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RHYL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(E. HUGHES JONES, M.D., C.M., J.P.)

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT


OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

(E. L. LLOYD JONES, M.S.I.A., M.R.S. Inst.)

FOR THE YEAR

1941



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RHYL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(E. HUGHES JONES, M.D., C.M., J.P.)

FOR THE YEAR

1941

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

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my twentyfourth Annual Report for 1941 it is memorable that during three years of war we have every reason to be thankful to God Almighty that we have not experienced the suffering and horrors of it, nor have I seen or heard of any cases of mal-nutrition due to shortage of essential foods.

The report follows the form required by the Ministry of Health.

The absence of any epidemics is I think due to the vigilance of the local Health Authorities and the provision by the Ministry of Health of increased accommodation for cases likely to effect the health of the community. I would refer especially to the Isolation Hospital and the "Coleg Clwyd" Sick Bay for treating Scabies, Impetigo and other mycotic diseases.

IMMUNISATION.

The number of children who completed the course of Immunisation during the year were:- children under 5 years - 411, over 5 years of age - 2,113, a total of 2,524, in addition to these figures I have ascertained that approximately 265 children were immunised by their own medical practitioner which gives a grand total of 2,789.

These figures prove the popularity of its effectiveness, enlightened parents now being anxious to do all they can to protect their children as even if the child develops diphtheria after immunisation the attacks are mild and usually accompanied by streptococcal infection which in some cases may bring on an attack, according to Dr. Robinson of the Emergency Public Health Laboratories, Conway. Dr. Weaver, Medical Officer of Health of Brisbane, in the British Medical Journal, states, that in a population of 325,890 before immunisation, the number of cases of diphtheria in 1938 were 459 whilst in 1942 there were only 22 cases after 80% of the child population had been immunised. As the maximum incidence of the disease is during the second, third and fourth years of life as stated in my previous report, it is essential that all children between the ages of 1 and 5 years should be immunised, as up to the present less than 50% at this age have taken advantage of the free service in the Rhyl Urban District.

During 1940 the number of deaths from diphtheria in England and Wales were 265, whilst there were from scarlet fever 12, measles 95, pertussis 78, tuberculosis 264. It is now established that immunisation affords protection to all ages from 12 months to adult life, the schick test being negative to the extent of 99.5% with 2 injections of A.P.T. and 99.0% with three injections of T.A.F. The latter treatment requiring injections



in larger doses and usually at fortnightly intervals.

I have gone into more detail with the prophylactic treatment of diphtheria which heads the list in the number of deaths of zymotic diseases.

#### ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The number of cases treated in the Isolation Hospital with their classification is of great interest showing the need of prompt and early treatment to obtain the best results, both for the safety of the community and the lives of the patients especially with diphtheria and cerebro-spinal meningitis. It also shows that every suspicious throat or nose of a sick person should be swabbed or the patient removed to the hospital as a "query" rather than wait a positive confirmation, as in some cases, Doctors are well aware there is little evidence clinically to show the presence of the disease particularly with carriers. It is recognised that among the ill effects which diphtheria may cause in childhood the damage inflicted upon the heart is the most serious and most common in all except the mild cases.

#### GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME - SICK BAY.

The "Coleg Clwyd" premises taken over by the Welsh Board of Health in connection with the Government Evacuation Scheme for the treatment of scabies and impetigo will supply a long felt want, the accommodation is 50 beds and is for the treatment of children between 5 and 15 suffering from skin diseases in any part of the County of Flint. The large percentage of cases in the Armed Forces can never be prevented unless the homes the men return to when on leave are clean and free from infection, and I cannot stress too strongly the washing, after steam disinfection, of all bedding and personal clothing from infected houses. Extra care is needed in the treatment of all scabies cases to get rid of the cause, *acarus scabiei* which is always near the surface and not in the end of the tunnel where one would expect to find it.

#### ENTERIC FEVER.

A rather unusual feature of this report is the occurrence of 7 cases of Enteric Fever (paratyphoid) who were all treated successfully at the Isolation Hospital, practically all the cases were in one family and the source of infection was found to be outside the Urban District, traceable to a farm the one source of water supply being from a polluted stream nearby, and after appropriate measures had been taken no further cases were reported locally. It is satisfactory to note that there were no sources of infection within the town itself.

#### WATER.

The water supply is abundant and frequent analysis show that it is of high bacteriological standard of purity and the local authority are fully alive to the ever constant needs of the district.

#### PUBLIC BATHS.

These are visited regularly, samples for analysis are taken to keep up the standard of purity and so safeguard the health of the people who use them.

#### RHYL CUT.

The condition of this water course is much better than it used to be, but I appeal to the public not to deposit



litter therein, and so cause needless expense in cleaning and interfering with its draining efficiency.

#### PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

This essential public health service is now demonstrated more than ever with so much government control of meat supplies and shows how important it is, but why there should be such a lot of food condemned as unfit for human consumption is surely not beyond the powers that be to remedy.

#### CAMPING.

All the licenced camping grounds in the district were kept under close observation, and the general health conditions were found to be satisfactory.

#### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

This work is being done where necessary.

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

7 Council houses and 19 private houses, which were disinfested.

The method employed for freeing the houses from bed bugs was:-

7 Council and 19 private houses:- Spraying with vermicine and sulphur dioxide gas.

#### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Under present conditions only the bare figures are given.

#### POPULATION.

The Population of the District as given in the census returns for 1931 was 13,485. The Registrar General estimates the figure for last year as being 21,530.

#### BIRTH RATE.

During the year there were registered after inward and outward transfers, 350 births (R.G.R.), viz: 184 males and 166 females. Out of this number 12 males and 14 females were illegitimate. The rate on the estimated population is 16.26 per 1,000 or 1.95 higher than that of 1940 and 25.95 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485). The birth rate for England and Wales for the same period is 14.2. The local Registrar's returns show that 281 births, viz: 151 males and 130 females were registered within the district - which is equal to the rate of 13.05 per 1,000 of the estimated population (21,530); 20.84 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485).

The birth rate of 16.26 per 1,000 is the highest accorded birth rate in the last 10 years, and is 2.06 per 1,000 above the figure for England and Wales.

#### DEATH RATE.

The total deaths from all causes registered (R.G.R.) was 308, viz: 152 males and 156 females, which gives a corrected death rate of 14.31 per 1,000 of the population, and is lower than that of 1940 by 0.12; a rate of 22.09 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485). The local Registrar's returns show that 311 deaths were registered within the district - which is equal to a rate



of 14.44 per 1,000 of the estimated population (21,530); 23.06 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485), but of that number (311) 54 were non-residents whose deaths were registered and transferred to their different localities. On the other hand 57 persons belonging to the district died outside its boundaries, and are to be added to the local deaths of residents, giving a true or "corrected" death rate of 14.58 of the estimated population (21,530); 23.28 of the census population (13,485).

#### Rate amongst persons aged 65 years and upwards:-

At this age period 165 deaths occurred between the ages of 65 and 101, the average being 76 years, giving a rate of 7.66 per 1,000 of the estimated population (21,530); 12.24 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485).

The 165 deaths equal 44.8 per cent. of the total deaths registered inside and outside the district, i.e. 311 local deaths plus 57 deaths of persons transferred to the district - 368.

In the total of 165, 35 non-residents whose deaths were registered and transferred in their own districts and 26 belonging to this district, whose deaths were registered elsewhere, are included.

The total percentage of deaths aged 65 years and upwards actually belonging to the district, after inward and outward transfers, is equal to 49.7.

#### ZYMOTIC MORTALITY.

4 Deaths occurred from the principal Zymotic Diseases, equal to a rate of 0.19 per 1,000 of the estimated population (21,530) and 0.22 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485).

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Amongst infants under one year there were 33 deaths (R.G.R.), or in the proportion of 94.2 per 1,000 registered births, as against 59 for England and Wales and 92.3 for the district in 1941.

#### PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

11 Deaths were caused by Pulmonary Tuberculosis, equal to 0.55 per 1,000 of the estimated population (21,530), and 0.82 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485).

#### OTHER TUBERCULOSIS DISEASES.

Under this heading five deaths occurred, equal to a rate of 0.23 per 1,000 of the estimated population (21,530), and 0.37 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485).

#### OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Under this heading three deaths occurred, equal to a rate of 0.14 per 1,000 of the estimated population (21,530); and 0.22 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485). Also Bronchitis 24, equal to a rate of 1.11 per 1,000 of the estimated population (21,530) and 1.78 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485). Pneumonia 13, equal to a rate of 0.60 per 1,000 of the estimated population, and 0.96 per 1,000 of the census population.

#### DEATH RATE FROM CANCER.

39 Deaths were ascribed to Cancer, the rate being 1.81 per 1,000 of the estimated population (21,530), and 2.89 per 1,000



Pneumonia	3	2 died. (1 in hospital 3 days & 1 in hospital 15 days).
TOTAL	135	125 cured. 6 died. = 95.5% cured.

During the last ten years the number of cases of Infectious Diseases admitted and the Mortality Rate are as follows:-

Year	Cases Admitted.	Deaths	Mortality Rate per 1,000
1932 ... ..	36	1	27.7
1933 ... ..	104	5	48.1
1934 ... ..	87	5	57.5
1935 ... ..	59	1	16.9
1936 ... ..	26	1	38.4
1937 ... ..	52	1	19.2
1938 ... ..	49	1	20.4
1939 ... ..	42	2	47.6
1940 ... ..	81	3	37.0
1941 ... ..	135	6	44.4

#### 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 ... ..	9,005
Population at Census 1921 ... ..	13,490
Population at Census 1931 ... ..	13,485
Population R.G. Estimate 1941 ... ..	21,530
Number of inhabited houses at Census 1931 ... ..	3,013
Number of families or separate occupiers 1931 ... ..	3,183
Rateable Value ending March 31st, 1942 .. ..	£167,600
Sum represented by a Penny Rate . . . . .	£698
Number of Inhabited Houses, according to Rate Books .	5,090

#### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

(Registrar-General's Returns).

Live Births	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate ... ..	324	172	152	) Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... .. 16.26
Illegitimate . . . . .	26	12	14	
Still Births ... ..	12	7	5	) Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. 33.15
Deaths .. . . .	308	152	156	
				) Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... .. 14.30
Deaths from puerperal causes:-	Deaths			
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	0			Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Other Puerperal causes . . . . .	0			
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-				
All Infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	89.92			
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births . . . .	87.99			
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births . . . .	120.83			
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .. . . .	1			
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	3			



of the census population (13,485); an increase of 0.17 over that of 1940.

#### VACCINATION RETURNS.

The Local Registrar has supplied me with the following information:-

During the year 1941 the number of successful vaccinations were 45, whilst 79 exemptions were granted, and 24 died unvaccinated. The number of births were 350, showing that only 12.8 per cent. of the children born were vaccinated.

#### NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This section of Public Health Administration is entirely under the control of the Flintshire County Council and their Health Visitor. A Welfare Centre has been established at the Old Emmanuel School, Vale Road, at which local ladies also give voluntary assistance.

#### VENEREAL DISEASES.

This Department is also under the control of the Flintshire County Council, the nearest station for treatment being Chester.

#### ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The number of cases of Infectious Diseases admitted into the Hospital was 135.

Disease.	No. of cases Admitted.	Result.
Scarlet Fever	44	All cured.
Scarlet Fever (Suspects)	4	" "
Scarlet Fever & Diphtheria	1	" "
Scarlet Fever & Measles	1	" "
Scarlet Fever & Whooping Cough	1	" "
Enteric Fever	8	" "
Measles	1	" "
Measles & Broncho-Pneumonia	2	" "
Broncho-Pneumonia	1	" "
Dysentery	1	" "
Pemphigus Neonatorum	2	" "
Chicken Pox & Scarlet Fever	1	" "
Eczema	2	" "
Erysipelas	1	" "
Parotitis (Mumps)	2	" "
Scabies	10	" "
Whooping Cough	8	" "
Whooping Cough & Bronchitis	1	" "
Whooping Cough, Vermineous Head & Impetigo	2	" "
Whooping Cough, Measles & Broncho-Pneumonia	1	" "
Diphtheria (Suspects)	7	" "
Diphtheria	16	2 died. (1 in hospital 9 days & 1 in hospital 14 days).
Meningitis	3	1 died. (In hospital 6 days).
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	12	1 died. (In hospital 15 days).



Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	39

#### 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 five elementary and 2 central 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 schools 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.

#### SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Herewith I append the Report and Statistics supplied to me by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E.L. Lloyd Jones, also the usual statistics.

(Signed) E. HUGHES JONES, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

#### SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

For the Year ending 31st December, 1941.

#### TABLE 1. - GENERAL SUMMARY.

Number of complaints received ... ..	1,586
Number of Drains and W.C.'s Released and Cleansed by Department..	1,518
Number of Nuisances Found ... ..	252
Number of Nuisances abated .. ..	160
Number of Nuisances Not Abated .. ..	92
Number of Preliminary Notices Served ... ..	104
Number of Statutory Notices Served .. ..	92
Number of Reference to Officials ... ..	16
Number of Visits to Infectious Diseases and Enquiries ... ..	172

#### TABLE 11. - SANITARY DEFECTS.

Damp Living and Bedrooms ... ..	9
Defective Chimney Pots, Flues and Stacks ... ..	10
Defective Roofs . ... ..	7
Defective Floors, Living and Bedrooms ... ..	11
Defective Gutters and Downspouting .. ..	6
Defective Plaster, Wall and Ceilings ... ..	5
Defective Window Frames, Casings and Doors .. ..	4
Cords to Windows and Fastenings . ... ..	4
Defective Dustbins .. ..	30
Defective Kitchen Ranges and Grates . ... ..	11
Filthy Fowl Pens and Yards .. ..	2
Remove Accumulation . ... ..	10
Defective Pavement .. ..	2
Filthy Houses, Van, Rooms and Walls . ... ..	15
Filthy Bedclothes and Wearing Apparel ... ..	1
Defective Entrance Gates and Step ... ..	4
Filthy Floors, Food Preparing Room .. ..	2
Miscellaneous ... ..	2



## DRAINAGE AND WATER CLOSETS.

Choked Drains or W.C.'s. ....	13
Defective Fittings, W.C. and Sinks . . . . .	22
Defective W.C. Premises . . . . .	5
Defective Access Covers and Chambers . . . . .	6
Absence of Water Supply . . . . .	18
Defective Gully and Surrounds .. . . .	7
Defective Waste Pipes .. . . .	13
Defective Soil Pipe . . . . .	1
Defective Flushing Cistern . . . . .	10
Choked Ditch . . . . .	1
	<u>231</u>

FACTORIES.

Filthy W.C. Premises . . . . .	2
Limewashing Overdue . . . . .	2

## TABLE III. - INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of Cases Reported by M.O.H. and Enquiries made .. .	172
Number of Cases Removed to Isolation Hospital .. . . .	119
Number of Rooms Disinfected, Lamp and Spray . . . . .	155
Number of Rooms Disinfected, Sulphur . . . . .	7
Number of Houses Disinfected, Sulphur .. . . .	5
Number of Houses Disinfected, Spray . . . . .	27
Number of Houses Disinfected, Lamp and Spray . . . . .	2
Number of Rooms Disinfected, Spray only . . . . .	73
Number of Wards Disinfected. . . . .	51
Number of Articles Disinfected by Steam . . . . .	7,907
Number of Articles Disinfected by Lamp only . . . . .	-
Number of Schools Disinfected .. . . .	6
Number of Motor Ambulances, Cars and Vans Disinfected .. .	413
Number of Books Destroyed .. . . .	22
Number of Articles Destroyed with Consent of Owner . . . . .	57
Number of Canteens Disinfected, Spray only . . . . .	11
Number of Chapels Disinfected, Spray only .. . . .	5
Number of Camp Huts Disinfected, Spray only . . . . .	2
Disinfector Used (Steam) . . . . .	116

## TABLE IV. - SCAVENGING.

Loads of Ashes to Refuse Destructor and Tip . . . . .	3,132
Loads of Trade Refuse to Destructor and Tip . . . . .	612
Loads of Fish Refuse to Destructor and Tip . . . . .	121
Loads of Pumping Station Refuse . . . . .	101
	<u>3,966</u>

Total Loads: 3,966 - 12.8 per working day.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR.ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED FROM 1/1/41 TO 31/12/41.

Cattle	2,050
Calves	1,933
Sheep & Lambs	34,585
Pigs	1,151
TOTAL	<u>39,719</u>

QUANTITY OF MEAT SEIZED AND DESTROYED FROM 1/1/41 TO 31/12/41.

17 tons, 19 cwts. 21 lbs.

UN SOUND FOOD.

During the year the following from Tradesmen's Premises were condemned as being unfit for human consumption, and their

use for such purpose prevented, same being voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:-

49 Tins Sardines.  
 31 Tins Herrings.  
 9 Tins Salmon.  
 9 Tins Pilchards.  
 33 Tins Peas.  
 12 Tins Beans.  
 44 Tins Carrots.  
 1 Tin Beetroot.  
 35 Tins Pork & Beans.  
 1 Tin Vegetables.  
 10 Tins Plums.  
 1 Tin Fruit Salad.  
 5 Tins Raspberries.  
 3 Tins Red Plums.  
 73 Tins Peaches.  
 15 Tins Apples.  
 4 Tins Soup.  
 6 Tins Rabbit.  
 10 Tins Jam.  
 252 Tins Milk.  
 1 Tin Beef.  
 2 Tins Lunch Tongue.  
 7 Tins Meat.  
 11 Tins Pork Luncheon Meat.  
 16 6lb. Tins Pork Luncheon Meat.  
 6½ lbs. Gala Pie.  
 238 lbs. Herrings.  
 28 lbs. Sole.  
 70 lbs. Smoked Codling.  
 14 lbs. Filleted Haddock.  
 70 lbs. Filleted Cod.  
 56 lbs. Carrots.  
 72 lbs. Potatoes.  
 10 1 lb. Jars Tomatoes.  
 1 ½ lb. Jar Tomatoes.  
 110 lbs. Walnuts.  
 10 lbs. Goose.  
 13 lbs. Cheese.  
 14 lbs. National Butter.  
 23 lbs. Gammon.  
 61½ lbs. Beef.  
 26 lbs. Tripe.  
 203½ lbs. Pressed Beef.  
 13 lbs. Pork & Veal.  
 85 Pork Pies.  
 9 Pieces Cake.  
 149 Saveloys.  
 72 Steak Pies.  
 1 Gateau.  
 2 Pkts. Beans.  
 2 Pkts. Cheese.  
 36 doz. Fish Cakes.  
 375 doz. Eggs.  
 159½ doz. Duck Eggs.  
 1 Bottle Onion Extract.  
 1 Bottle Mixed Pickles.  
 1 Leg Pork.  
 14 Pots Paste.  
 2 Jars Betox.  
 16 Stone Fillets of Fish.

#### SALVAGE.

The work of salvage has considerably increased during the year and every effort has been made to return to industry the maximum quantity of raw materials.



I append below the quantities of the various materials salvaged, together with income and expenditure on this work.

	T.	C.	Q.
Wastepaper, books, newspapers, ...	445	1	1
cardboard etc. ....			
Non-Ferrous Metals ...	2	18	1
Iron & Steel . ...	22	18	0
Rags & Bagging ...	18	3	0
Tins . ...	152	18	3
Bones ...	5	17	1
Cullet ...	5	1	0
Bottles (4,478 dozen). ...	22	0	0
Jars (4,267 dozen). ..	20	10	0
TOTAL	695	1	2

INCOME.

£2,924

EXPENDITURE.

£1,828

Excess of income over expenditure £1,096.

Health Department,

Council Offices,

August, 1942.

RHYL.