### Contributors

Oswestry (England). Borough Council.

### **Publication/Creation**

1942

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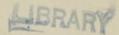
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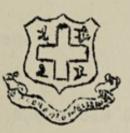
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BOROUGH OF OSWESTRY

ANNUAL REPORT

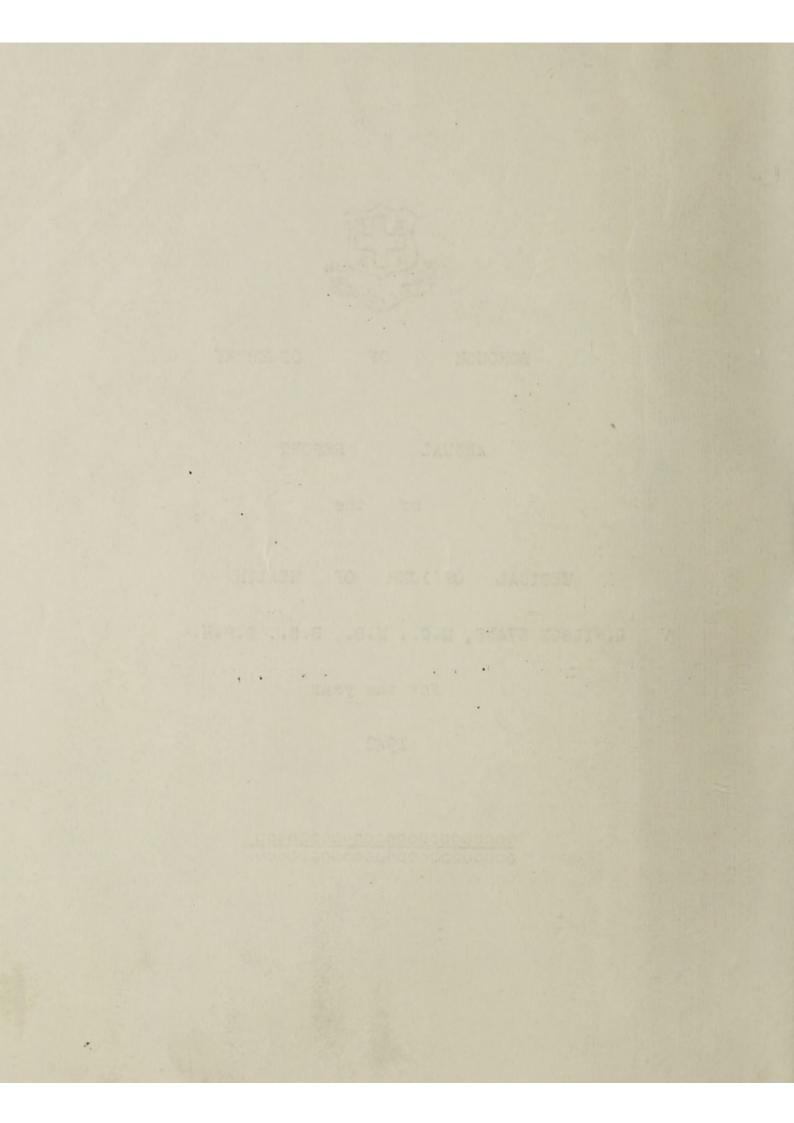
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

L.WILSON EVANS, M.C., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

for the year

1942



#### BOROUGH OF OSWESTRY.

Mayor: Councillor W.G.Jones. Chairman: Councillor D.Stone. The Health Committee consists of the whole Council.

> Health Department, 6,Salop Road, OSWESTRY.

July 1943.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Oswestry.

I have the honour to present my fifteenth Annual Report. The Minister of Health has requested that the report should be prepared on the same lines as those for the previous three years, that it should again be an interim report and confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year, also figures of population or figures from which local population can be reconstructed must not be published, so the report will of necessity be deprived of much of its interest and information. Arrangements are to be made for the preservation of all records which cannot be included on this report.

> Your obedient servant, L.WILSON EVANS.

### .VATESLEO TO HOUCHOE

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.JARVIE SALLENE SETVARE.

# PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

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Name.	Qualifications.	Office Held.	Whole or Part time.				
L. Wilson Evans.	M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	Part.				
H.T.Isaac	M.S.I.A., C.M.I.	Sanitary Inspector.	Thole.				
J.M.Roberts		Clerk.	Whole.				
EXTRACTS F	FROM VITAL STATISTICS FO	R THE YEAR 1942.	Energia .				
Birth Rate per 100 Birth Rate per 100 England and Wales	00 population 00 population Oswestry R	ural District	17.0 16.1 15.8				
Still Births Rate per 1000 popu Oswestry Rural Dis England and Wales			·71 ·17 ·54				
Deaths of infants per 1000 live birt Oswestry Rural Dis England and Wales			48 60 49				
Death Rate Death Rate Oswestr Death Rate England			12.7 12.8 11.6				
Number of women dy	ving in, or in consequen	ce of, childbirth					
From Sepsis Other causes	Nil.						
Maternal Mortality Live births	rate for England and W	ales per 1000	2.01				
Deaths from Measle	es (all ages)		Nil				
Deaths from Whoopi	ing Cough (all ages)		Nil				
Deaths from Diarrh	noea (under 2 years of a	.ge)	Nil				
Deaths from Diarrh	noea (over 2 years of ag	;e)	Nil				

# PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

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# CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Male.	Female.
Cancer	7	13
Diabetes	2	2
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	5	10
Heart Disease	18	20
Other diseases of the circulatory system	4	2
Bronchitis	2	4
Pneumonia,	3	2
Nephritis	2	5
Viclence	2	2

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

gas in	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	45	5-10	1.0- 15	-15-20	-20- 35	-35- 45	45-	Over 65	Ť	ote	1]
Scarlet Fever	-	1	0.44	-	3	9	1	2	1	-	-	-		17	7
Diphthoria Pneumonia	ī	7		-	-	SE	1111	-	5	2	-3	-		172	
Paratyphoid	1 7 1	-	-				-	1	2	-	'	1		T	
Fever	1-19		F-45	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-			4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3		~		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	3
Malaria	-	c		-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-			3
Puerperal Pyrexia	1.17			-	-			-	7	-	-	-			22
Messles		, cm	1.	1	-1	7	1	2	1	-	-	-		13	3
Whooping Cough		***	3	1	1	10	-		-	-	-	-		19	5
Cerobrospinal Fever		-		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		3	L
Infectious Disea	se was Jan.F	dis	fr1	Ap	ed 1.M	av	ugi	nout	ilv.	Aug	ear	as : nt.0	toll ct.N	OW:	Dec
Scarlet Fever	2	1		1		5	2	-		-	1	2	2	1	1
Digitheria Pneumonia	-	1	1.45 /1	-		1	-	ב	-	-	-		1	3	2
Paratyphoid		-		-			4.	-	•	-			-	,	4
Fevar	-	-	-	-		-	-	2	2	2	-	Sec.	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	6a 1	lund	1	-	_	~			-	-		_	-	2
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Whooping Cough	-	~	-	-		-	-	-	•	1	15	:	ī	13	5
Cerebrospinal Fever	-	-		-		-	-	1	-	-	-			-	-

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Beatericphase typin	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths.	Case rate England and Wales.
Scarlet Fever Diphtheria	15	-	2.19 1.05 1.07 .01
Pneumonia	6	5	1.05
Paratyphoid Fever	4	-	.01
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	
Malaria	and and and	-	the second second second
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	12.61 per 1000 Total Births.
Measles	2	The Party of the P	
Whooping Cough	-	-	7.46
Cerebrospinal Fever		1	an a language stan

#### INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA 1933 -1.942

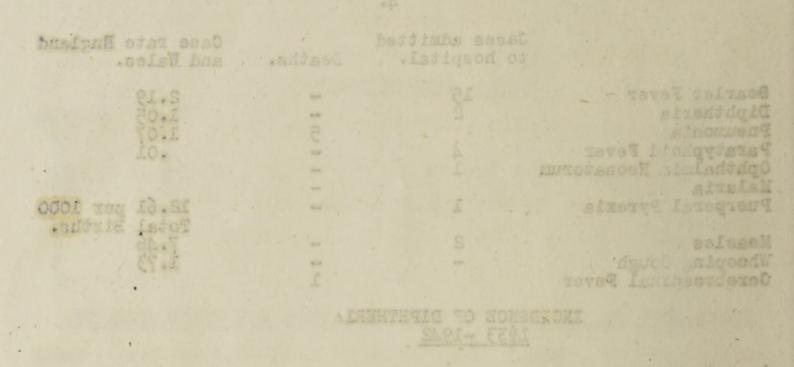
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1934	1		E	-	7	10		-	-	3		2	_			_	7	7	27
-/24			2	-	(	10	32	-	-	2	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	2	21
1935		- 3	5	T	4	5.	51	-	4	-	~	5		-	-	-	-	4	32
1936	- 1	12	2	2	7	7	64	5	3	8	7	1	1	2		-	-	2	54
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1944	-				-			-1	-	-			-	_	-	-	-	-	-
1942				-	-			1	-			-	-	-			-	-	1

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The slight outbreak of Paratyphoid Fever started with the notification of two cases on the same day but curiously enough there appeared to be no connection between the two. One resided in the Borough and the other had been admitted from the Rural District to the Hospital before the condition had been diagnosed, and typing revealed a different strain in each case. A further three cases occurred in the Hospital, a patient and two of the staff. All of these showed the same strain of organism as that in the first case. Bacteriological investigations were carried out by Dr. Rhodes, The Pathological Laboratory, Shrewsbury



1.2.3.4.5. 5.7.8.9.30.11.12.13.14.15.16.17.18.19.20

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The slight outpreak of Faratyphold Fovel started with the motification of two cause on the same day but ouriouly enough there appeared to be no connection between the two. One resided in the Borough and the other had been admitted from the Eural District to the Hospital Dufore the condition had been disgnosed, and typing revealed a different atrain in each case. A further three cases occurred in the Hospital, a ratiant and two of the staff. All of these showed the same strain of organism as that in the first organ. Esoteriological investigations were can of out by Er. Ehodes, The Pathological investigations and Dr. Felix of the Medical Research Council carried out his Bacteriophase typing.

5.

The few cases of Measles notified indicated the beginning of a considerable outbreak which extended into 1943. The previous outbreak had been in 1940-1941. The usual periodicity of Measles for Oswestry is bi-annual but up to 1933 as far as records are available/there appears to have been an outbreak at intervals of 3 years but since 1933 the disease has appeared every two years although only a year elapsed between considerable outbreaks in 1939 and 1940, which may have been a result of evacuation bringing in a sufficient number of non-immune children to create conditions favourable for an epidemic.

The low figures for Diphtheria of the previous 2 years have been maintained.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Accelerated progress was made in the number of children receiving immunising injections against Diphtheria. In the first six months of the year more than twice the number of children under 5 years of age were done than in the whole period since free immunisation was offered in 1938. At the end of May the County Council decided to take over the immunisation of children under 5 years of age and school entrants. As the County Council is the child welfare authority there are obvious advantages in them doing the work for its doctors and nurses are in constant touch with the parents of these children, and before starting their scheme in 1938 the Council and Dr. Folix of the Medical Research Council carried out his Bacteriophase typing.

Whe fer eases of Measles notified indicated the beginning of a considerable outbreak which extended into 1943. The previous outbreak had been in 1940-1941. The usual periodicity of Measles for Constant is bi-channel but up to 1933 as far as records are evaluable three strong 1935 the disease has appeared every two years although only a year blapsed between considerable outbreaks in 1939 and 1940, which may have been a result of every two years although only which may have been a result of every two press in 1939 and 1940, which may have been a result of every two pringing for a sufficient to opidamic.

The low figures for Diphtheria of the provious 2 years have been sainteined.

#### MOITABINUMME AISTRINIE

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The material used was Alum Precipitated Toxoid, two doses, one of .200 and another of .500 were given at an interval of four weeks. The material was supplied free by the Ministry of Health. The number of children who had completed treatment during the year was as follows.

Under 5 years of age.

Number of children immunised	326 146 54%
Number in this total done by County Council	146
Total percentage immunised at December 31st, 1942	54%
5-15 years.	1
Number of children immunised	273
Number in this total done by County Council	273 19 91%
Total percentage immunised at December 31st, 1942	91%

had requested the Council to take it over then but they declined. At that the manusation had not received the publicity of the Freas and way loss, not the strong backing of the Ministry of lealth. However it was felt that it would be unastinfactory for two Athorities to be respe alle for immuni tion, the County County oing under 5 years of age and the young children in school and the Itban Committee the difference of the school of the Soundy Council an adred to take over the intuitestion of all ohildren rather than nly one section but they would not monify their scheme. However ne difficurities entities at a dual responsibility evidently arose Ils to nottestnummt off upon doot floaned vision off wedmoved at bas hildren. The didirior authority had blend the trail and prepared noitgeinumit to sonstro mit of bringing "he im ortance of imumisgiion before the parente and new ng them famil or with the ddee of immunisat the material was not precipitated fordid, two dones, one of .200 ad another of . Soo were given at an int- val. of four weeks. the material wir supply intree by the Mi lably of Health,

the number of cuildren the hid completes meatment during the year

Tumber of children installed Lumber in this total date by County Council Fotal percentage insurated at December 3.st,1942 Tumber of children issuanted Tumber in this total date by County County Council Fotal percentage immunited at December 3 st,1942

#### DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN ORDER.

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin is available for cases residing in Dewestry in accordance with the provisions of the above Order. This is available from the Health Offices, 6, Salop Road or after office hours from Mr. H. T. Isaac, Grenston, Croeswylan Lane, Oswestry. 20, 000 units were used during the year.

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#### VENEREAL DISEASE.

It has been officially stated that there has been an increase of 75% in venereal disease throughout the Country during the war. These figures are based on attendance at Olinios and Service cases. It is satisfactory to record that by these criteria there is no evidence of increase over the 3 years of war in Oswestry, but it must be recognised that many young people are leaving Oswestry and going where temptation and risks are greater.

#### Facilities for Treatment.

These are now available at the Dispensary, Lower Brook Street and are administered by the Salop County Council.

The Medical Officer attends on Thursdays, the hours being - Men lp.m.

#### SCABIES.

Scabies which showed signs of being rather troublesome last year, although it never reached the dimensions in this Borough that it did in some places, has during 1942 yielded to measures taken to prevent its spread, these have been early visits to houses where cases have been reported and the supervision and treatment of contacts. There was a total of 34 known cases distributed among 13 families. 15 of them were evacuated children. In some cases they appear to

#### DIPHTALATA ANTI-TOXIN OPD

aupply of Diphthoris Anth-Sorin is available for esses residing in sweetsy in accordance with the provision of the above Order. The is available from the Kohlth Offices 6, Salop Road or after office there from Mr. H. T. Istat, Grenston, Greenwylan Lane, Oswestry. 50, 000 units were used juring the year.

#### MARA LA LAND

> has seen orficially stated that there has been an increase of 75% is veneted diseas throughout the Country during the ver. These gures are brack of attendance at Olinics and Service ended. a is satisfactory to record that by these criteria there is no evidence increase orar the 7 years of ver in Osyestry, but it must be seeguined that many young people are longing Coversity and going where camptation and tiers are reacted.

### Trantant' tot . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Loss are now available in the Dispensary four Brook Street and are Liminintered by the Sales County Council. The Holidel Officer attains on Thursdays, the hours baing - Men lp. 2.

### . CULTEROTS

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The Council took advantage of the County Council offer to have installed a bath in the Cleansing Station at the First Aid Post. This will be available, when completed, for the treatment of cases where it is not possible at home. It was not necessary to take any action under the Scabies Order 1941 to enforce medical examination and treatment.

#### TUBERCULOSIS 1942.

Number of cases notified.

	M.	F.	Totals
Respiratory	7	i	8
Non-respiratory	3	1	8
	10	2	12
Deaths	M.	F.	Totals.
Respiratory	6	-	6
Non-respiratory	1	-	l
	7	-	7

Two respiratory female cases were transferred into Oswestry from outside districts and one non-respiratory male case.

### Tuberculosis.

There has been an increase in cases of Tuberculosis in the Country generally but fortunately this has not been the case in Oswestry. The number of new cases notified during 1942 was the lowest for bave been infected when visiting their house. One case was removed to the stor bay.

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The Domioli teek advantage of the Soundy Domioil offer to have installed a bath in the Cleansing Station at the First Aid Fout. This will be available, when completed, for the treatacht of Gases woode it is not possible at home. It was not accessory to take any action under the Boables Order 1941 to enforce modical excelution

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"ko'raapiratory famale cases were transferred into Oswestry from baraide districts and one non-respiratory male asse. Tuberculosis.

There has been an increase in encas of Tuberedicets in the Country generally but fortunately this has not been the date in Concercy. The number of new cases notified during 1942 was the lowest for 10 years. The number of deaths were also lower than the average. The number of new cases notified during the three years period of the war 1940-1942 was the lowest since the period 1931-1933. No cases of men and women discovered after going into the forces were reported during the year.

The Covernment proposals for the provision of maintenance allowances Fullaburry for/Tuberoulous patients and their families and the use of mask radiography should do much to reduce the incidence of the disease by making provision for the proper nutrition of the patient and his dependents and through the discovery of cases in the early stages.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Analysis of a sample of water taken from the Borough supply June 1942 CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000

Appearance; Faintly opalessent - no visible deposit of mineral and organic debris. Turbidity: Less than 5 parts per million, Silica scale.

Colour Yellow-brown: 25 Reaction PH on the acid		Odour Nil.
of neutrality: 5.7.	BIUG	Free carbonic acid . 0.3
Electric Conductivity at 20°0	62	Total solids, dried at 180°0 4.5
CElorine in chlorides	0.60	Alkalinity as Galcium Carbonate 1.1
Hardness ? Total	2.0	Temporary 0.0 Permanent 2.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.00	Nitrogen in Nitrites Trace.
Free Ammonia	.0096	Ammoniacal Nitrogen -
Albuminoid Ammonia	.0054	Albuminoid.Nitrogen -
Oxygen absorded in 4 hou at 27 J Metals Iron : 'Free Chlorine reaction'	urs 0.185 .007 Absent.	Other metals absent.

10 years The number of deaths were also lower that the average. The matter of new cases notified during the three years period of the war 1940-1922 was the lowest since the period 1931-1933. The cases of wer and wemen discovered after foing into the forces were reported juring the year.

The fourment propagis for the provision of maintenance allowances for functionally postients and their families and the use of mark radiography should do much to reduce the incidence of the disease by making provision for the proper nutrition of the patient and his dependents and through the discovery of cases in the early stages.

#### MATER STOPLY

Analysis of a sample of water taken from the Borough supply june 19. CUMMENT RESULTS IN FARTS FER 100.000

Appearance; Fainvir opalesent - no visible deposit of mineral and organic debris. Turbialty: Less than 5 parts per million, Silica scale.

TUODO Colour Yellow-brows: 25 Reaction PH on whe said aide Free estbolic acts . 0.3 of inside and is of the Total sollds, dried at 53 0905 da Alkasinity as Coldium Tomporniy 0.0 Poinament 2.0 00.00 naterial in Missioneth 2600. Al'sunt wold . Bitto gon Altorna blockmera Dresson a bi hoffronds provered 282.0

.8.

### BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

Number of "Bacteria" growing ) 1 on Agar per cc. or ml. in )	day at 3700	2 days at 37°C. 5	at 2000 16
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present -	absent 100 c.c.	
Bact. coli	Present -	absent 100 c.c.	
Cl.welchii Reaction	Present -	absent 100 c.c.	•

This sample has faint colour but is reasonably clear and bright, having only faint opalescence. The water is soft in character, contains very little saline or mineral matter in solution and no metals with the exception of a negligible trace of iron. In view of the softness and slightly acid character of the water, contact with lead should be avoided. The water contains a little organic matter which is responsible for the colour but it is of very satisfactory bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water, suitable from drinking and domestic purposes.

#### HOUSING.

The Housing Inspector in his report looks hopefully to the appointment of a House Manager. In my Annual Report for 1931 I pointed out the advantages of such an appointment and it is quite probable that the housing regulations after the war will make such appointments obligatory on Local Authorities. The great advantage to the property and to the tenants of a trained manager of the right type is surely indisputable and cases of neglected and dirty houses which often only come before the notice of the Health Department when the conditions are far advanced could be prevented by the supervision and guidance of a sympathetic, friendly manager whose, help would be the means of making hetter and mre careful tenants. In this respect it must be recognised that there do exist problem families, usually of low montality, for whom no friendly help or education is of avail, but these are exceptional and should not be put into good houses. Discrimination is called for in the selection of tenants for new

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### SACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

Number of "Baoteria" growing ) 1 day at 3700 2 days at 3700. at 20 on Agar per co. or ml. in Presumptive Colliona Reaction Prosent - absent 100 c.c. Baot. coll Ol.welouli Reaction Present - absent 100 c.c.

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### REPORT OF HOUSING INSPECTOR.

There is every reason to believe that the newly appointed House Management Sub-committee referred to in the last Annual Report has justified its formation. It has stimulated the interest of its members and brought them into closer touch with the tenants and the financial side of the whole question. While this of course has been a step forward in the right direction the height of achievement would be the appointment of a Housing Manager to work in conjunction with the Sub-committee.

In response to a Circular from the Ministry of Health dealing with Post War Reconstruction, the Housing Committee recommended, as the Government had not given positive guidance to Local Authorities on

houses and such families as those mentioned should be housed in olean, reconditioned property when possible. Edit was built of the families who are dirty and slovenly in their habits, developed very often as a result of bad surromant in the past, are capable of improvement when given better conditions, and encouraged by when and educative supervision; but if the humbers of such families are to be reduced the unpact of the housing problem must be inced with determination and courbue. There are to many nown; calibre to bein; brought up under conditions with do not make for the developations of bealth and wholescents habits of living. If slums are to be abolished it is necessary to prevent the growth of the slum state and dediates could the purchase of second hand bedeing and furniture to and dealers should ensure that it is not intested before put the stand dealers about a courbase of second hand bedeing and furniture is in their stores.

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In response to a Circular from the Ministry of Health dealing with Pest day Reconstruction, the Housing Committee recommended, as the

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its Post Mar Policy, that the number of houses comprising a first years programme be notified to the Ministry as a 100. There is little doubt that Oswestry is badly in need of houses and that this 100 may be taken only as a start and seems small in view of the very old houses, actually whole streets, which are existing and will be wiped out when the time becomes opportune. The fact that there is a tendancy on the part of shrewd owners to dispose of such property would suggest that they have already seen the warning light. There must be only one class of house for the fighters and workers of this war and that is the model house which will reasonably give all the essentials and amenities necessary for health and comfort. OVERCROWDING.

Under the present conditions there has had to be a certain amount of tolerance with regard to overcrowding in view of the shortage of accommodation and the greater demand in the Town. The abnormal movement of population makes computation difficult.

There has however been a substantial decrease as compared with the last three or four years, but firm action was necessary in a few cases where the overcrowding was glaring and where there was no reasonable excuse. The evils of overcrowding are demonstrated by the following case. A low standard house with two bedrooms was occupied by a family of three. A family of seven the mother being expectant installed themselves in this house. They arrived from a village in an adjacent County where the husband was still employed. Scarlet Fever broke out in the house and there were five cases all of which were removed to the Isolation Hospital and maintained at the ratepayers expense. When the case was finally dealt with

the Post far Policy, that the number of houses comprising a first years programme be notified to the linitethy as a 100. There is little doubt that Dewestry is badly is need of houses and that this 200 may be sent buy as a start and seems small in view of the very old heuses, sotually whole streets, which are existing and will be winged out then the time becomes opportume. The fact that there is notif success that they have already seem the warning light. There must be only one class of house for the fighters and works of this way and that is the model house for the fighters and works all the essentials and amenities necessary for health and confort.

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### REHOUSING OF HOMELESS FAMILIES.

Twenty two condemned houses reconditioned as a wartime measure to provide accommodation for families rendered homeless by enemy action are still in use. They are all privately owned and let at an average rent of 6/6 weekly inclusive of rates.

### REPAIRS.

Only very essential and urgent repairs have been enforced during the year. The question of labour and materials has greatly handicapped the contractors. It is gratifying to note however that essential work has been carried out.

#### VERMINOUS HOUSES.

Some glaring cases of bug, flea and lice infestations have been dealt with during the year. Strangers to the Town (temporarily employed) were chiefly responsible for the lice and when they moved off little trouble was experienced after disinfestation had been carried out. In the case of fleas the infestations were found where dogs and cats were housed indoors together with unwholesome conditions of the houses. There is however no excuse for bug infestations, especially in comparatively new Council Houses or otherwise decent and in some cases reconditioned houses where there has hot been previous bug existence. Almost in every case where the infestation has been heavy the reason given has been the purchase of second hand bedding or upholstery.

Inspection is made of all Council Houses becoming vacant for the detection of verminous infestation and a special eye is kept on prospective tenants especially if removing from certain known

thole wore sight persons compying one bedroom.

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Inspection is made of all Council squasa becoming vacant for the detection of verminous infestation and a special eye is kept on property in the Town before they take possession. Bug infestation is the most difficult and humilating of all infestations which come under the control of the Health Department. This can be much minimized if on the first ecidence of any infestation the matter is immediately reported and secondly the public are warned especially in these times to be cautious in the purchase of second hand upholstered furniture and bedding.

#### FOODS.

It would appear from the Food Inspector's Report that there is unnecessary loss of valuable food supplies during transit, and inquiry by the officials of the Ministry of Food to see if it would be possible by more careful handling to prevent such serious losses seem to be indicated. The role of the Food Inspector is generally considered to be that of the prevention of the consumption of diseased and unwholesome food, but essential as this part of his duties is, another aspect of his job assumes particular importance today and that is the saving of food which is sometimes too readily assumed to be unfit. The sarrying out of this duty requires sound judgment, extensive knowledge and confidence in his capabilities, it also requires more care and time than the easier way of condemnation, but it is of great importance and a very valuable contribution to the war effort that no food should be condemned that can be safely used for human consumption.

There has been a good deal of interest in the milk question during the year chiefly owing to the measures taken by the government to preserve milk from becoming unsaleable through souring

property in the Tayn before they take possession. Bug infestation is the meet difficults and humilating of all infestations which come under the control of the Realth Department. This can be much minimized if on the first scidence of any infestation the matter is immediately reported and secondly the public are warned especially in these times to be exuiting in the purchase of second hand upholetered furniture and bedding.

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and the suggestion of the Ministry of Food to make pasteurisation compulsory.

The purpose of these measures is to save milk rather than to make it safe.

It is significant of the failure of the measures to safe-guard the public health that it is when a Ministry take over the distribution of milk and is faced with serious loss of supplies through souring that drastic measures are taken to obtain a clean milk supply. Circular 2669 issued during the year is concerned with milk as a perishable food and proposed by a system of examinations of milk and using certain tests to safeguard the keeping quality of bulked milk. The milk was to be divided into three categories. Market Milk, satisfactory liquid milk, salvage milk, unsuitable for liquid milk market, and rejected milk to be returned to the farmer. The scheme involved prices differentiation on a quality basis. It is uncertain how far this scheme has come into operation. Failure of administration may have been the cause of the further step of pasteurisation being brought forward. Pasteurisation has the advantage over the first proposals in so far that it not only saves milk but makes it safe. The difference between clean milk and safe milk is still not appreciated. Although unclean milk is not necessarily injurious to health nor even is sour milk, indeed the eating of milk soured by the lactic acid bacillus has been claimed as a means of longevity, it is necessary to maintain a high standard of cleanliness in the production of milk, for unclean slipshod methods increase the risk of disease germs contaminating the milk.

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On the other hand a milk produced under perfectly clean conditions may spread disease and a cow with tuberculosis or other udder disease may cause the disease in those drinking the milk, or contamination by the milkers and dairymen may spread such diseases as Typhoid Fever or Scarlet Fever. Elimination of Tuberculosis from cattle would take many years and it is impossible to control the personnel of the farms before the harm is done, so the protection of the consumer by destroying disease germs by pasteurisation would be the most satisfactory method.

Pasteurisation should not be allowed to hinder the effort to obtain clean milk, and many of the organisms in dirty milk are not destroyed by pasteurisation so it is not the means of disguising dirty milk.

#### REPORT OF THE FOOD INSPECTOR.

Food Inspection takes up the major part of the Sanitary Inspector's duties. Much time is taken in the inspection of goods damaged in transit. The waste through rough handling must be tremendous throughout the Country judging by the local consignments affected. It may be argued that wartime conditions on the railway are chiefly responsible, however the various consignments of foodstuffs reported as unfit have been carefully investigated and examined and as much as 50% of the total and in other cases even a higher percentage has been certified as wholesome and fit for human consumption. Orushed time, cracked pot in the case of jams and certain articles stored under unfavourable conditions and foods delayed in transit are the principal complaints dealt with. Wholesale and retail traders in foodstuffs realise that a certain amount of tolerance must be borne and the question of salvage must have every

On the other hand a milk produced under perfectly clean conditions may spread discase and a con with subdralogie or other udder discase may cause the disease in these drinking the milk, or contamination by the milkers and dairymen may spread such discases as Typhold Tover or Scarlet Fover. Elimination of Fuberculosis from cattle would take many years and it is impossible to control the percensel of the forms before the harm is done, so the protochion of the concumer by destroying disease germs by percautantion would be the most satisficatory mothed.

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### Meat.

Centralised Slaughtering and meat distribution operates on the same lines as hitherto with the exception that the duties of meat inspection is now shared with the Rural Sanitary Inspector. The co-operation of the local authorities with the Ministry of Food in the inspection of slaughterhouses and meat distributing depots continues.

### Milk.

The frequent sampling by the Health Department continues and there has been no cause for complaint with regard to the quality of the milk produced by the cowkeepers in the Borough but in some cases it has been necessary to emphasise the importance and necessity of scrupulous care and attention to cleanliness and approved methods of production. The response on the whole has been satisfactory. During the year however there have been complaints of milk received from outside the Borough and especially of the milk supply to the schools. Appropriate action was taken in these cases but unfortunately the powers for dealing with producers outside the Borough are limited, which to say the least delays any action taken. With regard to the school supply the contract was transferred to another purveyor.

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE VETERINARY OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR. We beg to substit our report on the inspection of all the dairy cows supplying the Oswestry Borough.

During the year 1942, 1604 cows were carefully examined, 1332 being in milk and 222 dry. 198 of the cows were housed in the Borough and 1406 in the outlying districts. With the exception of the cows mentioned below we are glad to state that the animals were in a healthy condition and free from contagious or infectious diseases, including affection of the udder and diseases communicable by contamination of the milk. From every cow where abnormality of the udder was found, and where there was a suspicion as to the general health of the animal a sample of milk was taken and examined microscopically. There were 30 samples taken. We are glad to state that in only two cases were tubeficle bacilli present. These cows were seized under the Tuberculosis Order and post mortem examination confirmed the diagnoses, and in each case tubercular lesions of the udder were found. The other samples were mainly streptococcal and the said cows were isolated from the herd till treatment was applied and they were fit to re-enter the herd. Since clean milk production has become so important, both the cows

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and the shippons have received considerable attention regarding cleanliness and ventilation which has improved their general condition.

#### R. HUGHES & SON

#### Veterinary Surgeons.

### RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

Under wartime conditions the destruction of rats is of vital importance in the National Interest . Although the extent of the damage done to essential food supplies, property and materials is appreciated by all those who have had experience on a large scale it is not sufficiently recognized by the majority of the community how great this is. The position regarding rat infestation in Oswestry could not be considered satisfactory in spite of publicity given to the subject and also personal contact with the occupiers of affected premises. The tendancy has been to leave it to the other fellow, the real co-operation to achieve the maximum results being very luke worm and in some cases non-existent. As a result certain areas became heavily infested and consequently drastic action had to be taken. Complaints that have been dealt with are mainly from food stores or premises in close proximity, piggeries and poultry runs. A survey of the Town showed that there were about ten areas affected Varying from heavy infestations to just minor ones. Six of these areas are under private contract for the eradication of rats extending over a period of 12 months. Frequent visits are made by the rat catchers who are fully employed in rat extermination and on the whole the progress is satisfactory.

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The writer's attention was drawn to an incident which has scope for some one with an inventive mind. At a piggery near the border of the town was a large metal bin for storing meal. It measured 6 feet long by 2 feet 6 inches wide and 3 feet deep. There was 3 inches of meal in the bin. The top was uncovered. The place was known to be rat infested and was receiving attention. By accident small wooden boxes had been so placed as to make a staircase to the top of the bin. What followed can only be surmised.

Presumably the rats in their nocturnal prowls had ascended the steps and unable to resist the temptation of a good feed dropped down into the interior of the bin. The sides of the bin being smooth and the floor area so small for a take off it was impossible to escape. As the result 50 rats were trapped and were destroyed. It is known that the appropriate Ministry from time to time has exhibited an apparatus on the drop method in which rats could not escape, also a variety of devices have been advertised but appear not to be popular, although large infestations and the possibility of cheap and rapid methods of capture offer them a wide scope of usefulness.

# CINEMAS AND PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

Visits at frequent intervals during times of entertainment and otherwise showed that the conduct and provisions generally were satisfactory, but the attention of the proper authority has been drawn to a certain dance hall in the Town where the facilities are inadequate for the number admitted and where distasteful incidents have occurred in the vicinity.

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#### KEEPING OF PIGS AND POULTRY.

Preliminary consultation with the Health Department as to the site, construction of styes etc. has done much to obviate nuisances which would inevitably arise when pigs and poultry are kept under unsuitable conditions. However there are two matters which do give cause for complaint. One is the keeping of unprotected foodstuffs where it is accessible to rats thereby attracting the vermin and the other is allowing waste to stand for an undue length of time, with its attendant evils i.e. flies, smells etc. As a result of the war there has been a steady increase in the number

of pig and poultry keepers.

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