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Contributors

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BOROUGH OF RUTHIN



The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Ruthin Town Council.

Mr Mayor, Miss Beech and Gentlemen,



I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1941, prepared on the lines indicated in Circulars 2314 Wales and 2067 Wales.

The Chief items of note during the year were the influx of evacuees following on the severe air raids on Mersyside and the epidemic of whooping cough in the early winter.

The birth rate and death rate are the same, the former slightly lower than previously and the latter higher. The higher death rate is probably due to the evacuation to the area of elderly infirm people, some of whom resided permanently in the town, as a result of the war, the estimated increase in population not making full allowance for this.

There is however a high death rate from cancer, 11 in all, over 20% of all cases. There is great delay on the part of patients in presenting themselves for treatment in time, owing to a great deal of fear, and also a great deal of ignorance of the meaning of trivial symptoms. I do not think that this delay is due to a reluctance in calling in overworked doctors, as the shortage of medical men, so marked in some areas is not particularly so in this town.

The puerperal mortality is nil.

The water is bacteriologically satisfactory.

During the year, the Sanitary Inspector, Mr Thomas, joined the Air Force, and Mr R. C. Williams kindly carried out his duties, with great conscientiousness and loyalty.

Your obedient Servant,

ENID HUGHES.

Medical Officer of Health.

29th June 1942.

STATISTICS

Birth Rate per 1000 head of population	14.4	England and Wales	14.2
Illegitimate birth rate per 1000 :	0.54		
Still birth rate per 1000 population	0.54	England and Wales	0.51
Illegitimate still birth rate per 1000 still births	0		
Death Rate per thousand population	14.4	England and Wales	12.9
Deaths from Cancer	11		
Deaths from puerperal causes	0		
Deaths of infants under 1 year	2		
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year	0		
Deaths from Measles	1		
Deaths from Whooping Cough	1		
Deaths from Diarrhoea and enteritis under 2 years	0		

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There was an epidemic of whooping cough in the early winter months, with one fatality in a baby under one year.

There were fourteen notifications of diphtheria, many of them bacteriological, occurring in inmates of an institution for evacuees with scabies. There was only one notification of diphtheria in an ordinary resident of the town and she was 27.

There was an epidemic of Sonne dysentery in an institution in the town brought in from another town.

Apart from Scabies, there was not any remarkable importation of infectious disease by evacuees.

There were however two cases of paratyphoid in evacuees, who developed the disease after a holiday at home, where a relative had had the disease.

68% of the children of school age had been immunised against diphtheria up to the end of 1941.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 7 notifications of tuberculosis, 6 in females and these 6 pulmonary, the other one non-pulmonary. This is an increase, especially in females. The reduction in male notifications is probably accounted for by the fact that the young men are on military service.

There is great difficulty in getting patients into sanatoria, owing to the shortage of nursing staff and domestic staff.

CANCER

There is an increase in the deaths due to cancer. there is evidently reluctance on the part of women to consult a doctor until the disease is beyong remedy. This is not due to the shortage of doctors in the area, which is not marked in this area, but to the ignorance of the general public. There are ample facilities for treatment of cancer and the Radium expert comes to Wrexham monthly. The chief difficulty is transport, as the buses are inadequate and inconvenient especially for patients. Ambulances for private patients are very expensive. This question of transport is increasingly important, as public conveyances are most inadequate in this area.

HOSPITAL AND AMBULANCES

The striking advantage in the area in 1941 was the acquisition of an ambulance from the American Red Cross, which is run by the Local Red Cross and St. John. This furnished a great convenience to the area.

Transport will be increasingly difficult however for out patient treatment, which is mainly received at Wrexham, Chester and Liverpool. Public transport is most inadequate for the needs of patients, as the buses never run to fit the special clinics, and with the laying up of most private cars, there will be great hardship this winter.

