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Contributors

Ruthin Town (Clwyd, Wales). Borough Council.

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BOROUGH OF RUTHIN.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
YEAR 1925.

C. ALDRICH, PRINTER, RUTHIN.

COPY:

RUTHIN.

Supplementary Report to the Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of
Ruthin, 1925.

(1) Arrangements in force for Marking and Inspecting
Meat. Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Owing to the number (6) of private slaughter-houses which are scattered over various parts of the district, it is very difficult to arrange for the inspection of all animals slaughtered, but every endeavour is made to do as much as possible, and the slaughter-houses are frequently visited at the time of slaughter and periodical visits made at other times and it is found that generally they are kept clean and sanitary and regularly lime washed. No arrangements have been made in this district by the Sanitary Authority for the marking of meat under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924.

(2) River or stream pollution.

There is no river or stream pollution within the Borough.

(3) Closet accommodation.

There are about 150 earth closets in the Borough, they nearly all are situated at a considerable distance from the house and adjoining open fields, a steady conversion to water closets has been made from year to year, and no alterations to premises is permitted unless water closets are substituted in place of the old earth closets.

It is estimated that there are about 450 water closets, there are no privy middens, the closet accommodation provided by earth privies is inadequate, one privy in several instances meeting the requirements of too many people; generally the accommodation is better than in the past.

(4) Review of infectious diseases for the last four years.

The Borough has been very free from infectious disease during the last five years, four cases of diphtheria and eight cases of Scarlet Fever being notified during that period, these cases were all sporadic cases and no definite source of infection could be discovered. Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied free and there is no difficulty in procuring an examination of pathological specimens in the case of those unable to bear the expense themselves if it is thought necessary to the public health.

(5) Arrangements in force for disinfecting articles and premises.

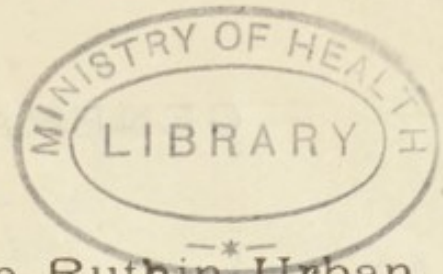
All premises where infectious diseases or tuberculosis have occurred are disinfected by the Sanitary Authority free of charge. There are no means of satisfactorily disinfecting bedding, on occasions in which patients were too poor to afford new bedding it has been supplied free and the old beds burnt. The method adopted is spraying the wall with formalin or by sulphur candles in a closed room, all crevices being blocked up beforehand. A Public Disinfector is very much needed in the district.

(Sgd) W.F.Byford.

M.O.H.
Borough of Ruthin.

August 7, 1926.

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To the Members of the Ruthin* Urban
Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual
Report for the year 1925.

The Vital Statistics and population are based on
the returns supplied by the Register General.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. F. BYFORD.

Medical Officer of Health.

Borough of Ruthin.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

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Area (Acres)2016

Agricultural District. No particular occupation of the inhabitants.

Population for statistical purposes.....2777

Population for 1921.....2767

Number of inhabited houses....775

Rateable value £13658.

Assessable £11224.

Sum represented by a penny rate £40.

VITAL STATISTIC.

		Total	M	F
Births {	Legitimate	34	14	20
	Illegitimate	3	1	2
Birth-rate per 1000 of population			13.3	
Birth-rate England and Wales			18.3	

Previous years	{	1921	44
		1922	49
		1923	44
		1924	36

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DEATHS.

Number.....39

Death-rate per 1000 population.....14

Death-rate England and Wales.....12.2

Deaths of Women in child birth or in consequence of child birth

From Sepsis.....nil

From other causes...nil

	Total.
Deaths of infants under one year	4
" " Illegitimate	nil
Death-rate of infants per 1000 births.....	108
Death-rate of infants England and Wales.....	75

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN INFANTS.

Laryngitis.....	1
Broncho-pneumonia...	1
	—
	2
	—

Death from Whooping Cough.....	nil
Deaths from Measles.....	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)...	nil

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Summary of General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals available for the Area.

- (1) Tuberculosis. National Welsh Memorial Sanatoria outside the area.
- (2) Maternity. Poor Law Hospital within the area. Private wards for paying patients, as well as the ordinary Poor Law cases.
- (3) Fever. Arrangement made by the Council with the Wrexham Fever Hospital by which all patients are transferred there by the Hospitals' own Ambulance.

Provision is made for unmarried mothers Illegitimate children, etc. at the Poor-law Institution within the Area.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES nil within the area.

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Professional Nursing in the Home.

The Queen's Jubilee Nurse and one Midwife supported by fees and voluntary contributions. There is no other midwife within the area.

LABORATORY WORK.

Diphtheria, Anti-toxin supplied free if required.

Bacteriological Examination if necessary.

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Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

—:o:—

Sanitary Administration.

ACTS ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH.

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	Dates of adoption.
Infectious disease (Notification Act), 1899	July, 1890.
Public Health Amendment Act, 1890	March, 1198.
Private Streets Works Act, 1892	March, 1193.
Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds Act., 1915	March, 1907.
Public Health Acts, Amendment Acts, 1907	August, 1912.

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Water Supply.

The supply is by a private Company, it has been sufficient in quantity during the past year, and an adequate supply is now maintained in these areas mentioned in my last report complaints have been received as to the amount of muddy sediment occurring at times in the water.

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Sewage and Dranage.

The town with the exception of farms, etc. in the outlying areas completely drained, owing to building operation about 600 yards of new sewers have been laid, the system has given very little trouble during the year, new houses have Modern Sanitary arrangement, and there are still a large number of privies, some conversions have been made during the year.

Diaries and Cowsheds Order.

The Analysis of milk, etc. is undertaken by the County Council, there is very little storage of milk within the Borough, the chief supply coming from outside the area. Diaries and Cowsheds are frequently inspected, and on the whole are kept clean and wholesome.

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Factory and Workshops Act.

Bakehouses, Factories inspected and any nuisances found were remedied by informal notice.

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Scavenging.

The removal and disposal of house refuse is undertaken by the Corporation who contract one for the purpose.

The cost of collection is about £400 per annum. Moveable ashbins with proper covering have become more general but there are still a considerable number of unsuitable and unsanitary receptacles in use. The present method is giving satisfaction, the refuse is now collected at least once a week. The refuse is taken to the Sewage Farm for levelling purposes covered with road scraping and grass seed subsequently sown.

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Slaughter Houses.

Regularly inspected, limewashed, condition generally satisfactory.

Number of private slaughter houses registered 6

The provision of a Public abattoir in place of the existing slaughter houses scattered over the area is a question which should occupy the attention in the near future.

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Public Elementary Schools.

The Sanitary condition in the two Elementary Schools in the Borough is satisfactory, and there is a sufficient supply of water and lavatory accommodation.

Notifiable Diseases during the year.

Disease.			Total cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	nil	nil
Diphtheria	...	...	1	nil	nil

Since the occurrence of these cases arrangements have been made by which Fever cases are admitted into the Wrexham Fever Hospital.

————:o:————

Housing

(1) GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

There is a gradual improvement in the housing generally, during the last few years most of the unfit houses have been demolished. There is a shortage, and the Council have put in hand the erection of 24 modern houses. The general standard of housing on the whole is satisfactory, there are no houses that can really be called unfit, but many are old, with minor structural defects. There are a few cases of overcrowding due to insufficient bedroom accommodation and inability of some tenants to pay higher rents. There are no areas that could be classified as unhealthy.

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Housing Statistics for the year 1923.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) 7

(b) With State assistance under Housing Acts.

(1) By the Local Authority nil

(2) By other bodies or persons 2

(1) UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES,

Inspection.

- (1) Total number inspected (under Public Health Act.) ...27
- (II) Number inspected and recorded under Inspection of District Regulations.....113
- (III) Number found to be dangerous to health or unfit for habitation..... ni
- (IV) Number (exclusive of pre-ceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 7

(2) REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal Action by the Local Authority.4

(3) ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

A Proceedings under Section 3 of Housing Act, 1925

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....5
- (2) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notices.....4
 - (a) By Owners.....4

By Local Authority in default of owners.....nil

- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders came operative in persuance of declarations by owners to close.....nil

B PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....21
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.....4
 - (a) By Owners.....4
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners.nil
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C PROCEEDINGS UNDER 11, 14 & 15 of HOUSING ACT 1925

- 1 Number of representations made with a view to the making of Ejectment Orders.....nil
- 2 Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....nil
- 3 Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after Closing Order made.....nil
- 4 Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....nil
- 5 Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....nil

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5								
10								
15	1							
20								
25								
35								
45								
58								
Totals.	1							

All cases of Tuberculosis are dealt with by the National Welsh Memorial Association and admitted into Sanatoria under their charge if thought necessary.

The notification of Tuberculosis is efficiently carried out in this District.

All houses disinfected free where a case of Tuberculosis has occurred.

Principal causes of death.

Heart Disease	....	....	11
Bronchitis	....	....	5
Cancer	....	....	3
Nephritis	....	....	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhagæ	....	....	2
Pneumonia	....	....	1
Other Respiratory Diseases		....	1
Ulcer of Stomach	....	....	1
Appendicitis	....	....	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	....	....	1
Congenital debility	....	....	1
Other Diseases	....	....	9
Total			39



