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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the YEAR

1944

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

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

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report for 1944. The Ministry of Health has directed that it should be prepared on the lines of that for 1943, so it will be less comprehensive than before the war.

I do,

Your obedient servant,

L. WILSON EVANS.

Public Health Stati

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

# General Statistics for year 1944.

Area in acres. 60,379.

## Population-

Census 1931 75,603.  
 Estimate for 1944. 16,610.

Number of inhabited houses  
 according to the rate book 4,313.

Rateable value £61,305.

Sum represented by a penny  
 rate. £225 - 18 - 6.

## Extra from Vital Statistics for the year.

<u>Live Births.</u>	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	160	143	303
Illegitimate	12	8	20
Total	172	151	323

Birth Rate 19.4

## Deaths Infants under one year.

Legitimate.	8	2	10
Illegitimate.	-	1	1
Total.	8	3	11

<u>Deaths.</u>	Male.	Female.	Total.
	92	84	176.

Death Rate 10.6

Birth Rate per 1,000 population. 19.4  
 Birth Rate. England and Wales. 17.6  
 Infant Mortality Rate. 34  
 Infant Mortality Rate. England  
 and Wales. 46

<u>Still Births.</u>	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	6	5	11
Illegitimate.	1	-	1
	7	5	12

Still Birth Rate per  
 1,000 population 0.72

Still Birth Rate England  
 and Wales. 0.50.



Death Rate.	10.6
Death Rate. England and Wales.	11.6
Deaths from Measles.	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough.	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea, under 2 years of age.	Nil.
Maternal Deaths.	Nil.

#### Chief Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
Heart Disease.	37.	36.
Cancer.	9.	13.
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesion.	8.	12.
Violence.	7.	1.
Pneumonia.	3.	3.
Tuberculosis.	3.	2.
Bronchitis.	3.	2.
Nephritis.	4.	-.

Most of the figures recorded above are exceptionally good, the birth rate and death rate are probably, respectively a high and low record, the natural increase of population as a result of excess of births over deaths is 147, about 100 more than the average in pre-war years. The infant mortality figure is considerably below the average, and there is a marked decrease in deaths from tuberculosis, but these figures are often taken as indicators of the health of a district. It is gratifying to be able to report that for the third consecutive year there was no deaths as the result of childbirth.

#### Prevalence and control of Infectious Diseases.

##### Notification of cases of Infectious Diseases.

Diphtheria 4, Dysentery 5, Food Poisoning 6, Measles 64, Pneumonia 8, acute Poliomyelitis 1, Puerperal Pyrexia 2, Ophthalmia Neonatorum 3, Scarlet Fever 29, Typhoid Fever 1,

##### Cases removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Diphtheria 4, Scarlet Fever 21 Typhoid Fever 1.



Distribution according to age and sex.

	0 - 1	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
Diphtheria.	- -	- -	- -	- -	3 -
Dysentery.	- -	- -	- -	2 -	- -
Measles.	1 1	3 9	2 9	13 14	- 8
Pneumonia.	- 1	- -	- -	- -	- -
Acute Poliomyelitis.	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Scarlet Fever.	- -	1 1	3 5	7 7	2 2
Typhoid Fever.	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -

Cont.

	15 - 25	25 - 45	45 - 65	65 & over.	Total.
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	
Diphtheria.	1 -	- -	- -	- -	4 -
Dysentery.	4 1	- -	- -	- -	6 1
Measles.	- 3	- 1	- -	- -	19 45
Pneumonia.	- 1	- 1	4 1	- -	4 4
Acute Poliomyelitis.	- -	- 1	- -	- -	- 1
Scarlet Fever.	1 -	- -	- -	- -	14 15
Typhoid Fever.	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- 1

All the cases of Diphtheria occurred in a residential boys school whether they had been immunised or not was doubtful as no certain information could be obtained, they were all very mild cases. There were generally fewer cases of infectious diseases, measles of which there had been an extensive outbreak last year, lighted up again at the end of this year but to a considerably less extent, and it was of a mild form and there were no deaths.

The cases of food poisoning which occurred in two families in different parts of the district was suspected of being due to some cooked meat purchased from a shop in the borough, examination of some portions of the meat and stools of the patients did not reveal any specific organisms as the cause.

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



Diphtheria Immunisation.

Under 5 years.                      5 - 15                      Total

No of children who had the full course in 1944.                      213                      47                      260.

Percentage of child population considered to be immunised on Dec. 31st. 1944.                      49%                      93%

There was an increase of 2% of children immunised under 5 years of age, a good deal less than half of the children who attained the age of one during the year were immunised, this is the age when it is particularly important that they shall be protected, for it is in the early years that diphtheria is so deadly.

The educational and propaganda measures are largely in the hands of the County Council which has taken over the responsibility for immunisation, but with the co-operation of the Sanitary Inspector and the Surveyor publicity is carried to most parts of the district by means of posters on the Council vehicles.

Tuberculosis.

	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
New cases.	2	3	3	1
Transferred from other districts.	1	3	-	-
Services cases.	2	1	-	-
Total.	5	7	3	1
<hr/>				
To Sanatorium and Hospital.	1	3	-	-
Deaths.	2	2	1	-

There were considerably fewer new cases of both the Respiratory and Non-Respiratory forms of Tuberculosis, also fewer deaths, less than half the number than last year being recorded.



Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of 194.

Respiratory.

M.	F.
28	26

Non-Respiratory.

M.	F.
20	23

Scabies.

There was some increase in the number of cases dealt with 44 as against 25 last year, they were mostly scattered throughout the district. The measures taken to ensure treatment of the cases and to deal with contacts as possible unreported cases prevented the spread of the disease.

Water Supplies.

The water from the Councils existing supplies to various parts of the district was generally satisfactory in quality and quantity except in remote parts of St. Martins where shortage occurred, work to rectify this has been delayed through lack of labour, no reply being received in response to advertisements for tenders, and bacteriologically the Trefonen water supply was not of a high standard.

A scheme to purchase additional land to better protect the source of this supply and to increase storage accommodation has been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Report on Samples taken during the Year.

Trefonen Supply.

Chemical.

In parts per 100,000 of water.

Total solid matter in solution.....	36.0.
Nitrogen as Nitrates.....	0.12.
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate.	
in 4 hrs. at 80° F.....	0.014
Free and Saline Ammonia.....	Nil.
Albumoid Ammonia.....	0.001.
Chlorine as Chlorides.....	1.1.
Metallic Impurities.....	Nil.

Observations.

The above Chemical Analysis is satisfactory.

Bacteriological.

Number of Organisms grown on Yeastrel Agar in 3 days at 20°	30 per 1c.c.
Number of Organisms grown on Yeastrel Agar in 48 hrs. at 37°	18 per 1c.c.



Probable number of Presumptive Coliform bacilli present 8 per 100 c.c.  
 Faecal Coli. (44°C. MacConkey test) present in 50 c.c.  
 " " " " " absent in 20 c.c.  
 Clostridium Welchii absent in 50 c.c.

Observations.

In its present condition this water is safe for drinking purposes but improvement in the bacteriological quality of this water is desirable.

Nantmawr Supply.

Chemical.

In parts per 100,000 of water.

Total solid matter in solution.....	37.0.
Nitrogen as Nitrates.....	0.25.
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate.	
in 4 hours at 80°.....	0.017.
Free and Saline Ammonia.....	0.001.
Albuminoid Ammonia.....	0.001.
Chlorine as Chlorides.....	1.3.
Metallic Impurities.....	Nil.

Observations

The above Chemical Analysis is satisfactory.

Bacteriological.

Number of Organisms grown on Yeastrel Agar in 3 days at 20°C 10 per 1 c.c.  
 Number of Organisms grown on Yeastrel Agar in 48 hrs. at 37°C 1 per 1 c.c.  
 Probable number of Presumptive Coliform bacilli present nil per 100 c.c.  
 Faecal Coli. (44°C. MacConkey test) present in ----  
 " " " " " absent in 100 c.c.  
 Clostridium Welchii Absent in 50 c.c.

Observations.

This sample, is Class I and is highly satisfactory

Brookhouse Supply.

Chemical.

In parts per 100,000 of water.

Total solid matter in solution.....	30.0
Nitrogen as Nitrates.....	0.15.
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate	
in 4 hours at 80° F.....	0.008.
Free and Saline Ammonia.....	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia.....	Nil.
Chlorine as Chlorides.....	1.1.
Metallic Impurities.....	Nil.
Sediment.....	Trace of Iron Rust.



Observations.

The above Chemical Analysis is satisfactory. The trace of rust is probably from the pipes.

Bacteriological.

Number of Organisms grown on Yeastrel Agar in 3 days at 20°C. 240 per 1c.c.  
Number of Organisms grown on Yeastrel Agar in 48 hrs. at 37°C. Nil per 1c.c.  
Probable number of Presumptive Coliform bacilli present Nil per 100 c.c.  
Faecal Coli (44°C. MacConkey test) present in -----  
" " " " " ) absent in 100 c.c.  
Clostridium Welchii absent in 50 c.c.

Observations

This sample is Class I and highly satisfactory.

Maesbury Supply.

Chemical.

In parts per 100,000 of water.

Total solid matter in solution.....	40.0.
Nitrogen as Nitrates.....	0.2.
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 80° F.....	0.030.
Free and Saline Ammonia.....	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia.....	Nil.
Chlorine as Chlorine as Chlorides.....	1.4
Metallic Impurities.....	Nil.

Observations.

The above Chemical Analysis is satisfactory.

Bacteriological.

Number of Organisms grown on Yeastrel Agar in 3 days at 20°C. 50 per 1 c.c.  
Number of Organisms grown on Yeastrel Agar in 48 hrs. at 37°C. 1 per 1 c.c.  
Probable number of Presumptive Coliform bacilli present 25 per 100 c.c.  
Faecal Coli (44°C. MacConkey test) present in -----  
" " " " " ) absent in 100 c.c.  
Clostridium Welchii absent in 50 c.c.

Observations.

In its present condition this water is safe to use for drinking purposes but I advise a slight increase in the dose of Chlorine.

Llanymynech Supply.

Chemical.

In parts per 100,000 of water.

Total solid matter in solution.....	36.0.
Nitrogen as Nitrates.....	0.2.
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 80° F.....	0.004.



Free and Saline Ammonia,.....	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia.....	Nil.
Chlorine as Chlorides .....	1.4
Metallic Impurities.....	Nil.
Observations.	

The above Chemical Analysis is satisfactory.

Bacteriological.

Number of Organisms grown on Yeastrel Agar in 3 days at 20°C. 10 per 1 c.c.  
 Number of Organisms grown on Yeastrel Agar in 48 hrs. at 37°C. nil per 1 c.c.  
 Probable number of Presumptive Coliform bacilli present nil per 100 c.c.  
 Faecal Coli. (44°C. MacConkey test) present in ----  
 " " " " " absent in 100 c.c.  
 Clostridium welchii. absent in 50 c.c.  
Observations.

This sample is Class I and highly satisfactory.

Marcy Supply,

Chemical.

In parts per 100,000 of water.

Total solid in solution.....	27.0.
Nitrogen as Nitrates.....	0.25.
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 80°F.....	0.006.
Free and Saline Ammonia.....	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia.....	0.001.
Chlorine as Chlorides.....	I.I.
Metallic Impurities.....	Nil.
P.H. Value.....	7.8
Appearance.....	Clear and Colourless.
Observations. This sample is very satisfactory.	

Observations. This sample is very satisfactory. The water is suitable in all respects for drinking and domestic use.

Bacteriological.

Number of Organisms grown on Yeastrel Agar in 3 days at 20°C. 2 per 1 c.c.  
 Number of Organisms grown on Yeastrel Agar in 48 hrs. at 37°C. 2 per 1 c.c.  
 Probable number of Presumptive Coliform bacilli present nil per 100 c.c.  
 Faecal Coli (44°C. MacConkey test.) present in ----  
 " " " " absent in 100 c.c.  
 Clostridium Welchii absent in 50 c.c.  
 Observations:

This sample is Class I and highly satisfactory.

The Maesbury and Llanymynech and Mardy Supplies are Chlorinated.

68% of the houses and population are estimated to have a piped water supply.



The water supplies in other parts of the district are as implicated in last years report.

A scheme has been submitted to the County Council to provide a piped supply to these areas and the rest of the remaining parts of the district which has no piped water supply, the estimated population to be served by these proposals is 3,600 which with the 16,500 already supplied would bring the percentage of the population with a piped supply to 90%.

### Housing.

Number of Houses 4229.

Much attention has been given to this most urgent subject during the year.

The Council applied for 60 temporary houses, and a first allocation of 40 have been received. These are to be erected in the following villages, Gobowen, Morda, St. Martins, Weston Rhyn and Whittington. Important work in the coming year will be the survey of houses to be carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Hobhouse Report which has been accepted by the Government. The purpose of the survey is to enable each Rural District Council to draw up a long-term programme based on the results. The survey will reveal the following information.

- I. Houses requiring repair.
- II. Houses requiring reconditioning.
- III. Houses requiring demolition.
- IV. New houses needed to replace those to be demolished and to relieve overcrowding.

It will also reveal the houses which, while all right at the time of the survey, will require attention later on. The Council has to submit its programme, based on the survey, to the Ministry of Health with any general proposals for improving housing conditions. It is recognized that for a year or two after the war the supply of labour and materials will be limited.

The three classes of work which will have the first call on the available labour and material will be

- I. Repair and maintenance to prevent further deterioration.
- II. Improvement of standard of existing accommodation by reconditioning.
- III. New houses to meet the needs of extra families.

### Sewerage.

It is estimated that 1,265 houses are connected to the public sewers a further 28 houses have a satisfactory method of disposal of the sewerage.

About 70% of the houses in the district are without sewerage disposal works.



## SANITARY INSPECTORS 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. There is no doubt of the bad state of some of the older houses, which have been denied the usual repairs and maintenance during the war years, and it is utterly impossible to estimate the volume of repair work now so urgently needed, unless a complete survey in the district is carried out.

### OVERCROWDING.

Overcrowding is another aspect of unsatisfactory housing conditions which Local Authorities are under obligation to relieve, and the early provision of houses, I hope will go a long way to relieve the serious overcrowding position.

I am looking forward to a new overcrowding standard being fixed in the near future. In my opinion the present standard is hopelessly out of date and far too low, even, if it meant building more and more houses. The present overcrowding figures give no reliable index to the true state of affairs.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### Milk.

Cowkeepers and Milksellers on Register,	.....	590.
Inspections made,	.....	186.
New cowsheds erected and reconstructed.	.....	8.

Milk is such an important item on the diet especially for children, indeed no diet can be considered adequate in the growing child which does not provide a sufficient quantity of milk, that it is of urgent necessity that the milk supply should be safe clean and wholesome. There is no food of greater value than wholesome milk and none more dangerous than bad milk.

There are so many opportunities for milk to be contaminated that constant care is required to protect it from the time it leaves the cow to the time it is consumed, the maintenance of a high standard of cleanliness at all stages during production and distribution, is essential for securing an adequate keeping quality in milk, and there is no doubt that sterilization of all utensils is probably the most important, boiling water and sometimes not that are normally used in the cleaning of utensils, and the latter method is anything but satisfactory.



Many cowhous in the district have been brought up to a high standard in accordance with the requirements of a clean milk production, ~~but~~ still there are quite a few producers who are still satisfied with the old method of production, but I am pleased to see so many "Young Farmers Clubs" springing up in the district. These sons and daughters of the older generation will no doubt bring more up to date methods for the production of clean milk, which in time will be beneficial to the whole country.

#### Milk (Special Designation) Order 1930.

There are in your district 51 farms licensed to produce Tuberculin Tested milk, and 44 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 designations "Tuberculin Tested" and "Accredited" are granted by the County Council, and the Pasteurizing by the Rural District Council.

Tuberculin Tested - Tuberculin testing of all cows.

Tuberculin Tested and Accredited. - 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.	...	....	.....	III.
Accredited.	...	....	.....	II0.
Total,	...	....	.....	<u>250</u>

99 of these failed to comply with the necessary conditions.

#### MEAT.

The slaughtering and inspecting of all animals is still carried on at the Ministry of Food depots in the Borough of Oswestry, but whether central slaughtering will be in operation much longer is still undecided.

There are various opinions as to the advisability of returning to the pre-war method of private slaughtering, but in my opinion the present method of central slaughtering and inspecting removes the possibility of illicit slaughtering of animals being carried out, and the public are assured of a first class meat getting on the market.

As mentioned in my last report the quality of the meat is quite up to the pre-war standard and no meat consumed in your district is sent out from these depots which has not previously been inspected.



The following number of animals were slaughtered and inspected by myself at the Ministry of Food depot during the last 12 months.

<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
711	214	5,750.	130	6,805.

#### OFFENSIVE TRADE.

There are two Knacker Yards in your district, one at Weston Rhyn and the other at Whittington. Both of these have periodically been inspected and are kept in a most satisfactory manner.

#### OTHER FOODS.

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

#### SCAVENGING.

The refuse collection has been efficiently carried out during the year, and considering the scattered districts and the difficulties of access to some of the cottages, I consider it a success. Refuse is now removed from the Parishes of Weston Rhyn, St. Martins, Selattyn Whittington, Oswestry Rural, Llanymynech, and Llanyblodwel. I am looking forward that the curtailment of these services during the war, to some parts of the district will be removed shortly, and with the prospect of a new larger scavenging lorry and petrol more plentiful other parts of the district that are not already scavenged will come into line, for I am sure it would be beneficial to have the refuse carted away, not only on the grounds of health, but it would also improve the appearance of a village, and remove one of the chief causes of untidiness.

The provision of dustbins caused much concern during the year and the position is by no means easy yet, despite the improvement in the metal situation.

I am pleased to state that the salvage scheme has been a huge success, but I must emphasise the fact that the need for salvage has not been reduced, on the contrary salvage is an urgent necessity and supplies must be maintained for the Japanese war.

Waste Paper is vitally necessary, more and more is needed for producing pulp to be used in the manufacture of hundreds of articles necessary for the prosecution of the Japanese campaign. Packages for sending out foodstuffs as well as shell cases etc. are made from waste paper.

I cannot speak too highly of the work done in the various districts by the salvage stewards and also the schools, not forgetting the housewives, who, after all, form the backbone of the salvage effort, as pointed out in my previous reports, 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.











