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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1949

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

ENID HUGHES, M.D., Lond.,
B.S., Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

THE MANOR HOUSE,

RUTHIN

29th January, 1951.

THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND BURGESSES
OF THE RUTHIN TOWN COUNCIL.

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1949, prepared according to Circular 2/50 Wales.

This was the first year under the National Health Service Act, and various defects in the working of this Act were manifest. Of these, the most serious was the difference in the method of controlling infectious disease hospitals. Prior to the Act, the local authority had the right to demand beds in the hospital to which it contributed for the provision of accommodation for these cases. The hospitals are now run by the Regional Board, and can, and do, refuse admission to patients. This caused great inconvenience, until the arrangement was made that the local Management Committee must find accommodation within the area for these cases. It has now reverted to the Medical Officer of Health to arrange for this if required, but at first the family doctor had to make the arrangements. Even so, patients may be sent anywhere in the area, and the arrangements, though of course economical, do cause resentment and inconvenience to the patients' relations, and may prejudice the notification and control of infectious disease.

Vaccination against small pox has now become optional, and any doctor may perform this. There is no longer a Public Vaccinator, and as there was a sporadic outbreak of small pox during 1949, it became necessary to bring this fact to the notice of the public who occasionally came to me demanding vaccination.

During the year, there occurred the largest epidemic of measles I remember in Ruthin, 119 cases were notified. The outbreak was of a mild type, and there were no fatalities.

During the spring, there was a fairly widespread epidemic of influenza, generally mild, though there were two fatalities due to it.

Again, I report no notifications of diphtheria, or of puerperal sepsis, there were no deaths due to maternal causes, and the infant mortality was 22.7, compared with 32 for the whole of England and Wales.

The water supply remains excellent in quality but rather too dependent upon an ample rainfall for the maintenance of its quantity in the summer.

The sewage farm works far more efficiently and now appears well able to deal with the new houses which have been erected. There seems to be still a demand for houses, though many were built just after the war, there has been no new scheme for some time.

I would like to express my thanks for the loyal and efficient co-operation of Mr. T. G. Evans as Sanitary Inspector.

Your obedient servant,

ENID HUGHES,

M.D. D.P.H., D.O.M.S.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population, 3,625.

Number of houses, 1,042.

Product of penny rate, £80.

BIRTHS

Total number of births, 44.

Birth rate per 1,000 population, 12.13.

Total number of illegitimate births, 2.

Total number of still-births, 2.

Rate per 1,000 population, .51.

DEATHS

All causes	-	totals	52.	Death rate per 1,000 population (corrected) 12.29.
Typhoid	-	- „ -	0	
Whooping Cough	-	- „ -	0	
Diphtheria	-	- „ -	0	
Tuberculosis	-	- „ -	3	
Influenza	-	- „ -	2	
Small-pox	-	- „ -	0	
Acute polio myelitis and encephalitis	-	- „ -	0	
Pneumonia	-	- „ -	0	

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Typhoid Fever	-	-	0
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	0
Scarlet Fever	-	-	9

Whooping Cough	-	-	5
Diphtheria	-	-	0
Erysipelas	-	-	1
Small-pox	-	-	0
Measles	-	-	119
Pneumonia	-	-	6
Acute poliomyelitis and encephalitis	-	-	0
Food Poisoning	-	-	0

DEATHS

	Per 1,000 live births	Totals
All causes under one year of age - - -	22.7	1
Enteritis and diarrhoea under two years	0	0

MATERNAL MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY

Notifications of puerperal pyrexia were nil, and there were no deaths due to maternal causes of any kind.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT 1946

Local Health Services under this Act, Part 3, are carried out by the County Council. The Ambulance Service alone remains an independent concern, carried out by the local St. John's and Red Cross Organisations.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Section 47.—No action was taken under this section by the Council during 1949.

WATER SUPPLY

- (i). The water supply during the year was always, when bacteriologically examined, First Class. The quantity, however, during the long drought in the summer, was insufficient, and for about four months, two-thirds of the supply came from the supply of the Birkenhead Corporation, for which the Council had to pay.
- (ii). The water was twice examined bacteriologically as a routine, and on both occasions found First Class.
It was not chemically examined.
- (iii). The water is not plumbo-solvent.
- (iv). It was not necessary to take action in respect of contamination.
- (v). Number of dwelling-houses supplied by mains, 894.
Population occupying these houses, 3,400.
Number of dwelling-houses supplied by mains to stand-pipes, 148.
Population occupying these houses, 570.

SEWERAGE

Sewerage disposal is by agricultural drainage. The Sewage Farm has worked very satisfactorily and no complaints have been received from any source. The town sewers have not caused any nuisance except for the flooding at the "Anchor" corner. It is hoped that certain works will be undertaken soon to overcome this difficulty.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD

Inspection of Meat.—Meat is inspected regularly in the Slaughter-house as shewn in summary below:—

	Cattle inc. Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected -	1,010	487	5,778	109
All diseases (except tuberculosis) whole carcasses condemned	32	27	32	2
Carcases of which some part or organ were condemned - -	8	8	3	0
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease not tuberculosis	4%	7%	.6%	1.9%
Tuberculosis only, whole carcasses condemned	48	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ were condemned - -	4.7%	0	0	0

In addition, several parts were condemned, but the percentage in relation to the total weight of carcasses inspected is negligible.

I would draw attention to the number of casualty animals sent in for slaughter. In some cases it would be better if they went straight to the Knacker's Yard. It would be desirable if, when casualties are sent in, a note from the Veterinary Surgeon accompanied the animal.

Regular inspections of Shops, Stalls and Vehicles used to carry Food are made, and places where Food is prepared are frequently inspected.

Ice Cream Regulations, 1947 and 1948.—Action taken under these regulations was confined to inspections.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.—During 1949, there were no food poisoning outbreaks.

MEMORANDUM

TO : THE DIRECTOR OF THE [unclear]

FROM : [unclear]

[unclear]

[unclear]

[unclear]

[unclear]

[unclear]

[unclear]