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**THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF MOLD**

**ANNUAL
HEALTH REPORT
FOR 1972**

Medical Officer of Health :

D. J. FRASER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

M. COPPACK, M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

J. E. KETTLEWELL, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.



MOLD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Report on the health of the district, together with the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, for the year ended 31st December, 1972.

The population estimate was 8,470, with an increase of 80 over the previous year. The provisional figure of population at the 1971 census was 8,239, compared with 6,894 in 1961. There were 145 births, the same as in 1971, giving a birth rate above that for England and Wales. There was one still birth, compared with 2 in 1971.

Deaths numbered 97, compared with 84 in 1971, 93 in 1970 and 106 in 1969. Again, the leading causes of death were circulatory diseases with 53 deaths (an increase of 16), and cancer with 18 deaths (a reduction of 3). Of the 97 persons who died, 66 were 65 years of age or over. 42 of those were 75 years or over. Table IV gives an analysis of the causes of death. Once again, there were no deaths due to pregnancy or childbirth. There were 2 deaths of infants under a year old, compared with 1 in 1971, and 2 in 1970. Both were under 4 weeks old.

Infectious diseases numbered 53, which included 38 cases of measles. Of the 7 cases of food poisoning, 3 were in one family. The other four cases were contracted outside the district. There were no new cases of tuberculosis during the year.

In my Report for 1971, I dealt with food poisoning brought back from the Continent by holiday-makers. Conditions appear to have been the same in 1972. In Mold, 2 persons fell ill with food poisoning on returning from Austria. One of the cases had two salmonella infections, which is unusual.

Once more, the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector shows the variety of duties carried out. Mold continues to be a distributive centre for a large area, with ever increasing business in shops and supermarkets. Much of the Inspector's time is spent in inspection of food premises and meat inspection.

Refuse disposal by means of plastic sacks continued satisfactorily, although there were again complaints of attacks on the sacks by cats and dogs.

The Improvement Grants scheme continued during the year. One wonders when this scheme will end, if ever. Young couples trying to set up homes have a hopeless task. The last Council building project was that in Bridge Street. It appears that demand for Council housing is as great as ever, and conditions are similar to those which existed nearly twenty years ago. In those days, at least there was building of Council houses, and young people had hopes of getting a home. Now, the cost of mortgages means that young people pledge their joint income for many years, if they can get a mortgage.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council and the Officers for their continued help during the year, and in particular Mr. M. Coppack, Chief Public Health Inspector, and Mr. J. E. Kettlewell, his Deputy, both of whom have carried out their many duties with zeal and tact.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. J. FRASER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Town Hall,

Earl Road, Mold.

Telephone : Mold 2729 or 2881

Mold 3316 (Home)

VITAL STATISTICS 1972

Population : Registrar General's estimate at mid-year	8,470
1971 Census	8,239
1961 Census	6,894
Live Births :	
Number	145
Rate per 1000 population	17.1
Adjusted local birth rate	16.8
National birth rate per 1000 population	14.8
Illegitimate live births	9
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	6
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births : England and Wales	9
Still Births :	
Number	1
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	7
National still birth rate	12
Total live and still births	146
Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	2
Infant Mortality Rate :	
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	14
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	15
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil
National infant mortality rate per 1000 live births	17
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	14
National neo-natal mortality rate	12
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 live births)	14
National early neo-natal mortality rate	10
Peri-natal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live and still births)	21
National peri-natal mortality rate	22
Maternal mortality (including abortion) :	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	Nil

Deaths (from all causes)	97
Crude death rate per 1000 population	11.5
Adjusted local death rate	13.2
National death rate per 1000 population	12.1

SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING CHIEF INDUSTRIES

There has been no change in the area under this heading during the year under review.

Area in acres—1,160 statutory acres
 Population (Census 1971)—8,239
 Number of habitable houses—2,720
 Rateable Value—£276,775
 Product of a penny rate—£2,600

The various vital statistics are listed below in tabular form. For the purposes of comparison, figures for last year are given and, where appropriate, the rates for England and Wales as a whole.

TABLE I. Live Births.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	75	61	136
Illegitimate	7	2	9
Total	82	63	145

Live Birth Rate per 1000 Population :—

1960—18.62
 1961—19.29
 1962—20.42
 1963—22.50
 1964—23.12
 1965—20.65
 1966—23.97
 1967—16.81
 1968—17.21
 1969—19.3
 1970—18.5
 1971—17.3
 1972—17.1

England and Wales : Live Birth Rate per 1000 Population :

1960—17.1
1961—17.4
1962—18.0
1963—18.2
1964—18.4
1965—18.1
1966—17.7
1967—17.2
1968—16.9
1969—16.3
1970—16.0
1971—16.0
1972—14.8

These figures show that again there was a fall in the birth rate per 1000 population, though the number of births was the same, at 145, as in 1971. The figures for past years were 151 in 1970, 155 in 1969, 136 in 1968, 130 in 1967, 182 in 1966, 164 in 1965, 170 in 1964, 160 in 1963, and 143 in 1962. The Registrar General's area comparability being .98, the adjusted local birth rate is 16.98, compared with the national figure of 14.8.

TABLE II. Still Births.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	—	1	1

Still Birth Rate per 1000 total Live and Still Births :—

1960—45.80
1961—22.22
1962—13.79
1963— 6.21
1964— 5.85
1965—29.58
1966—16.21
1967— 7.63
1968—14.49
1969—19.0
1970—13.0
1971—14.0
1972— 7.0

Still Birth Rate per 1000 Population :—

1960—0.89
1961—0.43
1962—0.28
1963—0.14
1964—0.13
1965—0.66
1966—0.39
1967—0.12
1968—0.25
1969—0.37
1970—0.24
1971—0.23
1972—0.11

England and Wales : Still Birth Rate per 1000**Live and Still Births :—**

1960—19.7
1961—18.7
1962—18.1
1963—17.2
1964—16.4
1965—15.7
1966—15.4
1967—14.8
1968—14.0
1969—13.0
1970—13.0
1971—12.0
1972—12.0

There was 1 still birth in 1972, compared with 2 in 1971, 2 in 1970, 3 in 1969, 2 in 1968, 1 in 1967, and 3 in 1966.

TABLE III. Death (General) Rate :—

All ages (all causes)—Males 57, females 40, Total 97, compared with 84 in 1971, 93 in 1970, 106 in 1969, 107 in 1968, 69 in 1967, 84 in 1966, 71 in 1965, 80 in 1964, 83 in 1963, 75 in 1962, 99 in 1961, and 84 in 1960.

Crude Death Rate per 1000 Population :—

1960—12.51
1961—14.47
1962—10.71
1963—11.67
1964—10.88
1965— 9.47
1966—11.06
1967— 8.92
1968—13.54
1969—13.2
1970—11.4
1971—10.0
1972—11.5

England and Wales : Death Rate per 1000 Population :—

1960—11.5
1961—12.0
1962—11.9
1963—12.2
1964—11.3
1965—11.5
1966—11.7
1967—11.2
1968—11.9
1969—11.9
1970—11.7
1971—11.6
1972—12.1

There was a slight rise in the crude death rate for Mold Urban District, from 10.0 to 11.5 per 1000 population. There were 97 deaths compared with 84 in 1971. The rate for England and Wales also rose, from 11.6 to 12.1 per 1000 population.

TABLE IV. Deaths (General) Analysis.

Causes.	M.	F.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Population.	
Cancer of mouth, etc.	1	—	1	....	0.11
Cancer of intestine	2	2	4	....	0.47
Cancer of lung, bronchus	6	—	6	....	0.71
Cancer of prostate	1	—	1	....	0.11
Other cancers	4	2	6	....	0.71

Causes.	M.	F.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Population.	
Other diseases of nervous system	—	1	1	....	0.11
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	2	2	4	....	0.47
Hypertensive disease	2	1	3	....	0.35
Ischaemic heart disease	14	4	18	....	2.12
Other forms of heart disease	3	3	6	....	0.71
Cerebro vascular disease	7	13	20	....	2.36
Other circulatory diseases	1	1	2	....	0.23
Influenza	1	—	1	....	0.11
Pneumonia	4	2	6	....	0.71
Bronchitis and emphysema	2	2	4	....	0.47
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1	....	0.11
Other diseases, genito urinary system	1	1	2	....	0.23
Birth injury, difficult labour	1	—	1	....	0.11
Other causes of peri-natal mortality	1	1	2	....	0.23
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	—	2	2	....	0.23
Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	4	....	0.47
All other accidents	—	1	1	....	0.11
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	—	1	1	....	0.11
Total	57	40	97		

From this table it is shown that again the leading causes of death were circulatory diseases with 53 deaths (29 males, 24 females), an increase of 16; and cancer with 18 deaths (14 males, 4 females), a reduction of 3. There were no deaths from tuberculosis, compared with 1 in 1971, none in 1970, 1 in 1969 and 4 in 1968. Pneumonia caused 6 deaths, all elderly people, compared with 5 in 1971 and 4 in 1970. Bronchitis accounted for 4 deaths, compared with 5 in 1971. Lung cancer caused the deaths of 6 men (all 45 years old and upwards), compared with 5 in 1971 and 2 in 1970 and 6 in 1969. Despite the outbreak of influenza, there was only one death from this complaint. Accidents caused 5 deaths, 4 being motor vehicle accidents. There were 2 deaths of infants under a year old, both being under 4 weeks. The causes were birth injury. Of the 97 persons who died, 10 were between 45 and 54 years; 12 were between 55 and 64 years; 24 were between 65 and 74 years; and 42 were 75 years or over. It is sad to record that all 4 deaths which occurred in the 15 to 54 years age group were due to motor vehicle accidents.

TABLE V. Deaths (Childbirth)—Nil.

There were no deaths attributable to pregnancy or childbirth.

TABLE VI. Death Rate (Infantile)—that is, infants under one year old :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	1	1	2

Infantile Death Rate of Legitimate babies per 1000

Legitimate Births :—

1960—	24.79
1961—	32.00
1962—	36.49
1963—	38.72
1964—	24.24
1965—	12.90
1966—	5.81
1967—	8.19
1968—	8.00
1969—	7.00
1970—	14.0
1971—	7.00
1972—	15.00

Infantile Death Rate of Illegitimate babies per 1000

Illegitimate Births :—

1960—	Nil
1961—	Nil
1962—	166.66
1963—	200.00
1964—	Nil
1965—	Nil
1966—	Nil
1967—	125.0
1968—	Nil

1969—83.0
1970—Nil
1971—Nil
1972—Nil

Infantile Death Rate per 1000 Live Births (Legitimate and Illegitimate) :—

1960—24.00
1961—30.30
1962—41.95
1963—43.75
1964—23.52
1965—12.19
1966— 5.49
1967—15.38
1968— 7.35
1969—13.00
1970—13.00
1971— 7.00
1972—14.00

England and Wales : Infantile Death Rate per 1000 Live Births :—

1960—21.7
1961—21.4
1962—21.6
1963—21.1
1964—20.0
1965—19.0
1966—19.0
1967—18.3
1968—18.0
1969—18.0
1970—18.0
1971—18.0
1972—17.0

There were two deaths of infants under a year old. Both were under four weeks old, and death was due to birth injury.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Officers — The other Officers serving the Urban District during the year were :—

Clerk/Treasurer—H. Barrington Evans.

Surveyor—E. J. Stokes, C. Eng., M.I. Mun. E.

Laboratory Facilities — Provided by the Public Health Laboratory at Chester, and the Public Analyst, Chester.

Ambulance Services — Provided by the Flintshire County Council. Ambulances are stationed within the Urban Area on a 24-hour service.

Midwifery and Home Nursing Services are provided by the County Council. Two District Nurse/Midwives reside in the area.

Home Help — This service is provided by the County Council. Persons requiring home help should get in touch with the Home Help Organiser at the County Health Department or with the Medical Officer of Health.

Tuberculosis.

Clinics—"Oaklands," Chester Road, Queensferry; Wednesdays at 9-30 a.m. The Clinic, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham; Mondays at 9-30 a.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

The Clinic, Mold. First and third Mondays of the month at 9-30 a.m.

School Clinic.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. Wednesdays at 9-30 a.m.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. Wednesdays at 1-30 p.m.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

This is done in the schools and at Chest Clinics.

Dental Clinic.

School children and expectant mothers are treated at the Clinic, King Street, Mold, by appointment.

Orthopaedic Clinic.

Shotton—New Clinic, Central School. First and third Wednesdays of each month at 10 a.m., and at Wrexham and Holywell.

Infant Welfare.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. Wednesdays at 1-30 p.m.

Ophthalmic Clinic.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. The second and fourth Mondays of the month at 1-30 p.m. (by appointment).

Speech Therapy Clinic.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold, by appointment.

Health Visiting.

Health Visitor/School Nurses are provided by the County Council. These Nurses visit children in their homes up to school age, and attend at the Infant Welfare Clinic sessions.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

This service is maintained by close liaison between the Medical Officer, Health Visitor/School Nurses, Tuberculosis Health Visitors, Home Help Organiser, the Welfare Department, the County Health Department, and voluntary bodies, including associations caring for the blind and deaf, and those otherwise handicapped.

Vaccination is carried out by general medical practitioners, but it may be done by the Medical Officer on request.

National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47). (Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention).

No cases were dealt with under this heading during the year, but several cases were visited in this connection.

Hospitals.

Hospital accommodation is provided by the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee. Mold Cottage Hospital remains in use and provides services for local residents. Patients are admitted to other hospitals in the district, mainly in Wrexham and Chester. The provision of out-patient facilities at Mold is much appreciated by local residents.

Prevalence and control of Notifiable Diseases
(excluding Tuberculosis), 1972.

TABLE VII.

Diseases.	Cases notified.	Deaths notified.
Scarlet Fever	3 (1)	—
Whooping Cough	1 (0)	—
Measles	38 (0)	—
Meningitis	— (2)	—
Erysipelas	— (0)	—
Poliomyelitis	— (0)	—
Dysentery	4 (0)	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	— (0)	—
Food Poisoning	7 (0)	—
Paratyphoid Fever	— (0)	—
Total	53 (3)	—

Figures in brackets are those for 1971.

TABLE VIII.

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases. The figures shown in column 1 of the previous table are analysed in age groups below.

Disease.	Under 1.	1-4.	5-9.	10-14.	15-24.	25 and over.
Scarlet Fever	—	—	3	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles	—	16	22	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	1	2	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	2	—	—	5

Again, there were no cases of poliomyelitis nor of diphtheria. Influenza was prevalent early in the year, causing the death of an elderly man. There were 3 mild cases of scarlet fever, and one of whooping cough. The expected outbreak of measles came in the spring, with 38 notifications in children up to 9 years of age. The 4 dysentery

cases occurred in one family. The source was probably infection brought by visiting relatives. There were no other cases in the district. Of the 7 cases of food poisoning, 3 were in one family. The infection was *Salmonella* Typhimurium, and the source was probably a chicken cooked and eaten in the home. Another case of *Salmonella* Typhimurium occurred in a man who had fallen ill after a visit to a seaside resort in Wales. Another case, with *Salmonella* Heidelberg, appeared to have been contracted in hospital, and of the two other cases of food poisoning, the persons fell ill after a holiday in Austria. One patient had *Salmonella* Tokardi, and the other had *Salmonella* Tokardi and *Salmonella* Heidelberg. They had eaten sandwiches at a railway station on the Continent.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified during 1972.

Age Groups.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Total.
Under 5 years	—	—	—
5-14 years	—	—	—
15-24 „	—	—	—
25-44 „	—	—	—
45-64 „	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—
All ages	—	—	—

There were no new notifications of tuberculosis compared with 2 in 1971, 2 in 1970, none in 1969, 1 in 1968, 4 in 1967, 1 in 1966, 3 in 1965, none in 1964, 2 in 1963, 2 in 1962, and 6 in 1961.

There were no deaths associated with tuberculosis.

Mass X-Ray Surveys.

The regular monthly visits of the mobile x-ray unit ceased in December, 1967. The unit continued its visits to works and factories in the district. Chest x-ray investigations are carried out at the Chest Clinics and the Hospitals.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

This service continued during 1972. Vaccination is offered to all suitable secondary school pupils between 12 and 14 years. The children are "skin-tested" in school, and those with a negative reaction are given the necessary single injection. Those with a strong positive reaction are sent for chest x-ray examination.

Anti-Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

During 1972 vaccination against poliomyelitis continued.

In February, 1962, the Sabin vaccine—a live vaccine given by mouth—was introduced at Mold Clinic. This method is used at all Clinics and is well received. Three doses of three drops of vaccine are given at 4, 6 and 10 months, at the same time as the injections against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. A "booster" dose is given at 5 years, on school entry.

Measles Vaccination.

This new procedure was slow to be accepted, but mothers of young children now realise how valuable it is in preventing measles.

German Measles Vaccination.

This single injection is used for the prevention of German measles. Severe damage can occur to unborn babies if the mother gets German measles. The vaccination is offered to adolescent girls in school, and should provide permanent protection from German measles.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Environmental health and the quality of life generally came more to the fore in 1972 and will no doubt grow in importance; this is supported by the importance placed on environmental health functions which will be one of the main services operated by the new District Councils in Wales after the 1st April, 1974.

The aspects of environmental health duties for which the Mold Urban District Council are responsible are contained in detail in this report.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Public Health Acts.

Complaints	.....	.....	.....	.....	34
Nuisances	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Drainage	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
Animals	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Infectious Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	63
Water Supplies	.....	.....	.....	.....	54
Trade Effluents	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
Verminous Premises, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Rodent Control	.....	.....	.....	.....	594
Mortuary	.....	.....	.....	.....	75
Public Conveniences	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Pet Shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Water Courses	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Lead sampling of water supply	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Food Poisoning Investigation	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Sewage Works	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Pigeons	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Insect Control	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Working Party	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Coal Supplies	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Other Visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	30

Housing Acts.

Inspections for Representations	.....	.....	.....	.....	41
Inspections—re-visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	17

Inspections—searches	23
Improvement Grants—Standard	48
Discretionary	121
Houses in Multiple Occupation	9
Exhibition	27
Housing Application Enquiries	10
Mortgage Enquiries/Applications	10
Qualification Certificates	10
Council House Modernisation	5
Rear Access	1
Queen's Park Heating	3
Well-maintained Payments	3
Other visits	5

Food and Drugs Acts, Regulations, etc.

Fried Fish and Chip Shops	9
Ice Cream—Premises (manufacturing)	4
Vehicles	3
Registered premises	4
Other registered premises, manufacturers	1
Butchers	31
Grocers, etc.	39
Licensed premises	12
School kitchens/Catering establishments	12
Bakehouses	1
Confectioners	1
Wet fish shops	1
Supermarkets	11
Cafes	22
Unsound food	41
Complaints	45
Other visits, etc.	61
Meat Inspection—Normal time	365
Overtime	58
Bacteriological swabs	6
Nursing Homes	1
Miscellaneous sampling	1
Poster Competition	25
Chemists	1
Youth Centre	4
Mobile Fish Stalls	4
Hotels	1
Greengrocers	1

Cleansing, etc.

Re dustbins and storage	.....	.....	.....	78
Business premises, etc.	.....	.....	.....	46
Street cleansing	.....	.....	.....	100
Litter	.....	.....	.....	135
Controlled tipping	.....	.....	.....	100
Plant and equipment	.....	.....	.....	81
Other visits	.....	.....	.....	24
Civic amenities	.....	.....	.....	20
Weed control	.....	.....	.....	23
Sack Holders Supply	.....	.....	.....	2
Depot	.....	.....	.....	2

Factories Act.

Factories without power				4
Factories with power	.....	.....	.....	2

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.

General inspections				41
Initial visits				1
Re-visits				31

Petroleum Spirit.

Inspections				1
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Civic Amenities Act.

Abandoned vehicles				28
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Indoor Market.

Visits and inspections				1
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Street Market.

Inspections				1
Other visits				1

Clean Air Acts, 1956 and 1968.

Smoke Control Areas :				
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....	9

Noise.

Visits	.....	.....	.....	2
Complaints	.....	.....	.....	1

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, ETC.

The many and varied duties under the various Public Health Acts were of a general nature and no particular aspect was predominant. All complaints received prompt attention and the necessary action taken.

Sampling of Water Supplies.

Regular sampling of the mains water supplies is undertaken by the Department at monthly intervals to maintain a check upon the purity of the water.

On the receipt of an unsatisfactory result from the Public Health Laboratory, immediate contact is made with the Central Flintshire Water Board in order to establish the possible cause of such a result.

The following number of water samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination :—

	No.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Bacteriological	48	48	—

The pH rectifier has given rise to a steady improvement in the plumbo-solvency problem. The amount of lead in the water supply is now well within the limits prescribed by the World Health Organisation.

Control of Rodents and Insect Pests.

Immediate attention is given to complaints of mouse and rat infestations and no major infestations were present during the year. The fact that this service is provided free of charge undoubtedly encourages occupiers of property to notify the Department without undue delay when rodents are seen on the premises.

Each year at least 10% of the main sewer manholes are test baited to assess the presence of rodents, and I am pleased to say that no evidence of sewer infestation was found.

Late in 1972 it was found necessary to carry out "block" treatment of all the premises in lower High Street in conjunction with a private company. Twenty-six premises were visited and nearly two hundred baits laid.

Warfarin resistance in rats and the spread of these "Super Rats" has not been felt in Mold and the use of the safe, anti-coagulant poison bait Warfarin is still most effective. Some resistance to Warfarin was evident in the treatment of mouse infestations but the change some three years ago to a more advanced poison remedied this situation.

Premises treated—

Rats :

Domestic premises	.....	63
Business premises	.....	29
Tips and other land	.....	27

Mice :

Domestic premises	.....	32
Business premises	.....	35

Every reasonable effort is made to treat for complaints of insect infestations such as wasps, earwigs, cockroaches, silver fish and ants. A variety of techniques are employed including powders, sprays, lacquers and fumigators in order to secure satisfactory eradication of the pests.

Offensive Trades.

There is now no offensive trade (as defined by the Public Health Act, 1936) in operation.

Sampling of Trade Effluent.

Sampling of effluents from the three trade premises was carried out at quarterly intervals and with the exception of one of the premises the picture can be said to be generally satisfactory. This indicates that with care and attention the limits prescribed by the Council in the trade effluent consent, can be met in order to ensure that there is no disruption in the treatment of the effluent once it reaches the sewage treatment works.

Investigations were made into the possibility of raising the trade effluent charges, but it was decided that because drainage problems generally from April, 1974, onwards would be the responsibility of the new Regional Water Authorities it would be best left to the new Authority.

Post Mortem Room and Public Mortuary.

Regular visits and inspections are carried out to ensure that hygienic standards are maintained in the premises which is being used now more than ever before.

During 1972 the use was as follows :—

	No. (1971)	No. for which fee is charged.
1. Post Mortems undertaken	180 (119)	161
2. Mortuary	83 (11)	19

A fee is chargeable in respect of persons being a resident outside the Mold Urban District.

Following the carrying out of extensive repairs in 1971, repairs to the external brickwork, roof and rainwater goods were completed during the year.

Public Conveniences.

Both sets of public conveniences continue to provide a necessary service to the public at Grosvenor Street and Earl Road. The future of the latter building is in doubt following the completion of the Youth Centre and Library. Provision was made, however, to enable temporary conveniences to be provided in their place.

A Council decision during the year will mean that in 1973 charging for use of the public conveniences will cease.

That misuse of toilets — deliberate vandalism to fixtures and fittings—continues unabated, and members of the public are put to considerable inconvenience when faulty locks, catches and doors are awaiting repair by the Council workmen. As has been said on several occasions in the past, the only satisfactory solution would appear to be the construction of a first class fully supervised block of toilets which could incorporate facilities for use by disabled persons.

Housing Acts, 1957 to 1971.

The year showed a substantial increase in the number of applicants for grants to assist owners to improve and modernise their properties. The applications approved being as follows :—

	No. Approved.	Total of Max. Grants.
Standard Grants	10 (8)	£2,931.00
Improvement (Discretionary) Grants	23 (5)	£18,548.86

In January the Council staged an "Older Houses—Improvement Exhibition" in the Assembly Hall to assist in publicising the availability of grants to help modernise properties. The exhibition proved most successful and was

well supported by traders involved in house improvement. The attendance of members of the public, officers and members from other local authorities was most encouraging and follow-up visits subsequent to the exhibition have resulted in grant applications being approved.

It is a sad state of affairs that in an age of lunar travel and supersonic aircraft, families still have to live in properties without a bathroom, without hot and cold water, without a proper damp proof course or with a toilet approached across an open yard. Much can be done to improve many older properties at reasonable expense, and with grants now available of up to £1,500 for improvements approved by the Council it is anticipated that tenants, landlords and owner-occupiers will now lose no time in making enquiries about grants to help bring their houses up to a modern standard.

Along with action aimed at improving older properties action was also taken on properties which were found to be unfit for human habitation. Altogether fifteen properties were dealt with by the making of a Closing Order and five with a Demolition Order. In all cases, where necessary, the families occupying the houses were rehoused by the Council.

Supervision of Food and Food Hygiene Administration.

During 1972 the following number of food premises have been inspected under the Food Hygiene Regulations :—

	Number.	Number Inspected.
Licensed premises	23	6
Food premises, shops, etc.	69	35
Cafes, fish and chips, etc.	15	8
Bakehouses	4	4
Schools, etc.	9	9
	120	62

Total number of visits to above premises — 331

The following is information which the Welsh Board of Health requested to be included in the Annual Report:—

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970.

	Total No.	Complying with Reg. 18.	No. to which Reg. 21 applies.	No. complying with Reg. 21.
Food shops	 65	65	41	41
Cafes, etc.	 12	12	12	12
Bakehouses	 4	4	4	4
Licensed premises	 23	23	23	23
School kitchens	 7	7	7	7
Other premises	 2	2	2	2

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970, which came into force in March, 1971, succeed and raised the standard laid down by the previous Regulations.

Due to various pressures of work, the rate of inspections of food premises is less than that of the previous year but attention was given to premises which warranted special attention.

During the year the Council instituted legal proceedings against occupiers of a Food Supermarket and a General Grocers, and fines imposed by the Courts totalled £415.

Early in the year the Department published findings of a lengthy investigation into the cleanliness of beer glasses used in public houses in Mold. Results indicated that in three quarters of the premises visited there were persons employed who were careful and thoughtful when washing the glasses. In a quarter of the premises the persons responsible for glass washing did not take enough time to wash them and did not rinse them. It was also noted that 80% of the premises visited had only one sink in which to wash glasses, etc., and of these over half received a poor result.

The techniques involved in assessing the cleanliness of the beer glasses was one of swabbing the complete inner surface of a beer glass, just prior to its use, the bacteria on the swab were then transferred to nutrient agar

and held at 37 deg. centigrade (average body temperature) for 48 hours. At the end of this period the number of bacteria were calculated.

This exercise proved most useful both in bringing to the attention of those engaged in the brewery trade, the necessity for care in washing glasses and also in obtaining added facilities or improvements within the licensed premises.

In conjunction with the North Wales Centre of the Association of Public Health Inspectors, the Council took part in a "Clean Food" poster competition. This exercise in Clean Food/Hygiene education involved all the schools in Mold, and three judges selected school prize winners for differing age groups and then overall finalists in each age group for Mold Urban District. These latter prize winners then went on to the Flintshire finals and North Wales finals. Such was the number and high standard of the posters submitted the judges had no easy task in selecting the best entries. Prize money donated by the Council together with contributions from local food shops was distributed amongst the prize winners at the presentation which took place prior to one of the Council Meetings. It was generally agreed that the competition was most successful.

Constant pressure by fully qualified staff will always be necessary to ensure that food is produced, transported, stored and sold to the consumer in such a manner so as not to prejudice the health of the general public. This is most important in a market town such as Mold which caters, as the County Town, for not only its own population but also the residents of the surrounding urban and rural districts who come into town to purchase their food each week.

Due to the Department being unable to find a satisfactory method of transporting ice cream samples under sufficiently low temperatures, samples could not be taken to assess the bacteriological quality of the ice cream. However, the two manufacturers within the Urban District were regularly inspected and conditions found to be highly satisfactory.

During the year requests were received from time to time to inspect foodstuffs which had, from one cause or another, given rise to doubt in the mind of the retailer as to the fitness or wholesomeness of that food. Arising from such consultations and from the advice given, the following foods were surrendered as being unfit for human consumption :—

Meat and offal at slaughterhouse	5,553 lbs.
Canned meats	60 lbs.
Fresh fish	435 lbs.
Fresh fruit and vegetables	— lbs.
Other foods	327 lbs.
Frozen foods	4,527 lbs.

Consumer Food Complaints.

Complaints are received from time to time about food purchased and in every case the usual detailed enquiries were made as were the necessary contacts with the manufacturers and distributors involved.

An increase in the number of consumer food complaints was noted in the Department and to give some indication as to the form of complaint, I have briefly summarised below some of the complaints received and the action taken :—

During one month early in the year complaints were received relating to mould growth on pre-packed cheese, damaged cap and resulting mould growth in a jar of jam, mould growth in a meat pie and the absence of lemon flavouring in a bottle of lemonade.

Again, later in the year, complaints of foreign object in tinned beans, rancidity of cheese, peculiar taste of chicken and possible parasitic condition of lamb chops required detailed investigations.

Poisonous nuts used as decorative beads were handed into the Department after nationwide publicity regarding the danger of these South African products.

Another complaint regarding mouldy cakes was found to bring about an increased awareness on the part of the offending shopkeeper relating to coding of foodstuffs.

On another occasion "glass" in a box of chocolates turned out to be hard clear sugar, probably South American in origin.

Pre-cooked chickens were found to be "off," and as a result of investigations a new coding system was agreed between the manufacturer and the retailer.

In the same month a dirty milk bottle complaint was received—the milk bottling plant being situated in Liverpool.

Towards the end of the year further complaints were brought to the Department's attention relating to sediment in bottled lemonade, insects in breakfast cereal, string in baked beans, frozen chickens with odour, and mouse-eaten loaf.

It can be seen that a very wide variety of consumer food complaints are received in the Department and a considerable amount of time is taken up interviewing complainants, shop managers, manufacturers and importers in an effort to establish the reason for the complaint so that steps can be taken to prevent any re-occurrence.

Food Samples.

The Public Health Inspector to the Flintshire County Council, Mr. H. Roberts, carried out routine food sampling and the following information relative to samples taken in this Council's area during the year is derived from his report:—

Description of Article.	No. of samples taken.		Genuine.		Not genuine or below standard.	
Milk		18	....	17	....	1
Dairy Products		8	....	8	....	—
Sausage and Meat Products		13	....	13	....	—
Alcoholic Drinks		4	....	3	....	1
Bread and Confectionery		3	....	3	....	—
Baby Foods		2	....	2	....	—
Fruit and Vegetables		5	....	5	....	—
Miscellaneous Groceries		10	....	10	....	—
		63		61		2

Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouse Hygiene.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1480	150	2	10913	—
Number inspected	1480	150	2	10913	—
All diseases except tuberculosis :					
Whole carcasses condemned —		2	—	59	—
Part of carcasses or offal condemned	55	—	—	791	—
Percentage affected with disease other than tuberculosis	3.6	—	—	7.2	—
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned —		—	—	—	—
Part carcass or offal condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercus Bovis :					
Whole carcasses condemned —		—	—	—	—
Part carcass or offal condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected with cysticercus bovis	—	—	—	—	—

The slaughtering of animals continued without a break during the year and attendance during the morning, in the afternoon and on Saturday mornings has meant that other important legal duties were either neglected or deferred until some later date. Whilst the legal duties laid upon the local authority require the inspection of all carcasses of meat before they leave the slaughterhouse, they nevertheless give rise to a situation whereby a choice has to be made between meat inspection and inspection of other premises. Enough time cannot be and is not spent in the inspection of other premises in the town, and this does cause concern.

Following the introduction of the Brucella Irradiation Scheme by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, aimed at ridding herds of cattle having Brucellosis, Brucella reactors have been slaughtered and inspected ; additional

steps being taken in these cases to make sure that potentially infected parts of these carcasses are removed quickly from the slaughterhouse for processing.

During 1972 nearly seven hundred hours were spent on meat inspection both within and outside normal office hours. With the creation of Delyn District Council in 1974 there would appear to be a good case for the appointment of a full time meat inspectorate to carry out the meat inspection procedures at the slaughterhouses. Such an arrangement would mean that local authorities would comply in full with the Meat Inspection Regulations in that both ante-mortem and post mortem inspection would be carried out.

Management of Public Cleansing Services.

Solid Waste Collection.

1972 saw two relatively unchanged teams of refuse collectors/drivers carry out their tasks of removing both domestic and trade refuse, without fuss or complaint. Indeed, it is to the credit of these men that compliments are received on their promptness and courtesy. The refuse collection service in Mold year after year operates quickly and efficiently and must be regarded as giving a service second to none in North Wales. It is to be hoped that re-organisation of local government in 1974 will not bring about any deterioration in the standards of collection that the Mold residents have come to expect.

The Council's policy of supplying plastic sack holders to domestic properties over a phased five year programme resulted in a further five hundred holders being installed. This will enable the refuse collection service to increase its efficiency and so enable it to absorb the growing bulk of refuse from the steadily increasing number of houses, etc. It is envisaged that the new system, as well as being more efficient, will be cleaner and more attractive in order to ease the problem of recruiting labour. Whilst refuse each year becomes bulkier through the increased use of boxes, tins, plastic containers, etc., it is only through increased efficiency that vehicle and labour costs can be kept to a minimum.

The Council authorised the purchase of a Shelvoke and Drewry 18/25 Fore and Aft Tipper refuse collection vehicle which was delivered in 1972 ; this will enable the Department to ensure that a weekly collection of refuse is maintained at all properties and disruptions caused by breakdowns from the older vehicle will be remedied.

The stringent requirements of the new Transport Legislation requires all drivers of heavy goods vehicles to be in possession of a Heavy Goods Vehicle Licence to cover the particular class of vehicle he drives.

Before September, 1973, all Heavy Goods Vehicles at least one year old will have to undergo the Department of the Environment Testing and Plating Examination. This is a stringent test of the vehicles' roadworthiness, and will no doubt require some expenditure to be incurred on one of the Department's older refuse vehicles. The Council during the year decided not to incur any expenditure on the small Karrier refuse vehicle.

Solid Waste Disposal.

Fully controlled tipping is now well established at the Rhual Tip and although conditions during the wet periods of the year are difficult, access to and from the tipping areas has been improved and now affords ideal tipping conditions for those using the site.

The increase in the quantity of refuse and in the use of the tip by ratepayers gives rise to doubts regarding the expected twenty year life of the tip.

A report, previously accepted by the Council, resulted in a tightening up on the composition and quantities of refuse allowed to be deposited at the tip. This was necessary in the main because of persons depositing large quantities of building refuse, rubble, etc., brought in from outside the Urban District and hence contributing to shortening the life of the tip.

The B.100 digger loader continues to bulldoze the refuse into place, compact it and then each night blind the sides, top and face of the tip with soil. The supervision of the tip and the compliance with the requirements of the

extremely stringent lease will continue to occupy your Officers' time during the life of the tip. It is indeed fortunate that the tractor driver and his assistant, with some experience now of the requirements of controlled tipping, can be relied upon to make every effort to comply with the terms of the lease.

The roadwidening scheme alongside the southern boundary of the Council's Rhual Tip will necessitate the removal of the protective bank and hedge screening but agreement has been reached with the Flintshire County Council regarding the erection of a close boarded fence.

The year under review saw much publicity given to the dumping of toxic waste. Treatment of all refuse, except in exceptional circumstances, will be necessary and disposal methods such as pulverisation, composting and incineration will all have to be considered as methods of disposal by the new District Council when it comes into being in 1974. One can imagine that any new Environmental Health Department of a new District Council will be faced with advising the Council as to the type and position of a refuse incinerator and also the depositing points for the resulting burnt residue. It may well be possible to harness such heat produced by the combustion of the refuse to give district heating to a nearby housing development or to supply heat to a swimming bath, office block or factory. Although this part of Flintshire is comparatively well blessed with disposal points, these would still fill up at a fairly fast rate using pulverised refuse and therefore one can see that in the future there will be little choice except to dispose of refuse by the more sophisticated (and expensive) method of direct incineration.

Cleaning of Streets, Footpaths and other areas.

The Johnston Mechanical Suction/Sweeper continued to sweep the main streets daily in the early morning before vehicles park at the kerbside and the remaining roads in the district at least weekly. It is estimated that approximately 700 tons of grit, dirt and rubbish is removed annually by the machine which is also used to assist in the cleaning out of road gulleys.

The manual sweeping of footpaths and other public areas was carried out although at times labour for this important task was not always readily available. The remuneration and status connected with this work does little to assist local authorities in obtaining the right men for the job, although some improvement was noted at the end of the year.

The Dangerous Litter Act, 1971, increased the penalty of dropping litter from £10 to £100, but a lot depends upon the co-operation of the members of the public and it should be the duty of all persons, seeing refuse being abandoned, to report the facts either to the Health Department or the Police, together with details such as car registration numbers, etc., in order that legal action can be taken against the offenders. Time and again the Department has to remove dumped rubbish from waste ground, hedgerows and roadsides and there seems little excuse for this form of anti-social behaviour when access without charge can be gained to the Council's refuse tip for the depositing of household rubbish. Unusually bulky household items such as wardrobes, beds, cookers, sideboards and the like are collected free of charge by arranging a special collection normally on the Friday of each week.

Market days still pose the biggest problems for street cleaning although an arrangement whereby a roadsweeper is engaged on duty all day on Saturday seems to have improved matters and reduced complaints of untidiness and litter following the departure of the market stallholders; all main streets in the town centre are also swept early each Sunday morning.

Health, Safety and Welfare in Shops and Offices, etc.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Annual Reports Order, 1964, prescribes certain statistics to be contained in Local Authority Annual Reports. These are to be found in Appendix I. Some further detail has been recorded by the Department with a view to indicating the actual conditions found on inspection, and these can be found in Appendix II.

The rate of inspection during 1972 was 59.8%, this follows a rate of 46.8% in 1971, a 51% rate in 1970 and a 48.7% rate in 1969. The inability to carry out 100% rate of inspections being due to the amount of time which has to be spent carrying out meat inspection in the slaughterhouse and the concentration of efforts on food premises following the introduction of the new Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970.

Each year the Department aims to see that each registered premises shall receive a general inspection, follow-up visits being undertaken when necessary, although with the ever-increasing number of additional Acts and Regulations that have to be administered by the Department it is inconceivable that this can be achieved under the present circumstances.

Although the Act has been in force for eight years now, not all premises have been found to comply in all respects and a considerable amount of time is taken up by instructing employers and employees as to the respective duties under the Act. It is felt that employers, now having had at least one general inspection, will be aware of their responsibilities and will be co-operative in complying with the requirements.

During the year four accidents were notified to the Department. Each accident received a full investigation by the Department resulting in advice being given to the employer concerned.

It is disturbing to note that not all employers are aware of their duty to notify the Local Authority of any accidents which occur on the premises and which result in an employee being off work for three days or more.

APPENDIX I.

Registrations and General Inspections (last year's figures in brackets).

Class of Premises.	No. of Premises Registered during the year.	Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year.	No. of Premises receiving General Inspection during the year.
Offices	 6 (5)	43 (37)	27 (12)
Retail Shops	 5 (4)	91 (88)	51 (38)
Wholesale Shops	 — (—)	2 (2)	1 (1)
Catering Establishments	 1 (—)	20 (19)	14 (19)
Fuel Storage Depots	 — (—)	1 (1)	1 (1)
Total	 12 (9)	157(147)	94 (71)

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises — 213 (139)

“General Inspection” means any inspection of premises to which the Act applies which is undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining whether all the relevant provisions of the Act and instruments thereunder are complied with regarding those premises. “Registered premises” means any premises in respect of which a notice under Section 49 of the Act has been received by a local authority, and the expression “premises registered” shall be construed accordingly.

Analysis of workplace of persons employed in Registered Premises.

Class of Workplace.	No. of Persons Employed.
Offices	283 (241)
Retail Shops	379 (381)
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	13 (13)

Class of Workplace.	No. of Persons Employed
Catering Establishments	84 (76)
Fuel Storage Depots	6 (7)
Total	765 (718)
Total Males	239 (215)
Total Females	526 (503)

Exemptions and Prosecutions.

No exemptions were granted and no legal proceedings have yet been instituted.

Staff.

Two Public Health Inspectors are appointed under Section 52 to enforce the Act. One Inspector devoting a portion of his time to the Act whilst the other employed only very occasionally in connection with the Act.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises (Hoists and Lifts) Regulations, 1968.

Only two premises in Mold are affected by the above Regulations and these have been notified of the requirements. Both premises were inspected during 1972 and found to comply with the regulations governing lift safety.

APPENDIX II.

Premises at which contraventions found.

Class of Premises.	
Offices	16 (9)
Retail Shops	38 (35)
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	— (1)
Catering Establishments and Canteens	6 (11)
Fuel Storage Depots	1 (1)
Total	61 (57)

Details of contraventions found.

Unregistered premises	2	(3)
Cleanliness	19	(21)
Overcrowding	1	(1)
Temperature	7	(4)
Ventilation	15	(8)
Lighting	8	(7)
Sanitary accommodation	13	(9)
Washing facilities	2	(7)
Drinking water	1	(2)
Clothing accommodation	7	(7)
Seating	3	(2)
Eating facilities	2	(6)
Floors, passage and stairs	20	(11)
Safety and operation of machinery	3	(2)
Noise and vibration	—	(1)
First aid facilities	27	(31)
Abstracts	23	(14)
Total		151 (136)

Accidents.

Number of accidents reported	4
Number of accidents investigated	4
Causation—Handling goods	2
Falls	2
Injuries sustained—Open wounds	2
Fractures and dislocations	2

In no case was it found necessary to institute legal proceedings, however, in two cases it was necessary to warn the persons concerned as carelessness leads to the accidents happening.

Briefly, the accidents occurred as follows :—

(a) Whilst a drayman was lifting a barrel off stillage it slipped trapping his hand against another barrel causing lacerations to his hand.

(b) A typist was placing documents into a safe and the door closed trapping one of her fingers.

(c) A workman carrying a can of paraffin on a loading ramp which was slippery, fell, straining and bruising his ankle.

(d) Whilst walking through a stockroom a sales assistant tripped over an electrical cable which had been left by workmen. The young girl suffered a fractured elbow as a result of the fall.

Atmospheric Pollution Control.

Clean Air Acts, 1956 and 1968.

No further Smoke Control Orders were pursued during the year. The whole future of the Smoke Control Areas in Mold and any further development of a smoke control programme hinges not only on the finance available but also on the policy adopted by the new District Council after local government re-organisation.

The daily recording of sulphur dioxide and soot particles in the air, which are recorded in the Department, indicate quite clearly that a rather high level of pollution exists and the ultimate achievement of a smoke-free atmosphere will be of benefit to all.

PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTION AND STORAGE.

Number of petroleum stores licensed	18
Total number of gallons stored	48,600 gallons
Fees paid	£78.00

The eighteen premises above are licensed annually for the storage of petroleum spirit and following the revised Home Office Model Codes, which the Council adopted and included in their conditions of licence, the electrical installation parts of the premises are now up to standard.

FACTORIES.

There is only one out-worker in the Mold Urban District and conditions are satisfactory.

Premises. (1)	Number of :				Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
	No. on Register. (2)	Inspections. (3)	Written Notices. (4)		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	2	2	—	....	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) where Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	53	31	11	....	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	...	—
Total ...	55	33	11	—	—

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.					
	Found.		Referred		In which	
(1)	(2)	(3)	To H.M. In- spectr.	By H.M. In- spectr.	prosecutions were instituted.	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	...	—	—	—	...	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	...	—	—	—	...	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	...	—	—	—	...	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	...	—	—	—	...	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	...	—	—	—	...	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :—						
(a) Insufficient	...	2	—	—	...	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	...	1	—	—	...	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	...	1	—	—	...	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	...	—	—	—	...	—
Total	...	4	2	—	—	—

GENERAL.

In concluding my fourth Annual Report, I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council for their continued support and interest in the work of the Health Department and in particular for the support given by the Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor Mrs. Pat Poole.

The fact that we were able to function both administratively and practically to the extent we did in an effort to further the work and duties with which we are involved was due in no small way to Mr. J. E. Kettlewell, the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, Miss C. M. A. McManus, the Clerk/Typist, and to Mr. G. Bevan, the Foreman, who is now in his 16th year with the Department. All have knowledge and ability in their work to a most satisfactory degree.

I would also like to express my thanks to the Officers of the other Departments for their continued and willing co-operation throughout the year.

M. COPPACK, M.A.P.H.I.,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

GENERAL

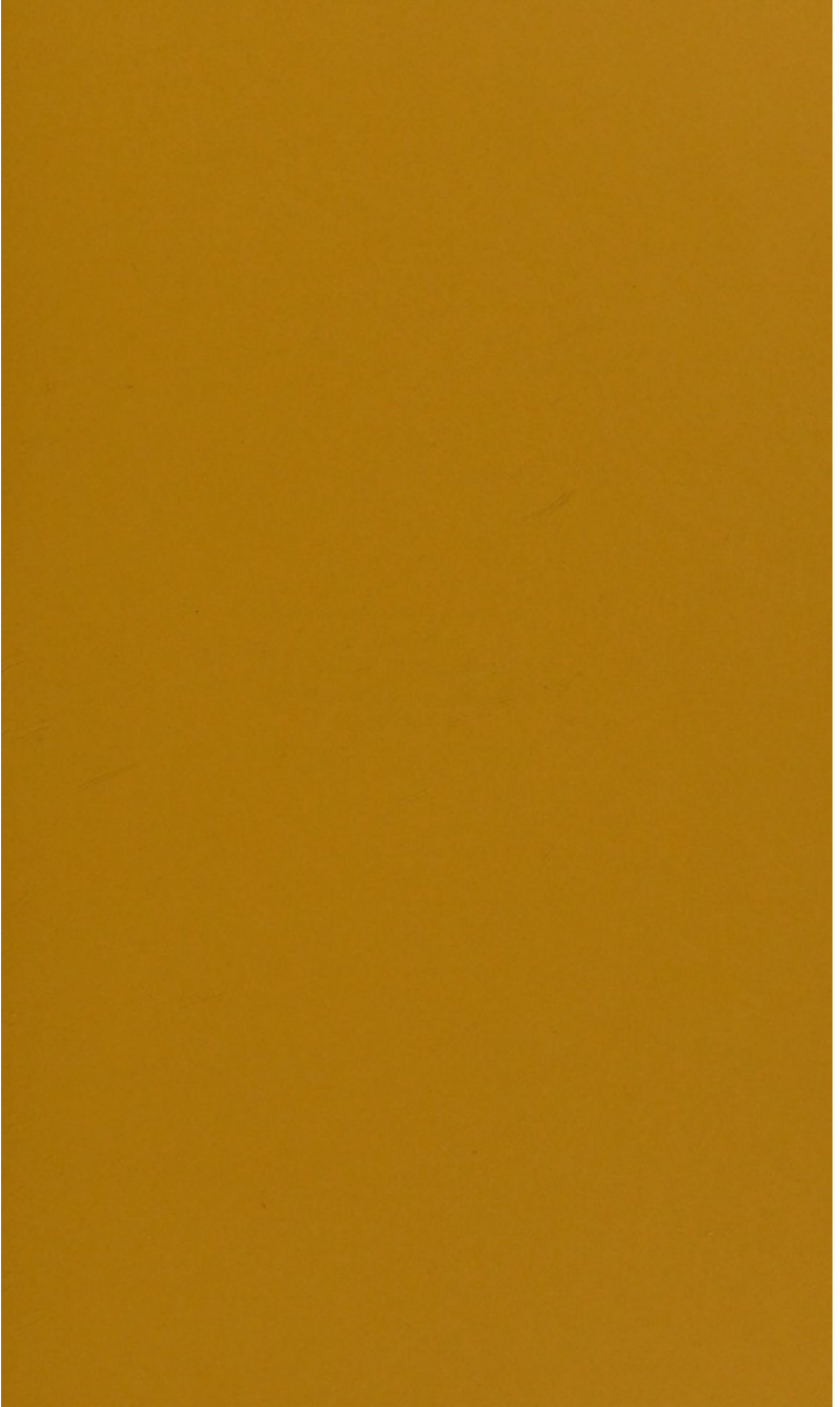
In considering my fourth Annual Report, I should like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation of the interest and assistance rendered by the various departments of the Health Commission, and in particular for the support given by the Department of the Health Commission, in the preparation of this report.

The fact that we were able to conduct our administrative and financial work so efficiently and economically is due to the co-operation of the various departments, and in particular to the assistance of Mr. J. B. Russell, the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, and to Mr. C. H. Brown, the Chief Public Health Inspector, who is now in his fifth year with the Department. All have knowledge and ability in their work, and have rendered great service.

I would also like to express my thanks to the various departments for their co-operation and willing assistance throughout the year.

M. CORPAC, M.A.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector



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