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**Contributors**

Ruthin Town (Clwyd, Wales). Rural District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1940

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 1940.

Area (in acres).....	94,634
Population (Census 1931).....	9,140
Estimated Population (1940).....	9,497 X
Rateable Value.....	£40,350
Sum represented by penny rate.....	£168.2.6

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live Births:-

59 males and 65 females, including 3 males and 11 females illegitimate - Total 124. Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population 13.05.

Still Births:-

2 females, both being illegitimate. Rate per 1,000 total births 15 and .21 per 1,000 population as compared with 43 and .58 for previous year and .55 for England and Wales for present year.

Deaths:-

67 males and 61 females. Total 128. Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population 13.5.

Deaths from :-

Puerperal Sepsis.....	Nil
Other Puerperal causes.....	Nil

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :-

All Infants per 1000 live births.....	56
Legitimate Infants per 1000 live births.....	56
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.....	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)....	One

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE

Only one death attributable to Zymotic Diseases has occurred, this being caused by Diphtheria.

BIRTHS

The total number of Births registered during the year was 124, being 59 males and 65 females, including 3 males and 11 females illegitimate. This number based upon a population of 9497 is equivalent to an Annual Birth Rate of 13.05 per 1000 as compared with 13.4 for the previous year and 14.6 for England and Wales for the present year.

DEATHS.

During the year 128 Deaths were registered, these being 67 males and 61 females, equal to an Annual death rate per 1000 of 13.5 as compared with 15.7 for the previous year and 14.3 for England and Wales for the present year. This is the lowest rate recorded in the district for some years.

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	5
Other Tuberculosis Diseases.....	1
Cancer.....	16
Cerebral Haemorrhage.....	12
Heart Diseases.....	24
Bronchitis.....	8
Pneumonia.....	6
Nephritis.....	5
Suicide.....	4
Accidents.....	5
Diphtheria.....	1
Influenza.....	5
Diabetes.....	2
Congenital Debility Premature Birth.....	4
Other Defined Diseases.....	38

CANCER

16 persons died from Cancer within the year, being 9 males and 7 females.

Seven were cancer of Stomach and Duodenum, one of Oesophagus and eight of all other sites. The total is equivalent to 1.8 per 1000 of the population and at the rate of 125 per 1000 deaths registered. This compares favourably with the rates of the previous year which were 3.02 and 191 respectively.

Age and Sex Distribution

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Between 65 and 70 years	4	2
Between 70 and 80 years	4	5
Between 80 and 90 years	1	-

MORTALITY AMONGST PERSONS OVER 65 YEARS

71 of the total number of Deaths, viz., 36 males and 35 females occurred in persons who were over 65 years of age. This is equal to a death rate of 564 per 1000 deaths registered as compared with 553 for the previous year.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Between 65 and 70 years	6	4
Between 70 and 80 years	17	20
Between 80 and 90 years	12	10
Over 90	1	1

INFANTILE MORTALITY

7 Deaths of Infants under one year were registered, being four males and three females. This equals a rate of 56 per 1000 births registered, as compared with 52 for the previous year and 55 for England and Wales for the present year.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1940

Age Periods.	<u>NEW CASES.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	3	-	-	2	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	1
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3	5	1	4	3	2	-	1

It will be observed from the above Table that 9 cases of Pulmonary and 4 Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, these being 5 females and 3 males Pulmonary, and 4 females and 1 male non-Pulmonary. 3 females and 1 male of the above were temporary residents.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The undermentioned cases were notified during the year :-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	26	19	-
Diphtheria	10	9	1
Enteric Fever	2	-	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Measles	203	-	-
Pneumonia	16	-	6

Ages of Cases notified

<u>Scarlet Fever :-</u>	8	between	5	and	10	years
	12	between	10	:	15	:
	5	:	15	:	20	:
	1	:	20	:	25	:
<u>Diphtheria :-</u>	7	:	10	:	15	:
	3	:	15	:	20	:

The cases occurred in the undermentioned localities :-

<u>Scarlet Fever :-</u>	Clocaenog.....	1
	Llandyrnog.....	3
	Llanfair.....	2
	Llandogla.....	2
	Llanarmon.....	4
	Nantglyn.....	1
	Llangruffal.....	2
	Derwen.....	2
	Llanferres.....	9
		26
<u>Diphtheria :-</u>	Llandyrnog.....	2
	Llandogla.....	1
	Aberwheeler.....	1
	Derwen.....	3
	Llanferres.....	3
		10

A mild epidemic of influenza was prevalent in the district during February and March and also a number of cases of German Measles occurred during the summer months. A severe epidemic of measles was prevalent during the latter part of the year and this spread throughout the District.

With the exception of Measles, the incidence of infectious diseases in the District was again comparatively low. Of the total number of Scarlet Fever cases, 9 occurred in Children's Camps and 2 in Public Institutions, leaving 15 out of the number which occurred amongst the resident population. Also 6 of the Diphtheria cases occurred in Camps and 2 Public Institutions, leaving only 2 which occurred among the normal population, one of these being nasal.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children immunised against Diphtheria up to the end of the year was 450. This added to the number completed in 1939 gives a total of 1,225. It is gratifying to observe that not a single case of Diphtheria has occurred in any of the children who have so far been immunized. In addition, a number of children were immunised at their own homes, of which no record is available.

#### 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 existing water schemes which practically supply the whole of the district continue to be satisfactory and every effort is always made to remedy defects which may arise in any locality.

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

9 samples of water were sent away for chemical and bacteriological analysis and any which required further purification were dealt with.

Rivers and Streams. No cases of stream pollution occurred during the year.

Drains and Sewerage. 23 cases of defective drainage were dealt with and remedied, in 18 cases of which new drains were laid.

Closet Accommodation. During the year 38 new Water Closets were provided for existing premises.

Scavenging. The scheme arranged by the Council for the removal of refuse continues to be very efficient.

#### SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Prepared under the Sanitary Officers Order, 1928

As a result of inspection carried out during the year, 142 nuisances were found to exist. Of this number 136 were remedied, leaving 6 outstanding at the end of the year.

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

Informal Notices.....	142
Statutory Notices.....	Nil

118 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.....	262
Visits in respect of drainage work.....	103
Visits in respect of water supplied.....	52
Visits to Bakehouses.....	28
Visits to Slaughterhouses (apart from meat inspection)	42
Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies.....	491
Visits for Food inspection.....	87
Visits to investigate infectious diseases (including T.B.).....	65
Revisits and disinfection.....	54
Visits to Factories and Workshops.....	96

Classification of Defects found :-

Overcrowding or dirty Houses.....	2
W.C. Fittings.....	14
Stopped Drains.....	26
Defective Drainage.....	23
Defective Roofs and Water Spouts.....	29
Defective Floors.....	21
Defective Domestic Water Supplies.....	12
Dampness.....	15

Disinfection :-

Number of premises disinfected.....	39
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Smoke Abatement :- Nil

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

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

SCHOOLS

All the Public, Elementary and Evacuated Schools within the District were inspected during the year.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1928.

There were 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 4 and 4 were reconditioned.

A certain number of cases of overcrowding still remain in the district and owing to abnormal conditions, and particularly to the large influx of evacuated persons now temporarily residing in the district, every endeavour is being made to deal with the question so far as conditions allow.

Housing Act 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding:-

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	13
	(11)	Number of families dwelling therein.....	13
	(111)	Number of persons dwelling therein.....	68
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	1
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	11
	(11)	Number of persons concerned in such cases.....	57

Number of houses erected during the Year:-

(a)	Total, including numbers given separately under (b).....	4
(b)	State Assistance under Housing Acts :-	
	(1) By Local Authority.....	Nil
	(11) By other Bodies or Persons (Rural Workers' Act, 1926).....	Nil
(c)	Reconstructed.....	4

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...	62
(2)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.....	50
(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.....	11

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.....	10
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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.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Particulars of samples taken under the above Act, in the Ruthin Rural District during the year ended 31st December 1940.

<u>ARTICLES.</u>	<u>Number taken.</u>	<u>Genuine.</u>	<u>Not Genuine.</u>
Milk	6	6	-
Butter	1	1	-
Whiskey	1	1	-
Tincture of Iodine	1	1	-
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Totals	9	9	0

All the samples were certified by the Public Analyst as being genuine, and free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter.

D. WYNN GRIFFITH,  
Chief Inspector -  
County of Denbigh.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

None of the Slaughter Houses within the District are now utilized, all animals being killed at central abattoirs in Ruthin or Mold.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS) 1925

No case under the above Regulations occurred in the District during the Year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOP ACT

Garages.....	5
Flour Mills.....	10
Electric Light Works.....	3
Saw Mills.....	5
Bakchouses.....	6
Building Trades.....	4
Butter Factory.....	1
Others.....	12
	<hr/>
	46

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

Line Washing.....	2
Sanitary Conveniences.....	Nil

RAINFALL

I am again indebted to Major Bronhead, Plas Draw, Ruthin for the Rainfall Report for 1940. He states that :-

The Rainfall was 1.29 above the average.

January.....	1.44
February.....	3.36
March.....	2.77
April.....	2.39
May.....	2.6
June.....	1.52
July.....	3.24



August .....	.78
September.....	3.12
October.....	4.66
November.....	6.82
December.....	2.28
TOTAL for 1940.....	<u>34.98</u>

I wish to record my appreciation of the excellent work done by Mr. R.C. Williams, the Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. O. JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.