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Contributors

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OSWESTRY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the YEAR
1 9 4 3

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

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

| Name | Qualifications | Office Held | Whole or part time |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| L. Wilson Evans | M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H. | Medical Officer of Health | Part |
| H. Haskayne | Cert. R. San. I., M.S.I.A. | Housing and Sanitary Inspector Meat Inspector | Whole |
| D.L. Evans | | Clerk and Assistant | Whole |

To The Chairman and Members of
The Oswestry Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present
the report for 1943, my sixteenth Annual Report.

The Minister of Health has
requested that the report should be prepared on the
lines of that of last year. That it should be an
interim report dealing briefly with subjects of
current interest, and the same precautions be taken
to restrict the publication of population figures,
but that arrangements should be made for the careful
preservation of all records.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

L. WILSON EVANS.

OSWESTRY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the YEAR 1943.

Birth Rate per 1,000 civilian population:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| Oswestry Rural District | ... | ... | 16.6 |
| Oswestry Borough | ... | ... | 18.9 |
| England and Wales | ... | ... | 16.5 |

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Oswestry Rural District | ... | ... | 46 |
| Oswestry Borough | ... | ... | 45 |
| England and Wales | ... | ... | 49 |

Still Births per 1,000 civilian population:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| Oswestry Rural District | ... | ... | 0.70 |
| Oswestry Borough | ... | ... | 0.66 |
| England and Wales | ... | ... | 0.51 |

Death Rate per 1,000 civilian population:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| Oswestry Rural District | ... | ... | 12.9 |
| Oswestry Borough | ... | ... | 15.0 |
| England and Wales | ... | ... | 12.1 |

Chief Causes of Death:

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------|----|
| Heart Disease | 48 | 28 | 76 |
| Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions | 15 | 12 | 27 |
| Cancer | 8 | 13 | 21 |
| Influenza | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| Violence | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Pneumonia | 5 | 4 | 9 |

Deaths from:

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|---|
| Measles | ... | ... | 0 |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | 0 |
| Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | ... | ... | 1 |
| Deaths as a result of childbirth | ... | ... | 0 |

So far as the Vital Statistics indicate the state of the public health the picture is a favourable one. There is a further increase in the birth rate, and the death rate continues low. There is a considerable improvement shown in the infant mortality figure, and a marked decrease in the number of deaths from Cancer. For the second year there were no deaths as a result of childbirth.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Distribution of Infectious Disease according to age and month:-

| <u>Disease</u> | <u>Ages</u> Under 1 yr. | 1-3 | 3-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-25 | 25-45 | 45-65 | Over 65 | <u>Totals</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|---------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 1 | 4 | 5 | 15 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 35 |
| Measles | 3 | 47 | 68 | 145 | 29 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 306 |
| Whooping Cough | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 13 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 2 | 33 |
| Dysentery | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Erysipelas | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | 4 | 57 | 78 | 167 | 36 | 19 | 17 | 12 | 2 | 392 |

| <u>Month</u> | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | April | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|-------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-----|
| Scarlet Fever | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 35 |
| Measles | 36 | 66 | 117 | 54 | 6 | 20 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 306 |
| Whooping Cough | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 13 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 33 |
| Dysentery | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Ophthalmia- Neonatorum | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| | 42 | 73 | 128 | 57 | 19 | 27 | 10 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 4 | 13 | 393 |

19 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

M e a s l e s

Measles was widespread throughout the district but it was fortunately a mild form, and despite the large number of cases and the fact that 39% were below the age of 4 years there were no deaths as a result of this disease.

S c a r l e t F e v e r

The Scarlet Fever cases were fairly scattered throughout the district. There were two moderate outbreaks; both of these illustrated the difficulty of dealing with this disease owing to its mild nature and to the absence or evanescence of the rash: in one outbreak the first cases, where the chief symptom was sore throat, were diagnosed as Influenza, and so the children returned to school before they were free from infection; in the other outbreak children were found with obvious signs of the disease but it had not been recognised by the parent and the children had not been seen by a doctor, ~~and~~ there were no doubt, a number of cases missed altogether.

P n e u m o n i a

The increase of cases of Pneumonia was associated with the considerable outbreak of Influenza at the end of the year. Modern methods of treatment has greatly reduced the mortality from this disease, especially in children and young people. This disease need no longer be the deadly disease it used to be in the early years of life.

D i p h t h e r i a

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified, which as far as the records go has never happened before, a happy indication of the effects of Immunisation which is emphasized by the following figures for the last fifteen years.

Number of cases of Diphtheria notified annually from 1929:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <u>1929</u> | <u>30</u> | <u>31</u> | <u>32</u> | <u>33</u> | <u>34</u> | <u>35</u> | <u>36</u> | <u>37</u> | <u>38</u> | <u>39</u> | <u>40</u> | <u>41</u> | <u>42</u> | <u>43</u> |
| 24 | 40 | 31 | 54 | 52 | 58 | 31 | 9 | 57 | 24 | 20 | 26 | 15 | 6 | 0 |

D i p h t h e r i a I m m u n i s a t i o n

Immunisation against Diphtheria proceeded during the year, the following figures show the annual percentage since it started in 1940:

| | | <u>1940</u> | <u>1941</u> | <u>1942</u> | <u>1943</u> |
|---------------|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Under 5 years | ... | 24% | 41% | 71% | 55% |
| 5 to 15 years | ... | 56% | 83% | 94% | 90% |

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin Order, 1940

One lot of 8,000 units was used during the year. Supplies are available for medical practitioners and can be obtained from the Council Offices or from Mr H. Haskayne, Sanitary Inspector, "Craignair", Park Drive, Oswestry.

S c a b i e s

Scabies showed a still further decrease, the cases which came under the notice of the Health Department were investigated, treatment given where necessary and contacts dealt with. There was no spread of the disease, not more than 2 or 3 cases occurring at a time. A total of 25 cases were dealt with during the year. No cases were sent to a sick bay.

T u b e r c u l o s i s

| <u>New Cases:</u> | | | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Respiratory | ... | ... | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Admitted to Sanatorium | ... | ... | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Non-Respiratory | ... | ... | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Admitted to Hospital | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| <u>Transfers from Other Districts:</u> | | | | | |
| Respiratory | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Non-Respiratory | ... | ... | - | 1 | 1 |
| Admitted to Sanatorium | ... | ... | - | 1 | 1 |
| <u>Deaths:</u> | | | | | |
| Respiratory | ... | ... | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Non-Respiratory | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 4 |

Water Supplies

About fifty percent of the houses in the district, and approximately the same proportion of the population are provided with a piped water supply. This is a good deal better than the 30% given in the Government's White Paper on a National Water Policy for the Rural Districts of England and Wales but there are several parts of the district where an improved water supply is urgently needed; the Council has recognised this and at the outbreak of hostilities several schemes had been planned and some had gone through various stages towards completion.

RUYTON-X1-TOWNS, the shortage is acute and water is taken around to the houses by arrangement with the Parish Council, a scheme had been approved by the Ministry, after inquiry, the borehole satisfactorily completed, and the site for the borehole and reservoir purchased.

KINNERLEY, the quantity and quality of the water is unsatisfactory, negotiations had been opened to obtain water from a supply owned by the Bradford Estate Limited.

RACECOURSE, though few houses are concerned, suffers from serious shortage at times, and a scheme had been submitted to the Ministry, but no settlement has yet been come to over the water rights and the site for the tank.

SELATTYN VILLAGE. The quality of this water is not satisfactory and a scheme to obtain water from the Mardy supply had been submitted to the Ministry.

MORTON AND RHOSYGADFA. In both these areas there is a shortage of water but schemes submitted to the Ministry of Health were refused grant and so suspended.

THE SARN, ST MARTINS. These are County Council Small-holdings which have never had a satisfactory supply, and recently the County Council have agreed to contribute towards the cost of taking the water from your Council's main.

Other districts where a piped water supply is needed are Melferley and West Felton.

Improvement of present Water Supply

TREFONEN. A scheme to purchase land to protect the source and to increase storage accommodation has been submitted to the Ministry.

A Bill recently submitted to Parliament has for its object an improved water supply in Rural Districts.

This authorizes the Minister of Health to make contributions towards the expenses incurred by the Local Authority in providing a new supply and in the improvement of water supplies, and sewerage necessary in consequence of the provision of a water supply in Rural Districts and also extends the duties of Local Authorities with respect to the supply of piped water to every locality in their district in which there are schools or houses, this obligation being limited to that which is practicable at a reasonable cost.

H O U S I N G

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Number of inhabited houses in the district | ... | 4,229 |
| Total number built by the Council since 1919 | ... | 304 |
| Houses built with the aid of Local Authority | ... | 221 |
| Total | | <u>525</u> |
| Percentage built by the Council since 1919 | ... | 7.2 |
| Percentage built by Rural Authorities in the County of Salop | | 8.5 |
| Percentage built by Rural Authorities in England and Wales | | 7.8 |
| Total number of Houses reconditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act to the end of 1943 | | 135 |
| Percentage reconditioned | | 3.2 |
| Percentage reconditioned by Rural Authorities in the County of Salop | | 3.2 |
| Percentage reconditioned by Rural Authorities in England and Wales | | 1.1 |
| Number of Agricultural Houses in course of erection | | 14 |

The Council has decided upon a one-year programme of 54 houses to be built as soon as building operations are authorized by the Government.

Will the material and labour be available even for this small number of houses in the first year?

One of the most urgent matters after the war will be to make an adequate number of houses available quickly for those who rightly expect that they will not have to wait a long time for a comfortable and decent home, among these will be men returning from the war fronts, many of them with wives and children who have been living in rooms, or with relations, often in uncomfortable and over-crowded conditions, and have never had a home. If the just demands of these people are to be satisfied it might be necessary to consider the use of the prefabricated house, for the erection of a proportion of this type of house might bridge a very serious gap, and the small type such as the Portal House, large numbers of which are expected to be ready for erection, might serve to accommodate the married couple with or without a child, who as the family increases and building operations become more normal, would move into a larger house and leave accommodation for another couple, young or elderly.

An important report on Rural Housing has been issued by the Ministry of Health. It points out the necessity of improvement in housing conditions in the country keeping pace with the progress in the town if the best and most enterprising youth of the countryside are not to be driven to seek accommodation in the towns.

It deals with the main objectives of post-war housing and points out that an essential step preliminary to any long term programme should be a thorough and comprehensive survey of housing conditions in every rural district, and this should be substantially completed during the first year following the end of the European War. It also recommends that in each County there should be set up forthwith a joint committee consisting of representatives of all the Rural District Councils and of the County Council in order to assist in the steps being taken to prepare for the resumption of building and consider ways and means of improving the general level of rural housing throughout the area, make arrangements for the preliminary survey and for the co-ordination of standards for demolition, reconditioning and repairs within the County.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Housing Act, 1936

The work of the Department in connection with the reconditioning of houses for the working classes has been confined to cases where complaints have been received. A great number of houses have been inspected during the year, and notices served upon the owners to render the houses fit for habitation, but owing to difficulties in obtaining the necessary materials and the shortage of labour a few notices are still outstanding.

OVERCROWDING

Overcrowding is another aspect of unsatisfactory housing conditions which Local Authorities are under obligation to relieve. It is hardly possible to give an accurate figure showing the extent of overcrowding in the district at the present time owing to the evacuation problem and the number of families billeted in the district belonging to the men in the Services, also the number of children recorded under 10 years of age when the report of the overcrowding survey was presented are by now 10 years and over, of course this has the effect of increasing the number of overcrowded houses.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

M I L K

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Cowkeepers and Milksellers on Register | ... | ... | 590 |
| Inspections made | ... | ... | 223 |
| New Cowsheds erected and reconstructed | ... | ... | 12 |

Considerable attention has been given to the question of the production of clean milk during the year. A supply of milk which is clean, nutritious and of good keeping quality is the chief aim of all Public Health Services. 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. But one of the difficulties in relation to buildings is the cost of structural alterations, and where these are required to cowsheds and dairy premises the responsibility for improvements to the structure should rest upon the owner and not the tenant.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936

There are in your district forty farms licensed to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk and 48 licensed under the Accredited scheme. A large quantity 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 authorizing the use of the designation "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 - 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 Bacillus in 1/100 of a millilitre.

During the year the following number of samples have been taken by the Inspectors of the County Council:-

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Tuberculin Tested | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 125 |
| Accredited | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | <u>243</u> |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | <u>368</u> |

141 of these failed to comply with the necessary conditions.

M E A T

Prior to the outbreak of war slaughtering was carried out in the twelve Rural establishments in your district, but as a wartime measure, in 1940 the Ministry of Food assumed responsibility. These Rural establishments were closed for the slaughtering of all animals, and slaughtering was transferred to the Ministry of Food depots in the Borough of Oswestry.

The soundness as well as the quantity of meat consumed by our people is of immense importance in the national dietary, and I can assure the public that the quality of the meat slaughtered is quite up to pre-war standard. The duties of inspection have been carried out by Mr. Isaac, Borough Meat Inspector and myself, an agreement approved by my Council, which is working very satisfactorily. Under such an arrangement there is no meat consumed in your district which has not previously been inspected and passed as fit for consumption.

The following is the number of carcasses inspected by myself during the past twelve months:-

| <u>Cattle</u> | <u>Calves</u> | <u>Sheep & Lambs</u> | <u>Pigs</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 484 | 394 | 4,829 | 253 | 5,960 |

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.

OTHER FOODS

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

SCAVENGING

The refuse collection has been satisfactorily carried out during the year. Household refuse is removed from the parishes of Weston Rhyn, St Martins, Selattyn, Whittington, Oswestry Rural, Llanymynech and Llanyblodwel, and other parishes appear to be in as much need of these services 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.

Since the outbreak of war it has been noticed that there is an appreciable increase in the quantity of refuse to be collected in the various districts. This, no doubt, is caused by the fact that fires are kept in during the twenty-four hours, and the large number of houses accommodating lodgers. I must appeal to all householders to riddle all ashes before placing them in their bins. This could affect a great economy in fuel.

I am very pleased to state that the Salvage scheme has been a huge success. The residents of the Oswestry Rural District have responded nobly to the Country's call for Salvage, and still more and more is needed. I cannot speak too highly of the work done in the various districts by the Salvage Stewards and also the schools. Collecting centres are established in each district and if all householders would only take what salvage they have to these centres the work of collection would be simplified.

There are two distinct types of...
The first type is...
The second type is...

SECOND TYPE

These are...
The first type is...
The second type is...

THIRD TYPE

The third type is...
The first type is...
The second type is...

The fourth type is...
The first type is...
The second type is...

The fifth type is...
The first type is...
The second type is...

The sixth type is...
The first type is...
The second type is...

The seventh type is...
The first type is...
The second type is...

The eighth type is...
The first type is...
The second type is...

