

[Report 1950] / Medical Officer of Health, Ruthin R.D.C.

Contributors

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

Publication/Creation

1950

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/cp3ghntp>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

RUTHIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

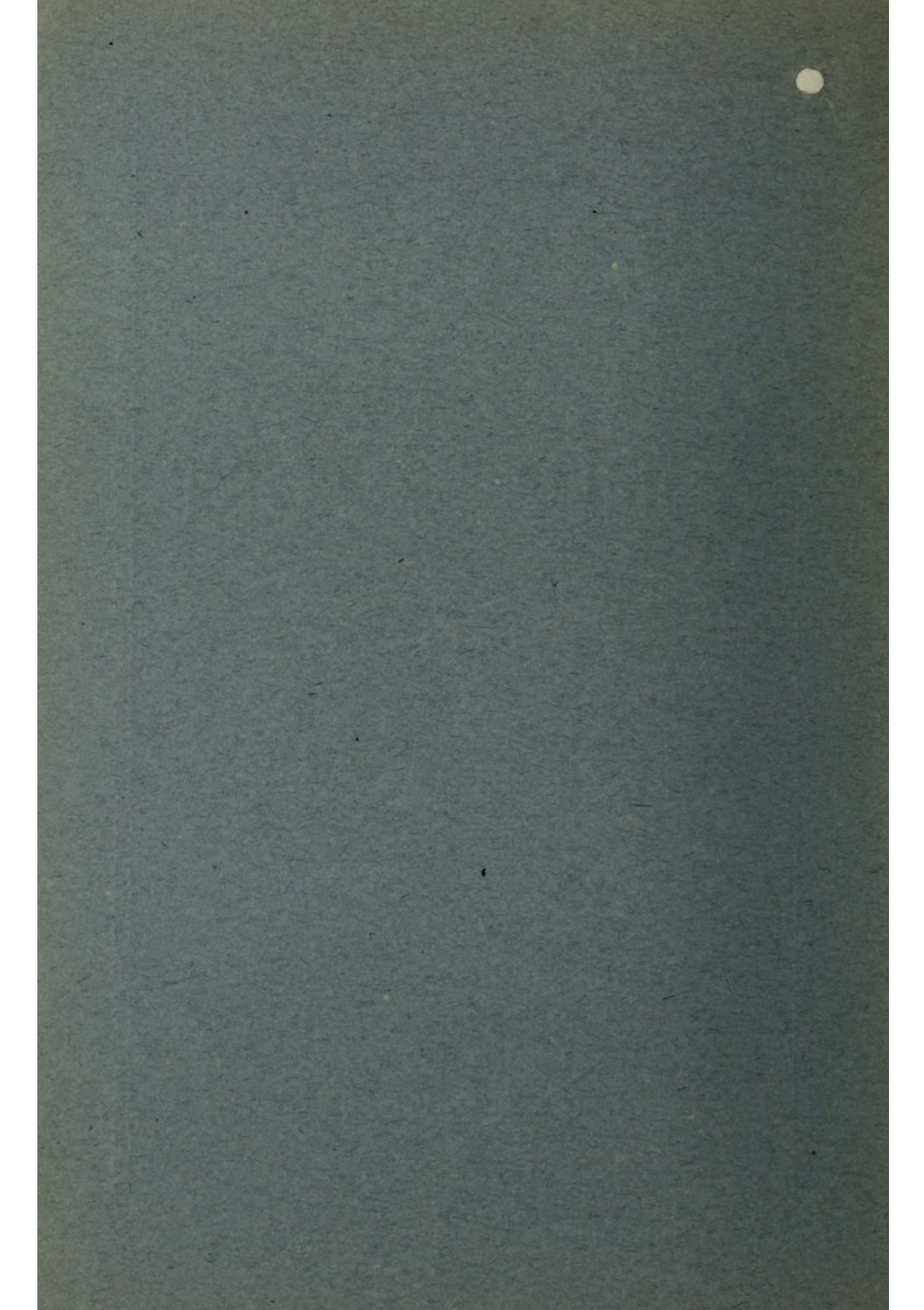
ANNUAL REPORT

For the

Year Ended 31st December, 1950

by the

Medical Officer of Health
(Dr. T. O. JONES)



RUTHIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

For the

Year Ended 31st December, 1950

by the

Medical Officer of Health

(Dr. T. O. JONES)

RUTHIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ruthin Rural
District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the Sanitary condition of the District, with various statistics, for for the year ended 31st December 1950.

Area (in acres)	101,032
Estimated Population	9,302
Rateable Value	£42,642
Sum represented by penny rate	£177

LIVE BIRTHS

The total number of births was 170, being 80 males and 90 females, 7 males and 6 females being illegitimate. Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population being 18.27 as compared with 15.79 for the previous year, and 15.8 for England and Wales for the present year.

STILL BIRTHS

The total number of still births was 4, being 2 males and 2 females. Rate per 1,000 total births equals 23 and 0.42 per thousand population, as compared with the rate of 34 and 0.53 respectively for the previous year, and 0.37 for England and Wales for the present year.

DEATHS

During the past year there were 116 deaths registered, these being 67 males and 49 females, equal to a death rate per 1,000 of estimated population of 12.4, as compared with 14.2 for the previous year and 11.6 for England and Wales for the present year.

The deaths included a comparatively high percentage of elderly persons, 54 of whom died having an average age at death of 75 years. Twenty were over 80 and six over 90 years.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	11
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	11
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)...	Nil

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE

No deaths were attributed to any of the Zymotic diseases.

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	0
Cancer	14
Cerebral Haemorrhage	21
Heart Diseases	36
Bronchitis	2
Pneumonia	2
Nephritis	3
Influenza	1
Congenital Debility Premature Birth	0
Diabetes	0
Appendicitis	0
Road Traffic Accidents	1
Other Accidents	2
Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	31

RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—

Live Births	15.8
Still Births	0.37

Deaths :—

All Causes	11.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.36
Whooping Cough	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00
Influenza	0.10
Smallpox	0.00
Pneumonia	0.70
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0.18

Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—

Deaths under 1 year of age	29.8
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	1.9

CANCER

The number of deaths from the above disease is the lowest recorded in this District. Fourteen deaths, being 7 males and 7 females, were attributed to the disease, as compared with twenty-three for the previous year. The rate is equivalent to 1.4 per 1,000 of the population, and at the rate of 120 per 1,000 deaths registered, as compared with 2.4 and 172 respectively for the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS

(New Cases and Mortality during 1950)

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.						DEATHS.			
	Respira-		Non-			Respira-		Non-		
	tory.		tory.			tory.		tory.		
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
0— I	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0	
I— 5	0	0	1	0	...	0	0	0	0	
5—10	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0	
10—15	0	0	1	0	...	0	0	0	0	
15—20	0	2	0	0	...	0	0	0	0	
20—25	0	2	0	0	...	0	0	0	0	
25—35	1	3	0	0	...	0	0	0	0	
35—45	1	0	0	1	...	0	0	0	0	
45—55	1	0	0	0	...	1	1	0	0	
55—65	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0	
65 and upwards	1	0	0	0	...	1	0	0	0	
Totals	4	7	2	1	...	2	1	0	0	

The number of cases notified during the year was fourteen, being 4 males and 7 females respiratory, and 2 males and 1 female non-respiratory. This rate is equal to 1.5 per 1,000 of the population.

The number of cases notified during each of the two preceding years was 13.

In view of the present modern methods of diagnosing cases in the early stages, the number is comparatively satisfactory, and one is justified in anticipating a gradual decrease, and particu-

larly when Institutional accommodation will be more available than at present in order to avoid the existing long waiting lists.

Only three deaths were attributed to Tuberculosis, these being 2 males and 1 female, all being respiratory. The rate per 1,000 deaths registered is 25, and equal to a rate per 1,000 of the population of 0.42, as compared with the rates of 37 and 0.53 respectively for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales for the present year is 0.36 and for the previous year 0.45.

Definite progress has been made within recent years in the Medical and Surgical treatment of this important disease, which undoubtedly saves many lives every year, and I feel convinced that we are justified in assuming that before very long a remedy for eliminating this disease will be discovered, as has been done in many other conditions of illness.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of notifiable diseases (with the exception of Measles) has again this year been comparatively low.

The undermentioned cases were notified :—

Scarlet Fever	23
Food Poisoning	3
Erysipelas	0
Pneumonia	19
Whooping Cough	10
Measles	67
Diphtheria	0

SCARLET FEVER—

Twenty-three cases of this disease occurred during the year, all the cases were of a very mild character, mostly sporadic, occurring in different localities and at different times of the year

Five occurred in January, three of which contracted the illness from cases in an adjoining district. Seven in October, the majority of which were in Clawddnewydd and Llanfair localities. Four in December occurred in a large Children's School.

FOOD POISONING—

Three cases were notified in September. Specimens of faeces and also of articles of food which had been partaken by all of the affected persons were sent away for Bacteriological examination, the result of all being "no pathological organism found."

MEASLES—

Sixty-seven cases were notified. The district was almost entirely free from the disease during the first six months of the year, as practically all the cases occurred during the last six months, and they occurred in different localities throughout the district.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS

Again this year not a single case of Diphtheria occurred in the district, which is entirely attributable to the very high efficiency of Immunisation against the disease. It emphasises the great importance of continuing the prophylaxis without relaxation, and the necessity on the part of parents and all who are in charge of children to see that every child without exception is immunised.

Number of Children Immunised against Diphtheria :—

Under 5 years	63
Between 5 and 15 years	Nil
Repeat doses 5—15 years	139

Percentage of Immunisations, December 1950 :—

Under 5 years	78.6
Between 5 and 15 years	98.4

The Health of the District, apart from the mild epidemic of Measles and Scarlet Fever, has been comparatively very satisfactory during the year.

The new Health Service which was introduced in July 1948 has undoubtedly proved an inestimable benefit to the health of the general public, as it has made available to all persons the most effective remedies and treatment, irrespective of cost, also it has made it possible for all to consult their Doctors in the early stage of illness, which previously many refrained from doing owing to financial reasons.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers.
Laboratory Facilities.
Ambulance Facilities.
Clinic and Treatment Centres.
Hospitals.
Tuberculosis.
Venereal Diseases.
Maternity and Nursing.

The matter of transferring the Ruthin Hospital into a General Practitioners Hospital is now under consideration, and it is hoped this will soon be accomplished, as it will undoubtedly prove of great benefit both to the inhabitants and the Doctors in the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

LLANDYRNOG MILK FACTORY.

Strong and frequent complaints were received during the year, particularly from the inhabitants of houses which are only a short distance away, concerning the very obnoxious smell which arises from the above Factory.

A Public Enquiry respecting the complaint was held during the early part of the year, when the existing unsatisfactory conditions were fully investigated. As the result of this, schemes for remedying the condition were considered carefully and at length, and I am pleased to report that now a satisfactory scheme has been decided upon, and that a Tender has been accepted by the Council for the portion of the scheme which it is liable for, subject to the approval of the Welsh Board of Health.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Further progress has been made in the preparation of modern schemes of sewage disposal for nearly all the villages in the district. Public Inquiries were held into the subject matter of the schemes for Rhewl, Rhos and Gellifor, Llanarmon and Erryrys, and it is hoped that a start will be made on these schemes during 1951.

A number of schemes have been submitted to the Welsh Board of Health, and approvals are awaited.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year four new schemes of water supply were commenced as under :—

(1) Construction of a new reinforced concrete service reservoir of 200,000 gallons capacity at Cricor, together with the installation of an additional filter.

(2) The laying of new 4" and 3" mains to Graigfechan, Llanfair D.C.

(3) The laying of new 4" and 3" mains to farm areas east of Llanfair Village.

The above schemes will be completed in 1951 and a start will then be made on laying new mains to Nantglyn, and to farm areas in the Clocaenog and Derwen Parishes.

Progress is developing satisfactorily in the preparation of schemes for improving supplies in the Llanferres, Llanarmon, Llandegla and Bryneglwys Parishes, and in the Llanrhaiadr, Gyffylliog and Aberwheeler Parishes.

During the year 32 additional properties, dwelling houses and farm were connected to the Council's mains, as well as five cattle troughs in fields. These are in addition to supplies to new Council Houses which have been erected during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Apart from the pollution of the stream at Llandyrnog, no complaints regarding pollution of other streams in the district were received.

DRAINS AND SEWERAGE.

Twenty-three cases of defective drainage were dealt with, and in seven cases new drains were laid.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

During the year twelve new water closets were provided for existing premises. The difficulty in obtaining materials and skilled labour to carry out the work militated against greater improvement.

SCAVENGING.

The Council's scheme for the removal of refuse continues to function well. A fortnightly collection has been arranged for all districts, and all complaints were investigated and promptly dealt with.

Following inspections carried out during the year

6 nuisances existed.

6 were remedied.

CLASSIFICATION OF VISITS.

Visits in respect of nuisance abatement	101
Visits in respect of drainage work	334
Visits in respect of water supplies	17
Visits to Bakehouses	8

Visits to Slaughterhouses (apart from meat inspection)	0
Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	4
Visits for food inspection	44
Visits to investigate infectious disease (including T.B.)	27
Re-visits and disinfection	39
Visits to Factories and Workshops	34

CLASSIFICATION OF DEFECTS FOUND.

Overcrowded and Dirty Houses	12
Defective Structures	5
W.C. Fittings	25
Stopped Drains	27
Defective Drainage	23
Defective Roofs and Spouting	11
Defective Floors	13
Defective Water Supplies	7
Dampness	19
Number of Premises disinfected	15

HOUSING.

Number erected during the year	41
Reconstructed	0

Forty-one new houses were erected during the year, 32 of these being built by the Council and 9 by private enterprise. Progress was made on other sites, and it is hoped that next year will see a far larger number of houses completed. There is still a shortage of houses in several localities.

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGS DURING THE YEAR.

Total number inspected	141
Total number fit (included in Sub-head above) ...	103
Total number unfit (included in Sub-head above)	11
Total number found not to be in all respects fit for habitation	27

REMEDY OF DEFECTS.

Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	17
---	----

FOOD.

The following articles of food were condemned during the year, being unfit for human consumption.

9 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Ham.
44 lbs.	of Bacon.
56 lbs.	of Butter.
165	Tins of Springtime Full Cream Milk.
13	Tins of Zwanenburg's Dutch Luncheon Meat.
11	Tins of Hure D'amour Pork Brawn.
9	Tins of Casegrain Luncheon Meat.
7	Tins of Fessa Brand Meat and Gravy.
15	Tins of E. Noakes Ham and Veal Loaf.
3 × 1	gallon Tin of Smedleys Purple Egg Plums.
3 × 16 oz.	Tins of Libys Evaporated Milk.
1	Tin of Batchelor Beans.
1 × 1 lb. 3 oz.	Tin of Batchelor Peas.
2 × 15 oz.	Tins of Zwanenburgs Peas.
1 × 3 lb. 9 oz.	Tin of Olida Luncheon Meat.
1	Tin of Craft Peas.
2 × 1 lb.	Tins. of Calindus Processed Peas.
2 × 2 pint	Tins of Libys Homogenized Evaporated Milk.
1 × 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Tin of Glen Marmalade Pudding.
2 × 1 lb.	Tins of Glenryck Pilchards.
1 × 1 lb. 3 oz.	Tin of Hillhall Rhubarb.
1 × 15 oz.	Tin of Globe Sliced Carrots.
4 × 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Tins of Sardines in Edible Oil.
1 × 1 lb. 14 oz.	Tin of Ocnay Peaches.
1	Jar of Raspberry Jam.
1 × oz. 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	Tin of Supremo American Sardines.
1 × 5 lb. 2 oz.	Genoa Slab Cake.
1	Tin of Golden Vein Full Cream Milk.
1 × 1 lb.	Tin of P.D.F. Christmas Pudding.
1 × 14 oz.	Tin of Cornish Pilchards.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

Garages	6
Flour Mills	6
Electric Light Works	3
Sawmills	5
Bakehouses	2
Building Trades	5
Butter Factory	1
Others	8

The above were periodically inspected.

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

There were no offensive trades of hop-pickers in the District.

SCHOOLS.

All Elementary Schools within the District were inspected during the year.

RAG FLOCK ACTS 1911 & 1928.

There were no premises within the District on which Rag Flock is manufactured, used or sold.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938

Particulars of samples of food and drugs, taken under the above Act, in the Ruthin Rural District, during the year ended 31st December 1950.

Article.	Number Taken.	Genuine.	Not Genuine or Sub-Standard.
Milk	12	3	9
Custard Powder ...	1	1	—
Sardines	1	1	—
Saccharin	1	1	—
Jam	1	1	—
Butter	1	1	—
	—	—	—
Totals	17	8	9
	—	—	—

Of the nine milk samples shown in the above table as "Not Genuine," seven contained added water and were taken "In Transit" from the consignment of one farmer. Seven summonses were taken against him and he was fined £10 in respect of each offence and also ordered to pay costs amounting to £19 19s. od., a total of £89 19s. od.

One of the "Not Genuine" samples was 22% deficient in fat and in this case the producer was fined £10 with £6 15s. od. costs.

The remaining sample certified "Not Genuine" was slightly below the standard in solid-not-fat, but, as there was no added water present, no further action was taken in this instance.

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

THOS. H. EVANS,

Chief Sampling Officer for the County of Denbigh.

I desire to express my very high appreciation of the very efficient services rendered by Mr. Buckingham, the Clerk to the Council, Mr. Birtwell, the Water Engineer, and Mr. Rees, the Sanitary Inspector, whose duties again this year were heavy in view of the numerous Water, Drainage and Housing Schemes which were dealt with and which entailed a great deal of labour and time.

I consider that the Council is very fortunate in having the services of such competent Officials.

As this is my last report on the termination of my appointment as Medical Officer of Health for the Ruthin Rural District during the past forty-seven years, I wish to convey my deep gratitude to all the Officials and Members of the Staff of the Council for their valuable co-operation and assistance which was always readily given and which was greatly appreciated.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

T. O. JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.



