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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

1942



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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

1942

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

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my twentyfifth Annual Report for 1942, we are in the fourth year of the war, and if there is one thing more than another that we can thank God for, it is a more general feeling of buoyancy than there has been during the preceding war years, and in my humble opinion this has a very marked uplifting, psychological, effect, stimulating us all to greater effort to give all the energy we possess to bring about an early victory, and this affects the health of the whole community.

The report follows the form required by the Ministry of Health Circular 2604 (Wales).

I would like to mention that the health services of the town, although they show no dividends are vitally important to the town, the influx of visitors to the town, and their satisfaction proving its increasing attraction as a health resort.

Milk Supply.

At the time of writing this report the Government has issued a White Paper on "Measures to improve the quality of the Nation's milk supply", which if implemented by legislation will have far reaching effects.

With tuberculin tested milk one has to satisfy the local authority that every animal has undergone the tuberculin test, any reactors being removed from the herd, such test having to be carried out every six months by the County Borough or County Council, and require a veterinary certificate regarding the general health of the herd.

The animals have to be housed in sanitary buildings, and the milk has to conform bacteriologically to a fixed standard.

With regard to "accredited" milk, the producer must obtain a licence from the same authority as above, such licence only being granted if the arrangements for producing clean milk are satisfactory which include the structural condition and cleanliness of buildings, and utensils, so as to satisfy fixed standards of bacteriological purity.

With attested herds, certificates are issued by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries certifying that the animals are free from tuberculosis, after the herd passes two tuberculin tests at an interval of not less than sixty days, and not more than twelve months, without reactors being found.

In spite of all these tests there is no guarantee that tuberculin tested milk is free from abortus infection, streptococci, diphtheria, typhoid, dysentery bacillus and in my opinion the only solution at the present time for a safe germ free milk is by pasteurisation.

Water.

There is no doubt that pure water, as I have said in several of my previous reports is our first line of defence against typhoid, paratyphoid, dysentery, and many other diseases. The absence in statistics of any of these diseases proves how fortunate we are in having an abundant, wholesome and pure supply of water year in and year out. Bacteriological tests are made frequently and the results found very satisfactory showing the water to be free from any pathogenic organisms, and of the highest standard of purity, Ministry of Health Classification: Class I.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The response of parents and children to the dangers of diphtheria have been marked as will be seen from the figures below.

Diphtheria can be prevented to a large extent, as the mortality now, compared with 40 years ago has fallen by 60 per cent. or more, but although the figures are good for immunisation there are still a number of parents who refuse to take advantage of this free service.

The case mortality of diphtheria rises rapidly as the length of the interval between the onset and the administration of antitoxin, and the course of mortality reaches asymptotic level at the fourth day, after which period the progress of the disease is not influenced to any extent by antitoxin treatment, only arrests any further ill effect on the heart by the toxin.

Immunisation Figures.

Number of children of school age who completed course of immunisation.	Number of children under school age who completed course of immunisation.
334	276
The number of children considered to be immunised at 31st December, 1942 were:-	
2,714	687
	Total 3,401
Percentage immunised.	86.0 per cent.
	40.3 per cent.

Isolation Hospital.

The Isolation Hospital is doing very good work. The Matron and staff have seen to it that the patients do not suffer in any way, but are well and efficiently cared for, in spite of the fact that on occasions there has been no domestic staff at all at the hospital.

The care and attention given to the patients, mostly children, ensures their quick recovery and the gratitude of their parents whose anxiety about them is much less when they know and see how well they are cared for in such pleasant surroundings.

Government Evacuation Scheme - Sick Bay.

The "Coleg Clwyd" premises for the treatment of children suffering from scabies and impetigo has been in use during the 12 months.

The number of children treated is 161, and, I am pleased to report that excellent results, after treatment have been obtained, and relieving a lot of over-worked mothers from a very loathsome infection.

Public Baths.

The Public Baths in the town have been visited during the summer season, and samples of the water taken for analysis found satisfactory.

Rhyl Cut.

The Rhyl Cut is now much more efficient to a large drainage area owing to the fact that the Catchment Board are continually cleaning same, but I wish to draw the attention of the public to the fact that this water course should not be made a general dumping ground for refuse which impedes the flow and naturally reduces the drainage capacity.

Public Abattoir.

The public abattoir is still used by the Ministry of Food, but the supervision exercised guarantees that the meat delivered to the public is sound and free from disease.

Camping Grounds.

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

I have little to say about the vital statistics, except to refer to an increase in deaths from cancer and heart disease, the cause is not exactly known, probably there are several reasons for it. Medical advice, in my opinion ought to be sought as early as possible. These increases are not peculiar to Rhyl.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

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

7 Council and 11 private houses which were disinfested.

The method employed for disinfection was spraying with insecticide and the use of sulphur dioxide gas. Bedding from the various houses infested was disinfested in the steam disinfectant.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area - Exclusive of Foreshore	1,700 acres
Area - Inclusive of Foreshore	2,579 acres
Rateable Value ending 31st March, 1943... ..	£167,543
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£666

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.Births.

	M.	F.	Total.
Live Births (Legitimate)	143	138	281
Live Births (Illegitimate)	7	15	22
Total	150	153	303

Total No. of Stillbirths 11.

Deaths.

M.	F.	Total
130	160	290

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

Puerperal Sepsis 0

Other Puerperal causes 0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 live births 56.1

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births . . . 56.9

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births . 45.5

Deaths from Whooping Cough (All ages) 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 1

Deaths from Measles (all ages). 2

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).. 41

Rate amongst persons aged 65 years and upwards.

At this age period 160 deaths occurred between the ages of 65 and 94, the average age being 76 years.

The 168 deaths equal 50.9 per cent. of the total deaths registered.

In the total of 168, 14 non-residents whose deaths were registered and transferred in their own districts, and 23 deaths belonging to this district, whose deaths were registered elsewhere, are included.

ZYMOTIC MORTALITY.

Four deaths occurred from the principal Zymotic diseases, viz:- diphtheria.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Six deaths were caused by Pulmonary Tuberculosis, which was five less than the previous year.

OTHER TUBERCULOSIS DISEASES.

Under this heading four deaths occurred.

OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Under this heading two deaths occurred. Also bronchitis 14, pneumonia 13, a total of 29, as against 40 the previous year.

DEATH RATE FROM CANCER.

Fortyone deaths were ascribed to cancer, being two more than the previous year.

VACCINATION RETURNS.

The Local Registrar has supplied me with the following information for the year 1942:-

The number of successful vaccinations were 33, whilst 53 exemptions were granted. The number of births were 303 showing that only 10.8 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 103.

Disease.	No. of cases admitted.	Result.
Scarlet Fever	18	Cured.
Scarlet Fever & Chickenpox	1	"
Chicken Pox	1	"
Erysipelas, facial	1	"
Whooping Cough	1	"
Measles	2	"
Chicken Pox & Streptococcal	1	"
Parotitis & Eczema ^{Throat}	1	"
Parotitis & diphtheria	2	"
Parotitis	7	"
Poliomyelitis, acute	1	Died (in hospital 1 day).
Tetanus	1	Died (in hospital 2 hrs).
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis (Suspects)	4	1 died. (in hospital 22hrs)
Diphtheria	45	4 died. 1 Laryngeal (in hospital 17 hrs). 1 Post-nasal (in hospital 12 days)
		1 Postnasal (in hospital 31 hrs.) 1 Laryngeal (in hospital 2½ hrs).
Diphtheria Carriers	5	Cured.
Diphtheria Carriers & Scabies	3	"
Diphtheria & Scabies	4	"
Diphtheria (Suspects)	5	"
TOTAL	103	81 cured. 7 died.

Remaining in Hospital, 31st December, 1941.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2
Parotitis	1
Total	3

Remaining in Hospital, 31st December, 1942.

Diphtheria	17
Diphtheria (Suspect)	1
Total	18

SCHOOL AND MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

The five elementary, two central schools and 1 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 one of the schools was closed for a period, 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, 1942.

TABLE I. - GENERAL SUMMARY.

Number of complaints received	1,364
Number of drains and W.C.'s released and cleansed by department.	1,103
Number of nuisances found	295
Number of nuisances abated	204
Number of nuisances not abated	91
Number of preliminary notices served.	224
Number of statutory notices served	35
Number of reference to officials.	10
Number of visits to infectious diseases and enquiries	90

TABLE II. - SANITARY DEFECTS.

Damp living and bedrooms	1
Defective chimney pots, flues and stacks	5
Defective roofs & skylights	6
Defective floors, living and bedrooms	9
Defective eaves gutters and downspouting	8
Defective plaster, walls and ceilings	21
Defective window frames, casings and doors	2
Defective cords to windows and fastenings	2
Defective dustbins	27
Defective kitchen ranges and grates	10
Filthy fowl pens and yards	2
Remove accumulation	7
Defective yard pavement	3
Filthy houses, vans, rooms and walls	9
Filthy bedclothes and wearing apparel	1
Filthy floors, food preparing room	1
Miscellaneous	1

DRAINAGE AND WATER CLOSETS.

Defective drains	5
Choked drains or W.C.'s.	17
Defective fittings, W.C. and sinks	12
Defective W.C. Premises	12
Defective access covers and chambers	6
Absence of water supply	9
Defective gully and surrounds	7
Defective waste pipes	4
Defective soil pipe	10
Defective flushing cistern	3
	<hr/> 200

TABLE III. - INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases reported by M.C.H. and enquiries made ..	70
Number of cases removed to Isolation Hospital ..	103
Number of rooms disinfected, fume and spray	128
Number of rooms disinfected, sulphur	10
Number of houses disinfected, spray	20
Number of houses disinfected, sulphur	6
Number of rooms disinfected, spray only	22
Number of wards disinfected.	32
Number of articles disinfected by steam	3667
Number of schools disinfected	7
Number of motor ambulances and taxis disinfected ...	251
Number of books destroyed	10
Number of articles destroyed with consent of owner . .	18
Number of camp huts disinfected, spray only	35
Disinfectant used (steam)	118

TABLE IV. - SCAVENGING.

Loads of Ashes to Refuse Destructor and Tip	2,285
Loads of Trade Refuse to Destructor and Tip	952
Loads of Fish Refuse to Destructor and Tip	139
Loads of Pumping Station Refuse	79
	<hr/> 3,455

Total Loads: 3,455 - 11.2 per working day.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR.ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED FROM 1/1/42 to 31/12/42.

Cattle	1,512
Calves	1,733
Sheep and Lambs	27,973
Pigs	529
TOTAL	<hr/> 31,747

QUANTITY OF MEAT SEIZED AND DESTROYED FROM 1/1/42 to 31/12/42.

18 tons. 17 cwts. 17 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:-

54 tins Corned Beef.	34 tins Eire Stewed Steak.
104 " Pork Luncheon Meat.	10 " Beef Steak Dumplings.
10 " Tongue.	4 " Casserole Steak.
20 " Soup.	5 " Brisket Beef.
10 " Pork Sausage Meat.	2 " Ready Dinners.
2 " Meat Gelatine.	3 " Lancashire Hot-Pot.
4 " Galentine.	1 " Osterbroth
1 " Eire Meat Roll.	8 " Chopped Ham.
4 " Prem.	2 " Oxo.
1,201 " Milk.	72 " Beans.
9 " Herrings.	21 " Carrots.
65 " Pilchards.	153 " Peas.
16 " Salmon.	1 " Beetroot.
1 " Sardines.	57 " Tomatoes.
1 " Crayfish.	55 " Plums.
1 " Blackberries.	30 " Apples.
3 " Pears.	160 " Peaches & Pears.
82 " Pineapples.	19 " Marmalade.
32 " Jam.	1 " Apricots.
1 " Fruit Salad.	1 " Turnips.
1 " Vegetables.	103½ lbs. American Bully Bacon.
80½ lbs. Bacon.	84 " Pressed Beef.
2 " Pressed Brisket.	7 " Chopped Ham.
2 " Beef Galentine.	27 " Brawn.
1 " Pork Luncheon Meat.	24 " Forequarter Beef.
12 " Boiled Ham.	39½ " Sausage.
7 " Honey-brand Party Loaves.	92 " Steak Pies.
9½ lbs. Turkey.	25 " Prunes.
135 Fish Cakes.	4 Fish Rolls.
3 ton. 17 cwt. 2 qrs. 20 lbs. Potatoes.	162 lbs. Potatoes.
115 Eggs.	30 cwt. Red Cabbage.
6 stone Codlings.	10 stone Cod Fish.
72 lbs. Plaice	139 lbs. Fillet Cod.
11 " Kippers.	122 " Cheese.
3 Jars Beetroot.	2 jars Jam.
2 Jars Picallili.	6 Bars chocolate.

SALVAGE.

The amount of salvage collected by the department shows a considerable increase over last year. The difference in tonnage collected being 162 tons, and it is gratifying to note that the householders in the district have played their part in putting the various materials for collection.

During the year under review 174 salvage stewards were enrolled and they have done excellent work.

The Council installed a mechanical baling machine for waste paper at a cost of £482.

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

	T.	C.	Q.
Wastepaper, books, newspapers, cardboard, etc.	459	14	0
Non-ferrous metals.	3	14	2
Iron & Steel	46	3	3
Rags, bagging & string.	19	12	3
Tins	257	14	1
Bones	8	19	1
Bottles (7,185 dozen)	35	0	0
Jars .. (4,779 dozen)	23	10	0
	<u>857</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>

INCOME.

£4,399

EXPENDITURE.

(Including cost
& fixing of new
baling Machine
£482).

£3,026

Excess of income over expenditure £1,373.

August, 1943.

Health Department,
Council Offices,
RHYL.

