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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR

1937.

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



OSWESTRY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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

Chairman of the Council: Mr. M. B. LAWFORD.

THE SANITARY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE,

Consisting of the Whole Council.

Chairman - MR. R. J. WALL.

Clerk to the Council: MR. C. H. WALLACE PUGH.

Public Health Staff.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office held.	Whole or Part Time.	Salary contributed to under P.H.A. or by Exchequer.	Other Public Office.
L. Wilson Evans.	M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part	Yes	Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Oswestry. Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.
H. Has-kayne.	Cert.R.San.I. M.S.I.A.	Housing and Sanitary Inspector. Meat Inspector.	Whole	Yes	Inspector under the Shops and Petroleum Act.

Surveyor and Engineer: C. B. BARNES, M.I.M. and C.Y.E.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE OSWESTRY RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for 1937.

The records for the year are generally favourable.

There were considerably fewer births. The number of deaths was also lower, and there was a natural increase in the population of 18; the Registrar estimates a decrease of 340!

Progress has been made in the various spheres of activity of the department, which are ever widening. More insanitary houses have been relieved of their tenants, the overcrowding survey has been completed, and overcrowded families have been moved to accommodation in proportion to their needs.

The water needs of some parts of the district are in course of being satisfied; others have not been so fortunate.

Much work has been done in combating the spread of infectious disease. We cannot record progress in our methods—that will not come until immunisation is established as a method of prevention.

An effort has been made to reduce the number of midden-privies in the district; insanitary and repulsive contrivances.

Mr. Haskayne has been responsible for much of the work detailed in this report as also for its compilation. I am indebted to my colleagues in other departments for their ever ready co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. WILSON EVANS.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres), Census, 1931	61,527
Population—	
Census, 1931	16,603
Registrar General's Estimate to middle 1937	15,560
Number of Inhabited Houses end of 1937 accord-	
ing to Rate Books	4,319
Number of Families and Separate Occupiers (1931)	3,947
Rateable Value	£49,494
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£207 18s. 3d.

PARTICULARS OF PARISHES, including DEATH AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE RATES.

Parish.	Popu- lation.	Persons per Acre.	No. of In- habited Houses.	Average annual death rate for		1937		Average Annual Infectious Disease Rate per 1,000 population 1925—1934	Total Cases, 1935—1937		Average Annual No. of Cases of Tuber- culosis per 1,000 population 1925—1934	Total Cases, 1935—37	
				Total annual deaths	Aver. rate	Total deaths	Death rate						
Kinnerley	1044	0.17	271	113	11.9	11	10.5	3.9	4	1.24	0.3	2	0.63
Knockin	206	0.13	47	20	10.6	1	4.8	1.9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Llanyblodwel	803	0.17	187	52	7.0	5	6.2	3.7	12	4.9	1.8	2	0.82
Llanymynech	624	0.46	154	71	12.6	9	14.4	0.9	6	3.2	0.4	4	2.13
Melverley	173	0.12	42	1	.69	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1.90
Oswestry Rural.....	4022	0.25	1013	448	12.3	54	13.4	4.9	75	6.2	1.3	11	0.90
Ruyton-xi-Towns	933	0.19	232	92	10.9	9	9.6	1.8	2	.70	0.9	2	0.70
St. Martins	1945	0.66	448	168	9.5	20	10.2	7.9	26	4.4	1.1	5	0.85
Selattyn	1710	0.31	250	80	5.1	11	6.4	2.2	39	7.6	0.8	4	0.77
West Felton	911	0.15	219	105	12.7	17	18.6	3.6	14	5.0	0.6	3	1.09
Weston Rhyn	1892	0.74	463	179	10.5	18	9.4	4.5	26	4.5	1.1	7	1.23
Whittington	2353	0.27	620	234	11.0	33	14.4	4.4	25	3.5	1.4	6	0.85
Whole District	16603	0.27	3886	1563	10.4	188	11.3	4.7	229	4.6	1.1	47	0.93

In arriving at the above averages the figures as given in the Census 1931 have been used.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS (including the chief occupations of the Inhabitants and the Influence of any Particular Occupation on Public Health).

The district is very largely agricultural but there are important colliery workings in the Ifton Heath area.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

		Totals.	Male.	Female.
Live Births	{ Legitimate	194	98	96
	{ Illegitimate	11	3	8
		<hr/> 205	<hr/> 101	<hr/> 104
			1936.	1937.
BIRTH RATE.—Rural District		...	15 0	13.2
" "	Borough	...	14.9	15.2
" "	for England and Wales	14.8		14.9
			Male.	Female.
DEATHS.	Total ...	187	97	90
DEATH RATE—		1936	1937	
Rural District Uncorrected		13.4	12.0	
Corrected		12.0	10.8	
" "	Borough	12.9	13.8	
" "	England and Wales	12.1	12.5	

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth—

From Sepsis	0
Other causes	3

Maternity Death Rate per 1,000 live births.

	1936.	1937.
Rural District	4.1	14.6
Borough	Nil	4.8
England and Wales	3.81	3.23

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

	M.	F.
Legitimate	5	4
Illegitimate	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	5	4 — 9.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS :—

	1936.	1937.
Rural District (Legitimate)	58	44
„ „ (Illegitimate)	Nil	Nil
Borough	40	81
England and Wales	59	58

STILL BIRTHS :—

	M.	F.				M.	F.
Legitimate	4	4					
Illegitimate	0	0					
	—	—					
	4	4	—	8			
	—	—					
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...			0	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...			0	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...			0	0
„ „ Cancer (all ages)	.....	.....	.....			12	15

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

There has been no sickness or invalidity which has been specially noteworthy in the area during the year ; nor have any conditions of occupation or environment appeared to have had any prejudicial effect on health.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following were the causes of death in the district during the year :—

	Male.	Female.
Measles ...	0	0
Diphtheria ...	1	2
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Influenza ...	4	5
Typhoid Fever	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	1	3
Other tuberculous diseases ...	1	1
Syphilis ...	0	0
General Paralysis of the Insane	0	1
Cancer, malignant disease ...	12	15
Diabetes ...	0	0
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc. ...	3	5
Heart disease ...	40	29
Other circulatory diseases ...	4	5

Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	3	4
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	1	0
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	0	0
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	0	0
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	5	3
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other Liver Disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	0	1
Other digestive diseases...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...	0	3
Congenital debility and malformation, prem- ature birth	...	...	...	...	5	3
Senility	...	...	...	...	2	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	0
Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	2	0
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	7	6
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	0	0
All causes ...					97	90
Total					.....	187

AVERAGE LENGTH OF LIFE, 1937, excluding Deaths
by Violence and in Infancy.

	Male.	Female.	Both Sexes.
Kinnerley	68	65	66
Knockin	27	—	27
Llanyblodwel	73	79	76
Llanymynech	69	59	64
Melverley	—	—	—
Oswestry Rural	67	61	64
Ruyton-xi-Towns	76	64	70
St. Martins	73	52	62
Selattyn	73	59	66
West Felton	76	77	76
Weston Rhyn	71	75	73
Whittington	59	62	60
Whole District	68	64	66

DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGES.

	Under 1 yr.		1—5 yrs.		5—10 yrs.		10—15 yrs.		15—20		20—25		25—30		30—35		35—45		45—55		55—65		65—75		75 up-wards		Totals		Total.	
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	Both Sexes		
Kinnerley	1											1						2	1				1	3	2	5	6	11		
Knockin											1																1		1	
Llanyblodwel																						1	1		3		1	4	5	
Llanymynech													1					1	1	1		2	1	1	1		4	5	9	
Melverley																														
Oswestry Rural	1	2	1	1				1		1	1	1			1		2	5	5	3	9	4	9	4	9	7	30	24	54	
Ruyton-xi-Towns																														
St. Martins	1							1			1						1	1	1		2	5	4	4	1	11	9	20		
Selattyn																					2	3	1	2	1	5	6	11		
West Felton												1								1	2	1	6	6	9	8	17			
Weston Rhyn	1	1									1	1					1	3	1	2	5	3	1	2	5	3	11	7	18	
Whittington	2						1					1	1	1		2	2	6	6		6	4	2	3	17	16	31			
Totals	5	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	6	2	2	2	5	4	10	13	15	31	21	33	28	97	91				
	9		2	1	1	1	2	2		8				3		5	14	28	52	61						188		188		

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Sanitary Authority and by the County Council.

A. (1) INFECTIOUS DISEASE. Morda Isolation Hospital, a brick building situated in the Workhouse Grounds, has 23 beds and 2 cots. This provides for the Rural District, The Borough of Oswestry, and the Ceiriog Rural District.

Medical Officer in Charge, Dr. R. H. S. Marshall.

(2) SMALL POX. The County Council provides for the isolation of Smallpox for the whole County, with the exception of Shrewsbury, Wenlock, and the Rural District of Teme. There are two hospitals which can be used for this purpose situated at Prees Heath near Whitchurch, and Wellington.

In the absence of Smallpox in the County, the Whitchurch hospital is used for advanced cases of Consumption.

B. (1) TUBERCULOSIS. Shirlett Sanatorium ; Prees Heath Sanatorium ; The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Gobowen (non-pulmonary).

(2) MATERNITY. Newport Nursing Home ; Lady Forester Hospitals (Brody and Much Wenlock) ; County Council Hospital, Cross Houses, near Shrewsbury.

Obstetric Consultant.—In accordance with the recommendation of the Government Committee on Maternal Mortality, the County Council has appointed Dr. F. H. Edwards, 14, St. John's Hill, Shrewsbury (Tel. Shrewsbury 2880) as Obstetrical Consultant. Dr. Edwards' services are available for any practitioner who desires a second opinion or assistance as a result of a serious complication or emergency arising during pregnancy, parturition or the puerperium. This arrangement is applicable to patients resident in the County of Salop, except those in the Borough of Shrewsbury. When the services of Dr. Edwards are required at the expense of the County Council application should be made to the County Public Health Office, College Hill, Shrewsbury (Tel. Shrewsbury 3031). If the office is closed and the case is urgent, application should be made direct to Dr. Edwards.

(3) CHILDREN. The County Home for Ailing Babies, Wellington.

(4) **ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL.** The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Gobowen.

(5) **OTHERS.** Arrangements are made for the admission of unmarried mothers and their children to the Mrs. Legge Memorial Home.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) **Infectious Cases.** The Isolation Hospital Joint Committee provides a motor ambulance for the removal of infectious cases only.

(b) **For non-infectious and accident cases.** The County Ambulance is available when occasion arises. Application has to be made to the Public Health Department, College Hill House, Shrewsbury.

A private motor ambulance is available for long distance journeys.

The ambulance previously maintained by the V.A.D. Detachment has now been taken over by a joint board composed of representatives of the various Local Authorities, Oswestry Rotary Club, St. John's Ambulance Brigade, the V.A.D., and the Police. The income is assured by the Local Authorities concerned, viz., Oswestry Borough and Rural District Councils, Ceiriog Rural District and Llanfyllin Rural District Councils.

The ambulance is kept at the Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital where a regular service of drivers is available, also owing to the generosity of the Hospital Board the ambulance service is augmented by the ambulance of the Hospital when required. The ambulance is available for all purposes except infectious diseases.

Application should be made to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Byrom, Orthopaedic Hospital, Telephone No. Oswestry 353, and to the Police, Telephone No. 22, Oswestry.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRE (PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL).

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Nature of Accom'n.</i>
Maternity and Child Welfare, Wednesday 1 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	28, Upper Brook Street, Oswestry.	Consultation Room, Office, Waiting Rm., Weighing Room.
Ante-Natal Clinic Wednesday, 1 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. (also on the first Saturday in each month 10 a.m.—12 noon).		

School Clinic for 30, Upper Brook Street, Waiting Room,
Minor Ailments (daily Oswestry, Treatment Room,
9 a.m.). Consultation Room.

(Doctor in attendance on Wednesday 9.30 to 12 noon).

Dental Clinic for 28, Upper Brook Street, Waiting Room.
School Children, Oswestry. Treatment Room.

Tuberculosis Clinic 30, Upper Brook Street Waiting Rooms.
Fridays 1.30 p.m. Oswestry. Consulting Room.

Venereal Diseases. Provision for treatment by the County Council, which is the authority for the administration of the Midwives Act, 1936.

(a) The County Council Clinic, Belmont, Shrewsbury.

(b) The Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

(c) Arrangements by which girls without homes and suffering from Venereal Disease can be sent to a Home at Wolverhampton provided by the Lichfield Diocesan Society, for treatment and training; provision is also made for the treatment of expectant mothers suffering from Venereal Disease.

NURSING IN THE HOME.—The whole of the area is covered by the nurses of the Local Branches of the District Nursing Association.

MIDWIVES. The majority of midwives practising in the area are the district nurses who are under the supervision of the County Council, which is the Authority for the administration of the Midwives Act, 1936.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The following districts have piped water supplies:—

						Source.
St. Martins	...	...	...	...	...	Mardy
Weston Rhyn	...	...	...	...	...	and
Upper, Middle and Lower Hengoed	...	...	...	...	...	Bathpool
Gobowen and Part of Selattyn Parish	...	...	...	...	...	Reservoirs.
Bronygarth	...	...	...	...	...	Brook House Reservoir.
Porthywaen (partly)	...	...	...	...	...	Porthywaen.
Sweeney	...	...	...	...	...	Sweeney Mountain.
Pant and Llanymynech	...	...	...	...	...	Pant and Sweeney Mountain.
Trefonen	...	...	...	...	...	Trefonen.
Nantmawr (partly)	...	...	...	...	...	Nantmawr.
Whittington, (including Orthopaedic Hospital) and Morda	...	...	...	...	...	Liverpool supply.

WATER SUPPLIES.

There has been close co-operation between the Surveyor's and the Health Departments.

The Water Engineer has kindly supplied the following information :—

There has been extension of water mains to housing sites at St. Martins, Trefonen, Gobowen, Maesbury, Gwernybrenin, and Pant.

Mr. M. R. Atkins, C.B.E., M.I.C.E., held a Public Inquiry on 8th December 1937, into the Council's application to the Ministry of Health for consent to borrow £4,556 for works of Water Supply for Ruyton-xi-Towns, £1,268 for works of Water Supply for Nantmawr and District, £1,469 for works of Water Supply at Pentre. Mr. Atkins also visited the Porthywaen, Llyncllys Hill proposed extension and the hamlet of Gronwen ; these areas will be supplied from the Sweeney source. The Trefonen supply was inspected and the Council's intentions explained, viz.—the building of a new reinforced concrete reservoir—the present storage being inadequate. It is also proposed to purchase the land adjoining the source, some 25 acres in extent, to prevent surface contamination, and restrict its use to sheep grazing.

The springs at Cefn Coch and Orseddwen were gauged during the dry period and found not sufficient for augmenting the Bath Pool supply. It is now proposed to bore in the neighbourhood of Selattyn, and a geological survey and report is to be made of this area.

REPORTS ON THE ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES OF WATER.

From the Bath Pool.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Organisms per c.c. Developed on Agar during 48 hours at 37 degrees C.	18
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Organisms of the Coli Group were present in a concentration of 50, 25, 20 and 10 cc.s., but absent in 5, 2, and 1 cc.

B. Coli Type Non-Liquifying, causing Fluorescence in Neutral Red Solution, Fermenting Glucose and Lactose with formation of Acid and Gas, forming Indole in Peptone Water and Acid and Curd in Milk.

Samples of water from the Bath Pool and Selattyn supplies continued to give unsatisfactory results. Owing to the insufficient supply at the Bath Pool and Mardy, the Council has been making great endeavours to find a source of water which would provide for the area at present supplied from the Bath Pool and Mardy, and also Selattyn; and so measures to improve the purity of these supplies have been held up until it was known what the final scheme was to be.

Unfortunately the search for the larger supply has so far not produced the results hoped for, and more water is to be sought near the present supply at the Mardy. If the bore which it is proposed to sink here yields sufficient good water the problem of the Selattyn supply will still remain unsolved and suitable measures will have to be taken to ensure its safety.

Samples were taken during the year from Trefonen Reservoir.

Bacteriological Examination :

Number of organisms per c.c. developed on Agar at 37 degrees C.,
15.

Organisms of the Coli Group were present in concentrations of
1c.c. and over.

SELATTYN SUPPLY.

Bacteriological Examination :

Number of organisms per c.c. Developed on Agar at 37 degrees C.
11.

Organisms of the Coli Group were present in concentrations of
1. cc. and over.

BROOK HOUSE.—Number of organisms per c.c developed on
Agar during 48 hours at 37 degrees C. 6

Organisms of the Coli Group were absent in concentrations
of 50, 25, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cc. of the sample examined.

It will be seen from the Engineer's report that the people of Ruyton-xi-Towns, Pentre, Nantmawr and the Gronwen are shortly to have an improvement in their water supplies. This will be a great boon to these districts, but there are others as badly off who have not been so fortunate.

On the Racecourse, out of 22 houses with about 80 occupants there are only five with their own supply, and for many of them

when the wells run dry, which of recent years has been only too frequent, and there has also been a shortage of rain water to be stored, there is a long trudge to a well, the Sychtyn well, of over one-third of a mile over stiles and an uneven surface—no easy course over which to carry buckets of water ; or to a spring haf-a-mile away at the bottom of a hill so steep that motorists are warned of it—a choice of two evils indeed ! On washing day it means carrying all day. One housewife who has children to keep clean, remarked “ It is the one day when I am glad my husband is unemployed.” Some times, perhaps once a week, a lorry fetches water in milk churns from the spring which costs 1/- a churn but some of the inhabitants are even ready to pay this price for they are no longer young or active and find the long journey carrying the heavy buckets almost beyond their strength. Such conditions make it difficult to attain even personal cleanliness while the problem of keeping the house and other premises clean must be almost insuperable.

In Morton village there are 20 houses supplied from wells many of which run dry in summer. Nine cottages are without their own supply and have to carry from a common pump. In only four cases was the water reported to be satisfactory. The school is supplied by a pump and bacteriological examination has shown this water to be unsatisfactory.

The water supply to the Sarn Holdings and Moors Lane is a constant source of complaint owing both to the shortage and poor quality of the water. The inhabitants of such areas as these must feel the bitter irony of having to share the cost of water supplies to their neighbours, who were no worse off than themselves, and with no share of the blessings to which they contribute.

Your Council has had before it on several occasions the question of the lack of water in these areas and the need for a better supply has been admitted. On health grounds, measures to provide for their needs would be welcome, for a pure and sufficient water supply is essential for a reasonable standard of health. Unfortunately financial reasons have held them up. The question as to how far the unremunerative extension of water supplies to small collections of houses is justifiable is a difficult one, but a health authority cannot be indifferent to the provision of good water to those districts where the supply is shown to be inadequate for ordinary needs, and for a rural area water is by far the most urgent health service.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Engineer has kindly supplied me with the following information :—

The New Scheme for Weston Rhyn, prepared by Messrs. J. D. and D. M. Watson, has been approved by the Council, and will be submitted to the Ministry of Health at an early date. Messrs. Watson have also been instructed to prepare a Report and Estimate for Sewering the Village of Morda.

The Outfall Works at St. Martins and Park Hall are working satisfactorily.

Extension to Sewer at St. Martins.

SCAVENGING.

The Refuse Collection has been satisfactorily carried out during the year. Refuse is removed from the Parishes of Weston Rhyn, St. Martins, Selattyn, Whittington, Oswestry Rural and Llanymynech.

PREMISES THE OCCUPATION OF WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Bye-laws with respect to tents, vans, sheds, etc., were made by the Council in July and sanctioned by the Minister of Health in October, 1930.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table gives a detailed list of the work done by the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

Housing.

Number of Houses re-roofed	...	...	...	...	7
„ repaired, roofs, walls, etc.	...	...	...	...	34

Number of Houses furnished with eaves, gutters and downspouts	...	...	...	23
„ otherwise treated to prevent dampness	...	...	...	14
„ provided with more light and ventilation	...	...	...	21
„ with defective floors, repaired	...	...	...	32
„ floors retiled	...	.....	.....	18
„ back yards repaired...	...	...	...	3
„ new kitchen grates and boilers provided	...	...	...	8
„ reconstructed under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926	...	...	...	21

Sanitary Convenience.

Number of new water closets provided	...	...	...	5
„ old water closets repaired	...	...	...	36
„ old water closets provided with flushing apparatus	...	...	...	5
„ privies converted into water closets	...	...	...	0
„ „ converted into earth closets	...	...	...	15
„ portable ashbins provided	...	...	...	27
„ urinals repaired	...	...	...	1
„ new earth closets provided	...	...	...	10

Drainage.

Number of kitchen sinks provided	...	...	...	32
„ new drains to old premises	...	...	...	14
„ drains repaired, etc.	...	...	...	76
„ waste pipes renewed	...	...	...	23
„ new cesspools constructed	...	...	...	8
„ cesspools repaired	...	...	...	2
„ cesspools emptied on notice	...	...	...	18
„ house drains trapped and ventilated	...	...	...	3

Water Supply.

Number of new premises supplied	...	...	...	64
„ old „ „	...	...	...	48

Slaughter Houses.

Number of slaughter houses on register	...	...	...	13
„ slaughter houses repaired	...	...	...	6
„ visits and inspections	...	...	...	478

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

No of persons on Register December, 1936	...	599
„ persons registered during year	... ..	3
„ new cowsheds erected and re-constructed	...	28
„ visits and inspections	... ..	227

Factory and Workshops.

Number of workshops registered during the year	...	0
„ on register	... ..	96
„ repaired	... ..	14
„ cleansed	... ..	14
„ visits and inspections	... ..	29
„ new sanitary conveniences	... ..	0

School Hygiene.

Number of Schools disinfected	... ..	7
„ where drainage was improved	...	2
„ new water closets erected	... ..	0

Refuse Removal.

Number of removals of house refuse from premises	150,078
--	---------

Keeping of Animals.

Number of nuisances arising from keepers of animals	2
„ nuisances abated	... .. 2

Clerical Work.

Number of informal notices issued	... ..	79
„ „ complied with	...	61

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

<i>Premises.</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
	<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>Written Notices.</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted.</i>
Factories	18	...	...
Workshops	35	...	...
Workplaces (other than Out-workers' Premises) .....	...	...	...
	53	...	...

2. Defects, found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness	14	14	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	.....	...	...	...
Want of Drainage to Floors ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances... ..	3	2	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation :—				
Insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or Defective ... ..	...	...	...	...
Not Separate for Sexes ... ..	.....	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Act—				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouse (S. 101) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Offences—Excluding offences relating to Outwork, and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health Factories and Workshops (Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921 ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total	17	16	...	

Shops. No action was taken during the year under the provision of the Shops Act, 1934.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

There was no necessity to take any action.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOL.

There are no public or privately owned baths or pools open to the public in the area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Particulars of the action taken for the eradication of bed bugs including information as to :—

1. The number of
 - (a) Council Houses :

(i) found to be infested	.....	.....	.....	Nil.
(ii) disinfested	.....	.....	.....	Nil.
 - (b) Other Houses :

(i) found to be infested	.....	.....	.....	2
(ii) disinfested	.....	.....	.....	2

2. The methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs :—Fumigating and spraying, Fumoids and Zaldecide.

3. The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses :—Fumigating and spraying if necessary.

4. The work of disinfestation was carried out by the Local Authority.

5. The measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing.—No special measures.

SCHOOLS.

There was not a great deal of Infectious Disease in the Schools ; no whooping cough or Measles except for a few isolated cases. There was no extensive outbreak in any school except for Influenza and Colds in January and February. Frankton, Gobowen, Maesbury, Morda, Weston Rhyn, and Whittington had a certain number of Chicken-Pox in June and July, and Llanymynech and Morton had some cases of Mumps in April. There were a few cases of German Measles in Gobowen and Maesbury in the early months of the year while Weston Rhyn also had a few associated with Scarlet Fever.

Diphtheria, although not giving rise to extensive outbreaks, caused the closure of Frankton (5), Kinnerley (3), West Felton (7), and Morda (11) Schools. The throats of all the children attending these schools were swabbed and the suspected carriers excluded, the outbreaks quickly subsiding. In no case did the disease break out again after the re-opening of the school.

The supply of milk to schools under the scheme of the Milk Marketing Board became well established during the year and out of twenty-three schools only seven were not operating the scheme. The number of schools having the milk is exceptionally good for a rural district and is largely due to the fact that we are fortunate enough to have a producer who undertakes the supply of nearly the whole district and so makes milk available for all schools. Sixteen of the twenty-three schools in the district were having milk under the scheme at the end of the year. 52.4 per cent. of the children in the schools were having milk while for the whole county the proportion was 45.8 per cent. There are 2137 children on the registers of all the schools in the district and there are 1801 on the registers of schools obtaining milk—that is, milk is available for 84 per cent. of the children attending the schools in the Oswestry Rural District. In the whole county 56 per cent. of the children have the advantage of the scheme. Of the 1,801,1120 (or 62 per cent.) were having milk. The number having free milk was 112 (6.2 per cent.) of the children in schools operating the scheme, while for the whole county 1,009 (5.7 per cent.) were having the milk at the cost of the Local Education Authority.

All the milk supplied is from Tuberculin Tested cattle.

The initiation of the scheme in each school and its success depends greatly on the interest of the teachers on whom its carrying out entails much extra work ; it is gratifying to note what a large proportion of the teachers are willing to perform these extra duties, which is further evidence of their readiness to support anything which is for the benefit of the children under their care.

Adverse reports of the Sanitary Conditions of the following schools were sent to the Education Authority during the year :—Llanyblodwel Morton, Porthywaen and West Felton, and the very bad condition of the playground was noted at Selattyn, which was also unsatisfactory in the previously mentioned schools.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

Health Week was held from Nov. 15th—20th, in conjunction with the Borough Council and with the financial support of the County Council as the Local Education Authority, which also co-operated in the arrangements where they concerned schools.

There was a public film display at the Playhouse on Wednesday, November 17th. The programme was made known by advertisement in the local press, posters displayed throughout the Borough and District, notices distributed through the secondary and elementary schools to all parents; announcements were also made in the Churches and Chapels. A good audience attended, estimated at about 200. The films dealt with the prevention of the spread of infectious disease, especially in relation to colds, and with activities in schools from infants upwards showing how children were being prepared to take their place in a world demanding higher standards. A talk was also given by Mr. R. E. Roper. The rest of the week's programme was devoted to lectures and demonstrations to all the secondary and elementary schools in the town and district comprising some 3,000 children. These were given by Mr. R. E. Roper, who is on the Central Council for Recreative Physical Training. Four lectures were given every day from Monday to Friday, each taking about an hour. The subject was "Live your exercises"; they dealt with physical education and stressed the joy of keeping well; the importance of posture and proper breathing; the prevention of colds; how the muscles work; relaxation; good walking and the need for adequate sleep. The lecturer demonstrated a number of simple exercises to encourage correct breathing, good carriage and proper use of muscles. He also dealt with the importance of relaxation. The children were very interested in the lectures and they and the teachers should derive considerable benefit from them. Films illustrating physical training in schools were shown to about 1,000 children during the week.

The week was finished with a display of films for teachers. These illustrated the Board of Education's syllabus of exercises for children in elementary schools. They included not only typical lessons and games periods but also a detailed analysis of individual movements by means of slow motion photography and close-up. These films were of great value in stimulating the interest of teachers and encouraging them to pay greater attention to physical training. A number of teachers attended not only from the Oswestry area but also from districts outside. Essays on the subject of the lectures were written by children of 21 schools. All these schools were visited by the Mayor, members of the Health Week Committee and the Medical Officer of Health, who gave addresses to the children, the Mayor presenting the prizes and certificates.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1937.

Number of houses erected during the year :

(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	20
(2) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	14

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	523
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	610
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	110
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	137
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	22
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	nil

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	65
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—				
(a) By owners	...	...	...	nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	79
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	

(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	61
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	nil
C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :					
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	6
D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :					
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	nil

4. *Housing Act 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

(a) 1	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	107
2	Number of families dwelling therein	125
3	Number of persons dwelling therein	695
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	5
(c) 1	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	35
2	Number of persons concerned in such cases	146
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for abatement of overcrowding	Nil

The following districts where overcrowding was reported in the survey of 1936 have not yet been provided with houses to relieve the overcrowding :—

<i>District.</i>	<i>Number families overcrowded</i>
Kinnerley	6
Llanyblodwel	10
Oswestry Rural :	
(a) Maesbury	7
(b) Morda	9
(c) Pant	4
Ruyton-xi-Towns	5
Selattyn	8
West Felton	5
Weston Rhyn	16

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME, 1934—38.

Total number of houses reported	.....	.....	.....	.....	149
Number of Houses in respect of which Demolition					
Orders made	.....	.....	.....	.....	89
Undertakings accepted in respect of	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
Houses not yet dealt with	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Houses made fit	.....	.....	.....	.....	33
					<hr/> 149 <hr/>

The estimated number of houses still required to accommodate families living in insanitary houses is as follows :—

Oswestry Rural :

Morda	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Ruyton-xi-Towns	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
West Felton	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Weston Rhyn	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Whittington	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
					<hr/> 19 <hr/>

The building of Council Houses in Morda has been held up owing to the existing sewage system being unable to deal with the waste from any more houses. On health grounds the provision of houses for people living in those houses condemned as being unfit to live in or under overcrowded conditions, is the more urgent, and if some temporary measures were to be taken—such as the installation of a type of chemical closet, with or without water—the houses for which there is such a crying need could be built without delay, and furthermore as far as the houses for demolition are concerned the larger subsidy which is obtainable until the end of 1938 would not be lost.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT, 1926.

Twenty-one houses were reconstructed under this Act during the year, making a total of 116 reconditioned since the passing of the Act.

This number was a considerable advance on the figures for any previous year.

This work has been speeded up to some extent as a result of notices being served under Section 11 of the 1936 Housing Act, the owners as a result of the assistance obtainable under this Act have been able to recondition houses which otherwise could not have been made fit at a reasonable expense.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

Cowkeepers and Milksellers on Register	...	...	...	599
Inspections made	...	...	...	227
New Cowsheds erected and reconstructed	...	...	...	28

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925.

I am indebted to the Medical Officer of Health of the County Council for the following particulars of cows dealt with under the above Order.

Number of cows in milk dealt with	.....	.....	.....	53
1. Number with Tuberculosis of the udder	.....	.....	.....	7
2. Number with Tubercular emaciation	.....	.....	.....	5
3. Number with other evidence of Tuberculosis, not affected as in 1 and 2	.....	.....	.....	40
4. Not affected	.....	.....	.....	1

Other cows or heifers dealt with	.....	.....	.....	24
1. Number with Tuberculosis of the udder	.....	.....	.....	3
2. Number with Tuberculosis emaciation	.....	.....	.....	5
3. Number with other evidence of Tuberculosis but not affected as in 1 and 2	.....	.....	.....	15
4. Number not affected	.....	.....	.....	1

Five samples of milk were taken in the district during the year for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. They were all negative.

The examination of milk for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli is the only means in many cases of discovering the existence of Tuberculous infection in a particular herd, and so reducing the risk of infection of children with Tuberculosis.

It will be noticed that only five samples were taken for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli during the year. This is work which could be usefully extended.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

There are in your District eleven farms licensed to produce "Tuberculin Tested" Milk, and over 45 licensed under the Accredited Scheme. Much of this milk is retailed in the District and Borough.

The special designations of milk under the above order are "Tuberculin Tested," "Accredited" and "Pasteurised." Licenses under this order authorising the use of the designations "Tuberculin Tested" and "Accredited" are granted by the County Council and that for Pasteurising by the Rural District Council.

The following conditions apply to these special designations :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk—Tuberculin testing of all cows.

Tuberculin Tested and Accredited Milk—Any sample of milk shall satisfy a methylene blue test and shall be found to contain no coliform bacilli in 1/100 of a millilitre.

Pasteurised Milk—A sample of milk shall not contain more than 100,000 bacteria per millilitre.

The establishment of the Kraft Dairies Ltd, is licensed under this Order for the purpose of Pasteurisation of milk.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the following results of sampling during the year.

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No. of samples taken.</i>	<i>Number failed.</i>	<i>Percentage failed.</i>
Tuberculin Tested	20	6	30
Accredited.....	116	31	28

The percentage of failures to comply with the standard required is rather high and shows that there is considerable room for improvement.

MEAT.

The butchers have regular days for slaughtering to enable the Meat Inspector, Mr. Haskayne, to examine all carcasses before distribution. Should it be necessary for a butcher to slaughter on

a day other than that allotted he notifies the Inspector who, whenever possible, visits the slaughterhouse. Under these arrangements there should be very little meat consumed in your district which has not previously been inspected and passed as fit for consumption.

The Inspector reports that the meat supplied in the district is of first class quality.

Whenever it is considered necessary the Medical Officer of Health is called in to give an opinion on the suitability of the slaughtered animals for human consumption.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known) approx.	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected	338	15	84	2373	2044
<i>All disease except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole carcase condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcase condemned	—	—	—	—	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	85
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	3%

Slaughter Houses.

There are 13 Slaughter Houses on the Register and in respect of these 478 inspections were made.

Offensive Trades.

There are two Knackers Yards in the District, one at Weston Rhyn and the other at Whittington. Both of these have been

periodically visited. Knackers Yards are a boon if the work is carried out properly and the situation is satisfactory, but a constant supervision by your inspector is absolutely necessary.

Other Foods.

Bakehouses and other premises where food is manufactured, prepared, stored or exposed for sale or intended for sale are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

				Total Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths
Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	26	14	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	58	48	3
Enteric (including Paratyphoid)				1	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	3	3	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	8	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	19	2	7
Erysipelas	...	...	...	4	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	—	—

NOTIFICATION RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION.

Scarlet Fever	0.38	England and Wales	2.33
Diphtheria	3.72		1.49
Puerperal Fever			
and Pyrexia	51.64		13.93
Pneumonia	1.22		1.36

I am indebted to Dr. Marshall for the following report of the Isolation Hospital,

OSWESTRY AND CHIRK JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

REPORT FOR 1937.

1. Total number of cases admitted, 121—(Diph., 97 ; S.F., 24).

		Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Dysentery.
2. Localities.	Diphtheria.			
Oswestry Borough	22	3	—	—
Oswestry R.D.C.	60	15	—	—
Chirk District	15	6	—	—
3. Total Deaths	3	—	—	—

4. Complications:—(a) Diphtheria. Paralysis of palate was noted in several cases, but all cleared up under treatment. Myocarditis: A few mild cases, but all cleared up under treatment. Tonsillectomy: One case for persistence of infection. Infection: Nasal only in 13; both throat and nose in 3. Of the 3 deaths one was admitted in Coma and never responded to treatment. The other two died from heart failure, having started treatment too late.

(b) Scarlet Fever :—Quinsy, 1 ; Rhinorrhoea, 3 ; Otitis, 1 ; Albuminuria, 1 ; Cervical Adentis with suppuration, 1. All were mild cases except four, which had severe clinical symptoms.

5. Cross infections. None.

6. Average duration of stay in Hospital:—

Diphtheria.	Average 28 days.	(1 case 78 days.)
		(1 „ 64 „)
		(1 „ 63 „)
		(1 „ 55 „)

Scarlet Fever. Average 35 days.

7. Antitoxin dose varied with the severity of the attack.
2 cases had 60,000 units.

1 case had 52,000 units.

3 cases had over 30,000 units, all intra-muscularly.

Intravenous injections were given in two cases only.

8. Revised Diagnosis. Two cases sent in as probable cases of Diphtheria proved to be negative on repeated swabbings and were discharged.

9. Health of Staff.—One nurse contracted Diphtheria, otherwise health has been very good.

R. H. S. MARSHALL.

Medical Officer in charge Isolation Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN ORDER, 1910. A supply of anti-toxin is available for the use of medical practitioners in cases of Diphtheria where the patients are unable to pay for this treatment.

Supplies can be obtained either from the Police Station, Oswestry or from Mr. Haskayne, Sanitary Inspector, Park Drive, Oakhurst Road, Oswestry.

Three lots of 8000 units were used during the year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision un-impaired	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At home.	In hospital.				
2	—	2	2	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

There was a slight increase in the number of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, but the total was considerably less than the average for recent years.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Total Cases	Deaths of Cases Notified in 1937.				Deaths of Cases Notified Previous to 1937.				Total Deaths.
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	1	1	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
25	1	1	1	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2
35	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
45	2	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
55	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
—Total	5	5	2	...	12	1	1	1	...	1	2	...	...	7

There were two non-notified Tuberculosis deaths out of a total of seven. Notification is generally good. No action was necessary.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925. SECTION 62.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936. SECTION 172.

No action for the compulsory removal of advanced cases of Tuberculosis to hospital was necessary.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS,
1925.

No person known to be suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis of the Respiratory Tract has been employed in connection with the production or sale of Milk and no action has been necessary under the above regulations.



