

**[Report 1942] / Medical Officer of Health, Wrexham R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Wrexham (Wales). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1942

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/dtynrurx>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

WREXHAM  
RURAL  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH  
RECEIVED

1 OCT 1943

A



Annual Report  
of the  
Medical Officer  
of  
Health  
and the  
Senior Sanitary  
Inspector  
for the year 1942

T. P. EDWARDS,  
M.D., B.S., (LOND.),  
D.P.H. (CANTAB).

D. THOMAS,  
C.R.S.I., C.M.I.





Wrexham Rural District Council

*With  
the Compliments  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health.*

*Imperial Buildings,  
Regent Street,  
Wrexham.*

Western Rural District Council

With  
the Compendium  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health

Report for the  
Year 1900  
London



**STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

T. P. EDWARDS, M.D., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H. (CANTAB).

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR :

D. THOMAS, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.

SANITARY INSPECTORS :

H. CECIL D. JONES, C.R.S.I.

STANLEY DAVIES C.R.S.I., C.M.I.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S CLERKS

(TEMPORARY) :

Miss O. M. DAVIES.

Miss E. EDWARDS.

**To the Chairman and Members of the  
Health Committee.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting my 20th Annual Report on the Health of the Rural District Area for the year 1942. We are still in a state of national emergency and this has meant that certain statistics have to be with-held and reports have to be cut down as short as possible.

It is satisfactory to note that there has been a satisfactory increase in the number of births and the birth rate, whereas the death rate has diminished from 12.9 to 11.07.

Another satisfactory feature in the vital statistics is the diminution in the number of cases of Infectious Diseases and especially Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, though this is, up to a certain extent, counterbalanced by the outbreak of Dysentery which occurred in an institution for children.

Satisfactory progress has occurred in the campaign for immunisation and in a comparative table submitted by the Welsh Board of Health, the Wrexham Rural District shows up well in the percentage of children immunised, not only under 5 but also over 5 years of age.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**T. P. EDWARDS,**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



## STATISTICS.

Area (Acres) .. .. . 72,370

BIRTHS :	M.	F.	Total.	
Legitimate ..	538	522	1060	
Illegitimate	37	25	62	Birth Rate 18.08
	<hr/> 575	<hr/> 547	<hr/> 1122	(England and Wales 15.8)

STILL BIRTHS :	M.	F.	Total.	
Legitimate ..	23	23	46	
Illegitimate	3	1	4	Still Birth Rate 0.8
	<hr/> 26	<hr/> 24	<hr/> 50	(England and Wales 0.54)

DEATHS :	M.	F.	Total.	
	374	313	687	Death Rate 11.07
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	(England and Wales 11.6)

Deaths from	M.	F.	Total.
Malignant Diseases	47	47	94
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Maternal Mortality :**

Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Causes	..	..	..	..	..	3
						<hr/> 4

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births—3.5

**Maternal Mortality :**

- (a) Puerperal Infection per 1000 Total Births, 0.8 (England and Wales 0.42).
- (b) Other Causes per 1000 Total Births, 2.6 (England and Wales 1.58).
- (c) Total Maternal Mortality per 1000 Total Births, 3.4 (England and Wales 2.01).

**Infantile Mortality :**

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ..	..	..	33
Illegitimate	..	..	28
	<hr/> 37	<hr/> 30	<hr/> 67



Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births, 55.2 (England and Wales 49.0)

Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age 3

Rate per 1000 Live Births, 2.6 (England and Wales 5.2)

## BIRTHS.

During the year there were 1122 Live Births as compared with 1046 for the previous year and there is an increase of 14 in the legitimate male births and of 42 legitimate female births. The total illegitimate births have increase by 20. The birth rate comes to 18.08 as compared with 16.6 in 1941. These figures for births refer to the Rural District cases only and confinements which have taken place at the Ruabon Maternity Hospital have been deducted other than where they are properly allocated to our own area. It will thus be seen that the number of births and the birth rate has gone up during the year. This is of interest in that for the last 40 or 50 years the birth rate has tended to decrease. In this connection it may be of interest to note that the birth rate for England and Wales as a whole has increased from 14.2 to 15.8.

## STILL BIRTHS.

During the year there were 50 Still Births as compared with 44 in 1941. This figure gives a Still Birth Rate per 1000 civilian population of 0.8 as compared with 0.54 for England and Wales, thus it would appear that the Still Births in our area is in excess of that over England and Wales.

## DEATHS.

During the year there were 687 deaths of which 374 were males and 313 were females. In the previous year there were 802 deaths, 408 of which were males and 394 females, thus there has been a satisfactory reduction in the number of deaths for both sexes but is greater in respect to the females.

Of the causes of death the following information may be of interest :

There were	2	deaths from	Typhoid Fever.
	1	" "	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.
No	"	"	Scarlet Fever.
	4	" "	Whooping Cough.
	6	" "	Diphtheria.
	33	" "	Tuberculosis, of which 28 were re- spiratory.
	155	" "	Heart Diseases.
	55	" "	Bronchitis.



There were 31 deaths of Pneumonia, but of these 23 were males and only 8 females.

94 „ „ Cancer, of which 47 were males and 47 females.

I have already referred to the maternal deaths of which only one was due to puerperal causes, the other three being due to other maternal causes. 11 Children died of premature birth and 31 from congenital malformation and birth injuries. In deaths from all other causes there are 60 as compared with 73 in 1941.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### Scarlet Fever.

57 cases were notified during the year as compared with 62 in 1941. There has been a steady decrease in the number of cases for at least four years and it is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths during the year.

Case Rate per 1000 population .. ..	0.91
(as compared with 0.98 in 1941)	
(England and Wales .. ..)	2.19)

### Diphtheria.

103 cases were notified as compared with 142 in 1941 and there were 6 deaths of which 5 were females.

Case rate per 1000 population .. ..	1.6
(as compared with 2.2 in 1941)	
(England and Wales .. ..)	1.05)
Deaths per 1000 population .. ..	0.09
(as compared with 0.13 in 1941)	
(England and Wales .. ..)	0.05)

### Enteric Fever.

2 cases were notified during the year and there were 2 deaths.

### Erysipelas.

24 cases were notified as compared with 16 in 1941.

Case rate per 1000 population .. ..	0.38
(England and Wales .. ..)	0.30)

### Dysentery.

During the year there were 17 cases of dysentery notified. All except 2 were inmates on an institution for children. It would appear from the investigations that this was carried to our area from contacts of



similar cases in a London area. Immediately this outbreak occurred, we visited this home and took material for pathological investigation from the staff and other children living there. These were examined by the Public Health Laboratory, Conway, and 9 of the samples were found to contain Flexner Z. type of dysentery, whereas a few were of the Sonne dysentery type of bacillus. All positive cases were admitted to the Fever Hospital and were all of a mild character and quickly recovered under treatment and there were no deaths or any complications.

We also examined the milk supply and it was found that *B. coli* was present in 1-1000th c.c. and there were no pathogenic organisms present. Since this outbreak took place in July we have had no further cases.

### **Puerperal Pyrexia.**

The number of cases notified during the year was 6 as compared with 2 in 1941. This gives a puerperal pyrexia rate of 5.1 per 1000 Total Births as compared with 12.6 for England and Wales.

### **Pneumonia.**

75 cases of Pneumonia were notified during the year as compared with 81 in 1941 and there were 31 deaths, of which 23 were males. The lower incidence of Pneumonia deaths in females is peculiarly gratifying and should be compared with 29 deaths in 1941. There were 23 male deaths as compared with 28 in 1941, thus there is a total reduction in the number of deaths from Pneumonia of 26. No doubt, this reduction is due to the recent advance in the treatment of Pneumonia by Sulphonamide type of drug, which is so much "in vogue" in Therapeutic circles at the present time. These drugs have been used with marked success and indicate a definite advance in Medical Science.

Case rate per 1000 population ..	..	1.2
(England and Wales .. .. .)	..	1.07)

### **Whooping Cough.**

97 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year as compared with 249 in 1941, thus there has been a very substantial satisfactory reduction in the notifications. There were 4 deaths, 2 of each sex.

Case rate per 1000 population ..	..	1.5
(as compared with 3.8 in 1941)		
(England and Wales .. .. .)	..	1.73)
Death rate per 1000 population ..	..	0.06
(England and Wales .. .. .)	..	0.02)



### Measles.

450 cases were notified during the year as compared with 406 in 1941, and it is satisfactory to note once again that there were no deaths.

Notifications per 1000 population	..	0.7
(England and Wales	..	7.46)

### Small Pox.

No cases were notified during the year.

### Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

These cases are in the first instance notified to the County Council which is the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority and any notifications are notified to us by them but during the year we had no notifications reported to us.

### Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

There were 8 notifications during the year and 1 death.

Case rate per 1000 population	..	0.13
(England and Wales	..	0.14)

During the last few years one of the big events in the infectious disease circles was the outbreak of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis which in 1940 and 1941 was very prevalent in our area and it is satisfactory to note that during the year 1942, there were only 7 cases admitted to the Fever Hospital and these were spread throughout the area. In addition, there were 4 cases of observation Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis admitted to the Fever Hospital. It would thus appear that the epidemic was reaching its closing stages during the year.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of new cases notified is as follows:

NEW CASES.					DEATHS.				
<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>			<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		
M.	F.	M.	F.	..	M.	F.	M.	F.	..
32	28	..	14	11	..	17	15	..	2 2

There is a satisfactory decline of 10 in the Pulmonary male cases and of 9 in the Pulmonary female cases during the year but this decrease in Pulmonary cases is to a certain extent counterbalanced by an increase of 4 in the male Non-Pulmonary cases and of 1 in the female Non-Pulmonary cases. It is also satisfactory to note that there were 6 less Pulmonary deaths and 1 less Non-Pulmonary death during the year.



## ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

On January 1st, 1942, there were 28 patients in hospital, namely, 8 Scarlet Fever, 17 Diphtheria, 2 Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and 1 Erysipelas and of these, 12 were admitted from the Wrexham Rural District, 12 from the Wrexham Borough and 4 from outside authorities such as Llangollen Urban, Ruthin Rural and Hawarden Rural District.

During the year 367 cases were admitted as compared with 477 in 1941 and 672 in 1940. Of these, 100 were Scarlet Fever (including observation Scarlet Fever), 183 were cases of Diphtheria (and 21 were cases of observation Diphtheria), 3 cases of Para-Typhoid Fever were admitted and 8 cases of Erysipelas, though one extra case admitted as Erysipelas was found to be suffering from Cellulitis of the leg and this case was admitted for a very long period. 16 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis were admitted and in addition there were 7 observation Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. In addition to these, 3 other types of Meningitis were also admitted. I have already referred to the fact that 17 cases of dysentery were admitted from the Wrexham Rural District during the year. There were a few other odds and ends such as Measles, Broncho Pneumonia, Chicken Pox and Tonsillitis and also 4 cases of Puerperal Septicaemia which were admitted from the Ruabon Maternity Home.

Of these 367 cases admitted, 209 came from the Wrexham Rural District and of these 93 were Diphtheria and 56 Scarlet Fever. 98 were admitted from the Wrexham Borough of which 11 were Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis (and observation cases) 59 were Diphtheria and 16 Scarlet Fever. There were 4 admissions from the Llangollen Urban and 3 from Overton Rural area and 39 from the Ruthin Rural District and these comprised 21 cases of Scarlet Fever and 18 cases of Diphtheria. 2 cases were admitted from the Edeyrnion Rural District, 1 from Ceiriog and 11 cases of Diphtheria from Hiraethog Rural District.

During the year there were 347 cases discharged and there were 13 deaths namely 8 cases of Diphtheria, no cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 cases of Other Forms of Meningitis, 1 Para-Typhoid Fever and 1 Broncho Pneumonia. There were remaining in Hospital at the end of the year 36 cases, namely, 10 Scarlet Fever, 22 Diphtheria, 1 Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and 3 Erysipelas, and of these 36 cases 19 were from the Wrexham Rural District, 6 from the Wrexham Borough, 2 from Overton Rural, 3 from Ruthin Rural and 6 from Hiraethog Rural District.

When one compares the admissions for 1942 with those of 1941 several interesting features are apparent. The most important is the marked decrease in the number of patients from Diphtheria and observation Diphtheria. These totalled 288 in 1941 and 204 in 1942. In 1941 there were 52 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis (and observation cases), whereas in 1942 there were only 23. In the previous year there was a



large number of cases admitted as Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, but some were found not to be so and the number of such cases in 1942 was very much less than the number in 1941.

It would thus appear that the epidemic of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis was reaching its completion and this is borne out by the number of cases that we have had in 1943 up to the time of making the Annual Report. It is satisfactory to note that out of the 23 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis (and observation Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis) only one single death occurred, and though there were 3 deaths from other forms of Meningitis; these forms were such that it is extremely improbable to find any other than a termination.

The only other observation in such a comparison is the number of cases of Dysentery in 1942 whereas there were no cases in 1941.

During the year 533 Swabs were examined by me at the Laboratory as compared with 1441 in 1941. Of these swabs 473 were negative and 60 were positive. In addition to this, a large number of swabs are sent each week to Conway where they are examined by Dr. Robinson at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory. Most of these swabs which are sent to Conway are typed and reference has been made in the meetings of the Health Committee to the fact that according to reports received it would appear that there is a very substantial number of the gravis type of bacillus in the cases admitted to our hospital. It is not known why this should be the case. The fact that we send these swabs to Conway often entails the patients being kept in for a much longer period and this policy has been amply justified by the almost complete absence of what is technically termed "return cases."

I would wish, once again, to pay a tribute to the work done by the Matron, Assistant Matron, Sisters and other members of the Nursing Staff during the year. There appears to be an impression abroad that our staff of nurses is excessive, but the fact that we have had so many various types of infectious diseases has been ignored. When we have such cases as Typhoid and Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Erysipelas and Puerperal Septicaemia, all these cases require separate nursing in separate parts of the hospital and one has to take into consideration the fact that each nurse requires rest and holidays. Towards the end of the year a certain number of the nurses had left the hospital and their places have not been filled and there is, at the present time, no excess of nursing, in fact, it is necessary to emphasize that should there be a sudden outbreak of Diphtheria or of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis we should be very hard put with the present staff to cater for the nursing needs of the patients.

In reference to the cases of Diphtheria, we have for at least six months been able to utilize only one block owing to the fewness of cases admitted and should these cases increase it will be necessary to revert



back to the block system which would naturally necessitate the requirement of an additional nursing staff and the same applies to Scarlet Fever. Owing to the requirements of industry and the forces it is almost certain to be a serious problem to obtain a sufficient number of nurses, due regard being paid to the efficient working of the hospital. We have of late had certain difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of domestic staff and this is a problem which is present on other hospitals besides our own and appears to be universal.

#### SWABS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1942.

This total refers only to swabs examined by myself in the Laboratory.

		Wrexham R.D.C.	Wrexham Borough	Overton	Fever Hospital	Total
Negative	..	122	.. 130	.. 15	.. 206	.. 473
Positive	..	8	.. 9	.. 2	.. 41	.. 60
		130	.. 139	.. 17	.. 247	.. 533

#### PUBLIC HEALTH.

Very little need be stated under this heading. I have already referred to the outbreak of Dysentery in an institution and I have also indicated that the infectious diseases have shown a very marked decrease during the year.

A large amount of discussion took place in the Health Committees in reference to Refuse Removal and Milk Supplies and these are referred to in the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

#### RAINFALL.

I wish once again to thank the Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Company for their kindness in providing the figures of rainfall in our area. From the reports submitted by them the total rainfall during the year was 29.7, as compared with 31.3 in 1941. The number of days in which more than 0.01" of rain fell was 180 as compared with 189 in 1941 and there were 126 days in which 0.04" or more rain fell as compared with 137 in 1941. It would thus appear that there was less rainfall during the year.



## WATER SUPPLY.

Samples of water are sent, whenever necessary, to the Conway Emergency Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological analyses.

4 samples were taken from the main water concerns. One from the Ruabon Water Company showed a large number of coliform organisms present and this is undesirable for a piped water supply. The Cefn Water Supply fell below the standard required for a treated water. Vron-cysyllte Water Supply was satisfactory. Garth Water Supply is similar to that of the Ruabon Water Company's supply in that there is a large number of coliform organisms present.

In reference to these reports it is satisfactory to note that the Companies have taken in hand the chlorination of water supply as required by the Ministry of Health and in some of the Companies the necessary work was not completed until well into 1943.

In addition to the above samples 6 were taken of various wells and supplies in the area. One unsatisfactory water sample was taken from Bryn, Penylan, in reference to investigations which had been commenced in 1941 in this village. There is no proper water supply other than the village pump and the whole supply is unsatisfactory. The village is in the area of service of the Ruabon Water Company, but any scheme for providing a piped water supply to this area is rendered extremely difficult owing to the fact that some two or three miles of piping would be required and the cost would be practically prohibitive.

A sample of water was taken from that used by a milk concern and showed that there was no evidence of recent faecal pollution.

Two samples were taken in the Glascoed area, one was from a well which was regarded as unsatisfactory and the other from a shallow well which was also unsatisfactory.

Another sample of water was taken from Gwynfryn and at the time of sampling there was very little evidence of recent faecal pollution but slight evidence of contamination with surface water, and this was explained by the fact that there was a manure heap within 25 or 30 feet of the well.

The last sample was taken from a shallow well at Christionydd, near Penycae, in reference to the burying of a cow which was suspected of being infected with Anthrax. Unfortunately, the carcass was buried in a most unfortunate position only a few feet away from this well and on a higher level than it. There was thus a possibility that had this carcass been affected with anthrax a most serious state of affairs would have arisen with reference to this water supply, seeing that this well was the only water supply for the neighbouring farm and cottages. It is satisfactory



to note that the presence of anthrax in the carcass was not confirmed and the analysis of the water showed no presence of anthrax bacillus but there was evidence of recent faecal pollution and it seemed probable that surface water was getting access to it. This brings up the question of the proper disposal of carcasses which have been slaughtered for suspected anthrax. Care should be taken that no such burial should take place within the neighbourhood of a supply of water which has got to be utilized for drinking purposes.

The other Water Companies are kept under observation and it is satisfactory to note that we have had no evidence of any water-borne outbreak of infectious diseases in our area. There are certain areas in our district which are lacking in water supplies and discussions on these are now taking place but one is continually being met by the impossibility of providing such extensions of the water mains owing to the prohibitive cost of the necessary work to be carried out.

### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

During the year the question of immunisation of children under 5 and over 5 in the Rural District received attention. The children under 5 are immunised by the County Officials and those over 5 are immunised by me in Wrexham, or in the various schools by arrangement with the County Council who have allowed their officials to undertake this work for us.

During the year 1184 children under 5 were immunised and 1651 between 5 and 15, making a grand total of 2835 children.

There is no doubt that the response to appeals for immunisation have been satisfactory and a large number of children in the Rural District are now fully immunised against what can be regarded as a most dangerous disease to children other than possibly Measles and its complications.

Coincident with this campaign of immunisation there has been a very marked reduction in the number of cases of Diphtheria amongst children in our area and a certain number of these have been mild in nature.

### VACCINATION FIGURES.

Successfully vaccinated	..	..	..	419
Insusceptible	..	..	..	4
No. had Smallpox	..	..	..	—
Conscientious objectors	..	..	..	740
Died Unvaccinated	..	..	..	94
Postponed by medical certificate	..	..	..	77
Removed	..	..	..	342
Unaccounted for	..	..	..	122



## ISOLATION HOSPITAL, WREXHAM.

Report for the year ending 31st December, 1942.

	Wxm. Rur.	Wxm. Bor.	Llan. Urb.	Ovtn. Rur.	Rthn. Rur.	Edyr. Rur.	C'og. Rur.	Hrth. Rur.	Hwdn. Rur.	Tot.
Remaining in Hospital 31st December, 1941										
Scarlet Fever ..	4	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	8
Diphtheria ..	7	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	17
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Erysipelas ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total ..	12	12	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	28

Admitted from 1st January, 1942, to 31st December, 1942										
Scarlet Fever ..	56	16	2	0	21	1	0	0	0	96
Observation Scarlet Fever ..	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Diphtheria ..	93	59	0	2	18	0	0	11	0	183
Observation Diphtheria	17	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Para Typhoid ..	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	7	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Observation C.S.M.	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
Erysipelas and observ- ation Erysipelas ..	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Puerperal Septicaemia	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Dysentery ..	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Others ..	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
Total ..	209	98	4	3	39	2	1	11	0	367

Discharged from 1st January, 1942, to 31st December, 1942										
Scarlet Fever ..	52	18	3	0	20	1	0	0	0	94
Observation Scarlet Fever ..	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Diphtheria ..	86	59	0	1	18	0	0	5	1	170
Observation Diphtheria	17	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Para Typhoid ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	7	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Observation C.S.M.	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
Erysipelas ..	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Puerperal Septicaemia	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Dysentery ..	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Others ..	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total ..	194	100	5	1	38	2	1	5	1	347

		Wxm. Rur.	Wxm. Bor.	Llan. Urb.	Ovtn. Rur.	Rthn. Rur.	Edyr. Rur.	C'og. Rur.	Hrth. Rur.	Hwdn. Rur.	Tot.
Remaining in Hospital year ending 31st December, 1942.											
Scarlet Fever	..	8 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	2 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	10
Diphtheria	..	9 ..	5 ..	0 ..	1 ..	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	6 ..	0 ..	22
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	..	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	1
Erysipelas	..	1 ..	1 ..	0 ..	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	3
Total	..	19 ..	6 ..	0 ..	2 ..	3 ..	0 ..	0 ..	6 ..	0 ..	36

Number of deaths for year ending 31st December, 1942.											
Diphtheria	..	5 ..	3 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	8
Encephalo Meningitis	..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	1
Post Basic Meningitis	..	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	1
Pneumococcal Menin- gitis and Pneumonia	..	0 ..	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	1
Bronchial Pneumonia	..	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	1
Para Typhoid	..	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	1
Total	..	8 ..	4 ..	0 ..	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	13



**REPORT OF Mr. D. THOMAS,  
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.**

**SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.**

The following Table gives a detailed list of the actual work done by the Sanitary Inspectors in the Rural District during the year.

**DWELLINGS.**

No. of houses re-roofed .. .. .	2
No. of houses repaired : roofs, walls, etc. .. .	119
No. of houses furnished with eaves gutters and downspouts ..	128
No. of houses cleansed (on notice) .. .. .	12
No. of houses in which defective floors were renewed .. .	10
No. of houses in which old pavements were repaired .. .	35
No. of food stores provided .. .. .	5
No. of new kitchen grates and washing boilers provided ..	10

**DRAINAGE.**

No. of cesspools emptied on notice .. .. .	9
No. of kitchen sinks provided .. .. .	25
No. of new drains laid to old premises .. .. .	42
No. of drains repaired .. .. .	388
No. of house drains disconnected from road drains .. .	10
No. of new slop gullies constructed .. .. .	20
No. of septic tanks and filter beds .. .. .	5

**SANITARY CONVENIENCES.**

No. of waste pipes renewed .. .. .	56
No. of new water closets provided .. .. .	64
No. of old water closets repaired .. .. .	212
No. of old water closets furnished with flushing cisterns ..	133
No. of privies converted into water closets .. .. .	23



No. of privies repaired .. .. .	12
No. of portable ashbins provided .. .. .	616
No. of new urinals .. .. .	2
No. of urinals repaired .. .. .	4

### WATER SUPPLY.

No. of old premises supplied .. .. .	61
No. of service pipes repaired .. .. .	63
No. of old wells repaired and protected .. .. .	2
No. of old wells closed .. .. .	1
No. of premises supplied with taps in Back Kitchen .. .. .	52

### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS and MILKSHOPS.

No. of persons on register on December 31st, 1941 .. .. .	681
No. of persons registered during the year .. .. .	46
No. of persons discontinued .. .. .	21
No. of cowsheds repaired and improved .. .. .	81
No. of visits and inspections .. .. .	1112

### SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

No. of slaughter houses on register .. .. .	1
No. of visits and inspections .. .. .	681

### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

No. of Workshops registered during 1942 .. .. .	7
No. of workshops on register .. .. .	61
No. of workshops repaired .. .. .	14
No. of workshops cleansed (on notice) .. .. .	14
No. of new sanitary conveniences erected .. .. .	6
No. of visits and inspections .. .. .	144

### SCHOOL HYGIENE.

No. of Schools where drainage was improved .. .. .	1
----------------------------------------------------	---



**QUARRY FENCING ACT, 1887.**

No. of dangerous quarries fenced	..	..	..	..	4
----------------------------------	----	----	----	----	---

**REFUSE REMOVAL.**

No. of offensive accumulations removed upon notice	..	..	95
No. of nuisances arising from keeping animals, abated	..	18	

**CLERICAL WORK.**

No. of intimatory notices issued	..	..	..	1383
No. of intimatory notices complied with	..	..	1330	
No. of statutory notices issued	..	..	92	
No. of statutory notices complied with	..	..	92	
Total number of visits and inspections	..	..	9681	
No. of houses disinfected	..	..	162	

**NUISANCES.**

1383 Nuisances were dealt with during the year. It was found necessary to serve Intimatory Notices in respect of nuisances under the Public Health Acts and of these 1330 were complied with. In the case of 92 nuisances it was found necessary to serve Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936, on the owners for the abatement of nuisances and the provision of Sanitary Conveniences. All these were complied with and it was not found necessary to take legal action against the owners or to carry out the work in default.

**HOUSING ACTS, 1936.**

176 houses were inspected and found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation. Notices were served upon the owners and 142 were complied with. In some cases, owing to the difficulty in securing the necessary labour and material many Notices had to be modified and only very urgent repairs called for.

It must again be pointed out that the condition of the older class of property is very rapidly deteriorating and this will no doubt seriously affect the post-war housing conditions as many of these houses are in a dilapidated condition and were scheduled for demolition in 1939.



## **HOUSES OCCUPIED BY PERSONS RENDERED HOMELESS BY ENEMY ACTION.**

During the year 4 applications were received from the owners of houses in respect of which Orders under the Housing Act, 1936, were operative, to relet the houses. In each case a licence was granted for a period of six months. The licences in respect of the 23 houses previously occupied were renewed.

## **DEMOLITION ORDERS.**

Representations were made regarding the conditions of two cottages at Pontcysyllte, which were in such a state as to be unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost. Demolition Orders under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, were served upon the owner and the cottages subsequently demolished.

## **DANGEROUS BUILDINGS.**

Five Dangerous Buildings were dealt with during the year. In four instances it was found that the buildings were a nuisance and they were subsequently demolished by the owners. In the other case the owner carried out the necessary works to make the property safe.

## **DRAINAGE.**

149 Notices were served upon the owners of property to repair or renew the drainage system of the properties and in 141 cases the Notices were fully complied with.

## **SANITARY CONVENIENCES.**

389 Notices to provide or improve Sanitary Conveniences were served upon the owners of property and these have been complied with.

## **REFUSE REMOVAL.**

Since last year the Parish of Broughton have, due to inability to secure contracts, been compelled to carry out the work of Refuse Removal and Disposal by Direct Labour. The contract expired at the end of 1941 and tenders were invited for the work for 1942 and these showed a big increase in price of the previous year which was already over 100 per cent. increase on the 1939 figure.



The Parochial Committee considered the matter and recommended that the work should be carried out by direct labour. This proved, at the time, a very difficult problem owing to the inability of securing a suitable vehicle for the work and also a sufficient number of men. A second-hand open lorry was purchased which can not be considered a suitable type for this work with the added difficulty that the only available men being over 65 years of age. The work was found to be heavy and difficult but in spite of these factors, it has to be admitted that the men have carried out their work satisfactorily and one must appreciate the efforts they have made to deal with the work in one of the most difficult parishes in the area.

Similar arrangements were made for the combined parishes of Allington, Burton, Gresford and Holt and the work proceeded very satisfactorily.

It is interesting to note that in the whole of the Wrexham Rural District, the only parishes where the contract system still operates are Bersham, Penycae and Marchwiell.

## **DISPOSAL.**

The refuse collected in the parishes have been disposed of on open tips. It has to be reported that during the year, no tip fires have had to be dealt with. This is due to a great measure to the fact that salvage operations have been extensively carried out in the various parishes and has thus prevented a large quantity of combustible matter, which undoubtedly was the cause of many fires in the past, being deposited in the tips.

In addition, it has been found that the tips could be kept in a much better state with far less trouble and expense.

Several complaints however, were received regarding the infestation of the refuse tips by rats and a Notice was served upon the Council by the Denbighshire War Agricultural Executive Committee instructing the Council to abate the nuisance. Several interviews were arranged with the Pests Officer of the Committee and representation was presented to the Health Committee suggesting that the responsibility of carrying out the disinfection of the tips be transferred to the Committee and arrangements made whereby the Committee undertake the treatment of all tips and sewage works in the Council's area.

## **FOOD.**

As in previous years, one Central Slaughtering Depot was situated in the area at Ruabon, and animals were slaughtered at these premises for consumption in a large part of the Wrexham Rural Area. For reasons of economy, the Ministry of Food decided to close the premises in June



and from that date the slaughtering was transferred to the Public Abattoir at Wrexham. Representations were made by the Meat Traders of the area objecting to the transference of the Centre but without avail.

For the half-year ending June, 1942, the following animals were slaughtered :

### SECTION E.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1942.

##### Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows			Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs		Pigs	Bulls
Number killed (if known)	..	313	..	84	.. 270	..	5193	.. 52	.. 14
Number inspected	..	.. 313	..	84	.. 270	..	5193	.. 52	.. 14

##### All Diseases except Tuberculosis.

Whole Carcases condemned	..	—	..	3	.. 2	..	20	.. 1	.. —
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	..	11	..	14	.. —	..	301	.. 1	.. —
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	..	3.52	..	20.2	.. .74	..	6.18	.. 3.8	.. —

##### Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses condemned	..	2	..	5	.. —	..	—	.. —	.. —
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	..	5	..	22	.. —	..	—	.. 3	.. —
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	..	..	..	2.23	.. 32.14	..	—	.. 5.77	.. —

## OTHER FOODS.

A large quantity of other foods was examined and found to be unfit for human consumption. In most cases the food was canned meat, fish and milk, and to a very great extent due to the tins being blown. All the food was voluntarily surrendered and where possible, efforts made to salvage, for animal feeding stuffs, any suitable material. In certain instances, the Ministry of Food were notified and arrangements made by them for dealing with the material.

The following table gives the amount of foodstuffs condemned during the year.

Fruit .. .. .	11 tins.
Dried Fruit .. .. .	8 tins.
Jam .. .. .	28 jars.
Eggs .. .. .	8½ dozen.
Butter .. .. .	7¼ lbs.
Bacon and Ham .. .. .	12¼ lbs.
Cheese .. .. .	21¼ lbs.
Peas .. .. .	28 tins.
Beans .. .. .	36 tins.
Carrots .. .. .	1 tin.
Soups .. .. .	7 tins.
Tomatoes .. .. .	121 tins.
Milk .. .. .	385 tins.
Fish .. .. .	44 tins.
Stewed Steak .. .. .	18 tins.
Casserole .. .. .	5 tins.
Prem .. .. .	1 tin.
Mixed Paste .. .. .	12 lbs.
Luncheon Meat .. .. .	109 lbs.
Beef .. .. .	5 lbs.
Tongue .. .. .	13 lbs.
Pork Sausage .. .. .	31 lbs.
Chopped Ham .. .. .	201 lbs.
Pork Luncheon .. .. .	233 lbs.



## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 5 Offensive Trades in the area.

2 Knackers Yards.

2 Marine Store Dealers.

1 Tripe Dresser.

The premises are periodically inspected and in some cases it has been found necessary to call upon the owners to carry out repairs.

## INFESTATION BY BUGS.

24 complaints were received during the year of houses infested by bugs. Of these 10 were in Council Houses.

In all cases the premises and contents were treated with Zaldecide and Solution B.

## MILK AND DAIRIES ACT, 1932.

The number of registered milk producers in the area is 705. During the year 42 persons were registered and 18 producers discontinued.

81 Cowsheds were repaired and brought up to standard. No new cowsheds were built.

There is one Milk Pasteurizing Plant in the area. The owners have carried out extensive alteration to the plant in order to improve the efficiency of the plant.

The following samples were taken during the year :

ACCREDITED	253	Satisfactory	241	Unsatisfactory	12
TUBERCULIN TESTED	94	Negative	85	Positive	9
PASTEURIZED	48	Satisfactory	41	Unsatisfactory	7

# FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following list of samples taken for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, has been supplied by the Food and Drug Inspector of the County Council.

Article	No. taken	Genuine	Not genuine or sub-standard
Milk .. ..	101	79	22
Egg Substitute Powder ..	2	—	2
Jam .. ..	4	4	—
Baking Powder .. ..	1	1	—
Ammoniated Tinct. Quin.	1	1	—
Dried Milk .. ..	2	2	—
Pepper .. ..	1	1	—
Beer .. ..	1	1	—
Margarine .. ..	1	1	—
Sugar .. ..	1	1	—
Lard .. ..	1	1	—
Butter .. ..	1	1	—
Tinned Vegetables .. ..	1	1	—
Flour .. ..	2	2	—
Rice .. ..	1	1	—
Sausages .. ..	3	3	—
Tinned Tomatoes .. ..	1	1	—
Tea .. ..	1	1	—
Mustard .. ..	1	1	—
Condensed Milk .. ..	2	2	—
Bread .. ..	1	1	—
Spirit of Nitre .. ..	1	1	—
Cheese .. ..	1	1	—
Coffee .. ..	1	1	—
Suet .. ..	1	1	—
Camphorated Oil .. ..	1	1	—
Cocktayle .. ..	1	1	—
Total .. ..	136	112	24

One milk vendor was prosecuted, and convicted in respect of a sample of milk which was seriously deficient in fat. In two cases a "follow-up," or "appeal-to-cow" sample eliminated the vendors, and the remaining instances the amount of the deficiency was too slight to warrant further action.

Two samples of Egg Substitute, obtained from the same source, were deficient in Carbon Dioxide, and the manufacturers were cautioned.

All other samples were genuine, and free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter.



**FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1937.**

8 Factories were registered during the year making a total of 238 premises, including Bakehouses registered. The Sanitary Conveniences have been improved in 6 cases and 14 premises have been cleansed on Notice.

**RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.**

A number of complaints of the infestation of premises by rats and mice were received. In 20 instances advise was given to the occupier on the methods to be adopted and in 12 cases baits were provided and laid. All refuse disposal tips and sewage works have been treated by various methods by the Rat Officer of the Denbighshire War Agricultural Executive Committee, with satisfactory results. Where it has been considered necessary the Rat Officer has visited private premises and given advise and assistance on the eradication of vermin.

**QUARRY FENCING ACT, 1887.**

Four dangerous pit shafts have been fenced.





