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Contributors

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BOROUGH OF RUTHIN.

The Manor House,
RUTHIN.

4th January 1941.



Mr. Mayor, Miss Beech and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1939, prepared according to the Circular 1961 Wales and Circular 2067 Wales.

This report therefore is in the nature only of an interim report, having regard to the shortage of paper.

The main points of importance to which I would like to draw your attention are the comparatively low incidence of infectious disease, the constant satisfactory reports on the drinking water throughout 1939, and the absence of infection due to evacuation when war began.

Diphtheria notifications were 2 compared with 5 last year. Over 50% of the child population are estimated to have been immunised against this disease.

The evacuees were all medically examined on the day of arrival, and the school nurse visited all infested children next day.

The birth rate rose and so did the death rate, the latter being expected in an area where so many persons come after retirement.

Notifications of tuberculosis were much less than last year.

The water, whenever examined bacteriologically was reported on as satisfactory. There is still, however, insufficient water for the requirements of the town, and insufficient storage necessitates too much reliance upon filtration and chlorination for the production of a pure water. There are too many possible sources of breakdown in the method, calling for great vigilance on the part of the officials who are only part time.

I wish to express my thanks to my colleague Mr. Thomas for his continued helpful co-operation.

Your obedient Servant,

Enid Hughes,

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The population rose from 3188 (estimated) to 3205 (estimated).

Birth rate 16.4 standardised to 14.28. 1938. 15.1. and 11.2
Still birth rate NIL.
Death rate 16.1 standardised to 14.001. 1938. 15.1 and 11.2
Infant mortality rate, 37 per 1000 births. 1938 62.5
Deaths from cancer 4. all males. - less than half 1938.
Deaths from Puerperal causes. NIL.
Deaths from infectious diseases. NIL
Deaths from tuberculosis. 1 female.

The chief industry of the area remains agricultural. There is very little unemployment.

NUTRITION. The Council had decided to arrange public lectures on this subject with free cinema show, in the autumn, but the outbreak of war and the blackout rendered this impossible.

Section B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The only change in these was the establishment of the free laboratory services at the E.M.S. Laboratory at Conway. The advice of the Medical Director has been eagerly sought and most readily given. The provision of all laboratory services free to insured persons seems even more desirable after the experience of the usefulness of this laboratory in its limited work.

The absence of an ambulance remains the one black spot in our health services.

Section C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The water when tested bacteriologically, remained satisfactory throughout 1939. The quantity of the water and the pressure in parts of the town still leaves much to be desired. The quite insufficient storage capacity in the existing reservoirs provides only three weeks supply. Consequently water has to be purchased even in short droughts, and the water purified almost entirely by filtration and chlorination. This last fact necessitates unceasing vigilance by the officials, who are only part-time where the water is concerned.

The other sanitary circumstances remain practically unaltered since 1937.

Section D. HOUSING.

During the year, seven houses were erected in the town, all by private enterprise. Informal action by the Council was taken under the Housing Acts with regard to eighteen houses, and in every case the defect was remedied. The remainder of the houses previously condemned on order to complete the Housing scheme, of which the new houses built in 1937 formed half, were left standing, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health. The previous delay of the Council in this matter is the more regrettable as the town is very full of privately evacuated persons.

Section E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspection of slaughter houses has been greatly facilitated by the centralisation of all slaughter in one slaughter house. Ruthin is the centre for the slaughter of meat for both Ruthin Rural and for the Denbigh area.

Section F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was very little infectious disease. There was none at all amongst official evacuees. A few cases of measles were notified, but there was no epidemic.

There was a sharp outbreak of scarlet fever in the autumn. Two cases of diphtheria were notified. At least 50% of the children attending school are estimated to have been immunised against this disease under the Council scheme. 47 were so immunised during 1939. In all cases the two shot alum precipitate method was used. No Schick tests were performed. The immunisation was carried out at the elementary schools by the Medical Officer of Health.

Tuberculosis.

Age periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
1-	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
5-	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
15-	:	1	:	:	:	:	:	:
25-	1	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
35-	:	1	:	:	:	1	:	:
45-	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
55-	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
65-	2	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

