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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1939



To
THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RUTHIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the sanitary condition of the District, with various statistics, for the year ended 31st. December, 1939.

Area (in acres)	94,634
Population (Census 1931)	9,140
Estimated Population (1939)	8,546
Average Population for calculation of Birth-rate	8,546
Average Population for calculation of Death-rate	8,933
Rateable Value	£39,907
Sum represent by penny rate	£ 166

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live Births.- 65 males and 50 females, including 3 males illegitimate.
Total - 115. Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated population, 13.4.

Still-births.- 2 males and 2 females, 1 male being illegitimate.
Rate per 1,000 total births 43 and .58 per 1,000 population as compared with 0.59 for England and Wales.

Deaths.- 73 males and 68 females. Total 141. Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated population, 15.7.

Deaths from :-

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :-

All Infants per 1,000 live births	52
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	52
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE

It is satisfactory to observe that not a single death was accounted for by Zymotic Disease.

BIRTHS

The total number of Births registered during the year was 115, being 65 males and 50 females (including 3 males illegitimate). This number, based upon a population of 8546 is equivalent to an Annual Birth Rate of 13.4 per 1,000, as compared with 12.8 for the previous year and 15.0 for England and Wales for the present year.

DEATHS

During the past year there were 141 deaths registered as having occurred in the District, these being 73 males and 68 females, equal to an Annual death-rate per 1,000 of 15.7 as compared with 15.2 for the previous year, and 12.1 for England and Wales for the present year.

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Congenital Debility Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

CANCER

27 persons died from the above disease, 18 being males and 9 females. This is equivalent to a mortality of 3.02 per 1,000 of the population and at the rate of 191 per 1,000 deaths registered.

The rates for the previous year were 2.6 and 166 respectively.

<u>Age.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Between 40-50	1	-
Between 50-60	1	1
Between 60-70	4	5
Between 70-80	11	2
Over 80	1	1
Total	<u>18</u>	<u>9</u>

MORTALITY AMONGST PERSONS OVER 65 YEARS

78 of the total number of deaths (141), viz.:- 43 males and 35 females, occurred in persons who were over 65 years of age. This is equal to a death-rate of 553 per 1,000 deaths registered, as compared with 478 for the previous year.

16	were	between	65	and	70	years.
34	:	:	:	:	70	and 80 years
22	:	:	:	:	80	and 90 years
6	were	over	90	years.		

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Six deaths of infants under one year were registered, being 4 males and 2 females. This equals a rate of 52 per 1,000 births registered, as compared with the rate of 90 for the previous year and 50 for England and Wales, for the present year.

There were no deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age, while the rate for England and Wales for the present year was 4.6 per 1,000 live births.

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year, only one death from this disease occurred, this being due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and is equivalent to the low mortality of 0.1 per 1,000 of population or at the rate of 7 per 1,000 deaths registered as compared with a rate of 0.4 and 31 respectively for the previous year. This is the lowest rate recorded in the district.

Four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, these being four females; also five non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, being three males and two females.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1939

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & Upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	4	3	2	1	-	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of infectious diseases was comparatively very low during the year and particularly in view of the extensive area of the district and an additional evacuated population of over 600.

Very few cases of Measles and Whoopingcough occurred in comparison with other years.

Throat infections were very prevalent during the latter part of the year throughout the District also at the same time a comparatively mild epidemic of Influenza occurred.

The undermentioned cases were notified during the year :-

Disease.	Total Cases		Cases admitted		Total Deaths.
	Notified		to Hospital.		
Scarlet Fever	19	....	16	....	0
Diphtheria	3	....	3	....	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	....	0	....	0
Pneumonia	14	....	0	....	5
Polionyelitis	2	....	2	....	0
Erysipelas	4	....	1	....	0

AGE OF CASES NOTIFIED

	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65
Scarlet Fever	0	0	1	1	11	3	0	2	0	1	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	5	3
Polio-Myelitis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

The cases occurred in the undermentioned localities :-

SCARLET FEVER.

Llanarmon	3
Llandyrnog	4
Llanrhaidr	3
Llanferres	2
Llanfawr	1
Llanolidan	2
Llanbedr	2
Llandegla	1
Brynoglwys	1

DIPHTHERIA.

Llandyrnog	1
Llanolidan	1
Brynoglwys	1

It will be observed from the above table that Scarlet Fever cases were distributed throughout the district and not due to any epidemic. Many of these cases were due to infection from outside the district and not any could be accounted for by any local insanitary conditions.

It is gratifying to observe that only three cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. One contracted the infection in another district, the two others were Nasal Diphtheria one of which was an Evacuee. This freedom from Diphtheria is a record in the district and undoubtedly attributable to the immunisation against Diphtheria of practically all the children of school age and also of those under five years.

It is also satisfactory to note that not a single death was caused by any of the infectious diseases.

POLIOMYELITIS

Two cases of this disease were notified, one being in Clawddnewydd and the other in the Llanrhaiadr District. The source of infection could not be ascertained in either case. Both of the cases were treated at the Isolation Hospital.

DISINFECTION OF CLOTHING

Arrangements have been made to have all infected clothing in cases of notifiable infectious diseases disinfected at the Isolation Hospital, and those in cases of Tuberculosis at the North Wales Sanatorium.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION

Immunisation of School Children against Diphtheria was commenced during the latter part of 1938 and completed in March 1939. The number immunised in the Schools was 785; also a fair number were done at their own home. As will be observed in a previous paragraph the beneficial result has been most gratifying.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There have been no changes during the year in the services provided under the following headings except the establishment of the "EMERGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE" at CONWAY which is exceptionally efficient and helpful :-

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
LABORATORY FACILITIES
AMBULANCE FACILITIES
CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES
HOSPITALS
TUBERCULOSIS
VENEREAL DISEASES
MATERNITY AND NURSING
LEGISLATION IN FORCE

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supply

The Prion Scheme, which was carried out as far as Pantpystynog, Llanrhaiadr by the end of 1938, was completed in October 1939 and supplies a large area of the district where a supply was very much needed. This and the Llanarmon Scheme, which was completed at the end of last year, are proving highly satisfactory and much appreciated in the various localities supplied. The Water Supply at Brynoglwyns has been under consideration by the Council and undoubtedly a new scheme would have been constructed except for the abnormal conditions which caused the difficulties of obtaining the necessary material.

Seventy dwellings, including a large number of farms have received a new supply during the year.

Several samples of Water were sent away for chemical and bacteriological analysis, one of which only proved unsatisfactory and necessitated further purification.

Rivers and Streams.

One stream was polluted by whey from a Milk Factory; as the new Factory has now been completed and which has a most efficient drainage system, it is assumed that no further pollution will take place.

Drains and Sewerage

Twenty seven cases of defective drainage were dealt with and remedied, in 19 cases of which new drains were laid.

Closet Accommodation

During the year 35 new Water Closets were provided for existing premises.

Scavenging.

A highly satisfactory scheme has been arranged by the Council for the removal of refuse throughout all the district. A Dump has been provided in 6 localities into which the refuse is conveyed by Motor Lorries.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Prepared under the Sanitary Officers Order, 1928.

As a result of inspection carried out during the year, 154 nuisances were found to exist. Of this number, 146 were remedied, leaving 8 outstanding at the end of the year.

The above defects necessitated the serving of the following notices :-

Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	154
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	Nil

110 Notices were complied with after consulting with owners, and without having to report to the Authority.

Classification of Visits.

Visits in respect of nuisance abatement	...	...	...	...	287
Visits in respect of drainage work	...	...	...	...	114
Visits in respect of water supplied	...	...	...	...	46
Visits to Bakohouses	...	...	...	...	35
Visits to Slaughterhouses (apart from meat inspection)	...	...	...	...	104
Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	462
Visits for Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	107
Visits to investigate infectious diseases (including T.B.)	...	...	...	...	74
Revisits and disinfection	...	...	...	...	48
Visits to Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	106

Classification of Defects Found.

Overcrowding or dirty houses	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective Structures	...	...	...	...	...	1
W.C. Fittings	...	...	...	...	...	11
Stopped Drains	...	...	...	...	...	24
Defective Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	27
Defective Roofs and Water Spouts	...	...	...	...	...	43
Defective Floors	...	...	...	...	...	16
Defective Domestic Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	19

Disinfection.

Number of premises disinfected 39

Smoke Abatement.

One case was reported which has now been remedied.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

There were no offensive trades or hop-pickers in the district.

SCHOOLS

There are eighteen Public Elementary Schools within the district, all of which are inspected during the year. Eleven of these have been provided with Water Closets as compared with Nine for the previous year.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises within the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

HOUSING

The number of new houses erected during the year was 11 and 5 were re-conditioned under the Rural Workers Act.

As mentioned in my last Annual Report, there is still a scarcity of houses and especially those containing three Bedrooms in the District, consequently over-crowding still exists and owing to the present conditions existing it has been very difficult to remedy this condition, although the Council is making every effort to deal with the question. In four instances the condition was remedied.

Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	23
(11) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	24
(111) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	120

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 2

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	4
(11) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	19

Number of Houses erected during the year :-

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b) 11

(b) State Assistance under Housing Acts :-

(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	Nil
(11) By other Bodies or Persons (Rural Workers Act, 1926)	...	...	...	...	Nil

(c) Reconstructed 5

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health Acts or Housing Acts	71
(2) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	53
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	1
(4) Number of dwelling houses (inclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	17

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without the Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	14
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1935:-	Nil.
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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

There are about 540 Farms under supervision and 62 Registered Milk Sellers (Dairies) 47 of which supply Grade "A" Accredited Milk and Tuberculin Tested.

MILK SAMPLES

23 samples were Tuberculin Tested, all being negative.
32 samples were tested Methylene blue, all proving satisfactory.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Particulars of samples of Food and Drugs taken in the Ruthin Rural District, during the year ended 31st. December, 1939 under the above Act.

<u>ARTICLE</u>	<u>Number taken.</u>	<u>Genuine.</u>	<u>Not Genuine.</u>
Milk	8	7	1
Baking Powder	1	1	
Potted Maet	1	1	
Jam	1	1	
Lard	1	1	
Butter	1	1	
Tapioca	1	1	
Pepper	1	1	
TOTALS	15	14	1

Apart from one sample of milk certified as being slightly deficient in solids-not-fat, all the samples were found to be genuine.

D. W. GRIFFITH,
Chief Inspector,
County of Denbigh.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 12 Slaughter Houses and 1 Knacker's Yard in the District. These and other Food Stores are periodically examined.

Number of Animals killed.

Sheep and Lambs	-	2160
Pigs	-	174

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)
REGULATIONS, 1925.

No case under the above Regulations occurred in the district during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925 (SECTION 68).

It was not necessary to take action under the above Act respecting compulsory removal to Hospital.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT

Garages	...	...	...	...	...	6
Flour Mills	...	...	...	...	...	11
Electric Light Works	...	...	...	...	...	3
Saw Mills	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	6
Building Trades	...	...	...	...	...	5
Butter Factory	...	...	...	...	...	1
Others	...	...	...	...	...	14
						<u>52</u>

The above were periodically inspected and Notices were served in respect of :-

Lime Washing	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	1
						<u>3</u>

RAINFALL

I am again indebted to Major Bromhead, Plas Draw, Ruthin for the Rainfall Report for 1939.

He states that :-

The rainfall was 5.77 above the average. Days on which rain fell was 22 below the average. The average number of days on which rain fell has been going down since 1931 and the springs do not seem to fill up.

January	...	...	5.03
February	...	...	2.8
March	...	...	3.62
April	...	...	2.61
May	...	...	2.29
June	...	...	2.65
July	...	...	5.82
August	...	...	2.66
September	...	...	0.75
October	...	...	3.46
November	...	...	5.54
December	...	...	<u>2.08</u>
TOTAL for 1939	...	...	<u>39.31</u>

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. O. JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.