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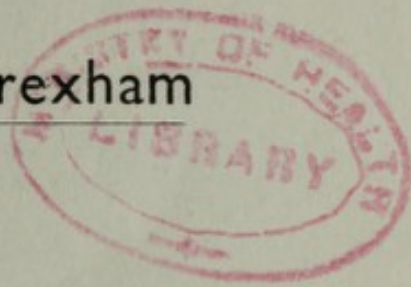
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Borough of Wrexham



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year

1943.

T. P. EDWARDS,

M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Cantab).

Breese Bros., Printers, Wrexham.



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A History of Twenty-one Years Public Health.

AS this is my 21st Annual Report, seeing that I began my present appointment on 1st October, 1923, I have been asked to amplify the Annual Report by giving some indication of the historical progress in Public Health in the Borough of Wrexham during this period.

When I succeeded Dr. J. Lumb as Medical Officer of Health, the Public Health Department was centred at 11, Temple Row, which was also used as the Public Health Offices for the Rural District. The Clerk was Mr. Cecil D. Jones, who acted for both Authorities. The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic was held upstairs in 23a, Chester Street, and was a very unsatisfactory premises. Towards the end of 1923, arrangements were made whereby the Public Health Staff of the Wrexham Borough, together with the School Medical Service should be transferred to the present premises at 1, Grosvenor Road. At the same time there was a failure of the two Councils to come to an agreement whereby both Health Staffs could be accommodated in 1, Grosvenor Road, and the result was that the two Health Departments were completely separated. This separation meant additional work for me in that I had to attend two Health Departments each morning instead of one. Thus the administrative work in Public Health was, to a certain extent, duplicated.

In this year the Health Committee consisted of all the members of the Council, numbering 16, and was under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Edwards Jones with Councillor (later Alderman) Cyril O. Jones as Vice-Chairman.

In giving statistical information, I am handicapped by the fact that at the present time the country is in a state of emergency, and we have been especially instructed not to give any information as to the population or alternatively to give any figures which would enable the population to be calculated. It may, however, be of interest to note the following statistics of the year 1923.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	18.8
Death Rate	..	..	..	12.9
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	79.2

There were 41 cases of Infectious Disease, including 11 cases of Diphtheria and 17 cases of Scarlet Fever. The number of admissions to the Fever Hospital during the year was 23. Twenty-two cases of Tuberculosis were notified of which 19 were pulmonary.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

No. of mothers and babies attending the				
Clinic ..	..	..	..	486
Attendances	..	..	..	4,000
Weekly Attendance	..	..	..	84
Medical Consultations	..	..	..	294

During the year a new system of distribution of dried milk was in force. The old arrangement was that the dried milk was supplied through the Clinic, but for certain reasons which I need not specify, it was arranged that all dried milk should be supplied through the Chemists at special reduced rates, but that mothers requiring free milk could obtain such at the Chemists and the total cost of this milk with fresh milk given free amounted to £70/2/1. During the year the attention of the Health Committee was engaged on the question of the provision of a Maternity Hospital or Home, and it was recognised that the Borough was too small to undertake the building, equipment and management of such an institution, but that it should be provided by the County. It was reported that some 30 per cent. of confinements occurred either in apartments or under overcrowded conditions. As far as the work of the Sanitary Inspector was concerned during this year, it may be pointed out that 8,230 carcasses were inspected at the Abattoir in Holt Road, and there were 27 bake-houses and 16 fried fish shops in the Borough. During this same year, 31 houses were built and of these 22 were by the Corporation. The Sanitary Inspector was Mr. Ivor A. Stephenson, and the Health Committee Clerk was Miss Cotton.

1924.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	22.4
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	13.09
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	65.57

There were 65 cases of Infectious Disease including 22 cases of Diphtheria, 18 Scarlet Fever and 17 Pneumonia. There were 38 notifications of Tuberculosis of which 31 were pulmonary. The number of admissions to the Fever Hospital during the year was 29, of which 18 were Diphtheria cases.

As far as Maternity and Child Welfare was concerned, there was a drop of 103 in the number of cases attending the Clinic, and the average weekly attendance was 75. The value of free milk issued amounted to £91/13/11. 33.8 per cent. of confinements were in apartments or under overcrowded conditions. At the Abattoir, 9,918 animals were slaughtered, and during the year there was a discussion on refuse removal.

1925.

During this year, the Ministry of Health asked for a Survey Report. The average size of families in the Borough was 4.36.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	18.6
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	13.65
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	115.7

There were 75 cases of Infectious Disease of which 20 were Diphtheria and 35 Scarlet Fevers. There were 51 admissions to the Fever Hospital, including 29 Scarlet Fevers and 20 Diphtheria. 48 cases of Tuberculosis were notified, including 38 cases of

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. In the Maternity and Child Welfare Department, 639 mothers attended, making 4,581 attendances, and the average weekly attendance was 93. The number of medical consultations was 243. The cost of free milk distributed amounted to £123/6/4.

In this report reference was made to the River Gwenfro, which has a minimum dry flow estimated at 4,500 gallons per hour and a normal usable flow of 24,000 gallons per hour. It was stated in this report that recent analysis showed that the river purifies itself before entering the Borough from industrial effluents which had entered it some distance upstream. As it passed through the Borough there was a certain amount of pollution, especially from the Gas Works, and this received attention.

As far as Scavenging was concerned, there were some 372 ashpits within the Borough boundaries.

A substantial part of the Report dealt with the Housing conditions, and a great many instances were given of overcrowding, the two worst families being 13 persons, including 9 children, living in 2 bedrooms and 2 living-rooms, and 13 persons, including 6 adults and 7 children, living in 2 bedrooms and 2 living rooms. Many similar instances were also included and 40.7% of confinements occurred in apartments or under overcrowded conditions. During this year, there were 52 milk vendors on the register of retailers and 10,279 animals were slaughtered at the Abattoir.

During this year unhealthy areas were proposed, namely Broughton Buildings, Brook Street, Tenters Square and various Courts in the Borough. This information is of interest in that all of these were dealt with later on under slum clearance.

1926.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	18.1
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	12.3
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	67.6

Towards the end of the year formal consent was given by the Ministry of Health after Government enquiry for the re-arrangement of the town into Wards, whereby the number was increased to seven. This necessitated an increase of the Council to 28. Certain statistical information was given in the Report in reference to the evidence submitted to the Ministry of Health enquiry, and this showed that the total number of houses in the Borough was 4,173, and that in the 7 wards the average number of electors was 1,020.

The total number of Infectious Disease notified was 79, including 20 cases of Diphtheria and 41 Cases of Scarlet Fever and 7 cases of Pneumonia. There were 37 cases of Tuberculosis, 30 of them being pulmonary. 56 cases were admitted to the Fever Hospital and of these 33 were Scarlet Fever and 20 Diphtheria.

Under the Maternity and Child Welfare it was reported that 763 mothers attended the Clinic with their babies and there were 4,222 attendances, the average weekly attendance being 88. The cost of free milk distributed was £80/8/1.

During this year arrangements were made whereby rain water was collected monthly at the Parciau and sent to Chester for chemical analysis in reference to atmospheric pollution. In reference to the River Gwenfro, a large deposit of material was found within the Borough, partially blocking the flow of the river. This material consisted chiefly of coal dust and the effluent from industrial concerns higher up in the Rural District area. A sample of this deposit was taken and analysed and was found to contain arsenic in the proportion of $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. per lb. of dry material. This deposit was subsequently removed and has not recurred.

1927.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	15.4
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	12.4
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	72.9

During this year 56 houses were built by the Corporation and sanction was sought for the erection of 100 more houses.

There were 84 cases of Infectious Disease, including 14 cases of Diphtheria, 41 Scarlet Fever and 13 Pneumonia and 1 case of Cerebrospinal Meningitis. 53 cases were admitted to the Fever Hospital, including 12 cases of Diphtheria, 35 Scarlet Fever and 4 Enteric Fever.

On 31st December of this year, Miss Humphreys, Health Visitor, resigned after completing 17 years service.

1928.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	15.1
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	12.9
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	78.7

There were 109 cases of Infectious Disease, including 8 cases of Diphtheria and 49 cases of Scarlet Fever and 35 cases of Pneumonia and 5 cases of Enteric Fever. 61 cases were admitted to the Fever Hospital including 43 cases of Scarlet Fever and 8 Diphtheria.

Under Maternity and Child Welfare, 371 mothers attended the Clinic with their babies, making 3,932 attendances and there was an average weekly attendance of 83. The total cost of free milk distributed was £148/16/3.

During this year, 10 samples of water were taken for analysis and all of them were bacteriologically very satisfactory. These samples were taken in reference to an enquiry by the Ministry of Health in the previous year as to the purity of water in the Borough.

As regards housing, certain houses were suggested as being unfit for human habitation, but these were not dealt with until later.

1929.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	15.2
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	12.7
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	38.4

During this year there were 136 cases of Infectious Disease, including 13 cases of Diphtheria, 70 cases of Scarlet Fever and 38 cases of Pneumonia, of whom 14 died. 85 cases were admitted to the Fever Hospital, including 68 cases of Scarlet Fever, 13 Diphtheria and 1 Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. 31 cases of Tuberculosis were notified including 21 cases of Pulmonary.

During this year, Dr. Edwards Jones resigned the chairmanship of the Health Committee, and was succeeded by Alderman Cyril O. Jones, who has remained in the chair. During the year, samples of the Brynyffynnon well were taken, as it was reported by one of the Aldermen that there was a satisfactory water supply which should be used for drinking purposes, though it was used in the Swimming Baths. Unfortunately, the three samples taken were all most unsatisfactory and showed ample evidence of pollution.

During this year, the Cheshire County Council reported adversely on the state of the River Clywedog immediately below the entrance of the effluent from the Borough Sewage Works at Five Fords, Marchwiel. It appears that certain of their inspectors had been making investigations as to the purity of the various tributaries of the River Dee, and, without consulting us in any way, visited our area. At this time, discussions were already taking place in reference to a complete renovation of the facilities at this Sewage Works. During this year demands were made by the Chester Corporation to obtain full control from an administrative point of view of the whole of the River Dee and its water shed without in any way consulting the constituent Local Authorities lying on the banks of the River Dee and its tributaries.

During this year, 77 houses were built, including 68 by the Corporation, in Huntroyde, Benjamin Road and Holt Road areas.

During this year, Mr. Stephenson resigned and was succeeded by Mr. Davies as Chief Sanitary Inspector.

1930.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	14.6
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	12.7
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	74.3

There were 283 cases of Infectious Disease, including 105 cases of Diphtheria and 155 cases of Scarlet Fever. Of the 105 cases of Diphtheria, 6 died and 2 cases of Scarlet Fever died. 203 cases were admitted to the Fever Hospital, including 102 cases of Scarlet Fever and 99 cases of Diphtheria. 425 mothers with their children attended the Clinic, making 4,938 attendances. During this year, the number of sessions was increased from one to two per week and the average sessional attendance was 49. The total cost of free milk distributed was £188/16/11.

Ante-Natal work was carried on by Dr. Drinkwater during her Wednesday afternoon Clinic.

Towards the end of the year an enquiry was held by the Ministry of Health in reference to complete modernisation of the drainage system in the Borough and improvements in the Sewage Works. The Scheme presented to the Ministry of Health Inspector was sufficient not only for the Borough of Wrexham but also for any prospective increase in the population during the next few years. It was pointed out that certain unsatisfactory features in the sewerage system occurred in the Acton Ward.

1931.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	15.2
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	11.9
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	71.9

There were 322 cases of Infectious Disease during the year. These included 190 cases of Diphtheria, 96 Scarlet Fever and 24 Pneumonia. There were 220 admissions to the Fever Hospital, including 174 Diphtheria and 44 Scarlet Fever. 34 cases of Tuberculosis were notified including 28 Pulmonary.

The chief event in this year was a Ministry of Health Enquiry in reference to a formation of a Joint River Board for the Dee Catchment Area, and though formal sanction was given for the establishment of this joint River Board, protests from the Local Authorities were successful in delaying the functioning of the Board for two or three years. During this Enquiry the Borough Sewage Farm at Five Fords was criticised, but before this enquiry took place, arrangements had already been completed for a complete reorganisation of this sewage works. Commencement was made during this year of the laying of a new sewer throughout the Borough from Rhosnessney Lane to Five Fords, and this was accompanied by the disuse of the Hafod-y-Wern storm overflow tanks. A commencement was also made on the renovation of Five Fords Farm. Another important event which took place was that dealing with housing activities in the Borough. 162 houses were erected of which 144 were Council Houses. A large amount of work was commenced under the Housing Act of 1930 whereby 12 Clearance Areas were scheduled for demolition and 9 Improvement Areas. Certain of these Improvement Areas were later scheduled as Clearance Areas. The Annual Report for 1931 contained useful statistical information in reference to the unfit houses in the Borough and indicated that 163 houses were scheduled for demolition but that 178 houses were required for accommodating displaced families. In addition to this, 115 houses were required for the displacement of families from overcrowded houses, making a total of 293 houses required and in these 1,373 persons would be displaced.

During the year Miss Cotton resigned her appointment as Clerk to the Borough Health Department and she was succeeded by Miss M. Kirby.

1932.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	13.9
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	12.5
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	71.9

There were 170 notifications of Infectious Disease during the year including 103 cases of Diphtheria, 96 Scarlet Fever, 24 Pneumonia and 1 Enteric Fever. There were 32 cases of Tuberculosis, of which 17 were pulmonary. There were 105 admissions to the Fever Hospital during the year, including 89 Diphtheria.

In this year the Ante-natal Clinic on Wednesday morning was established and this relieved the work in the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic on Wednesday Afternoons.

The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Davies, tendered his resignation and he was replaced by Mr. Bates. During this year 205 new houses were constructed, 178 by the Corporation. It was reported that the Council possessed 773 houses and 96 flats already completed.

1933.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	15.0
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	12.9
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	71.6

There were 218 notifications of Infectious Disease including 114 Diphtheria, 39 Scarlet Fever, 46 Pneumonia, and 1 Enteric Fever. The admissions to the Fever Hospital numbered 149, including 110 cases of Diphtheria. There were 41 cases of Tuberculosis including 27 Pulmonary.

In my 1933 report, figures were included dealing with the Census which took place in 1931. It was pointed out that in 1931 there were 3.98 persons per family as compared with 4.5 in 1921. The number of families living under overcrowded conditions amounted to 112 as compared with 237 in 1921. This number of 112 families included one family which contained 18 persons.

During this year, an outbreak of food poisoning occurred following a Whit Monday wedding breakfast, when 24 guests were affected. Certain material was sent for analysis, but the results were negative and the actual cause of the outbreak was not determined.

As regards Maternity and Child Welfare work the number of ante-natal cases amounted to 68 during the year as compared with 25 in 1932, and the cost of milk distributed free of charge amounted to £284/16/5.

A report was submitted to the Watch Committee with reference to the unsatisfactory state of the water in the Swimming Baths, and at the same time samples of water were analysed at the Technical Institute which consisted solely of determining the saline content of the water and as a result of this investigation it was stated that the water in the Borough was a high-class spring water, but unfortunately was seriously polluted and unfit for drinking. In order to remedy this state of affairs, discussions arose as to chlorination.

During the year two Ministry of Health Enquiries were held in respect to clearance areas which had been scheduled in the previous year, and with the exception of seven houses in one of the clearance areas, all the schemes were confirmed by the Ministry of Health, and during the year houses were provided by the Corporation at the Spring Lodge Estate in Holt Road for the accommodation of displaced persons. 22 houses were constructed by the Corporation and 49 by private enterprise.

1934.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	15.0
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	12.6
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	71.6

There were 199 notifications of Infectious Disease during the year, including 118 Diphtheria, 50 Scarlet Fever and 23 Pneumonia. The number of admissions to the Fever Hospital was 156, including 116 cases of Diphtheria. 42 notifications of Tuberculosis were received including 36 Pulmonary.

The number of ante-natal cases rose to 82 and the cost of free milk amounted to £350.

It was during this year that a filtration and chlorinating plant was installed at the Swimming Baths. This avoided the necessity of emptying the baths and refilling as the chlorinating process was a continuous one. This meant that the Baths were continually kept open.

During this year again, another Ministry of Health Enquiry was held in reference to five clearance areas affecting 25 houses.

1935.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	14.8
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	15.0
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	105.7

There were 232 notifications of Infectious Disease, including 80 cases of Diphtheria, 104 Scarlet Fever and 29 Pneumonia. The number of admissions to the Fever Hospital was 153, including 63 cases of Diphtheria. The Tuberculosis cases notified numbered 38, including 29 Pulmonary.

It was during this year that the Borough was extended from the 1,305 acres to 2,918 and population was increased by some 5,000. The whole Borough was divided into nine wards which necessitated an increase in the number of Aldermen and Councillors to 36.

The number of Ante-natal cases during the year rose to 97, and 419 mothers and babies received free milk at a cost of £465.

Two outbreaks of Food Poisoning occurred during the year. One of these affected 3 persons and a dog, the cause of which was tinned salmon which was infected with staphylococci. The second outbreak was a more serious one and affected 34 patients and nurses at the Wrexham Isolation Hospital which had recently been included within the Borough Boundaries subsequent to the extension. The cause of this poisoning was custard made from

milk supplied by a farm in Rhosnessney. The conditions in this farm were anything but satisfactory, and in the milk supplied by the farm and also in the custard *Staphylococcus aureus* was again found. These two cases of food poisoning by the same micro-organism were exceptionally interesting in that there did not appear to be any reference to similar outbreaks in Great Britain or at least none had been published in Medical Journals. This type of outbreak, however, had been fairly common in the United States and was always caused by cakes containing milk products.

Owing to the extension of the Borough Boundaries, it was found necessary to appoint an additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Wilkes.

1936.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	14.4
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	14.9
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	75.4

There were 385 notifications of Infectious Disease during the year, including 181 cases of Diphtheria, 144 Scarlet Fever and 37 Pneumonia. The admissions to the Fever Hospital numbered 294, of which 181 were cases of Diphtheria. The number of cases of Tuberculosis notified was 56, including 37 Pulmonary.

In 1936 an increased number of cases of Diphtheria occurred mostly in the Maesydre Ward. During this epidemic, a large amount of discussion arose as to its bearing on malnutrition, and in this connection it was necessary to mention a report submitted by Mr. Bates, the Sanitary Inspector, on the number of families members of which were suffering from Diphtheria using fresh milk. It was surprising to note the number of families which had not received any fresh milk during the year, probably owing to economic reasons, and they were dependent on tinned milk.

Towards the end of the year, an intensive campaign of immunisation against Diphtheria was put into force and 977 children were immunised and 474 Schick Tests were performed. It was during this year that an investigation was made of overcrowding in respect to the Housing Act of 1935, and it was pointed out that out of 6,245 houses inspected, 178 were found to be overcrowded.

In 1936, the Nursing Staff was increased by the appointment of a Health Visitor-School Nurse. Nurse Fuller was appointed in February, but she was succeeded in August by Nurse Lloyd Jones.

1937.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	15.2
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	15.2
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	71.9

There were 303 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, including 177 cases of Diphtheria, 49 Scarlet Fever, 3 Enteric Fever and 56 Pneumonia. The admissions to Fever Hospital numbered 226, including 161 cases of Diphtheria.

In May of this year, the Town Clerk, Mr. Lawson Taylor, retired and he was succeeded by the present Town Clerk, Mr. Walters. Towards the end of the year, Mr. Bates resigned and his place was taken by Mr. Stroud.

The number of cases of Diphtheria during this year was again excessive, and there were 15 deaths. It was thought advisable during the year to appoint a separate nurse—Nurse Nicoll—as a Temporary Infectious Disease Visitor, whose duty was to visit all the families in which Diphtheria was present and also to visit the Schools periodically in order to find out whether any children were suffering from sore throat or any other Infectious Disease. A Health Week was held during the year.

1938.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	16.9
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	12.4
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	59.7

There were 195 cases of Infectious Disease notified, including 74 Diphtheria and 66 Scarlet Fever and 31 Pneumonia. The admissions to the Fever Hospital numbered 130, including 72 Diphtheria. 56 cases of Tuberculosis were notified of which 33 were Pulmonary.

This was an important year from many points of view. Dr. Wade, the Medical Member of the Welsh Board of Health, visited the Borough and met the members of the Health and Education Committees with reference to the outbreak of Diphtheria which had taken place in the Borough during the last few years.

In addition to this, an enquiry was held by Mr. Clement Davies in reference to the Welsh National Memorial Association, and the Borough of Wrexham, as one of the non-County Boroughs in Wales, gave important evidence at the Inquiry.

Representations were made during this year in respect to clearance areas 19—42, and with one exception they were all confirmed by the Ministry of Health.

1939.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	11.4
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	15.5
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	62.8

There were 255 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, including 69 cases of Diphtheria, 94 Scarlet Fever and 50 Pneumonia. 43 cases of Tuberculosis were notified of which 35 were Pulmonary. The admissions to the Fever Hospital numbered 181 of which 62 were cases of Diphtheria.

In 1939 hostilities broke out and it was decided to cut down the Annual Reports as far as possible in order to save paper. 134 families were replaced during the year. The chief Public Health event of the year was the outbreak of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. 16 cases were notified during the last three months of the year, but only 5 of them were civilian. At the end of the year, Dr. Drinkwater, my Assistant, died, and she had been a most faithful official of the Borough for a large number of years and had acted in the capacity of Assistant School Medical Officer and assistant in the Maternity and Child Welfare and Ante-natal Clinic.

1940.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	17.0
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	15.2
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	128.1

There were 382 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, including 111 cases of Diphtheria, 61 Scarlet Fever and 130 Pneumonia. 52 cases of Tuberculosis were notified, including 44 Pulmonary.

During this year, a report on Infantile Mortality was presented to the Health Committee in reference to a large increase in the number of children under one year of age who had died.

During this year Cerebro-spinal Meningitis continued to be of epidemic dimension and 64 cases were notified. Of these 12 were non-civilian. Of the civilians there were 4 deaths. This epidemic was the subject of a special report presented jointly to the Borough and the Wrexham Rural District Councils.

1941.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	16.8
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	13.8
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	74.4

There were 600 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, including 106 cases of Diphtheria, 38 Scarlet Fever, 1 Enteric Fever and 57 Pneumonia. 45 cases of Tuberculosis were notified including 33 Pulmonary. The admissions to the Fever Hospital numbered 106 cases of Diphtheria.

During this year another campaign of immunisations was held and 427 children were completely immunised and at the end of the year 98 children were incompletely immunised. During the year proposals were submitted to the Welsh Board of Health urging legislation for the compulsory immunisation of children, but the reply of the Board was to the effect that the present situation did not warrant compulsory legislation. The epidemic of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis continued and 20 cases were admitted to the Fever Hospital from the Borough.

It was during this year that arrangements were made for the distribution of Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin C. preparations at the Clinic in conjunction with the Ministry of Food, and a British Restaurant was opened in the Rhosddu Schools and a Food Advice Centre was opened in Queen Street in a central part of the town in order that the public should be educated as to the best means of preparing food-stuffs under war conditions. Towards the end of the year, a War Time Nursery was opened at Abbotsfield.

1942.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	17.5
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	11.6
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	67.9

There were 336 cases of Infectious Disease during the year, including 60 Diphtheria, 24 Scarlet Fever and 44 Pneumonia. The number of cases of Tuberculosis was 56, including 39 Pulmonary. The admissions to the Fever Hospital numbered 98, including 59 Diphtheria.

1,449 children were immunised against Diphtheria. A second British Restaurant was opened in Spring Lodge and feeding of School Children was commenced. A second War-Time Nursery was established at Spring Lodge.

1943.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	20.8
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	13.6
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	84.0

There were 668 cases of Infectious Disease during the year, including 42 Diphtheria, 65 Scarlet Fever and 57 Pneumonia. The number of Tuberculosis notified was 62, including 45 Pulmonary.

IMMUNISATION.

In my Annual Report as School Medical Officer for the year 1943, I have stated that Schick Testing commenced in 1932 and that immunisations commenced in 1933. As far as I can make out, we were the first Authority in North Wales to do this work. Since 1933, we have had more than one intensive campaign for the immunisation of school children, and the one held in 1936 included the Grove Park Girls' School. As always happens after an intensive campaign of this nature, there is always a drop in the number of immunisations, but in 1942 we were urged by the Ministry of Health to undertake a new campaign in conjunction with the Ministry of Information who supplied suitable advertisement material. This campaign lasted well into 1943 and the great majority of cases immunised were school children, though a certain number of children under school age were also dealt with. Since this campaign was instituted there has again been a very specific drop in the number of cases immunised, and we have very

few applications at the present moment. This may be due to the fact that there is still a certain amount of prejudice amongst parents to have their children immunised, or if they have commenced the course of immunisation, they have neglected to have it completed. This in some cases is due to the reaction following the first injection, but taken as a whole, we have had extremely few reactions.

Following discussions occurred in the Health Committee, parents were advised to have their children under five years of age immunised, and an advertisement was inserted in the local papers which included a form of sanction. The response to this appeal was most unsatisfactory, and the number of consents based on the forms of applications in the advertisement were very few. At the present moment the number of cases of Diphtheria notified has diminished practically to vanishing point, and at the time of writing there are only four cases of Diphtheria in the Fever Hospital, three of which are from the Borough. It may be that the absence of an epidemic has caused a certain amount of indifference to the necessity of having this preventive treatment carried out. I have already pointed out that the more cases of children immunised would result in fewer cases of Diphtheria developing and thus fewer carriers are produced. It is well known that Diphtheria is spread by means of carriers, namely persons who are harbouring the Diphtheria bacilli in the throat but who are not themselves suffering from Diphtheria. As there have been so many school children immunised, the risks of spread of Diphtheria from the Schools have been much much minimised, and it may be that parents of children under five years of age are reaping the benefit of the intensive campaigns which have taken place amongst children of school age.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The last twenty-one years marks an important period in the Public Health of the Borough of Wrexham. The Health Services have been developed as far as it is possible for this to take place, emphasis being paid especially to the development of the Services in reference to ante-natal cases and maternity and child welfare. The Ante-natal Clinic was not established until 1932, though a few expectant mothers were examined in the ordinary sessions of the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic on Wednesday afternoon. The Ante-natal Clinic has developed and now forms a very important part of the work of the Public Health Department. During this period, a large amount of discussion has taken place in reference to the establishment of a Maternity Home within the Borough, but so far such an institution has not been supplied. Most of the cases, until lately, were admitted to Croesnewydd Hospital, and abnormal cases were sent to the County Maternity Hospital at Ruabon, and during the last few

years cases of confinements amongst evacuees from bombed-out areas were catered for at Gerwyn Hall, near Marchwiel, some four or five miles outside the Borough boundaries. It is to be hoped that once the present hostilities cease, one of the main discussions to be entered into will be the establishment of a modern up-to-date Maternity Home in conjunction with the County Council Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

I have already referred to the arrangements with the Ministry of Food whereby vitamin preparations and Dried Milk are distributed through the Centre.

Reference has also been made to the establishment of an Orthopaedic Scheme whereby children under school age, as well as children of school age, are catered for at the Orthopaedic Clinic at 16, Grosvenor Road, implemented by hospital treatment at Gobowen Orthopaedic Hospital. This Scheme has done a large amount of excellent work in the alleviation of defects in their infancy and thus has been a most potent form of successful preventive medicine.

During the last twenty-one years, I have been ably assisted by a succession of Assistants, namely Dr. K. R. Drinkwater, Dr. S. G. Hines, and now Dr. A. M. Barry.

Dental treatment is also available, which is carried out by Mr. Ross Wallis, and all cases treated by him are fully investigated and reported upon at the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. This scheme applies chiefly to expectant mothers and especially those whose dental condition would be a possible danger during pregnancy and confinement. During the last few years a Scheme of Home Helps has been established but it does not meet the claims which were put out for it at its commencement. This is due to the paucity of applicants who would be suitable to act as Home Helps, and this is a matter that is common to other local authorities at the present time. It is to be hoped once hostilities cease, that there will be available a greater number of persons who will be willing to undertake this work.

As regards the work of the Health Committee, I have been supported by a number of Sanitary Inspectors including Mr. Stephenson, Mr. D. B. Davies, Mr. Bates, Mr. L. A. Stroud, and at the present moment, Mr. F. G. Davies.

In my survey, I have given some indication as to the work which has been carried out by the Health Committee, especially in reference to the construction of a modern sewerage scheme. I need hardly remind the Committee of the housing developments which have occurred during the last twenty-one years. A large amount of insanitary property has been demolished, but it is unfortunate that the outbreak of hostilities occurred at a time when we were on the verge of completing our programme of slum

clearance. The result is that there still remain some houses which were condemned but which we were not allowed to demolish. When these houses have been demolished, certain necessary improvements will take place within the Borough. There is still a certain amount of insanitary property left, but one can safely say that the worst types of houses have been demolished. At the present moment our chief concern is that of the incidence and alleviation of overcrowding.

The attention of the Health Committee has been directed to the methods of refuse collection and removal, and there is ample evidence that once the present emergency has ceased, one of the most pressing projects will be that of the construction of a new destructor under modern methods, seeing that the amount of available land within the Borough suitable for tipping, even though tipping be controlled, is extremely small.

I have in more than one place referred to the fact that in the early stages of Public Health administration, emphasis is laid on the environmental factor and the measures taken to remove insanitary surroundings and insanitary conditions. This is, as a rule, followed by emphasis on personal hygiene, and there is at present a greater personal contact with the Public of Wrexham than has been the case in the past. Personal hygiene is as important, if not more so, as that of environmental hygiene. At the same time, the personal factor, however important it is, is more difficult to put into effect. One can safely say that we in the Borough have developed our Health Services to the maximum possible in a Borough of our size, and every endeavour is made to develop the services where such development is possible. At the present moment, discussions are taking place in reference to the formation of a Scheme of Moral Welfare of young persons in conjunction with the County Councils of Denbighshire and possibly of Flintshire, but this Scheme is at present only in the discussion stage and has not yet resulted in any concrete proposals being put forward.

Perhaps it would not be inopportune for me to refer to the assistance I have received from the Chairmen of the Health Committee, Dr. Edwards Jones, and also his successor, Alderman Cyril O. Jones.

**VITAL STATISTICS—
BOROUGH OF WREXHAM, 1923-1943.**

YEAR.	BIRTH RATE.		DEATH RATE.		INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE	
	<i>Boro'.</i>	<i>E. & W.</i>	<i>Boro'.</i>	<i>E. & W.</i>	<i>Boro'.</i>	<i>E. & W.</i>
1923	18.8	19.7	12.9	12.1	79.0	71.0
1924	22.4	18.8	13.1	12.2	65.6	75.0
1925	18.6	18.3	13.6	12.2	115.7	75.0
1926	18.1	17.8	12.3	11.6	67.6	70.0
1927	15.4	16.6	12.8	12.3	72.9	69.0
1928	15.1	16.7	12.9	11.7	78.7	65.0
1929	15.2	16.3	12.7	13.4	38.4	74.0
1930	14.6	16.3	12.7	11.4	74.3	60.0
1931	15.2	15.8	11.9	12.3	71.9	66.0
1932	13.9	15.3	12.5	12.0	71.9	65.0
1933	15.0	14.4	12.9	12.3	61.8	64.0
1934	15.0	14.8	12.6	11.8	71.6	59.0
1935	14.8	14.7	15.0	11.7	105.7	57.0
1936	14.4	14.8	14.9	12.1	75.4	59.0
1937	15.2	14.9	15.2	12.4	71.9	58.0
1938	16.9	15.1	12.4	11.6	59.7	53.0
1939	11.4	15.0	15.5	12.1	62.8	50.0
1940	17.0	14.6	15.2	14.3	128.1	55.0
1941	16.8	14.2	13.8	12.9	74.4	59.0
1942	17.5	15.8	11.4	11.6	67.9	49.0
1943	20.8	16.5	13.6	12.1	84.0	49.0

TABLE B.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>No. of Mothers Attending.</i>	<i>No. of Attendances.</i>	<i>Average Sessional Attendances.</i>	<i>Medical Consultations.</i>
1923	486	4,000	84	294
1924	383	3,677	75	256
1925	383	4,581	93	243
1926	445	4,222	88	274
1927	406	4,166	85	229
1928	371	3,932	83	289
1929	354	4,599	82	366
1930	425	4,938	49	1,024
1931	411	4,690	49	826
1932	437	6,271	62	791
1933	477	6,361	63	915
1934	500	7,207	71	1,132
1935	714	8,710	87	1,219
1936	749	8,117	81	846
1937	830	9,044	90	1,033
1938	909	10,687	107	898
1939	884	10,721	107	815
1940	915	8,137	80	1,006
1941	850	8,415	84	1,514
1942	923	9,248	91	1,487
1943	970	9,108	91	1,265

TABLE C. (i.).
NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Year.	Diph- theria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneu- monia.	Others.	Total.
1923	11	17	—	9	4	41
1924	22	18	2	17	6	65
1925	20	35	2	13	5	75
1926	20	41	2	7	9	79
1927	14	41	6	13	10	84
1928	8	49	5	35	12	109
1929	13	76	1	38	8	136
1930	105	155	—	15	8	283
1931	190	96	—	24	12	322
1932	103	24	1	29	13	170
1933	114	39	1	46	18	218
1934	118	50	—	23	8	199
1935	80	104	—	29	19	232
1936	181	144	—	37	23	385
1937	177	49	3	56	18	303
1938	74	66	—	31	24	195
1939	69	94	—	50	42	255
1940	111	61	4	130	76	382
1941	106	38	1	57	398	600
1942	60	24	—	44	208	336
1943	42	65	1	57	503	668

NOTE.—Measles and Whooping Cough became notifiable in October, 1939, which accounts for the increase in other Notifiable Diseases in subsequent years.

TABLE C. (ii.).
NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Year	Pul- monary	Non- monary	Total	Year	Pul- monary	Non- Pul- monary	Total
1923	19	3	22	1934	36	6	42
1924	31	7	38	1935	29	9	38
1925	38	10	48	1936	37	19	56
1926	30	7	37	1937	28	12	40
1927	27	6	33	1938	33	23	56
1928	21	6	27	1939	35	8	43
1929	21	10	31	1940	44	8	52
1930	14	4	18	1941	33	12	45
1931	28	6	34	1942	39	17	56
1932	17	15	32	1943	45	17	62
1933	27	14	41				

TABLE D.
CAUSES OF DEATH.

Year	Maternal	Diphtheria	Tubercu- losis, Pulmonary	Tubercu- losis, Non- Pulmonary	Cancer	Cerebral Haem- orrhage	Heart Disease	Bronchitis	Pneumonia
1923	1	—	22	5	28	13	30	13	16
1924	3	—	28	3	16	25	34	18	20
1925	—	1	26	2	26	15	47	24	22
1926	3	1	12	5	31	24	31	11	10
1927	—	—	17	4	22	20	37	10	25
1928	5	—	15	2	36	7	39	6	18
1929	2	—	15	3	30	18	54	10	14
1930	2	1	14	2	33	15	55	10	8
1931	1	7	16	5	26	12	42	10	14
1932	1	5	7	7	47	17	35	10	14
1933	1	3	14	5	42	11	39	11	21
1934	4	8	19	3	30	20	34	6	11
1935	1	6	13	6	51	27	63	8	22
1936	1	6	21	3	52	28	79	10	25
1937	—	15	21	3	37	30	78	10	24
1938	—	8	10	3	43	24	54	9	21
1939	2	7	18	4	47	20	100	16	17
1940	1	5	10	—	44	44	87	39	42
1941	3	1	18	—	61	37	105	22	24
1942	2	3	12	5	44	37	77	19	21
1943	2	1	10	2	55	43	81	30	12

TABLE E.

**BOROUGH ADMISSIONS TO FEVER
HOSPITAL.**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Diphtheria Admissions</i>	<i>Total Admissions</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Diphtheria Admissions</i>	<i>Total Admissions</i>
1923	7	23	1934	116	156
1924	18	29	1935	63	153
1925	20	51	1936	161	294
1926	20	56	1937	181	226
1927	12	53	1938	72	130
1928	8	61	1939	62	181
1929	13	85	1940	106	236
1930	99	203	1941	109	171
1931	176	220	1942	59	98
1932	89	105	1943	36	115
1933	110	149			

TABLE F.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Milk Samples Taken</i>	<i>Animals Slaughtered</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Milk Samples Taken</i>	<i>Animals Slaughtered</i>
1923	—	8,230	1934	79	11,663
1924	—	9,918	1935	35	13,251
1925	—	10,278	1936	62	14,814
1926	22	9,364	1937	51	28,632
1927	111	9,819	1938	117	25,084
1928	103	10,104	1939	122	26,144
1929	106	9,159	1940	148	70,017
1930	34	8,796	1941	151	63,493
1931	37	9,260	1942	154	77,885
1932	54	10,239	1943	730	77,765
1933	70	11,270			

ANNUAL REPORT for 1943.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Alderman CYRIL O. JONES, B.A.

Vice-Chairman :

Alderman MRS. PRICE, J.P.

Members :

Alderman DODMAN.	Councillor HACKETT.
Alderman JARMAN.	Councillor MORRIS.
Alderman THOMAS.	Councillor CATHERINE JONES.
Alderman EMYR WILLIAMS.	Councillor OGDEN.
Councillor BREESE.	Councillor STABLER.
Councillor DUTTON.	Councillor MEADOWCROFT.
Councillor FITZPATRICK.	Councillor EDWARD JONES.
Councillor HICKMAN.	Councillor EDWARD WILLIAMS.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor J. Taylor).

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Alderman CYRIL O. JONES, B.A.

Vice-Chairman :

Alderman MRS. PRICE, J.P.

The Members of the Health Committee with the following co-opted members :—

MRS. CYRIL JONES.	MRS. CHALLONER.	} <i>Con-</i> <i>sultative.</i>
MRS. AFFLECK.	MRS. GREENE.	
MRS. GRIFFITHS.	MRS. TAYLOR.	
MRS. PICKEN.	MRS. EMYR WILLIAMS.	
MRS. JOHN DAVIES.	MRS. MANFORD JONES,	
	DR. R. S. BROCK,	

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my 21st Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics for the Borough of Wrexham for the year 1943. It was thought advisable to give some account of the activities of the Health Department during the last 21 years. In giving a full account, we are handicapped by the necessity of close regard to reasons of public security, as we have been instructed not to publish figures of population or to present statistics in such a way that the population could be calculated.

As far as Vital Statistics are concerned, the number of births and the Birth Rate have increased substantially during the year. There has been an increase in the Death Rate and there is also an increase in the Infantile Mortality Rate which is well above that of the whole country.

It is of interest to note that the incidence of Diphtheria has very much diminished and this is in keeping with the results of the Diphtheria Prophylactic campaign which has taken place during the year. There is still room for improvement in the number of children of school and pre-school age who should be immunised and there is still a certain amount of prejudice and in certain cases opposition to this form of preventive medicine.

The chief event of the year was the opening of a new British Restaurant in Town Hill, which has been a success, but it has unfortunately been found necessary to close those at Spring Lodge and Rhosddu School.

Towards the end of the year, our Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Stroud, resigned to take up another appointment in Slough, and he was succeeded by Mr. F. G. Davies. It was felt that Mr. Davies could not present an Annual Report for 1943, and it is for this reason that the Sanitary Inspector's Report is confined to essential statistics.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
T. P. EDWARDS,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (Acres)		2,916
Rateable Value of the Borough (31st March, 1944)	..	£165,945
Product of a Penny Rate		£622
Corporation Houses		1,775

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate.

Birth Rate	.. 20.8	England and Wales	.. 16.5
Total No. of Stillbirths..			.. 14.

Death Rate.

Death Rate	.. 13.6	England and Wales	.. 12.1
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Maternal Mortality.

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Births	.. 3.4
England and Wales	.. 2.29

Infantile Mortality.

Infantile Mortality Rate :	
Legitimate	.. 81.9
Illegitimate	.. 103.4

Total	.. 84.0	England and Wales	.. 49.0
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The number of infant deaths have shown an increase of 15 during the year. The Infantile Mortality Rate has also increased and is very much above that of England and Wales.

DIARRHOEA.

There were 3 cases of diarrhoea among children under 2 years. The rate per 1,000 live births is 5.1 as compared with 5.3 for England and Wales.

CANCER DEATHS.

There were 30 male and 30 female deaths during the year, making a total of 60 against 44 for 1942.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

During the year, the following cases were notified :—

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Total Deaths.</i>
Small Pox	—	—
Scarlet Fever	65	—
Diphtheria	42	1
Pneumonia	57	12
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1
Erysipelas	11	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	5	1
Enteric Fever	1	—
Measles	426	1
Whooping Cough	47	—
Dysentery	11	—
TOTALS ..	668	16

The number of cases of notifiable infectious disease has increased from 336 in 1942 to 668 in 1943, but it has to be remembered that the number of cases of Measles has increased from 116 to 426. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever has risen from 24 in 1942 to 65 in 1943, but the majority of these cases were of an extremely mild character. Diphtheria was responsible for 42 cases as compared with 60 in 1942. The only matter that I need refer to is the 11 cases of Dysentery. These were cases in the Emergency Hospital, especially in relation to the aged people who had been evacuated from London and other bombed areas.

IMMUNISATIONS.

During the year, the following cases were dealt with :—

	<i>Age 0—5</i>	<i>Age 5—15</i>	<i>Age 15 plus</i>	<i>Total.</i>
No. completed during the year	248	746	9	1,003
No. not completed at end of year	33	62	—	95

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year was 65 as compared with 24 in 1942. There were no deaths during the year. The cases, taken as a whole, were extremely mild in nature.

PNEUMONIA.

The total number of cases of Pneumonia notified during the year was 57 as compared with 44 in 1942. There were 12 deaths as compared with 21 in 1942.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were 2 cases notified as compared with 1 in 1942.

SMALLPOX.

There were no cases notified during the year.

**VACCINATION—STATISTICS FOR THE
WREXHAM BOROUGH.**

No. successfully Vaccinated	227
Insusceptible	1
No. had Smallpox	—
Died unvaccinated	38
Postponed by medical certificate	76

ENTERIC FEVER.

There was 1 case of Enteric Fever notified during the year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Three cases were notified during the year as compared with 6 in 1942. There was 1 death from Puerperal Pyrexia.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

There were 5 cases of Cerebro-spinal Fever as compared with 11 in 1942.

**TUBERCULOSIS CASES NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR 1943.**

NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
25	20	9	8	8	2	1	1
45		17		10		2	

FEVER HOSPITAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1943.

BOROUGH CASES.

Remaining in Hospital 31st December, 1942.

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	5
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	1
					—
Total	..				6
					—

Admitted during the year 1943.

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	56
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	36
Observation Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	4
C.S.F...	..	..	..	..	5
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	4
Other diseases	..	..	..	..	10
					—
Total	..				115
					—

Discharged during the year 1943.

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	46
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	35
Observation Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	4
C.S.F...	..	..	..	..	5
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	5
Other diseases	..	..	..	..	7
					—
Total	..				102
					—

Deaths in Hospital during 1943.

Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	1
Other Diseases	..	..	..	..	3
					—
Total	..				4
					—

Remaining in Hospital 31st December, 1943.

Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	5
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	10
					—
Total	..				15
					—

SWABS.

Negative 92 Positive 8 Total 100

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

No. of mothers with babies attending Centre	..	..	970
Total attendance of mothers with babies	..	..	9,108
Average sessional attendance (per baby)	..	..	8.5
Average Sessional Attendance	..	..	91.02
No. of Medical Consultations	..	..	1,265
Ante-natal cases	..	..	265
Ante-natal Attendances	..	..	865
Post-natal Cases	..	..	10
Post-natal Attendances	..	..	15

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

The following table shows the number of children under the age of five treated at the Orthopaedic Clinic during the year.

On books 1st January, 1943	..	..	39
No. admitted during the year	..	..	38
			—
Total treated	..	..	77
No. discharged..	..	..	25
			—
On active treatment 31st December, 1943	..	..	52
			—
Total No. of attendances during the year	..	..	128
			==

During the year, 8 children, on attaining the age of five years, were transferred to the group under the School Medical Service.

NUTRITION.

Arrangements are in force whereby the Health Department co-operates with the Ministry of Food in providing facilities for the distribution of Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin C preparations at the Clinic.

During the year, a third British Restaurant was completed and opened in the centre of the town in Town Hill. This additional one has been a most successful venture, but the other two restaurants in Rhosddu and Spring Lodge have not continued to be the success they were when they were first established.

The Scheme for free meals and free milk in the Schools has been developed and is now available to all children attending school. One can regard this as a successful scheme of Public Health. The children have benefitted most remarkably from the facilities which have been provided for them, and proper feeding would undoubtedly increase their resistance to disease.

WAR-TIME NURSERY.

The War-Time Nursery at Abbotsfield has been a marked success and has necessitated extensions. Another nursery has also been opened at Spring Lodge, but this has not been as successful as Abbotsfield, though there are signs at the present moment that the number of children attending the Day Nursery is increasing. One would have thought that the Spring Lodge Nursery, situated as it is between two large Council Housing Estates would have been most successful.

The following table shows the number of attendances at both nurseries during the year.

	<i>Abbotsfield.</i>	<i>Spring Lodge.</i>
No. of daily attendances during 1943	6280	2,682
No. of nightly attendances during 1943	344	—
Payments during the year ..	£323/2/-	£101/7/6
No. of children on Register ..	83	45

SALVAGE.

The collection of Salvage is carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department, and there is every indication that the amount of Salvage collected is not as great as that in past years.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

I need say very little about the Disposal of Sewage in the Borough of Wrexham. Arrangements are now in force whereby samples of effluent are examined chemically and arrangements have been entered into whereby certain effluents from a neighbouring concern are collected and treated at the Sewage Works.

RAINFALL.

The following table shows the rainfall throughout the year. Records taken by Mr. S. E. Ashmore, of the County School for Boys, to whom I am greatly indebted.

	<i>Rainfall (ins.).</i>	<i>Temperature °F.</i>
January	4.91	40.7
February	2.10	43.5
March	1.11	44.6
April	1.56	51.1
May	2.94	52.5
June	2.59	57.6
July	1.85	60.8
August	1.74	60.1
September	3.14	55.6
October	3.19	50.5
November	2.51	44.6
December	1.17	39.0
Total	28.81	50.1

WATER SUPPLIES.

Two samples of water were analysed from the mains and both were classified as Class 1, indicating satisfactory condition.

SWIMMING BATHS.

Eight samples of water were taken from the Swimming Baths. Certain of these were unsatisfactory. The efficient treatment of the water has been undertaken under adverse conditions as the supply of chlorine gas was not always as satisfactory as has been the case in the past.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) INFECTIOUS DISEASE—Motor Ambulance attached to the Wrexham Fever Hospital.

(b) NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES—Motor Ambulances attached to the St. John Ambulance Brigade—Wrexham Branch.

The following report has been received from the Honorary Secretary of the Local Branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade :—

Number of cases carried	..	..	..	2,573
Number of road accidents	..	..	..	170
Total number of cases	..	..	..	2,743
Total mileage	..	..	..	19,383
Number of cases where first aid was rendered	..	..	..	184
Public functions attended	..	..	..	386
Attendances at functions number	..	..	..	809
Total hours of duty given voluntarily by men (excluding A.R.P. duties)	..	..	..	22,017

GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

TABLE No. 1.

General Summary.	1942.	1943.
Total Inspections	19,963	11,569
Number of complaints received	385	225
Preliminary Notices served	298	107
Statutory Notices served	89	7
Total number of letters received by the Department	745	690
Total number of letters despatched by the Department	964	883
Interviews with Builders, Owners and Agents	480	306

ROUTINE INSPECTION WORK PERFORMED BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

TABLE No. 2.

General Sanitary Work.

Visits *re* :—

Accumulations	111	Keeping of Animals ..	43
Ashpits and Ashbins ..	63	Moveable Dwellings ..	179
Cesspools	232	Offensive Trades ..	34
Closets—Water	23	Public and Private Con-	
Privy or Pail	86	veniences	2
Common Lodging Houses,		Rag Flock Acts Inspec-	
day	145	tion	5
Complaints	225	Rats and Mice	2,409
Dirty Houses	22	Schools	27
Drains—Existing	199	Shops Acts	17
Obstructed	130	Verminous Premises ..	136
Relaid	141	Water Supply	2
Water Tested	16	Water Samples	11
Smoke Tested	18	Miscellaneous Visits ..	974
Infectious Disease	113		

Housing.

Houses Inspected	135	Vacant Council Houses ..	14
Houses Re-Inspected ..	365	Miscellaneous	113
Overcrowding	743		

Factories, &c.

Factories—Mechanical ..	48	Bakehouse —Non-Mech-	
Non-Mechan-		anical	42
ical	31	Workplaces	7
Domestic Factories	1	Laundries	1
Bakehouses—Mechanical	57		

Meat and Food Inspections.

Municipal Abattoir (Day)	2,439	General Provisions ..	173
Municipal Abattoir (Evening)	138	Other	51
Private Slaughterhouses	3	Food Preparation Prem-	
Meat & Food Inspections :		ises	110
Day	2,055	Markets	121
Evening	97	Dairies	279
Shops :—		Cowsheds and Farms ..	171
Meat	24	Samples—Milk (Bact.) ..	668
Fish	17	Milk (Biol.)	56
Fried Fish	26	Food & Drugs	59

**SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.**

TABLE No. 3.

Dwelling Houses.			
Cleansed and Decorated ..	15	Doors and Windows re-	
Roofs Repaired	13	paired or renewed ..	36
Walls Repaired	41	Dampness remedied ..	14
Floors Repaired	8	Rain-water gutters and	
Ceilings Repaired ..	4	downspouts repaired	20
Chimney Stacks Repaired		Yard surfaces repaired or	
or Rebuilt	3	relaid	15
Firegrates repaired or re-		Yard drainage improved	8
newed	11	Verminous premises dis-	
Washing Boilers repaired		infested by the Cor-	
or renewed	4	poration	29
Drainage.			
Drains constructed or re-		Drains disconnected from	
constructed	8	sewer	1
Tests to existing drains ..	4	Drains—new inspection	
Sink waste pipes—trapped	6	chambers	7
Soil and ventilating pipes		Drains—ventilated ..	7
renewed	3	Drains—additional gullies	10
Drains repaired or cleansed	26		
Water Closets.			
Cleansed and limewashed	2	Flushing cisterns repaired	
Repaired or reconstructed	8	or renewed	25
Pedestal wash-down W.C.		Provided with a supply of	
basins fixed	13	water	6
Ashpits.			
Portable dustbins pro-			
vided	16		
Dairies.			
Cleansed and limewashed	18	Improvements	1
Cowsheds.			
Cleansed and limewashed	7		
Fried Fish Shops.			
Improvements	4	Nuisances abated ..	4
Premises used for Preparation of Food.			
Cleansed and limewashed	6		
Infectious Disease.			
Rooms disinfected ..	242	Library books destroyed	
Articles disinfected by		or disinfected ..	97
steam	327		

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS.

Offensive Trades.

Thirty-four inspections were made in supervising Offensive Trades carried on within the Borough.

Fish Fryer.

Twenty-six inspections were made of registered premises.

Places where Animals are kept.

Forty-three inspections were made in connection with the keeping of swine and other animals. Few complaints were received.

Rag Flock Acts.

Five inspections were made of premises at which rag flock is used in bedding and upholstery manufacture.

River Pollution.

Inspections of the streams within the Borough were made from time to time during the year. No nuisances were observed.

Infectious Disease.

Investigations were made into the following notifiable diseases :—

Scarlet Fever	65	Diphtheria	42
Cerebro-spinal Menin- gitis	5	Other Infectious Diseases..	14

242 rooms were disinfected by fumigation and formalin spraying ; 327 articles of bedding and clothing were disinfected by steam ; 97 library and other books were disinfected or destroyed following cases of infectious disease.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, etc.

Fifty-two complaints were received and 136 inspections made of dwelling-houses infested with bed bugs and other vermin. Three notices were served upon owners or occupiers of houses, and disinfestation work was carried out by the Department at 16 Corporation owned houses and 13 privately owned houses.

Inspection is made of all Council houses becoming vacant for the detection of verminous infestation, 14 being inspected during the year.

Sanitary Condition of Places of Entertainment.

Eight visits were made following complaints received regarding the sanitary conditions of places of entertainment.

Shop Acts, 1912 to 1937.

Seventeen shops were inspected under the provisions of the Shops Acts.

Housing Act, 1936.

Reconditioning of working-class houses has continued, particularly in cases of complaint. 135 inspections and 365 re-inspections were made. 153 houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action, 7 Statutory Notices, requiring the execution of repairs under Section 9 of the Act, were served.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Milk and Dairies.

The number of persons registered as wholesale purveyors and producers of milk is 32, and as retail purveyors, 43. There are 21 registered cowkeepers with approximately 353 cows.

Eight Dealers' Licences and one Supplementary Licence were issued under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938.

Bacteriological Examination of Designated and Non-designated Milk.

During 1943 there were 251 samples of milk submitted by this Department for Bacteriological examination as compared with 155 in 1942, including samples of milk produced or sold under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

In addition there were 479 samples of milk obtained under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.

Of the total number of samples obtained, 154 samples were of milk produced within the Borough, and 44 samples were of Pasteurised Milk supplied to Elementary School Children.

Summarised, the results were as follows :—

<i>Samples Taken.</i>	<i>Results.</i>
16—Accredited Milk..	.. 12 complied with and 4 did not comply with prescribed conditions.
171—Pasteurised Milk	.. 151 complied with and 20 did not comply with prescribed conditions.
64—Non-Designated Milk	.. 61 were reported to be satisfactory and 3 were reported to be unsatisfactory.
479—National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.	.. 321 samples were placed in category "A." 88 samples were placed in category "B." 70 samples were placed in category "C."

Nineteen samples of Pasteurised Milk were submitted to the Phosphatase Test and gave satisfactory results.

Biological Testing of Milk for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli.

Fifty-six samples of designated and non-designated milks were submitted for biological testing, as compared with 44 in 1942. One of the samples gave a positive result and this case was investigated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Manufacture and Sale of Preserved Food.

110 inspections were made of registered premises.

Meat Inspections.

The total number of animal carcasses inspected during the year was 77,765 (excluding imported meat). Details are given in Tables 4, 5 and 6.

TABLE No. 4.

	CATTLE <i>exclud- ing cows</i>	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
No. Slaughtered ..	2,611	2,389	6,962	56,352	8,896
No. Inspected ..	2,670	2,393	7,035	56,759	8,908
Disease except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	78	43	46	15
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	179	449	115	2,067	216
Percentage of the number affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	6.96%	22.02%	2.24%	3.69%	2.59%
Tuberculosis Only.					
Whole carcasses condemned	16	205	10	—	20
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	308	735	8	—	757
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	12.13%	39.28%	.26%	—	8.72%

TABLE No. 5.

**IMPORTED MEAT DISTRIBUTED FROM
THE ABATTOIR.**

CARCASSES OF MUTTON.	QUARTERS OF BEEF.	CARCASSES OF PORK.	OTHER MEAT AND OFFAL.
27,999	2,797	1	963,613 lbs.

UN SOUND FOOD.

The total weight of Meat and other Foods deemed to be unfit for human consumption amounted to 109 tons, 11 cwts., 0 qrs., 6 lbs.

TABLE No. 6.

TOTAL WEIGHTS OF CONDEMED MEAT.

	TUBERCULOSIS.			OTHER DISEASES.		
	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Carcases or Parts of Carcases	1,048	2	18	350	2	17
Organs	425	3	7	172	—	9
	1,474	1	25	522	2	26

TABLE No. 7.

**CANNED AND OTHER FOODS, ETC.,
CONDEMED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN
CONSUMPTION.**

LBS.

<i>Canned Foods.</i>	<i>Preserves.</i>	<i>Fish.</i>	<i>Bacon.</i>	<i>Cereals.</i>
14,434	1,171	1,734	839	459
<i>Meat.</i>	<i>Vegetables.</i>	<i>Cheese.</i>	<i>Conf., etc.</i>	<i>Misc.</i>
176	1,799	133	859	120

Total Weight .. 21,724 lbs.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

At 31st December, 1943, 30 slaughtering licences issued by the Corporation were in force.

RETAIL MARKETS.

One hundred and twenty-one inspections were made to Food Stalls at which meat and other articles of food for human consumption are sold in the Butchers' General and Vegetable retail markets.

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938—
ADULTERATION.**

A total of 59 samples of foods and drugs were submitted by the Corporation for chemical analysis during the year. Of these samples 49 were certified to be genuine and free from prohibited preservatives, colouring matter and excessive amounts of extraneous dirt. Seven samples of milk showed deficiencies in solids-not-fat, but the Hortvet Freezing-Point test showed no evidence of added water.

The articles sampled were as follows :—

Milk	23	Lemon Essence	1
Butter	4	Gravy Browning	2
Coffee	1	Ginger Flavonr	1
Egg Substitute.. .. .	1	Margarine	5
Ground Ginger.. .. .	1	Self-Raising Flour	1
Jam	3	Sausage	3
Lard	4	Tea	2
Baking Powder	2	White Pepper	1
Cocoa	1	Onion Substitute	2
Mustard.. .. .	1		

I am indebted to Mr. B. Wynne Griffiths, Inspector of Weights and Measures, for information of the operation of the Act within the Borough by the Denbighshire County Council which shows that there were 44 samples taken during 1943. They were as follows :—

Milk	30	Foods	14
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FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

One hundred and eighty-seven inspections were made of factories and workplaces including bakehouses. Four Informal Notices were served to remedy unsatisfactory conditions and 4 improvements were effected.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Sixty-four notifications of Rat and Mice Infestation were received by the Department during the year. A total of 2,409 visits were made in respect of Rat Infestation, in addition to the work of the outdoor assistant.

WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE CORPORATION IN DEFAULT OF PROPERTY OWNERS.

Public Health Act, 1936,
Section 39 45, Princess Street. Drainage Re-
pairs, £6/15/-.



