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PRESTATYN

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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 Public Health Inspector

Mr. J. M. EDWARDS, M.R.S.H.

Cert Meat and other Foods.

FOR THE YEAR 1956



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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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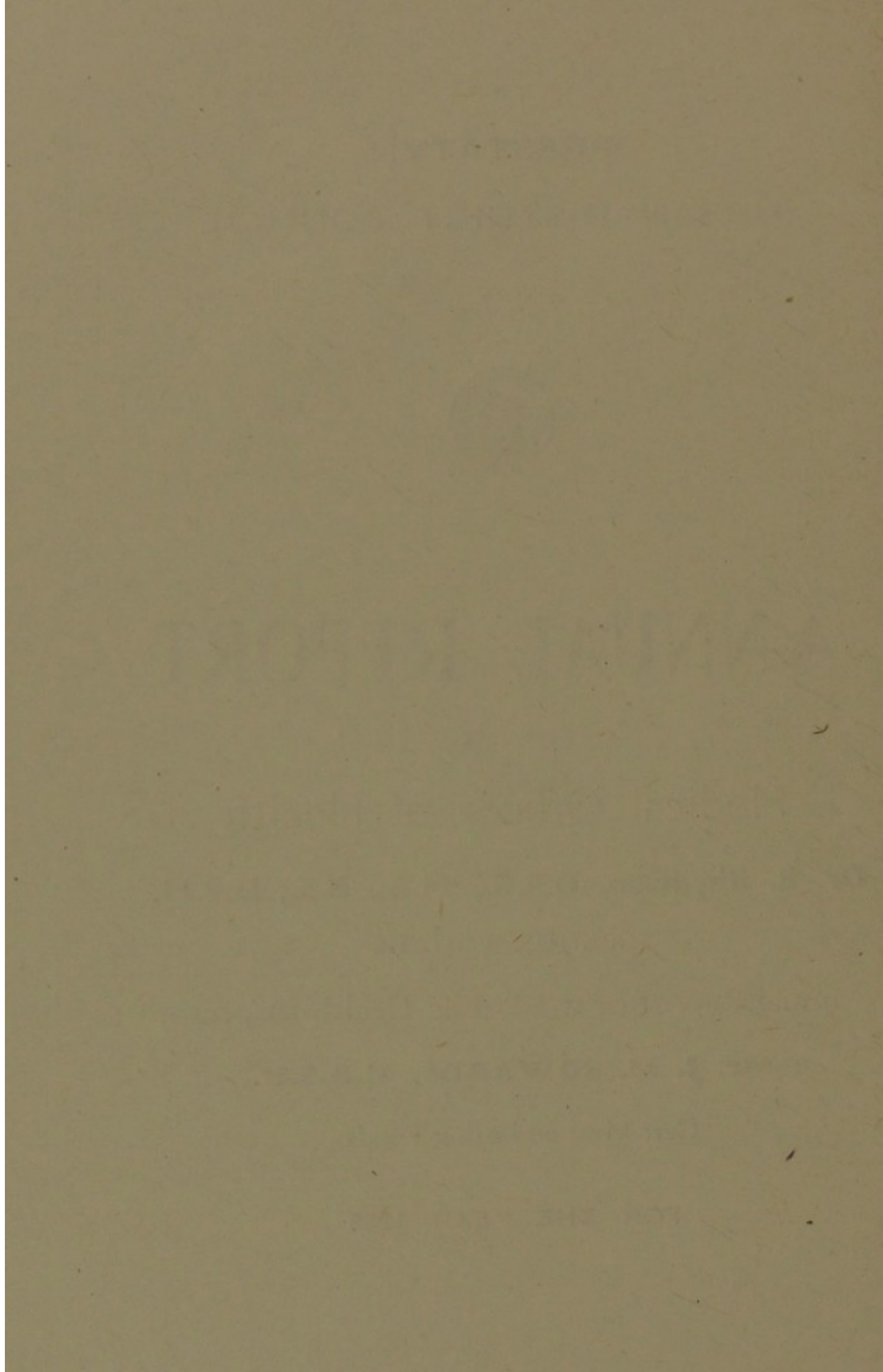
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HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1956

Coun. R. B. Davies (Chairman)

Coun. Mrs. Eleanor Evans J.P. Coun. H. A. Crabtree, J.P.

„ C. F. Lloyd-Ellis „ J. R. Gilbert

„ W. H. Davies „ J. Ellis Evans

„ N. Stewart „ Owen Jones, J.P.

Coun. W. S. Romain.

Chairman of the Council: Coun. O. D. Owen 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.

Public Health Inspector: Meat & Food Insp.:

J. M. EDWARDS, M.R.S.H., Cert. Meat & Food Insp.

General Assistant:

J. E. PARRY.

Clerk/Student:

R. D. JONES (part of year)

Clerk:

MISS P. LAKEY (part of year)

Meteorological Officer:

T. GRANT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1956

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

I beg to submit my report for the year 1956 for your consideration. It appears in the form laid down in Circular 17/55 Wales.

Only 49 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year, there being no outbreak of any of the common childhood illnesses during the year.

Diphtheria immunisation increased a little during the year. 83 children having received their primary immunisation and 55 their re-inforcing immunisation during the year. The corresponding total for 1955 were 75 and 85 respectively. I would strongly advise all parents to protect their children against diphtheria, for this disease, though rare at the moment, has killed many more children than has poliomyelitis in the past, and were the community not to be protected by immunisation it might well return in all its virulence. The record of vaccination is relatively high, 66 children under 5 years of age having being vaccinated for the first time. In all 75 people received their primary vaccination and 52 others were re-vaccinated.

Two isolated cases of food poisoning were notified and were investigated during the year. This is a very satisfactory state of affairs, and indicates that the standard of hygiene in the town is reasonable good. It is up to the public to co-operate with the shopkeepers by not taking their dogs into food shops, for all normal dogs sniff at food stuffs within their reach and occasionally forget their good manners in other ways. In conclusion

I would point out that the public get the standard of food hygiene they demand, or in other words, the standard they deserve.

Statistics

Our birth rate, though low, as might be expected in a town with an older than average population, is up on last year, being 11.3 births per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 10.9 births per 1,000 of the population in 1955. Our uncorrected death rate was 15.9 deaths per 1,000 of the population, last year's being 16.4 deaths per 1,000 of the population, so that there is also an improvement here.

Corrected for comparison with England and Wales our birth rate is 14 births per 1,000 of the population, and our death rate 10.9 per 1,000 of the population, which compare favourably with the national rates of 15.7 births per 1,000 of the population and 11.7 deaths per 1,000 of the population.

Two infants died under the age of one year, giving us an Infant Mortality rate of 19.2 deaths per 1,000 live births as compared with the National rate of 23.8 deaths per 1,000 live births. As we deal in small numbers as far as infant deaths are concerned, it is obvious that this rate can fluctuate considerably from year to year.

Elderly People and Elderly Sick People.

This problem is still far from solved, though it is obvious that there is a considerable amount of interest being taken in the welfare of the old. In this district there has been less difficulty in finding accommodation during the past year and no cases were brought to my official notice.

Housing

The erection of 24 houses, forming the fourth development at Maes Hendre, Meliden was commenced on 16th April, and at the end of the year 14 houses were completed and occupied.

Tenders for the construction of roads and sewers at the Pendyffryn Estate, Prestatyn were received at the end of the year. Those works are preparatory to the erection of dwellings for aged persons.

Application for loan sanction was made to the Welsh Office of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government at the end of the year, to improve 19 of the houses at Ffordd Bryn Melyd, Meliden, by the installation of water systems, the fitting of lavatory basins in the bathrooms, and new fireplaces.

The total number of completed houses owned by the Council at the end of the year was as follows:—

Caradoc Terrace, Prestatyn	...	15
Dawson Park	..	72
Bryn Rhosyn	..	174
Ffordd Bryn Melyd and Isfryn		
Road, Meliden	... •	44
Maes Hendre, Meliden	...	112
		—
		417
		—

292 of these houses have been built since the war.

90 new houses were completed by private enterprise during the year and 39 houses were in course of construction at the end of the year.

The list of applicants for housing still remains heavy, but the position has now eased and the majority of applicants living under very bad conditions have now been housed.

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 Public Health 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 Public Health Inspector and Staff of the Public Health Department for their keenness and energy in tackling the problems which arose during the year. To the Clerk and my colleagues on the Council staff I express my gratitude for their helpful co-operation.

I remain,

Mrs. Evans and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

R. RHYDWEN.

Water Supply

The Water Supply has been maintained at a high standard of purity.

All samples of treated water submitted for bacteriological examination were reported on as being satisfactory, with the exception of six samples, which were not quite up to the standard for treated water. The cause was found to be faulty working of the chlorination apparatus.

The number of samples submitted by the Water Dept. during the year was :

Bacteriological examination—

(a) Raw Water.	...	....	1
(b) Filtered Water	...	...	0
(c) Filtered and Chlorinated Water			60

New mains were laid in Fern Avenue, back Warren Road, Service Roads fronting Victoria Road West, Roy Avenue, Green Lanes and Woodland Park, Prestatyn, Maes Hendre, Meliden, and Maes Glas, Dyserth.

A short length of steel main in Allt y Graig, Dyserth was relaid in spun iron pipes.

Practically all houses in the area are supplied from the mains,

Number of dwelling houses served by public mains direct to house...	...	...	...	...	3296
Estimated population of above dwelling houses			...		8945
Number of dwelling houses served by public mains by means of stand pipes	...	...	...	...	83
Estimated population of above dwelling houses			...		250
Six houses occupied by fifteen persons are supplied by wells, springs, etc.					

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 is satisfactory.

The surface water sewerage system is separate from the foul water system and is satisfactory except during abnormal rainfall. In the past flooding has only occurred to a small extent, largely due to the unsatisfactory state of land drainage south of the main railway line. Exceptional rainfall was experienced during August and substantial flooding occurred in lower High Street, Prestatyn. The cause of this flooding was still under investigation at the end of the year.

No major alteration or additions have been carried out during the year, and the proposed works referred to in last year's report are still awaiting loan sanction.

Food Supplies

Careful supervision has been maintained over the premises of retailers, especially those of Butchers, Bakeries and Dairies. For number of inspections and details of shops, etc., see Public Health 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 cannot be too strongly stressed in view of unfortunate experiences in past years. 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

Three cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year. No cause for the upset was found in any of the three cases notified.

National Assistance Act, 1948

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

Refuse Collection and Disposal

This service was operated under considerable difficulties during the year and it became impossible to guarantee a weekly collection during the whole of the year. The number of houses in the area is increasing annually and the Council will have to consider increasing the number of vehicles employed from two to three throughout the year if a weekly collection is to be maintained in the future.

Swimming Pools

There are two privately owned swimming pools in the district. Samples of water are taken for Bacteriological examination regularly during the summer season and are satisfactory in the main,

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

These remain unchanged.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations of discharges, throat swabs, etc., are done at the Ministry of Health Laboratory, Conway. During 1956 they numbered 57.

In addition 124 samples of water, 46 samples of milk and 9 samples of ice cream were reported upon by the laboratory.

Ambulance Service

This service is now provided by the County Council through its Ambulance and Sitting Car Service. The Service has its Headquarters at Holywell, the 'phone number being Holywell 3373.

Home Nursing

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

There is the equivalent of three full time Home Helps 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 second and fourth Tuesday mornings 10-30 to 12-30, Orthopaedic Nurse attends every session. Surgeon attends every two months.

Ante-natal Clinics are conducted by the Obstetrician and are held at the School and M. & C.W. Clinic, Kings Avenue on the first and second Friday in each month, at 9.30 a.m.,

The Tuberculosis Clinic, in charge of the Medical Officers of the Welsh Regional Board has now removed to the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl and is held there every Friday morning 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 and St. Asaph General Hospital Out Patients Departments. 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. The Clinic at St. Asaph General Hospital is held on Tuesdays, from 5.15 p.m. to 7.15 p.m.

TIMES OF CLINICS

Wrexham & East Denbighshire War Memorial Hospital

Mondays—Males, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesdays—Males, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
 Fridays—Females, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Chester Royal Infirmary

Mondays—Females, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 Wednesdays—Males, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 Thursdays—Females, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 Saturdays—Males, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

St. Asaph Hospital

Tuesdays—Males and Females, 5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Hospitals

There are none in the Urban Area

Infectious cases are treated at the Hawarden or Colwyn Bay Isolation Hospitals.

Notification of Births, Maternity & Child Welfare

This service is 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 Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Board,

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 41 (forty-one). Of these one received treatment at an Isolation Hospital. 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 year 1956, 83 children received their primary immunisation, 36 of these were under 1 year of age, 40 between 1 and 5 years of age, and the remaining 7 were between the ages of 5 and 15 years. In addition 55 children received a boosting dose.

Since 1940, 2459 children have been immunised against diphtheria.

Immunisation is carried out either by the family doctor, or at the Welfare Clinic, Kings Avenue on the fourth Wednesday in each month, from 2 p.m to 3.30 p.m.

Vaccination

55 children under 1 year, 6 children aged 1 year, 5 children between the ages of 2 and 4 years, and 5 children aged 5 to 14 years were successfully given a primary vaccination during the year. 4 people aged 15 years and over were similarly treated.

52 people were revaccinated. 1 was aged between 2 and 4 years, 12 between 5 and 15 years, and 39 were 15 years of age or more.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Material Act 1951

Premises on Register—Nil.

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

It has not been necessary to take any action as a result of smoke nuisances. This is largely due to the ready co-operation of the owners of fuel burning plant in the area.

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.

Area (in acres)	3,655
Population (Census 1910)	4,083
" " 1931	4,511
Estimated population Mid 1956	9,210
Estimated number of inhabited houses 1921 ...	770
" " " " " 1931 ...	1,579
" " " " " 1955 ...	3,284
Rateable value	£147,699
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£599

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth Rate

The number of births registered was 104.

		M	F	Total
Births	{ Legitimate	55	43	104
	{ Illegitimate	2	4	

giving a rate per 1,000 population of 11.3 compared with the rate for England & Wales of 15.7. Corrected for strict comparison our rate would be 14.0 per 1,000 of the population. The correction is required because we have an older than average population.

Deaths of infants under the age of 1 year were 2, giving a rate of 19.2 per 1,000 live births. The rate for England and Wales was 23.8 per 1,000 live births.

Still Births

Total—nil.

Death Rate

The total number of deaths of residents credited to the area was 147. The number of deaths of residents and non-residents registered by the local Registrar was 95. To this total there has to be added 61 deaths of residents who died outside the area and from this total of 156 deaths have to be subtracted 9 deaths of non-residents who died in the Prestatyn U.D., which leaves us with our final figure of 147 deaths of residents.

These 147 deaths in ratio to our population of 9210 gives the district a crude death rate of 15.9 per 1,000 of the population. Corrected for comparative purposes our rate is 10.9 deaths per 1,000 of the population which compares favourably with the rate of 11.7 deaths per 1,000 of the population for England & Wales.

The outstanding feature is that 43 deaths were those of persons between 70 and 80 years of age, 46 those of persons between 80 and 90 years of age, and 5 deaths of persons over 90 years of age.

Heart diseases accounted for 51 deaths, Intra-

cranial haemorrhage for 33 deaths, and cancer for 18 deaths. All essentially diseases of elderly people.

Tuberculosis accounted for 1 death.

For a complete list of causes of death see Table iii.

Cemetery

There have been 66 interments in Coed Bell Cemetery during 1956 as compared with 73 in 1955.

Protestants—59

Catholics—7

Common Grave—0

I am,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) R. RHYDWEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1956.

DISEASE.	At all Ages	Under 1 year							Over 65	Cases admitted to Hospital
		1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-44	45-64	65		
Scarlet Fever	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	
Diphtheria (Obs.)	
Erysipelas	4	4	8	1	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	1	2	5	...	...	1	...	1	
Measles	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	
Meningococcal Infection	
Food Poisoning	2	2	1	...	...
Dysentery	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid	1	...	...	...	1	
Total ...	41	6	9	15	2	7	2	—	8	

TABLE II.

TUBERCULOSIS—New Cases and Mortality during 1956.

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...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
25...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
35...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
45...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 & upw'd	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
	3	6	...	...	2	...	...	...

CASES ON REGISTER

	Males				Females				Total
	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.					
Dec. 31st, 1955	... 66	... 5	... 44	... 4	... 119				
Dec. 31st, 1956	... 68	... 5	... 50	... 4	... 127				

TABLE III.—Causes of Deaths
during the year 1956.

	Males	Females	Total
1 Tuberculosis Respiratory ...	1	0	1
2 " Other	0	0	0
3 Syphilitic Diseases ...	0	0	0
4 Diphtheria ...	0	0	0
5 Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0
6 Meningococcal Infection ...	0	0	0
7 Acute Poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0
8 Measles ...	0	0	0
9 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	0	0	0
10 Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	0	1
11 " " Lung		0	0
" " Bronchus	2	0	2
12 " " Breast ...	0	1	1
13 " " Uterus ...	0	1	1
14 Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	7	6	13
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	0	0	0
16 Diabetes ...	1	0	1
17 Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System ...	14	19	33
18 Coronary Disease, Angina ...	11	17	28
19 Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	2	4	6
20 Other Heart Diseases ...	7	10	17
21 Other Circulatory Diseases ...	3	4	7
22 Influenza ...	0	1	1
23 Pneumonia ...	4	2	6
24 Bronchitis ...	0	3	3
25 Other Diseases of the Respiratory System ...	0	1	1
26 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	0	1
27 Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea ...	0	2	2
28 Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	2	0	2
29 Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	0	0	0
30 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	0	0	0
31 Congenital Malformations ...	0	0	0
32 Other Defined and Illdefined Diseases ...	10	3	13
33 Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	2	0	2
34 All other Accidents ...	2	2	4
35 Suicide ...	1	0	1
36 Homicide and War Operations	0	0	0
All Causes ...	71	76	147

ADULTERATION, ETC.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Your Inspector under this Act has reported as follows:—

Herewith are the particulars of the samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act 1955, in the Prestatyn Urban District Council area, during the year ending December 31st, 1956:—

Description of Article	Number of Samples taken	Genuine	Not Genuine or below standard
Milk	16	14	2
Dairy Produce ...	3	3	
Sausages	8	8	
Ice Cream	4	4	
Confectionery ...	4	4	
Alcoholic Drinks ...	3	8	
Condiments	3	3	
Patent Medicines ...	4	4	
Miscellaneous Groceries	8	8	
	Total	53	51
		51	2

The two milk samples were slightly below standard for fat content and a warning letter was sent to the producer.

(Signed) E. LEWIS.

County Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1956

General Summary of Visits, Etc.

General Sanitation

Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	71
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	454
Stables, Piggeries, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	10
Camps, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	83
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	25
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	14
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	199
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	186
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	—
Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	10
Special Visits re Housing	...	...	...	...	...	111
Visits under Nat. Ast. Act, Sec. 47 and 60	...	...	...	...	...	—
Premises re insect pests	...	...	...	...	...	64
Miscellaneous Visits and Reinspections	...	...	...	...	...	208
Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	...	...	340
Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	329
Number of Preliminary notices served for nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	31
Formal notices for nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	—

Infectious Disease

Number of cases occurring	...	...	...	...	...	41
Enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	28
Number removed to Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	3
Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	25

Meat & Food Inspection

Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	59
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	57
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	86

Sanitary Defects etc.

Number of stopped drains	...	...	...	...	...	423
Number of defective drains	...	...	...	...	...	41
Choked or insanitary ditches	...	...	...	...	...	3

Number of defective septic tanks	...	...	...	...	4
Defective W.C. cisterns and fittings	...	...	...	...	3
Defective E.C. and W.C.	...	...	...	...	4
Dirty condition of houses, outhouses and yards	...	...	...	...	14
Animals etc, kept under insanitary conditions	...	...	...	...	2
Want of Lime Washing	...	...	...	...	—
Defective inspection chambers	...	...	...	...	7
Defective sink and wastepipes	...	...	...	...	7
Defective Roofs	...	...	...	...	26
Defective Floors	...	...	...	...	19
Defective Pavings	...	...	...	...	10
Defective eaves and downspouts	...	...	...	...	21
Defective doors	...	...	...	...	8
Defective windows	...	...	...	...	17
Defective sinks and washbasins	...	...	...	...	2
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	...	...	...	...	4
Accumulation of Refuse	...	...	...	...	11
Dilapidated dust bins	...	...	...	...	70
Defective wall and ceiling plaster	...	...	...	...	24
Dampness	...	...	...	...	33
Defective Grates	...	...	...	...	10
Infestations by insect pests	...	...	...	...	38
Defective Chimneys	...	...	...	...	2
Rat & Mice infestations	...	...	...	...	100
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	11
Insufficient Water Supply	...	...	...	...	2

Nuisances from premises other than dwellings

Farms & Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	4
Camps & Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	5
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	—
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	—
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	2
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakeries	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	4
Garages, Etc.	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	9

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Number of visits re Collection and Salvage...	...	...	...	...	83
Number of visits re Disposal	...	...	...	...	92

The maintainence of a weekly collection with existing lorries and staff is becoming increasingly difficult. The town is growing in size each year and the service is greatly overtaxed during the summer season by the occupation of the camps and the influx of visitors into the area.

Serious onsideration will have to be given to the question of splitting up the area into three districts in the near future if the efficiency of the service is to be maintained.

Householders can assist by disposing of garden refuse themselves, and by keeping waste paper and rags out of the bin for salvage.

The work of operating a controlled tip on the newly acquired land is progressing satisfactorily and an area of approximately two acres of marshy ground has been covered to a depth of six feet

A word of appreciation must go to the refuse collectors for their loyalty and cheerfulness in carrying out their duties in all kinds of weather.

Sick leave taken by the refuse staff (12 men) during the year totalled 223 days as compared with 106 days last year.

2562 loads weighing 5529 tons were collected and disposed of, also, 26 nightsoil pails are serviced each week.

No charge is made for disposal of refuse at the Refuse Tip by private persons residing within the Urban Area.

Total tonnage refuse collected	...	...	...	5529
Total tonnage refuse disposed of	...	..	...	5700
Area of district, in acres	...	...	...	3655
Population	...	...	...	9210

Number of premises...	...	...	...	...	3918
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	£147,699
Product of ld. in £	...	...	...	...	£599
General Rate in £	...	...	...	...	...17s. 6d.

Salvage

	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs	£	s.	d.
Rags ...	6	12	3	10	132	16	9
Mixed Metal		10	2	10	6	1	9
Heavy Scrap	14	15	0	4	77	9	0
Light Scrap		16	1	0	2	8	9
Miscellaneous		4	3	0	2	1	0
Fibreboard	5	14	1	18	57	4	2
White Paper		7	3	6	4	1	10
Magazines		10	0	12	4	16	0
White Paper	184	19	2	24	1405	7	4
	214	11	2	0	£1692	6	7
Salvage 1955	246	19	0	24	£2049	1	6

The work of salvage disposal was seriously curtailed during the summer by a fire which occurred in June and completely destroyed the baling shed and all the equipment, including the baling machine. However, thanks to the good offices of the Chief Public Health Inspector of Rhyl, we were able to dispose of limited amounts. Two new sheds have been built and a new baler put into operation to replace those destroyed.

The introduction of a system of quotas by the Mills also contributed to the lower output during 1956.

It is hoped that efforts will continue to be made to salvage as much material as in the past, since the revenue from such a source can make a considerable contribution to the rate fund.

Salvage paper is sold to The Thames Board Mills, all other materials such as rags and iron being disposed of locally.

The saving of tipping space, together with the improved conditions of the Refuse Tip fully justifies the cost of separating and baling.

Water Sampling

	Bacterio- logical	Satisfac- tory	Unsatis- factory
Town Main supply	24	23	1
Holywell R.D.C. supply ...	13	9	4
Private Supply, Wells, etc. ...	2	2	0
Streams ...	3	3	0
Swimming Pools ...	22	16	6
Total samples taken ...	64	53	11

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

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

Milk Supplies

Number of Samples taken of each grade

Sterilised ...	1
Pasteurised ...	20
Tuberculin Tested ...	17
T.T. Pasteurised ...	4
Total ...	42

Results of Examinations

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested ...	15	2
Pasteurised ...	20	0
Sterilised ...	1	0
T.T. Pasteurised ...	4	0
Number of farms producing milk within the district ...	9	
Tuberculin tested ...	6	
Ungraded ...	3	

The milk producers and retailers are to be congratulated on these results. The samples are taken monthly, so the results show a continued attention to clean milk production methods throughout the year.

Milk Licenses

Dealers Licenses—	Tuberculin tested	....	9
	Pasteurised	....	12
	Sterilized	....	14
Supplementary Licenses—	Tuberculin tested	....	2
	Pasteurised	....	2
	Sterilized	....	2
Milk Distributors on Register....	....	....	21
Visits to Dairies and Milk shops	....	....	64

Fried Fish Shops

Number of Fried Fish shops in District	....	....	5
These shops are well conducted.			

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 14

(1) Number of Food Premises in the area, by type of premises :—

Grocers....	....	....	36	Sweet Shops	....	16
Greengrocers	....	....	12	Licensed Houses	....	8
Confectioners	....	....	11	Registered Clubs	....	9
Bakeries	....	....	14	Boarding Houses	....	5
Restaurants & Snack Bars	....	....	20	Hospitals	....	1
Butchers	....	....	11	Homes	....	5
Fishmongers and Game	....	....		Schools	....	6
Dealers	....	....	4	Cinemas & Theatres	....	3
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	7	Ice Cream Kiosks	....	5
				Candy Floss Kiosks	....	2
TOTAL			....	175		

This figure represents approximately one-third of the total business premises in the area.

(II) Food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Grocers	18	Kiosks	5
Restaurants and Snack Bars	11	Fried Fish Shops ...	7
Sweet Shops	7	Butchers	1
Greengrocers	2		

Dairies registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949-54 2
 Number of shops retailing milk in closed containers 16

(III) 254 visits of inspection have been paid to Food premises in general, and 183 to those premises which are registered under the above mentioned Act and Regulations.

The year under review saw the advent of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955—1956, which applied to all food premises.

A resumé of the provisions of the Regulations was circularised to all food traders, the majority of whom have taken steps to comply with requirements. The services of the Department have frequently been called upon in an advisory capacity by occupiers who wished to bring their premises up to standards and conditions generally have improved.

Although the Food Hygiene Regulations have laid down certain standards which are expected to be reached, the customer can obtain more far-reaching results by refusing to accept anything less than the cleanest of conditions, not only in shop premises, but in the way foodstuffs are handled generally, and I am pleased to observe a growing tendency on the part of the public to demand these better conditions.

Ice Cream

Nine samples of this commodity were taken

during the season and the results are as follows :—

Grade I	...	...	2
Grade II	...	...	6
Grade III	...	...	0
Grade IV	...	...	1

Those in Grade I and II can be regarded as satisfactory.

These results are satisfactory and they go to show the keen interest taken by the manufacturers and vendors to serve the public with a clean and wholesome article of food.

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.

SOLIDS				LIQUIDS	
		lbs.	ozs.		
Fats	...	33	8	Milk	... 9 pints
Fish	....	7	5½	Flavouring	11 gallons
Meat	....	142	9½	Sauce	... 175 fluid ounces
Milk and Milk Products		23	12		
Soups....	....	7	9½		
Vegetables, Fruit	....	270	12½		
Miscellaneous ...	....	241	13½		
		<hr/>	<hr/>		
		727	6¼		
		<hr/>	<hr/>		

Byelaws under Section 15 of Food & Drugs Act 1938

No formal action was taken under the Byelaws during the year :

Private & Adoptive Acts, in force

- Prestatyn Urban District Act 1909.
- Prestatyn Water Act 1901.
- Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act 1890.
- Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1890 (Whole Act)
- Public Libraries Acts 1892 and 1893.
- Private Street Works Act 1892
- Public Health Act 1925 (Whole Act)
- Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1907
(Except Parts V, VII and IX).

Byelaws

- Sanitary and Cleanly Conditions in Handling Food 1950.
- Building Byelaws 1939.
- Tents, Vans, Sheds, and Similar Structures used for human habitation 1931.
- Nuisances 1899.
- Slaughterhouses 1899.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	38		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	42			
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)				
TOTAL	44	38	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	3	3		
Overcrowding				
Unreasonable temperature				
Inadequate ventilation				
Ineffective drainage of floors...				
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) insufficient	1	1		
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	5	4		
(c) not separate for sexes ...				
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)				
TOTAL	9	8	Nil	Nil

Rodent Infestation

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

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

The sewers were testbaited during the year. 45 manholes were baited at various points on the sewerage system. There were 3 "part-bait takes" which indicates that the rat population of the sewers at that time was practically nil.

Small infestations, chiefly in private dwellings are dealt with as they arise, but those inhabitants who keep poultry or are bird lovers could assist in keeping down the number of infestations by taking care that no unconsumed food is allowed to remain on or near the ground.

Residents are extremely co-operative in reporting the presence of rats or mice, and the Department endeavours to take prompt action on receipt of such reports.

The disinfestation service is free to householders and a small charge is made for work done on business premises.

The Refuse Tip and Sewage Works are treated regularly, and there is no "resident" rat population, but numbers sometimes increase at harvest time.

The use of "Wafarin" has proved to be very effective and it has been possible to clear up all infestations, both major and minor, with safety as far as other animals are concerned.

TREATMENT CARRIED OUT:—

Private Dwellings	...	...	...	58
Council Dwellings	...	...	...	2
Business Premises	...	...	...	26

Council Property other than Dwellings	...	14
Farms	...	3
Total Visits	...	305

Camps

There are eight licensed camping sites in the district.

Bastion Road Camp	30 acres	375 plots
Pen-y-Ffrith Camp	2½ acres	50 plots
Glan-y-Morfa Camp	3¼ acres	25 plots
Plas Morfa Camp	½ acre	9 plots
Morfa Du Camp	2 acres	25 plots
Prestatyn Holiday Camp	7 acres	110 plots
White House Camp	¼ acre	6 plots
Tan-y-Don Camp	3 acres	60 plots

Tan-y-Don is a Caravan Club Site.

The sites are very well conducted and the owners co-operate fully with this Department in keeping the sites clean and tidy. Bastion Road Camp has a Camping Association with a form of "self government" of the site.

The district is very popular with organisations such as Boy Scouts, Boys Brigade, etc., and individual Campers. During the month of August several fields are occupied by these camps. Inspections are made and I find that, almost without exception, they are maintained in good condition.

Talacre Warren

There are 78 hutments within the district, 24 of which are permanently occupied. The remainder are occupied during the summer months only.

The area is not sewerred, nightsoil is disposed of by chemical closets and sullage water is drained to soakaways. Owing to the fact that much of this land is very low-lying, it is frequently flooded in winter, causing excessive dampness in many of the dwellings.

The water supply is provided by the Holywell Rural District Council and is not always sufficient to meet the very great demand made upon it during the summer months, when the population is very much increased by holiday makers.

Household refuse is collected once weekly by this Department, but difficulties are arising due to the indiscriminate dumping of refuse in the area by residents living elsewhere.

The standard of housing in this area is very low, the majority being suitable for inclusion in the Council's rehousing programme. It is possible that this area may revert to its original use for camping in the not too distant future, but if this scheme does not reach fruition, the Council will be obliged to take action.

Public Conveniences

There are eight public conveniences in the town, and are situated at the Parking Ground, near the Palladium Cinema, Coronation Gardens, two at the Central Beach, near the Golf House Hotel, at the Hillside Gardens, at Meliden, and on the Ffrith Beach.

It is with regret that I have to state once again, that although every effort is made to keep the conveniences clean they are often sadly misused and much wanton damage is done.

The conveniences at the Central Beach, Barkby Avenue and the Hillside are not of the standard which is desired, and it is hoped that the question of the provision of adequate new facilities in these areas will be considered in the near future.

Licensed Premises

All premises requiring a Magistrates licence were inspected during the year, and a report was presented to the Licensing Justices at the Brewster Sessions,

The premises inspected are as follows:—

Licensed Houses	...	...	...	7
Licensed Clubs	...	...	...	8
Public Halls, Cafe, etc.	...	...	...	6
Cinemas ...	...	...	...	2

I am pleased to say that I did not have to report adversely on any of these premises.

Mortuary

The mortuary was in use on 1 occasion and 1 postmortem examination was carried out there.

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) 75
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 127
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 7
- (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 ... 25

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	... ..	20
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	... ..	4
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
	(a) By owners	... ..	1
	(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	... ..	2
	(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	...	2
	(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936		
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ..	1
	(1a) Number of houses for which Undertakings were accepted	... ..	0
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pur- suance 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	... ..	6
	(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	1
4.	Housing Act, 1936 (<i>Overcrowding</i>)		
	(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	16
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	30

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	112
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	3
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	5
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	22
(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

The foregoing figures may give the impression that there is but a small overcrowding problem. It must, however, be remembered that these figures refer to "legal overcrowding" in which the standard is very low compared with the normal standards in this area.

The legal standard recognises living rooms as sleeping rooms, so that an ordinary 5 roomed house (2 living rooms and 3 bedrooms) could house 10 adults without been legally overcrowded.

In considering the cases of applicants for houses the Council recognises a "bedroom standard" for overcrowding and this has helped to relieve many cases of near legal overcrowding.

Houses owned by the Local Authority

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

Caradoc Terrace	15	7 x 3 bedrooms,	8 x 2 bedrooms
Dawson Park	72	60 x 3	12 x 2 "
Bryn Melyd Road	22	18 x 3	4 x 2 "
Isfryn Road	22	22 x 2	"
Bryn Rhosyn	174	174 x 3	"
Maes Hendre	112	4 x 4	96 x 3 "
			and 12 x 2 "

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

J. M. EDWARDS,
Public Health Inspector.

CLIMATOLOGY OF PRESTATYN

Temperature

Highest Temperature	...	...	75° on 24th September
Lowest Temperature	...	...	15° on 3rd February
Number of days below freezing point	...	...	42 days

Sunshine

Total for the year	...	...	1442.1 hours
Highest Monthly Total	...	...	(May) 246.4 hours
Lowest Monthly Total	..	...	(December) 34.1 hours

Rainfall

Total for the year	...	...	28.64 inches
Below normal	...	...	1.85 inches
Wettest Month	...	...	(August) 9.52 inches
Driest Month	...	...	(February) 0.29 inches

Visibility

Fog occurred on 1 day.

Hill Fog on 4 days.

Wind

Gales of over 48 m.p.h. ... 3 days, force 8 or more



