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BOROUGH OF RUTHIN

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1951.



Presented by

M. JONES ROBERTS,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health



To the Chairman and Members of the Ruthin Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 1951. During the year, the Ruthin Borough joined with the Denbigh Borough, the Rural District of Ruthin, the Rural District of Hiraethog and the Llanrwst Urban District to form the Western No. 2 Health Area. This area now has a joint Medical Officer who is also Assistant County Medical Officer with duties associated with Examination of School Children, the Examination of Mentally and Physically Handicapped Children, attendance at Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics and the Immunisation of Infants and School Children against diphtheria, whooping cough and small-pox. I was appointed to this post and commenced duties on the 1st June, 1951. I am, therefore, responsible for the health of the Borough for the second half of the year, the first half having been the responsibility of Dr. Enid Hughes, who has served you for many years. I would like to record my appreciation of the very kind way in which Dr. Enid Hughes handed over the various registers and explained to me the form in which they had been kept and also how she administered her duties. I would also like to thank the officials, and in particular the Sanitary Inspector. They have all given me very welcome assistance in a new post.

During the six months, I have been greatly handicapped by lack of proper office accommodation and no clerical assistance. Having to do all the clerical work myself, I have found it very difficult to find time to get down to the practical side of the work. This is to be remedied early in the new year.

The PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF consists of:—

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:—

Dr. M. Jones Roberts, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Appointed 1st June, 1951).

Dr. Enid Hughes, M.D. Lond., B.S. Lond., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

(Retired 31st May, 1951).

SANITARY INSPECTOR:—

T. G. Evans. (Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board Certificate of Sanitary Knowledge School of Hygiene University of Liverpool.

The following statistics are given for the information of the Council :—

Area of the Borough	...	2,016 (acres)
Registrar General's estimated population (mid 1951)	...	3,656
No. of inhabited houses	...	1,050
Rateable Value	...	£21,317
Sum represented by penny rate		£82

COMPARABILITY FACTOR :

For Births	...	1.03
For Deaths	...	0.85

LIVE BIRTHS :	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	23	24	47
Illegitimate	1	2	3
Total	24	26	50
Birth rate per 1,000 population (crude)	...	13.67	
Birth rate per 1,000 population (corrected)	...	14.08	

STILL BIRTHS :	1	1	2
Still Birth rate per 1,000 population	...	0.54	

INFANT MORTALITY :

Legitimate	...	1	0	1
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
Total	...	1	0	1
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	20.0		

DEATHS :	22	24	46
Mortality rate per 1,000 population (crude)	...	12.58	
Mortality rate per 1,000 population (corrected)	...	10.69	

The following table shows how statistics compare with those for 1950 and with the figures for England and Wales for 1951 :

	England and Wales. 1951	1950	1951
Population	—	3,698	3,656
Birth rate	15.5	16.01	13.67
Infant Mortality rate	29.6	17.5	20.0
Still-birth rate	0.36	0.27	0.54
Maternal Mortality rate	0.79	—	—
Death rate	12.5	9.52	12.58

The Infant Mortality rate has increased from 17.5 to 20.0, but this is below the National rate which is 29.6. The still-birth rate figure is higher than the 1950 rate and it is also higher than the rate for England and Wales in 1951. Too much attention, however, should not be paid to these figures as they have really little statistical significance owing to the small number of deaths.

There were 2 still-births in the Borough, and 1 Infant Death, making a total loss of 3 Infant lives.

The cause of Infant death was prematurity aged 10 hours. This death was not avoidable, but it is difficult to tell whether the still-births were avoidable or not.

The following table shows the causes of death :—

	1950 Total	1951		
		Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis :				
Respiratory ...	1	0	1	1
Other	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic Deasease ...	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0
Other Infective and Par-				
asitic Diseases ...	0	0	0	0
Malignant Diseases :				
Stomach	2	1	2	3
Lungs	0	0	0	0
Breast	0	0	1	1
Uterus	1	0	2	2
Other	1	4	0	4
Total Cancer Deaths	4	5	5	10
Leukaemia	0	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous				
System	6	3	3	6
Coronary Disease ...	8	1	1	2
Hypertension with heart				
Disease	0	0	1	1
Other heart disease ...	7	4	3	7
Other Circulatory Disease	1	0	1	1
Influenza	1	4	0	4
Pneumonia	2	0	0	0
Bronchitis	3	1	1	2

Other diseases of the respiratory diseases	1	1	3	4
Ulcer of stomach, etc ...	1	0	0	0
Gastritis, Diarrhoea, etc.	0	0	0	0
Nephritis	1	0	0	0
Hypeplasia of Prostrate	0	0	0	0
Maternal Malformations	0	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations	0	0	1	1
Other defined and ill- defined diseases ...	5	2	4	6
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	0	0	0
All other accidents ...	0	1	0	1
Suicide	0	0	0	0
Homicide	0	0	0	0
ALL CAUSES	41	22	24	46

There was one death from Tuberculosis in 1951, which is the same as 1950.

The deaths from cancer rose from 3 in 1950 to 10 in 1951. This is a big increase. Cancer deaths could be avoided to a great extent if people realised that cancer in the early stages, especially in accessible organs such as, breast, stomach, and uterus can be treated. Any one who is suspicious that cancer is the cause of illness should see their doctor immediately for examination instead of remaining silent for months when it becomes too late for treatment to save life.

Heart disease and diseases of the vascular system have been the cause of most deaths. This is the general trend everywhere. Some of these deaths can be put down to the general wear and tear of the organs through the process of ageing as people live to a greater age. This is not the only reason, as young and middle aged persons also die of these causes.

There were no deaths again this year from diphtheria due to the efficiency of immunisation.

There were no deaths from Infectious Diseases apart from 4 deaths due to Influenza.

It is pleasing to note there were no Maternal deaths in the Borough in 1951.

There were no deaths from Motor Vehicle accidents, but there was one death from an accident caused by a gunshot wound penetrating the heart.

The following table shows the number of Infectious Diseases notified during 1951:—

Notifiable Disease	In ages							Total
	Under 1 year	1—5 years	5—15 years	15—25 years	25—45 years	45—65 years	65 years and over	
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria Observation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever Observation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Enteric	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis Observation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
Other form of Tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	..	1	1	..	2	1	..	12
Measles	6	..	..	1	..	..	5	12
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis Observation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	1	..	..	..	..	15	16
Observation Typhoid	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL ..	6	2	1	3	3	1	..	44

The Borough seems to have been fairly clear of Infectious Diseases, as the numbers notified are small, 1 case only being kept under observation for Scarlet Fever and only 12 cases of measles were notified.

16 cases of Whooping Cough were notified, but there were no deaths. It will be interesting to note what effect immunisation will have on the number of cases of Whooping Cough. Whooping Cough immunisation has been undertaken at the clinics for the last 3 months of the year and also is undertaken by the child's doctor. Injections are given early in life and booster doses are given at approximately 2½ years and 5 years of age.

The following shows the number of children immunised in the Borough in 1951. The figures were supplied by the County Health Department, Wrexham.

Diphtheria :

Number immunised under 5 years	...	73
Number immunised over 5 years	...	7
Number given booster doses	...	136

The percentage of children immunised in the Borough is :—

1 to 5 years	...	...	...	89.1%
5 to 15 years	...	...	...	97.5%

Whooping Cough :

Number immunised under 5 years	...	12
Number immunised over 5 years	...	NIL

Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough vaccine :

Number immunised under 5 years	...	9
Number immunised over 5 years	...	NIL

There were 12 cases of Pneumonia during the early part of the year, chiefly amongst elderly people. At this time there was an epidemic of Influenza which began about mid January, reaching its peak about the end of January and towards the end of February there were only sporadic cases occurring. Four cases developed pneumonia and died.

During the early part of the year, a person came to Ruthin who was a contact of a case of small-pox. Careful supervision was given to this case, but fortunately, he did not develop small-pox. It is still very important for parents to see that their children are vaccinated. The best time for this is in early infant life at about 3 month. Owing to rapid air travel, small-pox can easily reach epidemic proportions if a person is admitted to this country when incubating the disease.

Babies can be vaccinated by their own doctor and this has also been carried out at the clinic during the last 6 month of the year.

Number of persons vaccinated during the year are :—

Primary	...	113
Re-vaccination		89

Infectious Diseases requiring hospital treatment, are taken to the Infectious Diseases Hospitals at either Colwyn Bay, Wrexham or Hawarden.

TUBERCULOSIS :

The number of patients suffering from Tuberculosis and whose names appear on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of December, 1951 were :—

		Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Males	...	8	4
Females	...	10	6

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the Borough in November 1951 and the following table shows the number of people who visited for examination :—

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

Details of Mass Radiographic Survey of Ruthin General Population, November 1951

TABLE "A" — ANALYSIS IN AGE GROUPS

	GRAND TOTAL	Under 15 M. F.	15—24 M. F.	25—34 M. F.	35—44 M. F.	45—59 M. F.	60 & over M. F.	TOTALS M. F.
Total number of Persons Examined. Normal and Abnormal	737	5 5	72 125	84 92	77 89	84 71	20 13	342 395
Total number found to be Abnormal	23 or 3.12%	3 0	4 0	5 0	2 1	5 0	3 0	13 10
Classification of Abnormal Cases :— (a) Definite Pulmonary Tuberculosis								
(b) Needing further Ob- servation for Pul- monary Tuberculosis	11 or 1.49%	3 0	0 1	0 2	1 1	2 0	1 0	7 4
(c) Other Abnormalities of Chest	12 or 1.63%	0 0	3 0	3 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	6 6

The following table "B" shows the number and details of abnormalities found. Although 23 were found abnormal, no cases of Tuberculosis were found, but 11 required further observation.

TABLE "B"
Details of other Abnormalities.

	Total	Male	Female
Bony Abnormality	4	3	1
Bronchiectasis	2	0	2
Bronchitis & Emphysema	2	2	0
Healed Primary P. T.	1	0	1
Healed Post Primary P. T.	1	0	1
Mitral Stenosis	1	0	1
Thickened Pleura	1	1	0
Total ...	12	6	6

The following table "C" shows the number of School Children examined and the number who had abnormalities :—

School	Total Examined			Total Abnormal			Observation			Other Diseases		
	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.
Ruthin Grammar	38	18	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruthin Council	10	8	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Brynhyfryd Grammar	117	43	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Borthyn N. P.	15	7	8	2	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	0
Staff	9	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruthin School (Boys)	155	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff	19	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Two boys were found to require further observation for Tuberculosis.

General Provisions of Health Services in the Borough of Ruthin.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

The Public Health Laboratory is at Conway and specimens are sent there for examination and diagnosis.

Water, milk and ice-cream samples are also sent here for examination.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Ambulance Service is controlled by the County Medical Officer and details of the service will be found in his Annual Report.

Western No. 2 Area has an Ambulance station at Denbigh, Ruthin, Cerrig, Llanrwst and Llangerniew, with one ambulance at each station, making a total of 5 for the area. The ambulances deal with General and Accident cases. Each station is manned by voluntary personnel. To supplement the ambulances, use is made of voluntary drivers of the W.V.S. Hospital Car Service and local taxi proprietors for the conveyance of sitting cases. Ambulances to transport Infectious cases are sent from the hospitals concerned at Wrexham and Colwyn Bay.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

A full Report of this Service will be given in the County Medical Officer's Annual Report.

CLINICS.

Ante-Natal:

This clinic is held at the Baptist Chapel Schoolroom, Park Road, on the 2nd and 4th Mondays in the month at 1.30 p.m.

The number of attendances during the year were :

First Visits	...	21
Re-visits	...	60

These figures also include patients from the Rural Area. The Specialist Obstetrician attends fortnightly at the Denbigh Clinic and sees referred cases by appointment.

Infant Welfare Clinics :

This Clinic is held at the Baptist Chapel Schoolroom on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month (all day), and full use is made of these clinics by the Borough and Rural populations. Infants are immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough and vaccinated against small-pox. At times, special inoculation clinics have been held.

Orthopaedic Clinic :

Patients from the Borough attend the Denbigh Clinic which is held fortnightly, the Surgeon attending every three months.

Dental Clinics :

These are held by appointment, but few take advantage of this service. The following tables show the attendances and treatment given to expectant and nursing mothers, and infants under 5 years of age.

	Number Examined	Number needing Treatment	Number Treated	Number made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	1	1	1	1
Children under 5 years of age	1	0	0	0

	Extractions	Anaesthetics		Fillings	Scaling or Sealing and Gum Treatment	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Dressing	Radiographs	Dentures Provided	
		Local	General						complete	Partial
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Children under 5 years of age	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Venereal Diseases :

Clinics are held at Llandudno, Chester and Bangor.

Tuberculosis :

Patients attend at the Chest Clinic held at Denbigh.

NURSING SERVICES.

The Borough is staffed by one Health Visitor who attends at the clinics and carries out domicilliary visits.

There is one midwife in the area who is a Queen's Sister and she also does the home nursing.

Home Help Service: There are two Home Helps in the Borough who attended 4 general cases and 1 confinement case. Difficulty is experienced in finding suitable women to enter this service.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948.

During 1950, action was taken under Section 47 of this Act in respect of an aged infirm person and he entered the Social Welfare Establishment at Ruthin. This man is still resident at the Establishment on the Magistrate's Order which has been granted every three months following applications made by the Council during 1951.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The water has been tested at frequent intervals and each report has been bacteriologically 'Highly satisfactory. Ministry of Health Classification 1'.

Trouble has been caused by the growth of algae in the reservoir.

The Report on the Sanitary Circumstances in the Borough by the Sanitary Inspector follows:—

WATER SUPPLY

During the year the supplies from our own sources has been fairly satisfactory and has been augmented by water drawn from the Birkenhead supply as follows:—

Quarter ending March, 1951	...	NIL
June, 1951	...	686,000
Sept., 1951	...	7,767,000
Decr., 1951	...	4,258,000

Considerable difficulties were encountered at certain periods in securing a reasonable rate of filtration owing to the growth of Algae. Various methods of dealing with the

problem were considered during the year, but owing to the uncertainty of the position in respect of the proposed County Water Scheme the matter was deferred and it is hoped that some progress will be made during 1952.

Improvement to the supply at the higher levels in the Borough will be secured when the laying of the 6" Duplicate Main is completed; work commenced on the 19th December, 1951.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Sewage Farm has been working satisfactory during the year but certain ditches need renewing and it is hoped to provide for the necessary alterations during 1952.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No pollution of rivers or streams has taken place.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The scavenging of streets is carried out regularly and street gullies are emptied at intervals of not more than six weeks.

The collection of house refuse is carried out once weekly. The refuse tip is well kept and is free from nuisance. Surplus soil from various sources is always available to provide adequate cover for the refuse deposited.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE BOROUGH.

Factories and Workshops.—These have been visited regularly and found to be in a good state.

Bakehouses.—These have been visited and improvements could be carried out in one or two instances.

Milk.—The supply generally is good and no complaints have been received.

Shops.—These have been visited regularly and found to be satisfactory.

HOUSING.

Number of houses erected during the year:—

By the Borough Council	...	0
By Private enterprise	...	6

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Considerable structural alterations were carried out during the year to the Ministry of Food Central Abattoir situated in Wynnstay Road. No slaughtering was carried out for approximately 7 months.

Carcases inspected and Condemned:—

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	639	181	2264	95
Number inspected	639	181	2264	95
All diseases except Tuberculosis:				
Whole carcasses condemned...	5	9	10	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	15	—	25	2
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	2.9	4.9	1.5	3.1
Tuberculosis only:				
Whole carcasses condemned ..	28	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	22	—	—	3
Percentage of the number affected with tuberculosis ...	7.8	—	—	3.1

FOOD.

The following articles of food were condemned during the year as being unfit for human consumption:

- 114½-lbs. Ham.
- 14-lbs. Cheese.
- 147-lbs. Imported Meat.
- 285 Tins of various food and fruit, e.g.
Beans, Milk, Plums, &c.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Committee for the very kind welcome I received on taking up the appointment and for the consideration you have given to any short comings during a rather difficult first half year.

Yours truly,

M. JONES ROBERTS.

14th July, 1952.

STORY OF THE GREAT FLOOD

The story of the great flood is one of the most interesting and important in the history of the world. It is a story which has been told in many different ways, and which has been the subject of many different theories.

One of the most interesting theories is that the flood was a real event, and that it was caused by a great change in the level of the sea.

Another theory is that the flood was a myth, and that it was invented by the people of the East to explain the origin of the world.

There are many other theories, and it is difficult to say which one is the most correct. But the story of the great flood is one which has fascinated the human mind for many centuries.

One of the most interesting things about the story is that it is found in many different parts of the world. It is found in the Bible, in the Hindu scriptures, and in many other ancient books.

This fact has led many people to believe that the flood was a real event, and that it was caused by a great change in the level of the sea.

But there are many other things about the story which are interesting. For example, the story is told in many different ways, and it is often very different in different parts of the world.

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