples	Number Genuine	Number not Genuine
Milk	24	20	4
Cream Cheese	1	0	1
Ice Cream	12	12	
Sausages	6	5	1
Crumpets	1	1	
Currant Sugar	1	1	
Pressed Pork	1	0	1
Pressed Meat	1	1	
Pressed Cows Udder ..	1	0	1
Calamine Lotion	1	0	1
Gin	1	1	
Whisky	1	1	
Blauds Pills	1	1	
Camphorated Oil	1	1	
Christmas Cake	1	1	
Total	54	45	9

Herewith are the particulars of the samples found adulterated or below standard. Four milk samples were found to be low in

solids not fat, and letters were sent to the producers drawing their attention to the matter.

A sample of cooked meat sold as Pressed Pork was found on analysis to be made up of minced pigs stomachs. Successful proceedings were instituted against the vendors. They were fined £20 0. 0d with £8 8. 0d costs.

A sample of beef sausages was found on analysis to be 4 per cent deficient in meat content. A warning letter was sent to the vendor.

A sample of Cheese sold as cream cheese was found to be deficient in fat. This sample was taken in conjunction with another sample of cheese taken elsewhere in the County. Proceedings had been instituted in this other case but were eventually withdrawn at the request of the Ministry of Food. It transpired that the cream cheese was an Italian Cream Cheese imported and sold only through the usual channels of the Ministry of Food. The Ministry promised a full investigation and payed the Analyst's fee and the cost of the summons.

An informal sample of Pressed Cow's Udder was found on analysis to be very dirty. A warning letter was sent to the vendor.

A sample of Calamine Lotion was found on analysis to be slightly deficient in one of the ingredients. A warning letter was sent to the manufacturer.

(Signed) E. LEWIS.

Food and Drugs Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1949

General Summary of Visits, Etc.

General Sanitation

Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	79
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	419
Stables, Piggeries, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	89
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	50
Camps, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	169
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	40
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	74
Public Conveniences...	...	...	...	...	...	140
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	179
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	5
Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	233
Special Visits re Housing	...	...	...	...	...	495
Informal Visits under Section 47, Nat. Ast. Act	...	...	...	...	...	21
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	46
Miscellaneous Visits...	...	...	...	...	...	214
Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	...	...	276
Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	595
Number of Preliminary notices served for nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	619
Formal notices for nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	0

Infectious Disease

Number of cases occurring	...	...	...	...	93
Enquiries	...	...	...	...	40
Number removed to Hospital	...	...	...	...	4
Disinfection	...	...	...	...	66

Meat & Food Inspection

Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	38
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	41
Grocers	...	...	...	...	46
Ice Cream Premises...	...	...	...	...	151
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	79

Sanitary Defects etc.

Number of stopped drains	...	...	...	...	325
Number of defective drains	...	...	...	...	10
Choked or insanitary ditches	...	...	...	...	3

Number of defective septic tanks	...	...	...	1
Defective W.C. cisterns and fittings	...	...	...	40
Defective E.C. and W.C.	...	...	...	12
Dirty condition of houses, outhouses and yards	...	...	...	9
Animals etc, kept under insanitary conditions	...	...	...	7
Want of Lime Washing	...	...	...	12
Defective inspection chambers	...	...	...	6
Defective sink and wastepipes	...	...	...	24
Burst Water Pipes	...	...	...	2
Defective Roofs	...	...	...	10
Defective Floors	...	...	...	18
Defective Pavings	...	...	...	3
Defective eaves and downspouts...	...	...	...	20
Defective doors	...	...	...	6
Defective windows	...	...	...	22
Defective sinks and washbasins	...	...	...	5
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	...	...	...	3
Accumulaion of Refuse	...	...	...	16
Dilapidated dust bins	...	...	...	130
Defective wall and ceiling plaster	...	...	...	16
Dampness	...	...	...	18
Defective Grates	...	...	...	12
Infestations by insect pests	...	...	...	28
Defective Chimneys	...	...	...	4
Insufficient water supply	...	...	...	2
Rat & Mice infestations	...	...	...	80
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	33

Nuisances from premises other than dwellings

Halls	...	...	...	...	...	14
Farms & Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	8
Camps & Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	16
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	17
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	11
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	30
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	16
Bakeries	...	...	...	...	...	15
Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	8
Warehouses	...	...	...	...	...	4
Garages	...	...	...	...	...	2
Laundry	...	...	...	...	...	5
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	20

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Number of visits re Collection and Salvage...	...	203
Number of visits re Disposal	...	126

The refuse is disposed of by Controlled Tipping and is collected by two Karrier Bantam Lorries drawing trailers for salvage collection.

Considerable time and labour has been expended to ensure a clean and tidy tip. The rat populaton is almost non-existent, but small infestations at harvest time, etc., are dealt with as they arise.

The department endeavours to collect refuse once a week from private houses and more frequently from business premises as necessary, this is not always possible, especially during the summer months when the same staff has to cope with a greatly increased amount of refuse and salvage.

Householders can help to keep the service regular by disposing of garden refuse themselves and by keeping waste paper separate for salvage.

It is hoped that when the lorries are renewed larger ones will be purchased, thus cutting down the number of journeys to the disposal point and effecting a saving in travelling time.

During the year there were 150 days sick leave among the Refuse Staff.

1930 loads weighing 2719 tons were collected and disposed of, also, 26 nightsoil pails are serviced each week.

No charge is made for disposal of refuse by private persons at the refuse tip.

Total tonnage refuse collected	...	...	...	2719
Total tonnage refuse disposed of	...	..	...	3350
Area in acres	...	...	...	3655
Population	...	...	...	8659
Number of premises...	...	...	...	3484
Rateable value	...	...	...	£80990
Product of 1d. in £	...	...	...	£324
General Rate in £	...	...	...	...17s. 3d.

Salvage

	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs	£	s.	d.
Mixed Paper ...	105	12	0	18	642	6	10
White ...	5	6	0	4	50	12	5
Books and Mags. ...	4	15	0	18	33	6	1
Rags ...	6	9	1	8	91	17	4
Scrap Iron ...	7	9	0	0	11	2	6
Mixed Metals ...		6	0	20	4	16	5
String ...		10	0	0	2	0	0
Bones ...	1	14	0	0	15	10	6
	132	1	3	12	£851	12	1

Salvage Income 1948 ... £766 8 8½

I cannot emphasize too strongly the continued necessity for salvaging waste paper. The amount salvaged shows a marked decrease after the end of the war, whilst the need is just as great. The biggest drop in collection is from private houses.

Water Sampling

	Bacteriological	Chemical
Town Main supply ...	23	1
Holywell R.D.C. ...	8	1
Private Supply Wells, etc. ...	1	0
Streams ...	3	0
Swimming Pools ...	12	0
Total samples taken...	47	2

In general the Bacteriological reports on the main supplies have been Class 1. Highly satisfactory.

The reports of the Chemical examinations are also satisfactory.

The samples from Streams were a check on possible fouling by septic tank effluents, the samples were satisfactory for stream water.

Regular samples are taken from the three Swimming Pools during the season and the results are generally satisfactory.

Milk Supplies

Number of samples taken	148
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Number of Samples taken of each grade

Pasteurised	9
Tuberculin Tested	63
Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	18
Ungraded	...	...	...	...	...	58

Results of Examinations

Resazurin Test

Category A	...	...	...	...	...	106
Category B	...	...	...	...	...	15
Category C	...	...	...	...	...	18

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory

Tuberculin Tested	...	61	...	...	2
Accredited	...	12	...	...	6
Pasteurised	...	8	...	...	1

Number of farms producing milk within the district	...	7
--	-----	---

Tuberculin tested	2
-------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Accredited	1
------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Ordinary	4
----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Number of farms outside the district supplying milk into the district.	9
--	------	------	------	------	---

Tuberculin tested	5
-------------------	------	------	------	------	---

Accredited	1
------------	------	------	------	------	---

Ordinary	3
----------	------	------	------	------	---

Milk Licenses

To bottle and use designation: Tuberculin tested	1
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Supplementary licenses to use designation:

Tuberculin tested (Certified)	1
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Tuberculin tested	2
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Pasteurised	3
-------------	------	------	------	------	---

Visits to Cowsheds and Farms	32
------------------------------	------	------	------	------	----

Visits to Dairies and Milk shops	101
----------------------------------	------	------	------	------	-----

Biological Testing.

No Samples were taken for Biological Testing.

Fried Fish Shops

Number of Fried Fish shops in District	....	....	6
These shops are well conducted and are inspected periodically.			

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 14

Premises registered for the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream	4
Premises for sale only	.... 35
Premises for manufacture of sausages, cooked meat etc.	.... 17

Ice Cream

With the coming into operation of the (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, on May 1st, 1947 and the Ministry circular 69/47 (Wales) suggesting the use of Methylene Blue for the Bacteriological testing of Ice Cream, sampling of this commodity has been intensified and 50 samples were taken during the season

I would like to record the ready co-operation I have received from the Ice Cream traders in our efforts to maintain the standard of Ice Cream in the Top Grades of this test

Meat & other Food Inspection

All the town's Meat supply is slaughtered and inspected at the Rhyl Municipal Abattoir.

Other foods, canned goods etc., are inspected as necessary and the following is a list of unsound food condemned in shops.

Fish	....	....	....	835lbs.
Meat	....	....	....	103lbs.
Milk and Milk Products	....	....	....	83lbs.
Soups....	....	....	....	20lbs.
Vegetables, Fruit	....	....	....	219lbs.
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	40lbs.

Bakehouses and other food premises are inspected periodically and any nuisances are quickly remedied, on the occupiers notice being drawn to them

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect- tions	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	51	114		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities				
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)				
TOTAL	51	114	Nil	Nil

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ...	15	15		
Overcrowding ...				
Unreasonable temperature ...				
Inadequate ventilation ...				
Ineffective drainage of floors...				
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) insufficient ...	3	3		
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	19	19		
(c) not separate for sexes ...	1	1		
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...				
TOTAL	38	38	Nil	Nil

Rodent Infestation

The duties of the Rodent Officer are carried out by the General Assistant in the Health Department.

The sewers are testbaited twice a year and their population is very small.

Small infestations, chiefly back yard poultry keepers, are dealt with as they arise.

The refuse tip is treated regularly and there is no "resident" rat population.

Camps

There are three licensed camping sites and one Caravan Club site within the district, each is serviced by water closets connected to the main sewer. They are very well conducted and the owners co-operate to the full with this department in keeping the sites clean and tidy.

Several fields are let off for camping during the season, and are exempt from licensing under Sub-Section 2 of Sec 269 Public Health Act 1936.

These are inspected during the season and generally are maintained in good condition.

Talacrce Warren

There are 78 hutments within the district, 25% of which are permanently occupied. The remainder are occupied during the summer months only.

This district is not sewered and nightsoil is disposed of by chemical closets. There is no nuisance in this respect.

The water supply is part of the Holywell R.D.C. supply and during the peak periods of the summer months the supply is not always adequate.

Public Conveniences

The town is served by six Public Conveniences (Male and Female) and they are maintained by this Department.

I regret having to report that while every effort is made to keep them clean, they are often sadly mis-used by the public and much wanton damage is done.

Public Health Act 1936 (Section 154)

During the year there was one prosecution for contravention of the above Section, viz., exchanging toys for rags with children under 14 years of age. The defendant was fined £4.

Watercourses

Maesyffynnon and "Jubilee" ditches have been maintained in a clear and clean condition. It is unfortunate that the pipe under the Railway lines from Maesyffynnon is smaller in diameter than the surface sewer discharging into the ditch. This causes water-logging of adjacent land in times of very heavy rain.

Further work of cleaning up Maesyffynnon ditch is now suspended until a block of buildings found to be discharging sewage into the surface sewer are re-connected to the foul sewer.

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) | 181 |
| | (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | ... 205 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 0 |
| (3) | 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 | ... 169 |

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 163
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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 | 0 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | |
| | (a) By owners | 0 |
| | (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | 0 |

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts

- | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | | | | | | |
| (a) By owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

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

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

(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 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

4. Housing Act, 1936 (*Overcrowding*)

- | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 55 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| (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 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil |

- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... nil

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 "
Isfryn Road	...	22 "
Gas Works House	...	1 "
Bryn Rhosyn	...	164 "

In conclusion of my report, may I express my appreciation for the help and many kindnesses shown by the Chairman and members of the Health Committee Dr. R. Rhydwen, Medical Officer of Health, Mr. J. Lloyd Hughes, Clerk to the Council, the indoor and outdoor staff.

I. WYNN JONES,

Sanitary Inspector.

CLIMATOLOGY OF PRESTATYN

Temperature

Highest Temperature ...	...	85° on 14th & 15th July
Lowest Temperature ...	...	... 20° on 4th February
Number of days below freezing point	...	5 days

Sunshine

Total for the year ...	...	...	1686.8 hours
Highest Monthly Total	...	...	(June) 273.1 hours
Lowest Monthly Total	...	...	(December) 34.9 hours

Rainfall

Total for the year ...	...	...	24.61 inches
Below normal	...	...	3.79 inches
Wettest Month	...	...	(December) 4.91 inches
Driest Month	(September) .49 inches

Visibility

Fog occurred on 5 days.

Wind

Gales of over 48 m.p h.	—	...	Nil
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