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## BOROUGH OF RUTHIN



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# ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT 1956

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### **Medical Officer of Health**

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

The Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh.

Tel. No. Denbigh 289.

### **Public Health Inspector**

T. G. EVANS

(Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute  
and Sanitary Inspector's Examination of Joint Board Certificate  
of Sanitary Knowledge, School of Hygiene University  
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Town Hall, Ruthin. Tel. No. Ruthin 155.



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**!TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF RUTHIN**

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1956.

During the year, the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956, was passed. This provides that in future the Sanitary Inspector shall be designated Public Health Inspector.

A great deal of publicity has been given to the location of the District Medical Officer's office. This arose following my request for better office accommodation. At the present time, the office consists of one room at the County Health Clinic at Denbigh, which is also occupied by my clerk and this causes a great deal of inconvenience. It is most difficult to interview anyone, especially if the interview is of a confidential nature, discuss matters with other officials, write reports, etc., when the clerk is occupied in typing, answering telephone calls, etc. If there is a clinic, e.g. orthopaedic clinic, ophthalmic clinic, Welsh Board of Health clinic, dental clinic, etc., held in the premises and a doctor occupies the room in which the one and only telephone extension is placed, everyone comes into the office to use the telephone and this makes it impossible for me to do any clerical work during office hours. A partition to divide the room into two would improve matters to a certain extent, but this would not be entirely satisfactory as it would make my office and the clerk's into very small rooms.

The location of the office is a matter entirely for the Western No. 2 District Health Committee to decide on, and Denbigh was chosen in the first instance as being the most central for the area, as Aled Rural District was then included in the Western No. 2 Health Area. Aled Rural District is now part of the Western No. 1 Health Area, thus Denbigh is no longer the centre of the area which covers Hiraethog Rural District, Llanrwst Urban District, Ruthin Rural District, Ruthin Borough and Denbigh Borough. Fifty per cent of my time is allocated to County Council duties with the County Health Department at Wrexham.

In the event of my clerk being away, no relief clerk is available. During 1956 she was away on holiday for over two weeks and sick leave for seven weeks during a period of three months. This meant that I had to do all the clerical work as well as my professional work. Had the office been in Ruthin, probably a clerk from the County Offices would have been available to assist with typing, answering the telephone, etc.

The Public Health Inspector and I would like to thank the Mayor and Members of the Council and the various Committees for their co-operation during the year and we would thank the other officials and members of the staff for their assistance at all times.

Yours faithfully,

M. JONES ROBERTS.

The Chairmen of the Council and Committees during the year were:—

Mayor of the Borough:—

Alderman O. M. Williams.

Chairmen of the Finance and General Purposes Committee:—

January—May 1956: Councillor G. Ross Thomas.

June—December 1956: Councillor A. Tyldesley.

Chairmen of the Housing Committee:—

January—May 1956: Councillor R. James Jones.

June—December 1956: Councillor W. Lewis.

Chairmen of the Water Committee:—

January—May 1956: Councillor H. Adam.

June—December 1956: Councillor T. E. Lewis.

### GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH

Area of the Borough .....	2,016 acres
Registrar General's estimated population (mid 1956) ...	3,670
Number of inhabited houses .....	1,182
Rateable Value (1/4/56) .....	£50,707
Sum represented by a penny rate .....	£198

The estimated population of the Borough was 3,670 compared with 3,680 in 1955, a decrease of 10.

The number of inhabited houses was 1,182 in 1956 compared with 1,170 in 1955, an increase of 12.

### DEATHS

Comparability Factor .....	0.84
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The number of deaths registered during 1956 was 52 (25 Males and 27 Females), compared with 56 deaths (21 Males and 35 Females) registered in 1955.

	England & Wales		
	1956.	1955.	1956.
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population) ...	11.7	15.22	14.17
Corrected death rate (per 1,000 population)	—	12.33	11.90
Still-birth rate .....	23.0	0.27	0.27
Maternal Mortality rate .....	0.56	22.0	NIL
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) .....	23.8	69.77	16.13

The causes of death are shown in the following table, with the number of deaths for 1955 shown for comparison:—

	1955		1956	
	Total.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory .....	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Other .....	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases .....	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections .....	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	—	—
Malignant Diseases:—				
Stomach .....	1	6	2	4
Lungs, Bronchus .....	1	1	—	1
Breast .....	1	—	—	—
Uterus .....	1	—	—	—
Other .....	2	8	4	4
Total Cancer deaths .....	6	15	6	9
Leukaemia .....	—	—	—	—
Diabetes .....	—	1	—	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system .....	13	14	5	9
Coronary Diseases .....	9	6	5	1
Hypertension with heart diseases ...	2	—	—	—
Other heart diseases .....	8	4	3	1
Other circulatory diseases .....	4	6	2	4
Influenza .....	—	1	1	—
Pneumonia .....	3	1	1	—
Bronchitis .....	—	—	—	—
Other respiratory diseases .....	—	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach, etc. ....	—	—	—	—
Gastritis, diarrhoea, etc. ....	—	—	—	—
Nephritis, nephrosis, etc. ....	—	—	—	—
Prostatic Hyperplasia .....	2	1	1	—
Maternal causes .....	1	—	—	—
Congenital malformations .....	1	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	3	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents .....	—	—	—	—
All other accidents .....	3	—	—	—
Suicide .....	—	—	—	—
Homicide .....	—	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES .....	56	52	25	27

The deaths occurred in the following age groups:—

Under 1 year .....	1 (Male)
1—10 years .....	Nil
10—20 years .....	Nil
20—30 years .....	Nil
30—40 years .....	1 (Female)
40—50 years .....	Nil
50—60 years .....	2 (1 Male and 1 Female)
60—70 years .....	10 (4 Males and 6 Females)
70—80 years .....	24 (12 Males and 12 Females)
80—90 years .....	13 (6 Males and 7 Females)
90 years and over .....	1 (Male)
Total .....	52 (25 Males and 27 Females)

There were 52 deaths during the year compared with 56 in 1956, giving a death rate of 11.90 compared with 12.33 in 1955 and 11.7 for England and Wales. Of the 52 deaths, 48 occurred in persons aged 60 years and over.

There were no deaths from any infectious disease (including tuberculosis) apart from one death due to pneumonia and one due to influenza.

Cancer was the cause of 15 deaths, compared with 6 during the previous year, one of these being due to cancer of the lung.

Deaths due to vascular lesions, lesions of the heart and circulatory diseases totalled 30 compared with 36 during 1955. Six of these were due to coronary diseases.

There were no deaths due to motor vehicle accidents or other accidents.

### **Maternal Mortality**

There were no deaths from maternal causes, thus giving a maternal mortality rate of Nil compared with 22.0 (one death) in 1955 and 0.56 for England and Wales.

### **Infant Mortality**

One infant death occurred during the year, giving an infant mortality rate of 16.13 compared with 69.77 in 1955 and 23.8 for England and Wales.

The cause of death in this case was prematurity, the baby dying at the age of one day. The mother had attended her own doctor for ante-natal care and the death appears to have been unavoidable.



### Still Births

There was one still-birth, the same as in the previous year. This gives a still birth rate of 0.27, the same as during the previous year (per 1,000 population).

### Births

Comparability Factor .....1.07

The number of births actually registered in the Borough was 56 (30 Males and 26 Females), but births relating to residents totalled 62 (40 Males and 22 Females), compared with 43 births (24 Males and 19 Females) during 1955.

Some of the 62 births relating to residents took place in hospitals outside the Borough.

The births were classified as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	39	21	60
Illegitimate .....	1	1	2
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>40</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>62</b>

	England and Wales, 1956	1955	1956
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population) .....	15.7	11.66	16.89
Corrected birth rate (per 1,000 population) .....	—	12.47	18.07

### Infectious Diseases

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1956 arranged in the various age groups. The number of cases notified during 1955 is given in the first column for comparison.

Notifiable Disease.	1955 Total.	1956 Total.	Under 1 year.	1—5 years.	6—15 years.	16—25 years.	26—45 years.	46—65 years.	65 years and over.	Ages unknown.	Number admitted to Hospital.
Erysipelas .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	20	3	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	234	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	7	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	5	4	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>271</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

The total number of cases (including tuberculosis) notified during the year was 11 compared with 271 cases notified during the previous year. The decrease in the number of cases notified was due to the fact that an epidemic of measles occurred in 1955, there being 234 cases notified during that year compared with only one case in 1956.

Also, only three cases of whooping cough were notified during the year compared with 20 cases the previous year.

Two cases of pneumonia were notified compared with 7 cases in 1955, and these occurred in persons aged 3 years and 27 years.

The under-mentioned cases of infectious diseases were notified by Head Teachers of various schools in the Borough (the cases of measles and whooping cough are in addition to those in the above table):—

Measles .....	2
Whooping Cough .....	1
Chicken Pox .....	19
German Measles .....	9

Chicken Pox and German measles were not notifiable diseases. The measles and whooping cough cases were not confirmed by notifications from general practitioners.

Five cases of tuberculosis were notified (4 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary) compared with 5 cases (all pulmonary) in 1955. The lesion in the non-pulmonary case was in the spine. Actually this latter case was not a resident of the Borough but had come to stay here for a short period and during this time was diagnosed as suffering from tuberculosis of the spine. She was admitted to a sanatorium and when discharged she returned to her home and her name was removed from the Borough register.

One other case of pulmonary tuberculosis was added to the Borough register during the year, the patient having come to reside in the Borough from another area. Four cases (all females) were removed from the register, three having gone to reside in other areas and one recovered.

The following table shows the number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at the beginning and at the end of 1956.

	Pulmonary		non-Pulmonary		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Number on register on 1st Jan., 1956 ...	11	17	2	1	31
Number on register on 31st Dec., 1956	14	17	2	—	33

Four cases of tuberculosis were admitted to hospitals or sanatoria during the year and three cases were discharged.

The following table indicates the number of inspections and visits carried out by the Public Health Inspector in regard to infectious diseases:—

Number of visits re infectious diseases .....	12
Number of visits re tuberculosis .....	3
Number of rooms fumigated and disinfected .....	5
Number of cases where bedding was removed and stoved .....	NIL
Number of cases where disinfectant was used ...	5

## PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### Diphtheria and Whooping Cough

There have been no notified cases of diphtheria in the Borough for years. Diphtheria inoculation is carried out at the same time as the inoculation against whooping cough and the number of inoculations given in the Borough is shown in the following table together with the number of cases of whooping cough notified since 1951. These figures may not be strictly accurate as babies are sometimes given the inoculations by their own doctors and these are not always recorded.

Year.	Number of births.	Number immunised against diphtheria.	Number of booster injections.	Number immunised against whooping cough.	Number immunised against whooping cough and diphtheria (combined)	Number of cases of whooping cough notified.
1951	50	80	136	12	9	1—5 years .....1 } 16 Ages unknown 15 }
1952	54	17	3	5	23	1—5 years .....13 } 16 5 years and over 3 }
1953	44	4	1	Nil	71	1—5 years ..... 2 } 3 5 years and over 1 }
1954	42	10	53	Nil	47	1—5 years ..... 0 } 1 5 years and over 1 }
1955	43	151	3	Nil	25	1—5 years .....11 } 20 5 years and over 9 }
1956	62	1	46	Nil	48	1—5 years ..... 2 } 3 5 years and over 1 }

Of the three cases of whooping cough notified during 1956, one child aged 7 years had not been immunised, one had received only one injection out of the three and one had completed the course of injections.

### **Smallpox**

Vaccination against smallpox is generally carried out at the clinic at the age of 8 weeks, but some doctors prefer to wait until the child is 3—4 months old. All children should be vaccinated before their first birthday, but the younger the child, the less risk there is of any complications.

Number of primary vaccinations given .....	51
Number of re-vaccinations given .....	5

The re-vaccinations were in respect of persons going abroad.

### **Poliomyelitis**

Vaccination against poliomyelitis was undertaken during the months of May and June 1956, and the number given the injections was as follows:—

Number completed the course of injections .....	10
---	----

The two injections were given with three weeks interval between them. There was not sufficient vaccine to vaccinate all the children whose parents had given consent, therefore, certain groups of children were chosen. These were children born in the months of November and March 1947—1954 (inclusive). Those born in August and October were then vaccinated and those born in May if vaccine were available.

Vaccination was discontinued after 30th June so that no risk was taken during the season when poliomyelitis became prevalent.

No child who received the injections complained of illness or any ill effect following the vaccination and all the children appear to have been well. Of course, no risks were taken. Any child who attended for the injection but who suffered from colds, asthma, hay fever, had been in direct contact with any infectious disease, or had any other prophylactic injection during the previous three weeks, was not given the injection. When vaccination against poliomyelitis is commenced again in 1957, priority will be given to children whose parents have already given their consent.

### **Tuberculosis**

The Mass Radiography Unit did not visit the Borough during the year.

No prophylactic injection, i.e. B.C.G., for the prevention of tuberculosis is given generally in this County, but all contacts of cases are asked to attend the Chest Clinic where they are given tests and, if necessary, they are vaccinated against the disease. Most babies who are contacts are given this protection when they are very young.

Routine testing and B.C.G. vaccination of school children has not been undertaken in the County up-to-date, but if a case occurs in a school, the children are tested (with the parents' consent) and followed up by X-ray examination, etc., and a search is made for the infecting person.

The source of infection is often found to be a person in the older age group, e.g. a grandparent, who does not know of the presence of the disease. Attendance of the whole population for X-ray examination during the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit to the area will go far in the discovery of such cases. Secondary cases are more likely now that open cases are living longer. Better housing conditions will help to reduce the incidence of the disease particularly where there is overcrowding.

The co-operation of the general public is very essential for the success of eradicating tuberculosis from the community. Early diagnosis of cases will ensure that they are isolated, thus preventing the spread of the disease to others. It must be remembered that the presence of a case of tuberculosis is a danger to others at home and at work. The tracing of contacts and the original source of infection must be carried out immediately and treatment of all concerned must be carried out at the earliest possible moment. Early treatment will shorten the period of illness and enable the sufferer to return to work sooner.

### Food

The number of food premises in the Borough is 66 and the number of visits made to these premises during the year was as follows:—

	Number of premises	Number of visits paid to these premises
Shops .....	27	48
Bakehouses .....	5	8
Public Houses .....	10	5
Hotels .....	2	4
Cafes .....	3	7
Bed and Breakfast Accommodation	3	1
School Canteens .....	4	18
Other Canteens .....	2	2
Stalls .....	4	24
Vans .....	1	7
Sausage Factories .....	4	32
Dairies .....	Nil	—
Slaughterhouses .....	1	178

The number of premises where improvements have been carried out under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1956, were as follows:—

Shops .....	2
Hotels .....	1
School Canteens .....	2

The majority of food premises were well-kept and every effort is being made to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1956.

### Inspection of Meat

<b>Carcases inspected and condemned:</b>	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves
Number killed .....	509	8,141	770	43
Number inspected .....	509	5,080	770	43
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</b>				
Whole carcases condemned .....	1	3	2	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	120	650	21	0
Percentage .....	.24	.08	.02	0
<b>Tuberculosis only:</b>	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	0	0	0	0
Percentage .....	0	0	0	0

### TINS CONDEMNED:

Tinned Fruit .....	336
Meat .....	63
Fish .....	47
Cream .....	148
Beans .....	35

### Method of Disposal of Condemned Food

The tins are collected and burned in the refuse tip. All condemned meat is collected by a dealer for conversion into artificial manure.

The number of samples of food sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Conway for examination during the year was as follows:—

Milk .....	3	Bread .....	1
------------	---	-------------	---

All three samples of milk were reported to be satisfactory.

A sample of bread was submitted to the Public Analyst because of a complaint that the bread was contaminated. Analysis proved that the foreign body was a slight trace of oil from the mixing machine and was in no way harmful.

**FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948**

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1956 for the Borough of Ruthin in the County of Denbigh.

Prescribed particulars of the administration of the Factories Act 1937.

**PART I OF THE ACT**

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c. Number on Inspec-		Written		Number of	
	line No. (2)	Register. (3)	tions. (4)	Notices. (5)	Occupiers (6)	M/c prosecuted. line No. (7)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	1	27	31	—	—	1
(2) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	2	9	11	—	—	2
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	3	4	4	—	—	3
<b>TOTAL</b> .....		40	46	—	—	—

## 2 CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found						M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
	Found (3)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)					
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .....	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	4	
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—									
(a) Insufficient .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	
(b) Unsuitable or defective .....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	10	
(c) Not separate for sexes .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	
TOTAL .....	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	60	



## **Care of the Aged**

Several aged people living alone gave cause for concern during the year. All cases were followed up and in some instances a home help was provided to clean up the house, assist in preparing food, etc., thus making it possible for these aged people to remain in their own homes. In a few cases they agreed to go to a Home for the Aged and it was not necessary to take action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, during the year.

## **Housing**

No houses were built by the Council during the year, but ten cottages in Rhos Street were renovated and let to elderly people. There are, however, three families in these cottages who should be removed to larger houses when opportunity permits. Two Improvement Grants were made under the 1949 Act.

## **Refuse Collection**

House refuse is collected weekly and there has been every satisfaction during the year. The refuse tip is well-kept and rodent control is good.

## **Rodent Control**

A part-time operator is employed on rodent control. During the year treatment has been carried out in sewers, refuse tip and various premises.

## **Burial Ground**

The number of burials during the year was 6.

## **Sewage Disposal**

This is by the same method as previously reported, but although strict supervision is given to the sewage farm, complaints regarding smells are received. I must again emphasise the necessity of a new sewerage and sewage disposal works in the Borough. More houses are being built and the sewage farm is less able to cope with the disposal. Although the matter was re-opened with the Minister in August, little progress was made towards the realisation of this much-needed improvement in the Borough. The "credit squeeze" has been a material factor in the delay, but from the public health point of view it is a matter which claims the urgent attention of the Council and the Minister.

## **Public Conveniences**

The state of the public conveniences in the town has given cause for concern and several letters have been received from visitors complaining about the bad state of these.

The public conveniences are cleaned each morning, but they are old and in such a poor state that it makes it difficult to keep them clean and this is aggravated by the fact that the facilities in the town are so limited that at times when there is a heavy demand they become fouled and smelly. In some cases, people have had to go to the next village to look for facilities and, in the lower end of the town particularly, residents are being asked by visitors to be allowed the use of private water closets. Householders, especially those with young children, do not care to oblige in this respect in case of infection being brought into the homes.

In my opinion the existing public conveniences are in such a bad state as to constitute a nuisance which is prejudicial to health. This cannot be abated without reconstruction of the existing facilities and the addition of further facilities in the lower part of the town.

The matter is being pursued by the Council and the agreement of the Minister to the building of new conveniences in the town is expected at an early date.

### Water Supplies

The work on the new bore hole was completed during the year. During the latter half of the year it has produced 1,000 gallons per hour consistently and has adequate potentials for supplying considerably more should occasion demand a greater call being made from this service.

The following are the reports on samples of water sent for bacteriological examination during the year:—

Name of place where sample was taken.	Date.	Result.
<b>Main piped supply.</b>		
Unfiltered, chlorinated water— R.D.C. Offices .....	10/7/56	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Unfiltered, treated water— Rhos Street .....	10/7/56	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Unfiltered, chlorinated water— Town Hall .....	8/10/56	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Unfiltered, chlorinated water— Stanley House .....	8/10/56	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Unfiltered, chlorinated water— Porth-y-Dre .....	8/10/56	Class 3—Unsatisfactory for chlorinated water.
Filtered, chlorinated water Porth-y-Dre .....	23/10/56	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Filtered, chlorinated water Canol-y-Dre .....	23/10/56	Class 1—Satisfactory.
Filtered, chlorinated water Parc-y-Dre .....	23/10/56	Class 1—Satisfactory.

The unsatisfactory sample was due to the bottle used for the purpose not being sterile.

### Chemical Analysis

A sample of water taken from a top in the Town Hall (Borehole supply, 252 feet deep in sandstone) and sent for examination was reported on as follows:—

“The bacteriological quality of this sample is highly satisfactory.

Total solid matter in solution .....	230. 0 (in parts per million)
Nitrogen in Nitrates .....	1.25
Chlorine in Chlorides .....	20. 0
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 80 Degrees F. ....	0.32
Free and Saline Ammonia .....	NIL
Albuminoid Ammonia .....	0.02
Lead, Copper, Zinc .....	Zinc 0.4
Microscopical Examination of Sediment	(Slight trace of sand)
Temporary Hardness .....	130. 0
Permanent Hardness .....	25. 0
pH Value .....	7. 4

The above chemical analysis is satisfactory. The trace of zinc is harmless. The water is a moderately hard one. The water is suitable for drinking and domestic uses.”

The Borehole was put into operation on the 6th July and has proved satisfactory for the last six months of the year.

### Laboratory Service

The Public Health Laboratory is at Conway.

Samples of water, milk and ice-cream are regularly sent there for bacteriological examination. Other types of bacteriological examinations are also carried out there to aid in the diagnosis of illness, e.g. food poisoning, scarlet fever, meningitis, etc.

### Ambulance Service

The whole service is controlled by the County Medical Officer of Health at Wrexham, but Denbigh and Llanrwst are under the jurisdiction of the Ambulance Sub-Office at Colwyn Bay. This has accounted for a reduction in the amount of Sitting Case Car work.

There are four ambulance stations in the Western No. 2 Health Area situated at Denbigh, Ruthin, Llanrwst and Cerrig-y-Drudion, with one ambulance at each station. Each station is manned by

voluntary personnel except at Denbigh where a full-time driver was appointed and he commenced duties on 9th January 1956. 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 for the conveyance of infectious cases are sent from the hospitals concerned at Wrexham and Colwyn Bay.

The ambulance station at Llangernyw is to be re-opened in February 1957 and will be manned by a full-time driver.

The following is given for the information of the Council and the numbers refer to cases conveyed by the various ambulances and the mileage covered during the year.

Name of Ambulance.	Area Served.	No. of cases conveyed.	Total Mileage.
Cerrig-y-Drudion	Upper Hiraethog.	72	2,566
Denbigh	Denbigh Borough and parts of Aled R.D. and Ruthin R.D.	1,489	17,456
Llanrwst	Llanrwst and District.	104	3,324
Ruthin	Ruthin Borough and Ruthin R.D.	506	9,739

#### Cases Conveyed by Sitting Case Cars

Month 1956	TAXIS.			W.V.S.		
	Journeys.	Cases.	Miles.	Journeys.	Cases.	Miles.
January .....	170	474	7,506	55	147	2,303
February .....	158	505	7,449	30	120	1,693
March .....	133	455	6,373	37	106	1,902
April .....	130	436	6,494	32	135	1,639
May .....	160	456	7,199	37	162	2,004
June .....	143	444	6,593	38	210	2,273
July .....	168	577	8,460	32	164	1,882
August .....	138	464	6,995	36	212	2,148
September .....	113	340	5,256	37	124	1,677
October .....	127	172	5,288	37	141	1,957
November .....	118	353	5,194	37	187	1,970
December .....	94	288	3,947	21	97	1,149
Total .....	1,652	4,964	77,454	429	1,805	22,597

#### Mental Health Service

This service is under the supervision of the County Medical Officer at Wrexham.

#### Venereal Diseases Clinics

These clinics are held at hospitals at Llandudno, Wrexham, Chester and Bangor.

### **Tuberculosis Clinics**

Patients attend either the Chest Clinic held at the Denbigh Infirmary every Wednesday morning or at the Chest Clinic held at Wrexham by appointment and at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl.

### **Orthopaedic Clinics**

A clinic is held at the Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh, on the first and third Wednesday morning in each month, with Surgeons from the Gobowen Orthopaedic Hospital attending once every two months.

Clinics are also held weekly at hospitals at Rhyl and Wrexham.

### **Ante-Natal Clinics**

There is no Ante-Natal Clinic held at Ruthin, but cases may be referred by the patient's own doctor to the Local Authority's Consultant Clinic which is held at the Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh, on alternate Friday mornings and at Wrexham on Wednesdays.

Patients who are booked at St. Asaph Hospital for their confinement attend the clinic attached to the hospital and held on Monday afternoons.

### **Infant Welfare Clinics**

This clinic is held at the Baptist Chapel Schoolroom, Park Road, Ruthin, every Tuesday afternoon. The clinic is well attended as can be seen from the under-mentioned attendance figures for the year:—

1st. Visits .....	123
Re-Visits .....	1144
Total .....	1267

These figures include babies from the rural district as well as from the Borough.

Welfare Foods are available at the Clinic during the clinic sessions and at 40 Well Street, Ruthin, on Friday afternoons.

The premises where the clinic is held are not really suitable for clinic purposes. Several buildings in the town have been inspected regarding their suitability for use as a Clinic, but they have all proved unsatisfactory and most of them were not even as suitable as the present rooms.

### Dental Clinics

No Local Authority Dental Clinic is held in the Borough, but expectant and nursing mothers and toddlers may attend at the Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh, by appointment.

No patients from the Borough attended for treatment during the year.

### Nursing Service

Number of Health Visitors ..... 1 (Mrs. E. A. Beech-Davies)

Number of Tuberculosis  
Health Visitors ..... 1 (Miss Lloyd-Edwards)

Number of District Nurses ..... 1 (Nurse A. W. Richards.

Nurse M. P. Smith relieves Nurse  
Richards when she is off duty)

The Health Visitor covers parts of Ruthin and Hiraethog Rural Districts as well as the Borough.

The Tuberculosis Health Visitor also covers the Eastern half of the County.

### Domestic Help Service

The number of domestic helps employed in the Borough during the year was eleven.

The number of cases where domestic help was provided during 1956 was as follows:—

Maternity .....	2
Tuberculosis .....	Nil
Chronic Sick and Aged .....	7
Others .....	10
	<hr/>
Total .....	19

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