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Contributors

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**RUTHIN RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT

for the

Year Ended 31st December 1951

by the

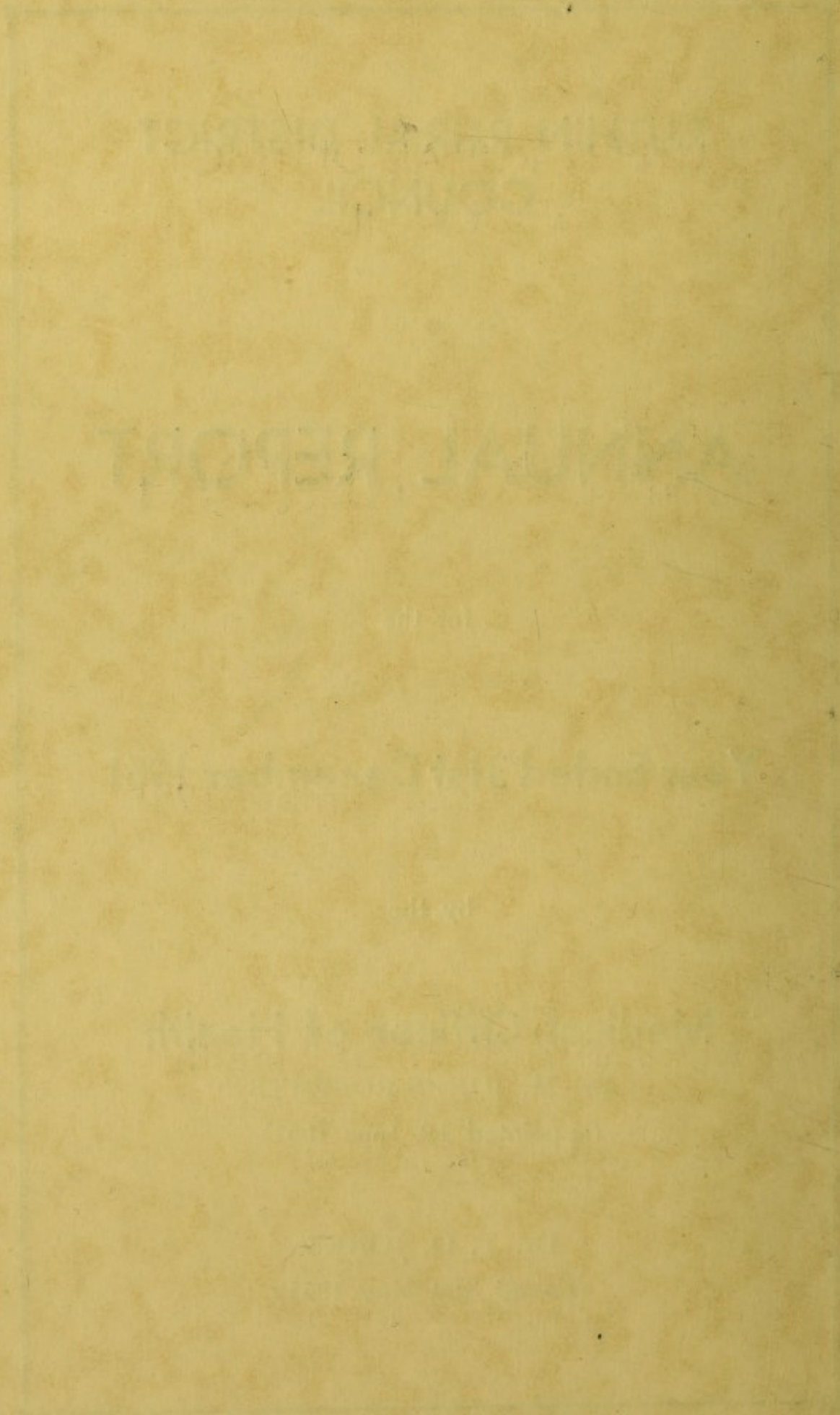
Medical Officer of Health

Dr. M. JONES-ROBERTS

(appointed 1st June 1951)

Dr. T. O. JONES

(retired 31st May 1951)



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RUTHIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 1951. During the year, the Ruthin Rural District joined with the Denbigh Borough, the Ruthin Borough, Llanrwst Urban District and the Rural District of Hiraethog to form Western No. 2 Health Area. This area now has a joint Medical Officer who is also Assistant County Medical Officer with duties associated with the Examination of School Children, Examination of Mentally and Physically Handicapped Children, attendance at Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics and the immunisation of Infants and School Children against diphtheria, whooping-cough and small-pox. I was appointed to this post and commenced duties on the 1st July, 1951. I am, therefore, responsible for the health of the District for the second half of the year, the first half been the responsibility of Dr. T. O. Jones, who has served you for some years. I would like to record my appreciation of the very kind way in which Dr. Jones handed over the various registers and explained to me the form in which they had been kept and how he administered his duties. I would also like to thank the Officials, and in particular the Sanitary Inspector. They have all given me very welcome assistance in a new post.

During the six months, I have been greatly handicapped by lack of proper office accommodation and no clerical assistance. Having to do all the clerical work myself, I found it very difficult to find time to get down to the practical side of the work. This is to be remedied early in the new year.

The PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF consists of :—

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. M. Jones-Roberts, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Appointed 1st June, 1951).

Dr. T. O. Jones, M.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.
(Retired 31st May, 1951).

Sanitary Inspector G. Wynne Rees, Cert. S.I.B.

Pupil Sanitary Inspector Harold E. Roberts.

The following statistics are given for the information of the Council :—

Area of District	101,032 acres
Registrar General's estimated population (mid 1951)	9,652
No. of inhabited houses	2,950
Rateable Value	£43,429
Sum represented by penny rate ...	£175/9/0

COMPARABILITY FACTOR

For Births	1.11
For Deaths	0.87

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	67	79	146
Illegitimate	2	6	8
	—	—	—
Total	69	85	154

Birth rate per 1,000 population (crude) 15.6

Birth rate per 1,000 population (corrected) ... 17.32

STILL BIRTHS

	Male.	Female.	Total.
	7	4	11
Still Birth rate per 1,000 population			1.10

INFANT MORTALITY

Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total	2	2	4

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births 25.9

DEATHS

Mortality rate per 1,000 population (crude) ... 12.06

Mortality rate per 1,000 population (corrected) 10.49

The following table shows how the statistics compare with those for 1950, and with the figures for England and Wales for 1951.

	England and Wales 1951.	1950.	1951.
Population	—	9,302	9,652
Birth rate	15.5	15.8	17.32
Infant Mortality Rate	29.6	29.8	25.9
Still Birth Rate	0.36	0.37	1.10
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.79	—	6.06
Death Rate	12.5	11.6	12.06

The Infant Mortality rate has fallen from 29.8 to 25.9 which compares favourably with that for England and Wales, but the still-birth rate is higher in the area than last year and is higher than the rate for England and Wales for 1951.

There were 11 still-births and four infant deaths making a total loss of 15 Infant lives.

The causes of death among the four infants were:—

Age 1 month—Hydrocephalus and Syringo-Myelocoele.

Age 6 days—Prematurity.

Age 2 days—Prematurity.

Broncho Pneumonia.

The Maternal Mortality rate is much higher than for that for England and Wales, but too much importance should not be given to this as there was only one death and comparisons have therefore little significance.

The causes of the still-births are not known and it is, therefore, difficult to say whether any of these could have been avoided.

The following table shows the causes of death:—

	1950. Total.	Male.	1951. Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	3	1	2	3
Tuberculosis (Other)	—	—	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—

Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
Meningoccal Infections	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	1	1
Malignant Diseases				
Stomach		1	3	4
Lungs		—	—	—
Breast		—	2	2
Uterus		—	1	1
Other		7	4	11
Total Cancer Deaths	14	8	10	18
Leukaemia	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	—	8	12	20
Coronary Disease	—	6	2	8
Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	1	2	3
Other Heart Diseases	36	8	5	13
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	—	4	1	5
Influenza	1	6	4	10
Pneumonia	2	1	3	4
Bronchitis	2	2	1	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	2	—	2
Ulcer of Stomach, Etc.	—	1	1	2
Gastritis, Diarrhoea, Etc.	—	—	1	1
Appendicitis	—	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	—	—	—
Nephritis	3	—	1	1
Prostatic Hyperplasia	—	1	—	1
Maternal Causes	—	—	1	1
Congenital Malformations	—	—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	31	5	8	13
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	4	—	4
All Other accidents	2	—	—	—
Suicide	—	1	—	1
Homicide	—	—	—	—
All Causes	95	60	59	119

The table also gives the 1950 figures for comparison. The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 3, being the same as 1950, but there was one death from non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1951.

Cancer was the cause of 18 deaths, an increase of 4 of the 1950 figure. The number of deaths from cancer could be greatly reduced if the sufferers who had any suspicion that they suffered from cancer would visit their doctor for examination at the earliest possible moment. Cancer in accessible places such as breast, stomach, uterus, etc., can be operated on and the growth removed. If this is done in the early stages before the spread has commenced, the person's life can be saved.

The number of deaths from diseases of the heart and vascular system has again increased and is the commonest cause of death. People are now living longer, and so there is greater wear and tear on these organs and this is one cause of death in the older people. This alone does not explain the increased death rate from cardiac and vascular diseases as more young people and middle aged people die from these causes.

There was one maternal death.

Four deaths recorded were due to Motor Vehicle accidents, an increase of 2 on the previous year.

The following table gives the number of Infectious Diseases notified during 1951 :—

Notifiable Disease.	At Ages.							Ages Unknown.	TOTAL.
	Under 1 year.	1—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—45 years.	45—65 years.	65 years and over.		
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria Observations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	12
Scarlet Fever Observations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis Observations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	1	—	3	4	1	—	1	10
Other form of Tuberculosis	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	3
Pneumonia	—	—	1	1	1	6	2	—	11
Measles	—	45	69	4	3	—	—	—	121
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis Observations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	5	6	1	—	—	—	—	13
Observation Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Obortus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	16
	2	52	87	10	8	8	2	18	187

Again this year, there were no cases of diphtheria and this is due to the fact that parents are still wise enough to have their children immunized against Diphtheria. Immunization is given at about 8 months and booster doses are given at the ages of about 5 years and 10 years.

There were 13 cases of whooping cough notified. It will be interesting during the next few years, to notice whether whooping cough will disappear with immunization as has been the case with diphtheria. Whooping Cough injections are given by the child's doctor and have been given at the clinic during

the last 3 months of the year. Injections are given early and may be combined with the diphtheria injections and booster doses will be given at about 2½ years and 5 years of age.

During the last few months, vaccination against small-pox is given at the clinic as well as by the child's doctor. It is very important that babies be vaccinated and the best age for this is at about 3 months of age.

The following table gives the number of children inoculated during 1951. The figures having been supplied by the County Health Department, Wrexham.

Diphtheria—

Number immunized under 5 years	202
Number immunized over 5 years	18
Number given booster doses	69

The percentage of children immunized in the Rural District is :—

Ages 1—5	98.1 per cent.
Ages 5—15	98.5 per cent.

Whooping Cough combined with diphtheria vaccine—

Number immunized under 5 years	14
Number immunized over 5 years	—

Vaccination—

Number vaccinated against small-pox—Primary	179
Re-vaccination	27

There were 12 cases of Scarlet Fever during 1951, and they were mostly sporadic cases, about 3 occurring during each quarter.

There was an epidemic of measles, 121 cases being notified. 44 cases occurred during the first quarter, 41 during the second quarter, 40 occurring during the third quarter, and only 3 occurring during the quarter ending 31st December, 1951.

Food-poisoning—16 cases were notified, these having occurred at a hospital in the area. Bacteriological examination of patients and the food concerned were carried out, but no organisms were found.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of patients suffering from tuberculosis and whose names are on the Tuberculosis Register on the 31st December, 1951, are:—

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males	49	9
Females	69	19

The mass Radiography Unit visited the Borough of Ruthin during the latter part of the year, but facilities for the Rural Population to be examined were not available. I hope that, as this service grows, the population of the Rural areas will be able to avail themselves of this service too. School children over 14 years attending Schools in the Ruthin Borough were given the opportunity for examination, but it is not possible to give the number examined as this was included in the figures for the Schools in the Borough.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

LABORATORY PROVISIONS.

The Public Health Laboratory is at Conway and specimens are sent there for examination and diagnosis.

Water, milk and ice-cream samples are also sent here for examination.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Ambulance Service is controlled by the County Medical Officer and details of the service will be found in his Annual Report.

Western Area No. 2 has an ambulance station at Denbigh, Ruthin, Cerrig, Llanrwst and Llangerniew, with one ambulance at each station, making a total of 5 for the area. The Ambulances deal with General and Accident cases. Each station is manned by voluntary personnel. To supplement the ambulances, use is made of voluntary drivers of the W.V.S. Hospital Car Service, and local taxi proprietors for the con-

veyance of sitting cases. Ambulances to transport infectious cases are sent from the hospital concerned at Wrexham, and Colwyn Bay.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

A full report of this service will be given in the County Medical Officer's Annual Report.

CLINICS.

The area is served by the Clinic held at the Baptist Chapel, Park Road, Ruthin.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

These are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoons in the month at 1.30 p.m.

The number of patients who attended during the year were :—

1st Visits ...	21
Re-Visits ...	60

These figures include patients from the Ruthin Borough. The Specialist Obstetrician attends at Denbigh every fortnight and special cases are referred to this Clinic by appointment.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.

These are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (all day) in the month. Immunization against diphtheria and whooping cough and vaccination against small-pox are undertaken at the clinic.

These clinics are very well attended. The clinic always falls on the Ruthin Fair Day and this enables the children from Rural Areas to attend as the buses run more conveniently. Mothers from Rural Areas make good use of the Clinic

Occasionally special immunization clinics have been held at different centres.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINICS.

Patients attend the clinics held at Denbigh, Wrexham and Corwen which ever is the most convenient for the patient. The

Clinics are held every fortnight and the Surgeon attends once every three months.

DENTAL CLINICS.

These are held by appointment. It is difficult to give the attendances of expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age, as they attend the Borough Clinic, Denbigh Clinic and some go to the Wrexham Clinic.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Clinics are held at Llandudno, Chester and Bangor.

TUBERCULOSIS CLINICS.

These are held at Denbigh, Wrexham and Rhyl.

NURSING SERVICES

The area is served by a Health Visitor who attends at the Clinic and carries out domicilliary visits.

There are four mid-wives in the Rural District and they also do the Home Nursing.

Home-help Service.—The number of Home-helps in the Area is one, and she attended one General case. This service could be greatly extended if more suitable women could be found to undertake these duties.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

No action taken under Section 47 of this Act during 1951.

WATER SUPPLIES

Water samples were sent frequently for bacteriological examination and there was great fluctuation on the quality of supplies.

The Prion Water Supply gave rise to a great deal of worry as samples were continually not up to standard for a chlorinated supply. Thorough examination was carried out and defects repaired. Since then the reports have been returned 'Highly Satisfactory'. Several reports on small sources of supply have been unsatisfactory, but this will be remedied when there is a bulk supply scheme.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

LLANDYRNOG MILK FACTORY.

Frequent complaints were received during the year particularly from the inhabitants of houses only a short distance away, concerning the very obnoxious smell which arises from the above Creamery.

During the year the approval of the Welsh Board of Health was given to the Council's Scheme to lay sewers to serve both the Milk Factory and Llandyrnog Village, and a start on the scheme was made in the latter months of the year.

Final details in respect of the Sewage Disposal Works, which are to be carried out by the Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., are nearing completion, and it is hoped that the works will be commenced next year.

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 for schemes for Llanferres, Clawddnewydd and Graigfechan, and private investigations have been held into the subject matter of schemes for Derwen and Nantglyn. It is hoped that a start will be made on these schemes during 1952.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year new schemes of water supply were commenced as under; and will be completed in 1952:—

- (1) The laying of new 4" mains to Waen, Nantglyn.
- (2) The laying of new 3" mains to farm areas in the

Clocaenog and Derwen Parishes.

Water Schemes to improve supplies in the Llanarmon, Llanferres, Llandegla and Bryneglwys parishes and in the Llanrhaiadr, Gyffylliog and Aberwheeler parishes are in course of detailed preparation; and investigations are taking place

re an additional source of supply from a bore-hole in the Llanynys Parish. It is hoped that this latter project will materialise next year.

During the year 38 additional properties, dwelling houses and farms, were connected to the Council's mains as well as nine cattle troughs in fields. These are in addition to supplies to new Council Houses.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

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

DRAINS AND SEWERAGE.

23 cases of defective drainage were dealt with and in 5 cases new drains were laid.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

During the year 19 new water closets were provided for existing premises.

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 :—

8 nuisances existed.

8 were remedied.

CLASSIFICATION OF VISITS.

Visits in respect of nuisance abatement	173
Visits in respect of drainage work	353
Visits in respect of water supplies	11
Visits to Bakehouses	8
Visits to Slaughter Houses (apart from meat inspection)	0
Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	0

Visits for food inspection	31
Visits to investigate Infectious Disease	16
Re-visits and disinfection	23
Visits to Factories and Workshops	32

CLASSIFICATION OF DEFECTS FOUND.

Overcrowded and Dirty Houses	9
Defective Structures	6
W.C. Fittings	34
Stopped Drains	23
Defective Drainage	20
Defective Roofs and Spouting	14
Defective Floors	8
Defective Water Supplies	5
Dampness	17
No. of Premises disinfected	14

HOUSING.

No. erected during the year	79
Reconstructed	0

Seventy-nine new houses were erected during the year, 68 of these being built by the Council and 11 by private enterprise. Progress was made on other sites, and it is hoped that next year will again see a large number of houses completed.

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGS DURING THE YEAR.

Total No. inspected	136
Total No. fit (included in sub-head above)	95
Total No. unfit (included in sub-head above)	18
Total No. found not to be in all respects fit for habitation)	23

FOOD.

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

15 lbs. of Ham.

1 × 1 lb. 14 oz. Tin of Hugo's Green Peas.

5 × 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. Tins of Armavale Apples.

3 × 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Tins of Apperta Apples.

3 × 2 pint Tins of Ideal Full Cream Milk.

- 1 x 1 lb. 4 ozs. Tin of Smedleys Washington Gages.
- 1 x 2 pint Tin of Regal Full Cream Milk.
- 3 Tins of Crosse and Blackwell's Vegetable Soup.
- 1 x 15½ oz. Tin of Socra Kamchatka Salmon.
- 2 x 4½ oz. Tins of Diogene Sardines.
- 2 x 12 oz. Tins of Primrose Danish Pork.
- 2 x 20 oz. Tins of Goodwins Black Cherries.
- 3 Tins of Nestle's Full Cream Milk.
- 2 Tins of Heinz Baked Beans.
- 7 x 28 oz. Tins of My Lady Plums.
- 1 x 1 lb. 12 ozs. Tin of Bendigo Bartlett Pears.
- 2 x 2 pint Tins of Libby's Evaporated Milk.
- 1 x 7 oz. Tin of Olida Luncheon Meat.
- 1 x 12 oz. Jar of Apricots in Syrup.
- 1 x 15¾ lb. Tin of Gammon Ham.
- 2 x 1 lb. 12 oz. Tins of Cooked Picnic Ham.
- 26 x 12 oz. Tins of Luncheon Meat.
- 1 x 15 lb. 11 oz. Tin of Fischer's Cooked Boneless Ham.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

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

36

The above were periodically inspected.

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 Elementary Schools within the District were inspected during the year.

RAG FLOCK ACTS 1911, 1928 AND 1951.

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 1951.

Article.	No. Taken.	Genuine.	Not Genuine, or Sub-Standard.
MILK	9	2	7
Butter	1	1	—
Meat Paste	1	1	—
Mustard	1	1	—
Beer	1	1	—
	13	6	7

Of the seven milk samples shown in the above table as "Not Genuine," three which were taken "In Transit" from the consignment of one farmer contained added water. This man, who has been previously convicted for a similar offence, was again prosecuted, with the result that he had to pay a fine of £25 in each case (3 cases) with costs of £22 16s. 0d., a total of £97 16s. 0d. Two other samples taken "In Transit" from another farmer also contained added water, and in this case, which was a first offence, the farmer was fined £4 4s. 0d. with costs of £10 10s. 0d., a total of £14 14s. 0d. In the other two instances of milk below standard, after a full investigation it was decided not to prosecute, but a cautionary letter was sent to the vendor of the milk by the Clerk of the County Council.

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

THOS. H. EVANS,

Chief Inspector,

County of Denbigh.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Council for the very kind welcome I received on taking up the appointment and for the consideration you have given to any shortcomings during a rather difficult first half-year.

Yours truly,

M. JONES-ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health.



