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#### **Contributors**

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# BOROUGH OF RUTHIN



# ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

1961



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# REPORT

1961

#### Medical Officer of Health:

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# Public Health Inspector:

A. CHRIS GITTINS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., A.I.Hsg., Town Hall, Ruthin. Telephone 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 the Annual Report on the health of the Borough during 1961.

The Public Health Inspector again this year decided to present his special report to you rather than incorporate it in the usual joint annual report. This he presented to you in June and some information has had to be extracted from it in order to give you a comprehensive report for the year.

I would like to thank you Mr. Mayor, the Chairmen of the various Committees and Members of the Council for the assistance I have received during the year. I would also thank the Officials and Members of the staff for their ready assistance at all times.

Yours faithfully,

M. JONES ROBERTS, Medical Officer of Health.

Committees during the year were as follows:-

Mayor of the Borough:

January-May, 1961—Alderman G. Ross Thomas. June-December, 1961—Alderman Mrs. Margaret Roberts.

Chairmen of the Finance and General Purposes Committee:

January-May, 1961—Councillor S. T. Hughes.

June-December, 1961—Councillor G. Idris Jones.

Chairmen of the Housing and Public Health Committee:

January-May, 1961—Councillor Margaret Roberts.

June-December, 1961—Alderman G. Ross Thomas.

Chairmen of the Water Committee:

January-May, 1961—Councillor J. Dyfed Roberts. June-December, 1961—Councillor Ellis Davies.

# General Statistics of the Borough:

Area of th	ne Borough				2,016 (acre	es)
Registrar	General	Estimated	population	(mid-	-, (	,
196					3,620	
Number o	f inhabited	houses			1,103	
Rateable \	lue (1.4.6	1)			£48,527	
Sum repre	sented by	a penny rat	e		£191 12	4

The estimated population of the Borough was 3,620, compared with 3,680 in 1960, a decrease of 60.

The number of inhabited houses was 1,103 in 1961. compared with 1,088 in 1960, an increase of 15.

#### Deaths:

Comparability factor		0.76	
	England and Wales		
	1961	1960	1961
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population) Corrected death rate (per 1,000 popula-	12.0	18.20	18.56
tion	_	14.56	13.10
Still-birth rate (per 1,000 population) Still-birth rate (per 1,000 live and still-	_	0.54	0.27
births)	18.7	42.55	21.74
Maternal mortality rate (per 1,000 live	0.33	Nil	Nii
births) Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 legit-	21.4	Nil	Nil
imate live births)	-	Nil	Nil
imate live births)	_	Nil	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births, first four weeks)	15.5	Nil	Nil
Early neo-natal mortality rate (death under I week per 1,000 total live			
births)  Peri-natal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined	_	Nil	Nil
per 1,000 total live and still- births)	-	Nil	Nil

The following table shows the number of deaths which occurred during the year. The number of deaths which occurred in 1960 is shown in the first column for comparison.

	1960			
	Total	Total	Males	Females
Poliomyelitis	_	_	_	_
Poliomyelitis Tuberculosis — Respiratory	_	_	_	_
Tuberculosis — Other forms	_	_	_	_
	_	_	_	_
Syphilitic diseases				_
Diphtheria				
Whooping cough				
Meningococcal infections	-	_		
Measles	_	_	_	_
Other infective and parasitic dis-				
eases	I	I	I	_
Malignant diseases — Stomach	3	_	_	_
Lungs, bronchus	2	I	I	_
Breast	I	I	_	I
Uterus	_	I	_	I
Other	2	5	3	2
	_	_	_	_
Total Cancer deaths	8	8	4	4
Leukaemia	I	_		
Diabetes	_	_		_
Vascular lesions of the nervous				
	16	-		2
system		7	4	3 8
Coronary diseases	6	20	12	0
Hypertension with heart diseases	3		_	_
Other heart diseases	8	4	I	3
Other circulatory diseases	II	6	3	3
Influenza	_	5	4	I
Pneumonia	-	I	I	_
Bronchitis	5	3	2	I
Other respiratory diseases	2	_	_	_
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	_	I	_	I
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrohea	_	2	I	I
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	_	_	_
Hyperplasia of prostate	_	_		
Maternal causes	_	_	_	_
Congenital malformations	_	_	_	_
Other defined and illdefined				
diseases		6	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	4		3	3
All other accidents		I	I	
0	_	I	_	I
Suicide	_	I	_	I
Homicide	_	_	_	_
	-	-		
All Causes	67	67	37	30
		-/	31	3-

The deaths occurred in the following age groups:-

		Total	Males	Females
Under 1 year		_	_	_
1—10 years		I	I	_
10-20 years		_	-	_
20—30 years		2	2	_
30—40 years		100	-	_
40—50 years		4	2	2
50—60 years		5	4	I
60—70 years		14	IO	4
70—80 years		22	10	12
80—90 years		16	6	10
90 years and	over	3	2	I
Totals		67	37	30

There were 67 deaths during the year the same as in 1960, giving a death rate of 13.10 compared with 14.56 the previous year. Of these deaths, 55 occurred in persons aged 60 years and over.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis this year compared with Nil in 1960. There have been no deaths from tuberculosis in the Borough during the last 3 years.

Five deaths were due to influenza compared with Nil in 1960 and I was due to pneumonia compared with Nil the previous year. Four of these deaths were in elderly people.

Three deaths were due to bronchitis compared with 5 in 1961.

There were no deaths from any other infectious disease.

Deaths from cancer totalled 8 compared with 8 in 1960. Of these, I was due to cancer of the lung compared with 2 the previous year. One should remember that there is a connection between smoking and lung cancer and it is up to the individual to decide whether to give up smoking or not. Children should not be encouraged to smoke and adults should set an example. Councils have been asked to give a lead in this respect.

Deaths from vascular lesions, lesions of the heart and lesions of the circulatory system totalled 37 compared with 44 the previous year. Of these, 20 were due to coronary disease compared with 6 in 1960.

One death was due to a motor vehicle accident and one to suicide, compared with no deaths from these causes in 1960.

There was one other accident which occurred in a female aged 85 years and was due to accidental drowning.

#### Still-Births:

The Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still-births) was 21.74 compared with 42.55 in 1960 and 18.7 for England and Wales. The actual number of still-births was 1 compared with 2 the previous year.

#### Infant Deaths:

The Infant Mortality Rate was Nil compared with Nil in 1960 and 21.4 for England and Wales.

# Maternal Mortality:

The Maternal Mortality Rate was Nil the same as in 1960 compared with 0.33 for England and Wales.

There has not been a maternal death in Ruthin Borough for 6 years.

#### Births:

Actual number of births registered ... 93 (40 Males and 53 Females) Number of births relating to residents 45 (22 Males and 23 Females)

The Hospital in Ruthin has a Maternity Unit which also caters for the surrounding areas. Births relating to residents in the Borough also take place in hospitals in adjoining areas.

The births were classified as follows:-

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	21	23	44
Illegitimate	I	-	I
Total	22	23	45

	England and Wales	10 100gn	
	1961	1960	1961
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population) Corrected birth rate (per 1,000 popula-	17.4	12.22	712.21
tion)  Illegitimate live births per cent of total	_	12.95	12,94
live births	_	Nil	2.02

#### Infectious Diseases:

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1961, arranged in the various age groups. The number of cases notified during 1960 is given in the first column for comparison.

						At A	Ages			
Notifiable Disease	1960 Totals	1961 Totals	Under 1 year	I—5 years	6—15 years	16—25 years	26—45 years	46—65 years	65 years and over	Age unknown
Scarlet Fever	6	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Puerperal Pyrexia	I	-	_	_	_	_	-	_	_	-
Measles	110	39	_	II	23	5	_	_	_	-
Whooping Cough	_	6	I	5	_	_	_	_	_	-
Dysentry Pulmonary Tuber-	_	I	_	_	_	I	_		-	3
culosis	2	_	-	_	_	-	_	_	_	-
Non - Pulmonary Tuberculosis	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	-
Totals	119	46	I	16	23	6	_	_	_	-

The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 46 compared with 119 the previous year. The decrease is due to the fact that only 39 cases of measles were notified compared with 110 cases in 1960.

Six cases of whooping cough were notified compared with Nil in 1960.

No cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified during the year compared with 1 in 1960.

One case of dysentery was notified compared with Nil the previous year. Investigations were carried out in respect of this case but the source of infection was not found. No further cases were notified. Several cases of diarrhoea occurred amongst school children, but none were diagnosed as cases of dysentery.

One case of suspected poliomyelitis was admitted to hospital, but following further investigations at the hospital, the patient was diagnosed as suffering from influenza.

Seventeen cases of chicken pox were notified by the Head Teacher of a school in the Borough. This disease is not notifiable.

No cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year compared with two cases notified in 1960.

Three cases of tuberculosis were added to the register during the year, the patients having come to reside in the Borough from other areas.

One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was removed from the register, the patient having recovered.

The following table shows the number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at the beginning and at the end of 1961.

	Puln	nonary	non-Pu	llmonary	
N	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total
Number on register on 1st January, 1961	15	12	2	_	29
Number on register on 31st December, 1961	15	14	2	_	31

No cases of tuberculosis were admitted to hospital during the year, but 2 cases were discharged.

No visits were carried out by the Public Health Inspector regarding infectious diseases during the year.

# Prevention of Infectious Diseases:

Vaccination and immunisation against various infectious diseases were continued during the year as follows:—

Smallpox vaccination—Given at the age of 2 months.

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus combined

—At 3, 4 and 5 months, with a booster dose at 18 months.

Booster dose against —At 5 years, i.e., when the child enters tion school, and again at 10 years of age.

Poliomyelitis vaccina- —At 6 and 7 months, with a dooster dose diphtheria —after a lapse of approximately 7 months.

B.C.G. Vaccination —At 13 years of age and over.

We are doing everything in our power to offer these protective measures to all those concerned and it is up to everyone to take advantage of this. It has been obvious throughout the country that those who had not bothered to be protected became worried when a case of smallpox, poliomyelitis or diphtheria occurred. The last moment rush causes doctors and nurses to be overworked. I would add a warning that last minute applicants may find that the vaccine is in short supply.

The number immunised against these diseases during the year was as follows:—

# Against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus:

Against diphtheria only	Under 5 years	I
	Over 5 years	14
B	Booster injections	42
Against diphtheria and whooping cough	combined	Nil
Against diphtheria, whooping cough and	d tetanus combined:	
	Under 5 years	42
Against Smallpox:		
Number of primary vaccinations given	Under 5 years	41
	5—14 years years and over	3 8
15	years and over	8
Number of re-vaccinations		4

# Against Poliomyelitis:

Number vaccinated—Under 1 year		3
ı— 4 years		30
5—14 years		44
15—25 years		10
25—40 years		91
	Total	178
Number given the third injection .		101
Number of children given the fourth	injection	350

The schools were visited during the year and children between the ages of 5 and 12 were given the fourth poliomyelitis injection.

Evening poliomyelitis vaccination clinics were again held for adults. The priority groups for vaccination at the clinics are all persons up to 40 years of age. Those over 40 years of age may attend their own doctor as this is given under the National Health Service.

# Against Tuberculosis:

During the year, Brynhyfryd School was visited for the purpose of testing, and if necessary, giving B.C.G. vaccination to children over 13 years of age. The following figures show the number of children tested, etc., and include children from the Rural District.

Number of children tested	302
Number of children found to be negative	218
Number of children found to be positive	75
Number of children vaccinated with B.C.G	218

Those who were Mantoux positive were followed up to find whether the infection was active. This was done by X-ray examination. The whole family and near contacts were investigated in case there was an active case of tuberculosis amongst them. Younger children in the family were given a Mantoux test and offered B.C.G. vaccination, if necessary.

# Mass Radiography Unit:

The following table shows the number of persons who attended at the Unit for X-ray examination during the year and include persons from Ruthin Rural District.

Number examined	642
Number of visits	14
Average attendance per visit	46
The type of examinee was as follows:	
General population volunteers	492
General practitioner referrals	8
Schoolchildren	14
Contacts	127
Factory Groups — Non-Industrial	I
Total	642
Special Survey — Rhyddfan, Ruthin:	
Residents	69
Staff	7
	/

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

# Care of the Aged:

No cases of aged persons in need of care and attention were brought to my notice during the year. Periodic visits are paid by Health Visitors and District Nurses to the aged in the Borough and all assistance is given, e.g., by arranging for a Home Help to attend for certain periods daily to help with housework, preparation of meals, shopping, etc.

There is a flourishing Darby and Joan Club in the Borough, and it would be useful if a Meals on Wheels scheme could be pro-

vided for the sick and aged at home.

#### Food:

In his special report to the Council, the Public Health Inspector states that "as in 1960, pressure of work in other directions has prevented any systematic attempt at inspection of food premises. On occasions it has been possible to point out the more obvious deficiencies in structural requirements when visiting premises for other reasons."

He also states that generally the conditions in the premises are felt to be reasonable.

I am worried about the fact that no time was allocated for routine inspection of food premises either during 1960 or 1961, especially as the Public Health Inspector states that there were obvious deficiencies found during visits for other reasons.

The number of food premises in the Borough has not changed

greatly and the position is as follows:-

General food premises (grocery, etc.)	32
Bakehouses	6
Public houses and hotels	
Cafes and restaurants	7
School canteens	4
Vans and stalls	3
Butchers shops	7
Fish friers	4

The undermentioned foodstuffs were certified during the year as being unfit for human consumption:—

Canned meat	36 lbs.
Canned fruit	32 lbs.
Prunes	25 lbs.
Wet Fish	14 lbs.

## Milk:

There are four milk distributors in the Borough. These are producer-retailers of farm-bottled T.T. milk and one a large scale retailer of designated milk.

No milk samples were taken during the year and no complaints were received regarding the condition of milk or milk containers.

#### Ice Cream:

Number	of	shops manufacturing ice cream	Nil
Number	of	shops selling pre-packed ice cream	18

It is regretable that no samples of food stuffs (including ice cream) were sent for bacteriological examination during the year, owing to the fact that the Public Health Inspector's time had to be given to other matters.

# Food Sampling:

This is carried out under the Food and Drugs Act by the County Council's Chief Inspector. I would like to thank Mr. Thos. H. Evans for permission to include the following table:—

No. Taken	Genuine	Not Genuine or Sub-standard
8	8	_
I	I	_
I	I	
I	I	_
11	11	
	Taken	Taken Genuine 8 8 1 1 1 1 1 1

All the samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be genuine and free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter.

#### MEAT

# Slaughterhouses Act, 1958:

In his report to you for the year 1961, the Public Health Inspector reports as follows:—

The Crown House slaughterhouse continues to function during the year with a throughput of meat as shown in the next section

of the Report.

By the end of the year the major part of the structural and equipment requirements of the Regulations (made under the Act) were complied with. The "Appointed Day" was 1st January, 1962. Although one could not say that the Regulations are complied with in their entirety, there was a sufficient performance to warrant the renewal of the licence for a further twelve months. A continuous effort is made by advice and exhortation, to ensure hygienic operation.

The slaughterhouse proprietors have provided a folding pen for the holding of cattle which are being stunned. After a good deal of trial and adjustment, the pen has proved to be most satisfactory for a slaughterhouse of this type, and has made the slaughtermen's task easier.

Seventeen visits were made in connection with alterations and hygiene.

There are three licenced slaughtermen employed from time to time in the slaughterhouse.

# Meat Inspection:

The numbers of animals killed and inspected are given in the usual tabular form below. 267 visits were made for the purpose of inspecting meat and every effort has been made to achieve 100 per cent inspection. That this has not been achieved in respect of sheep and lambs is due entirely to the numbers involved, and to my inability to afford further time for the work.

I am grateful to the Public Health Inspectors of the Ruthin R.D.C. for their help in ensuring that the meat is inspected during

my leave period.

The standard of fitness of the meat is high, as the figures show. The main cause of rejection of meat was once again liver fluke which affected 48 (9.39 per cent) cattle and 15 (0.27 per cent) sheep—a total of 450 lbs. of liver. As last year, multiple incisions of organs did not reveal more than one degenerate cysticercus bovis lesion in any case, and no viable cysts were found. Five cysts were found in the head and one in the heart. One cow carcase and organs

were rejected for pyaemia, one calf carcase and organs for septimainder of the entire carcases were rejected for such reasons as bad bleeding, oedema and uraemia. Four bovine tongues were rejected for actinobacillosis ('wooden tongue').

# Animals killed and inspected at slaughterhouse, and incidence of disease:

	Cattle excl.			Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	482	5	24	6601	745
Number inspected	482	5 5	24	5476	745
culosis and cysticercosis: Whole carcases rejected Animals of which part was	-	I	I	I	-
rejected	65	I	I	I	-
Percentage of total inspected Tuberculosis only:	13.5		12.5	0.8	5.8
Whole carcases rejected Animals of which part was	-	-	-	_	_
rejected	_	_	_	_	II
Percentage of total inspected Cysticercosis only:	-	-	_	-	1.5
Whole carcases rejected Animals of which part was	-	-	-	_	-
rejected	4	_	_	_	_
Percentage of total inspected	1.2	_	_	_	_

Of the carcases inspected 19 per cent of cattle, 44 per cent of sheep and 27 per cent of pigs was estimated to be "exported" for wholesale or retail in premises outside the Borough. The figures relating to animals killed and meat exported are supplied by the slaughterhouse proprietors.

Unfit meat continues to be stained and checks on the methods of transporting it are made from time to time. The service provided by the processing firms at present permits the slaughterhouse management to conform with legal requirements. Liver affected with distomatosis (liver fluke) is collected for feeding to mink at a nearby breeding farm.

# New Building:

The number of houses and other buildings completed in the Borough in 1961 is as follows:—

Dwellings—3 bedroom houses 4 bedroom houses 2 bedroom bungal	ii
	Total 21*
Other Buildings—Domestic garages Factories and Wo	orkshops 3 1 4
	Total 8

#### Council Building:

There was no municipal house building during the year and the Council's effort was directed towards the purchase of further land for this purpose. An approach to the owner of one parcel of land proved abortive, and the Council turned its attention to an area of 6.25 acres where the two owners involved have shown a willingness to sell. The question of price now remains to be agreed.

As an interm measure, the Council decided in November to instruct The Homeville Co. Ltd. to undertake the necessary survey and preparation for the building of 8 two-bedroom flats of the type previously erected in 1959/60. Planning permission has been obtained in respect of the scheme, on land owned by the Council in Greenfield Road.

# Private building:

There are three private concerns engaged in the Borough in the development of estates with a potential total of 64 dwellings. The demand for semi-speculative building of this sort does not seem to reduce, and at the close of the year two of the firms were negotiating for further sites or extensions to sites, involving approximately 80 dwellings.

Included in the year's completions were improved office accommodation for the police, a new car showroom and filling station, an extension to Ruthin School and a new kitchen and dining room at Borthyn Junior School.

<sup>\*</sup> This figure is different to the one given on Page 2 and the Public Health Inspector states that the probable reason for this is due to overlapping of reports. Mr. Gittins' report to you gives mid-year figures and therefore some of these 21 houses may not have been completed during 1961.

# Housing Management:

There was a reduction of one in the total number of Council owned dwellings, due to the conversion of two two-bedroom cottages into one.

The total of 378 dwellings is made up as shown in the following table:

	Council-built									
	Pre-war sites			Post-war sites					The state of the s	
		Maes-y-Dre	Porth-y-Dre	Canol-y-Dre	Total	Parc-y-Dre	Haulfryn and Bryn Haul	Total	Otherwise acquired	Total
Houses:										
3-bedroom 2-bedroom 1-Bedroom 4-bedroom		24 — —	62 — —	36 — —	122 — —	80	51 31 —	131 —	I II 4 I	254 42 4 1
Bungalows:										
2-bedroom 2-bedroom		=	=	=	=	50 7	=	50 7	=	50 7
Flats:										
1-bedroom 2-bedroom		_	_	_	_	4	8	8	_	12
Totals		24	62	36	122	145	94	238	17	378

The weekly exclusive rents of the houses varied from 5/2 to 24/-, and those of the flats from 11/5 to 20/-. Prefabricated bungalows were let at 14/7 per week.

# Garage Provision:

It was not possible to make any progress in the survey of sites

for the building of further garages.

There are four sites where garages might be provided and the requisite planning permission will be sought as soon as possible.

12 garages are to be included in the contract for the flats on the site in Greenfield Road.

#### Maintenance:

479 visits were made for the purpose of checking on reports

from tenants and supervising the execution of work.

A good deal of the backlog of minor repairs has been dealt with and it is hoped that more attention can be given to such items as brickwork pointing and fence repairs.

41 houses were painted externally. This total included 36 houses at Canol-y-Dre, the 7 flats in the ex-Land Army Hostel and

4 houses in Mwrog Street.

Galvanised cold water storage cisterns in 6 houses on the Haulfryn estate developed leaks which appear to have been caused by electrolytic action and subsequent rusting. Since the remaining 76 cisterns were assumed to be in a similar state, the Council decided to renew them also, using asbetos cement cisterns. This work will be commenced early in 1962.

# Improvements:

The Council considered various aspects of improvement of pre-war houses and estates but, in view of the financial burden which would result and the staff available, decided to postpone action for the time being.

The Canol-y-Dre houses, built at a time when space standards were low, are probably the ones most in need of such improvements, and it is to be hoped that some phased programme may be attempted in the near future.

Electrical installations were brought up to a post-war standard in 3 houses in Porth-y-Dre and 1 house in Canol-y-Dre.

# Housing Applications:

On 31st December, 1961, there were 102 applicants on the register. Twenty visits were made in investigation of applicant by the Public Health Inspector.

There were 18 changes in tenancies during 1961. Sixteen visits were made in connection with tenancy matters.

# Housing Act 1957

Seven inspections were made for Housing Act reasons.

It has not been possible to make any accurate new assessment of the number of unfit dwellings in the Borough, since no survey for this purpose has been possible.

The Report made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government under the Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954, gave the number of unfit houses as 305. Of these, 68 were said to be incapable of repair at reasonable expense, that is, potentially suitable for closure or demolition. Of these, 11 have been dealt with by conversion or improvement and 5 are in a declared clearance area. From my own observations, I am able to add a further 15 houses which are almost certainly of a type to be included in this category. The possible net figure of houses still requiring closure or demolition is therefore 67.

A programme of clearance, repair and improvement is urgently necessary in the Borough to deal with this housing problem, which is now five years behind schedule.

# Section 17

Two houses, 47 and 49 Mwrog Street, previously the subjects of demolition orders, were demolished. The occupants of one—two adults and one child—were given the tenancy of a Council prefab.

# Section 42:

The Council declared the houses Nos. 125/131 Mwrog Street to be a clearance area in September. Two of these houses were vacant, the tenants having been housed by the Council. The making of an order now awaits the advent of suitable alternative accommodation.

#### Miscellaneous:

An approach was made to a member of the Trustees for the Llanfwrog Almshouses, regarding the condition of the dwellings and the future intentions of the Trustees. It is understood that an improvement scheme is to be submitted.

# Rent Act, 1957:

No applications were received and no certificates of disrepair were issued under the Rent Act, 1957.

#### Improvement Grants:

The details of grant-aided improvements are tabulated below:

The 5 schemes not completed cover 8 dwellings; I scheme included 5 amenities, I included 4 and I included 2.

Twenty-nine visits were made for the purpose of assessment and supervision of grant-aided work.

The number of applications made—all by owner-occupiers is not what could be hoped for, but possibly as much as could be satisfactory dealt with by existing staff. There is no doubt that, if resources were adequate, some form of compulsory improvement, possibly on the lines advocated by the Association of Public Health Inspectors, would be of great help in the improvement of housing stock.

Four enquiries regarding grant aid were also investigated. One did not satisfy the grant requirements, two were not proceeded with and one was improved without grant.

# Housing Act, 1961:

This new Act came into force on 24th November, 1961.

Its chief effect on housing was in relation to the Exchequer subsidy provisions. Instead of the subsidy being related to rehousing categories, e.g., slum clearance, the subsidy is now decided by reference to the state of the housing authority's revenue account, after assuming that rents of twice the gross value of the properties are being charged. The new subsidies are £24 and £8 per dwelling.

The other measures contained in the Act relate to houses in multiple occupation, houses in clearance areas and to improvement

grant conditions.

# Water Supply-Sources and supply:

The Borough continued to draw its water from two reservoirs and a borehole. The reservoirs have a capacity of 3,000,000 gallons and are fed by upland springs and streams with an estimated total minimum daily flow of 22,000 gallons. The borehole has an estimated maximum yield at its present level of 216,000 gallons per day.

These supplies are supplemented in emergencies by drawing on the Birkenhead Corporation main, fed from the Alwen Reservoir.

It was not necessary during the year to resort to this supply.

In addition to these sources, there are 7 properties in the Llanfwrog area of the Borough which are fed from a main of the Ruthin Rural District Council.

A total of 19 premises outside the Borough and within the Ruthin Rural District is supplied from the Borough water mains.

The usual routine clearing of streams and impounding tanks

was carried out.

A small collapsible boat was purchased for use in the clearing of weed from the reservoir surfaces.

#### Waterworks:

The water from the reservoirs is filtered and chlorinated before entering the mains. Power for the pump and compressor used in washing out the filters has been provided for a long time by a petrol engine. This has become worn and, due to the moisture and corrosive atmosphere in the filterhouse, has given a great deal of trouble. The Council agreed to provide an electricity supply at the works and the opportunity has been taken of installing an electric prime mover and power/lighting equipment.

The water in the borehole is raised by an electrically-powered centrifugal submersible pump with a reliable output of 8,000/9,000 gallons per house. There is a standby pump, also in the borehole, with a capacity of 2,000 gallons per hour. The water is sound bacteriologically and is not treated before entrance to the mains. It

is a hard water.

Apart from two minor electrical faults, the borehole has functioned with little trouble.

#### Distribution:

New mains or extensions to mains were completed during the year to serve housing sites. The total length was 204 yards of 3" and 150 yard of 2" in asbestos cement pipe.

This gives an approximate total over the Borough of 9 miles of mains, which includes 4,860 yards of 6", 680 yards of 5"; 2,200

yards of 4", 7,160 yards of 3" and 150 yards of 2".

#### Quality:

Sixteen samples of the public supply were taken for bacteriological examination. Seven of these were treated water and were classed as satisfactory. The other nine samples were taken at various points in the water undertaking before treatment, and although they showed some pollution, this was not of a type or degree to give cause for concern.

One sample was taken for chemical analysis, which showed nothing abnormal compared with previous analyses. The hardness of the water varies with the proportions of reservoir and borehole water which form the total supply. In the sample taken, total hardness was given as 233 parts and temporary hardness as 208 parts (per 1,000,000).

Report upon the analysis of one sample of water, received on

16th August, 1961.

Appearance	clear and colourless
Odour	Nil
Reaction, pH	6.6
	parts per million
Total solids	326
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	less than 0.01
Nitrogen as albuminiod ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	2.5
Chlorides, as CI	25
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4	
hours at 27C	0.64
Total hardness	233
Temporary hardness	208
Permanent hardness	25
Alkalinity	208
Free chlorine	Nil
Poisonous metals	see below
Potassium, as K	I.I
Anionic synthetic detergents	Nil
Copper	0.03

#### Opinion:

The chemical condition of this sample is satisfactory. There is no evidence of copper contamination, but possible attack on copper is best investigated by examination of a small sample of the first run-off after the water has been standing for an extended period in pipes.

Thirteen visits were made for sampling purposes.

# Quantity:

There has been no problem as to the quantity of water available for distribution.

The following table shows the amount of water fed into the Borough mains and the sources from which it was derived:—

Reservoirs	Daily av. (gals.)	Total annual supply(gals.) 26,280,000
Borehole Birkenhead Water Department main Ruthin R.D.C. main (Birkenhead water)	129,000 Nil 1,300	47,085,000 Nil 475,000
	202,300	73,840,000

This gives a daily consumption per head of 55 gallons after allowing for the premises supplied outside the Borough. This figure is rather high for a town of this size—as stated in the last report—and must include a fair amount of avoidable waste. Some of this latter was dealt with during the year (see section on Distribut on), and it is hoped that further improvement can be obtained as time goes on.

# Re-grouping of water undertakings:

The Draft Order for the creation of the North Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board has been approved and arrangements are being made for at technical survey of the undertakings which are to be included in the Board.

Fifty visits were made in connection with the supervision and

administration of the water undertaking.

A small waste survey was undertaken in the year, but the pinpointing of suspected waste was made difficult with the sole existing waste meter which controls only a portion of the town. This is also in need of overhaul. No decision to purchase a suggested portable waste meter was made however.

Twenty-eight leaks in mains and services were repaired. Two

of these were leaking valves on mains, 18 were bursts or defects in stop taps or communication pipes and 8 were in mains themselves. The most important of these was a leak in a 6" main which was discovered after investigating a report of water in a cellar some 50 yards away from the main. The water was following a telephone duct before entering the cellar.

Meters were installed on the supplies to two new private swim-

ming pools.

# Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

There are approximately 6 miles of public sewers mainly 9" and 12" in diameter. The system is combined surface and foul water. 350 yards of sewers were completed on new estates. The length of sewer running from Clwyd Street to Park Road under the River became badly silted and required cleaning. The same applies to a lesser degree to other lengths in the town.

Nine visits were made for sewer maintenance purposes.

The disposal continues to be by irrigation on the Council's Sewerage Farm. Some acres of Council-owned land received the discharge from two outfall sewers. The control of the irrigation scheme occupies roughly two-thirds of one man's time during the year.

Fifteen visits were made to the Sewage Farm.

The plans and specifications being prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers for the new sewage disposal works and sewers, did not materialise in October as it was hoped. It was found necessary to modify the capacity of the work and the design depth of the sewer at the point where it crosses under the bed of the River Clwyd. These modifications await the approval of the Welsh Office.

Samples of effluent from the two mineral works, the hospital and the slaughterhouse were taken for analysis. No unexpected constituent was found, but it may be necessary to allow for the abnormal sugar content of the works effluents when considering action under the Drainage of Trade Premises Act.

#### Public Conveniences:

The year saw a slight reduction in damage to fittings in the two public conveniences in Market Street and Crispin Yard, Trouble was still experienced on occasion from the turnstiles but the periodic maintenance service provided by the manufacturers clearly helped to keep such trouble at a minimum. The stopages were mainly caused by damage or mis-shapen coins.

Eleven visits were made to the public conveniences in connec-

tion with mantenance and cleanliness.

#### Cemetery:

There were 14 interments during 1961. Of these, 7 were in purchased graves.

# Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928:

Seventeen premises are licenced to store petroleum and/or petroleum mixture (mainly cellulose). Three premises were registered for the first time during the year.

Seven visits were made in connection with the licencing pro-

visions.

# Clean Air Act, 1958:

There has been no need to enforce any of the smoke abatement provisions of the Act in relation to existing furnaces. The boiler plant at the County Welfare Establishment was operated with little or no nuisance.

No applications were received under the "prior approval" pro-

visions of the Act.

The additional building bye-law relating to smokeless appliances in new buldings has been enforced since its adoption by the Council and solid fuel appliances in improvement grant schemes

are required to be chosen from the "approved" list.

After receiving a complaint regarding nuisance from smut from the chimney of a fish and chip shop, investigation showed that not only was the proprietor using a bituminous coal, but his method of firing left room for improvement. The advice given did in fact achieve some alleviation of the trouble, but, with the installation of a gas-fired range, the problem was finally solved.

# Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949:

Sixty visits were made to domestic premises and 106 to other premises in the investigation and treatment of rodent infestations.

Fourteen domestic premises and 17 other premises were treated and in all 31 treatments were carried out. It was necessary to serve a notice in one case to secure the removal of rubbish which had been attracting rats to a storage building and giving difficulties with baiting. No further infestation has been observed in this case.

The Borough sewer system was treated once (in March), but there was very little evidence of infestation. Sewer bags were used

for baiting and they proved to be very useful.

# Insect Infestation:

Assistance and advice is given to householders in cases of infestation by the usual household insect pests.

Six visits were made in investigating insect infestation.

#### Refreshment Houses, etc.

The sanitary accommodation at two licenced houses was improved during the year and 4 visits were made under this heading.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

#### Collection:

Twenty-three visits were made to properties in the Borough in connection with refuse collection. Fifteen of these visits were made for the purpose of ensuring the provision of proper dustbins.

In March, 1961, a new collection vehicle was brought into use. It is a 12 cubic yard fore-and-aft diesel powered tipping vehicle, made by Shelvoke and Drewry, and has a power press to assist compaction of the refuse. It has permitted bulkier loads to be dealt with than was the case with the previous side-loading vehicle and there has been a reduction in the number of runs to the refuse tip.

With the coming into service of the new vehicle, the collection round was surveyed and re-organised on a more rational basis. This, and the greater utility of the vehicle, has permitted the collection of the whole of the Borough refuse by two men (driver and loader) in a once-weekly basis, notwithstanding a reduction in the weekly hours and an increase of 23 in the properties to be visited.

An attempt has been made to improve the hygiene of collection, by arranging for the dust bins on the Parc-y-Dre and Haulfryn housing estates to be emptied directly into the vehicle from the kerbside. This has involved increased labour but it has the great advantage of eliminating the use of a skep, and thereby reducing spillage and dust nuisance. It is unfortunate that cost precludes an extension of this practice for the time being beyond the two estates mentoned.

Trade refuse continues to be collected weekly without extra charge, although there have been cases where large accumulations of paper have had to be dealt with separately to avoid taking up space in the vehicle.

#### Disposal:

Seventeen visits were made to the refuse tip for supervision purposes. The tip continues to be run as far as possible on "controlled" lines, although sickness and shortage of suitable staff produces difficult periods of reduced control.

By agreement between the two Councils, the Ruthin Rural District Council refuse vehicles began to use the tip in March. A charge of 7/- per load is levied on the R.D.C. for this acility.

The Council also decided to levy a charge of 5/- per load on builders and tradespeople who wish to use the tip to dispose of rubbish.

#### Offensive Trades:

There are four shops retailing fish and chips in the Borough. There was no complaint arising from their operation.

# Factories Acts 1937-1959:

No routine inspections were possible during the year. Opportunity was taken in some cases when visiting for other reasons to check compliance with the Acts.

#### Part I of the Act:

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

R		Number of			
Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1 2	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
<ul> <li>(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities</li> <li>(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the</li> </ul>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Local Authority	24	6	I	_	
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	12	10	_	_	
Total	36	16	I		

# 2.—Cases in which defects were found:—

	Number of cases in which defects were found						
			Refe	erred	nstit		
Particulars	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	. –	-	-	_	_		
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	_		_	_		
Unreasonable temperature (S.3). Inadequate ventilation (S.4)							
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6	;; —	_	_	_	_		
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	,						
(a) Insufficient	. I	_	_	I	_		
(b) Unsuitable or defective	. I	I	_	_	_		
(c) Not separate for sexes	. —	_	_	-	_		
Other offences against the Act (no including offences relating to Outwork)		_	_	_	_		
Total	. 2	I	-	I	=		

Part VIII of the Act: Outwork (Sections 110 and 111):

Part VIII of the Act. Outwork	Se	ction	110	Sect	ion 1	II
	out-workers in list required by 110(1) (c)	f default	prosecutions for to supply lists	instances of unwholesome	-	
	t req	No. of cases of d in sending lists t Council	supi	instrunn	served	suc
Nature of Work	out- list	cas ding	pro to	of in		Prosecutions
	No. of August Section	sen sen	No. of failure	No. of work in premises	Notices	osec
	No Au	SES	fa			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel: Making,						
etc., Cleaning and Washing	_	_				
Household linen Lace, lace curtains and nets			_	_	_	_
Curtains and furniture hang-						
ings	_	_	_	_	_	_
Furniture and upholstery	_	_	_	-	_	_
Electro-plate	_	_	_	_	_	-
File making	_	_	_	_	_	_
Brass and brass articles	_	_	_	_	_	_
Fur pulling	_	_	_	_	_	_
Iron and steel cables and chains			_	_	_	_
Iron and Steel anchors and						
grapnels	_	_	_	_	_	_
Cart gear	_	_	_	_	_	_
Locks, latches and keys	_	_	_	_	_	_
Umbrellas, etc.	_	_	_	_	_	_
Artificial flowers	_	_	_	_	_	_
Nets, other than wire nets	_	_	_	_	_	_
Tents Sacks		_	_	_	_	_
Racquets and tennis balls						
Paper bags		_	_	_	_	_
The making of boxes or						
other receptacles or parts						
thereof made wholly or						
partially of paper	_	_	_	_	_	_
Brush making	_	_	_	_	_	-
Pea picking	_	-	_	_	_	_
Carding, etc of buttons etc.				/		_
Stuffed tovs	_					
Basket making	_	_				
Chocolates and sweetmeats	_	_	_	_	_	
Cosaques, Christmas stock-						
ings, etc.	_	_	_	_	_	_
Textile weaving	_	_	_		_	_
Lampshades	_	_	_	_	-	_
Total	20	_	-	_	_	_

#### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

The Public Health Laboratory is at Conway, and samples of water, milk and ice cream may be sent there for bacteriological examination. Other types of bacteriological examinations may be carried out there to aid in the diagnosis of illness, e.g., food poisoning, scarlet fever, meningitis, etc.

No food stuffs were sent for examination during the year.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination are now taken to Chester by the Public Health Inspector as he finds this more convenient than sending them to Conway.

#### Ambulance Service:

This service is controlled by the County Medical Officer of Health at Wrexham, but Denbigh, Llanrwst and Llangernyw ambulances are under the jurisdiction of the Ambulance Sub-Station at Colwyn Bay.

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.

tian ing	ine jeur.	Llan-	Llan-	Cerrig-y-	
Denbigh	Ruthin	rwst	gernyw	Drudion	Totals
		IOI	2155	72	9236
41512	32641	3225	28104	2818	108300
2	2	1	I	I	7
				** .	
Both	Both	Vol.	F-time	Vol.	
	Denbigh 2104 41512	2 2	Denbigh Ruthin rwst  2104 2804 101 41512 32641 3225  2 2 1	Denbigh Ruthin rwst gernyw  2104 2804 101 2155 41512 32641 3225 28104	Llan- Llan- Cerrig-y-rwst gernyw Drudion  2104 2804 101 2155 72 41512 32641 3225 28104 2818  2 2 1 1 1

# Sitting Case Cars—Taxis:

No. of Journeys	No. of cases	Total Mileage
1567	5426	77329

#### Mental Health Service:

This service is under the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health.

# Orthopaedic Clinic:

This clinic is held at The Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbgh, on the first and third Wednesday morning in each month. Surgeons from Gobowen Orthopaedic Hospital attend once every two months. Some patients from the Borough attend Orthopaedic Clinics held weekly at Wrexham and Rhyl hospitals.

## Veneral Diseases Clinics:

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

# School Ophthalmic Clinics:

Sessions are held at the Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh, by

appointment.

Some children from the Borough attend the Ophthalmic Clinics held at Denbigh, St. Asaph and Wrexham hospitals, and also at Dr. Enid Hughes' surgery at Ruthin.

#### Child Guidance Clinics:

Clinics are held as follows:—
At Bod Difyr, Cefn Road, Colwyn Bay, on Wednesdays and Fridays.
At Gatehill Clinic, Kings Mills Road, Wrexham, on Thursdays and by appointment on Fridays.

# Family Planning Clinics:

Clinics are held as follows:-

At Nant-y-Glyn Clinic, Colwyn Bay, on Mondays between 2.30 and 3.30 p.m.

At No. 1 Grosvenor Road, Wrexham, on Thursdays between 2 and 4.30 p.m.

#### Chest Clinics:

Patients from the Borough attend the Chest Clinic held every Wednesday morning at the Denbigh Infirmary or at the weekly clinics held at the Chest Clinic, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham, and at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl.

#### Infant Welfare Clinics:

This clinic is held at the Baptist Chapel Schoolroom every Tuesday afternoon. The clinic is well attended as can be seen from the undermentioned figures:—

Under 1 year

1st Visits	re Visits	ı—2 years	2—5 years	Total Visits
125	642	184	265	1216

These figures include babies from the Rural District.

Welfare Foods are sold at the Clinic on Tuesday afternoon and at the Technical Institute, Ruthin, between 1.30 and 4 p.m. on

Friday afternoons.

Special transport to the Clinic is provided from the outlying districts of Llanarmon, Llanferres and Maeshafn where there are no convenient buses. The number of mothers, babies and children who took advantage of this service during the year was 72 mothers and 108 babies.

#### Dental Clinics:

No Local Authority Clinic is held in the Borough, but expectant and nursing mothers and toddlers may attend at the Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh, by appointment. The number of cases treated at the Denbigh Clinic during the year was as follows:—

Number	examined	4
Number	requiring treatment	4
Number	treated	4
Number	completed treatment	2

#### Nursing Services:

The following are the names and addresses of the nursing staff

serving the Borough:-

Health Visitors: Miss C. J. Davies and Miss E. Edwards, c/o Technical Institute, Well Street, Ruthin, Tel. No. Ruthin 3782; Miss E. Morus Jones, The Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh, Tel. No. Denbigh 289.

Miss Davies and Miss Edwards also cover parts of Ruthin Rural District and Miss Morus Jones covers parts of Ruthin Rural District

and Denbigh Borough.

#### Tuberculosis Health Visitor:

Miss M. Lloyd-Edwards, The Chest Clinic, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham. Tel. No. Wrexham 4242.

Miss Lloyd Edwards covers the Eastern half of the County.

#### District Nurse:

Sister Fowell, Telpyn Smithy, Rhewl, Ruthin. Tel. No. Ruthin

# Domestic Help Service:

The number of domestic helps employed in the Borough during the year was 24.

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

Chronic Si	ck and	Aged	 	22
Others			 	6
Total			 	28



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