

**[Report 1945] / Medical Officer of Health, St. Asaph (Denbigh) R.D.C. and St. Asaph (Flint) R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

St. Asaph (Denbighshire, Wales). Rural District Council.

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ST. ASAPH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT  
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of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


and the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

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## Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1945

Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1945, in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

I remain,  
Your obedient Servant,

A. H. HOLMES,  
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (Land and Inland Water) .. . . .	23,057 acres
Population at Census 1931 (which includes Meliden and part of Dyserth since transferred to Prestatyn Urban District. . .	7,873
Population, Registrar General's Estimate 1943 .. . . .	7,471
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate books .. . . .	2,242
Rateable Value. . . . .	£243,826
Estimated product of a penny rate .. . . .	£180

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREAWATER

Bodelwyddan, Rhuddlan and St. Asaph are supplied by the Rhyl Urban District Council, and most of the parish of Dyserth by the Prestatyn Urban District Council. These supplies have been satisfactory during 1945.

Bodfari. This parish is supplied from works constructed by the Council. It is unsatisfactory in quality and quantity.

Cwm. is similarly supplied; the sources being at Aelwyd Ucha, Church Woods and above Fron. It is unsatisfactory. During drought, a supplementary supply is obtained from the water mains of the Birkenhead Corporation, through the Holywell Rural District Council.

Bryniau, Dyserth. This high level area is supplied with water from the mains of the Holywell Rural District Council.

Waen. The water supply to this parish is from works constructed by the Council. The pipes have been found to be extensively corroded and the supply continues to be very unsatisfactory.

Tremeirchion. This parish is also supplied by works constructed by the Council, and is in a thoroughly unsatisfactory state.

Rhualt. Tests taken during the year from various springs and streams on Rhualt Hill Catchment area show the water supply to be unsatisfactory.

During the year several meetings have taken place with a view to improving the water supply to the rural areas. Schemes submitted have turned out to be very costly and it is regretted that 1945 passed without any progress being made in the water supply of the affected areas. In these areas 85% of the population are supplied direct, 10% with stand pipes and the remainder have no piped supply.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No extensions were carried out during the year.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS

No action was found necessary during the year.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

In areas supplied by sewers only very few privies remain. In other parts 90% have privies with fixed receptacles and 10% with removable receptacles.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING

During the year, a lorry was purchased for scavenging purposes, and refuse is now being removed from all the parishes in the Rural District.

### SHOPS AND OFFICES

No action required during 1945.

### CAMPING SITES

No new sites asked for during 1945.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action necessary during the year.

### SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

No public baths or pools exist in this district.

### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

No action necessary during the year.

### SCHOOLS

The schools are closed when necessary during epidemics to prevent the spread of infectious disease.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year 88 children under five years of age, and 10 over five years were immunised by the School Medical Service under the direction of the County Medical Officer.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

All animals are slaughtered at the Public Abattoir, Rhyl, which is a municipally controlled centre for the area.

### TUBERCULOSIS

Persons suffering from this disease are placed under the care of the Welsh National Memorial Association, who provide accommodation where necessary at their sanatoria at Penyffordd and Llangwyfan. There is a Dispensary at 27, Edward Henry Street, Rhyl every Friday.

### VENEREAL DISEASES

Persons suffering from these diseases are provided with free treatment, including travelling expenses, at the Chester Royal Infirmary.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

A clinic for these purposes is in operation at the Old Emmanuel School, Rhyl, under the control of the Flintshire County Council. The Public Assistance Hospital, St. Asaph has a maternity department, with ante natal and post natal clinics, which are available for the general public.

## SMALLPOX

The Flintshire County Council makes itself responsible for the isolation and treatment of persons suffering from smallpox.

## DISINFECTION

When required this is carried out by arrangement of the Sanitary Inspector with the Joint Isolation Hospital Board, St. Asaph.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Emergency Medical Services Laboratory, Castle Bank, Conway conducts all bacteriological examinations required free of charge.

## DISINFESTATION

Bedding is sent to the Isolation Hospital, St. Asaph. No applications for personal disinfection were received during 1945.

## DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN

Stocks of this are held by the District Council, and every doctor in the district is given supplies for emergency use.

## HOUSING

Sites were selected for the building of council houses as follows:-  
18 houses to be erected on the Plas-yn-Roe Estate, St. Asaph, and  
24 at Thomas' Avenue, Dyserth.

## ISOLATION HOSPITAL

During the year the following cases of infectious disease occurring in the St. Asaph Rural District Council received treatment:-

3	cases of	erysipelas
2	"	" puerperal pyrexia
1	"	" cerebrospinal fever
23	"	" scarlet fever
1	"	" diphtheria
1	"	" paratyphoid fever

## FOOD POISONING

In December 1945 a considerable number of the inhabitants of Rhuddlan became affected by a form of peripheral neuritis. It was found that all the sufferers had partaken of fish obtained from the Fish and Chip Shop owned by Mr. Jones, High Street, Rhuddlan. Analysis of the cooking fat used there showed that it was contaminated by a chemical which was proved to have toxic effects on the nervous system. The outbreak was controlled by removal of the contaminated fat and the source from which it came. The unfortunate sufferers are being cared for by the Flintshire Orthopaedic Association.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### (A) BIRTH RATE

The total number of births registered in the district during 1945 as given by the Registrar General was 104, of which 49 were males

and 55 females. This represents a decrease of 31 from 1943 figures. Of that number 14 were illegitimate, two males and twelve females. The 104 births gave a birth rate of 11.7 per 1,000 of the resident population, as compared with 16.1 per 1,000 for England and Wales. There were 6 Stillbirths.

(B) DEATH RATE

The total number of deaths registered in the district during 1945 as given by the Registrar General was 102, 42 of which were males and 60 females. This gives a death rate of 14 per 1,000 of the resident population as compared with 11.4 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

(C) INFANTILE MORTALITY

There were 6 deaths of infants under 1 year of age making a death rate of 57.7 per 1,000 births, as compared with 46 per 1,000 births for England and Wales.

(D) INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were 333 cases of infectious disease notified during 1945,

Scarlet Fever	24	Cerebrospinal Fever	2
Diphtheria	2	Pneumonia	10
Whooping Cough	29	Paratyphoid Fever	1
Measles	257	Malaria	2
Erysipelas	3	Sonne Dysentery	1
Puerperal pyrexia	2		

(E) ZYMOTIC MORTALITY

There was one death from Paratyphoid Fever and one from influenza.

(F) PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis, a mortality of 0.14 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

(G) TUBERCULOSIS (OTHER FORMS)

There was one death in this group.

(H) OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES

There were five deaths under this heading, equal to .68 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

(I) DEATH RATE FROM CANCER

Seventeen deaths were ascribed to Cancer, the rate being 23 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

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 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR  
 FOR THE YEAR 1945  
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INSPECTIONS

Total number of inspections and visits made 1,021

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Number of cases inquired to, including Scabies 44  
 Number of houses disinfected 32

DWELLINGS

Number erected	--
Number made fit for habitation	1
Number of cases of overcrowding	50

DRAINAGE, etc.

Number laid or relaid	8
Number cleaned, trapped and ventilated	12
Number of new water closets	6
Number of repairs to water closets	82
Number of new privies and ashpits	--
Number of privies converted into W.C.'s	1

SCAVENGING

Number of Pail Closets emptied	1,676
Number of Ashbins emptied	38,326
Number of Ashpits emptied	826
Number of loads of Refuse	628
Number of tons of Refuse	1,014

REFUSE

Number of accumulations removed	35
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WATER

Number of new places supplied	3
Number of repairs, fittings etc.	146

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

Number of new dairies erected	1
Number of cowsheds erected	1
Number of dairies repaired	4
Number of cowsheds repaired	10
Number of persons registered	148
Number of registered places in use and inspected	148

OFFENSIVE TRADES

Number dealt with	--
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ANIMALS

Number of cases causing nuisance	5
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LODGING HOUSES

Number registered	--
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CLERICAL WORK

Number of letters received	629
Number of letters written	618
Number of informal notices services	32
Number of informal notices complied with	30

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Number of formal notices served	4
Number of formal notices complied with	4
Number of prosecutions	-

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Number registered	62
Number of written notices	1
Number complied with	1



FOOD AND DRUGS

## Details of Food Certified as unfit for Human Consumption

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Weight</u>	
		<u>Cwts</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Fish paste	18 tins		
Canned meat	70 "		
Canned fish	14 "		
Dates			11.8 ozs
Rice			16
Evaporated Milk	150 "		
Potatoes		9	58
Baked Beans	27 "		
Pickles	4 Bottles		
Meat		1	14
Carrots	1 tin		
Peas	5 tins		
Soup	51 "		
Egg flake	3 Cartons		
Meat Paste	2 tins		
Biscuits	14 "		
Bacon			50
Butter			71
Sauce	2 Bottles		
Coffee	1 Bottle		
Flavouring essence	1 "		
Fish			70
Eggs	153		
Pudding	1 tin		
Macaroni			18
Oranges			64

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Particulars of Samples purchased under the above Acts in the St. Asaph District during the year ended 31st December, 1945, as supplied by the Police Superintendent, Rhyl.

<u>Particulars of Sample</u>	<u>No. taken</u>	<u>Genuine</u>	<u>Prosecutions</u>	<u>Cautioned</u>
New Milk	14	11	1	2
Pearl Barley	1	1	-	-
Cocoa	1	1	-	-
Gravy Powder	1	1	-	-
Vinegar	2	2	-	-
Pudding Mixture	1	1	-	-
Cake Mixture	1	1	-	-
Dessert Mixture	1	1	-	-

RAINFALL IN 1945

AT

YR ARDD, DENBIGH

Month	Total Depth Inches	Greatest fall in 24 hours inches	Date	Number of days with	
				.01 in. or more	.04 in. or more
January.....	2.96	.67	18	17	14
February.....	2.63	.57	1	17	10
March.....	.77	.26	19	11	9
April.....	2.03	.89	1	14	10
May.....	3.15	.84	20	21	11
June.....	2.05	.42	22	21	16
July.....	1.64	.47	19	15	6
August.....	1.32	.26	14	14	7
September.....	1.38	.40	23	14	8
October.....	4.19	.81	29	13	12
November.....	.35	.15	25	9	3
December.....	2.89	.45	25	23	15
Total.....	25.36			189	121

Average total depth for past 10 years - 30.20 inches

Rain Gauge

Diameter of funnel - 5 inches  
 Height of top above ground - 12 inches  
 Height of ground above Sea level - 195 ft.

RHYL'S RAINFALL - 10 YEARS AVERAGE

Average Rainfall for 10 years, in Inches, is as follows:-

1936 - 30.42	1941 - 19.73
1937 - 25.51	1942 - 22.90
1938 - 28.31	1943 - 26.14
1939 - 27.01	1944 - 26.02
1940 - 29.32	1945 - 19.66

Yearly Average for 10 years - 25.50

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF [illegible]

Year	Month	Day	Amount	Description
1912	Jan	15	100.00	...
1912	Feb	1	...	...
1912	Mar	15	...	...
1912	Apr	1	...	...
1912	May	15	...	...
1912	Jun	1	...	...
1912	Jul	15	...	...
1912	Aug	1	...	...
1912	Sep	15	...	...
1912	Oct	1	...	...
1912	Nov	15	...	...
1912	Dec	1	...	...

Total for year - 1912

Balance of year - 1912

Total balance - 1912

Total balance for 1912