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Contributors

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ST. ASAPH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

for the

Year ending 31st December, 1955

by the

Medical Officer of Health

(Dr. R. RHYDWEN)

and

Sanitary Inspector

(Mr. R. P. BARLOW)



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ST. ASAPH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1955

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for 1955 in accordance with Circular 17/55 Wales.

The year 1955 was a remarkably fine one with a greatly diminished rainfall which, while enjoyable to many people, proved to be a trial for many farmers and others dependent on an adequate supply of water.

Infectious Disease cases were few over most of the year, but a measles epidemic of some sixty-one cases in the last quarter of the year resulted in the total number of cases notified being 135, the same total as in 1954. Again I am pleased to be able to report that there was not a single case of diphtheria notified in the rural district. It is interesting to reflect that this common disease of a generation ago has become a rarity. Indeed, in the last seven years only two cases have been notified in the district.

After eight years I have to report a maternal death due to child birth. The Infant Mortality Rate was 34.9 per 1,000 live births, four infants under the age of one year having died during the year.

The birth rate has fallen to 10.3 per 1,000 of the population, the number of births, 114, being a drop of 14 on 1954.

Corrected for comparison with the whole country, our birth rate would be 12.8 per 1,000 of the population as compared with the national rate of 15.0 per 1,000 of the population. The need for correction for comparative purposes is obvious when one realises the great excess of males in the district, there being some two thousand soldiers at Kinmel Camp who are now included in our population figures.

The Death Rate for the Rural District was 10.3 per 1,000 of the population, and our corrected comparative rate was 9.4 per 1,000 of the population. This once more compares very favourably with the national rate of 11.7 deaths per 1,000 population.

1955 saw the Rural District's second visit from the Mass Radiography Unit of the Welsh Regional Board. Four hundred people available themselves of the facilities offered, all but eight of them being found to be in good health as far as their lungs were concerned. The drop of 105 in the attendance as compared with 1954 I attribute to the fact that this time children under 14 years of age were not X-rayed. This must have resulted in several families with children under the age of 14 years not troubling to attend.

Though fifty-two Council houses and 13 private houses were constructed during the year, the need for houses remains great, as the result of the recent housing survey, which revealed 358 substandard houses in the district, indicates. The refusal of the County Planning Committee to allow access to the Council's building site in St. Asaph was a severe blow to people in that area living in sub-standard conditions and means that some of them will spend a further two years at least without alleviation of their conditions. The loss to the Council in building subsidies and due to the increase in interest rates will also be considerable.

At the time of writing this report, the completion of the new water supply to the parishes of Bodfari, Cwm, Dymeirchion and Waen is only a few weeks short of realisation, and the relief afforded to people in these areas next year will be a great blessing. I can only express my admiration for the way they have put up with water shortages and also for the gallant way in which Mr. Barlow, the Surveyor, has coped with the demands and ensured that all got a share.

1955 saw our additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Easton, commence duties with the Rural District, and on behalf of the Council and its officers I extend a sincere welcome to him. He has shown himself to be a very worthy addition to the Public Health staff already.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Clerk, the Sanitary Surveyor and the other Council officials for their co-operation and willing assistance during the year.

I remain.

Your obedient servant,

R. RHYDWEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (Land and Inland Water)	WORK WAS SE
District Council	
Population Registrar General's Estimate Mid-1953	10,520
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book	2,738
Rateable Value	£53,081
Product of Penny Rate	£209 10 0

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA IN 1955

Water

BODELWYDDAN, RHUDDLAN and ST. ASAPH are supplied by the Rhyl Urban District Council's Undertaking.

DYSERTH. The greater part of the parish is supplied by the Prestatyn Urban District Council's Water Undertaking.

BRYNIAU, Dyserth, is supplied from the mains of the Holywell Rural District Council's Water Undertaking, as it is a high level area.

BODFARI is supplied from works constructed by the Council. This supply is contaminated on occasion and the inhabitants have been advised to boil all drinking water.

CWM is supplied from works constructed by the Council. One source of supply (Aelwyd Ucha) fails completely during dry weather, and on these occasions the supply is augmented from the Birkenhead Corporation Water Supply via the Holywell Rural District Council Supply Mains. TREMEIRCHION is supplied from works constructed by the Council. This water supply is chlorinated, as in summer the water has to be pumped from a polluated source. This results in a bacteriologically pure water.

RHUALLT has a piped supply derived from springs in the neighbourhood. WAEN is supplied from works constructed by the Council. The distribution of water has been much improved by the construction of new mains, and in 1955 there was no failure in the supply.

General Remarks

Owing to the exceptionally dry summer, it was necessary to restrict the consumption of water in several areas of the Rural District during the summer. The situation was especially bad in Bodfari, Tremeirchion and parts of Cwm, especially the higher parts of the latter area.

Work was started on the new water supply to Bodfari, Cwm. Rhuallt, Waen and Tremeirchion, and it is to be hoped that it will be completed before 1956 is out. The dry weather, together with the ever-increasing demands on the water supplies by farmers, have shown the existing sources to be totally inadequate

Properties supplied with water by the Council's undertakings:—

Tot	al No. o	of Number supp	Number supplied with water.		
I were immunised du	louses.	(a) into Houses.	(b) Stand Pipes.		
Cwm	. 136	123	6		
Bodfari	. 133	87	14		
Dymeirchion	. 192	122	19		
Waen	. 83	78	3		

Drainage and Sewerage

St. Asaph, Rhuddlan, Dyserth and Bodelwyddan have satisfactory sewage disposal systems. The system in Rhuddlan is being enlarged and modernised and work should be completed in 1956. The remainder of the district has no sewage disposal system.

Rivers and Streams

No pollution of rivers and streams was reported during 1955.

Closet Accommodation

In the areas supplied with sewers, very few privies remain. In the remainder of the district 10% of the houses have privies with fixed receptacles and 90% privies with moveable receptacles. The Council have arrangements for the removal of the night soil in certain areas.

Public Cleansing

Refuse is removed from all parishes in the Rural District by the Council's Refuse Lorries.

Shops and Offices

No action was required in respect of shops and offices during the year.

Camping Sites

The Maesgwilym Camp, The Pleasant View Holiday Camp and the Vale of Clwyd Holiday Camp, Rhuddlan, are licensed for the summer months only.

The water supply to these camps is satisfactory, as are the general standards of hygiene maintained in the camps.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No action was required during 1955.

Schools

No closure due to outbreaks of infectious disease was required during 1955.

Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination

Sixty-seven children under the age of five years and one child between the age of five and fifteen years were immunised during the year. Forty-nine other children received a reinforcing (boosting) dose.

Thirty-nine children aged one year or less were vaccinated during the year, as also were one child aged between five and fifteen years, and five persons over the age of fifteen years, making a total of forty-five persons receiving a primary vaccination against smallpox. In addition, three persons aged fifteen years or over were revaccinated during the year.

Tuberculosis

The Welsh Regional Board has a Chest Clinic at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl, for the treatment and investigation of cases or suspected cases of Tuberculosis. The Clinic is held on Friday mornings for new cases and on Friday afternoon, 2.30 p.m.—4.30 p.m., for Pneumo thorax treatment.

The nearest Sanatoria are at Llangwyfan and Penyffordd.

Venereal Diseases

The nearest Clinic for the treatment of these diseases is at St. Asaph Hospital. This clinic is held on Tuesday evenings from 5.15 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. The treatment is confidential, free and inclusive of travelling expenses.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

The Flintshire County Council holds Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics at St. Asaph (Thursday p.m.), Rhyl (Wednesday p.m.) and Kinmel Camp, Bodelwyddan (Thursday p.m.).

Smallpox

In the event of an outbreak of Smallpox, provision can be made for the isolation and treatment of cases by arrangement with the Flintshire County Council and the Welsh Regional Board.

Disinfection

The disinfection of large articles such as bedding can be carried out through arrangements made by the Sanitary Surveyor with the Rhyl Urban District Council.

Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47

No Formal Action was taken under this section of the Act during 1955.

Housing

During 1955 the following numbers of houses were completed and occupied:—

For the Local A	uthority.	Private Houses.
Bodfari	9	Existence T
Cwm	8	Parasona II
Dyserth	18	6
Rhuddlan	17	6
Tremeirchion	-	. 1
Total	52	13

Vital Statistics

(a) BIRTH RATE. The total number of births credited to the District by the Registrar General during 1955 was 115, of which 60 were males and 54 females. Two children only were illegitimate, one being male and one female.

The Birth Rate was 10.3 per 1,000 of the population. The National Birth Rate for 1955 was 15.0 per 1,000 of the population, even after correction for comparison the local Birth Rate was only 12.8 per 1,000 of the population, indicating a considerable fall in the local Birth Rate as compared with previous years.

There were five still-births during the year.

(b) DEATH RATE. The total number of deaths credited to the area after allowing for inward and outward transfers was 115, 56 of which were deaths of males and 59 deaths of females.

The crude Death Rate for the area was 10.3 per 1,000 of the population, and our comparative Death Rate was 9.4 per 1,000 of the population, which compares very favourably with the National Death Rate of 11.7 deaths per 1,000 of the population.

(c) INFANT MORTALITY. There were four deaths of infants under the age of one year during 1955. This gave an Infant Mortality Rate of 34.9 deaths per 1,000 live births as compared with a rate of 24.9 deaths per 1,000 live births for England and Wales.

(d) INFECTIOUS DISEASES. 135 cases of Infectious Disease were notified during 1955. These were comprised of:—

Scarlet Fever	9 cases
Whooping Cough	4 cases
Acute Polio-myelitis	3 cases
Measles	80 cases
Pneumonia	17 cases
Dysentery	1 case
Erysipelas	1 case
Meningococcal Meningitis	1 case
Food Poisoning	7 cases
Puerperal Pyrexia	7 cases
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5 cases

- (e) ZYMOTIC MORTALITY. Seven deaths were attributed to Influenza.
- (f) PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS. Two deaths were attributed to Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
- (g) TUBERCULOSIS (NON-PULMONARY). No death was attributed to Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Cases on the Tuberculosis Register:-

December 31st, 1954 Pulmonary 64. Non-Pulmonary 17.

December 31st, 1955 Pulmonary 70. Non-Pulmonary 17.

Increase of 6 cases.

- (h) OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES. No death was attributed to this cause.
- (j) HEART DISEASE. There were 21 male deaths and 19 female deaths attributable to heart disease, being a total of 40 deaths.
- (k) INTRACRANIAL VASCULAR LESIONS. There were sixteen deaths from this cause, six of them being deaths of males and ten being deaths of females.
- (1) CANCER. Twenty-one deaths were registered as being due to cancer. Eleven of these were deaths of males and ten deaths of females.

9

The Cancer Mortality Rate for the Rural District was 1.89 deaths per 1,000 of the population, as compared with a national rate of 2.06 deaths per 1,000 of the population. Our rate for Cancer of the lungs and bronchus is 0.18 per 1,000 of the population as compared with a national rate of 0.389.

TABLE 2

	Cause of Death.	Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis Respiratory		1
3.	Syphilitic Disease		1
10.	Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	4	2
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	0
12.	Malignant Neoplasm Breast	0	1
13.	Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	0	2
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	5	5
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	10
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	14	9
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	4
20.	Other Heart Disease	5	6
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	2	1
23.	Pneumonia	2	5
24.	Bronchitis	4	1
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum		1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	2
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	0
30.	Pregancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	5
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1-	0
34.	All other Accidents	1	2
	Tota	al 56	59

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR For the Year 1955

GENERAL INFORMATION

Water Supplies

Very prolonged drought conditions were experienced during the summer and autumn months, and it was found necessary to carry water into some areas and restrict supplies in others. The storage tanks at Aelwyd Uchaf, Cwm, and Rhuallt were continuously replenished by means of a 900 gallon tank on a Bedford lorry. The Forestry Commission were most co-operative during these operations.

The new 8" main from St. Asaph to Rhuallt was opened during the year, and the majority of the properties were connected thereto. Water from Rhyl U.D.C. was also delivered to the whole of the parish of Waen and the lower portion of the parish of Cwm. The old supply from the Waen Storage Tank was discontinued.

Housing Act, 1949

During the year 20 applications were received for Improvement Grants under the Housing Acts. Of these, 17 were granted 50% and three refused.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Owing to the heavy demands made on the outdoor staff by the severe drought, it was found necessary, for a large part of the year, to use the rodent operator for water-carrying, with the result that little rodent work was carried out. However, 82 farms and 568 houses were inspected. The number of premises treated was 22.

Housing Act, 1936, Sec. II

As a result of families being rehoused in Council houses (twelve families), and of houses being voluntarily vacated (six cases), action under this Section was taken as follows:—

No. of dwellings represented as being unfit for human habitation	19
No. of dwellings in respect of which closing orders were made	18
No. of dwellings represented as unfit in respect of which proposals for reconditioning were	
accepted	4

Housing Survey

The survey required to be made under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, was completed during the year, and the result placed before the Council on 29th August.

No. of houses inspected	504
No. of houses found unfit for human habitation	358
No. of houses found unfit for human habitation	
and for action in the first five years	119

Camping

There are now three major camping sites in the area, and two smaller ones licensed for not more than 12 structures.

The major sites are, in the main, well equipped with water supply, toilet accommodation and other necessary services. During the year the Flintshire County Council took enforcement action against a farmer near Rhyl to clear a field of caravans. This action was disputed by the farmer, and a Court action followed. The final result of the action has not yet been delivered.

Factories and Workshops

During the year a confectionery factory ceased operations and removed outside the district.

Inspections

Total number of inspections and visits made	1002
Infectious Diseases	
Number of cases inquired into, including Scabies	3
Number of Houses Disinfected	3
Dwellings	
Number made fit for Habitation	8
Number of Cases of Overcrowding	10100
Drainage, etc.	
Number laid or re-laid	50
Number cleaned, trapped and ventilated	35
Number of New Water Closets	27
Number of repairs to Water Closets	35
Number of new Privies and Ashpits	-
Number of Privies converted into W.C.s	4

Scavenging

Number of Pail Closets emptied	2400
Number of Ashbins emptied	54460
Number of Ashpits emptied	301
Number of Loads of Refuse	1096
Number of Tons of Refuse	3288
Refuse	

Number of accumulations removed

Number of notices in respect of new Bins

Refuse Removal

The original driver of the refuse lorry has now been allocated to lighter work owing to sickness, and another member of the crew has taken over. An additional collector was appointed during the year.

Water

	Number of	new connections	made (all	purposes)	19
	Number of	repairs, fittings,	etc		252
Da	iries				
	Number of	dealers licensed			31
	Number of	dealers' premises	in district		31
	Number of	dealers' premises	inspected		31
Of	fensive Trad	les			
	Number de	alt with			-

Animals

During the year a local knacker was found to have brought in to the district a carcase which was subsequently proved to have died of anthrax. Appropriate action was taken to remove all sources of possible further infection.

Two nuisances were reported, caused by the keeping of pigs, both of which were abated by informal action. The Council, at the same time, were asked to consider the question of making bye-laws for regulating the keeping of animals, but decided to take no action in the matter.

Lodging Houses

Number registered -

Clerical Work

L

2017/1	
Number of letters received	2350
Number of letters written,	2446
Number of Preliminary Notices served	15
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	13
egal Proceedings	
Number of Abatement Notices served	3
Number of Abatement Notices complied with	2
Number of Prosecutions	1

Food Inspection

Inspection of meat is carried out at the two private slaughter-houses now in use in the Rural District. During the year 326 cattle, 4,071 sheep and lambs, and 350 pigs were slaughtered. The total weight of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was 19 cwts. 1 quarter 7 lbs. The following table gives details of the post-mortem inspection of all animals at the slaughter-houses.

Carcases inspected and condemned for the year 1955

	Sheep &			
is were taken from a producer and	Cattle	Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	326	4071	350	Nil
Number inspected	326	4071	350	Nil
All diseases except				
Tuberculosis and Cysticerci				
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	3	3	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	96	92	7007	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cystericerci	29.4%	2%	2.8%	Nil
Tuberculosis only				
Whole carcase condemned	1	Nil	2	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	Nil	7	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.8%	Nil	2.5%	Nil
Cysticercasis			doobb	rolled Ho
Carcases of which some part or				
organ was condemned Carcases submitted to treatment	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Food and Drugs

Particulars of the samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act 1938 in the St. Asaph Rural District Council area for the year ended 31st December 1955 as supplied by the County Sanitary Inspector.

inspector.	Numb	ers of		Not Genuine or
Article.	Samples	taken.	Genuine,	below standard.
Milk Dairy Produce Alcoholic Drinks Sausages Misc. Groceries Patent Medicines Ice Cream	2 3 5 2		15 2 2 3 5 2 2	5 ————————————————————————————————————
	36		31	5

The five milk samples reported as not being genuine contained added water. Two of the samples were school milks and contained 2% added water respectively. A warning letter was sent to the distributor concerned.

The other three milk samples were taken from a producer and contained 17%, 19% and 20% added water respectively. Proceedings were instituted against the producer but were withdrawn when the Police took action against the farm servant for damaging his master's property by adding water to the milk. It was stated in Court that the servant added water to the milk to make up for what he had lost in spillage. He was put on probation.

Details of food certified as unfit for human consumption:—

Description.	Number.	Weight lbs.	Cases.
Garden Peas	1 tin		
Processed Peas	1 tin		
Mushroom Soup	7 tins		
Carrots		18	
Apricots		4	
Onions			10
Bacon		1	
Cod Fillets		42	
Smoked Haddock		562	
Apples (Tasmania)		680	
Cooked Ham		24	
Bananas (Canary Isles)			
Pineapple Pulp	1 tin		
Peach Pulp (Spain)	3 tins		
Ox Tongue (Brazil)	1 tin		

RAIN GAUGE

Diameter of funnel — 5 inches.

Height of top above ground — 12 inches.

Height of ground above sea level — 195 feet.

Rhyl's Rainfall — 10 years average.

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

1946	-	29.30	1951	_	29.96
1947	-	25.49	1952	-	22.40
1948	_	24.04	1953	_	20:39
1949	-	21.31	1954		30 90
1950	-	25.67	1955		19 00

Yearly average for 10 years - 24 84

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections by Sanitary Inspectors).

			10	
M/c line number (7)	S inches	2	3 8 4 1	nsiC (
Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	IIN	IN	Nil	IIN
Number of Written Notices (5)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nii
Inspections (4)	31	27	Nil	58
Number on Register (3)	35	32	Nil	29
M/c line number (2)	1	2	8	
PREMISES (1)	(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	TOTAL

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two,

three or more "cases.")

	erus.	Number of	of cases in which defects were found.	ch defects we	re found.	Number of occas	
	M/c. line			Refe	rred	in which	M/c. line
PARTICULARS	No.	Found	Kemedied	To H.M.	By H.M.	prosecutions were instituted	No.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	Niil	Nil	Nil	liN .	Nil	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	9	Niil	Nil	Nil	IiN	IiN	9
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	Nil	IIN	IIN	IEN	Nil	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	Nil	IIN	IIN	- III	Nil	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)— (a) Insufficient	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	Nil	Nil	Nil	Niil	Nil	11
ices against the Act (n			TIL PUR OIL			.III adabkā	
Outwork)	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	IIN	Nii	12
TOTAL		Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1	
			-				

PART VIII OF THE ACT OUTWORK

	Prosecu-	11	
Section 111.	Notices served	11	
	No of instances of work in unwhole-some premises	11	
11).	No of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	11	
(Sections 110 and 111).	No of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	11	OTHER OUT- WORK-'NIL'
3	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	7	
	M/c. line No.	1 13	
Section 110.	Nature of Work	Wearing Apparel:- Making, etc	Control of the second of the s

CY SE CYZER IN MAINCH DELECTS MEKE BORNED







