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Contributors

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RHYL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

10.11.21

In presenting my twenty-second Annual Report, which includes four months of the war with all its momentous happenings, which are effecting the lives of every one of us in a way that will make us more useful and ready to help one another in this great Crisis in which we are all engaged against the Totalitarian System, because Hitler's aim is to destroy man, woman and child. That is why, to my mind, everything becomes secondary to winning the war.

This is an interim report and follows the form required by the Ministry of Health (Circular 1961 and 2067 Wales).

I append herewith comparative statistics relating to the various health services in the district, which show that the local authority is alert and active in carrying out its various duties.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The work at the Isolation Hospital is satisfactory.

The rule that all patients, in whom there is any doubt about the notification, are placed in the Observation Block until such time as the notification is verified before being removed to the appropriate ward for their particular case, is to prevent, as far as possible, cross infection.

Fourteen cases of Cerebral Spinal Meningitis were received, some gravely ill with the classical symptoms nuchal rigidity, intense headache, vomiting and inability to swallow, all made an excellent recovery.

The remaining six were Clinically Meningitis, two Pneumococcal, one of which died in 26 hours and the other in 3 hours after admission. Four in whom the meningococcus was not found, probably from treatment before admission, made complete recovery as did all the cases of Scarlet Fever (17 cases) and Diphtheria (20 cases), except 2, one boy ill seven to eight days and a woman very ill 5 days only; confined 14 days previously.

In order to help we have admitted cases of Measles (6 cases), Chicken Pox and one Dysentery, all have done well.

HOUSING.

The Housing question have now, as in previous years, become more and more important, as I have so often stressed in these reports considerable progress has been made but a great deal remains to be done to meet the needs of this growing town.

The Health Department has met the present situation with commendable efficiency in all its branches.

RHYL SEWERAGE.

How flooding of the lower parts of the town is being met and prevented.

A new Sewerage Reservoir has been erected with a holding capacity of 1½ million gallons. Two of the small gas engine driven pumps have been removed and two new gas engine driven pumps have been erected in their place, which increase the pumping capacity at the Pumping Station by 8,000 gallons per minute. A new 30" by-pass has been constructed from the Sewer in Westbourne Avenue into the Pump well and this new by-pass together with the extra pumping capacity has reduced flooding in the lower regions of the town to a minimum.

/P.T.O.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is abundant and its purity guaranteed by the great care that is taken of the Reservoirs and the mechanical filtration plant. The Analyst's Reports which are received sometimes weekly state "satisfactory" or "very satisfactory", which is high praise from an Analyst's point of view and is only said when the water is of exceptional purity.

There is one private water supply in the district derived from a borehole 250 ft. deep.

The water from this borehole is not used for human consumption but for trade purposes.

Bacteriological examination of the water showed that its purity was satisfactory.

SWIMMING BATHS.

The water in the swimming baths is receiving close attention and is satisfactory.

THE CUT.

The Cut of which so much was heard is now better kept and cleaner in every way but constant vigilance is always necessary.

SMOKE ABATING.

The smoke nuisance is being attended to, warnings given to various offenders and some efforts are being made to find a remedy which, unfortunately, in some instances causes increased expenditure.

CAMPING.

The conditions are satisfactory and there are practically no complaints thanks to the new control Order R.U.D.C. Act 1935 Sect. 141.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

This is being done when necessary.

The number of houses found to be infested during the year were:-

4 Council and 9 Private Houses, which were disinfested.

The methods employed for freeing the houses from bed bugs were:-

4 Council and 9 Private Houses - Spraying with Vermaline insectide and the use of Sulphur Dioxide Gas.

STATISTICS.

Under the present conditions only the bare figures are given.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area - Exclusive of Foreshore	1,700 acres
Area - Inclusive of Foreshore	2,579 acres
Population at Census 1901	8,461
Population at Census 1911	9,000
Population at Census 1921	13,490
Population at Census 1931	13,485
Population R.C. Estimate 1939	15,940
Number of inhabited houses at Census 1931	3,013

Number of families or separate occupiers 1931	3,183
Rateable Value ending March 31st, 1940.	166,700
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	642
Number of Habited Houses, according to Rate Books	5,056

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

(Registrar-General's Returns).

Live Births	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	228	119	109	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.56
Illegitimate	20	8	12	
Still Births	12	6	6	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 46.15
Deaths	239	113	126	} Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.47
Deaths from puerperal causes:-				
Puereral Sepsis		0		} Rate per 1,000 total (Live and still) births
Other Puerperal causes		1		
Total		1		

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 live births	56.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	16.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	500.0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	34

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

The only noteworthy causes of sickness outside the notifiable or (epidemic) diseases were:- Bronchial Colds, Influenza Colds and Catarrh.

SCHOOL AND MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

The seven elementary schools and one secondary school within the district have received attention.

Epidemic sickness, viz:- Measles, Whooping Cough, Influenza Colds, and Mumps, were prevalent at varying periods, in consequence of which some of the schools were closed for periods, as a preventative measure. All the schools were disinfected after closure and during the holiday periods. The Medical Inspection of the children attending the school is carried out by the County Medical Officer and Staff. There is a School Clinic at the Old Emmanuel School, Vale Road, which is open each Monday between 1.30 and 4 p.m., when a Doctor is present.

Health Department,
Council Offices,
M.G.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

E. HUGHES JONES,

August, 1940.

Medical Officer of Health.

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