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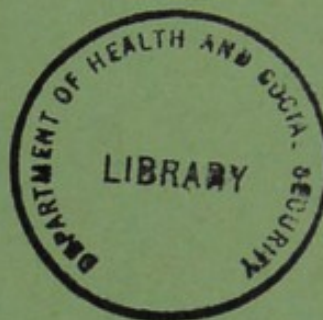
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**PRESTATYN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. D. P. W. ROBERTS

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

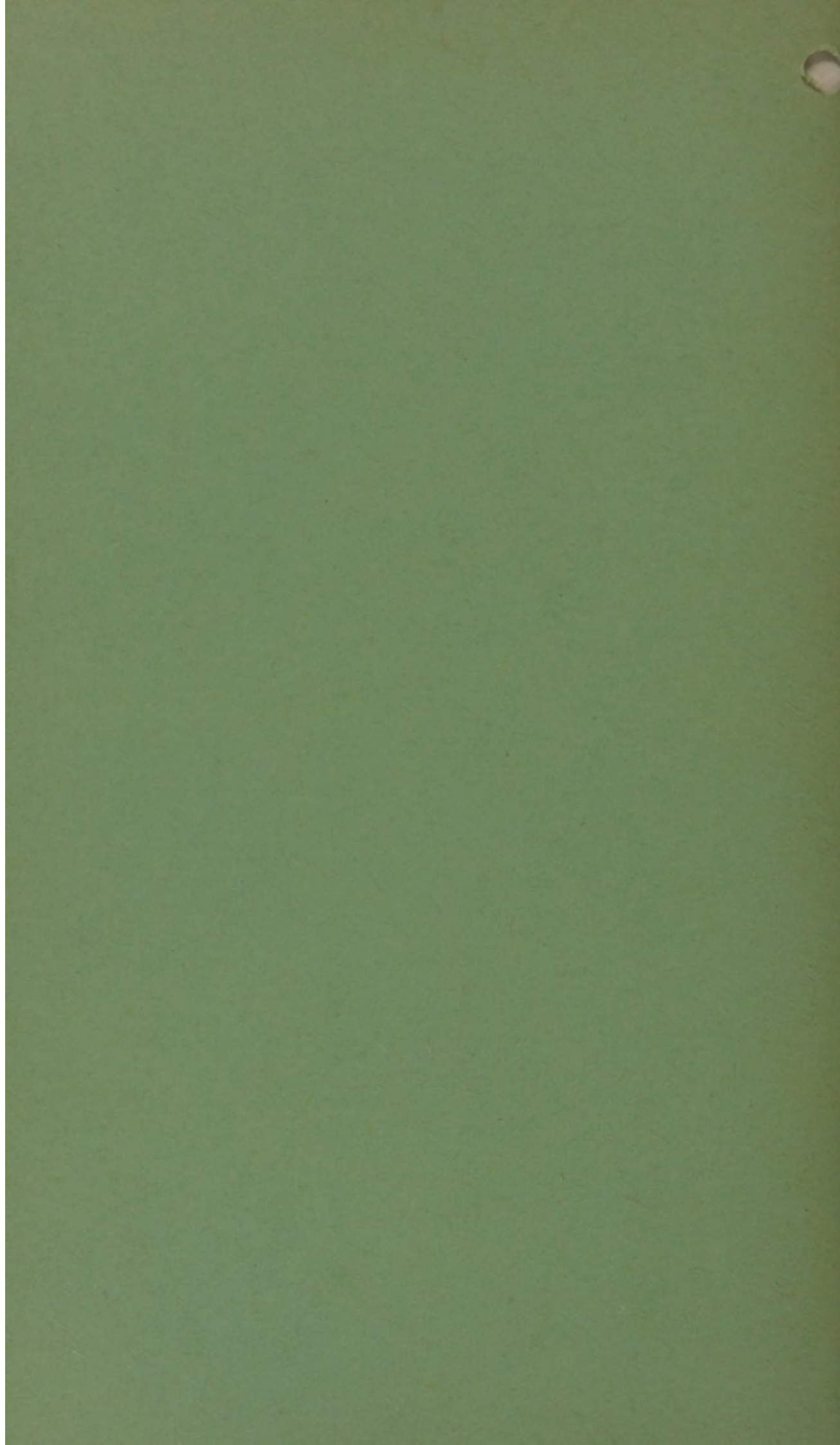
AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

DAVID T. OWEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

FOR THE YEAR

1971



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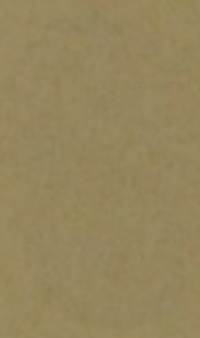
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FOR THE YEAR

1971

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOR THE YEAR

ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1904

AND

GENERAL STATE OF AGRICULTURE

IN THE YEAR 1904

AND THE YEAR

1905

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PRESTATYN**



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1971

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE 1971-72

Chairman, Councillor ANNE F. MacLEOD, C.C.

Coun. A. G. ANDERSON

Coun. E. A. ROYLE

„ D. BAURLEY

„ W. STOREY

„ G. E. HUGHES

„ P. W. TAYLOR

„ E. J. NEWBY, J.P.

„ A. R. YOUNG

„ P. L. ROBERTS

Chairman of the Council: Councillor N. STEWART

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.

Chief Public Health Inspector: Meat and Food Inspector:

D. T. OWEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

PEDR WILLIAMS, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed February)

Clerk:

Mrs. H. GRIFFITH

General Foreman:

G. FAIRCLIFFE

Public Health Department, ,
Municipal Offices,
Nant Hall Road,
PRESTATYN.

Telephones:
Offices: Prestatyn 2484 (4 lines)
M.O.H. (Private): Rhyl 53887

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1971.

The population of the town increased by 480 in the past year and over the past 10 years the population has increased by nearly 4,000. Over the same period of time nearly 2,000 new dwellings have been erected.

One hundred and ninety births were registered during the year, giving a standardised birth rate of 20 per 1,000 population, which is considerably above the national average of 16.0. Eight of these births were illegitimate giving a local illegitimacy rate of 4.4%, which is almost half of the national average of 8%. There were two stillbirths, giving a local stillbirth rate of 10 per 1,000 live and stillbirths which is below the national figure of 12. Two infant deaths occurred during the year, giving a local infant mortality rate of 11 per 1,000 live births compared with the national average of 18. Two hundred and forty-eight deaths occurred, recording a local standardised death rate of 8.8 per 1,000 population, compared with the national average of 11.6.

Generally speaking, in 1971 the health statistics of the district were satisfactory. Ninety-seven cases of dysentery were notified and this large figure was part of the epidemic that occurred in Rhyl and Prestatyn in the latter part of 1970 and early part of 1971. Fortunately there has been no recurrence of an epidemic of this disease in the town since. Cases of sickness and diarrhoea, of course, still occur in the community whether singly or in family outbreaks and I am sure that most of these cases are due to virus infections where there are no other medical factors involved. Unfortunately for patients, treatment of virus infections of the gastrointestinal tract is largely confined to relief of symptoms as there are no effective antibiotics available. It will be probably many years before vaccines are available to prevent virus infection of the human body.

Yr Olchfa and Maes Hendre housing schemes were completed in 1971 although the siting of these dwellings did not meet with everybody's requirements, but I am sure that the tenants will be pleased with the standard of housing provided. The number of applicants for council houses, both in the general needs and old age pensioners' lists remains static with minor variations from year to year. Provision of local authority housing should be confined

to those who for various genuine reasons are unable to make private arrangements to house themselves. When family circumstances improve there is a moral obligation on all council tenants to seek alternative private accommodation so as to release local authority housing for those in need. There will be increasing emphasis in the future for local authorities to provide housing accommodation for the more unfortunate members of society who are often aged or handicapped or where family life has been disrupted through divorce, separation of parents, or widowhood.

Work on the main drainage scheme continued during the year and the sea outfall became operational in August. I very much hope that the whole of the main sewerage scheme will be completed before the re-organisation of Local Government in 1974.

Pontin's Holiday Village was opened in July, and I am extremely pleased with the standard of facilities throughout the camp. I am gratified that the schoolchildren of Prestatyn have been allowed to use the swimming pool during the period the camp is closed, which is an example of the results of close co-operation between Local Authority and Commercial Enterprise that can only be beneficial to the local community.

Difficulties have been experienced during the year in the operation of plant on the refuse tip and I am hopeful that the measures that Mr. Owen, Chief Public Health Inspector, has now implemented will improve the state of the tip.

I wish to express my gratitude to the voluntary workers in the town for their public services, especially the provision of "meals on wheels".

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their support and active interest in the Department and my Council colleagues and the staff of the Health Department.

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 1971 (Registrar General's estimate) ...	14,560
Population change compared with previous year (increase) ...	480
Total number of properties (end of 1971)	6,611
Rateable value of the Urban District at the end of 1971	£663,737
Product of a Penny Rate	£6,600
General rate in £	97½p

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 18,000. 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 82, Female 108	190
Legitimate Live Births—Male 79, Female 103	182
Illegitimate Live Births—Male 3, Female 5	8
Local Illegitimacy rate per 1,000 live births	44
National Illegitimate rate per 1,000 live births	80
Crude birth rate per 1,000 live births	13.0
Birth rate comparability factor	1.54
Birth rate standardised	20
National birth rate per 1,000 populaion	16

Still Births:

Still births (total)	2
Legitimate still births (total)	2
Illegitimate still births (total)	2
Local still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	10
National still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	12

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	11
National infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	18
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	11
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
Infant deaths under 4 weeks of age (Neo-natal)	1
Legitimate infant deaths under 4 weeks of age	1
Illegitimate infant deaths under 4 weeks of age	—

Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	5
National neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	5
Total peri-natal deaths (still births and deaths under one week combined)	3
Peri-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	16
National peri-natal mortality rate	22
Deaths in first week of life (early neo-natal period)	1
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	5
National early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	10
Maternal mortality, including abortion:	
Number of deaths	—
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	—

DEATHS

Deaths—Male 119, Female 129	248
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	17.0
Comparability factor	0.52
Death rate standardised per 1,000 population	8.8
National death rate for England and Wales	11.6

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
1964	12,070	+580	+9	+573
1965	12,450	+380	—41	+421
1966	12,850	+400	—57	+457
1967	13,200	+350	—37	+387
1968	13,430	+230	—87	+367
1969	13,670	+240	—79	+319
1970	14,080	+650	—100	+750
1971	14,560	+480	—58	+538

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

DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Cancer deaths														
Lung	6	5	8	3	10	4	7	2	6	8	11	20	9	8
Stomach	3	4	4	2	3	6	2	9	7	6	6	6	9	5
Breast	2	4	1	3	3	4	2	4	3	6	2	5	4	9
Uterus	2	1	1	4	1	2	1	1	4	1	1	1	3	1
Leukaemia ...	2	1	—	1	2	2	—	—	2	3	3	2	2	2
Other Sites												24	30	34
Total all sites	30	39	29	26	36	38	29	40	47	36	39	58	57	59

Coronary Heart Disease

The following chart shows the annual deaths from this disease in the Urban District over the past 14 years.

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Deaths	37	37	55	42	51	48	52	60	49	67	70	64	69	69

INFANT MORTALITY

There were two infant deaths recorded under one year of age, details of which are given below:—

Sex and Age at Death	Cause of Death
Male—2 days	Bilateral pneumothorax. Rupture of sub-pleural bullae.
Female—9 months	Respiratory collapse due to cerebral palsy.

Two stillbirths were recorded, details of only one available.

Sex	Age	Cause of Death
Male—40 weeks		Intra-uterine death. Cord twice right around neck.

TABLE SHOWING VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT IN RECENT YEARS

	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
1964	12,070	201	16.4	23.8	18.4	192	15.8	9	11.3	6	30	20
1965	12,450	191	15.3	22.1	18.0	232	18.6	10.2	11.5	5	26	19
1966	12,850	175	13.6	19.7	17.7	232	18.0	10.1	11.7	2	11.3	19
1967	13,200	189	14.3	21.1	17.2	226	17.1	9.1	11.2	3	16	18.3
1968	13,430	178	13.3	19.7	16.9	265	19.7	10.4	11.8	3	16	18.0
1969	13,670	169	12.4	18.4	18.4	248	18.1	9.6	11.9	1	6	9.0
1970	14,080	168	11.9	18.3	16.0	268	19.0	9.9	11.7	2	12	18.0
1971	14,560	190	13.0	20.0	16.0	248	17.0	8.8	11.6	2	11	18.0

CAUSES OF DEATH : REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS									
					5—14	15—24	25—34	35—44	45—54	55—64	65—74	75 and over		
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm - Buccal Cavity, etc. ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B19(2) Malignant Neoplasm - Oesophagus ...	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach ...	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine ...	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
B19(6) Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus ...	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
B19(7) Malignant Neoplasm - Breast ...	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1
B19(8) Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus ...	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	1	1
B19(9) Malignant Neoplasm - Prostate ...	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B19(10) Leukaemia ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B19(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms ...	F	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	3
B20 Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms ...	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B46(1) Other Endocrine, etc., Diseases ...	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	1
B46(4) Multiple Sclerosis ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The table shown below indicates the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases that occurred during 1971.

Disease	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-44	45-64	Over 65	Cases admitted to hospital
Scarlet Fever	12	—	—	6	4	2	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	6	1	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	*6	—	—	1	1	1	3	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	48	—	2	4	8	10	23	1	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio myelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid and Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1

*Suspected food poisoning including 5 cases

Brucellosis is not a notifiable disease and under the 1968 public health regulations pneumonia, puerperal pyrexia and erysipelas have been deleted, and acute encephalitis, amoebic dysentery, tetanus, anthrax, leprosy, leptospirosis, malaria, yellow fever and smallpox added.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Forty-eight cases of dysentery were notified in the year. The majority of these cases occurred during the spring and this was part of the large outbreak of dysentery in the Rhyl and Prestatyn area. It is pleasing to record that there have been no further cases although I should say that it is still largely a mystery as to how this disease is spread. I am sure that most of the children contracted the infection whilst attending school and using school lavatories.

It is difficult to take adequate protective measures against dysentery in schools and the only effective method of reducing the risk of an outbreak of dysentery is to prohibit children using lavatories, which is not a practical measure. I still consider it is a very important part of education to teach children both in the home and in primary and secondary schools the value of maintaining a high standard of personal hygiene.

It is still very regrettable to find children with nits in their hair. The presence of nits in the hair of children usually denotes a family infestation and it is important that the whole family is treated at the same time as an infested child. Sometimes lice are found in a child's hair whose home background is excellent and in such case the child has usually caught the infestation from other children in the class and this sometimes comes as a great shock to the parents that lice have been discovered on routine hygiene inspection. The School Health Regulations give powers to local authorities to exclude children with head infestation. Perhaps local authorities should use these powers more often, especially in those cases where parents do not co-operate as much as they should do. On the other hand the usual practice in such conditions is to try to obtain the co-operation of the parents first and persuade them to follow the treatment provided before exclusion from school becomes necessary. I have to make it quite clear that the incidence of head infestation is low and is not increasing, but nevertheless, there is no reason why head lice should not be eliminated from the community. These remarks are not particular to Prestatyn, but relate to the schools in Rhyl, St. Asaph and Prestatyn areas which I visit in connection with the school medical inspection duties.

Lectures on food hygiene were given to Holiday Camp catering and kitchen staff and many premises were inspected by the departmental staff.

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

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Scarlet Fever	5	2	6	5	12	3	2	4	5	3	12
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	2	—	2	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	9	12	9	1	21	—	1	2	1
Measles	106	111	41	88	52	97	77	114	5	153	6
Pneumonia	—	1	1	4	2	2	3	2	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	6	—	*500	8	—	5	3	5	3	50	6
Dysentery	—	2	2	—	5	24	9	1	—	6	48
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory ...	6	—	6	4	3	1	1	1	—	3	1
Tuberculosis Non-respiratory	—	—	1	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—

* Suspected

TUBERCULOSIS 1971

Report of Dr. Morrison of work at Rhyl Chest Clinic for 1971.

No. of New Cases and Contacts attending Clinic during the year ...	360
No. of New Cases from Prestatyn attending Rhyl Clinic	1
No. of transfers in	2

One new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified. 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.

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

Most county district health authorities maintain a tuberculosis register of all persons who are suffering or recently have suffered from the disease.

Pulmonary Cases	Males: 5	Females: 4
Non-Pulmonary Cases	Males: 2	Females: 1

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 Mass X-Ray Unit ceased to call routinely at Rhyl at the end of 1967.

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.

CERVICAL SMEARS

(FOR DETECTION OF CANCER OF NECK OF WOMB)

Cervical smear tests can be arranged for women by appointment at Mercier House, Russell Road, Rhyl; also at the Central Surgery, Prestatyn, on alternate Thursday afternoons at 2.30 p.m. A lady doctor is in attendance.

FAMILY PLANNING

Family Planning facilities are available at the Clinic at Ffordd-las, Rhyl; also at the Clinic, Kings Avenue, Prestatyn, every Thursday morning. In each instance a lady doctor is in attendance.

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.

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 four midwives who are also trained district sisters attached to general practitioners in the town and these nurses carry out ante-natal care of mothers under the general direction of the family doctors.

MOTHERCRAFT

Expectant mothers may arrange by appointment to attend Prestatyn Clinic every Monday afternoon for mothercraft lectures and demonstrations which are given by local clinic nursing staff.

SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITORS

There are four health visitors and two school nurses based in the town 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 larger numbers of old people living in the town. District Nurses have now been assigned to practitioners in the town to assist them in their work and, as far as I am aware, the system is working satisfactorily.

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. Home helps are engaged in the town mainly on a part-time basis, and this service is a most valuable and important development of local authority services.

SECTION 26—IMMUNISATION

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS & POLIOMYELITIS

Immunization, which consists of a course of 3 injections and 3 oral doses of polio vaccine, is given to babies between the fourth and tenth month of life.

A booster dose is given at school entry.

TUBERCULOSIS

All 13 year old children are eligible for immunization against the disease subject to parental consent. Protection is given by an injection of live attenuated tubercle bacilli (B.C.G.).

MEASLES

Vaccinations are carried out routinely on all one year old babies whose parents have granted consent. This is also available for older children up to the age of seven years who have not had the disease. Vaccination consists of one injection and there are few adverse reactions.

GERMAN MEASLES

Vaccination is now available for girls between 11 and 14 years and for women of child bearing age who have not had the disease. If a woman is pregnant and suffers from German Measles in the first three months of pregnancy, there is a 30% chance of serious congenital defects occurring in the baby. Vaccination can be given by the patient's General Practitioner, but the woman should avoid becoming pregnant for two months after the injection.

SECTION 27—AMBULANCES

The ambulance service is radio-controlled and administered from the headquarters at Mold.

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 Ave. between 3 p.m. & 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.

CHIROPODY

Facilities are available for Old Age Pensioners and handicapped persons to attend, by appointment, at the Prestatyn Clinic. Applications are dealt with by the County Health Department. A small fee is charged and the clinics are held on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesday afternoons of each month.

VENEREAL DISEASES

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

H.M. STANLEY HOSPITAL, ST. ASAPH.

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

CHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.

Males Wednesdays, 5—7 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.

Females—Mondays, 5—7 p.m.. Thursdays, 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.

A new school was opened in Meliden in 1969 and construction of the new Bodnant School commenced in 1971.

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 Special School at Rhuddlan for sub-normal children.

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 Holme; and a new home, Llys Nant, was opened in 1970.

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 note that legal action was not necessary.

METEOROLOGY

Full details of climatic conditions during the year in Prestatyn are given at the end of Mr. Owen's 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.

SLAUGHTERING FACILITIES

There is no licensed slaughter house in Prestatyn.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The number of properties connected to the main drainage system is 6,591.

Construction work continued in 1971 on the surface water and foul drainage system and the new sea outfall became operational in August. It is hoped that most of the work will be completed by the end of 1972, but I earnestly hope that work will commence before re-organisation of Local Government on the final section of the sewerage scheme, i.e. the Dyserth Bay/Coast Road section.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

During the year samples were taken regularly from the Swimming Pools and were generally satisfactory.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

The local Public Health Laboratory is situated at Conway, and Dr. Kingsley Smith, the Director, and his Deputy, Dr. Griffiths, 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

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

ANALYSIS:

Appearance	Clear & Colourless
Odour	Nil
Reaction, pH	7.1
Colour (Hazen Units)	less than 5
	- parts per million -
Total Solids	340
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	2.0
Chlorides, as Cl	29
Oxygen(absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C	0.4
Total hardness	256
Temporary hardness	188
Permanant hardness	68
Alkalinity	188
Total residual chlorine	Nil
Free available chlorine	Nil
Potassium, as K	0.3
Anionic synthetic detergents	—
Manganese, as Mn	—
Cyanides and thiocyanates	—
Poisonous metals	Nil

OPINION:

The chemical condition of the water is satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLY

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

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.

CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES

I have visited the camping sites at the eastern end of the town for many years and I am very pleased to note that there had been a recent improvement in the sanitary arrangements, mainly due to the provision of extra toilets. I hope that these extra facilities will eliminate the nuisances that have arisen in the past.

SMOKE CONTROL

There has been increasing emphasis nationally on the 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 1971 the extent of new property constructed is shown below:—

The number of private dwellings built in the town was	133
The number of Council properties built in the town was	41

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.

Since 1948 the Council have built 336 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
1971	41	133	174
1970	—	138	138
1969	33	157	190
1968	—	164	164
1967	—	171	171
1966	—	210	210
1965	16	257	273
1964	—	239	239
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

**TABLE SHOWING HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE TOWN
OVER THE PAST 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 ..	5,034 ...	2.0 ...	£166,284 ...	£668
1962	11,170 ...	5,285 ...	2.0 ...	£176,590 ...	£706
1963	11,490 ...	5,395 ...	2.0 ...	†£480,219 ...	£1,896
1964	12,070 ...	5,633 ...	2.0 ...	£500,583 ...	£1,970
1965	12,450 ..	5,906 ..	2.0 ...	£529,280 ...	£2,065
1966	12,850 ...	6,116 ...	2.1 ...	£555,546 ...	£2,116
1967	13,200 ...	6,287 ...	2.1 ...	£580,042 ...	£2,194
1968	13,430 ...	6,604 ...	2.1 ...	£598,142 ...	£2,310
1969	13,670 ...	6,794 ...	2.0 ...	£610,826 ...	£2,370
1970	14,080 ...	5,894 ...	2.4 ...	£613,069 ...	£2,442
1971	14,560 ...	6,068 ...	2.4 ...	£663,737 ...	£6,600

*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.

SUPERANNUATION

Eight medical examinations were carried out in 1971 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.

SIMPLE GUIDE LINES TO A HEALTHIER WAY OF LIVING

1. *Eating less.*

It can be taken for granted that most of us eat too much, especially those past 40 years of age.

Try to avoid second helpings and whenever possible make do with one potato instead of two, and one slice of bread in place of two. Eating to excess can be a form of habit, easy to develop and difficult to break.

2. *More Exercise*

Exercise keeps the joints flexible, increases the tone of the muscles, increases the cardiac reserve and in the long run has a beneficial effect on the blood pressure.

"A little a day keeps the cardiologist away".

No need to run six miles a day – just an evening constitutional, especially for the office bound man.

3. Try to develop as many interests in life as possible, apart from the daily occupation – not always easy to achieve. Hobbies including sport, either indulged in actively or passively, have an important influence on health, setting the mind free from obsession, prejudices and anxiety – far better than pills from the doctor.

4. *Cup of tea* – far better stimulant and sedative than a cigarette.

5. Hot bath on going to bed, provided it is not after a large meal. Great relaxant of muscles, relieves anxiety, blood pressure lowered – one of the best home remedies.

SMOKING AND HEALTH

An Anti-Smoking Clinic was held in the Rhyl Town Hall in September 1971 and just over 20 people attended the five evening sessions, at which films and demonstrations were given and the members of the audience were asked to participate.

The response from the public attendance-wise was very disappointing but I have recently written to the people who attended, asking for their comments. It would appear from the replies I have received that about half have restarted smoking, although not smoking to the same extent as prior to the clinic.

The main risks to health from smoking cigarettes are :—

1. *Lung Cancer*

In heavy smokers there is a 15-30 times greater risk of developing cancer of the lung as against non-smokers, and it has also been shown that the risk is increased by the inhalation of smoke; by the earlier onset of smoking; by taking more puffs from each cigarette by keeping the cigarette in the mouth between puffs; and by relighting half smoked cigarettes. Recent studies have suggested that filter type cigarettes may have slightly reduced the risk of developing lung cancer, compared with unfiltered cigarettes. Cigar smoking and pipe smoking seem to have a smaller effect on the incidence of cancer of the lung. This may be due to the fact that most of the dangerous inhalants are condensed in the pipe or cigar before inhalation. When people give up smoking, it has been shown that the risk of developing lung cancer falls significantly and steadily over the years.

Between 1951 and 1966 half of the doctors in the United Kingdom who used to smoke, stopped smoking over the period, and this compares with the general consumption of cigarettes over the same period, which has been unchanged. The incidence of cancer of the lung has fallen considerably amongst doctors, and this strongly suggests that stopping smoking of cigarettes will reduce the general mortality from this appalling disease, which last year accounted for the deaths of over 30,000 men.

It has been stated as an argument by smokers that lung cancer does occur amongst non-smokers, and this is true — but the incidence is extremely small, and of course, cancer can occur in any organ of the body at any age.

2. *Bronchitis and Emphysema*

Many studies of this disease have been carried out throughout the world in the past 20 years, and there has been a strong correlation between the prevalence of excess production of sputum, the incidence of bronchitis and the number of cigarettes smoked. These symptoms usually abate when smokers cut down their

cigarette consumption or stop smoking. Every aspect of lung function is affected by cigarette smoke. There is a narrowing of airways, impairment of gas transfers (oxygen etc.) across the lung membrane, diminution of exercise tolerance, etc.

Amongst doctors in England and Wales, aged between 30 and 60, many of whom stopped smoking cigarettes, there was a 30% reduction in bronchitis mortality between 1953 and 1965 and this compares with a reduction of only 4% in all men of the same age group in England and Wales over the same period, amongst whom there was no reduction in cigarette smoking.

3. *Coronary Heart Disease*

The mortality from this disease has steadily increased over the last half century, not only in the United Kingdom, but throughout the western world. The cause of this increase is still largely unknown, but it is believed that cigarette smoking is a significant factor. Other factors, of course, are physical inactivity, obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, etc.

Cigarette smoking or the injection of nicotine promotes the release of chemicals from the adrenals, and these affect the components of the blood, tending to increase the fatty content of the blood and also tending to cause cardiac irregularities. This, repeated many times a day, many days of the year and over many years, does, of course, eventually damage the heart and arterial system. The stopping of cigarette smoking in an otherwise heavy smoker, can reduce the risk of developing a heart attack by up to 30%.

4. *Other diseases whose causation may be related to cigarette smoking.*

It is believed that cigarette smoking may be a factor in the causation of cancer of the urinary tract and in particular, cancer of the bladder, as there is a higher incidence of this disease amongst cigarette smokers. Scientists are still unravelling the various chemical components in cigarette smoke, and it may perhaps be shown in years to come that there are many more than the two or three known cancer producing agents in cigarette smoke.

How to stop Smoking.

The Health Education Council have produced an excellent booklet on this subject and this is available at the Health Department.

They refer in their leaflet to the various types of smoker :—

1. The stimulation smokers, who smoke to give themselves a lift, a perk, to keep them going and prevent themselves slowing down. If this kind of smoker gives up, he looks for a substitute stimulant like tea, coffee, beer etc.

2. The handling smokers, who must have something to hold, manipulate, and watch. Pipe smokers belong to this classification.
3. The relaxation smokers, who are referred to in the cigarette advertisement, and enjoy a cigarette after a good meal and relaxation in familiar surroundings.
4. The crutch smokers, who light cigarettes in moments of stress, when they are upset or beset by cares and worries.
5. The craving smokers, who are physically addicted to tobacco.
6. The habit smokers, who smoke automatically and are often surprised to find a cigarette in their mouths when they are looking for another one !

Plan of action to help you stop smoking.

There are many ways of trying to stop smoking, but I would suggest that smokers might find it easier to give up smoking if they plan this event with a change of surroundings or change of their routine. This could be done whilst they are on holiday or perhaps during a short break from work. It would be advantageous to decide in advance that one is going to give up smoking and then attempt to stop for good.

The first week after deciding to stop smoking is the most difficult, and it may be necessary, in some cases, it is absolutely necessary, to try to find an alternative such as something to chew e.g. sweets, or some other type of agent to occupy one's mind and thoughts during the period when the desire for a cigarette becomes pre-eminent. Try also to vary your routine whilst at work and try to persuade your colleagues at work who offer you cigarettes to refrain from doing so.

Most people find that their appetite improves and fear they will put on weight. There is no doubt that there is a certain weight gain in the first few weeks after stopping smoking, but this is due to a period of adjustment by the body and this weight gain will settle down after some weeks. Nevertheless, it is important to take more exercise during these weeks to combat this increase in weight, which in some cases is due to increased fluid retention. Try to combat temptations by travelling in "No Smoking" compartments on trains and buses, and if you have managed to give up the habit, try then to persuade your friends to follow your example.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1971

Madam Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1971.

The year has been a milestone in Prestatyn's development, particularly for two reasons. On the 3rd July the Pontin's Holiday Village opened with accommodation for more than 4,000 visitors in self-contained chalets together with amenity buildings and indoor swimming pool, which became available for use by the public in October. Secondly, in August the new sewerage sea outfall came into commission followed in September by the Prestatyn section of the new foul sewerage system and associated pumping stations.

During the year the fourth sheltered housing scheme for the elderly, consisting of 18 bungalows and warden's house at Meliden, was completed and there was also an extension to the Maes Hendre estate at Meliden, consisting of 22 houses.

New Food Hygiene Regulations came into operation during the year but contained little alteration from previous requirements. They still fail to require "Prior Approval" before a food business is brought into operation. Now that so much of our perishable food is pre-packed I call for legislation to require the date marking of all such foods to ensure that the housewife only receives fresh food. With the increasing amount of imported food in our shops some thought must be given to legally protecting the customer where the food contents are not of the quality demanded by the purchaser, similar to that existing for home produced products.

Legislation controlling standards and facilities on camping sites is still awaited.

The Government's Report of the Working Party on Refuse Disposal was published in April and it is essential that the future needs and methods of refuse disposal in both Prestatyn and neighbouring authorities must be reviewed jointly in the very near future.

May I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee, to Dr. Roberts, Medical Officer of Health, and to fellow officials and staff in all Departments of the Council for their guidance, support and co-operation during the year.

I am, Madam Chairman, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. T. OWEN,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Domestic Premises Visited	499
Other Sites Visited Re Complaints	190
Surface Water and Watercourses	10
Holiday Camps, Caravan and Camp Sites	186
Schools	15
Public Conveniences	43
Refuse Collection and Disposal	312
Agricultural Holdings	10
Factories	5
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	124
Civic Amenities	81
Food Premises	220
Rodent Control	287
Pest Control	87
Noise Abatement	5
Miscellaneous - Sampling	147
Miscellaneous - General	326
Interviews	712
Obstructed Drains	609

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Number of Cases Confirmed	65
Number of Households	59
Number of Persons Investigated	238
Number of Visits	502
Number of Cases Removed to Hospital	4

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Supermarket and Self Service	36
Grocers	22
Greengrocers	23
Confectioneries and Bakeries	15
Butchers	6
Wet Fish	6
Fried Fish	1
Catering Premises	44
Licensed Premises	29
Mobile Shops and Delivery Vehicles	5
Miscellaneous	23

HOUSING MANAGEMENT

Housing Applicants — Visits and Investigations	314
Council House — Visits Re Management	209
Council House — Visits Re Maintenance	829
Interviews — Applicants and Tenants	598

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection

The collection service ran smoothly during the year with only two periods of marked disruption, the first in June caused by a combination of sickness, wet weather and the Bank Holiday. The second occasion was in the autumn due to the breakdown of vehicles which necessitated hiring of vehicles on different occasions from three other authorities.

The service consists of two domestic teams who operate with Dennis Paxit IIIA. collection vehicles. A third team using a Karrier Bantam vehicle collects the High Street trade refuse which includes a second collection from certain food premises. This team also collects bulky refuse, clear refuse dumped on vacant sites and from April to October collect refuse from all caravan sites.

In contrast to 1970 when there was a turn over of labour of 60%, only one employee left the service and another retired. Sickness was below average, the time lost being 131 working days. Another 11 days were lost due to absenteeism and 222 days due to holidays, making a total of 364 days. This represents 9% of the maximum possible working days.

Owing to the breakdown in negotiations with the men's Union concerning the introduction of a Paper Sack System coupled with an increased bonus scheme but reduction in labour, the proposals were revised and the trade collection round surveyed in detail. During the summer, negotiations with the Union were re-opened and by December agreement had been reached on virtually every point.

Disposal

The Council dispose of all refuse on a controlled tipping site on low lying ground to the west of the town centre, off Fforddisa. One attendant is employed on the tip together with a Bristol Taurus Crawler Loader-Shovel. Major repair work was carried out on this plant at the beginning of the year after which it worked reasonably well, but by the end of the year was again giving cause for concern.

As required by the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, free tipping facilities are available for residents at all times. Considerable use is being made of these facilities, particularly at weekends. However, I would appeal to the public not to tip in the hedge at the side of the approach road, or at the entrance to the tip, but please tip as directed by notices.

May I also warn the public that everything disposed of at the Tip becomes the property of the Council and anyone scavenging or recovering any article is liable to prosecution. I would also appeal to parents to see that their children keep away from the refuse tip, as not only has there been evidence of them causing fires, which can prove extremely costly to extinguish, but there is a constant

danger to children. For example, when playing with fires there have been cases of overheated containers such as aerosols exploding causing injury to children, likewise with petrol tanks of abandoned cars. Children have also been suffocated due to being shut in abandoned refrigerators. These, together with other dangers on refuse tips, make it a dangerous place for children.

The type of refuse being produced in this area continues to become lighter and bulkier, with the ever increasing nuisance from light plastic bags blowing over the site. The volume of refuse being received at the tip, particularly during the season, far exceeds the amount of suitable covering material being brought in, resulting in a failure to comply fully with the recommended Code of Practice contained in the Government's Report of the Working Party on Refuse Disposal published in April.

Owing to its changing character and composition together with the anticipated changes that will occur in the next decade, refuse is no longer suitable for depositing on to open land without having been subjected to pre-treatment (pulverisation, incineration, etc.), so that it can be tipped with considerably less risk of nuisance or injuring visual amenities. Also, by reducing the volume less land is required. At present rates the tip will be completed in the next three to four years and in view of the time likely to be taken to acquire further tipping land, now is the time for this Council, together with Rhyl and St. Asaph to consider future refuse disposal needs and the provision of a pulveriser.

The Rotary Club of Prestatyn are continuing with their proposal to convert a section of the old part of the refuse tip to a much needed playing field, but again I must warn that adequate precautions will be necessary to prevent children wandering on to the more dangerous parts of the refuse tip.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967

During the year 20 cases of abandoned vehicles were investigated. In some cases the owners were traced and required to remove the vehicle, but on other occasions the Council, through the duty placed upon it by this Act, had to remove the abandoned vehicles.

LITTER ACT, 1958

Whilst occasional indiscriminate dumping of refuse has occurred it has not been widespread as in other towns, probably due to the regular refuse collection service and the free tipping facilities available at the conveniently situated refuse tip at all hours of the day, including weekends. However, the practice of dumping garden refuse on vacant plots of land remains a common practice and can give rise to fly and rodent infestations.

WATER SAMPLING

	Bacterio- logical		Satis- factory		Unsatis- factory
Main Town Supply	51	...	51	...	—
Culvert - Nant Mill Pool	2	...	2	...	—
Swimming Pool (Lido)	3	...	3	...	—
Swimming Pool (Prestatyn Hol. Camp)	4	...	4	...	—
Paddling Pool (Prestatyn Hol. Camp) ...	3	...	2	...	1
Swimming Pool (Pontin's)	12	...	12	...	—
Paddling Pool (Pontin's)	5	...	5	...	—
Total Samples Taken	80	...	79	...	1

Bacteriological samples are taken from properties at random throughout the Council's area and of the 51 taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories at Conway all were found to be Class I, Excellent.

Reports of all samples taken from mains supply are passed to the West Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board for information and any necessary action.

The results of a Chemical Analysis of the town's water supply are given in the Medical Officer's Report.

SWIMMING POOLS

With the opening of the Pontin's Holiday Camp in July, the number of swimming pools in the district was increased to three, the other two being situated at the Prestatyn Holiday Camp and at the Council's Royal Lido.

19 samples were taken from the swimming pools and all were found to be satisfactory.

Following the closing of Pontin's camp at the end of the holiday season, the swimming pool was re-opened by the Council for the use of the public from October 1971 to April 1972. The facility of an indoor heated swimming pool at this end of the County proved a popular asset to residents and schoolchildren.

FOOD AND DRUG PREMISES

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

Supermarkets and Self-service	8	Sweet Shops	18
Grocers	18	Candy Floss Kiosks	1
Greengrocers	16	Ice Cream Kiosks	4
Confectioners	7	Cinemas	1
Bakeries	6	Schools	6
Restaurants and Snack Bars ...	15	Homes	7
Butchers	11	Hospitals	1
Fishmongers and Game Dealers	2	Boarding Houses	5
Fried Fish Shops	5	Registered Clubs	8
		Licensed Houses	9

Total: 148.

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

Grocers and Self-service	19	Kiosks	6
Restaurants and Snack Bars	16	Fried Fish Shops	5
Sweet Shops	7	Butchers	1
Greengrocers	2		

- (3) Two hundred and twenty visits were made to food premises and 189 infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found.

The practice of exposing open food on shop forecourts and pavements was brought to an end.

- (4) Fried Fish Shops:-

Number of Fried Fish Shops in the District 5

These shops were well conducted.

I am pleased to again report that the food traders are continuing their efforts to provide a clean service and to improve their premises.

Several mobile food shops were found to be trading in the town, but operating from premises outside the district. These vehicles generally failed to comply fully with the relevant hygiene requirements.

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970, came into operation on the 1st March, 1971, but they contain very little alteration from previous Regulations. Again there is no requirement for "Prior Approval" before a person opens a food business. I consider that this is essential so as to ensure that all premises where food is to be handled comply with hygiene requirements before any dealing in food commodities commences.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTED

All the towns' meat supply is slaughtered at premises outside the district, but from time to time random inspections of the meat are made when exposed for sale in local shops.

Other foods, canned goods, etc., are inspected at times when food shops are visited and when special requests are received.

The following quantity of food was, on inspection, found to be unsound and was condemned. In each case the food was voluntarily surrendered and certificates of unfitness were issued.

	Tons	Cwts.	Lbs
Fresh Meat		Nil	
Canned Meats		3	5
Cooked Meat and Meat Products			85
Other Canned Food		5	72
Frozen foods due to cabinet breakdown		7	56
Other Foods		1	70
Total	—	18	64

This figure shows a great decrease on 1970's total of 7 tons, 38 lbs. and is mainly due to a change of policy regarding large quantities of unsound canned food produced by a large distribution warehouse.

All traders in the town are encouraged to consult this department should they be in any doubt regarding the soundness of any food on their premises.

FOOD COMPLAINTS

During 1971, 17 complaints of unsound food were received showing a marked increase upon only 4 received in 1970.

Foods affected were as follows:-

Commodity	Home Produced	Foreign Matter		Mould
		Imported		
Bread	—	...	—	1
Canned Meat	—	...	4	—
Cooked Meat	1	...	—	2
Meat Pies	2	...	—	2
Fish	1	...	—	—
Fruit	—	...	1	—
Confectionery	1	...	—	—
Other Food	1	...	—	1
Totals ...	6	...	5	6

I view with concern the marked increase in the number of complaints, particularly as the complaints brought to the Health Department are considered to represent only a small percentage of the actual number of cases occurring where food is sold in an unfit state or containing foreign matter.

Of the five complaints concerning imported food, four related to canned meat, in two of these cases pieces of cloth were found, in another it was a pin and in the fourth the contents were contaminated by machine grease. Because these offences originated outside the jurisdiction of the British Court, the Council could take no legal proceedings against the manufacturers and were only able to bring the complaints to the attention of the Importer. It seems unjust that if a foreign body is found in a can of food produced in England or Wales, the Manufacturer can be prosecuted, but if the can is a product of any other country no action can be taken.

With the coming of the Common Market and the prospects of even more imported food in our shops, some international legal arrangements are required for the protection of food.

The six complaints of mouldy food were due to the sale of stale food. There are three main causes:- (i) lack in stock rotation, (ii) over ordering, (iii) delivery to the shop of stale food. The latter gen-

erally occurs where a van salesman is operating with the retailers on a "sale or return" arrangement. I advise all retailers to stop subscribing to this system. If you are passing your stale food on to the next shop via the van salesman it is most likely that some of the perishable food items being delivered to your shop have already spent several days on the shelves of another shop.

In the days when much of our food was open, it was comparatively easy to judge its wholesomeness, but today whilst we welcome packaged food as it prevents the risk of bacterial contamination, we are no longer able to tell by traditional methods whether the packaged food is fresh and safe to eat. Therefore, there must be some indication on the package as to the safe period for the contents. Most manufacturers do have their own secret coding but this is generally of little help to the retailer and customer. It is therefore essential that all perishable foods must be date coded or calendar dated indicating a safe shelf life. There are some reservations towards the general use of an open calendar date and if it is not made compulsory then there must be at least a simple nationally used date code prominently marked on all perishable food giving a terminal shelf life. Obscure perforations used on some bread and pie wrappings will not do. The date code must be easily read and understood by every shop assistant and by this means the sale of stale food can be prevented. But let's make life easy for the housewife by requiring a calendar date.

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING

Particulars of the samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in the Prestatyn Urban District Council area during the year ended December 31st, 1971, by the County Public Health Inspector, Mr. H. Roberts, is as follows:—

Description of Article	Nos. taken	Genuine
Milk	8	8
Dairy Produce	3	3
Ice Cream	3	3
Sausages and Meat Products	12	12
Alcoholic Drinks	2	2
Miscellaneous Groceries	20	20
Vegetables and Fruit	5	5
	<hr/> 53	<hr/> 53

All samples were found to be satisfactory. No evidence of prohibited colouring matter, pesticides or fungicides were found in any foodstuffs.

No evidence of penicillin, brucella abortus or bovine tuberculosis were found in any farm bottled milk.

One complaint was received regarding the compositional quality of a foodstuff sold from a catering establishment but on analysis it was found to be satisfactory.

All articles examined under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act and Fertiliser and Feeding Stuffs Act were found to be satisfactory.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

TABLE A
REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	—	48	4
Retail Shops	2	140	54
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1	10	2
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	—	12	12
Fuel Storage Depots	—	1	—
Total	3	211	72

TABLE B

Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises ... 124

TABLE C

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	211
Retail Shops	422
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	118
Catering Establishments open to the public	80
Canteens	9
Fuel Storage Depots	5
Total ..	845
Total Males ...	348
Total Females ...	497

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	No. of Contraventions found	Section	No. of Contraventions found
4. Cleanliness	10	15. Eating facilities	—
5. Overcrowding	—	16. Floors, passage & stairs	3
6. Temperature	16	17. Facing exposed parts	—
7. Ventilation	1	machinery	—
8. Lighting	3	18. Young persons -	—
9. Sanitary Conveniences .	9	machinery	—
10. Washing facilities	10	19. Young persons -	—
11. Supply of drinking water	—	machinery	—
12. Clothing accommodation	1	24. First aid	17
13. Sitting facilities	2	Abstract	21
14. Seats (sedentary w'kers)	—		
		Total	93

ACCIDENTS

Three accidents were reported and investigated during the year. These involved a fractured toe due to a falling beer barrel at a Public House, lacerated fingers when unpacking goods at a shop and injury to an employee caused by a bread van shutter falling.

It is a requirement of this legislation that all accidents occurring on registered premises, whether fatal or where the employee is disabled for more than three days from his usual work, must be notified to the local authority.

LICENSED PREMISES

All premises requiring a Magistrate's Licence were inspected and a report was presented to the Licensing Justices at the Brewster Sessions held in March.

The premises inspected were as follows:-

Licensed Premises	10
Clubs	7
Licensed Restaurants, Guest Houses	4
Cinema	1

Several minor items were required so as to comply with Food Hygiene Regulations at most premises and in particular it was found that there was an absence of washhand basins behind bars in most establishments. The Public Houses were quick to comply with this requirement but by the end of the year several Clubs had still failed to comply. Major improvement work was required to the kitchens of three establishments.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

This Act controls the hours of opening of shops which varies according to the items sold.

At holiday resorts facilities are available for Councils to make Orders relating to Sunday trading and the weekly half holiday.

In April, the Council made an Order allowing retail shops in the North-west, North-east and Meliden Wards to be open for the serving of customers for the sale of items specified in Column 1 below between the hours stated in Column 2:—

Column 1	Column 2
(a) Any article required for the purpose of bathing or fishing	Between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
(b) Photographic requisites	Between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
(c) Toys, Souvenirs and Fancy Goods ...	Between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
(d) Books, Stationery, Photographs, Reproductions and Postcards	Between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
(e) Any article of food except fried fish and chips	Between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
(f) Fried Fish and Chips	Between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m.

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	2	—	...	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	44	—	...	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	...	—
Total	46	—	...	—

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	—	—	...	—
Overcrowding	—	—	...	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	...	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	...	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	...	—
Sanitary conveniences :—				
(a) insufficient	—	—	...	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	—	—	...	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	...	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	...	—
Total	—	—	...	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT: OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

Outworkers in August List required by Sec. 110 (1) (c) (2).

Wearing Apparel-makers, etc. 1

RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

The Council do not employ a full-time Pest Officer and rodent and pest control service is carried out by a General Assistant of the Health Department.

Following receipt of reports of rats, mice or other pests, the matter is investigated by the General Assistant and, where necessary bait is laid or treatment carried out.

There was a very marked decrease in the number of rat complaints from 266 in 1970 to 166, but with mice there was an almost 100% increase from 39 to 76.

Number of Premises treated

	Rats	Mice	Pests
Private Houses	123	50	40
Council Houses	10	9	10
Business Premises	22	17	8
Other Sites	10	—	—
Agricultural Premises	1	—	—

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

From time to time, following heavy rain, sewers have continued to surcharge in various parts of the town. However, the situation improved during the latter half of the year as parts of the new sewerage system were brought into operation.

In September the Coronation Gardens and Marine Park Pumping Stations commenced functioning, bringing into operation much of the new foul sewer system. At the end of the year the Meliden Sewerage Works was still in operation as work had not been completed on the new Meliden foul sewer. Work was still in progress on the new Surface Water Sewer and Pumping Stations.

Work re-commenced on the new sewerage sea outfall in the Spring and the outfall was brought into commission in August.

In the interest of Public Health the Council offer a free drain service. During the first six months the steady increase in demands on the service of the previous year continued. By the end of June there had been 331. However, from July to December, only 278 requests were received, making a total for the year of 609 compared with 597 in 1970.

The work is carried out by the General Assistant who is spending much of his time on this section of his duties particularly as he has no transport except for a bicycle.

Whilst some of the blockages are beyond the control of the householder, many are due to misuse of the drains. Obstructions

are frequently found to be caused by sanitary towels, toys, solid matters such as wood, stones, newspaper, excessive grease and particularly disposable nappies. Drains are not designed for these items and I request the public to show far greater care in the use of drains or else charges for the service will have to be introduced as a deterrent.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

The licensed sites within the area are as follows :—

Caravan Sites and Number of Caravans Permitted.

Bourne Leisure Park, Bastion Road	602
Presthaven Sands	280
Prestatyn Holiday Camp	201
Tan-y-Don Camp	68
Plas Deva Caravan Camp	55
Pen-y-Ffrith Caravan Camp	50
Morfa Du Caravan Camp	25
White House Camp	22
Midnant Farm Caravan Site	20
Plas Morfa Caravan Site	11
"Newlyn," Victoria Road West	3
Ironmonger's Shop, Meliden	1
"Y Nyth", Plas Newydd Drive	1
"Brookdale", Cefn-y-Gwrych	1
	<hr/>
	1,340

All caravan site operators must be in possession of a Site Licence issued by the Local Authority and comply with a list of conditions laid down by the Local Authority. The conditions are made in the interest of the health and welfare of the caravaners.

Detailed inspections were made of all sites during the season and 45 contraventions of site licenced conditions were found. Many of the shortcomings were of a minor nature but the most common contravention was the inadequate fire fighting facilities.

There were 6 applications for variation of licences, four dealing with change of ownership, one with opening dates and the other with the number of caravans.

The caravan sites are well conducted and maintained and the practice of sub-letting, a common feature in many districts of North Wales, is openly practiced on only one site in Prestatyn.

Camping Sites

Being a holiday resort, tent and touring caravan owners are attracted to the resort but on arrival find that there are virtually no facilities for them. Some caravan sites do reserve a few sites for touring vans but they fail to meet the demand.

A camping site to the East of the town centre, which enjoys a "long-user rights" under the Town and Planning Act, is filled to capacity during the latter half of July and August. As yet there is still no control over camping sites similar to the Caravan Acts. The only statutory powers being those in the Public Health Act, 1936, which are completely inadequate and the Government must not delay any longer the introduction of legislation to control camping in this country.

For years an organised Church Lads' Brigade camp has been using two fields to the West of Ffordd Penrhwylyfa. Whilst the weekly camps have been well conducted, the sanitary drainage and cooking facilities this year have given rise to serious complaint. The Camp organisers have been very concerned and during the Autumn drains were laid and pumping equipment installed so as to discharge the camp's foul effluent into the local authorities' sewer. Before next season new cookhouses will have to be erected and it is hoped that money will soon be available to allow the erection of ablution blocks.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are ten public conveniences in the town situated at the Ffrith (two), Royal Lido, Barkby Beach, Coronation Gardens, Bus Station, Car Park, Municipal Offices, Pendre Gardens, Hillside and Meliden.

Vandalism and actual theft of fittings has again occurred, but in view of the toilets being open 24 hours a day it could be expected to be worse. Efforts to remove graffiti proved a greater problem during the year.

The district generally is well served by public conveniences though there are no facilities in the rapidly developing area lying between Meliden and the Ffrith. Beside the increased residential population there has also been a marked increase in the flow of traffic along Ffordd Penrhwylyfa and a public convenience should be erected in the vicinity of Ffordd Penrhwylyfa Cross Roads as soon as possible.

HOUSING

The demand for new bungalows and houses in Prestatyn showed no signs of reducing and building by private enterprise continued, particularly to the west of the town on estates situated off Ffordd Penrhwylyfa, Victoria Road and Victoria Road West. The total of 133 private dwellings completed was a little less than the 138 in 1970 and 157 in 1969 and in fact was the lowest total since 1958.

COUNCIL HOUSING

Two small housing developments at Meliden commenced in 1970 were completed. The Yr Olchfa elderly persons' estate consisting of 18 one bedroomed bungalows and a warden's house were occupied during February and March, whilst at Maes Hendre 22 three bedroomed houses were completed and occupied during the summer. Both these developments were built by industrial methods. The completion of these 41 dwellings represented the highest number of Council owned properties completed in one year, except in 1948 when there were 60 and in 1952, 42.

On the 31st December, 1971, the number of Council dwellings was as follows.—

Number of 4 bedroomed houses	4
Number of 3 bedroomed houses	407
Number of 2 bedroomed houses	60
Number of flats	28
Number of Bungalows (Warden controlled)	32
Number of flats (Warden controlled)	48
Total	<hr/> 579 <hr/>

HOUSE LETTINGS

New tenancies commenced during the year as follows:—

Prestatyn Houses Re-Lets	16
Prestatyn Elderly Persons Re-Lets	11
Meliden Houses Re-Lets	19
Meliden Elderly Persons Re-Lets	1
Meliden Houses, New	22
Meliden Elderly Persons New	18
Total	<hr/> 87 <hr/>

Housing Applicants

Early in the year housing registers for both the General Needs and for the Elderly Persons' were completed and contained the following number of applicants:—

General Needs List	140
Elderly Persons List	153
Tenants wishing to transfer to E.P.B.	27

Following the allocation of the new 3 bedroomed houses at Meliden there is now only a very limited demand for family houses. If more elderly persons sheltered accommodation was constructed this would allow retired tenants living in large family houses to transfer to more suitable accommodation.

The largest number of applicants on the General Needs List are those of one or two persons who require small units of accommodation. Middle-aged couples and single persons are very prominent in this group yet in Prestatyn there are very few one and two bed-roomed flats and houses.

Any future building programme must cater for this group of applicants.

Housing Act 1957

The district has no areas of slum property and Clearance Areas and Programmes are not required. From time to time it becomes necessary deal with individual properties which are unfit and cannot be made fit at reasonable expense.

During 1971 the following individual Orders were made:—

Closing Order Basement Flat, 20, Maes-y-Groes
Demolition Order "The Cottage", Ffordd Penrhwyflla

Housing Act 1969 — Improvement Grants

The Council received 3 applications during the year and approved the making of grants in 2 of the cases.

Thirty three applications for Qualification Certificates were received. Seventeen were granted and the remaining sixteen held in abeyance to allow the landlords the opportunity to remedy defects.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Five complaints of noise nuisance were received and investigated. Four were abated by informal action but in the fifth incident legal proceedings were instituted resulting in an Abatement Order being made.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

One dealer registered with the Council.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

No licences were issued.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No premises are licensed under the provisions of this Act.

CLIMATOLOGY OF PRESTATYN 1971

Month	Means		TEMPERATURE IN °F		SUNSHINE IN HOURS Longest	Total	RAINFALL IN MM.	
	Max.	Mins.	Highest	Lowest			Maximum	Total
January	47.4	38.1	64 (10th)	21 (4th)	6.1 (10th)	54.3	12.6 (21st)	68.8
February	46.8	38.0	54 (20th)	31 (2nd)	6.4 (21st)	54.9	7.4 (12th)	26.5
March	47.2	37.8	55 (29th)	27 (4th)	8.4 (22nd)	75.2	13.0 (1st)	73.5
April	52.9	41.1	64 (21st)	33 (28th)	13.0 (28th)	134.4	25.9 (23rd)	67.3
May	60.6	46.0	69 (14th)	35 (2nd)	13.3 (21st)	241.0	6.4 (29th)	28.7
June	60.2	49.8	73 (2nd)	43 (15th)	14.40 (1st)	141.5	29.9 (18th)	95.1
July	68.0	55.5	82 (8th)	47 (18th)	15.6 (6th)	224.4	13.0 (30th)	50.1
August	66.2	55.2	75 (25th)	45 (17th)	14.3 (2nd)	136.5	34.8 (10th)	103.8
September	65.7	51.1	75 (8th)	46 (6th)	11.7 (7th)	179.0	7.6 (26th)	22.4
October	60.3	49.0	72 (7th)	35 (14th)	10.6 (1st)	133.8	23.9 (18th)	50.4
November	50.7	42.3	62 (1st)	33 (29th)	7.2 (2nd)	61.3	15.9 (20th)	83.7
December	50.0	42.3	62 (20th)	28 3rd	2.4 (23rd)	16.0	13.9 (22nd)	21.5
TOTALS	56.3	45.5				1452.3		691.8
					Daily Rate	4.0	Inches	27.7



