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BOROUGH OF WREXHAM

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH

22 AUG 1953

A.

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1952

T. P. EDWARDS,

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

Retired 30.9.52.

E. WILLIAMS,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

A. McCARTNEY,

M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.



BOROUGH OF WREXHAM

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

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of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1952

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for the Year 1952

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M.D., F.R.C.S. (Ed.)
F.R.C.P. (Ed.)
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A. WILLIAMS
M.D., F.R.C.S. (Ed.)
F.R.C.P. (Ed.)
F.R.S. (Ed.)
A. MONTAGUE
M.B., B.S. (Ed.)
F.R.C.S. (Ed.)

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the Borough of Wrexham for 1952. The Report follows the form laid down in the Welsh Board of Health Circular 42/51.

Dr. T. P. Edwards relinquished the post of Medical Officer on September 30th, after 29 years service for this Authority, and I commenced duties on the 1st October. I wish to thank him for his kind help and co-operation shown to me when I arrived, and for his assistance in compiling this Report.

During my first year of office, I must express my gratitude for the interest and help which I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, also the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the Office Staff for their loyal co-operation.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. WILLIAMS,
Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

T. P. EDWARDS, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Cantab).
Retired 30.9.52.

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Appointed 29.9.52.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Abattoir Superintendent :

A. McCARTNEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

BERNARD JONES, HYWEL JONES, S. J. V. JAMES.

Articled Pupil Sanitary Inspector :

TECWYN ROBERTS.

Clerks to the Health Department :

MISS B. RICHARDS	MRS. E. R. GREY
(Transferred to County).	(Resigned March, 1952).
MISS M. M. PARRY.	

Clerks to the Sanitary Inspector's Department :

MISS M. B. PARRY. MISS J. JEFFREY.

Hon. Meteorologist :

S. E. ASEMORE, B.Sc.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Alderman CYRIL O. JONES, B.A.

Vice-Chairman—Councillor WM. EVANS.

Alderman	Mrs. E. C. BREESE.	Councillor	E. T. HANMER.
„	DUTTON.	„	Mrs. HAYNES.
„	Mrs. C. JARVIS JONES.	„	EDWARD JONES.
„	EMYR WILLIAMS.	„	G. H. JONES.
Councillor	Mrs. CHALLONER.	„	R. G. ROBERTS.
„	COOPER.	„	R. R. ROBERTS.
„	CLARKE.	„	A. E. STABLER.
„	EDWARD DAVIES	„	T. F. THOMAS.
„	J. A. DAVIES.	„	W. F. WINGETT.
„	GRIFFITHS.		

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	2,919 Acres.
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	32,090 (mid annual).
Rateable value of the Borough, April 1st, 1953 ..	£187,348
Product of a Penny Rate.. .. .	£707/4/11d.
No. of Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1952) ..	8,750
No. of Corporation Houses do. ..	3,378
Density of Persons per house	3.8

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Population (R.G. Estimate Mid-annual)	.. ..	32,090
Comparability Factors :—		
Deaths .. .. .	.. ..	1.06
Births .. .. .	.. ..	0.96

Births.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births (Legitimate) ..	258	287	545
Do. (Illegitimate) ..	12	14	26
TOTAL ..	270	301	571

Adjusted Birth Rate ..	17.1	per 1,000 population.
England and Wales ..	15.3	do.

Stillbirths.

				<i>Male.</i>		<i>Female.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	5	..	5	..	10
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	..	—	..	—
TOTAL				5	..	5	..	10

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirth)	..	17.2
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 population	..	0.31
England and Wales	..	0.35

Deaths.

				<i>Male.</i>		<i>Female.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
				198	..	164	..	362
Adjusted Death Rate	..	11.95	per 1,000 population.					
England and Wales	..	11.3	do.					

Maternal Mortality.

Nil.

Infantile Mortality. (Death of Infants under one year).

				<i>Male.</i>		<i>Female.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	12	..	6	..	18
Illegitimtae	..	..	..	1	.	1	.	2
TOTAL				13	.	7		20

Infantile Mortality Rate. (Per 1,000 live births).

Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	31.5
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.5
Total Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	35.02
England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	27.6

Neo-Natal Deaths. (Death of Infants under 4 weeks).

				<i>Male</i>		<i>Female.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	7	..	4	..	11
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	..	1	..	1
				7	..	5	..	12

Neo-Natal Death Rate per 1,000 live births	..	21.0
--	----	------

Survival Rate.

Excess of Births over Deaths	..	..	..	209
Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	6.5

Births.

During the year there were 571 Births, of which 270 were Males and 301 Females. This is an increase of 49 over the figure for 1951. Of these births 545 were legitimate as compared with 500 in 1951, and there were 26 illegitimate births as compared with 23 in the previous year.

Birth Rate.

The adjusted Birth Rate is 17.1 and that of England and Wales is 15.3. The Birth Rate has diminished by 0.7 per 1,000 population, and that for England and Wales has diminished by 0.2.

The Birth Rate for the previous years and for 1952 is as follows :—

1943	..	..	20.8	1948	..	..	20.1
1944	..	..	20.3	1949	..	..	20.7
1945	..	..	19.9	1950	..	..	17.2
1946	..	..	20.8	1951	..	..	17.8
1947	..	..	23.6	1952	..	..	17.1

Stillbirths.

There were 10 Stillbirths as compared with 20 in 1951. Of these 5 were Males and 5 were Female.

The rate per 1,000 population is 0.31 as compared with 0.64 in 1951. The rate for England and Wales is 0.35. The rate of Stillbirths per 1,000 total births (Live and Stillbirths) is 17.2 as compared with 36.9.

The following table shows the number of Stillbirths, Stillbirth rates per 1,000 live and Stillbirths and per 1,000 population for the past ten years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>No. of Stillbirths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Population.</i>
1943	14	23.4	0.5
1944	26	47.0	1.0
1945	21	39.3	0.8
1946	22	36.7	0.7
1947	19	27.5	0.6
1948	16	26.6	0.5
1949	20	35.9	0.7
1950	21	37.2	0.6
1951	20	36.9	0.64
1952	10	17.2	0.31

Deaths.

The total number of deaths of persons residing in the Borough was 362 as compared with 358 in 1951. Of these 198 were Males and 164 were Females.

The following Table gives the causes of death :—

<i>Causes.</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	2	4
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	1	—	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infection	1	—	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other ineffective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	6	5	11
11. Malignant neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	7	—	7
12. Malignant neoplasm, Breast ..	—	4	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, Uterus ..	—	5	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	19	7	26
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	24	32	56
18. Coronary disease, angina	40	19	59
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	3	2	5
20. Other heart disease	18	34	52

21. Other circulatory disease	4 ..	5 ..	9
22. Influenza	— ..	2 ..	2
23. Pneumonia	8 ..	4 ..	12
24. Bronchitis	9 ..	8 ..	17
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	2 ..	1 ..	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum..	6 ..	— ..	6
27. Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea ..	2 ..	3 ..	5
28. Nephritis, nephrosis.. ..	1 ..	3 ..	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2 ..	— ..	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	— ..	— ..	—
31. Congenital malformations	— ..	1 ..	1
32. Other defined and illdefined diseases	28 ..	20 ..	48
33. Motor vehicle accidents	6 ..	1 ..	7
34. All other accidents	7 ..	3 ..	10
35. Suicide	1 ..	1 ..	2
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	— ..	— ..	—
TOTALS ..	198 ..	164 ..	362

Death Rate.

The adjusted Death Rate, taking the comparability factor into consideration is 11.95, as compared with 11.04 in 1951.

The Death Rate for England and Wales is 11.3. The Death Rate for the previous years and for 1952 is as follows :—

1943	13.6	1948	10.7
1944	12.5	1949	12.9
1945	13.1	1950	11.8
1946	12.6	1951	11.04
1947	13.4	1952	11.95

Infantile Mortality.

During the year 20 children under one year of age died, as compared with 15 in 1951. Of these 18 were legitimate and 2 illegitimate, 13 were males and 7 were females.

Infantile Mortality Rate.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was 35.02 as compared with 28.7 in 1951. The Infantile Mortality Rate for the previous years and for 1952 is shown as follows :—

1943	84.0	1948	37.7
1944	58.8	1949	50.4
1945	76.0	1950	44.2
1946	39.9	1951	28.7
1947	53.6	1952	35.02

Neo-Natal Deaths.

This represents the number of deaths of Infants under four weeks, and under this heading there were 12, of which 11 were legitimate and 1 illegitimate. 7 were males and 5 were females.

The Neo-natal death rate per 1,000 live births is 21.0.

Maternal Deaths.

There were no Maternal deaths during the year. There has been only one Maternal death in the Borough since 1946.

Cancer.

There were 53 deaths from Cancer during the year as compared with 52 in 1951. Of these 32 were males and 21 females.

The ratio of Cancer deaths to total deaths is 1 : 6.82, as compared with 1 : 6.9 in 1951.

The percentage of Cancer deaths to total deaths is 14.64 as compared with 14.5 in 1951.

Cancer Deaths.

					Male.	Female.	Total.
Stomach	..	..	..	..	6	5	11
Lung and Bronchus			..	..	7	—	7
Breast	..	..	..	..	—	4	4
Uterus	..	..	..	..	—	5	5
Others	..	..	..	..	19	7	26
TOTALS					32	21	53

Per cent. Cancer deaths to total deaths..	..	14.64
Ratio do. do. ..	..	1 : 6.82

Heart Disease.

Heart Disease was responsible for 116 deaths. Of these 61 were Males and 55 were Females. The percentage of deaths from Heart Disease to total deaths is 32.0 as compared with 25.1 in 1951.

Pulmonary Causes.

There were 38 deaths from Pulmonary causes, 4 of these being due to Tuberculosis, 12 were due to Pneumonia and 17 were due to Bronchitis.

Respiratory Disease.

				<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
T.B. Non-respiratory	..	..	..	—	—	—
T.B. Respiratory	..	..	..	2	2	4
Pneumonia	..	..	..	8	4	12
Bronchitis	..	..	..	9	8	17
Others	..	..	..	2	3	5
				21	17	38
Total T.B.	..	..	..	2	2	4
Total Non-T.B.	..	..	..	19	13	32

Vascular Diseases of the Nervous System.

This was responsible for 56 deaths as compared with 49 in 1951. Of these 24 were Males and 32 were Females.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

During the year there were 319 cases of notifiable Infectious Diseases, as compared with 758 in 1951.

There has been a slight increase in the number of Scarlet Fever cases reported.

Pneumonia notifications have decreased from 49 to 21.

Whooping Cough notifications numbered 115, slightly more than were reported in the previous year. Whilst immunisation for Whooping Cough is now being done, the total number immunised during the year was too small to show any appreciable reduction in the number of cases reported. It is to be hoped, however, that as more children are immunised annually against Whooping Cough, the number of cases will decline. During the year 89 children were immunised against Whooping Cough.

Four cases of Infantile Paralysis occurred, but there were no deaths. Two notifications were received in respect of Puerperal Pyrexia.

A total of 92 cases of Measles were reported, and there were no deaths.

There were no cases of Food Poisoning reported during the year.

Diphtheria.

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year. The last death from this disease in the Borough was in 1943.

DIPHTHERIA INCIDENCE — 1938-1952.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>No. of Cases.</i>	<i>Case Rate per 1,000 population.</i>	<i>No. of Deaths.</i>	<i>Death Rate per 1,000 population.</i>	<i>Number of Children Immunised.</i>
1938	74	2.8	8	0.3	148
1939	69	2.7	7	0.27	47
1940	111	3.9	5	0.18	35
1941	106	3.7	1	0.03	427
1942	60	2.1	3	0.1	1,149
1943	42	1.5	1	0.04	1,003
1944	41	1.6	—	0.0	211
1945	21	0.8	—	0.0	418
1946	9	0.03	—	0.0	774
1947	—	0.0	—	0.0	609
1948	—	0.0	—	0.0	543
1949	—	0.0	—	0.0	263
1950	2	0.06	—	0.0	196
1951	—	0.0	—	0.0	783
1952	—	0.0	—	0.0	939

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Notifica- tions.	Rates per 1,000 Population.					
		NOTIFICATION.			DEATHS.		
		Borough	E. & W.		Borough	E. & W.	
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	3	0.09	0.02	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal	4	0.1	0.03	1	0.03	—	—
Scarlet Fever.. ..	18	0.6	1.53	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	115	3.6	2.61	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	8	0.2	0.14	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	92	2.9	8.86	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	21	0.7	0.72	12	0.3	0.47	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	4	0.1	—	—	—	0.01	—
Acute Paralytic	3	0.09	0.06	—	—	—	—
Acute Non-Paralytic	1	0.03	0.03	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	51	1.6	Not given	4	0.1	0.24	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	0.13	—	—	—	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN 1952. (Arranged according to Age).

DISEASE.	Under 1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 44	45 to 64	65 plus	Total
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	3	5	8	1	1	—	—	18
Pneumonia	4	3	—	3	2	8	1	—	21
Erysipelas	—	1	—	—	—	3	4	—	8
Meningococcal Infection ..	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	4
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	4
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	14	18	48	4	7	—	—	92
Whooping Cough	13	31	32	30	2	7	—	—	115
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (all Forms) ..	—	2	2	3	—	35	6	3	51
TOTAL ..	20	54	57	94	9	70	12	3	319

Tuberculosis.

46 Cases of Lung Tuberculosis were notified during the year, as compared with 17 in 1951.

TUBERCULOSIS CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR. (Arranged according to Age).

Age Period.	PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	3	3	—	—
5 — 10	—	—	1	—
10 — 15	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	2	2	—	1
20 — 25	2	4	—	—
25 — 35	3	13	—	2
35 — 45	2	3	1	—
45 — 55	3	—	—	—
55 — 65	3	—	—	—
65 plus.	3	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	21	25	2	3

The following table shows the number of Lung Tuberculosis cases notified, and the deaths due to Lung Tuberculosis for the past nine years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Total Lung Tuberculosis Notifications.</i>	<i>Death due to Lung Tuberculosis.</i>
1944	35	10
1945	47	12
1946	37	14
1947	30	13
1948	30	7
1949	42	13
1950	24	10
1951	17	8
1952	46	4

LABORATORY WORK.

Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

This Laboratory has been established to help Local Authorities throughout the Country in their investigation of milk and water supplies in relation to Infectious Disease.

Bacteriological examinations of Water Supplies are undertaken, but any chemical work and milk supplies are examined only in reference to outbreaks of suspected infectious disease, and not as a routine measure.

Use is also made of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Birkenhead, which is more convenient for transport of samples than Conway.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

(1) General.

- (a) Wrexham and East Denbighshire War Memorial Hospital 136 Beds.
- (b) Croesnewydd Hospital 171 „
- (c) Maelor General Hospital 350 „

(2) Maternity Cases.

Trevalyn Manor Maternity Hospital .. 40 Beds.

(3) Orthopaedic.

Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic
Hospital, Gobowen

CLINICS.**(1) Orthopaedic.**

The diagnosis and After-Care Treatment of Orthopaedic Cases is carried out at the Wrexham and East Denbighshire War Memorial Hospital, supplemented by institutional treatment at the Orthopaedic Hospital, Gobowen.

(2) Venereal Disease Clinic.

The only V.D. Clinic in the County is established at the Out-Patients' Department of the War Memorial Hospital.

(3) Infant Welfare Clinics.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at four centres weekly within the Borough.

Gatefield, King's Mills Road .. Monday Afternoon.
No. 1, Grosvenor Road.. Monday & Wednesday Afternoon.

Garden Village Institute,
Kenyon Avenue .. Wednesday Afternoon.
Queen's Park.. .. Thursday Afternoon.

(4) Ante-Natal Clinics.

Ante-Natal Clinics are held weekly at No. 1 Grosvenor Road :—

Tuesday .. Morning and Afternoon.
Wednesday .. Morning only.

(5) Eye Clinic.

An Eye Clinic is held on alternate Monday mornings at No. 1 Grosvenor Road.

(6) Vaccinations.

The number of cases notified to me as being vaccinated during the year is 127 as compared with 146 in 1951.

**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948,
SECTION, 47.**

Appropriate action has been taken by the Health Department in reference to the above Act.

Several visits to the homes of elderly persons living alone were made. In two instances the Magistrates saw fit to make an order for the removal of the persons concerned to a suitable home.

HOUSING.

The Borough Council is continually engaged in providing housing accommodation. There is still urgent need for more houses to relieve the existing overcrowding and to provide homes for families who have spent so much of their married lives in rooms.

The total number of applicants for houses within the Borough in December, 1952, was 2,246; of these, 1,273 were living in apartments in the town. In addition, there are approximately 80 families living in hutments which are most unsatisfactory, and it is expected that these will be re-housed in more suitable homes before the winter of 1953.

There are many individual sub-standard properties throughout the town, and the families living in them are being re-housed as soon as opportunities permit.

So far, no demolition or slum clearance has been undertaken, but it is hoped that as soon as the housing situation improves, active slum clearance will be embarked upon.

The following table shows the number of houses erected by the Borough Council annually :—

1945	..	..	Nil.	1949	..	..	221
1946	..	..	124	1950	..	..	167
1947	..	..	145	1951	..	..	122
1948	..	..	402	1952	..	..	127

RAINFALL AND METEOROLGY.

We have again received a comprehensive Report on the Rainfall and Meteorology from the Honorary Meteorologist, Mr. S. E. Ashmore, who, for many years, has conducted a most interesting series of investigations, and these reports have received most satisfactory commendations from other Medical Officers of Health who have read our Annual Reports.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Ashmore for his work, in which he takes a great interest.

Temperature.

Average temperature for the year 1952 ..	48.6° (0.3° below normal).
Warmest month—July. Temperature..	61.9°
Coldest month—January, Temperature	36.9°
Warmest Day—July 1st, Highest Temperature ..	81.0°
Coldest day —Jan. 26th. Highest Temperature ..	33.6°
Warmest night —July 1st. Lowest Temperature ..	65.0° (This is equal to the warmest night on record).
Coldest night —Jan. 28th. Lowest Temperature ..	16.9°

The months from March to August were warmer than usual, and May was exceptionally so. The remaining months were cold, especially the last four (September was the coldest since 1840).

Frost.

Last Spring ground Frost	June 9th.
First Autumn Ground Frost	September 19th.
Number of days on which there was Ground Frost	148
Number of days on which there was Air Frost	45

Snow.

Snow fell on 53 days.	
Snow remaining on ground	20 days.

Fog.

No. of days with Fog in the morning .. 32

Rainfall.

Total for the year	..	..	..	29.54 inches (an inch less than normal).
Wettest month—October	..	..	..	5.54 inches.
Driest month —March	..	..	..	0.53 inches.
Wettest day —July 1st	..	..	..	2.08 inches.
No. of days with rainfall of .01 inches or more	..	..	..	185
No. of days with rainfall of .04 inches or more	..	..	..	144
No. of rain hours	..	..	..	511.0
Longest period of hours in any one day—				
November 20th	..	..	..	24.0
Absolute drought..	..	..	..	15 days.
Partial drought	..	..	..	38 days.
Dry Spell	..	..	..	2
Rain Spell..	..	..	..	1
Wet Spell	..	..	..	Nil.
Hailstones	..	..	..	27 days.

Pressure.

Average pressure 29.939 inches—0.002 inches more than usual.

Wind.

More than usual from the North, and less than usual from the South-east.

Gales.

11 days.

Sunshine.

A little more than normal (the fifth sunny year).

Relative Humidity.

77.7%

Evaporation.

22.68 (More than usual).

Temperature of the Earth.

4 inches	..	..	..	..	47.9°
1 foot..	..	..	..	..	48.5°
4 feet ..	..	..	..	..	48.9°

WATER SAMPLING.

26 samples of domestic drinking water were taken during the year. These were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory. The samples were taken from various properties in the town, and included schools, dairies and homes.

SWIMMING BATHS.

Regular samples were taken of Swimming Bath Water.

During the year 16 samples were examined, and on three occasions they were reported as being unsatisfactory. The repeat samples were reported as being satisfactory.

CLEAN FOOD.

Frequent inspection of all food shops and food preparation premises were made.

No cases of Food Poisoning were reported during the year.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT on the work of the Sanitary Inspection Department.

By studying the information given, I think the Committee will agree that all the varied aspects of the environmental health service are being adequately dealt with.

During the year special attention has been devoted to two important branches of public health administration, namely, atmospheric pollution and housing, and it is hoped that some useful information will soon be available from surveys now in progress on both these matters.

Towards the end of the year, Dr. T. P. Edwards retired from the position of Medical Officer of Health, and I am glad to take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of his kindness to me during the past few years.

In conclusion, may I once again express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their encouragement during the year. I would also acknowledge my debt to the Medical Officer of Health and other Officials of the Council, and finally, my thanks are due to my staff for their continued loyalty and co-operation.

I am.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. McCARTNEY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABULATED SUMMARY OF SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Total No. of Inspections made	10,380
Total No. of Complaints received	466
Total No. of Notices served	925
Total No. of Interviews with owners, etc.	333

Bed Bugs.

Number of Inspections made	63
Number of Council Houses :—	
(i) Found to be infested	17
(ii) Disinfested by this Department	17
Number of Other Houses :—	
(i) Found to be infested	3
(ii) Disinfested by this Department at owner's expense	3

Cinemas and Places of Entertainment.

Number of Inspections made	15
No. of Informal Notices served	1
No. of Notices complied with	1

Closets.

No. of water-closet compartments cleansed and lime-washed	1
No. of water-closets repaired or reconstructed ..	24
No. of flushing cisterns repaired or renewed ..	16
No. of new water-closet pans or pedestals provided..	13
No. provided with supply of water	2

Common Lodging Houses.

No. registered at December 31st, 1952	1
No. of Inspectations made—(Day)	21
" " "—(Night).. .. .	4
No. of contraventions found	—
No. of contraventions remedied	—
No. of contraventions outstanding at end of year	—

A disastrous fire in November rendered one of the Registered Common Lodging Houses a total loss, and thus aggravated an already unsatisfactory position. There is now only one Registered Common Lodging House for six male persons in the Borough, and this is by no means adequate. The solution to the problem would appear to be the provision of a Municipal Lodging House and preliminary enquiries are now being made with this end in view.

Drains.

Drains constructed or re-constructed	7
Repaired or cleansed	26
Ventilated	7
Additional Gullies	2
Under house, abolished	—
New Inspection Chambers	1
Disconnected from Sewer	—
Tests to Existing Drains	22
New Sinks fixed	3
Sink waste pipes—repaired or renewed	15
Soil and ventilating pipes repaired or renewed ..	1

Factories (Excluding Bakehouses).

No. of Factories in District (Mech.).. ..	161
No. of Factories in District (Non-Mech.)	74
No. of Inspections made	135
No. of Contraventions found	5
No. of Contraventions remedied	5
No. of Contraventions outstanding at end of year ..	—

Infectious Diseases, Disinfections, etc.

No. of investigations carried out	51
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Disinfection arrangements are carried out by the Wrexham Isolation Hospital Staff to the satisfaction of the Health Department.

Offensive Trades.

No. of Businesses in District	6
No. of Inspections made	28
No. of Contraventions found	—
No. of Contraventions remedied	—
No. of Contraventions outstanding at end of year	—

Rodent Control.

No. of Premises inspected	936
No. of Premises found infested	225
No. of visits made	3,597

Removal of Household Refuse.

No. of New Ashbins provided by Informal Action	16
No. of New Ashbins provided by Statutory Action	23
No. of Ashpits abolished	—

Sanitary Defects Remedied.**DAMPNESS.**

No. of roofs renewed or repaired	103
No. of rainwater gutters and down spouts renewed or repaired	79
Yard surfaces repaired or relaid	11
Yard drainage improved	—

INTERIOR WORK.

No. of rooms cleansed and limewashed	2
No. of walls repaired	85
No. of ceilings repaired	22
No. of floors repaired	24
No. of chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	13
No. of firegrates repaired or renewed	42

No. of washing boilers repaired or renewed	3
Dampness remedied	56
Offensive accumulations removed	—
No. of doors and windows repaired or renewed ..	199
No. of staircases repaired	8
Ventilation improved	2
Lighting improved	1
Sufficient water supply provided	13

Smoke Emission and Abatement.

No. of smoke observations made	96
No. of visits made	74
No. of Notices served	—

The problem of smoke emission and atmospheric pollution continues to engage the active attention of the Health Department. A number of modifications have been carried out to boiler plant at industrial premises within the Borough, and I think some little improvement can definitely be claimed. We are still faced, however, with considerable out-pourings of smoke from the chimneys of private dwelling houses, and from railway locomotives at the Rhosddu Sheds. With regard to the latter, I am hoping for some positive action from the British Railways Executive during the coming year.

In March, deposit gauges for the measurement of atmospheric pollution were installed on two different sites in the Borough one in the central area and one on the outskirts. The gauges have shown that there is an average soot deposit in the central area of approximately 26 tons per square mile per month; the figure for the outer area being just over 10 tons per square mile per month. These figures give some idea of the extent of the problem to be faced, and certainly add weight to the Health Committee's call for the adoption of smoke byelaws.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

No. of Swimming Baths in the district	1
No. of samples of water taken	17
No. of samples satisfactory	14

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

No. of Licensed Sites	—
No. of Licensed Dwellings	—
No. of Inspections made	44
No. of Contraventions found	—

The visits made under this heading refer to casual caravan dwellers who station themselves in the Borough for temporary periods, usually of very short duration.

Water Supply.

No. of samples taken for Analysis	27
No. of samples satisfactory	27

HOUSING.

Following instructions from the Health Committee, a comprehensive Housing Survey was commenced in June, and this will take some considerable time to complete. Detailed inspections are being carried out and it is intended to classify all dwellings according to their repair state and structural condition.

The information obtained from the Survey should prove of value to the Health Committee when considering future slum clearance policy, and it will no doubt prove useful to the Housing Committee in any assessment of future housing requirements.

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

No. of dwelling-houses where defects were remedied in consequence of Informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	115
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Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(A) PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, SECTION 93.

(1) No of dwelling-houses in respect of which Abatement Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	214
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—	
(a) By Owners	120
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(3) No. of Notices outstanding at end of year	94

SECTION 45.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defective water-closets to be repaired	42
(2) No. of dwelling-houses where defective water-closets were repaired after service of Formal Notices :—	
(a) By Owners	18
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners..	—
(3) No. of Notices outstanding at end of year	24

SECTION 39.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served for the renewing or repairing of existing drains	128
(2) No. of dwelling-houses where the existing drains were renewed and cleansed :—	
(a) By Owners	56
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(3) No. of Notices outstanding at end of year	72

SECTION 138 AND WATER ACT, 1945. SECTION 30.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requesting Owner to provide water supply in pipes	—
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which water supply was provided after service of Formal Notices :—	
(a) By Owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners..	—
(3) No. of Notices outstanding at end of year	—

(B) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 AND 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—	
(a) By Owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners..	—

(C) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served under Section 11	—
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(3) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.. .. .	—
(4) No. of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of Undertaking given by Owner	—
(5) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Undertaking from Owners accepted not to re-let houses for human habitation	—

(D) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..	—
(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit..	—

(E) HOUSING ACT, 1936. OVERCROWDING.

(1) (a) No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	} Not known.	
(b) No. of families dwelling therein ..		
(c) No. of persons dwelling therein ..		
(2) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year		19
(3) (a) No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year		93
(b) No. of persons concerned in such cases		376
(4) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses again became overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding		Not known.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

The undermentioned table gives details of the number and type of food premises within the Borough, and the number of inspections made during the year.

	<i>No. in District.</i>	<i>No. of Inspections made.</i>
Bakehouses	30	199
Butchers' Shops	41	44
Cafes, Restaurants and Snack Bars	27	112
Dairies and Milk Shops	13	65
Fried Fish Shops	16	140
Fruit and Green Grocers	45	22
General Provision Shops	104	358
Hotels and Public Houses	60	56
Ice-Cream Premises	78	41
Wet Fish Shops	7	20
Other Food Premises	6	15

Further progress has been made during the year in standards of food hygiene, both in private food shops and in the Corporation Markets. The Markets Committee are to be congratulated on their efforts with the stalls in the Butchers' Market, and the three stalls which have been brought up to date are excellent examples of modern practice in food hygiene. All the existing stalls are to be reconstructed and, with these completed, Wrexham will have a meat market second to none in the Country. I hope that in due course the Markets Committee will consider the reconstruction of the central stalls in the Butchers' Market on the same lines as they have done in the Vegetable Market. The present overhead fittings are liable to harbour a lot of dust and dirt, and this is not satisfactory in a market where there are about forty stalls devoted to the sale of food supplies.

During the year, a survey of all the 55 licensed premises in the Borough was carried out, and a report made to the Health Committee. Copies of this report were forwarded to the Licensing Justices for their information. The general standard of hygiene and sanitation was found to be satisfactory, and I am pleased to report that every licensed house in Wrexham is now supplied with hot and cold water laid on to the bars. Sanitary accommodation improvements are in hand at a number of houses at the present time.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

A total of 56 Formal samples and 37 Informal samples were taken under the provisions of this Act during the year.

The articles sampled were as follows :—

FORMAL.				INFORMAL.			
Milk	..	..	.. 56	Lobster Fish Paste	..	1	
				Ground Cinnamon	..	2	
				Ice-Cream .. ..	..	9	
				Ginger .. ..	..	1	
				Milk.. ..	..	1	
				Cake Flour.. ..	..	1	
				Cornflour .. ..	..	1	
				Mincemeat .. ..	..	4	
				Salmon and Tomato Paste		1	
				Concentrated Chicken Broth		1	
				Tomato Soup .. ..	..	1	
				Ground White Pepper	..	1	
				Mixed Herbs .. ..	..	1	
				Table Jelly.. ..	..	1	
				Sage and Onion Stuffing	..	1	
				Self Raising Flour	..	3	
				Custard Powder .. ..	..	3	
				Ground Almonds .. ..	..	1	
				Sugared Cocoanut.. ..	..	1	
				Strained Apple, Prune and			
				Custard .. ..	..	2	

Seven formal and 5 informal samples were returned as "Not Genuine."

I am indebted to Mr. T. H. Evans, Inspector of Weights and Measures, Denbighshire County Council, for the following details of his work in the Borough during the year :—

<i>Article.</i>	<i>No. Taken.</i>	<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Not Genuine or Sub-Standard.</i>
Milk	56	43	13
Butter	4	4	—
Sugar	2	2	—
Jam	3	3	—
Meat Paste	1	1	—
Sausage	4	2	2
Flour	1	1	—
Cakes	1	1	—
Cheese	1	1	—
Christmas Pudding ..	1	1	—
Mincemeat	1	1	—
Ice-Cream	5	5	—
Sweets	2	2	—
Saccharin	1	1	—
Beer	3	3	—
Gin	1	1	—
Brandy.. ..	2	2	—
TOTALS ..	89	74	15

As will be observed from the above Table, 13 retail samples of milk were certified by the Public Analyst as being "Not Genuine or Sub-standard." In ten of these samples there was a deficiency in the solids-not-fat and in 3 instances a deficiency in fat but in every case the deficiency was so slight as not to justify further action. In no case was any added water found in the milk.

The 2 samples of sausages certified "Not Genuine" were obtained from the same vendor. The particulars have been passed to the Ministry of Food for them to take such action as they may think necessary.

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

DUTIES RELATING TO ICE-CREAM.

There are 79 registered premises for ice-cream including 3 manufacturers.

During the year the following samples were taken :—

Bacteriological—20. These were graded as follows by the Public Health Laboratory Service :—

Grade 1 ..	19	Grade 3 ..	—
Grade 2 ..	1	Grade 4 ..	—

MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION.

In addition to 13 registered dairy premises, there are now 42 persons registered as purveyors under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Regulations, 35 Dealers' Licences and 13 Supplementary Licences have been granted.

I give below the details relating to the bacteriological sampling of milk :—

No. of Samples taken	203
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(1) School Milks. (PASTEURISED).

Total number of samples taken	32
Total number of samples satisfactory	28
Total number of samples submitted to the Phosphatase Test	32
Number found satisfactory	31

(2) Designated Milks other than School Milks.

(PASTEURISED MILK).

No. of samples taken ..74	No. Satisfactory ..	68
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(TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK).

No. of samples taken ..	61	No. Satisfactory ..	52
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(TUBERCULIN TESTED/PASTEURISED MILK).

No. of samples taken ..	36	No. Satisfactory ..	34
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(3) **Biological Testing for Tubercle Bacilli.**

Forty-one samples of the milks submitted for bacteriological examination were also examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, with negative results.

The following were also submitted for bacteriological examination, in each case with satisfactory results :—

4 samples	Peeled Shrimps.
1	„ Concentrated Chicken Broth.
6	„ Glass Washing Water.
10	„ Glass Swabs.
6	„ Cup Swabs.
12	„ Assorted Cream Cakes.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEAT REGULATIONS, 1924.

There are 5 vehicles engaged full-time on the transport and distribution of meat and offals. All have now been completely modernised and they are an excellent example of the best type of meat carrier.

Inspection of Meat.

A total of 55,817 animals were slaughtered for human consumption at the Abattoir, an increase of over 13,000 compared with 1951. I am pleased to record a 100% meat inspection service, and any questions as to the importance of these duties is answered by the amount of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Present indications are that the Government are considering the position which will arise when controls on meat are ended, although nothing definite is known about future policy. Urgent consideration must be given to the question of future slaughter-house policy, responsibility for slaughtering arrangements, and the distribution of dead meat. As far as Wrexham is concerned, extensions to our own Abattoir must rank for urgent priority consideration by the Health Committee.

	CATTLE <i>excluding Cows.</i>	COWS.	SHEEP AND LAMBS.	PIGS.	CALVES
No. Slaughtered	3,406	2,419	29,734	10,429	6,373
No. Inspected	*4,029	*2,829	*29,874	*12,329	*6,756
Disease Except Tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcases Condemned	2	135	71	40	248
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	746	1,069	3,049	376	41
Percentage of No. inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ..	18.6%	42.55%	10.4%	3.4%	4.3%
Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses Condemned	7	84	—	30	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	243	725	—	396	—
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6.2%	28.6%	—	3.45%	—

*This figure includes dressed carcasses brought into the Abattoir for inspection from outside the Borough.

Total weight of meat condemned during the year :—
120 tons 17 cwts. 3 qrs. 5 lbs.

Imported Meat Distributed at the Municipal Abattoir during the Year.

<i>Mutton Carcases.</i>	<i>Beef Quarters.</i>	<i>Other Meat and Offal.</i>
45,430	4,819	369,994 lbs.

Imported Meat Condemned at the Municipal Abattoir during the year :—1,738 lbs.

Canned and other Food, etc., Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption.

Tinned Foods ..	6,324 lbs.	Chocolate Tea	
Poultry	167 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Cakes.. ..	34 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Bacon	1,676 lbs.	Butter	18 lbs.
Sauce	5 lbs.	Ground Rice ..	24 lbs.
Brawn	34 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Cheese and Cheese	
Sugar	56 lbs.	Ends	88 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Flour	912 lbs.	Sausages	219 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Cereals	93 lbs.	Pickles	56 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Fruit	24 lbs.	Fish	1,162 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Salad Cream ..	27 lbs.	Macaroni	83 lbs.
Cake and Pudding		Beverages	24 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Mixture	46 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Orange Segments	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Cake and Cake		Macaroons	24 lbs.
Crumbs.. ..	4,010 lbs.	Vegetables	50 lbs.
Fats	56 lbs.	Frozen Egg	72 lbs.
Preserves	303 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Confectionery ..	160 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Xmas Pudding ..	4 lbs.	Cream	20 lbs.
Mincemeat	15 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Pickled Beetroot	40 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
		Miscellaneous ..	66 lbs.

TOTAL .. 15,900 lbs.

Percentage classifications are as follows :—

Home	61.4%	= 9,757 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Foreign	34.2%	= 5,444 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Empire	4.4%	= 698 lbs.
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>= 15,900 lbs.</u>

ABATTOIR TRADING ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1952.

EXPENDITURE.				INCOME.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
<i>Abattoir Premises.</i>							
Wages	706	13	10	Tolls	2,152	10	0
Wages Overheads ..	120	11	3	Sale of Manure ..	103	2	6
General Maintenance ..	537	4	7	Grazing	12	12	1
Painting	153	4	5	Van Washing ..	22	16	0
Equipment and Protective Clothing	88	11	1	Rent of Offices ..	91	0	0
Removal of Manure & Offal	465	15	2	" " Piggeries ..	50	0	0
Electricity, Fuel & Water ..	728	10	0	Agreed pre-war deficit borne by Council	2,432	0	7
Rates, Taxes, Insurance & Tithe	157	7	10		899	0	0
			2,957	18	3,331	0	7
<i>Paddock.</i>							
Cultivation	66	10	0	Deficit contribution (90%) from Ministry of Food	722	1	1
Fencing	107	15	3	Balance, (10%) borne by Council	80	4	7
			174				
			64				
<i>Temporary Cattle Accommodation.</i>							
<i>Administration.</i>							
Salaries—General ..	100	0	0				
Supervision	31	13	8				
Telephone	11	6	5				
Stationery	7	9	6				
			150				
			786				
<i>Loan Charges</i>							
			£4,133				
			6				
			3				



