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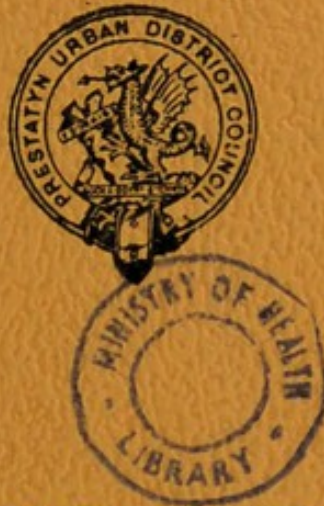
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PRESTATYN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. D. P. W. ROBERTS
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. J. M. EDWARDS, M.R.S.H., Cert. Meat and Other Foods

FOR THE YEAR

1963



**CYNGOR DOSBARTH DINESIG
PRESTATYN**



Adroddiad Blynyddol

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SWYDDOG IECHYD

Dr. D. P. W. ROBERTS

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

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Mr J. M. EDWARDS, M.R.S.H.

AM

1963

CYNGOR DORBARIAU DINWIG
PŴSTIAU



Adroddiad Blynyddol

SWYDDOCH ICHYD

Dr. D. P. W. ROBERTS

MR. CYRIL RICE, LL.B., B.A., D.Phil.

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Dr. A. M. EDWARDS, M.A.

1961

HEALTH COMMITTEE 1963

Chairman: Coun. H. A. CRABTREE, J.P.

Coun. J. ELLIS EVANS, J.P.	Coun. A. T. PRICE
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„ O. H. WILLIAMS	„ J. C. LEDSHAM
„ OWEN JONES	„ E. J. NEWBY
„ F. ALLITT	

Chairman of the Council: Coun. P. L. ROBERTS, J.P.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. D. P. W. ROBERTS

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector: Meat and Food Inspector:

J. M. EDWARDS, M.R.S.H., Cert. Meat & Food Inspector

Clerk:

Mrs. B. PARRY

General Assistant:

J. E. PARRY

Meteorological Officer:

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For the Year 1963

To the Chairman and Members of the
Prestatyn Urban District Council.

I have pleasure in presenting my third Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health of Prestatyn for the year 1963.

The population of the district rose by 320 to 11,490 (Registrar General's Mid-year estimate) in spite of excess deaths over births of 50. In my opinion the Registrar General's estimate of population is a slight under estimation. The adjusted death rate was 11.3 per 1,000 compared with the national average of 12.2 whilst the adjusted birth rate (allowance made for the higher proportion of old people in town compared with the national average) was 17.4 compared with the national average of 18.2.

There were only two deaths of infants under one year of age, giving a local infant mortality rate of 12.9 per 1,000 compared with a national rate of 21.1. Seven cases of tuberculosis were notified in the year and it will be many years before this disease becomes virtually extinct, as there are still undiscovered reservoirs of infection in the community. Over 500 cases of suspected food poisoning came to the notice of the department and I cannot, too strongly, emphasise the importance of all food handlers observing the highest possible standard of food hygiene and I have made suggestions on this matter in the section on food hygiene.

During the year 188 new private dwellings were erected and although a reduction on previous years because of the exceptional prolonged cold spell, it is evident that the pace of construction is as great as ever and this development will require extension to existing schools and possible provision of a new school at a later date. Twelve new council houses were built in the year, mainly for families re-housed from the Warren, where the slum clearance programme has been completed.

I should like to see provision made for a scheme for re-claiming part of the tipped area of the refuse tip for the provision of playing fields which are urgently needed.

The toilets at the Central Beach are being re-constructed and it is hoped that they will be ready for the 1964 season, but it is necessary to improve the other toilets in the town, especially the Public Conveniences at Hillside Gardens and the Prestatyn Golf Club, which are a disgrace.

The Health Committee has given careful consideration to the provision of free washing facilities in unattended toilets, but the view prevailing is the fear that if these facilities were provided, extensive vandalism would occur and I share this view. On the other hand, I would like the Committee to reconsider their views with regard to toilets where an attendant is stationed either to reduce the present high charge for provision of washing facilities or make this service free. Great concern is always expressed when sewage becomes deposited on the Public Highway through temporary flooding or other causes and mention is often made of the great danger to health but the public are very inconsistent in that hardly any mention is made of the dangers of animal faeces on the public highway. The danger to health of dog faeces is very small but it is highly objectionable to see these deposits on the pavements of a public highway and there is too little control of dogs. They should not be allowed on the street unaccompanied for the purpose of attending to the calls of nature and when accompanied, the public should, wherever possible guide the dog to the gutter. I am sure that any legislation needed to cover this matter would be as ineffective as the present Litter Acts and it is a question of appealing to the public's responsibilities in this matter. I hope that a start will be made with the long delayed Maes-y-Groes scheme of flats for old people as the waiting list increased from 110 to 152 in the year.

I should like to pay tribute to the outstanding efforts of the voluntary organisations of the district and particularly to the Women's Voluntary Service who have provided an excellent "Meals on Wheels" service.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and active interest in the Department, the Council Officials and in particular Mr. Edwards and Dr. G. W. Roberts.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. P. W. ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

Land area (exclusive of foreshore)	1,640 acres
Land area (inclusive of foreshore)	3,219 acres
Population at mid-year 1963 (Registrar General's estimate) ...	11,490
Population change compared with previous year	320
Total number of properties (end of 1963)	4,720
Number of empty properties (end of 1963)	120
Rateable value of the Urban District at end of 1963	£480,219
Product of a penny rate	£1,896
General rate in £1	10/9d.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE URBAN DISTRICT

The town has become renowned as a locality for retirement, with a favourable climate and almost fog-free atmosphere.

The district has recently become popular with holidaymakers, both day trippers and residential, and miles of excellent sand and a safe-bathing beach contribute to the amenities of the town. The population of the Urban District is growing rapidly and within a decade, granted the present rate of expansion, it is possible for the population to exceed 17,000. There are no industries in the town, apart from catering for holidaymakers, but fortunately employment is available for manual and clerical workers in Deeside industrial plants which are within daily travelling distance.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :

Live Births—Male 85, Female 70	155
Legitimate live births—Male 82, Female 66	148
Illegitimate live births—Male 3, Female 4	7
Illegitimate local rate per 1,000 live births	45
National illegitimate rate per 1,000 live births	69
Crude birth rate per 1,000 live births	13.4
Birth rate comparability factor	1.29
Birth rate standardised	17.4
National birth rate per 1,000 population	18.2

Still Births :

Still births (total)	5
Legitimate still births (total)	5
Illegitimate still births (total)	—
Local still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	30.1
National still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	17.3

Infant Mortality Rates :

Infant deaths under one year of age (total)	2
Legitimate infant deaths under one year of age (total)	2
Illegitimate infant deaths under one year of age (total)	—
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	12.9
National infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	21.1
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	1
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—

Infant deaths under 4 weeks of age (Neo-natal)	2
Legitimate infant deaths under 4 weeks of age	2
Illegitimate infant deaths under 4 weeks of age	—
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	12.9
National neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	14.2
Total peri-natal deaths (still births and deaths under one week combined)	7
Peri-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	43
National peri-natal mortality rate	29.3
Deaths in first week of life (early neo-natal period)	2
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	12.9

Maternal mortality, including abortion :

Number of deaths	—
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	—

DEATHS

Deaths—Male 88, Female 117	205
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	17.8
Comparability factor	0.64
Death rate standardised per 1,000 population	11.3
National death rate for England and Wales	12.2

POPULATION CHANGES IN THE URBAN DISTRICT

The following table shows the change in population due to migration :-

Year	Mid-year population : Registrar General's estimated figure	Population change during year	Change in population due to births and deaths only during year	Change in population due to migration
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1901	1,261	—	—	—
1911	2,036	—	—	—
1921	4,085	—	—	—
1931	4,511	—	—	—
1941	10,030	—	—	—
1951	8,809	—	—	—
1952	8,553	—256	—76	—180
1953	8,670	+117	—19	+136
1954	9,210	+540	—36	+576
1955	9,050	—160	—49	—111
1956	9,210	+160	—43	+203
1957	9,380	+170	—31	+201
1958	9,550	+170	—24	+194
1959	9,720	+170	—64	+234
1960	10,020	+300	—49	+349
1961	10,670	+650	—4	+654
1962	11,170	+500	—60	+560
1963	11,490	+320	—50	+370

A minus sign in Column 4 indicates an excess of deaths over births.

WARD POPULATIONS

Average, Population, Private Households and Dwellings. Population

Local Authority Areas, Wards, Civil Parishes in Rural District, Conurbation Centres, New Towns.

Area	1951		Population (1961)				Persons per acre	Private households	Population in private households	Structurally separate dwellings occupied.	Rooms	Density of Occupation	
	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)						(h)	(i)
Flintshire ...	163,707	145,279	150,082	72,266	77,816	0.9	47,341	145,842	46,864	227,766	0.65	5.0	
P'statyn U.D.	2,796	8,823	10,786	4,661	6,125	3.9	4,047	10,570	4,018	19,840	0.55	2.5	
Wards:													
Meliden ...	424	1,351	1,775	766	1,009	4.2	690	1,775	686	3,138	0.59	3.7	
North East	452	1,298	1,209	532	677	2.7	425	1,198	423	2,091	0.59	4.8	
North West	478	1,717	2,669	1,180	1,489	5.6	1,006	2,529	1,000	4,711	0.56	1.5	
South East	836	1,556	1,744	694	1,050	2.1	690	1,710	681	3,873	0.46	0.4	
South West	606	2,901	3,389	1,489	1,900	5.6	1,236	3,358	1,228	6,027	0.58	2.9	

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DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES

The table below indicates the common causes of death in Great Britain in order of importance, as extracted from national returns:-

44%	...	Heart disease.
17%	...	Vascular lesions of C.N.S.
13%	...	Cancer, excluding cancer of lung.
8½%	...	All other causes.
5½%	...	Bronchitis.
5%	...	Other circulatory diseases.
2½%	...	Cancer of lung.
2½%	...	Pneumonia.
2%	...	Other respiratory diseases.

Cancer deaths	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Lung	6	3	—	2	9	6	5	8	3	10	4
Stomach	4	5	5	1	6	3	4	4	2	3	6
Breast	1	4	5	1	6	2	4	1	3	3	4
Uterus	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	4	1	2
Leukaemia	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	2	2
Other sites	10	8	18	13	16	15	24	15	13	17	20
Total all sites	23	22	29	18	39	30	39	29	26	36	38

Coronary Heart Disease: During the past twenty years there has been a considerable rise in the incidence of this disease, and although improved methods of certification of death may have accounted for some of the rise, it is generally considered that there has been a real rise in the incidence of this disease.

The following chart shows the annual deaths from this disease in the urban district over the past 10 years :-

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Deaths	16	18	27	28	29	36	37	55	52	51	48

CEREBRAL VASCULAR DISEASE

As the proportion of people over 65 increases in the community so the incidence of cerebral vascular disorders ("strokes") increases. The rehabilitation of affected patients is often a long process and places great strain on the relatives and medical and nursing attendants.

It is increasingly recognised that early physiotherapy treatment is often the key to success. Skilled treatment can often prevent deformities, re-educate patterns of movement, and re-train skills.

Maintenance of range of movement during the early stages must be carried out passively, or stiffness will make functional activities more difficult, and the patient can do some of these movements himself, but the responsibility for this rests with the physiotherapist to show the patient how they may most easily be done.

Because of the acute shortage of physiotherapists, those patients treated at home, are often cared for by the district nurse who, through pressure of work, often finds she is unable to give the necessary time during the vital first few days after a stroke.

INFANT MORTALITY

There were 2 deaths of infants under 1 year of age and details are as follows: -

Age at death

2 days	Prematurity.
4 days	Bronchopneumonia, Leaking Oesophageal Anastomosis, Oesophageal Atresia.

CAUSES OF DEATH: REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN

	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	3	—	3
2. Tuberculosis, Other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	3	6
11. " " Lung, Bronchus	4	—	4
12. " " Breast	—	4	4
13. " " Uterus	—	2	2
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	7	13	20
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	2	2
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	17	22	39
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	23	25	48
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	1	1	2
20. Other Heart Diseases	6	14	20
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	7	5	12
22. Influenza	—	1	1
23. Pneumonia	1	3	4
24. Bronchitis	2	1	3
25. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	2	—	2
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	—	1	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea ...	—	2	2
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—	2
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	—	—	—
32. Other Defined and Illdefined Diseases	7	12	19
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
34. All Other Accidents	—	3	3
35. Suicide	—	2	2
36. Homicide and War Operations	—	—	—
All Causes	88	117	205

CAUSES OF DEATH — LOCAL RETURNS

	Under 1 year		1 to 5 years		5 to 15 years		15 to 25 years		25 to 35 years		35 to 45 years		45 to 55 years		55 to 65 years		65 to 75 years		75 and upwards		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1. Tuberculosis Respiratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
2. " Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
3. Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
6. Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
8. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
11. " " Lung ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
12. " " Bronchus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
13. " " Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
14. " " Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
15. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
16. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
17. Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
18. Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42
19. Coronary Disease, Angina ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	65
20. Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
21. Other Heart Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17

22. Other Circulatory Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	5	3	13
23. Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
24. Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	6
25. Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
26. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	4
27. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
28. Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
29. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
30. Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
31. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
32. Congenital Malformations ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
33. Other Defined and Illdefined Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	4	4	15
34. Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
35. All Other Accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
36. Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
37. Homicide and War Operations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
38. All Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0

Total ... 215

TABLE SHOWING VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT IN RECENT YEARS

Year	Registrar General's mid-year estimate of population.	Number of local births: R.G.'s returns.	Local crude birth rate per 1,000 population.	Local adjusted rate.	National birth rate per 1,000 population.	Local deaths: R.G.'s returns.	Crude death rate per 1,000 population	Adjusted local rate per 1,000 population.	National death rate per 1,000 population	Infant deaths under 1 year of age.	Local infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births.	National infant mortality rate.
1911	2,036	25	12.5	—	23.8	30	14.2	—	13.9	2	25.0	—
1921	4,085	30	10.1	—	—	32	10.8	—	—	1	33.0	—
1931	4,511	60	14.0	—	15.8	46	10.76	—	12.3	4	66.0	—
1941	10,030	132	13.2	—	14.2	135	13.5	—	12.9	7	53.4	66.0
1951	8,809	91	10.4	—	15.5	173	19.8	12.9	12.5	4	44.0	29.6
1952	8,553	94	10.9	—	15.3	170	19.9	12.9	11.3	3	31.9	27.6
1953	8,670	108	12.4	14.5	15.5	127	14.6	9.5	11.4	1	9.3	26.8
1954	9,210	98	11.0	13.6	15.2	134	15.1	9.5	11.3	—	—	25.5
1955	9,050	99	10.9	13.5	15.0	148	16.4	10.3	11.7	4	40.2	24.9
1956	9,210	104	11.3	14.0	15.7	147	15.9	10.9	11.7	2	19.2	23.8
1957	9,380	124	13.0	16.2	16.1	155	16.5	11.2	11.5	2	16.1	23.0
1958	9,550	143	15.0	18.4	16.4	167	17.5	11.6	11.7	1	7.0	22.5
1959	9,720	127	12.03	13.35	16.5	181	18.6	14.1	11.6	6	51.28	22.0
1960	10,020	134	13.4	14.84	17.1	183	18.3	13.9	11.5	1	6.0	21.7
1961	10,750	172	16.4	17.06	17.4	176	16.3	13.4	12.0	4	23.3	21.4
1962	11,170	144	12.9	13.3	18.0	204	18.3	15.3	11.9	3	20.8	21.6
1963	11,490	155	13.4	17.4	18.2	205	17.8	11.3	12.2	2	12.9	20.9

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The table shown below indicates the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases that occurred during 1963.

Disease	Under 1 year						At all ages	Over 65					Cases admitted to hospital	
	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-44	45-64		Over 65						
Scarlet Fever	1	2	3				6							
Diphtheria														
Erysipelas														
Whooping Cough	2	1	5	1		9								
Measles	5	18	13	1		41								
Pneumonia				4		1								
Meningococcal Infection	1		1			2								
*Food Poisoning														
Dysentery			2			2								
Poliomyelitis														
Puerperal Pyrexia														
Paratyphoid														
Polio Encephalitis														
Encephalitis														
Ophthalmia Neonatorum														
Enteric Fever														
Pemphigus														
Total	9	21	24	2		61	4	9	21	24	2	1	1	

* Approximately 500 cases of suspected food poisoning occurred during the year.

There were 41 cases of measles, 9 cases of whooping cough and 6 cases of scarlet fever reported to the Department.

Seven cases of tuberculosis, six of which were respiratory in origin, were reported and close liason is maintained with the hospital and County health departments in limiting the spread of the disease.

Over 500 cases of suspected food poisoning occurred in the district and extensive investigation failed to trace the source of this infection, although the evidence suggests that faulty methods of food preparation were a large factor in the cause of outbreaks.

Most of the infections were probably due to clostridium welchii, an organism normally found in meat and meat products. I have outlined in the health education section certain points which, if implemented, would reduce the incidence of the infection.

TABLE SHOWING TREND OF INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Scarlet Fever	22	5	3	3	2	6	19	3	5	2	6
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	4	1	34	1	—	2	1	2	—
Whooping Cough	48	3	3	18	53	19	8	3	1	—	9
Measles	47	12	197	8	53	197	20	137	106	111	41
Pneumonia	9	2	1	2	5	1	3	—	—	1	1
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning	556	2	1	3	3	5	1	1	6	—	*500
Dysentery	3	5	—	5	—	2	—	11	—	2	2
Poliomyelitis	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	4	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory ...	17	8	5	9	12	1	6	1	6	—	6
Tuberculosis Non-respiratory	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1

* Suspected

TUBERCULOSIS 1963

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21—25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
26—35	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
36—45	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
46—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
56—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
66 and upwards ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—

As will have been seen in the previous table, there were seven new cases of tuberculosis notified in 1963. Close co-operation is maintained between the district, county and hospital authorities, as all have responsibilities in the treatment and after care of tuberculosis sufferers. Details of the new cases are given in the table.

There were no re-admissions to hospital for treatment of tuberculosis of patients identified as suffering from T.B. in previous year.

Most county district health authorities maintain a tuberculosis register of all persons who are suffering or recently have suffered from the disease, and during the year the local list was revised in conjunction with the Chest Clinic at Royal Alexandra Hospital and the County Council records and the position at the end of 1963 was as follows: -

Pulmonary Cases	Males: 24	...	Females: 24
Non-Pulmonary Cases	Males: 1	...	Females: —

Bovine tuberculosis has been eliminated due to the introduction of tuberculin testing of cattle and the slaughter of positive reactors.

CHEST X-RAY FACILITIES

The Welsh Regional Hospital Board has a mobile X-ray unit based at Wrexham, which visits all parts of North Wales, and regularly every third Tuesday is located at Rhyl Town Hall all day. The unit is available to all members of the public except young children, and details are given below of the 1963 results: -

TABLE I

Details of examinations carried out by Unit "G" during the period
1st January 1963 to 1st December 1963

Circuit location	Number Examined	Number of visits	Average attendance per visit
Flintshire :			
Holywell	901	15	60
Mold	888	15	59
Rhyl	1,617	15	108
Shotton	704	15	47
Special Surveys	1,586	—	—
	<u>5,696</u>		

TABLE II

Analysis showing Type of Examinee

Type of Examinee	Flintshire
General Population Volunteers	3,163
General Practitioner Referrals	287
Scholars	536
Students	31
Contacts	52
Mental Hospital Staff	19
Factory Groups—Industrial	1,197
—Non Industrial	142
Special Groups	214
Mental Patients	55
	<u>5,696</u>

TABLE III

Details of total number of cases referred to Chest Clinic or diagnosed
as abnormal by the Mass Radiography Unit

	Referred for further investigation to Chest Clinics	Other Pulmonary Abnormalities diagnosed on Unit	Total
Flintshire			
Holywell	16	15	24
Mold	15	11	26
Rhyl	96	78	174
Shotton	14	8	22
Special Surveys	31	27	58
	<u>152</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>284</u>

TABLE IV

Analysis of total number of cases found to be abnormal.

Abnormality	Flintshire
Confirmed Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
"New" Cases	8
"Old" Cases	1
Healed Primary Tuberculosis	8
Healed Post Primary Tuberculosis	50
Abnormality of the Boney Thorax and soft tissues	50
Malignant Neoplasm	5
Non-Malignant Neoplasm	3
Congenital Cardiac Abnormalities	3
Acquired Cardiac Abnormalities	30
Pneumoconiosis—without P.M.F.	4
—with P.M.F.	—
Pulmonary Fibrosis—non tuberculous (to include Asthma and Bronchitis)	11
Emphysema	10
Bronchiectasis	10
Bacterial or virus infection	11
Pleural thickening or calcification	29
Abnormalities of the Diaphragm and Oesophagus	10
Malformation of the Lungs	—
Spontaneous pneumothorax	2
Miscellaneous	1
Further observations required	—
Failed to attend Chest Clinic	13
	<hr/>
Negative after investigation at Chest Clinic	259
	45
	<hr/>
	304
	<hr/>

I am indebted to Dr. Jarman for these statistics.

The Mass X-Ray unit visited Prestatyn during the year for four days and over 300 people attended for X-Ray. The results for the County are included above.

CHEST CLINIC

The treatment of cases of tuberculosis is the responsibility of the Consultant Chest Physician, Dr. Morrison, at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl.

PROVISION OF SERVICES UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT, 1946

The following services are the responsibility of the Flintshire County Council, and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer, Dr. G. W. Roberts, for allowing me to give full details of the following services available locally :-

SECTION 22—CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

There is one Clinic in Prestatyn which is situated in Kings Avenue, and Infant Welfare Clinics are held every Friday between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. A Medical Officer attends every first and third Friday.

ANTE NATAL CLINICS

Ante Natal Clinics are held at Kings Avenue on alternative Fridays and are staffed by the Consultant Obstetrician. Talks are given by health visitors to the mothers on child birth and baby management.

FAMILY PLANNING

Family Planning facilities are available at Flint and Rhyl for the Prestatyn area.

WELFARE FOODS

Distribution of Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, Vitamin Tablets and Orange Juice) is carried out by the Women's Voluntary Service, Local Branch, on behalf of the County Council, and the distribution centre is at The Scala Buildings on Tuesdays and Saturdays between 11 a.m. and 12 noon. At the W.V.S. Centre on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

DENTAL CARE OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS

This is arranged at the County Council Clinics in the area and is carried out by the Dental Officers employed by the County Council. Treatment is arranged free during the ante-natal and post-natal periods up to one year after the birth of the child. It is regrettable that more mothers do not take advantage of these facilities.

SECTION 23—MIDWIFERY SERVICES

There are three midwives who are also trained district nurses employed in the area, who carry out ante-natal and post-natal care for mothers during this time and after discharge from hospital after childbirth.

SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITORS

There are two health visitors employed locally and they are responsible for giving advice to families of all ages with special reference to the young and the very old. Their duties have increased of late due to the ever expanding demands of the old people of Prestatyn, and their work is complementary to that of the General Practitioner, who is often so hard pressed throughout his daily routine and is quite unable to give the necessary advice on health matters that should be given by him to his patients. There is a growing tendency to assign health visitors to groups of practitioners so as to assist them in their daily duties, especially on health education and the prevention of illness, and this is being considered for certain parts of the County.

SECTION 25—HOME NURSING

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, the duties of the midwife are shared with those of the district nurse in the area, and the district nursing aspect of the work is increasing in relation to the midwifery side which is diminishing because of the increasing proportion of Hospital confinements in the area. As mention will be made in a later part of the Report of the increasing number of people in Prestatyn, there will be further heavy demands which will probably necessitate increasing the staff. Home helps are engaged in the town mainly on a part-time basis, and this service is a most valuable and important recent development of local authority services.

MEASLES

Experiments are being conducted to introduce a safe and effective vaccine to protect infants against the disease, and it may take the form of a live or killed vaccine.

SECTION 27—AMBULANCES

The ambulance service is radio-controlled and administered from the headquarters at Mold. A local station is situated at Rhyl.

SECTION 28—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS AND AFTER CARE LOAN OF EQUIPMENT

The County Council loan equipment to handicapped persons to assist rehabilitation. Arrangements are in force whereby persons may also hire medical equipment from the local British Red Cross Organisation at a very small fee, and enquiries are directed to Red Cross Headquarters at Victoria Avenue between 3 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. This is a most valuable service provided by this wonderful voluntary organisation and they are to be highly commended on their efforts.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Treatment, which is free and confidential, is available at the following clinics :-

H.M. Stanley Hospital, St. Asaph.

Male and Females—5.30 to 7 p.m. (Tuesdays)

Chester Royal Infirmary.

Males—Wednesday, 5—7 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.

Females—Monday, 5—7 p.m.. Thursday, 5—7 p.m.

SCHOOL HEALTH

Medical examinations of school children were carried out by me as Assistant County Medical Officer in the district during the year, and I am pleased to say that the standard of health of the school children locally is very high indeed. There is a constant influx of new children and overcrowding is a serious problem in one school. New sanitary facilities have been provided at Meliden school and it is hoped that other urgent improvements will be carried out at this school.

PROTECTION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS (B.C.G. VACCINATION)

All thirteen-year-old pupils are offered protection against Tuberculosis, which has proved to be most valuable in reducing the incidence of the disease.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBNORMALITY

This is an expanding field of medical care, and the after-care of patients discharged from Mental Hospitals is the responsibility of the County Council Mental Welfare Officers.

Children who are of school age, who are mentally retarded and not suitable for education in ordinary schools are admitted to the Training Centre at Rhuddlan for sub-normal children.

NURSING HOMES

The following Nursing Home in the town is registered under the Public Health Act, 1936, with the County Council, and inspected periodically: Hawarden House, Victoria Road, Prestatyn.

WELFARE SERVICES

Homes are provided by the County Council for the admission of aged and handicapped persons who are unable to look after themselves adequately in their own homes. Two such homes are situated in Prestatyn, i.e., Park House and Carr Holm.

SECTION 47—NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

This section conveys powers to District Councils to remove persons who are "aged, infirm, or suffering from grave chronic diseases and are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to look after themselves and are not receiving adequate care and attention from others."

During the year frequent instances of people requiring care and assistance were brought to the notice of the health department and the majority of cases were admitted to homes or hospital and it is pleasing to record that legal action was not necessary in any case.

HEALTH EDUCATION AND FOOD HYGIENE

Listed below are 7 rules to food handlers which, if complied with, would considerably improve the standard of hygiene in shops and cafes :

1. Wash your hands before handling food.
2. Wash your hands after use of the toilet.
3. Make sure you have clean outer garments and overalls, and that all cuts and boils are covered with dressings.
4. Do not cough or sneeze on food.
5. Cover all food and store in a cool place (below 50°F.)
6. Cook and consume meat and meat products, e.g. pies and sausages, as quickly as possible, preferably on the same day.
7. Make sure that liberal supplies of hot water are used in washing cutlery and crockery, and that dishcloths are dispensed with.

I should like to see stricter control of the following aspects of food hygiene :

- (a) Exclusion of dogs from food shops.
- (b) Exposure of non-wrapped food on counters—food should be covered if on display and preferably kept below 50°F. It is common to see confectionery kept in a shop window at temperatures much above what is desirable. All food on display should be covered with clear polythene sheeting to prevent aerial contamination or handling by customers.
- (c) Legal insistence on provision of soap and towels in toilets for customers using cafes.
- (d) More control over hot pie cabinets which may not maintain the pies at a satisfactory temperature.
- (e) Insertion of the date of manufacture on wrapped bread, bacon, sausages and meat pies and other food products. (Some bacon manufacturers already insert a date on wrapped bacon advising the public to consume the product before expiration of recommended period.)

UNEMPLOYMENT

Details are given below of the Employment Officer's Report for the Rhyl, Prestatyn, St. Asaph and Abergele areas:—

Unemployment

Number of Persons Registered as Unemployed (excluding Registered Disabled Persons requiring employment under sheltered conditions) for the year 1963.

Date	Men	Women	Total
14th January	624	225	849
11th February	606	216	822
11th March	665	222	887
8th April	540	199	739
13th May	482	151	633
10th June	328	50	378
15th July	349	17	366
12th August	369	21	390
9th September	392	41	433
14th October	529	152	581
11th November	538	203	741
9th December	546	211	757

The upward trend in unemployment since 1961 continued in 1963 but again must be considered in the light of the fact that the estimated number of employees in the area rose by over 1,000 in the same period.

1963 was a poor year, starting off with a period of bad weather which affected employment in a number of industries and particularly affected the building industry. This bad start to the year seemed to have a psychological effect on the summer trade and also appeared to deter employers from possible expansion programmes.

I'm glad to say that there are already indications of a good year for 1964 with unemployment the lowest on average so far since 1957.

Disabled Persons — Section I.

Number of Unemployed Registered Disabled Persons (excluding those suitable for employment under sheltered conditions only).

Date	Men	Women	Total
14th January	57	8	65
11th February	61	10	71
11th March	58	10	68
8th April	60	7	67
13th May	58	11	69
10th June	45	8	53
15th July	35	4	39
12th August	45	3	48
9th September	47	4	51
14th October	70	5	75
11th November	74	11	85
9th December	68	10	78

Section II Cases

The number of unemployed registered disabled persons who are suitable for employment only under sheltered conditions varies from three to ten.

Other figures about Disabled Persons

The number of names on the local register of Disabled Persons are as follows :

Date	Men	Women	Total
11th April, 1960	408	59	467
17th April, 1961	412	51	463
16th April, 1962	409	72	481
15th April, 1963	422	59	481

A breakdown of the foregoing figures shows the causes of disablement :

	April 1962		April 1963	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
1914-18 Pensioners	47	—	45	—
Other H.M. Forces Cases	111	4	106	2
Disabled from birth or early childhood	43	23	48	17
Industrial accident or disease	68	4	67	5

The main type of disabilities are injuries and diseases of the lower limbs, followed by spinal troubles, heart complaints, chest complaints and injuries and diseases of the lower limbs.

Many disabled persons have moved into this area for health reasons and have skills for which there is no local demand. Despite this factor it can be seen from the above figures that a high proportion of disabled persons are in regular employment. This is due to adaptability, and in some cases the results of retraining and to the increasing willingness of employers to give a disabled person a chance to prove his or her worth.

Employment

The vacancies in this office area outstanding on 10th June 1964, were :

	Men	Women
Engineering and Electrical Goods	8	3
Metal Goods	6	0
Bricks, etc.	3	0
Timber, Furniture &c.	5	0
Construction	12	0
Transport	1	0
Distributive	6	14
Professional Service (including Nursing)	1	34
Miscellaneous Services	3	16
Catering	24	48
Public Administration	2	2

The main female vacancies outstanding were for seasonal work and nursing, and males for seasonal work and skilled trades. Despite the poor year for 1963, this office placed in employment during the year 430 men and 589 women.

General

One of the new factories which was set up in the area in 1961 has expanded over 1963 and is already employing well over 200 workpeople. A new factory was set up in 1963 and is steadily building up its labour force. Two other factories have built extensions and one has a large expansion programme under way.

The area has the same problems as most other seasonal resorts, of fairly high unemployment during the winter months and comparatively low unemployment during the summer months.

There has been a steady increase in the insured population over the last few years and I think it fair to say that a good proportion of the workpeople who move into the area are in the higher age groups, having moved on medical advice, and have special skills or experience which are difficult to fit into the industries of the area. A survey of the unemployed register was made after the end of 1963 and it was found that about one third of the unemployed had come into the area in the preceding four years.

The general picture for 1964 is one of optimism with records being broken in the numbers placed in employment for the first six months of 1964 which was 678 men and 448 women compared with 430 men and 589 women for the whole of 1963.

METEOROLOGY

Full details of climatic conditions during the year in Prestatyn are given at the end of Mr. Edwards' Report, but Prestatyn is fortunate in having a very equable dry climate and free from fog. It is particularly suitable for persons who are suffering from respiratory diseases.

I am pleased to say it was not necessary to issue any pasteurisation orders on milk unfit for consumption but, nevertheless, it is necessary to take regular samples to ensure a clean milk supply. It is unfortunate, in the present legislation, that many Authorities are involved in the administration of food and drugs, but this is a national problem and not a local one and I must take this opportunity of thanking the County Health Department officials for their co-operation in this matter.

SLAUGHTERING FACILITIES

There is no licensed slaughter house in Prestatyn.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There are 30 properties in the district not connected to the main drainage system.

The surface water system is in the main separate from the foul water system and in certain areas is unsatisfactory. Considerable flooding occurs during heavy thunderstorms especially in Lower High Street and the Council have given approval to a plan to relieve this problem.

The sewer outfall to the sea is unsatisfactory and the Council are awaiting the Consulting Engineers report on the matter.

There is a strong case, in my opinion, for sewerage boards comprising of many local authorities for dealing with this problem of sea pollution.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

During the year samples were taken regularly from the swimming Pools and were satisfactory, and further details appear later in Mr. Edwards' Report.

Prestatyn is an expanding seaside resort and I consider that it will be desirable in the not too distant future for arrangements to be made for a heated indoor Swimming Pool.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

The local Public Health Laboratory is situate at Conway, and Dr. Kingsley Smith, the Director, and his Deputy, Dr. Harris, carry out the bacteriological examinations of specimens sent from the Urban District. They have been most co-operative and my gratitude is extended to them for their advice and help throughout the year.

WATER SUPPLY

During the year 40 samples of water were taken and found to be satisfactory bacteriologically.

I list below a Report on a sample of water submitted during the year for chemical analysis: —

"Analysis :

Appearance	Slightly Cloudy
Odour	Nil
Reaction, pH	7.3
	parts per million
Total solids	353
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	2.5
Chlorides, as Cl	30
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C.	0.4
Total hardness	295
Temporary hardness	202
Permanent hardness	93
Alkalinity	202
Free Chlorine	Nil
Potassium, as K	1.5
Anionic synthetic detergents	Nil
Manganese, as Mn	less than 0.025
Cyanides and Thiocynates	Nil
Poisonous metals	Nil

Opinion :

The chemical condition of this water is satisfactory."

There are no bore holes in the district, but three dwellings are still served by wells due to difficulties in arranging a satisfactory main water supply.

Number of dwellings served by public main direct to house	4,601
Number of dwellings served by means of stand pipes	2
Number of dwellings served by means of wells	3
New mains were laid in	188

MILK SUPPLY

The sampling of milk for submission for bacteriological and chemical analysis is now the responsibility of the County Council, and details are given in Mr. Lewis' Report (County Public Health Inspector) of the number of samples of milk taken and the results thereof.

CARAVAN SITES

The Caravan Sites in the Urban District are gradually being brought up to standard under the Caravan Act, 1960. Further details of these appear in Mr. Edwards' Report.

It is regrettable that there is little control over tents in the district, and it is a regular and common feature during the Summer week-ends for large numbers of tents to be situated in certain fields with insufficient sanitation. Furthermore, it has a serious effect on the amenities of the area and one difficulty is that the sites used at present have been used for camping for many years, but increasing numbers of campers are using them each year.

I consider that some action will be necessary to control this nuisance but, on the other hand, since Prestatyn is a holiday resort, other arrangements must be made to meet the need for camping. Furthermore, I suggest that a Municipal Site be acquired for both camping and caravanning, where adequate sanitary facilities and density of tents and caravans can be laid down. Some improvements have been effected in two of the local tenting sites.

SMOKE CONTROL

There has been increasing emphasis on control of atmospheric pollution during the past few years. It is becoming very evident that there is a strong link between lung cancer and chronic bronchitis and pollution of the atmosphere, whether it be from cigarette smoke, petrol fumes or combustion of coal. Prestatyn, fortunately, enjoys a fairly clean atmosphere, due to its location, but I urge householders to burn smokeless fuels or convert to gas, oil or electricity to reduce atmospheric pollution.

HOUSING

During 1963 the extent of new property constructed is shown below: —

The number of private new houses built in the town was	6
The number of private new bungalows built in the town was . . .	170
The number of Council property built in the town was	12

There has been a great expansion in the private speculative building in the town during the past few years and it appears that the present trend is likely to be continued. Reference has been made to the implications of this previously in the special survey.

HOUSING WAITING LISTS AT END OF 1963

The number of people waiting for Council houses is	138
The number of people waiting for old people's bungalows is . . .	152
The number of Council houses is	455
The number of old people's bungalows is	22
The number of old people's flats is	8

A little progress was made during the year on a housing scheme at Maes-y-Groes for the old people and this scheme is urgently required as the number of people waiting for accommodation has risen by 42 during the year.

Since 1948 the Council have built 279 houses, bungalows and flats and the table shown below indicates the yearly totals of property constructed in the town:—

Year	New Council property	New Private property	Total
1963	12	176	188
1962	8	251	259
1961	4	272	276
1960	—	247	247
1959	4	182	186
1958	22	68	90
1957	10	79	89
1956	14	90	104
1955	—	76	76
1954	11	77	88
1953	19	62	81
1952	42	10	52
1951	2	7	9
1950	40	3	43
1949	31	10	41
1948	60	—	60

The tremendous spurt in private house building in the past five years is seen in the above table but this year's total is down largely due to the arctic conditions appertaining at the commencement of the year.

**TABLE SHOWING HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE TOWN
OVER THE PAST 52 YEARS**

Year	Population	No. of properties	No. of persons per property	Rateable value	Product of 1d. rate
1911	2,036 ...	532 ...	3.8 ...	— ...	—
1921	*4,085 ...	770 ...	5.3 ...	£22,625 ...	£81
1931	4,511 ...	1,579 ...	2.9 ...	£43,310 ...	£163
1941	†10,030 ...	2,750 ...	3.6 ...	£74,731 ...	£299
1951	8,809 ...	3,536 ...	2.5 ...	£82,188 ...	£325
1961	10,670 ...	4,410 ...	2.4 ...	£166,284 ...	£668
1962	11,170 ...	4,660 ...	2.4 ...	£176,590 ...	£706
1963	11,490 ...	4,720 ...	2.4 ...	†£480,219 ...	£1,896

*Uncorrected figure. Corrected—2,946, which gives a figure of 3.8 persons per house.

† This abnormally high figure was due to war-time reception of evacuees.

‡ The increase in rateable value is due to re-assessment.

The above table shows the improvement in overcrowding that has taken place in the town especially in the past thirty years.

SLUM CLEARANCE

There is very little property in Prestatyn which falls within the category requiring demolition, that is, properties which cannot be reconstructed at reasonable cost.

The remaining area for slum clearance is The Warren, where conditions can only be described as primitive; without sanitation, water supply or adequate roads, and the final clearance of unfit dwellings has been completed. The Council are acquiring certain properties in the town which are sub-standard and hope to re-develop the site.

SUPERANNUATION

Twenty-two medical examinations were carried out in 1963 on Urban District staff, either for fitness to commence employment or because of absence from work through ill health.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no such establishments in the district.

INSPECTIONS UNDER FACTORIES ACT, 1937 TO 1959

The prescribed particulars of inspections carried out during the year are provided in the annexe to this report.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1963



GENERAL SUMMARY OF VISITS, ETC.

GENERAL SANITATION

Water Supply	45
Drainage	147
Stables, Piggeries, etc.	—
Fried Fish Shops	—
Camps, etc.	224
Factories and Workshops	8
Bakehouses	14
Public Conveniences	27
Schools	1
Watercourses	—
Special Visits re. Housing	30
Visits re. Housing Defects	8
Visits under National Assistance Act, Sec. 47 and 60	14
Premises re. Insect Pests	2
Miscellaneous Visits and Re-inspections	72
Complaints received and investigated	165
Number of nuisances abated	147
Number of Preliminary notices served for nuisances	26
Formal notices for nuisances	1
Rats and Mice	201

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Number of cases occurring	500
Enquiries	277
Number removed to Hospital	1
Disinfection	137

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Butchers' Shops	1
Fishmongers	2
Grocers	11
Ice Cream Premises	6
Food Preparing Premises	56
Dairies and Milk Shops	3
Miscellaneous	22

SANITARY DEFECTS, ETC.

Defective Roofs	19
Defective Floors	11
Defective Eaves and Downspouts	11
Defective Doors	3

Defective Windows	16
Defective Wall and Ceiling Plaster	17
Defective Grates	5
Defective Chimneys	2
Dampness	23
Defective Sinks and Washbasins	4
Defective Gullies and Wastepipes	6
Defective Pavings	18
Defective Drains	21
Number of Stopped Drains	538
Defective Inspection Chambers	1
Defective Septic Tanks	—
Defective Water Closets	1
Defective W.C. Cisterns and Fittings	3
Insufficient W.C. Accommodation	2
Insufficient Water Supply	10
Accumulation of Refuse	11
Dilapidated Dustbins	87
Dirty Houses, Outhouses and Yards	7
Insect Pests	25
Rats and Mice	110
Animals kept in Insanitary Conditions	—
Choked and Insanitary Ditches	1
Miscellaneous	7

NUISANCES FROM PREMISES OTHER THAN DWELLINGS

Farms and Dairies	—
Camps and Caravans	—
Cafes	—
Offices	—
Shops	—
Food Shops	—
Schools	2
Bakeries	1
Hotels	3
Garages, etc.	1
Fried Fish Shops	—
Miscellaneous	2

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Number of visits re. Collection and Salvage	288
Number of visits re. Disposal	76

This service is carried out with two eighteen cubic yard rear-loading vehicles and one ten cubic yard side-loading vehicle, which is now over ten years old and is due for replacement. Experience would seem to show that the best type of vehicle for work in this town is the eighteen cubic yard lorry, and it is hoped eventually to standardise the refuse fleet on this model.

Again this year the time lost due to absenteeism and sickness has been rather high—a total of 221 days as compared with 218 for last year. The supplying of replacement labour is practically

impossible since suitable labour is not available at the local labour exchange, and since medical certificates received in respect of sickness give no indication as to the particular illness of the individual, it is practically impossible to ascertain for what length of time any man may be away from work sick.

The number of properties in the Council's area continues to increase, 188 new properties having been constructed during 1963, and the refuse collection service frequently fell into arrears of intervals of up to 10 to 14 days. This frequency was considered to be unsatisfactory and consultants were called in to make a survey of the refuse collection and disposal services with a view to making recommendations for improvement and the institution of a once weekly collection. This survey was carried out immediately after Christmas and their report is awaited.

During the holiday season, refuse from the Central Beach, Sea Wall, Ffrith Beach and Caravan Sites is collected with a 10 cubic yard side loading vehicle and additional men are employed for this purpose.

The work of controlling the disposal of refuse is carried out by one man working on the Tip face, assisted by a Wetherill Loader Shovel which is available on a part-time basis. This system is not altogether satisfactory in view of the fact that up to 15 loads of refuse of varying kinds are handled daily. At present, and with the continued expansion of the town, this figure will undoubtedly increase. In these circumstances, consideration should be given to the provision of a machine which would operate full-time on the Tip.

Again this year, a series of fires have broken out on the Refuse Tip, all due to unauthorised persons entering on the land after working hours and being careless in the use of cigarettes and matches. Garden Refuse continues to be a major problem and great care has to be exercised to prevent fires arising from spontaneous combustion. The refuse collectors are instructed not to remove this type of refuse, but its total elimination is proving to be almost impossible. Garden refuse can only be satisfactorily handled if it is brought into the Tip separate from general household refuse.

An area of approximately 9 acres has now been tipped upon and the ground level here is now some six feet above natural ground level. Consideration could now be given to putting approximately four acres to some use—such as playing fields, which are greatly lacking in this area.

Number of loads of refuse collected	2,449
Number of loads of refuse disposed of	2,742
Area of district, in acres	3,655
Population	11,170
Number of premises	5,297

SALVAGE

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Fibreboard	48	5	2	15	458	13	5
Mixed Paper	114	0	0	8	883	10	0
White Paper	11	18	0	27	98	5	4
Rags	4	14	0	15	56	9	6
Hair Mattresses		1	0	24		17	0
Heavy Scrap	6	16	3	0	34	3	9
Light mixed metals	1	6	0	5	8	19	6
	187	2	0	10	£1,540	18	6
Salvage 1962	151	1	2	27	£1,315	10	10½

The income from salvage sold during the year showed an increase of £225.7.7½d. on the figure for 1962.

Waste paper, rags and scrap metal are still required and the proceeds from the sale of these items continues to make a contribution to the rate fund and so help to reduce the overall cost of the refuse collection service. In addition to this the abstraction of such items from the refuse results in the reduction in the overall bulk and so conserves tipping space. It is hoped that the continued co-operation of the householders and traders of the town will be forthcoming in the future.

WATER SAMPLING

	Bacterio- logical	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Town Main Supply	28	25	3
Holywell R.D.C. Supply ...	2	2	—
Private Supply, Wells, etc. ...	—	—	—
Streams	—	—	—
Swimming Pool (Lido) ...	5	5	—
Swimming Pool (Camp) ...	5	5	—
Total Samples Taken ...	40	37	3

Bacteriological samples are taken from properties at random throughout the Council's areas and with the exception of three unsatisfactory samples from the Council's mains all others proved to be up to the standard required. The cause of the three unsatisfactory samples was found to be a small fault in one of the Council's mains which was speedily rectified and later samples were satisfactory.

The results of a chemical analysis of the town's water supply are given in the Medical Officer of Health's Report.

SWIMMING POOLS

Both Swimming Pools continue to be operated in a satisfactory manner and, as will be seen in the previous table, water samples continue to show highly satisfactory results.

The water in both Swimming Pools is filtered and Chlorinated and there is a complete change of water every six hours. Mains water is used in the Holiday Camp Pool, and although sea water is used at the Royal Lido Swimming Pool the results of samples taken are equal to those obtained from water in our own mains.

FOOD AND DRUG PREMISES

(1) Number of Food Premises in the area, by type of premises :—

Grocers	40	Candy Floss Kiosks	3
Greengrocers	14	Ice Cream Kiosks	6
Confectioners	13	Cinemas and Theatres	3
Bakeries	13	Schools	7
Restaurants and Snack Bars ...	23	Homes	6
Butchers	10	Hospitals	1
Fishmongers and Game Dealers	4	Boarding Houses	5
Fried Fish Shops	5	Registered Clubs	9
Sweet Shops	17	Licensed Houses	9

Total : 188

This figure represents approximately one-third of the total business premises in the area.

(2) Food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—

Grocers	20	Kiosks	6
Restaurants and Snack Bars ...	15	Fried Fish Shops	5
Sweet Shops	7	Butchers	1
Greengrocers	2		

(3) One hundred and one visits of inspection have been paid to Food Premises in general, and 74 to those premises which are registered under the above-mentioned Act and Regulations.

(4) Fried Fish Shops :—

Number of Fried Fish Shops in District 5

These shops are well conducted.

During the year all food traders were circularised and their attention drawn to the necessity for ensuring a speedy turnover of their stock of perishable foods, especially cooked meats, since it was found that in very few cases improvements were necessary to the systems employed. A successful prosecution was taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in respect of a cigarette filter tip found in a jar of chutney.

I am pleased to report that in general the food traders are continuing their efforts to provide a clean service and in many instances improvements have been carried out to shop premises to further this end.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION

All the town's meat supply is slaughtered and inspected at the Rhyl Municipal Abattoir and from time to time is further inspected when exposed for sale in the local shops.

Other foods, canned goods, etc., are inspected when necessary, and the following is a list of unsound food condemned in the shops :

	Solids		Liquids	
	lbs.	ozs.		
Fruit	333	13½	12½ pints Tinned Milk.	
Vegetables	11	15	10 ozs. Tinned Cream.	
Meat	85	0		
Fish	7	3		
Miscellaneous	4	12½		
	<hr/>	<hr/>		
	442	12		

I am pleased to report that this year the amount of food stuffs found to be unfit for human consumption has proved to be approximately one third of the amount last year. The number of crushed and damaged tins continues to increase and it would seem that more detailed consideration could well be given by the manufacturerers of fibreboard containers and by wholesale food merchants to the production of a container which will stand up, in a more satisfactory manner, to rough handling and transit. In very many cases the food stuffs which are found to be crushed are not unfit for human consumption but are in such a condition as to be unacceptable to the customer. The traders continue to co-operate in drawing my attention to any unsound food which may come into their possession.

Particulars of the samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in The Prestatyn Urban District Council area during the year ended 1963 by the County Public Health Inspector, Mr. E. Lewis.

Description of Article	Nos. Taken	Genuine	Not Genuine or below Standard
Milk	13	13	—
Dairy Products	4	4	—
Sausages	7	7	—
Ice Cream and Lollies	4	4	—
Confectionery	6	5	1
Alcoholic Drinks	3	3	—
Cooking Fats & Fish Frying Oils	2	2	—
Fish and Meat Products	4	4	—
Patent Medicines	3	3	—
Miscellaneous Groceries	13	13	—
Totals	59	58	1

Successful legal proceedings were instituted in respect of a sample of chocolate confectionery, found to contain grubs. The distributor was fined a total of £14.0.0d., inclusive of costs.

LICENSED PREMISES

All premises requiring a Magistrates' Licence were inspected during the year, and a report was presented to the Licensing Justices at the Brewster Sessions.

The premises inspected are as follows:—

Licensed Houses	10
Licensed Clubs	8
Public Halls, Cafe, etc.	5
Cinemas	2

The attention of owners of certain premises was drawn to the need to improve sanitary accommodation and cellars. Attention was also drawn to the fact that in some instances Ladies and Gents toilets are to be found at the rear of licensed premises and approached by a common passage. This arrangement occasionally causes some confusion, especially when the respective toilets are not clearly marked and lighted. It is anticipated that during 1964 these conditions will be improved in order that such toilets may be entered only from the interior of the licensed house.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities ...	38	26	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	39	26	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found :—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	1	1	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :—				
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	2	1	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	3	3	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT : OUTWORK (Section 110 and 111)

Outworkers in August List required by Sec. 110 (1) (c) (2).
Wearing Apparel-making, etc. —

RODENT INFESTATION**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949**

The duties of Rodent Officer are carried out by the General Assistant for the Public Health Department and during the year he has carried out a total of 183 visits to various premises. This is a considerable decrease on the figures for 1962 and the investigations discovered were mostly of a minor character. Certain of the Council's property such as the Sewage Disposal Works, Refuse Tip and the Beach areas are inspected and treated as a matter of routine.

The majority of infestations of private households are still caused by the indiscriminate feeding of birds and unconsumed bread-crumbs, etc., being left on the ground. Generally speaking, the residents are very co-operative in discontinuing this practice when the risks of infestation are pointed out to them.

No difficulties are experienced in obtaining the co-operation both of the occupiers of private and business premises in reporting the presence of rats or mice.

The disinfection service is free to householders and a small charge is made for work done on business premises.

Treatment carried out		
	Rats	Mice
Private Dwellings	83	4
Council Dwellings	7	—
Business Premises	34	14
Council Property other than Dwellings	59	—
Farms	2	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Visits	183	18
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CAMPS**CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960**

The licensed sites within the area are as follows :—

Caravan Site and Number of Caravans

Tan-y-Don Camp	66
Prestatyn Holiday Camp	135
Plas Deva Caravan Camp	45
White House Camp	13
Plas Morfa Caravan Site	9
Midnant Farm Caravan Site	20
Pen-y-Ffrith Caravan Camp	50
Morfa Du Caravan Camp	25
Ironmongers' Shop, Ffordd Talargoch, Meliden	1
Y Nyth, Plas Newydd Drive, Prestatyn	1
"Brookdale," Cefn-y-Gwrych, Meliden	1

The Caravan sites generally are well conducted, the owners are co-operating fully with this department in all matters. The district continues to be very popular with campers who are inclined to pitch their tents in all parts of the district without reference to the owners of the land in question and considerable difficulty is experienced in controlling such indiscriminate camping and in maintaining any real standard of hygiene.

There are two camping grounds, used by the owners of tents, which enjoy "long-user rights" under the Town and Country Planning Acts, and these are filled to capacity during late July and early August. In practice, the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, do not provide adequate control of this temporary camping and it is possible that the limit of 42 consecutive days permitted under the Act may be rather too wide. It would appear that if properly laid-out sites were provided, preferably by the local authority and properly maintained, these would go a long way towards improving an ever-increasing demand on the part of the campers for reasonable holiday accommodation. The practice of taking holidays in caravans and tents is one which has grown tremendously since the end of the war and which has created a problem which must be met either by private individuals or local authorities. The Council has under consideration the provision of a multi-purpose site which could possibly be of some assistance in reducing the size of the problem created by the before-mentioned indiscriminate camping.

Organised camps occupied by units of Boy Scouts and Boys' Brigade are set up each year, but since these are properly organised and well conducted they cause very little trouble to the department.

TALACRE WARREN

Work has proceeded on the redevelopment of this area as a caravan site. The owners have levelled a considerable part of this land and the work of constructing toilet blocks, sewage disposal works and roads is proceeding.

The remaining permanent families within this area were rehoused during 1963 and all chalets demolished. It is pleasing to note that this action should mark the end of what was a very unsightly development on the eastern boundary of the Urban District and the substitution of a properly controlled caravan site should be a vast improvement.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are eight public conveniences in the town situated at the rear of the Palladium Cinema, Coronation Gardens, Central Beach, near the Grand Hotel, Pendre Gardens, Hillside Gardens, Meliden and The Ffrith Beach.

The misuse and wanton damage in these premises still continues as was reported last year, and although every effort has been made to apprehend offenders, these have been unsuccessful. With the exception of those toilets at the Ffrith Beach, it is an impractical proposition to provide permanent attendants owing to the fact that each unit is too small and, as a result, it is not possible always to maintain these facilities in a way that is to be desired.

Owing to the rapid growth of the town, the necessary facilities are proving to be inadequate and it is felt that, in addition to replacing the existing buildings in the Hillside Gardens, Central Beach and near the Grand Hotel, provision should be made for further conveniences to be erected in the Victoria Road West and Ffordd Penrhwyfa districts.

MORTUARY

No use was made of these premises during 1963.

HOUSING

The number of applications received for Council houses both for general need and for the Aged Persons continues to increase at a faster rate than vacancies are occurring. The great problem is that of the aged persons since time has shown that properties suitable for occupation by them become available only at the rate of one a year.

The council has agreed to build approximately 16 flats for aged persons but with a waiting list of 150 applicants it would seem that this number will make but very little impression.

(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	27
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	61
(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	20

(2) Remedy of defects during the year with Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	12
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(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 :

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

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in defect of owners	—

(C) Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
(1a) Number of houses for which Undertakings were accepted	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	6

(D) Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 :

(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling having been rendered fit ...	1

(4) Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding) :—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	22
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	24
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	120
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	8
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	6
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	30
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	—

The legal standard recognises living rooms as sleeping rooms, so that an ordinary 5-roomed house (2 living rooms and 3 bedrooms) could house 10 adults without being legally overcrowded.

In considering the cases of applicants for houses, the Council recognises a "bedroom standard" for overcrowding and this has helped to relieve many cases of near legal overcrowding.

RENT ACT, 1957

Certificates of disrepair issued	—
Certificates of disrepair cancelled	—

Apart from a small demand for Certificates of Disrepair during the first year of the operation of this Act there has been no further advantage taken of its provisions. It would appear that as a means of improving rented property in Prestatyn, this Act has failed to have the desired effect although this may, to some extent, be due to the fact that in very many cases every opportunity is taken to sell rented property and an increasing number of houses are becoming owner occupied.

PRIVATE AND ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN PRESTATYN URBAN DISTRICT AREA

Prestatyn Urban District Act, 1909.
 Prestatyn Water Act, 1909.
 Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.
 Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 (Whole Act).
 Public Libraries Acts, 1892 and 1893.
 Private Street Works Act, 1892.
 Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907
 (Except Parts V, VII and IX).
 Public Health (Buildings in Streets) Act, 1888.
 New Streets Act, 1951.
 S.D.A. Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899-1923.
 Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.
 Public Health Act, 1925.

BYE-LAWS

Sanitary and Cleanly Conditions in Handling Food, 1950.
 Building Byelaws, 1939
 (Plus addition for Grates to burn smokeless fuel).
 Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures used for human
 habitation, 1931.
 Nuisances, 1899.
 Slaughterhouses, 1899.
 Water Bye-laws (made under Section 17, Water Act, 1945).

CLIMATOLOGY OF PRESTATYN

Month	Temperature		Sunshine		Rainfall	
	Lowest	Highest	Longest	Total	Maximum	Total
January ...	10° (23rd, 24th & 25th)	42° (26th)	6.6 hrs. (22nd)	67.9 hrs.	0.26 ins.	0.82 ins.
February ...	15° (25th)	46° (8th)	8.6 hrs. (25th)	89.1 hrs.	0.18 ins.	0.23 ins.
March ...	24° (1st)	57° (15th)	8.6 hrs. (3rd)	103 hrs.	0.2 ins.	1.44 ins.
April ...	34° (12th)	64° (23rd)	9.7 hrs. (26th)	96.1 hrs.	0.47 ins.	2.32 ins.
May ...	39° (23rd)	78° (31st)	13.7 hrs. (29th)	173.4 hrs.	0.17 ins.	0.49 ins.
June ...	—	—	14.5 hrs. (1st)	182.3 hrs.	0.16 ins.	3.11 ins.
July ...	—	—	14.4 hrs. (20th)	165 hrs.	0.13 ins.	0.56 ins.
August ...	—	—	12.1 hrs (1st)	117.8 hrs.	0.68 ins.	2.73 ins.
September...	—	—	11.2 hrs. (12th)	141 hrs.	0.52 ins.	2.19 ins.
October ...	—	—	8.4 hrs. (22nd)	79.8 hrs.	0.65 ins.	2.37 ins.
November...	45° (29th & 30th)	58° (2nd)	4.4 hrs. (27th)	42.2 hrs.	0.64 ins.	4.05 ins.
December...	38° (20th)	53° (27th & 29th)	5.5 hrs. (10th)	49.1 hrs.	0.07 ins.	0.19 ins.

Total Rainfall for the year: 20.5"

Owing to damage to the Stevenson screen, it was not possible to record temperatures between June and October.

With the continued increase in the growth of the town, it is becoming more difficult to carry out all the duties relating to the Department, especially those entailing routine inspections of factories and shops. Whilst every effort is made to apportion the time spent on indoor and outdoor duties, I find that the increasing amount of time which has to be given to office administration is tending to reduce the time spent on such routine matters as those mentioned above.

In conclusion, may I express my appreciation of the help and kindness shown me by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, Dr. D. P. W. Roberts, the Clerk of the Council, and the indoor and outdoor staff.

J. M. EDWARDS,

Public Health Inspector



