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BOROUGH OF WREXHAM.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

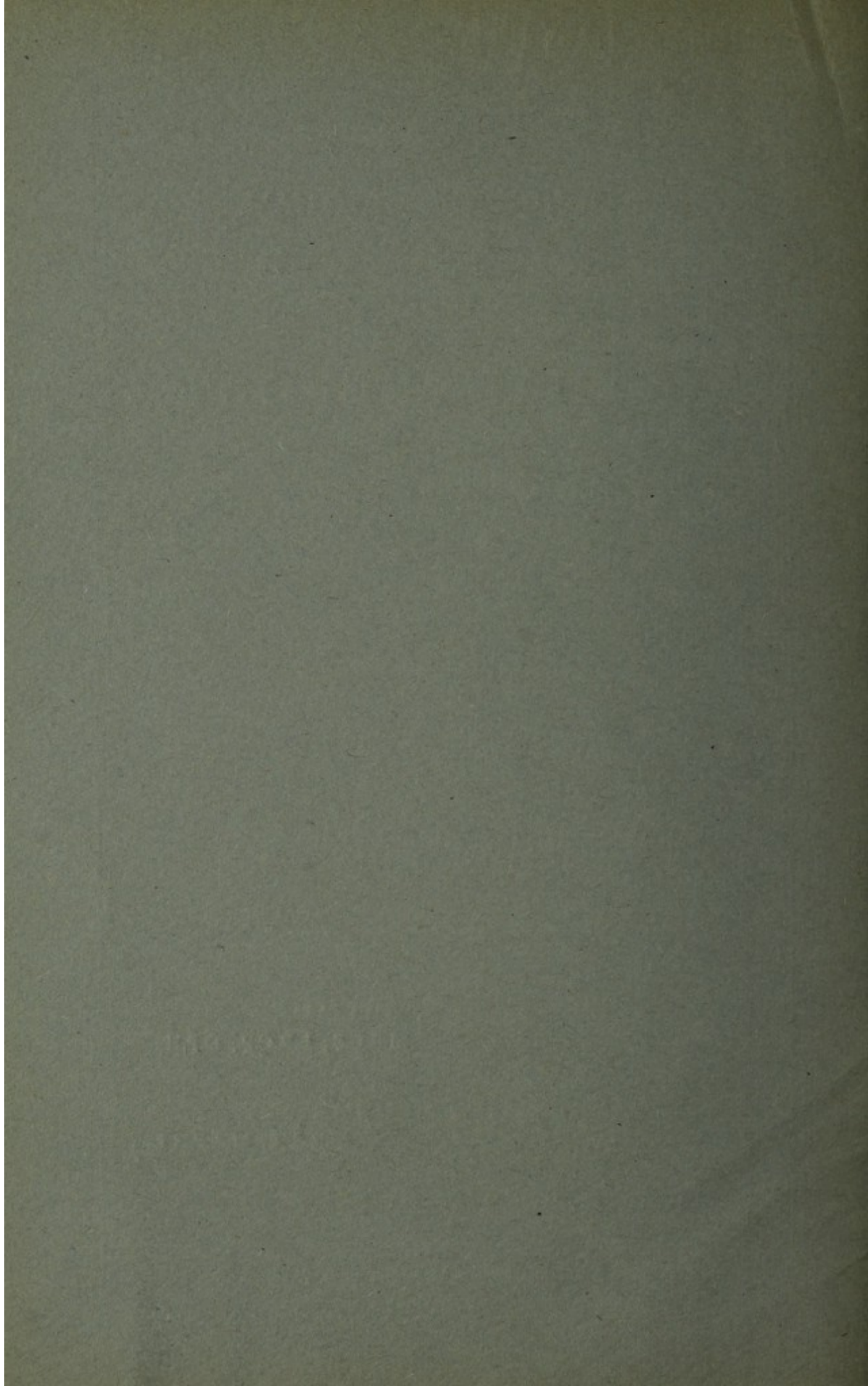
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1956.



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

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



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M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

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 1956. The Report follows the form laid down in the Welsh Board of Health Circular 42/51.

The population of the Borough continues to increase. The mid-year estimated population figure, as given by the Registrar General, was 32,810, an increase of 480 over that of the previous year. The total number of live births was 570, total deaths was 313, giving a natural population increase of 257.

The Infantile Mortality Rate has fallen from 30.18 in 1955 to 22.8 for 1956, a figure which compares favourably with that of the country as a whole.

No mothers died in pregnancy or childbirth during the year, the last maternal death occurred in 1946.

In June the County Council received a supply of the new Poliomyelitis Vaccine, and owing to limited supplies, it was, to begin with, offered to children born during the years 1947-1954 inclusive.

Numerous enquiries were made by parents concerning the Vaccine, and the response to the Scheme within the Borough was fairly satisfactory. During the year a total of 186 children received the two Poliomyelitis Vaccine doses.

With regard to clean Food, the new Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into operation on the 1st January, 1956. Whilst most of these Regulations came into force on this date, certain provisions, which involved alterations to premises were deferred until 1st July. A detailed report on all food premises in the Borough was made. The attention of all persons in charge of food premises was drawn to these Regulations, each one being posted a pamphlet entitled "Your Guide to the Food Regulations, 1955," with accompanying note requesting their co-operation.

The response by the food traders has been very satisfactory and the majority of food premises concerned are conforming with the Regulations.

During the year a start was made on the removal of the Holt Road prefabricated houses. These were of the Arcon type, of which there are a 100 in all on this site. They were first erected

ten years ago, during the last few years they have been the cause of numerous complaints particularly from families with young infants. The complaints made concerning them, referred mainly to the internal dampness caused by condensation, this affected clothing and bedding, articles stored in cupboards soon became covered with mildew. They were very cold in winter, and the one small built-in fireplace was completely inadequate for heating purposes. During the latter years it was recommended to the Housing Committee that they were unfit for occupation for families with young children. The site is being cleared and a more permanent type dwelling erected.

During the early spring, an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred within the town. Some weeks previously an outbreak occurred in a neighbouring town in the rural area and with Wrexham being the main shopping centre in the area it was anticipated that the infection would eventually spread into the Borough. The local General Practitioners were informed and in all 75 notifications were received, the last confirmed case occurring early in September.

In October, the death occurred of Mr. S. E. Ashmore, who was on the staff of Grove Park Boys' Grammar School. He occupied the post of Honorary Meteorologist to the Borough and each year had submitted a comprehensive weather report which was included in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer. His first report appeared in 1943 and were always written in Welsh. It was with great sorrow that we heard of his passing.

I would like to refer to the assistance and co-operation I have received from Mr. Jenkins, the local inspector of the N.S.P.C.C., and also from Mr. Tudor Jones, District Welfare Officer.

Once again I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the kindness and help shown to me at all times, and to the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff and clerks for their co-operation and loyalty during the year.

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 :

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

Chief Public Health Inspector and Abattoir Superintendent :

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

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

BERNARD JONES, HYWEL JONES, S. J. V. JAMES,
J. H. MORRIS TECWYN ROBERTS
(Resigned April, 1956). (Commenced August, 1956).

Articled Pupil Public Health Inspector :

G. L. HORNE
(Commenced November, 1957)

Clerk to the Health Department :

Miss M. M. PARRY

Clerks to the Public Health Inspectors' Department :

Miss M. B. PARRY, Miss G. HUGHES.

Hon. Meteorologist :

S. E. ASHMORE, B.Sc.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

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

Vice-Chairman—Councillor Wm. EVANS.

Alderman DUTTON.	Councillor Mrs. HAYNES.
„ Mrs. C. JARVIS JONES.	„ HUGHES.
„ EMYR WILLIAMS.	„ G. H. JONES.
„ STABLER.	„ Miss M. JONES.
Councillor COOPER.	„ LINDSAY.
„ CRAIG.	„ E. PRICE.
„ EDWARD DAVIES.	„ R. ROBERTS.
„ J. A. DAVIES.	„ R. G. ROBERTS.
„ SILAS DAVIES.	„ TAPLEY.
„ GRIFFITHS.	

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	2,916 Acres
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)	32,810 (mid-Annual)
Rateable value of the Borough, April 1st, 1957	£363,603
Product of a Penny Rate	£1,380
No. of Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1956)	9,893
No. of Corporation Houses (December 31st, 1956)	4,550
Density of persons per house	3.3

POPULATION TRENDS SINCE 1945.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Population.</i>	<i>Annual Increase.</i>	<i>Natural Increase.</i>
1945	25,670 Estimated Figure	- 300	176
1946	27,800 " "	+2130	226
1947	28,450 " "	+ 650	289
1948	29,100 " "	+ 650	272
1949	29,710 " "	+ 610	215
1950	30,470 " "	+ 760	206
1951	30,940 Census Figure	+ 470	164
1952	32,090 Estimated Figure	+1150	209
1953	32,420 " "	+ 330	196
1954	32,290 " "	- 130	200
1955	32,330 " "	+ 40	159
1956	32,810 " "	+ 480	257

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Population (R.G. Estimate Mid-annual)	32,810
Comparability Factors:—	
Deaths	1.14
Births .....	.97

BIRTHS.

During the year there were 570 live births, of which 301 were Males and 269 Females. This is an increase of 40 as compared with the previous year.

The total number of illegitimate births was 20, of which 12 were Males and 8 Females. The total number of illegitimate births for 1955 was 23.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Live births (Legitimate)	289	261	550
Live births (Illegitimate).....	12	8	20
	301	269	570

Birth Rate (Adjusted) per 1,000 population	16.9
England and Wales.....	15.7

Birth Rate.

The Birth Rate for previous years and for 1956 is as follows:

1945	19.9	1951	17.8
1946	20.8	1952	17.1
1947	23.6	1953	15.46
1948	20.1	1954	15.18
1949	20.7	1955	15.9
1950	17.2	1956	16.9

Stillbirths.

There was a total of 11 Stillbirths during the year, as compared with 14 during the previous year.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Stillbirths (Legitimate)	4	7	11
Stillbirths (Illegitimate)	—	—	—
	4	7	11

Stillbirths Rate per 1,000 population	0.33
Stillbirths Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Stillbirths)	18.9
England and Wales	23.0

The following table shows the number of stillbirths, the still-birth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths, and per 1,000 population for the past 12 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>
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
1953	15	28.1	0.46
1954	15	27.0	0.46
1955	14	25.7	0.43
1956	11	18.9	0.33

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths of Borough residents during the year was 313. This figure is 58 less than occurred in 1955. The total number of Males who died was 166 and Females 147.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	166	147	313
Death Rate (Adjusted) per 1,000 population	10.8		
England and Wales	11.7		

Death Rate.

The Adjusted Death Rate (taking the comparability factor into consideration) is 10.8. The Death Rate for England and Wales is 11.7.

The Death Rate for previous years and for 1956 is as follows—

1945	13.1	1951	11.04
1946	12.6	1952	11.95
1947	13.4	1953	10.49
1948	10.7	1954	11.16
1949	12.9	1955	12.16
1950	11.8	1956	10.8

The following table gives the causes of death:—

<i>Causes.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	1	—	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	6	8	14
11. Malignant neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	10	1	11
12. Malignant neoplasm, Breast	—	8	8
13. Malignant neoplasm, Uterus	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	13	28
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1	3
16. Diabetes	—	2	2
17. Vascular, lesions of nervous system	28	30	58
18. Coronary disease, angina	26	14	40
19. Hypertension, with heart disease	2	3	5

<i>Causes.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
20. Other heart diseases	32	24	56
21. Other circulatory disease	5	5	10
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	2	5	7
24. Bronchitis	7	1	8
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	1	5
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1
28. Nephritis nephrosis	3	1	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	3	2	5
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	19	33
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2
34. All other accidents	1	5	6
35. Suicide	2	2	4
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	166	147	313

Neo-Natal Deaths.

This represents the number of deaths occurring in infants under the age of 4 weeks. There were 10 deaths in all, 6 being Males and 4 Females.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	6	4	10
Illegitimate.....	—	—	—
	6	4	10

Neo-natal Death Rate per 1,000 live births—17.5

Infantile Mortality.

During the year 13 infants died under the age of 1 year, as compared with 16 in 1955.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	8	5	13
Illegitimate.....	—	—	—
	8	5	13

The Infantile Mortality Rate was 22.8

England and Wales

The Infantile Mortality Rate for previous years and for 1956 is shown as follows:—

1945	76.0	1951	28.7
1946	39.9	1952	35.02
1947	53.6	1953	32.9
1948	37.7	1954	18.6
1949	50.4	1955	30.18
1950	44.2	1956	22.8

The following table gives the causes of death occurring in infants under 1 year:—

<i>Age.</i>	<i>Sex</i>		<i>Causes of Death.</i>
	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	
2 hours	1		Prematurity.
7 hours	1		Prematurity.
8 hours		1	Congenital Heart Disease.
1 day		1	Prematurity.
1 day		1	Prematurity.
2 days	1		Prematurity.
2 days	1		Prematurity.
2 days	1		Congenital Heart Disease.
3 days	1		Prematurity.
3 weeks		1	Intestinal Obstruction.
1 month		1	Gastro Enteritis.
3 months	1		Congenital Abnormalities.
9 months	1		Asphyxia.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no Maternal Deaths during the year. The last Maternal Death within the Borough occurred in 1946.

Cancer Deaths.

There were 62 deaths from Cancer during the year, as compared with 59 in 1955. The cancer deaths had decreased by 9 in Males, and increased by 12 in Females.

The ratio of Cancer deaths to total deaths is 1:5.04, as compared with 1: 6.3 in 1955. The percentage of Cancer deaths to total deaths is 19.8.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Stomach	6	8	14
Lung and Bronchus	10	1	11
Breast	—	8	8
Uterus	—	1	1
Others	15	13	28
	<u>31</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>62</u>

The total number of Cancer Deaths and the percentage of Cancer Deaths to total deaths since 1945 is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Total No. of Deaths.	Cancer Deaths.			Percentage of Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths.
		Male.	Female.	TOTAL.	
1945	337	14	30	44	13.1
1946	351	23	30	53	15.1
1947	382	36	26	62	16.2
1948	312	28	23	51	16.3
1949	360	26	28	64	17.8
1950	337	26	27	53	15.7
1951	358	25	27	52	14.5
1952	362	32	21	53	14.6
1953	321	26	24	50	15.6
1954	339	35	24	59	17.4
1955	371	40	19	59	15.9
1956	313	31	31	62	19.8

Heart Disease.

Heart disease was responsible for 101 deaths. Of these 60 were Males and 41 Females. The percentage of deaths from Heart Disease to total deaths is 31.9 as compared with 33.9 in 1955.

Pulmonary Causes.

There were 16 deaths from Pulmonary Causes, 1 of these being due to Tuberculosis, 7 were due to Pneumonia and 8 were due to Bronchitis.

Respiratory Disease.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
T.B. Respiratory	1	—	1
Pneumonia	2	5	7
Bronchitis	7	1	8
Influenza	—	—	—
Others	—	—	—
	10	6	16

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year a total of 291 cases of infectious diseases were notified.

An outbreak of Sonne Dysentery affecting mainly infants and young children occurred in the spring, and continued until early autumn. In all 75 cases were notified. I have already referred to this outbreak earlier in the Report.

One case of mild Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis occurred during the year.

There was one case of Food Poisoning, the infecting organism being *Salmonella typhi murium*.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

<i>Disease.</i>	Rates per 1,000 Population.			
	<i>Notification.</i>		<i>Deaths.</i>	
Dysentery	75	2.3	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	70	2.1	—	—
Whooping Cough	35	1.06	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	0.06	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	62	1.9	—	—
Pneumonia	20	0.6	7	0.2
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Acute Paralytic	—	—	—	—
Acute Non-paralytic	1	0.03	—	—
Tuberculosis, Pulm'ary	20	0.6	1	0.03
Tuberculosis, Other	5	0.2	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	0.03	—	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN 1956.

(Arranged according to Age).

<i>Disease.</i>	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	—	8	18	36	5	2	1	—	70
Pneumonia	1	—	2	1	1	1	8	6	20
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	8	19	10	14	4	15	4	1	75
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	4	19	23	11	2	3	—	—	62
Whooping Cough	6	11	8	9	—	1	—	—	35
Food Poisoning	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	—	—	2	—	—	11	7	—	20
Tuberculosis, Other	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	5
TOTALS	19	57	64	73	13	36	22	7	291

Immunisation.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough are undertaken either by the General Practitioner or at the Infant Welfare Clinics. The total number of children under 1 year who received the combined injection for the year numbered 209, as compared with 129 for the previous year.

The following table shows the number of children immunised against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough during the year.

<i>Diphtheria Immunisations.</i>					<i>Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisations.</i>			<i>Whooping Cough Immunisations.</i>
<i>Primary Doses.</i>			<i>Repeat Doses.</i>		0-1	1-4	5-9	
0-1	1-4	5-15	0-4	5-15				
2	55	166	115	373	209	118	2	—

The Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough immunisation was commenced within the Borough in 1952.

The following table gives the total number of infants in the age groups 0—1 years and 1—5 years who have been immunised since 1953 onwards:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Total Births.</i>	<i>Whooping Cough Notifications All Ages.</i>	<i>Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Imm.</i>		
			0—1	1—4	5—9
1953	517	111	135	113	—
1954	539	45	128	136	—
1955	530	71	129	123	—
1956	570	35	209	118	2

Approximately 35 per cent. of infants are protected against diphtheria and whooping cough in their first year.

Vaccinations.

The total number vaccinated during the year was 182 (all ages) as compared with 152 in 1955.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

The total number of children born between the years 1947-1954, inclusive who were vaccinated within the Borough during the year, numbered 186.

Tuberculosis.

The total number of Lung Tuberculosis cases notified during the year was 20 as compared with 24 in 1955. The Male notifications decreased from 17 in 1955 to 10 in 1956 and the Female notifications increased from 7 in 1955 to 10 in 1956.

The following table shows the number of cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary on the Tuberculosis Register on 1st January, 1956, and 31st December, 1956.

	PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	TOTAL	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	TOTAL
1st January, 1956	108	97	205	10	23	33
31st December, 1956	125	104	229	14	23	37

TUBERCULOSIS CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

(Arranged according to Age).

<i>Age Period.</i>	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
0—1	—	—	—	—
1—4	1	1	—	—
5—9	—	—	2	—
10—14	—	—	1	—
15—19	—	3	—	—
20—24	—	—	1	—
25—34	1	1	—	—
35—44	3	3	—	—
45—54	4	1	1	—
55—64	1	1	—	—
65 plus	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	10	10	5	—

The following table shows the number of Lung Tuberculosis cases notified and the rate per 1,000 population, and the deaths due to Lung Tuberculosis and rate per 1,000 population since 1945.

<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>
1945	47	1.8	12	0.5
1946	37	1.3	14	0.5
1947	30	1.1	13	0.5
1948	30	1.03	7	0.2
1949	42	1.4	13	0.4
1950	24	0.8	10	0.3
1951	17	0.6	8	0.3
1952	46	1.4	4	0.1
1953	50	1.5	5	0.2
1954	31	0.9	6	0.2
1955	24	0.7	1	0.03
1956	20	0.6	1	0.03

HOUSING.

During the year, the Borough Council erected a total of 136 houses and 36 flats.

The number of applicants for Council Houses within the Borough was 1,076 at the end of December, 1956. Of these 524 were families with or without children who are living in rooms or apartments within the Borough. Whilst there appears to be little decrease in this particular group it can, however, be said that the majority of large families living in apartments have by now been installed in their own homes.

The rehousing of families from substandard houses is now underway. The total number of homes scheduled for demolition and clearance within the eight year period was 453.

So far, a total of 107 have already been officially represented as being unfit and 24 families have been rehoused.

In addition, rehousing of families from Arcon type prefabricated houses is also in progress.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47.

One person was removed from his home under this Act, during the year. This man had been ill at home for some weeks, and whilst he was not living alone, the other persons who were also living in the house were aged and were unable to attend effectively to his needs.

WATER.

During the year 20 samples were taken for bacteriological examination. All were reported as being satisfactory except one, which on re-examination proved satisfactory.

CLEAN FOOD.

During the year, as a result of the new Food Hygiene Regulations, which came into force on the 1st January, 1956, all food shops and food preparation premises were inspected.

The progress made by the owners or occupiers of food premises in conforming with these Regulations have so far been fairly good.

All School Canteens were inspected on a number of occasions during the year.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICE IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Provision.

Bacteriological examination of water, milk and ice cream are examined at the Public Health Laboratory at Birkenhead.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

(1) General.

(a) Wrexham and East Denbighshire War Memorial Hospital	.....	230	Beds.
(b) Maelor General Hospital—			
Croesnewydd	.....	186	„
Emergency	268	„
Isolation	137	„

(2) Maternity Cases.

Trevalyn Maternity Hospital	47	„
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(3) Orthopaedic—

Robert Jones and 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.

A Venereal Disease Clinic is established at the Out-Patient's Department of the War Memorial Hospital.

(3) Infant Welfare Clinics.

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

Gatefield, Kings Mills Road Monday Afternoon.
No. 1, Grosvenor Road Monday and Wednesday Afternoon.
Garden Village Institute,
Kenyon Avenue Wednesday Afternoon.
Queen's Park Thursday Afternoon.

(4) Ante-Natal Clinics.

Ante-natal Clinics are held weekly within the Borough.

No. 1—Grosvenor Road—
Tuesday Morning and Afternoon.
Wednesday Morning only.
Queen's Park—Thursday Morning only.

(5) Eye Clinics.

An Eye Clinic is held on alternate Fridays at No. 1, Grosvenor Road.

(6) Family Planning Clinic.

A Family Planning Clinic is held on Thursday afternoon at No. 1, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham.

(7) Dental Clinics.

Dental Clinics are held weekly at No. 1, Grosvenor Road.
Maternal and Child Welfare Monday.
Fillings Monday and Friday.
Orthodontics Thursday.
Casuals Friday and Saturday mornings.

(8) Speech Therapy.

Speech Therapy Clinics are held twice weekly within the Borough.

Gatefield, Kings Mills Road Wednesday.
No. 1, Grosvenor Road Thursday.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Eleventh Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors.

During the year, the Government gave effect to one of the recommendations of the Working Party Report on the Recruitment, Training and Qualifications of Sanitary Inspectors, and introduced legislation changing the title to that of Public Health Inspectors.

The Food Hygiene Regulations came into force during the year and no opportunity has been lost to put them into full use, wherever possible. The last day of 1956 brought the Clean Air Act, 1956, into being, and it will certainly add to our duties during the years ahead.

There were a number of staff changes during the year. Mr. J. H. Morris, Public Health Inspector, left the Department on April 30th, on securing an appointment with Leicester City Council. Mr. Teewyn Roberts, Pupil Public Health Inspector, was successful in qualifying as a Public Health Inspector, and he was immediately appointed to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Morris. Mr. Lawrence Horne was appointed as Pupil Public Health Inspector on November 1st.

Once again, I must express my thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the Members of the Health Committee, for your support during the year. I would also acknowledge the help I have received from Dr. Evan Williams, Medical Officer of Health. All my Staff have given of their best during the year, and I am grateful to them.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. McCARTNEY,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

TABULATED SUMMARY of SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

Total No. of Inspections made	10,312
Total No. of Complaints received	547
Total No. of Notices served	730
Total No. of Interviews with owners, etc.	415

Bed Bugs.

No. of Inspections made	119
No. of Council Houses—	
(i) Found to be infested	10
(ii) Disinfected by this Department	10
No. of Other Premises—	
(i) Found to be infested	—
(ii) Disinfested by this Department at owner's expense	—

Cinemas and Places of Entertainment.

No. of Inspections made	18
No. of Informal Notices served	—
No. of Notices complied with	—

Closets.

Cleansed and limewashed	1
No. of water-closets repaired or reconstructed	28
No. of flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	19
No. of new water-closet pans or pedestals provided	16
No. provided with supply of water	23

Common Lodging Houses.

No. on Register (up to November, 1956)	1
No. of inspections made—(Day)	10
No. of inspections made—(Night)	1
No. of contraventions found	1
No. of contraventions remedied	1

For the first time since it became a requirement of the Public Health Acts, Wrexham is without a registered Common Lodging House. The one remaining premises surrendered its registration in November.

The former occupants, 8 in number, have found alternative accommodation, and the need for a Common Lodging House seems to have lessened very considerably.

Drains.

Repaired or cleansed	19
New inspection chambers	2
Gullies provided or renewed	1
New sinks provided	6
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	10
Soil and ventilating pipes repaired or renewed	2

Factories (Excluding Bakehouses).

No. of Factories in District (Mech.)....	164
No. of Factories in District (Non-Mech.)	54
No. of inspections made	270
No. of contraventions found	6
No. of contraventions remedied	3
No. of contraventions outstanding at end of year	3

Infectious Diseases, Disinfections, Etc.

No. of investigations carried out	80
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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	14
No. of contraventions found	1
No. of contraventions remedied	1
No. of contraventions outstanding at end of year	—

Rodent Control.

No. of Premises inspected	867
No. of Premises found infested	174
No. of visits made	2,419

Advice and treatment on rodent control continues to be in great demand by both business premises and domestic households—the latter being far more concerned with the eradication of mice. Regular routine treatment of sewers, refuse tips and the River Gwenfro is proving fully justified by the results achieved, and illustrates very clearly the value of a regular full-time rodent control service.

Removal of Household Refuse.

No. of new ashbins provided by Informal action	35
No. of new ashbins provided by Statutory action	258

Sanitary Defects Remedied.

Dampness.

No. of roofs renewed or repaired	60
No. of eavesgutters and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	60
Yard surfaces repaired or relaid	8
Yard drainage improved	1

Interior Work.

No. of walls repaired	40
No. of walls rendered or repointed	29
No. of ceilings repaired	7
No. of floors repaired	11
No. of chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	4
No. of firegrates repaired or renewed	10
No. of washing boilers repaired or renewed	2
Damp proof courses provided and dampness remedied	9
No. of doors and windows repaired or renewed	106
No. of staircases repaired	1
Rooms cleansed	1
Sufficient water supply provided	8

Smoke Emission and Abatement.

No. of smoke observations made	85
No. of visits made	110
No. of Notices served (Informal)	2
No. of deposit gauges sited in the Borough	2

The average monthly deposit of soot, etc., for the past three years is as follows:—

	1954.	1955.	1956.
Parish Church Site	24 tons.	22 tons.	19 tons.
Cartrefle College Site	9 tons.	10 tons.	10 tons.

The two deposit gauges sited in Wrexham, which record the monthly deposit of soot, grit, etc., are providing useful and interesting information concerning atmospheric pollution in the locality. It is interesting to note that, while the deposit in the centre of the town, mainly industrial, is appreciably less than in former years, that recorded on the fringe of the Borough, mainly domestic, is increasing. This emphasises what has been said before—the problem of domestic smoke is a matter of concern.

The Clean Air Act, 1956, came into partial operation on the last day of the year, and it will be fully operative, apart from certain period exemptions, about the Spring of 1958. A number of factors will have an influence on the attitude of local authorities towards the implementing of the Act—not least among these being the availability of technical staff, the supply of adequate quantities of smokeless fuel at a reasonable price, and the very important matter of finance in connection with the making of grants for the adaptation of fireplaces, etc., in smoke control areas.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

No. of Swimming Baths in the district	1
No. of samples of water taken	15
No. of samples satisfactory	15

Tents, Vans, Sheds, Etc.

No. of inspections made	2
No. of contraventions found	—

Water Supply.

No. of samples taken for Analysis	20
No. of samples satisfactory	19

HOUSING.

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	82
--	----

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	66
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices—	
(a) By Owners	49
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(3) No. of Notices outstanding at end of year	17

Section 45.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defective water-closets to be repaired	60
(2) No. of dwelling-houses where defective water-closets were repaired after service of Formal Notices:—	
(a) By Owners	38
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	3
(3) No. of Notices outstanding at end of year	19

Section 39.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served for the renewing or repairing of existing drains	57
(2) No. of dwelling-houses where the existing drains were renewed and cleansed:—	
(a) By Owners	37
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	5
(3) No. of Notices outstanding at the end of year	15

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	1
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which water supply was provided after service of Formal Notices: —	
(a) By Owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owner	—
(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 Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served under Section 11	13
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	13
(3) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
(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	2
(3) (a) No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	27
(b) No. of persons concerned in such cases	80

- (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.

The task of removing those houses no longer fit to live in, continued during the year. In addition to the action taken under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, two Clearance Areas were represented under Section 25. This allowed for the vacation and demolition of 63 houses, with a total population of 177.

The speed with which this work can be undertaken is governed by the availability of alternative housing accommodation. The position has been further complicated by the decision to demolish the 100 prefabricated bungalows on the Holt Road site. This is being done in stages, but the rehousing of the occupants naturally defers still further the rehousing of the tenants from other unfit houses.

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	23	165
Butchers' Shops.....	41	211
Cafes, Restaurants and Snack Bars....	20	214
Dairies and Milk Shops	13	3
Fried Fish Shops	16	84
Fruit and Greengrocers	45	155
General Provision Shops	104	445
Hotels and Public Houses	60	23
Ice-Cream Premises	88	116
Wet Fish Shops	10	28
Cake Shops	11	70
Sweet Shops	41	50

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The Food Hygiene Regulations came into partial operation on January 1st, 1956, and were fully operative on July 1st. They are a welcome addition to the existing legal powers of local authorities for dealing with the hygienic handling of food and the construction and maintenance of food premises and vehicles.

During the year, a detailed survey of 132 food premises was carried out, and, as a result of these inspections, 93 letters were sent to occupiers of food premises drawing their attention to the requirements of the Regulations. In the main, the response has been one of co-operation, but there has been what one might term some "passive resistance" by a number of traders particularly with regard to the protection of food from risk of contamination, and over the necessity to supply wash-hand basins in addition to sinks.

Thirty-five premises have been brought up to the standard required and in a further 38, work is either in progress or has been ordered. One of the main reasons for work not being carried out is due to many orders being placed in the hands of the same contractors—a factor which can be very irritating, both to the proprietor of the premises and the local authority.

A lot of the improvements to food premises in Wrexham are obvious to the shopping public, and there is no doubt that the housewife of to-day is displaying a greater interest in food hygiene. It should be stressed, however, that, very often, far more necessary and essential improvements have taken place, but are out of sight. The question of whether a shop assistant uses tongs to handle cooked meat or fancy cakes is of comparatively minor significance—what is far more important is the presence of adequate washing facilities with hot water, clean towels, soap and nail brushes, which allows the food handler to have clean hands at all times. There has been an impressive amount of these "back-room" improvements in Wrexham, affecting such items as food preparing rooms, staff rooms, sanitary accommodation and hot water supplies.

Foreign Bodies in Food.

During the year, 23 complaints were received with regard to food alleged to contain foreign bodies, or to be otherwise abnormal by reason of its appearance, taste or smell.

All the complaints were investigated and 16 were reported to the Health Committee. In ten cases, legal proceedings were authorised after full consideration of all the relevant information. Fines, ranging from £2 to £25 and totalling £116 were enforced, together with £38 7s. 0d. costs. Brief details are as follows:—

		Fine.	Costs.
Case No. 1.	Sale of unsound meat.	£6 0 0d.	£5 4 0d.
Case No. 2.	Spoon in tin of jam.	£10 0 0d.	£3 3 0d.
Case No. 3.	Glass in ice-cream.	£5 0 0d.	—
Case No. 4.	Glass in cake.	£15 0 0d.	£3 3 0d.

Foreign Bodies in Food.—continued.

	Fine.	Costs.
Case No. 5. Glass in loaf of bread.	£25 0 0d.	£3 3 0d.
Case No. 6. Piece of wood in loaf of bread.	£10 0 0d.	£4 0 0d.
Case. No. 7. Finger plaster in meat pie.	£10 0 0d.	£3 3 0d.
Case No. 8. Nail in fruit cake.	£10 0 0d.	£3 3 0d.
Case No. 9. Sale of unsound minced beef.	£10 0 0d.	£10 5 0d.
Case No. 10. Glass in sweet.	£15 0 0d.	£3 3 0d.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

A total of 37 Formal samples and 32 Informal samples were taken under the provisions of this Act during the year.

The articles sampled were as follows:—

Formal.	Informal.
Milk 37	Milk 1
	Crab Paste 2
	Ice-Cream 10
	Fish Paste 1
	Bloater Paste 1
	Meat Paste 2
	Salmon Spread 3
	Crab and Lobster Paste 1
	Salmon and Anchovy 1
	Pilchard & Tomato Paste 1
	Minced Beef 1
	Minced Chicken 1
	Brandy Flavour 1
	Chicken, Ham & Tongue Paste 1
	Ground Almonds 1
	Ground Cinnamon 1
	Ground Ginger 1
	Cut Candied Peel..... 1
	Mixed Spice 1

One informal sample was 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	62	62	—
Butter	2	2	—
Cheese	1	1	—
Cheese Spread	1	1	—
Flour	1	1	—
Bread	1	1	—
Jam	1	1	—
Marmalade	1	1	—
Blanc Mange Powder	1	1	—
Fresh Cream	2	2	—
Ice-Cream.....	5	5	—
Condensed Milk	2	2	—
Salad Cream	2	2	—
Sweets	2	2	—
Honey	2	2	—
Mixed Vegetables	1	1	—
Tinned Peas	1	1	—
Tinned Fish	1	1	—
Sausages	1	1	—
Pepper	1	1	—
Sauce	1	1	—
Mince-meat	2	1	1
Cocoa	1	1	—
Soft Drinks	1	1	—
Beer	3	3	—
Whisky	1	1	—
Tartaric Acid	1	1	—
TOTALS	101	100	1

Of the one hundred and one samples taken in the Borough only one was certified by the Public Analyst to be "Not Genuine." This was an informal sample of mince-meat which was found to be slightly deficient in soluble solids. A formal sample from the same stock was taken immediately and on analysis this proved to be up to standard. The deficiency in the first sample was thought by the Analyst to be the result of a leakage of the liquid content due to a defective cap on the jar sampled.

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

Duties relating to Ice-Cream.

There are 88 registered premises for ice-cream including two manufacturers.

During the year the following samples were taken:—

Bacteriological—30. These were graded as follows by the Public Health Laboratory Service:—

Grade 1	....	29.
Grade 2	....	1.
Grade 3	....	—
Grade 4	....	—

Milk and Dairies Administration.

In addition to 13 registered dairy premises, there are now 46 persons registered as purveyors under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Regulations, 52 Dealer's Licences and 19 Supplementary Licences have been granted.

During the year, 4 informed notifications were served for minor infringements of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

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

No. of samples taken	.....	150
(1) School Milks (Pasteurised).		
Total number of samples taken	.....	16
Total number of samples satisfactory	.....	15
Total number of samples submitted to Phosphatase Test	.....	16
Number found satisfactory	.....	16
(2) Designated Milks other than School Milks.		
(Pasteurised Milk).		
No. of samples taken—59.	No. satisfactory—57.	
(Tuberculin Tested Milk).		
No. of samples taken—30.	No. satisfactory—30.	
(Tuberculin Tested/Pasteurised Milk).		
No. of samples taken—43.	No. satisfactory—42.	
(Sterilised Milk).		
No. of samples taken—2.	No. satisfactory—2.	

Inspection of Meat.

A total of 44,995 animals were slaughtered and inspected during the year—an increase of 3,470 on the previous year. The incidence of tuberculosis during the year is easily the lowest ever recorded and is striking evidence of the success of the Government's eradication policy.

The necessary permission and loan sanction has been obtained for the building of a large two compartment cold store at the Abattoir, and the final details are just about to be completed. It is hoped that the completion of this work during the coming year will result in an increased use of the Abattoir, and that it will also obviate the necessity for Sunday slaughtering.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>
No. Slaughtered	2,624	454	27,593	8,764	252
No. Inspected	2,624	454	*32,700	*8,765	252
Disease except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci.					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	5	54	20	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	651	153	1,254	112	8
% of No. inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	24.8%	34.8%	4.0%	7.5%	6.7%
Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned	6	4	—	7	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	88	24	—	138	—
% of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.6%	6.2%	—	1.65%	—
Cysticercosis.					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

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

Total weight of meat condemned during the year:—

16 tons, 3 cwts., 2 qrs., 1 lb.

Canned and Other Food, Etc., Condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Tinned Foods	2,715	lbs.	Cheese & Cheese Ends	188½	lbs.
Flour	3	lbs.	Butter.... ..	30½	lbs.
Cereals	18	lbs.	Mixed Pickles	6¼	lbs.
Fats	19½	lbs.	Danish Goose	9	lbs.
Preserves	11	lbs.	Meat	82	lbs.
Beverages	½	lb.	Dried Fruit	3¾	lbs.
Fruit Cake	10	lbs.	Bacon	73	lbs.
Cheese Spread	80½	lbs.	Jellies	7	lbs.
Frozen Egg	28	lbs.	Miscellaneous	2¼	lbs.

TOTAL:—3,287¾ lbs.

Percentage classifications are as follows:—

Home	31.8%	=	1,044	lbs.
Foreign	49.6%	=	1,630¾	lbs.
Empire	18.6%	=	613	lbs.
<hr/>				
	100.0%	=	3,287¾	lbs.
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WREXHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Abattoir Revenue Account — Year Ending 31st March, 1956.

(31)

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Tolls	4,208	1 2	Premises and Paddocks—		
Sale of Manure	81	12 6	Electricity, Fuel and Water	795	8 5
Van Washing	4	5 0	Rates, Taxes, Tithe and Insurance	185	11 4
Rent of Offices	91	0 0	Maintenance and Repairs	309	3 11
Rent of Refrigerator Space	20	0 0	Painting	80	11 8
Sale of Condemned Meat and Offal	155	0 7	Removal of Manure, Inedible● Offals and		
Ministry of Food—			Ashes and Emptying Settling Tank	392	10 4
Deficit Contribution (Balance)	180	15 9	Bedding for Lairages	198	17 0
Wayleave (Hughes Bros.)	0	2 6	Chemicals, Cleaning Requisites and Laundry		
Parking Fee—F.M.C.	4	10 0	Wages	1,388	14 1
Sale of Equipment (Humane Killer)....	3	0 0	Equipment	344	2 3
	4,748	7 6	Dehairing Machine (Balance)	116	8 9
Deficit borne by Council	2,078	14 5	Protective Clothing	21	15 6
			Paddock—		
			Tree Planting	25	16 0
			New Fencing (Revenue Contribution)	297	16 9
			Additional Water Supply	214	19 6
			Loan Charges—		
			Interest	322	2 9
			Principal	635	0 0
			Debt Management	1	19 2
			General Expenses—		
			Printing and Stationery	11	13 5
			Telephone	18	5 5
			Payments for condemned carcasses retained	98	2 5
			Salaries, Superannuation and Insurance	712	10 11
			Income Tax—Schedule D	597	19 6
				£6,827	1 11

£6,827 1 11

No.	Date	Description	Debit	Credit
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