

[Report 1960] / Medical Officer of Health, St. Asaph (Denbigh) R.D.C. and St. Asaph (Flint) R.D.C.

Contributors

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ST. ASAPH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

for the

Year Ending 31st December, 1960

by the

Medical Officer of Health

(Dr. R. RHYDWEN)

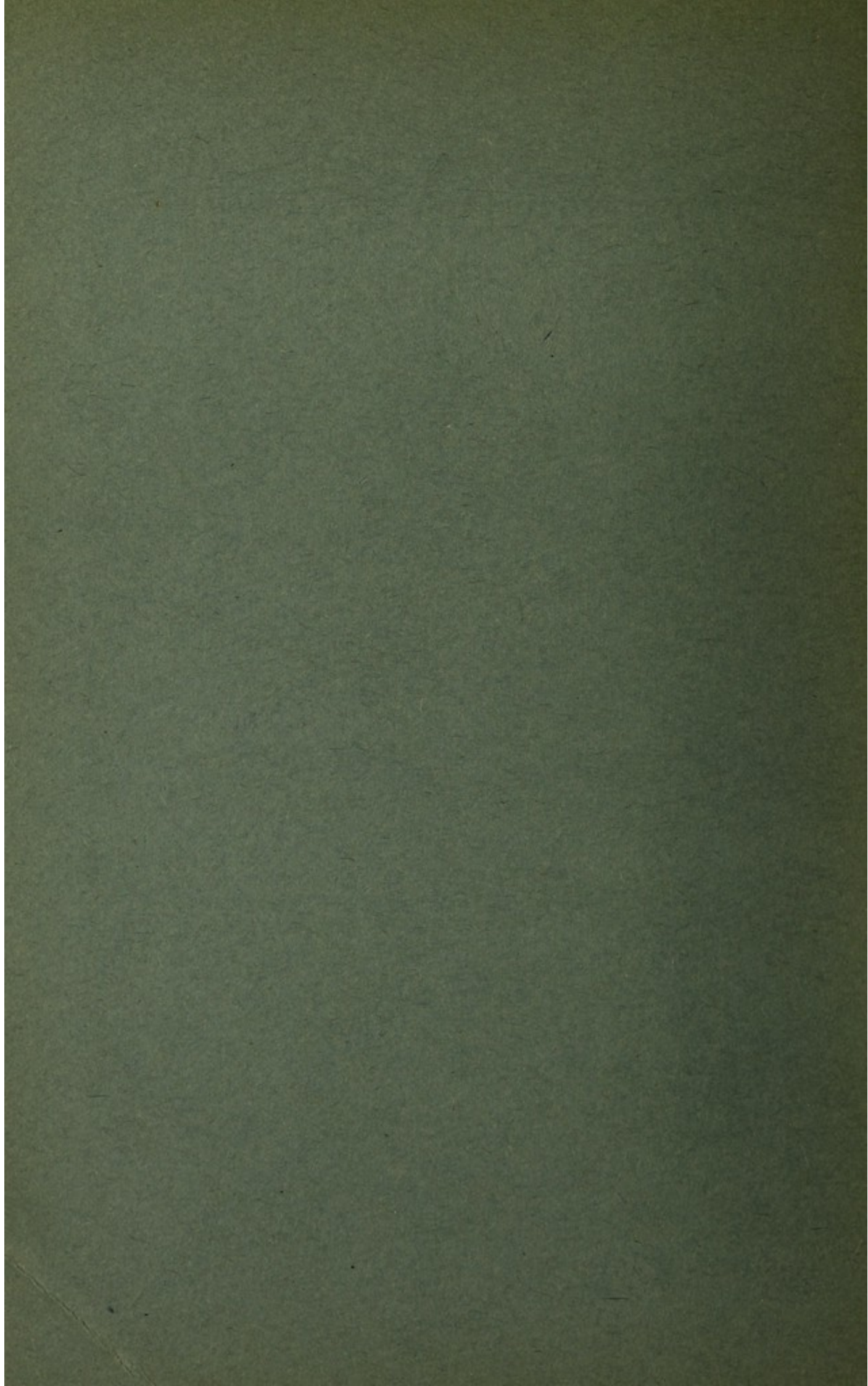
and

Public Health Inspector

(Mr R. P. BARLOW)



Printed at the "Free Press" Office, Denbigh.



ST. ASAPH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1960

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for 1960, completed in accordance with Circular 1/61 Wales.

The population of the Rural District decreased by 160 in spite of an excess of births over deaths of 36 and this is probably due to the decline in the military strength of Kinmel Camp.

In the year under review the vital statistics in the District emerge among the best ever recorded. Once again there was only one infant death, giving an infant mortality rate of 7.04 per thousand live births (the national average is 21.7), and the birth rate was 13.97 per thousand of population, and when adjusted for the proportionately larger number of old people in the area, and an excess of men due to the military establishment, the corrected rate is 17.18 per thousand of the population.

The death rate is 10.32 per thousand compared with the national figure of 11.5 and over 80% of the deaths were to people over 70 years.

An illegitimacy rate of 7.74 per thousand births was recorded which is considerably higher than the national average of 5.5, but Rural Areas in general tend to have a higher figure than Urban communities, and the local figure is in keeping with that trend.

During the year twenty-one Council houses and sixty-seven private houses were completed and the majority of the urgent cases on the general waiting list have now been rehoused. Considerable private house building development is likely to occur in Rhuddlan and this is largely arising from the overspill of the population from Rhyl. The Council have greatly encouraged owners to modernise their property by the provision of standard and discretionary grants. Many of the older houses in the District which were sub-standard have been renovated and given a considerable future span of useful life. In the past ten years there has been a considerable change in the housing requirements of the community, and the proportion of old people in the population has increased by 15% in this period. This is likely to rise considerably further during the next fifteen years, and it is necessary for Local Authorities to adjust their housing schemes to meet the changing need and provide accommodation for the aged and handicapped. It is pleasing to record that the Council have embarked upon a local scheme to provide bungalows for old people in St. Asaph.

Four new cases of tuberculosis occurred during the year and two of these were discovered by visits made to a local factory by the Mass Radiography Unit. It is still regrettable that in the affluent society

which is now enjoyed by the majority of the citizens of this country, that there are still cases of pulmonary tuberculosis occurring. These new cases mainly arise from the hard core of chronic cases, usually elderly men whose disease does not substantially incapacitate them and who are often capable of light work, and in a significant proportion of them the disease is resistant to the newer type of drugs available to fight tuberculosis. It is unfortunate that when the Mass X-Ray Unit visits a locality the people who should take advantage of these facilities seldom do so and the reservoir of tuberculous infection remains largely undetected. The only satisfactory method of dealing with tuberculosis is to X-ray everyone on a street by street basis, as has recently been done in Liverpool and Glasgow, where over 88% of the population were X-rayed. The local level of tuberculosis is satisfactory, but constant vigilance is required and it is pleasing to record that bovine tuberculosis (infection contracted through consumption of infected milk) is now non-existent and this is largely due to the veterinary T.B. eradication scheme which has now been completed.

Deaths from cancer of the lung were 5 (484 per million inhabitants, compared with the national average of 481), while deaths from cancer of the stomach totalled 4 (387 per million compared with the national figure of 230). As has been mentioned in previous Annual Reports, we are dealing with small numbers so that a small variation in the actual number of deaths shows a very large effect on the local rate. It has recently been established on statistical grounds that the mortality from cancer of the stomach in Great Britain is significantly higher in the areas of high rainfall and research is being conducted to discover any factors which may be influencing these findings. It is possible that there may be higher concentrations of cancer producing agents in the soil herbage and water of areas of higher rainfall.

The Manager of the Employment Exchange at Rhyl, which covers the Rural District area, has kindly provided details of the unemployed in the area, and the outstanding feature of this report is the difficulty in finding employment for men over 50. In the past five years, light industrial plants have been established in the area and this has given excellent opportunities of regular employment to young people, especially women, who would otherwise have had to leave the District or travel considerable distances to work each day. It is to be hoped that these factories will arrest the Rural depopulation of the Vale of Clwyd, and I am convinced that without these factories the population of the area would have fallen much more than it has done. Every effort must be made to encourage light industry to thrive in the area, in order to prevent a repetition of the depressing features of the economic and social life of the rural areas of mid and north-west Wales. Since the last war there has been a growth in the habit of taking holidays in caravans, and many undesirable developments have occurred due to the lack of planning requirements. New legislation is now in force and local

standards modelled on the national recommendations have been adopted by the Council, and discussions regarding their implementation are taking place with the local caravan site owners.

The Council water undertaking has functioned satisfactorily, largely helped by the wet weather, during the summer, but it is intended that the water undertakings in the Clwyd Valley will be grouped together so as to effect a more comprehensive water scheme for the area. This, I believe to be a rational move, although it means that some Authorities will lose a valuable source of revenue to the rate fund.

I should like to pay tribute to the outstanding efforts of the Women's Voluntary Services, in particular their work in the provision of a "meals on wheels" service, which has been of immense value to the old people in the District. This kind of work exemplifies the fact that there is still, even today in this so-called Welfare Era, a vital place for voluntary organisations.

In conclusion, it is sufficient to say that the Public Health movement has been a thing of gradual and slow evolution with rare revolutionary eruptions into new spheres of activity backed by the legislative powers of Parliament. It was thus that such essentials as the notification and supervision of infectious diseases, slum clearance, provision of hospitals, and the provision and maintenance of a satisfactory food and water supply were achieved.

During the past half-century attention has slowly turned towards the habits and behaviour of the individual in the community to enable him to resist "disease" in the much wider sense. In the past their main problems were poverty, unemployment and ill health, but a developing field of Public Health produced a new sphere, that is, of Social Medicine, whose workers now include not only Doctors but Social Workers, Clergy, Politicians and many others. A developing trend of modern society is the craving for material wealth, and with the easy facilities for borrowing money today it should be made impossible for persons who have been afforded credit facilities to convert these into lesser amounts of hard cash which is promptly spent to leave a debt which can grow like a snowball with each repetition of this practice. This type of activity is often the cause of broken homes and much domestic misery today. Nevertheless, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that in Britain since the war we have created four sacred cows—Welfare State, Full Employment, Profit, and "What do I get out of it?" We have elevated them to the state of gods to be cushioned, sheltered, and worshipped at all costs.

I should like to express my thanks to Dr. Manwell, who has deputised for me during my recent illness, the Clerk, the Sanitary Surveyor and his Deputy, the Chief Financial Officer, and County M.O.H., together

with the other Council Officials for their co-operation and ready assistance during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. RHYDWEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (Land and Inland Water)	22,300 acres
Population at Census 1931	6,784
Population at Census 1951	9,860
Population, Registrar-General's Estimate, mid-1959	10,320
Population, Registrar-General's Estimate, mid-1960	10,160
Decrease in Population	160
Number of inhabited houses, according to the Rate Book	3,006
Rateable Value	£101,471

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA IN 1960

Clinics

Clinics are provided by the County Council. They are held as follows :—

(1) **Maternity and Child Welfare :**

Pen y Bont, The Roe, St. Asaph — 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 2 p.m.

Mobile Clinics :

In front of the War memorial Club, Rhuddlan — 2nd and 4th Monday in each month at 2 p.m.

In the grounds of the Urdd Hall, Dyserth — 1st and 3rd Monday in each month at 2 p.m.

In the grounds of the Kinmel Park Camp, Bodelwyddan — 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 2 p.m.

(2) Tuberculosis :

The Welsh Regional Hospital 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 afternoons 2.30 p.m.—4.30p.m. for Pneumano-thorax treatment. The nearest Sanatoria are at Llangwyfan and Pen y Ffordd.

(3) Venereal Diseases :

Treatment is available at the following Clinics :—

Wrexham and East Denbighshire War Memorial Hospital :

Males : Monday 5—7 p.m. and Wednesday 4—6 p.m.

Females : Friday 5—7 p.m.

Chester Royal Infirmary :

Males : Wednesdays 5—7 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m.—1 p.m.

Females : Monday 5—7 p.m. Thursday 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

H. M. Stanley Hospital, St. Asaph :

Males and Females : 5.30—7.0 p.m.

The treatment is confidential, free and inclusive of travelling expenses.

Vital Statistics

Live Births	142
	(59 Males, 83 Females)
Live Births (illegitimate)	11
	(3 Males, 8 Females)
Live Birth Rate, per 1,000 population	13.97
Illegitimate Birth Rate per cent of total Live Births	7.74
Still Births	4
Still Birth Rate, per 1,000 Live and Still Births	27.39
Total Live and Still Births	146
Infant Deaths	1
Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live Births (legitimate)	7.04
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births (illegitimate) ...	7.04
Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live Births	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live Births	7.04
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live Births	7.04
Peri-natal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live and Still Births ...	34.24
Maternal Deaths	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil

Causes of Death

	Males	Females
All causes	48	58
1. Tuberculosis — Respiratory	—	—
2. Tuberculosis — other	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases ...	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	3	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus ...	4	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	—	4
13. Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus, etc.	—	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	4
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	9	16
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	8	10
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	4
20. Other Heart Disease	2	8
21. Other Circulatory Disease	2	2
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	3	1
24. Bronchitis	3	—
25. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion, etc.	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	5
33. Motor Vehicles Accidents	1	—
34. All other Accidents	2	—
35. Suicide	1	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—

Heart Disease

There were 11 male deaths and 22 female deaths attributed to Heart Disease, being a total of 33 deaths.

Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions

There were 25 deaths from this cause, 9 of them being of males and 16 females.

Cancer

13 deaths were attributed to Cancer, 7 being deaths of males and 6 deaths of females.

Infectious Diseases

The following table shows the incidence of infectious diseases in the district during 1960.

Cases Notified	At All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	8	—	1	7	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	4	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	4	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
Dysentery	3	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	11	—	—	—	6	5	—	—
Measles	15	—	8	6	—	1	—	—
Totals	45	1	10	15	9	9	1	—

These cases of puerperal pyrexia were largely non-infective and isolated, and considering the large number of births that take place in the local maternity hospital, the figure is considered reasonable.

There were 3 cases of dysentery notified from the local hospital.

This year there were very few cases of measles, but as the disease normally follows in two-year cycles, an increase in the number of cases can be expected next year.

Diphtheria Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination

The following information has been supplied to me by the County Medical Officer of Health :—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION 1960

Age Periods.	Primary.	Re-inforcing (Boosting) Dose
Under 1 year	106	—
1—4 years	8	10
5—14 years	9	61
Totals	123	71

SMALLPOX VACCINATION 1960

Age Periods.	Primary Vaccination.	Re-Vaccination.
Under 1 year	68	—
Over 1 year	2	—
2—4 years	2	1
5—14 years	5	1
15 and over	4	38
Totals	81	40

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.

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the incidence and age distribution of cases of Tuberculosis notified to me during the year.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—19	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—24	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—

The state of the Tuberculosis Register at the beginning and end of the year was

ON REGISTER 31/12/59		ON REGISTER 31/12/60	
Pulmonary :—		Pulmonary :—	
Males	40	Males	38
Females	35	Females	38
Non-Pulmonary :—		Non-Pulmonary :—	
Males	13	Males	13
Females	7	Females	8
Total	95	Total	97

Housing

The following numbers of houses were erected or in course of construction in 1960 :—

Parish.	Council Houses Completed.	Council Houses under Construction.	Private Houses Completed.	Private Houses under Construction.
Bodelwyddan	Nil	Nil	7	Nil
Bodfari	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Dyserth	5	1	8	2
Rhuddlan	6	Nil	35	8
St. Asaph	10	23	16	16
Tremeirchion	Nil	4	Nil	Nil
Totals	<u>21</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>26</u>

The number of applicants for Council houses in the district is as follows :—

Bodelwyddan	23
Bodfari	7
Cwm	6
Tremeirchion	6
Dyserth	47
Rhuddlan	74
St. Asaph	117
Waen	6
Total	<u>286</u>

Water

The distribution of water in the Rural District is now as follows :—

Bodelwyddan, Rhuddlan, St. Asaph are supplied by the Rhyl Urban District Council's Water 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, Cwm, Tremeirchion, Rhualt and Waen are now supplied with water by the St. Asaph Rural Council's new water mains, the water supplied coming from the Rhyl mains. This means that the whole of the Rural District has an adequate, treated and safe water supply.

The water supply in the Rural District is not liable to have plumbosolvent action, or to contain metallic impurities.

There was no form of contamination of the water supply during the year. Properties supplied by mains water are as follows :—

Parish.	Total No. of Houses.	Number supplied with water.	
		(a) Into Houses.	(b) Standpipes.
Bodelwyddan	313	313	Nil
Bodfari	132	132	Nil
Cwm	134	129	5
Dyserth	711	711	Nil
Rhuddlan	781	781	Nil
St. Asaph	657	657	Nil
Tremeirchion	194	188	6
Waen	84	84	Nil
Totals	3006	2995	11

Drainage and Sewerage

St. Asaph, Rhuddlan, Dyserth and Bodelwyddan have satisfactory sewage disposal systems. Apart from small septic tank systems attached to individual groups of Council houses, the remainder of the district has no sewage disposal system. There are only 11 pail closets in use in the district, the remainder of the houses in unsewered areas having water closets connected to septic tanks.

Camping Sites

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, came into operation during the year, replacing the former system of licensing caravan sites under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. In order to implement the requirements of the Act, the St. Asaph Rural District Council drew up standards for caravan sites of seven caravans or more, and standards for caravan sites of below seven in number.

All existing site owners have applied for licences under the Act.

During the year no complaints were received as regards the condition of any site in the district, and generally the sites were maintained in an orderly and satisfactory manner.

Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

This section gives authority to the District Council for the removal

of any person who is suffering from grave chronic disease or who, being aged or infirm, is living in insanitary conditions and is not receiving proper attention, to a suitable hospital.

No action was required under this section during 1960.

Disinfection

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

EMPLOYMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Unemployment

(1) Number of persons registered as unemployed (excluding registered Disabled Persons requiring employment under sheltered conditions) for the year 1960 :—

Date	Men	Women	Total
11th January	498	233	731
15th February	506	241	747
14th March	460	232	692
11th April	410	191	601
16th May	347	153	500
13th June	225	31	256
11th July	229	13	242
15th August	220	20	240
12th September ...	264	56	320
10th October	397	151	548
14th November ...	430	221	651
12th December ...	430	224	654

The number of unemployed has been decreasing each year, allowing for seasonal fluctuations, since 1958. This can be shown by comparing the peak and nadir figures for 1958 with the figures above and for 1961.

Unemployed for 1958 :—

Month	Men	Women	Total
12th January	498	272	770
15th June	261	3	264

Unemployed for 1961 :—

Month	Men	Women	Total
16th January	441	233	674
12th June	228	15	243

(2) Disabled Persons (Some interesting figures) :

	11th April 1960		17th April 1961	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
1914-18 Pensioners	64	—	49	—
Others disabled H.M.F.	115	1	111	1
Disabled from birth or early childhood	45	17	45	17

The largest causes of disablement are injuries and diseases to the upper and lower limbs.

Next comes pulmonary T.B. and diseases of the heart and circulatory system. Other chest complaints figure high on the list, but it is felt that the majority of these are people who have come here for their health.

This is an important point in considering what can be done for these disabled. A large number of elderly workers "retire" here because of their health, are happy if they can find something during the season and retire officially on reaching the age of 65.

Fifty per cent of the unemployed Registered Disabled Persons are over 55, and seventy-five per cent are over 50.

None are over 65. Statistics show that very few of the younger disabled are unemployed for a lengthy period.

REGISTERED DISABLED PERSONS. SECTION I

Number unemployed on :—

	Men	Women
18th January 1960	69	14
15th February 1960	63	13
21st March 1960	66	11
11th April 1960	65	7
16th May 1960	53	7
20th June 1960	40	—
18th July 1960	41	—
15th August 1960	35	2
19th September 1960	50	5
19th October 1960	61	10
21st November 1960	58	11
19th December 1960	55	11

SECTION II cases (suitable for employment under sheltered conditions only) have been excluded. The total varied between one and six.

The total number registered as disabled are as follows :—

	Men	Women
20th April 1959	395	56
19th October 1959	384	62
11th April 1960	408	59
18th October 1960	412	66
17th April 1961	412	51

These figures are not strictly representative of the disabled in this area but are approximately correct—persons register at this Office but leave the area, others register elsewhere but come here to reside.

It would appear therefore that the problems of the disabled in this area are threefold, and in order of importance I would list them as :—

- (1) **LIVING IN THIS AREA.** Without diversification of industry, opportunities of fitting a person with a specific disability to a specific job seldom arise. A small circle of employers are being approached time after time, and, although willing to consider the disabled, are limited in the number of posts they can offer.
- (2) **AGE.** In an area with a high percentage of unemployment, the older person is at a great disadvantage—unfortunate but understandable. As will be seen from the figures quoted, most of the Registered Disabled Persons are in the “over 50s.” It must be borne in mind, however, that the majority of our able-bodied unemployed are in the same age group.
- (3) **DISABILITY.** This, in the majority of cases, is the least of the problems.

General Comments

The area is a seasonal holiday resort and consequently the unemployed figures are high in winter and low in summer. In fact, there is a substantial shortage of female labour during the summer months. The need in the area is for industry which will employ work people all the year round. The industries required must of necessity be ones which will fit into the character of the area and employ unskilled or semi-skilled labour. The area is scheduled for assistance under the Local Employment Act under which assistance can be given to employers wishing to set up establishments in the area and to existing employers who wish to expand. A number of enquiries have been received in the last twelve months or so and it is likely that three firms will set up factories in the area in the future.

G. G. MORGAN,
Manager.

The vacancies in this office area (covering Rhyl, Prestatyn, Kinmel Bay and St. Asaph) on the 5th July 1960 were :—

Agriculture	4 men.
Chemicals and Allied Industries	4 women.
Electrical Machinery	1 man, 5 women.
Wire Manufacture	1 man, 3 women.
Timber	1 man.
Furniture	1 woman.
Building and Civil Engineering	11 men.
Gas	1 woman.
Railways	3 men.
Road Haulage	1 man.
Wholesale Distribution	1 man, 2 women.
Retail Distribution	11 men, 16 women.
Dealing in Industrial Materials	2 men, 1 woman.
Insurance	1 man.
Medical and Dental Services	11 women.
Cinemas	1 man.
Sport and Recreation	4 men, 3 women.
Catering, Hotels, etc.	13 men, 98 women.
Laundries	2 women.
Private Domestic Service	6 women.

It will be appreciated that although outstanding vacancies are recorded on a certain date, many of them will be filled in a very short time. A large number are seasonal vacancies and will be difficult to fill, as, for example, the vacancies for women in catering. Other vacancies (e.g. Agriculture and Building) are for skilled men at a time when there is a shortage of skilled labour.

Generally, apart from season work, we have very few vacancies outstanding for very long in the area, the exception being vacancies for skilled workers in particular trades.

The vacancies recorded from other districts within daily travelling distances are in two categories :—

- (a) Skilled workers, mainly in Building and Engineering.
- (b) Workers for seasonal work for similar vacancies we are finding difficulty in filling ourselves.

It is well nigh impossible to balance the unemployed with the vacancies available. The vacancies outstanding are usually for workers with special skills and not suitable for the unemployed.

Some indication of the vacancies in the area can be gleaned from the fact that in 1960 this office placed in employment 837 men and 635 women. A high proportion were seasonal workers, but if we estimate that we handle between 30% and 40% of the labour turnover, then the labour turnover in this area can be estimated as between 3,600 and 5,000.

The general picture is, therefore, vacancies for skilled workers in certain industries; more vacancies in summer for females than the number of women available; a high number of vacancies for men in the summer; few unskilled vacancies for either sex in the winter months.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1960

GENERAL INFORMATION

Water Supplies

A pure and adequate supply of mains water was provided in the district throughout the year.

Although no major schemes were carried out during the year, in order to improve the supply in the Marian Cwm area a 3" main was laid to replace the existing 1½" main for a distance of approximately half a mile.

Refuse Removal

As in former years, a fortnightly collection of refuse was made from all domestic premises. During the summer months a weekly collection is made from the camping sites in the district. All refuse is taken to one tip at Dyserth for disposal. In view of the fact that this tip is nearly filled up, a survey was made of possible future sites for refuse disposal, and a

list of sites was submitted to the local planning authority for their observations.

Housing — Slum Clearance

Although two clearance areas could have been made during the year, the early completion of houses allocated for slum clearance required a speedier procedure, and the houses which were unfit were dealt with by way of Demolition and Closing Orders.

A total of 25 houses were represented as being unfit for human habitation, and 30 Demolition or Closing Orders were made during the year.

No. of dwellings represented as being unfit for human habitation	25
No. of dwellings included in Clearance Areas	Nil
No. of Clearance Orders made	Nil
No. of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	8
No. of dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders were made	22
No. of dwellings in respect of which proposals for reconditioning to a standard fit for human habitation were accepted	3

Improvement Grants

During the year 26 applications were made for Discretionary Grants and 8 applications for Standard Grants. All applications were approved for grant aid.

The improvement grant scheme has proved extremely useful, as many properties which were on the Council's list of unfit houses have been improved with grant aid and so saved from demolition.

Camping Sites

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, came into operation during the year, replacing the former system of licensing under the provisions of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The 1960 Act requires occupiers of existing caravan camping sites to apply for site licences before the 29th October 1960. Fourteen applications for site licences were received during the year.

All applications were referred to the County Planning Authority for their observations, and at the time of writing three site licences have been granted.

Factories and Workshops

No new factories were constructed during the year, the number on the register being 60. An increase in building operations in the district brought the number on the register to 10.

No action was required in respect of factory premises during the year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1960

No change was necessary in the rodent control services operated by the Council during the year.

All the sewage disposal works were inspected and treated for rodent infestation, together with the bi-annual treatment of sewers in the parishes of St. Asaph, Dyserth and Rhuddlan.

One aspect of pest control arose during the year. A farm was found to be completely infested with grain weevil. However, a thorough treatment with insecticides cleared the infestation.

Number of farms inspected	165
Number of farms found to be infested	15
Number of business premises inspected	99
Number of business premises found to be infested	13
Number of dwelling houses inspected	141
Number of dwelling houses found to be infested	34

Infectious Diseases

Number of cases inquired into, including Scabies	7
Number of premises disinfected	3

Drainage

Number of new drains laid and tested	103
Number of choked or defective drains	30
Number of new Water Closets	123
Number of Privies converted to W.C.s	4

Scavenging

Number of Pail Closets emptied	572
Number of Ash Bins emptied	62800
Number of loads of refuse	1202

Slaughter Houses

Number of Licensed Slaughterhouses	2
Number of Licensed Slaughtermen	5
Number of Knacker's Yards	1

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

No formal action was taken in respect of contraventions of the Food

Hygiene Regulations during the year, only informal action was required in contraventions noticed during routine visits to food premises in the district. The number of premises coming within the scope of the Regulations during the year are as follows :—

Cafes and Hotels	30
Licensed Premises	29
Grocers Shops	44
Greengrocers Shops	14
Butchers Shops	8
Bakehouses	7
Sweet Confectionery	14
Fishmongers Shops	2
School Canteens	10
Premises registered under the Food & Drugs Acts	52

Ice Cream

Number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream	2
Number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream	53
Number of new registrations for the sale of ice cream	5
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination	50

The grading of samples subjected to the methylene blue reduction test was as follows :—

Samples in Grade 1	46
Samples in Grade 2	4
Samples in Grade 3	Nil
Samples in Grade 4	Nil

These results are very satisfactory, all samples being within Grades 1 or 2, and indicate that proper hygienic standards in the production and retailing of ice cream in the district were observed.

Dairies

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960, came into operation during the year, and will have the effect that the administration of dealer's licences will be taken over on the 1st January 1961 by the County Council from the St. Asaph Rural District Council.

Since 1955 the St. Asaph Rural District has been a "specified" area

in which only designated milk, namely, "Pasteurised," "Sterilised" and "Tuberculin Tested," milk may be retailed in the district.

Number of dealers licensed	32
Number of dealers' premises in the district	29
Number of dealers' premises inspected	32

Abatement of Nuisances

Number of Preliminary Notices served	4
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	2
Number of Abatement Notices served	3
Number of Abatement Notices complied with	Nil
Number of Prosecutions	Nil

Food Inspection

During the year a report was made to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958. Briefly, this Section requires each local authority to review and report on the existing and probable future requirements of their district for slaughterhouse facilities and the facilities which are, or are likely to become available to meet those requirements.

The two private slaughterhouses in the district will require works to be carried out in order to comply with the construction regulations. Plans have already been received and approved by the Council for the improvement of one private slaughterhouse, which also includes the provision of a large chill room.

The Council, in their report, considered that the existing slaughterhouse facilities were adequate for the existing and probable future requirements of their district, and that the Council do not intend to provide a public slaughterhouse in the district. Consultations were made with representatives of the meat trade and other interested persons during the preparation of the report.

Meat inspection is carried out daily at one private slaughterhouse, and on notification, from the other private slaughterhouse in the district.

The year showed a considerable decrease in liver fluke infestation in cattle, although the numbers of animals slaughtered were higher than the figure for the previous year.

No evidence of Tuberculosis was found in cattle slaughtered in the district, which is an indication of the good effect of the Attested Herd

Scheme. The amount of Tuberculosis present in pigs inspected during the year was very low, and in no case was evidence found of Tuberculosis other than in the lymphatic glands of the head.

There were no cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* discovered during the year, although careful examination of the head, heart and thick skirt (diaphragm) of all cattle was made.

The number of animals slaughtered during the year was 10,534, a decrease of 4,023 on the previous year's figures. However, the decrease was entirely confined to sheep and lambs, the figures for cattle and pigs being twenty per cent higher than last year's figures.

The total weight of meat condemned as being unfit for human consumption was 1 ton 7 cwts. 62 lbs. Details of post-mortem inspection of all animals is given in the following table :—

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned for the year 1960

	Cattle excluding		Sheep and		Pigs.	Horses.
	Cows.	Cows. Calves.	Lambs.			
Number killed	632	—	36	9051	815	—
Number inspected	632	—	36	9051	815	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	2	10	10	—
Carcases of which some organ was condemned	166	—	—	528	5	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	26.4%	—	5.5%	16.8%	1.84%	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	4	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected by Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.49%	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcase submitted for treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Sampling of food for the detection of prohibited substances or adulteration (added water in milk, etc.) is carried out by the County Public Health Inspector, Mr. Elwyn Lewis, who has kindly given me the following report of samples taken during the year in the St. Asaph Rural District :—

Article.	No. of Samples taken.	Genuine.	Not genuine or below standard.
Milk	8	7	1
Dairy Products	4	4	—
Ice Cream and Lollies	4	4	—
Vegetables and Fruit...	5	5	—
Alcoholic Drinks	3	3	—
Sausages	5	5	—
Miscellaneous Foods ...	5	5	—
Totals	34	33	1

One sample of milk was found to contain 7% added water. Legal proceedings were instituted, the defendant being fined a total of £2 15s. 0d.

Twenty-one samples of foodstuffs were also submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and all were reported as being satisfactory. Three samples of animal feedingstuffs and two samples of fertilisers were taken under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act and submitted to the Public Analyst. These were reported as being satisfactory.

(Signed) E. LEWIS,

County Health Inspector.

**DETAILS OF FOOD CERTIFIED AS BEING UNFIT FOR
HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

Description.	Number.	Number lbs.
Apples	2 boxes	80
Carrots	1 tin	6
Cauliflowers	2 crates	—
Corned Beef	2 tins	12
Cooked Ham (Holland)	3 tins	37
Cooked Ham (Jugoslavia)	1 tin	9
Onions	1 bag	—
Peach Slices	2 tins	13
Peas	1 tin	6
Potatoes (Spain)	1 bag	56
Tomatoes	2 baskets	18

RAIN GAUGE

Diameter of funnel — 5 inches.

Height of top above ground — 12 inches.

Height of ground above sea level — 195 feet.

Rhyl's Rain — 10 years average.

Average rainfall for 10 years in inches is as follows :—

1951 — 29.96	1956 — 26.12
1952 — 22.40	1957 — 26.60
1953 — 20.39	1958 — 31.25
1954 — 30.90	1959 — 23.91
1955 — 19.00	1960 — 31.02

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1960.
For the Rural District of St. Asaph in the County of Flint.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT

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

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of			Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)		
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	13	Nil	Nil	
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	37	18	Nil	Nil	
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	10	10	Nil	Nil	
TOTAL	70	41	Nil	Nil	

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found					Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—						
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUT WORK

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110		Section 111			
	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecu- tions (7)
Wearing (Making apparel (etc, (Cleaning and (Washing	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Household linen	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lace, lace curtains & nets	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Curtains and furniture hangings	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Furniture & Upholstery	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Electro-plate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
File making	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Brass and brass articles	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Fur pulling	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Iron and steel cables and chains	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cart gear	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Locks, latches and keys	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Umbrellas, etc,	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Artificial flowers	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT (Continued)

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of Out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists. (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
1						
Nets, other than wire nets	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tents	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sacks	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Racquet and tennis balls	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Paper bags	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Brush making	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pea picking	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Feather sorting	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carding, etc. of buttons, etc	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Stuffed toys	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Basket making	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chocolates & sweetmeats	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cosaques,	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Christmas stockings, etc.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Textile weaving	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lampshades	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

