

[Report 1938] / Medical Officer of Health, Oswestry R.D.C.

Contributors

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OSWESTRY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR

1938.

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

OSWESTRY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

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FOR THE YEAR

1938.

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, Ellesmere Urban and Rural District Councils, Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.
H. Haskayne.	Cert. R. San. I. M.S.I.A.	Housing and Sanitary Inspector. Meat Inspector.	Whole	Yes	Inspector under the Shops and Petroleum Act.
T. H. Powell.	Cert. San. Knowledge Liverpool Univ. Sch. of Hygiene.	Clerk and Assistant.	Whole	—	—

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 submit my Report for 1938.

The statistics show it to have been a good year on the whole. The official number of births has not yet been received from the Registrar-General but the figures available indicate an increase in deaths and a decrease in the number of births, resulting in a natural decrease of the population of 28. The Registrar-General estimates a decrease of 100 and shows a diminution of the population since the Census of 1931 of 1143!

There was a big decrease in the number of cases of infectious disease notified.

Much of the detail of the report is the work of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Haskayne, upon whom also much of the work recorded in the report has fallen.

My thanks are also due to my colleagues for their co-operation during the year.

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 1938	15,460
Number of Inhabited Houses end of 1938 accord-	
ing to Rate Books	4,229
Number of Families and Separate Occupiers (1931)	3,947
Rateable Value	£50,221
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£210 1s. 5d.

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		1938		Average Annual Infectious Disease Rate per 1,000 population 1925—1934	Total Cases, 1935—1938	Average Annual No. of Cases of Tuber- culosis per 1,000 population 1925—1934	Total Cases, 1935—1938	Average Annual Rate for 1935—38
				1928—1937								
				Total deaths	Aver. rate	Total deaths	Death rate					
Kinnerley	1044	0.17	287	124	11.9	14	13.4	3.9	4	0.96	5	1.2
Knockin	206	0.13	49	21	10.2	3	14.5	1.9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Llanyblodwel	803	0.17	200	57	7.98	13	16.2	3.7	12	3.7	2	0.62
Llanymynech	624	0.46	181	80	12.8	8	12.8	0.9	7	2.8	8	3.2
Melverley	173	0.12	44	1	.58	2	11.5	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1.4
Oswestry Rural.....	4022	0.25	1064	502	12.48	60	14.9	4.9	82	5.0	16	0.99
Ruyton-xi-Towns	933	0.19	236	101	10.8	10	10.7	1.8	2	0.53	2	0.53
St. Martins	1945	0.66	480	188	9.6	19	9.7	7.9	28	3.6	6	0.77
Selattyn	1646	0.31	267	91	5.3	12	7.3	2.2	60	9.1	5	0.76
West Felton	911	0.15	227	122	13.39	12	13.2	3.6	18	4.9	4	1.1
Weston Rhyn	1892	0.74	476	197	10.4	20	10.6	4.5	28	3.7	10	1.3
Whittington	2353	0.27	718	267	11.3	45	19.1	4.4	30	3.2	8	0.85
Whole District	16552	0.27	4229	1751	10.4	218	13.2	4.7	271	4.0	67	1.01

ERRATA.

Since the Report was printed the figures for births have been received from the Registrar-General, which necessitates the following alterations.

Page 3. Increase in births with an increase of population of 14.

Page 5.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births—Legitimate	225	119	106
Illegitimate	5	3	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	230	122	108

		1938.
Birth Rate.—Rural District .....	.....	14.9

Maternity Death Rate per 1,000 live births.		1938.
Rural District .....	.....	4.35

Page 6.

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births :—

		1938.
Rural District (Legitimate) .....	.....	52

Still Births :—

	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	4	5
Illegitimate	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5	5 — 10

Page 29.

Notification Rates :

Puerperal Pyrexia. 17.4 per 1,000 live births.

TABLE

Since the Report was printed the figures for births have been received from the Registrar-General, which necessitate the following alterations.

Page 3. Increase in birth rate in excess of population of 14.

Page 3.

Male	Female	Total
119	100	219
2	2	4
121	102	223

1938

14.9

Birth Rate—Total District

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births

1938

4.33

Local District

Page 3

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births—

1938

52

Local District (Estimated)

528 Births—

Male	Female
24	28
1	1
25	29

Page 3

Notification Rates

17.4 per 1,000 live births

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	185	94	91
	{ Illegitimate	3	3	0
		<hr/> 188	<hr/> 97	<hr/> 91
BIRTH RATE.—Rural District		1937.	1938.	
" " Borough		13.2	12.1	
" " for England and Wales		15.2	13.0	
		14.9	15.1	
DEATHS.		Total ...	216	Male. 115 Female. 101
DEATH RATE—		1937	1938	
Rural District Uncorrected		12.0	13.97	
" " Corrected		10.8	12.57	
" " Borough		13.8	13.1	
" " England and Wales		12.5	11.6	

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth—

From Sepsis	0
Other causes	1

Maternity Death Rate per 1,000 live births.

	1937.	1938.
Rural District	14.6	5.32
Borough	4.8	Nil
England and Wales	3.23	3.98

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

	M.	F.
Legitimate	6	6
Illegitimate	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	6	6 — 12.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS :—			
	1937.		1938.
Rural District (Legitimate)	44	.....	63
„ „ (Illegitimate)	Nil	.....	Nil
Borough	81	.....	54
England and Wales	58	.....	53

STILL BIRTHS :—

Legitimate } Figures
 Illegitimate } not available.

				M.	F.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	2	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	0	0
„ „ Cancer (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	14	17

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	0
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0	0
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	0
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
Typhoid Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	4	6
Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
General Paralysis of the Insane	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0	1
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	14	17
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	7	6
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	41	36
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	8	5
Aneurysm	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	0

Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	3	2
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	0	1
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	1	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	0	0
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	2	2
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other Liver Disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
Other digestive diseases...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...	0	1
Congenital debility and malformation, prem- ature birth	...	...	...	...	5	4
Senility	...	...	...	...	1	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	2
Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	8	0
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	3	7
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	0	0
All causes ...					115	101
Total					216	

AVERAGE LENGTH OF LIFE, 1938, excluding Deaths
by Violence and in Infancy.

	Male.	Female.	Both Sexes.
Kinnerley	75	70	72
Knockin	—	73	73
Llanyblodwel	72	76	74
Llanymynech	68	58	63
Melverley	78	—	78
Oswestry Rural	59	67	63
Ruyton-xi-Towns	76	64	70
St. Martins	69	57	63
Selattyn	62	68	65
West Felton	49	74	61
Weston Rhyn	68	67	67
Whittington	69	66	67
Whole District	68	67	68

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.	Both Sexes	
	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.	M. F.			M. F.
Kinnerley																	1														
Knockin																															
Llanbyddwel		1																													
Llanymynech		1															1		1	1											
Melverley																															
Oswestry Rural	2	2	2	1					3							4	1	2	6	5	5	9	8	9	31	29					
Ruyton-xi-Towns											1				1			1													
St. Martins	1	2												1			4	1	2	2	2	3	3	1	8	2					
Selattyn																	1		2	2	1	1	2	2	6	6					
West Felton	1		2																												
Weston Rhyn																		1	1	2	1	4	5	2	3	9	11				
Whittington	1	1	1														1	2	4	3	6	9	3	8	6	24	21				
Totals	6	6	5	1					4		1	3				6	5	8	10	18	19	32	22	39	33	119	99				
	12		5	1					4			4				11	18	18	37	54	72	218									

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., Oswestry Cottage Hospital, Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, British Medical Association, and the Police. The income is assured by the Local Authorities concerned, viz., Oswestry Borough and Rural District Councils, Ceiriog Rural District, Llanfyllin Borough and Rural District Council, and Ellesmere Urban D.C.

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. Byron, Orthopaedic Hospital, Telephone No. Oswestry 353, or 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 Minor Ailments (daily 9 a.m.). (Doctor in attend- ance on Wednes- day 9.30 to 12 noon).	30, Upper Brook Street, Oswestry,	Waiting Room, Treatment Room, Consultation Room.
Dental Clinic for School Children,	28, Upper Brook Street, Oswestry.	Waiting Room. Treatment Room.
Tuberculosis Clinic Fridays 1.30 p.m.	30, Upper Brook Street Oswestry.	Waiting Rooms. 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:—

	<i>Source.</i>
St. Martins	Mardy
Weston Rhyn	and
Upper, Middle and Lower Hengoed	Bathpool
Gobowen and Part of Selattyn Parish	Reservoirs.
Brongarth	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 :—

MARDY SUPPLY.

On 2nd June, 1938, an Inquiry by the Ministry of Health was held by Mr. G. Carlyle, M.I.C.E., into the Council's application for putting down a Borehole alongside the Mardy Reservoir. The Ministry's sanction was obtained and the contract was let to Messrs. Wyatt Bros., Whitchurch. Boring operations commenced on 22nd August, 1938, and good progress was made to a depth of 90 ft., when drilling rate slowed down due to the hardness of the rock. The Bore was carried to a total depth of 146ft. 6in., which depth was reached on 18th November, 1938. A dug well, lined with timber walling, was made to a depth of 12ft. 6in. Then a 3ft. diameter precast concrete tube was sunk to a depth of 23ft. below the ground. Top water was cut at a depth of 22ft. from surface and rose 7ft. from the surface. The Bore was continued, 17in. diameter and a 16in. tube set in clay and gravel at 33ft. below ground. At 33ft. lower water was cut which overflowed at the surface at a rate of 200 gallons per hour. Boring was continued 14in. diameter through the 16in. tube and a temporary 12in. liner was used to hold up the gravel and clay. This liner was carried down to the millstone grit and set at 47ft. below the surface. Boring was continued without lining tubes to a depth of 146ft. 6in. The final liner was then inserted and the grout and sealing completed.

The pumping test was then commenced and on the 24th November, samples were taken for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination.

REPORTS ON THE ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES OF WATER.

Copy of Chemical and Bacteriological Examination Results.

24th November, 1938.

Chemical Examination of Sample of Water. Received on 22/11/38 from Oswestry R.D.C.

"Taken from New Borehole, Near Mardy Reservoir. 12in. Bore, Depth: 147 ft. Water out of Millstone Grit."

Appearance: Clear, Bright.

Odour: Nil.

					<i>Parts per 100,000.</i>
Free Ammonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.001
Albuminoid Ammonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.005
Chlorine	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.2
„ Calculated as Common Salt	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.0
Nitrates	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.08
Nitrites	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil.
Permanent Hardness as CaCO ₃			10.0		
Temporary	„	„	8.8		
Total Hardness	„	„			18.8
Total Solids	.....	.....	.....	.....	26.3
Oxygen Consumed at 27 degrees C.					
In 15 mins.	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.003
in 4 hours	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.014

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of organisms per c.c. developed on Agar during 48
Hours at 37 degrees C. 3

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

Remarks.—From the results obtained by Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations I am of the opinion that this water is suitable for all Domestic Purposes.

The test was carried on to 24th February, 1939, when fresh samples were taken.

Copy of Second Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations Results.

To Oswestry R.D.C.

Report of the Analysis of Sample of Water.

“Taken from Borehole, Near Mardy Reservoir, during Final Pumping Test.”

Appearance: Clear, Bright.

Odour: Nil.

					<i>Parts per 100,000.</i>
Free Ammonia.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.001
Albuminoid Ammonia.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.0005
Chlorine.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.4
" Calculated as Common Salt.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.3
Nitrates.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.08
Nitrites.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil.
Permant Hardness as CaCO ₃	10.3				
Temporary " " "	8.5				
<hr/>					
Total " " "					18.8
Total Solids.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28.0
Oxygen consumed 27 degrees C.					
in 15 mins. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.002
in 4 hours .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.010

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Organisms per c.c. developed on Agar during
48 hours at 37 degrees C. Nil.

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

On the 23rd February the wall was capped off and the flow
out of the Bore above ground level will be turned into the Mardy
Reservoir.

The results of the Bore and Test have been submitted to the
Ministry for approval and when this is obtained work will be put
in hand to complete the scheme, viz., Construction of Automatic
Electric Borehole Pump. It is proposed to put the barrel of the
pump 80ft. below ground. With the pump barrel at this depth
it is considered that ample precautions will have been taken to
provide water even in great drought.

The Council now have under consideration a scheme for pump-
ing water from this Borehole to supply the Village of Selattyn.

Samples were taken from the Bath Pool on several occasions
and each time the result was unsatisfactory.

The schemes for supplying Nantmawr, Porthywaen and
Llyncllys Hill, and Gronwen have been carried out by direct labour.

The Boreholes for Ruyton-xi-Towns and Pentre were commenced in December, 1938.

The Council have instructed the Surveyor and Engineer to prepare schemes for submission to the Ministry for supplies to Morton, Sarn and Moor's Lane, Racecourse.

Report on the Bacteriological Examination of a sample of water received on 18/1/38, marked "Taken from Trefonen Reservoir (Public Water Supply).

Number of Organisms per cc. developed on Agar during	
48 hours at 37 degrees C.	15

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

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 forming Acid and Curd in Milk.

Report on the Bacteriological Examination of a Sample of Water received on 21/1/38 from Oswestry R.D.C., marked "Brookhouse Water Supply."

Number of Organisms per cc. 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.

Report on the Bacteriological Examination of Sample of Water received on 16/8/38 from Oswestry R.D.C., marked "Taken at Selattyn."

Number of organisms per cc. developed on Agar during	
48 hours at 37 degrees C.	1,360

Organisms of the Coli group were present in 50, 25, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cc. of the sample examined.

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 forming Acid and Curd in Milk.

B. Welchii. Absent in 100 ccs.

The conditions of the water supplies referred to in last year's Report on the Racecourse, Morton and the Sarn Holdings still exist, but the Council have decided to put in piped supplies in each case. It has been decided to enlarge the reservoir supplying Trefonen and measures are being taken to acquire more land in the vicinity of the springs to afford greater protection to the water. Samples indicated that there was some surface contamination.

The unsatisfactory condition of the water supplying Selattyn has frequently been referred to during the year and it is very desirable that some alternative supply should be found.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There is nothing to report under this heading.

SCAVENGING.

Notes by the Sanitary Inspector.

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 Llany-mynech and other parishes appear to be in as much need of this service as some already scavenged.

The collection and disposal of house refuse no doubt is a problem and is usually undertaken by the Local Authority, and the difficulties which arise as to how and where the refuse is to be got rid of when it has been collected are problems for the Councillors and the Officers. In Rural Districts the work may be done by the Local Authority; but this varies enormously, from systematic collection and disposal by the Rural District Council on practically urban lines down to a system of "individual disposal"—if it can be called a system at all—under which each householder has to get rid of his domestic refuse as best he can. The objections to leaving householders to dispose of their own refuse as best they can, are many, and present many difficulties. Even if a fire is constantly going indoors, it is not always easy to burn up all the

burnable rubbish, some of which is wet ; and with the spread of gas and electricity burning will become more difficult. Out of doors, it needs a larger garden than many cottages have. For tins, bottles and old iron to be buried indefinitely and if any organic refuse is thrown about and not buried there is bound to be an accumulation of flies, etc. Of course, the inconsiderate householder avoids all this by throwing everything into the nearest field or ditch, and the general public suffer. In all villages where there is a house to-house collection householders should themselves dispose of as much refuse as they can whether by burning or by burying, for it only adds to the expense if things are left to be collected which could be well disposed of at home.

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	...	...	...	...	9
„ repaired, roofs, walls, etc.	...	...	...	...	42
„ furnished with eaves, gutters and downspouts	...	...	...	...	35
„ otherwise treated to prevent dampness	...	...	...	...	9
„ provided with more light and ventilation	...	...	...	...	18
„ with defective floors, repaired	...	...	...	...	26
„ floors retiled	...	.....	.....	.....	10
„ back yards repaired...	...	...	...	...	2
„ new kitchen grates and boilers provided	...	...	...	...	4
„ reconstructed under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926	...	...	...	...	18

Sanitary Convenience.

Number of new water closets provided	...	...	9
„ old water closets repaired	...	...	26
„ old water closets provided with flushing apparatus	...	...	8
„ privies converted into water closets	...	...	2
„ „ converted into earth closets	...	...	18
„ portable ashbins provided	...	...	51
„ urinals repaired	...	...	3
„ new earth closets provided	...	...	15

Drainage.

Number of kitchen sinks provided	...	...	29
„ new drains to old premises	...	...	10
„ drains repaired, etc.	...	...	83
„ waste pipes renewed	...	...	12
„ new cesspools constructed	...	...	6
„ cesspools repaired	...	...	1
„ cesspools emptied on notice	...	...	32
„ house drains trapped and ventilated	...	...	1

Water Supply.

Number of new premises supplied	...	...	38
„ old „ „	...	...	36

Slaughter Houses.

Number of slaughter houses on register	...	...	12
„ slaughter houses repaired	...	...	2
„ visits and inspections	...	...	486

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

No of persons on Register December, 1936	...	...	550
„ persons registered during year	...	...	14
„ new cowsheds erected and re-constructed	...	...	21
„ visits and inspections	...	...	186

Factory and Workshops.

Number of workshops registered during the year	..	0
„ on register	...	96
„ repaired	...	12
„ cleansed	...	12
„ visits and inspections	...	73
„ new sanitary conveniences	..	1

School Hygiene.

Number of Schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	4
„ where drainage was improved	...	...	...	...	1
„ new water closets erected	...	...	...	...	0

Refuse Removal.

Number of removals of house refuse from premises	149,058
--------------------------------------------------	---------

Keeping of Animals.

Number of nuisances arising from keepers of animals	3
„ nuisances abated	3

Clerical Work.

Number of informal notices issued	...	...	...	82
„ „ complied with	...	...	...	67

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	42	...	...
Workshops	31	...	...
Workplaces (other than Out-workers' Premises) .....	...	...	...
	73	...	...

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	12	12	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage to Floors ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances... ..	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation :—				
Insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or Defective	2	2	...	...
Not Separate for Sexes	1	1	...	...
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	15	15	...	...

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		.....	.....	Nil.
(ii) disinfested	.....	.....	.....	Nil.

SCHOOLS.

There was not a great deal of illness in the schools during the year.

Mumps was the most troublesome, about half the schools being affected. It appears to have spread from the Town, the schools adjacent to Oswestry being the first and the worst to be infected, Selattyn, Pantglas, Morda and Gobowen having the largest number of cases. West Felton had an outbreak of Measles all on its own with 27 cases. Maesbury, Moreton, Ifton Heath and St. Martins suffered rather severely from "Influenzal" Colds, the first two at the end of the year and the last two in January and February.

There weres some isolated cases of Whooping Cough and Chicken Pox.

There was very little notifiable disease in the schools :—4 cases of Diphtheria : Morda 2, West Felton 2 ; and 3 cases of Scarlet Fever, 1 each in St. Martins, Weston Rhyn and Trefonen. It is satisfactory that none of these caused an outbreak in the schools affected.

The supply of milk to schools under the scheme of the Milk Marketing Board is now well established.

All the milk supplied is from Tuberculin Tested cattle.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE SCHOOLS.

Unsatisfactory conditions were present in the following Schools :

Moreton.

Water supply.
Closet accommodation : Foul and insanitary privies.
Heating.

Porthywaen.

Water supply : has to be carried some distance from the school.
Playground : Washing facilities.

West Felton.

Lighting and Ventilation.
Heating.
Washing facilities.

Selattyn.

Playground.
Water Supply.

Llanyblodwel.

Ventilation.
Cloakroom accommodation.
Washing facilities.
Water supply.
Heating.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

There were no special activities during the year.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1938.

Number of houses erected during the year :

(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	30
(2) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	13

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)	453
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	631

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	89
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...				115
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	9
(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	...	...	...	...	22
2. <i>Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of formal Notices :—</i>					
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	53
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—</i>					
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	...	...			3
(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					76
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—					
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	56
(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	...	...			4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	19
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 86
 2 Number of families dwelling therein 100
 3 Number of persons dwelling therein 541
 (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 2
 (c) 1 Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 34
 2 Number of persons concerned in such cases 184
 (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	8
Llanyblodwel	10
Oswestry Rural :	
(a) Maesbury	7
(b) Morda	8
(c) Pant	3
Ruyton-xi-Towns	4
Selattyn	4
West Felton	2
Weston Rhyn	13

The estimated number of houses still required to accommodate families living in insanitary houses remains as last year.

Oswestry Rural :	
Morda	8
Ruyton-xi-Towns	2
West Felton	1
Weston Rhyn	4
Whittington	4
	—
	19
	—

The provision of houses for Morda is particularly urgent, for the conditions in some of the condemned houses where there are large families are very bad indeed.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT, 1926.

Eighteen houses were reconstructed under this Act during the year, making a total of 134 reconditioned since the passing of the Act.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

Cowkeepers and Milksellers on Register	...	...	...	550
Inspections made	...	...	...	249
New Cowsheds erected and reconstructed	...	...	...	23

Four 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 four 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 17 farms licensed to produce "Tuberculin Tested" Milk, over 48 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	48	11	23
Accredited.....	98	28	28

The following Bacteriological Reports demonstrate the high standard which is obtained at these farms.

No. 1. *Accredited Milk.*

March, 1938.

Reference number of Sample : A. 121.

Arrival temperature : 59 degrees F.

Methylene Blue Test : This sample was not decolourised at the end of 5½ hours.

Bacillus Coli : Was absent in 1/100 ml. (3 tubes), and was absent in 1 ml.

No. of bacteria per ml. : 6.300.

No. 2. *Accredited Milk.*

March.

Reference number of sample : S.A. 838.

Arrival temperature : 45 degrees F.

Methylene Blue Test : This sample was not decolourised at the end of 5½ hours.

Bacillus Coli : Was absent in 1/100 ml. (3 tubes), and was present in 1 ml.

No. of bacteria per ml. : 6,800.

No. 3. *Tuberculin Tested Milk.*

April.

Reference number of Sample : A. 134.

Arrival Temperature : 58 degrees F.

Methylene Blue Test : This sample was not decolourised at the end of 5½ hours.*Bacillus Coli* Was absent in 1/100 ml. (3 tubes), and was absent in 1 ml.

No. of bacteria per ml. : 1,810.

No. 4. *Tuberculin Tested Milk.*

July.

Reference number of Sample : A. 181.

Arrival Temperature : 64 degrees F.

Methylene Blue Test : This sample was not decolourised at the end of 4½ hours.*Bacillus Coli* : Was absent in 1 ml.

No. of bacteria per ml. : 4,100.

No. 5. *Ordinary Milk.*

November.

Reference number of sample : A. 56.

Arrival temperature : 52 degrees F.

Methylene Blue Test : This sample was not decolourised at the end of 5½ hours.*Bacillus Coli* : Was absent in 1/100 ml. (3 tubes), and was absent in 1 ml.

Considerable attention has been given to the question of the production of clean milk during the year. Improvements have continued to be made in the housing conditions of the cows. As most of our dairy stock pass a considerable portion of their lives indoors, the cowshed should be so constructed as to give the animals housed sufficient cubic space, fresh air and light.

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	334	9	49	2070	1612
<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	—	—	—	—	12
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	108
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	2.6%

Slaughter Houses.

There are 12 Slaughter Houses on the Register and in respect of these 486 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.

Twenty-one men were licensed under the Slaughter of Animals Act.

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	...	...	...	11	8	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	24	22	1
Enteric (including Paratyphoid)				—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	4	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	7	—	5
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	—	—

NOTIFICATION RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION.

Scarlet Fever	0.65	England and Wales	2.41
Diphtheria	1.42		1.58
Puerperal Pyrexia	21.3		14.42
	per 1,000 live births.		
Pneumonia	.416		1.10

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

OSWESTRY AND CHIRK JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL. REPORT FOR 1938.

1. Total number of cases admitted, 57—(Diph., 26; S.F., 19.

2. Localities.	Diph- theria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Tb. Men- ingitis.	Dysentery	Anterior Polio- myelitis
Oswestry Borough	3	6	1	—	1	—
*Oswestry R.D.C.	22	8	—	1	—	5
Ceiriog R.D.C.	1	5	—	—	—	—
3. Deaths	1	—	—	1	—	—

There were also 3 cases of Tonsilitis and 1 case of Parotitis.

*14 cases of Diphtheria and 5 cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis were admitted from the Orthopaedic Hospital.

Both the Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever cases were much milder in type than usual, with the exception of the one death from Diphtheria, which occurred soon after admission, and did not respond to Anti-Diphtheric Serum at all.

Two cases of mastoid disease were already in the Eye, Nose and Throat Hospital at Shrewsbury when they developed Scarlet Fever. One was operated upon before being sent to us, and the other was transferred to Monkmoor for the operation.

In one case of Diphtheria the K.L.B. was isolated from an aural discharge, the nose and throat being negative.

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.

None was used during the year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision un- impaired	Vision impaired	Total Blind- ness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At home.	In hospital.				
7	—	1	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

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	...	...	3	.....	3	...	...	.....	.....	...	...	1	...	1
5	...	.....	.....	1	1	...	.....	.....	1	...	...	...	...	1
10	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	2	1	...	.....	3	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	...	1	.....	.....	1	...	.....	...	...	1	.....	...	...	1
25	1	.....	.....	1	2	.....	...	.....	...	.....	3	...	...	3
35	1	2	2	.....	5	1	...	...	...	.....	...	...	1	2
45	1	1	...	.....	2	.....	1	...	...	.....	2	...	...	3
55	...	.....	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...	1	.....	...	...	1
65 and upwards	.....	...	...	1	1	.....	...	...	1	.....	...	...	...	1
—Total	5	5	6	4	20	1	1	.....	2	2	5	1	1	13

There were no non-notified Tuberculosis deaths out of a total of ~~5~~. Notification is generally good. No action was necessary.

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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.



