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RHYL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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

Together with the Annual Report of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
AND HOUSING MANAGER

E. G. BLACK, F.A.P.H.I.

FOR THE YEAR

1970



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URBAN DISTRICT OF RHYL



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URBAN DISTRICT OF RHYL

Health Department Offices :

RUSSELL HOUSE, RUSSELL ROAD, RHYL. Tel. No. Rhyl 4752

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1970

Councillor ERIC J. DAVIES
(Chairman of the Council).

Cllr. J. C. ESPLEY (Chairman).

Cllr. F. KELLY.

" W. ELWYN CONWAY.

" EMLYN WILLIAMS, J.P.

" J. SKEFFINGTON.

" H. A. WESTON.

" D. ROBERTS.

" GWILYM HUGHES.

" Mrs. C. E. M. EDWARDS.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health :

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 & Housing Manager up to April 1970 :

E. L. LLOYD JONES, M.B.E., F.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector & Housing Manager from 1st May 1970 :

E. G. BLACK, F.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

A. E. HOWGATE, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

D. KAYE, M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant Building Inspector :

J. A. ROBERTS.

Chief Clerk and Meteorological Observer :

W. A. FIELD, B.E.M., A.C.C.S.

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Rodent Officer :

W. H. THOMAS.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1970

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Edwards and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1970.

The Registrar General's estimate for the mid-year population of the town was 21,500, a decrease of 10 on the previous year.

The main points of interest in the report are as follows:—

1. There were 310 live births giving an adjusted birth rate of 16 per 100 population, which is the same as the birth rate for England and Wales. The standardised death rate was 13.2 per 1000 population, compared with the national figure of 11.7.
2. Very significant rise in the number of illegitimate births (50), giving an illegitimate rate of 160 per 1000 births, which is double the national figure of 80 (1969 local figure of 88). I can find no valid reason for this sudden rise in the incidence of illegitimacy and we shall have to wait until 1971 to see if this is a temporary situation or otherwise.
3. 8 still-births were recorded, which is a considerable increase on the previous year, but nevertheless, this can vary greatly from year to year and one must wait until 1971 to see if this trend is maintained. Details of the deaths are included in the Report.
4. The infant mortality rate at 13 per 1000 births was satisfactory.
5. I have made reference later in the report on the incidence of infectious diseases in the town in 1970.
6. The number of cancer deaths rose to 80 in 1970 but inspection of the relevant table in the report reveals a wide variation in the total number of deaths each year, and the site of the primary disease. Certain cancers are preventable and surely the time has come to take active steps to discourage cigarette smoking – perhaps by substantially increasing the duty on cigarettes and making it a financially prohibitive pastime.

Regarding coronary heart disease, there has been considerable research into the cause of the disease but my advice to the public is to worry less, take more exercise, slim gradually if you are obese, give up smoking altogether and enjoy life. Regarding fats in the diet and the relationship to causation of heart disease, the best advice at present is to take eggs, milk and butter in moderation and perhaps increase the intake of soft margarine at the expense of dairy products.

7. Slow but steady progress is being made on the new sewerage scheme and the Rhyl Cut Scheme is about to be commissioned. At the time of writing the report, parts of the Cut have now become a muddy ditch and the River Authority will be required to attend to the condition of this stream, otherwise nuisances may develop.
8. Walford Avenue housing scheme is proceeding slowly, and it is hoped that a start will be made in 1971 with the scheme to provide 58 old peoples flats at Maes Emlyn, Brighton Road.
9. At the end of my report, I have included a section on Food Hygiene.

I would like to pay tribute to the work of the voluntary organisations in the town for the wonderful work carried out, including Meals-on-Wheels, loan of equipment to the handicapped, visiting the sick and elderly, and sale of foods and refreshments at Clinics and Hospitals.

Mr. Lloyd Jones, the Chief Public Health Inspector, retired after over 47 years of service with the Rhyl U.D.C. and over 40 years as Chief Public Health Inspector – a truly remarkable record from a remarkable man. We shall all miss him in the Department and wish him a happy retirement.

In concluding my report, I would like to thank the staff of the Health Department for their unfailing support, and also express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council and Council Officials.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

D. P. W. ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Land area exclusive of foreshore	1,700 acres
Land area inclusive of foreshore	2,579 acres
Population at Mid-year 1970 (Registrar General's estimate)	21,500
Population change compared with previous year (decrease of)	10
Number of inhabited properties (end of 1970)	7,552
Number of empty properties (end of 1970)	167
Rateable value of the Urban District at end of 1970	£1,285,938
Product of a penny rate	£5,066
General rate £1	17/3
No. of rated premises	8,990

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births: Male 161, Female 149	310
Legitimate live births: Male 131, Female 129	260
Illegitimate live births: Male 30, Female 20	50
Illegitimate local rate per 1,000 live births	161
National illegitimate rate per 1,000 live births	80
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population	14.4
Birth rate comparability factor	1.11
Birth rate standardised	16.0
National birth rate per 1,000 population	16.0
Still births (total)	8
Legitimate still births	7
Illegitimate still births	1
Local still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	25
National still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	13
Infant deaths under one year of age	4
Legitimate infant deaths under age of 1 year	4
Illegitimate infant deaths under age of 1 year	—
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	13
National infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	18
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	15
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
Infant deaths under 4 weeks of age (Neo-natal)	3
Legitimate infant deaths under 4 weeks of age	3
Illegitimate infant deaths under 4 weeks of age	—
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	10
National neo-natal mortality rate	13
Total perinatal deaths (still-births and deaths under one week combined)	10
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	31
National perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	23
Deaths in first week of life (early neo-natal period)	2
Early neo-natal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	6
National early neo-natal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	11
Maternal mortality, including abortion:	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil

DEATHS

Deaths: Male 197, Female 196	393
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	18.3
Comparability factor	0.72
Death rate standardised per 1,000 population	13.2
National death rate for England and Wales	11.7

POPULATION CHANGES IN THE URBAN DISTRICT

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

Year	Mid-year population : R.G. est. figure.	Population change during year.	Change in population due to births and deaths only during year.	Changes in population due to migration.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1872	4,229	—	—	—
1882	6,500	—	—	—
1891	6,474†	—	—	—
1901	8,461†	—	—	—
1911	9,005†	—	—	—
1921	13,490†	—	—	—
1931	13,485†	—	—	—
1951	18,745†	—	—	—
1952	18,800	+ 55	+ 7	+ 48
1953	18,900	+ 100	+ 10	+ 90
1954	19,200	+ 300	— 1	+ 301
1955	19,300	+ 100	— 38	+ 138
1956	19,510	+ 210	+ 43	+ 167
1957	19,590	+ 80	— 15	+ 95
1958	19,710	+ 120	— 17	+ 137
1959	19,810	+ 100	— 6	+ 106
1960	19,940	+ 130	+ 24	+ 106
1961	21,120†	+ 1180	+ 47	+ 1133
1962	21,290	+ 170	+ 1	+ 169
1963	21,440	+ 150	— 32	+ 182
1964	21,570	+ 130	+ 20	+ 110
1965	21,710	+ 140	— 38	+ 178
1966	21,500	— 210	— 128	— 82
1967	21,370	— 130	— 35	— 95
1968	21,660	+ 290	— 45	+ 335
1969	21,510	— 150	— 149	— 1
1970	21,500	— 10	— 83	+ 73

†Census Returns.

A minus sign in column (4) indicates an excess of deaths over births.

Cancer : The total deaths from cancer this year increased by 17 over 1969, and the deaths from lung cancer increased by 8. Too much attention should not be paid to this, as wide variations in the number of deaths can occur from year to year. These figures shown below are an extract from the R.G. returns :—

Cancer Deaths	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Lung	7	6	6	12	15	13	12	12	20	11	14	21	12	10	18
Stomach	4	13	10	10	13	9	9	5	8	7	4	5	7	5	13
Breast	6	8	6	6	9	7	6	4	8	3	11	3	6	3	12
Uterus	1	2	5	3	4	4	3	5	2	2	2	1	—	3	—
Leukaemia	1	2	1	2	2	1	3	4	2	1	1	—	1	2	2
Other sites.	32	26	22	27	34	26	17	29	28	42	35	38	36	40	35
Total deaths all sites ...	51	57	50	60	77	60	50	59	68	66	67	68	62	63	80

The following chart shows the annual deaths from coronary heart disease in Rhyl in recent years :—

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Deaths	46	59	60	80	62	87	85	81	79	90	101	88	93	128	85

SCREENING PROCEDURE

During the past few years there have been projects for screening the general population in certain selected centres in the country, to ascertain whether mass screening procedure would be at all feasible and practical in the detection of disease and its treatment and possible prevention.

The diseases that come to mind in this context are namely—

Cancer of the Cervix (the neck of the womb), Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, Defects of Vision, Hearing Defects, Anaemia, Urinary Infections in Young People, Coronary Heart Disease.

More work needs to be done in the future before any large scale screening procedure can be set in motion, in particular, information on the levels of normality for the population.

It may be a number of years before mass screening procedure will be introduced, and pending this, the only screening that is being undertaken on a mass scale at present is the detection of blood diseases in new-born babies, due to errors of metabolism, which, if not treated, cause mental defects, and which can now be successfully treated.

INFANT MORTALITY 1970

.....There were 4 deaths of infants under one year of age notified locally. Details of the deaths are given below :—

Age at death	Cause of death	(M. or F.)
4 weeks	Compression of the brain associated with fracture of the skull due to injuries to the head	M.
7 days... ..	(a) Cerebral Anoxia	F.
	(b) Prolapsed cord.	
2 days... ..	Prematurity and respiratory distress	F.
9 hours	Prematurity	F.

STILLBIRTHS

8 stillbirths were recorded in 1970 and details of 7 are given below:—

Age at death	Cause of death	(M. or F.)
30 weeks	(a) Unknown (b) Rhesus negative, mother NO antibodies	M.
40 weeks	Hydrocephalus meningocele of lumbar region ...	F.
33 weeks	Prematurity and intra-uterine anoxia	F.
34 weeks	Hydrops or fetalis	M.
28 weeks	Prematurity	M.
40 weeks	Hydrocephalus	F.
39 weeks	Bleeding Basa Praevia	M.

TABLE SHOWING VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT FOR THE PAST TWENTY YEARS IN DETAIL
AND SOME EARLIER RECORDS

Year	Registrar-Generals mid-year estimate of population	Number of local births: R.G. return	Local crude birth rate per 1,000 population	Local adjusted rate	National birth rate per 1,000 population	Local deaths : R.G. return	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 mor- tality rate
1951	18,745	301	16.1	16.1	15.5	317	16.95	14.4	12.5	12	39.0	29.6
1952	18,800	283	15.05	15.05	15.3	276	14.68	12.48	11.3	11	38.8	27.6
1953	19,900	272	14.39	14.39	15.2	262	13.86	11.78	11.4	13	47.8	26.8
1954	19,100	285	14.84	16.0	15.0	286	14.9	11.61	11.3	8	28.0	25.5
1955	19,300	276	14.3	15.4	15.0	314	16.27	12.69	11.7	7	25.4	24.9
1956	19,510	311	15.94	17.3	15.7	268	13.74	11.54	11.7	6	19.3	23.8
1957	19,590	290	14.8	16.0	16.1	305	15.57	13.08	11.5	6	20.7	23.0
1958	19,710	300	15.2	16.4	16.4	317	16.0	13.5	11.7	9	30.0	22.5
1959	19,810	312	15.75	17.1	16.5	318	16.0	13.32	11.6	8	25.6	22.0
1960	19,940	357	17.95	19.4	17.1	333	16.7	14.0	11.5	8	22.4	21.7
1961	21,120	396	18.75	19.1	17.4	349	16.2	14.9	12.0	10	25.3	21.4
1962	21,290	347	16.30	16.6	18.0	346	16.3	14.6	11.9	11	31.7	21.6
1963	21,440	340	15.86	17.5	18.2	372	17.35	13.5	12.2	14	41.2	21.1
1964	21,570	368	17.06	18.9	18.4	348	16.13	12.6	11.3	6	16.3	20.0
1965	21,710	321	14.8	16.4	18.0	359	16.5	12.6	11.5	5	15.5	19.0
1966	21,500	275	12.8	14.2	17.7	403	18.7	13.6	11.7	6	25.4	18.9
1967	21,370	291	13.6	14.1	17.2	326	15.3	11.5	11.2	5	17.1	18.3
1968	21,660	309	14.3	15.9	16.9	354	16.3	12.3	11.8	2	6.5	18.0
1969	21,510	270	12.6	14.0	16.3	419	19.5	14.2	11.9	1	4.0	18.0
1970	21,500	310	14.4	16.0	16.0	393	18.3	13.2	11.7	4	13.0	18.0

Compiled by Registrar General
CAUSE OF DEATH 1950 to 1969 District of Bhi

CAUSES OF DEATH 1970 in the Urban District of Rhyl

Courtesy of Registrar General

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All ages	Age in years											
			Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1—4	5—14	15—24	25—34	35—44	45—54	55—64	65—74	75 and over	
B6 (1) Late Effects of Respiratory T.B. ...	M	1											1	
B18 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases...	F	1											1	
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Capity, etc. ...	M	1								1				
B19(2) Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus ...	F	1						1						
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	M	6								2	3			
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine ...	F	7								1	3	3	1	
B19(5) Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx ...	M	8								1	4	3		
B19(6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	F	6								1	2	3		
B19(7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	M	1									1	3		
B19(9) Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate ...	F	14								5	7	2	2	
B19(10) Leukaemia ...	M	4								1	2	1	1	
B19(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms ...	F	12							3	1	3	5		
B21 Diabetes Mellitus ...	M	2										2		
	F	1										4		
	M	7					1		1	1	1	2	1	
	F	9									6			
	M	2												
	F	3												

Table showing deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis over past sixteen years :—

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Deaths ...	9	3	2	—	2	—	1	2	1	1	4	1	4	1	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

36 cases of measles, 2 cases of whooping cough, 9 cases of food poisoning, 4 cases of dysentery, 1 case of pulmonary tuberculosis, 1 case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 case of meningitis were notified in 1970.

It is regrettable that cases of measles are still occurring, mainly amongst children ages 3 to 10 years of age. Parents have been rather slow to accept vaccination of their children who have not contracted the disease naturally. The vaccine is perfectly safe and very rarely causes any significant reactions in the child.

Rubella (german measles) is not a notifiable disease, but nevertheless the elimination of this disease would be most welcome, as it can cause serious risks to the health of unborn children if pregnant women should contract the disease, especially in the first three months of pregnancy. A start has now been made on immunising 13 year old girls against the disease but the response so far, in my opinion, has been disappointing.

Nine cases of food poisoning were notified and these were largely isolated or family outbreaks. In one instance, it was necessary to suspend temporarily the normal employment of a person affected by the disease, as he was a food handler.

Two persons contracted food poisoning whilst on holiday abroad, and three others contracted the infection whilst sharing a holiday flatlet with another unrelated person who came to Rhyl suffering from symptoms suggestive of food poisoning. The tracing and follow up and supervision of cases of food poisoning in visitors and seasonal staff in shops and cafes is a most difficult procedure and generally visitors are less co-operative than the residents of the town. Over 50 visitors were taken ill in a boardinghouse with symptoms suggestive of food poisoning in the early autumn, but investigation proved negative and the illness may well have been of viral origin.

At the end of the year a number of cases of sonne dysentery were reported and at the time of writing this report, the town has experienced a serious outbreak of dysentery, most of the people taken ill only being affected comparatively mildly, although one child died of the disease. It is impossible to say how this disease is spread, but close bodily contact and poor hygienic practice play a large part, especially lack of cleanliness with use of the toilet. Children more often than not are responsible for the spread of the disease and the question of closure of the schools arises when the number of cases of dysentery reaches epidemic proportions.

It is impossible to prevent the spread of infection in school toilets however careful the caretakers and teaching staff may be, and however good the sanitary facilities are, including the provision of disposable towels, soap and hot water. During break-time, especially, with girls' toilets, as many as 10 children may use an individual toilet and it is quite impossible to disinfect the toilet after each child. Resorting to closure of schools to control the spread of dysentery is a very serious step and it is necessary to equate the *possible* benefits that might occur in controlling the spread of infection with the disruption in the educational programme caused by such a step.

It is very little use closing one school in a town such as Rhyl for a short period of up to one week. Dysentery is a disease which often leaves a carrier state lasting for weeks, and sometimes months – that is, the child can be excreting the organisms in his stools long after recovering from the illness and the only effective measure would be the closure of ALL primary schools in Rhyl for a whole term. It is my personal opinion that even this would probably not have made an appreciable difference to the total number of cases, as closure of schools in an urban area is often followed by close contact in the home surroundings, especially where children visit their friends in each others homes and perhaps use the toilet facilities.

In conclusion, I urge all parents to teach their children that:—

1. After using the toilet or urinal the child should wash his or her hands in warm water and dry them on the disposable towels provided.
2. Any child with diarrhoea or sickness should be kept away from school until certified to be fit to return to school by a doctor, or if a mild illness, until the child is better.

Please ensure that the child is sent to school with clean clothing, especially underclothing. There is nothing more unpleasant in school classrooms than the smell of clothing contaminated with urine and faeces, and I occasionally have to recommend the exclusion of children because of the state of their clothing, in the interests of the other children in the class.

Disease	Under 1 year									Over 65 years					At all ages	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths
	Under 1 year	1—2 years	3—4 years	5—9 years	10—14 years	15—20 years	21—35 years	36—65 years	Over 65 years								
Scarlet fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Whooping cough	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Measles	—	11	12	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36	—		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Paratyphoid and Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Food Poisoning	—	—	1	1	—	3	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	9	2		
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Dysentery	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—		
Tuberculosis : Respiratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
Tuberculosis : Non-respiratory..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Meningitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
															17		

Brucellosis (Non-Notifiable). Other diseases which are notifiable under 1968 Public Health Regulations include: Acute Encephalitis, Amoebic Dysentery, Anthrax, Leprosy, Lepto Spirosis, Malaria, Yellow Fever and Smallpox.

The following table shows the trend of the incidence of infectious notifiable diseases in the district over the past 10 years :—

Disease	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Scarlet fever	—	4	2	5	22	5	4	3	1	—
Whooping cough	5	—	1	2	6	—	4	1	—	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	31	127	104	116	74	15	79	46	8	36
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	1	1	3	1	—	2	5	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	4	26	19	1	9	16	3	—	7	4
Food poisoning	18	2	—	8	1	1	—	4	7	9
Paratyphoid and typhoid... ..	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Tuberculosis : Respiratory	17	10	9	5	10	8	4	7	3	1
Tuberculosis : Non-respiratory	1	—	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	1
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—

TUBERCULOSIS

As will have been seen in the previous table, there were 2 new cases of Tuberculosis, both were notified, and 1 of respiratory origin. 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 these new cases are given below :—

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

All the cases of Tuberculosis were treated in hospital initially and later returned home to continue therapy.

Most county district health authorities maintain a tuberculosis register of all persons who are suffering or recently have suffered from the disease, and this year the local list was revised in conjunction with the Chest Clinic and the County Council records. The position at the end of 1970 was as follows :—

Pulmonary cases : Males 36, Females 8	44
Non-pulmonary cases : Males 3, Females 2	5

CHEST X-RAY FACILITIES

The Welsh Regional Hospital Board had a mobile X-ray unit based at Wrexham, which visited all parts of North Wales, but the routine visiting of Rhyl, amongst other centres in North Wales ceased at the end of 1967.

WELSH REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

By courtesy of Dr. Jarman, Medical Director

TABLE A

Details of Mass Radiographic Survey carried out at Rhyl amongst the General Population in November and December, 1970

Analysis in Age Groups

	Total Grand	Under 15		15 - 24		25 - 34		35 - 44		45 - 59		60 & Over		Totals	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Total No. examined	1,689	3	4	82	127	115	135	140	172	200	274	209	228	749	940
No. found to be abnormal (a & b)	13 or 0.77%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	5	6	7
Classification of abnormal cases :-															
(a) Requiring further observation	6 or 0.36%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	3	3
(b) Other * abnormalities of the chest	7 or 0.41%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	3	4

* Details of other abnormalities of the chest analysed in Table B.

TABLE B

Analysis of other abnormalities of the chest not requiring further observation during the Mass Radiographic Survey carried out at Rhyl, amongst the General Population in November & December 1970

A. TUBERCULOSIS ABNORMALITIES

No.	CLASSIFICATION OF ABNORMALITY	Male	Female	Total
0 & 1	Tuberculosis (known case under Chest Clinic supervision prior to Mass Radiography examination)	—	—	—
2	Healed Primary Tuberculosis	—	—	—
3	Healed Post-Primary Tuberculosis	3	3	6

B. NON-TUBERCULOUS ABNORMALITIES

1	Abnormality of the bony thorax & soft tissues	—	—	—
2	Malignant Neoplasm	—	—	—
3	Non-Malignant Neoplasm	—	—	—
4	Lymphadenopathies, excluding sarcoidosis ...	—	—	—
5	Sarcoids (including enlarged hilar glands) ...	—	—	—
6	Congenital cardiac abnormalities and abnormalities of the vascular system	—	1	1
7	Acquired cardiac abnormalities and abnormalities of the vascular system	—	—	—
8	Pneumoconiosis: without P.M.F. Stage 1 ...	—	—	—
	Stage 2 ...	—	—	—
	Stage 3 ...	—	—	—
	Stage not known ...	—	—	—
9	Pneumoconiosis: with P.M.F.	—	—	—
10	Pulmonary fibrosis - non-tuberculous (to include asthma, bronchitis)	—	—	—
11	Emphysema	—	—	—
12	Bronchiectasis	—	—	—
13	Bacterial virus and other infection of the lungs	—	—	—
14	Pleural thickening or calcification	—	—	—
15	Abnormalities of the diaphragm and oesophagus	—	—	—
16	Malformation of the lungs (to include lobar malformation and honeycomb lung)	—	—	—
17	Spontaneous pneumothorax	—	—	—
	Miscellaneous	—	—	—
TOTALS		3	4	7

REPORT OF THE CHEST PHYSICIAN

The following information on the work of the Chest Clinic during the year 1970 has been kindly supplied by Dr. Morrison:—

Number of new cases in Rhyl U.D. Area during the period	1
Number of cases and contacts attending clinic during the period ...	428
Transfer in of existing cases of Tuberculosis	1

CHEST CLINIC

The treatment of cases of tuberculosis is under the care of the Consultant Chest Physician, Dr. Morrison, at Rhyl.

**PROVISION OF SERVICES UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH
SERVICES ACT, 1946**

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

SECTION 22—CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

Ffordd Las Clinic

Clinic held every Wednesday afternoon between 2.0 and 4.0 p.m. and a Medical Officer is present on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

Mercier House Clinic, Arcville Corner

Clinic held every Tuesday afternoon between 2.0 and 4.0 p.m. and a Medical Officer is present on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.

Welfare foods are sold at both clinics and these arrangements are under the control of voluntary committees to whom the community is greatly indebted for the excellent service provided.

ANTE NATAL CLINICS

Ante Natal Clinics are held at Ffordd Las weekly and are staffed by hospital medical and nursing personnel, under the direction of the Consultant Obstetrician.

Talks are given to mothers attending these clinics by the health visitors on childbirth and baby management.

FAMILY PLANNING

A clinic has recently been opened by the local Family Planning Association at the Infant Welfare Clinic, Ffordd Las, Rhyl, and is under the medical direction of Dr. Anne McLeod. The clinic is held every Wednesday night, 7—8 p.m.

CERVICAL SMEAR CLINIC

Women wishing to have a cervical smear test carried out may either make arrangements with their family doctor or contact the County Health Department at Shire Hall, Mold, and the test is carried out by appointment at Mercier House Clinic.

DENTAL CARE OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS

This is carried out by the school dental staff of the County Council, and the service is free during the period of pregnancy and up to one year after the birth of the baby. It is regrettable that more mothers do not take advantage of these facilities.

SECTION 23—MIDWIFERY SERVICES

There are six midwives, who are also district nurses, working in the area, and they are responsible for the ante natal care, delivery and post-natal surveillance of these patients, under the general direction of the patient's doctor.

SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITORS

Four full-time health visitors are responsible for giving advice to families on all aspects of health education. These duties have increased of late due to the ever expanding needs of the community, especially the older members. Their duties are complementary to the work of the general practitioners.

SECTION 25—HOME NURSING SERVICES

This very valuable provision is carried out by the district nurses, who are usually midwives, and the demands of the service increase yearly as the proportion of old people rises in the community. Thirty-four home helps are working in the town, and the majority are engaged on a part-time basis.

SECTION 26—VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS AND POLIOMYELITIS

Immunisation against these diseases is given, usually by a course of injections commencing at 4 months and repeated at 6 months and finally at 10 months. The poliomyelitis vaccine is given by the oral route whilst the vaccine for the diseases is given by injection and both are given simultaneously. It is very important that ALL infants have protection against these diseases and this can be given at the infant welfare clinic or by the family doctor.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

Vaccination is available to babies over the age of 1 year provided there are no medical contra indications.

MEASLES

Immunization is offered to all babies after completion of the course of immunization against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and polio, and consists of one injection with very few reactions. It is to be regretted that the acceptance rate is still below a level which can be considered satisfactory.

TUBERCULOSIS

All 13 year old children are offered vaccination (by the use of live attenuated tubercule baccilli B.C.G.) against this disease, and the majority of children are protected.

SECTION 27—AMBULANCES

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

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

Arrangements are in being for the loan of certain equipment from County Council sources for the use of handicapped persons. Equipment such as specialised bedding, wheel chairs, etc., can also be hired from the local branch headquarters in Russell Road, Rhyl, of the British Red Cross Society, and this service has been a most useful supplement to the statutory facilities. The local voluntary organisations are to be highly commended in their efforts.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBNORMALITY

Visits are paid by mental welfare officers of the County Council to mentally ill patients who require advice and help.

Subnormal children who cannot be educated in an ordinary school, and who are not severely retarded (i.e., in the "in-educable" category), are admitted to the Training Centre at "Tirionfa," Rhuddlan. There they receive training to the limits of their capabilities.

SCHOOL HEALTH

Medical inspections of schoolchildren were carried out during this year by me as Assistant County Medical Officer, and a high standard of general health and fitness was noted, although the infestation of the hair is still a problem and shows no sign of diminishing.

SCHOOL PREMISES

Minor improvements are still required in many of the school premises in the town. It is policy to install wooden draining boards in new school premises, and as replacements in existing premises. This I believe to be a false economy, as the useful life of the wooden boards is much less than that of stainless steel units, and often become contaminated and a vehicle for the spread of infections to food.

New extensions are under construction at Blessed Edward Jones Roman Catholic Secondary School and construction has commenced on a new school for educationally sub-normal pupils in Ffordd Derwen.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Treatment is available at the following special clinics :—

H. M. Stanley Hospital, St. Asaph :

Males and Females—Tuesdays, 5.30 to 7 p.m.

Chester Royal Infirmary :

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

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

Treatment is confidential and free, and inclusive of travelling expenses.

NURSING HOMES AND HOMES FOR THE AGED

Nursing Homes and Homes for the Aged are registered with the County Council and are inspected by the Health and Welfare Departments.

WELFARE HOMES

Persons who are unable to look after themselves satisfactorily may be admitted to County Council Homes which are situated at Y Gorlan, Rhyl; The Lawns, Rhyl; Part of the Women's Convalescent Home, Rhyl; Carr Holme, Prestatyn; Park House, Prestatyn; Hafan Glyd, Shotton; Plas Coed, Rhyl, and another Home was opened in Prestatyn, and a further Home is under construction at Holywell.

SECTION 47 — NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

This section conveys powers on District Councils to remove persons who "are aged, infirm, or suffering from grave chronic disease, and are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to look after themselves and are not receiving adequate care and attention from others." In 1970 it was not necessary to take any legal action. Legal action is only taken as a last resort and every effort is made to persuade people to accept advice and treatment for their benefit. The demands of the aged increase annually as the proportion of this group within the population rises, and this is especially so in Rhyl. This problem of the care of the aged is aggravated by relatives often living considerable distances away, being unable or unwilling for various reasons, to help in the care of their next of kin.

CARE OF THE AGED

I would like to pay particular credit to the work of all the voluntary organisations in the town in relieving the suffering and hardships of the old and lonely people in Rhyl.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

The local public health laboratory is at Conway, and Dr. Kingsley Smith, the Director, and Dr. Griffiths, his Deputy, carried out the bacteriological examination 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.

HEALTH EDUCATION AND FOOD HYGIENE

Continued efforts were made during the year by the staff of the department to inculcate good hygiene practices in persons working in food premises, whilst improvement was continually being made in the equipment in these premises.

HOUSING

During the year the following new units of housing accommodation were provided in the town :—

New houses and flats provided by the Council	8
Private properties, mainly bungalows	87

Since the war the Council have built 1,147 houses, bungalows and flats. The table shown below indicates the yearly totals of new housing construction in the town :—

Some progress has now been made in municipal building schemes, which is particularly gratifying for the elderly persons awaiting suitable accommodation.

Year	New Council houses, bungalows or flats	New Private houses, bungalows or flats	No. of inhabited properties in town
1970	8	87	7552
1969	46	68	7512
1968	36	49	7507
1967	—	51	7458
1966	—	10	7428
1965	4	11	7431
1964	4	61	7368
1963	4	72	7375
1962	4	82	7299
1961	8	126	7213
1960	30	92	7079
1959	14	138	6957
1958	24	142	6803
1957	44	151	6380
1956	50	138	6440
1955	56	106	6245
1954	72	103	6082
1953	173	75	5907
1952	124	21	5658
1951	77	32	5509
1950	76	13	5400
1949	86	16	5311
1948	100	1	5208
1947	68	15	5125
1946	39	78	5018

**TABLE SHOWING HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN TOWN
OVER PAST 99 YEARS**

Year	No. of houses	Population	No. of persons per house
1872	1040	4229	4.0
1881	1220	6481	5.3
1891	1329	6474	4.8
1901	—	8461	—
1911	2018	9005	4.4
1921	2710	13490	4.9
1931	3281	13485	4.1
1941	4979	21530	4.3
1951	5509	18745	3.4
1961	7213	21120	2.9
1962	7299	21290	2.9
1963	7375	21440	2.9
1964	7440	21570	2.9
1965	7455	21710	2.9
1966	7465	21500	2.9
1967	7516	21370	2.9
1968	7564	21660	2.9
1969	7678	21510	2.8
1970	7767	21500	2.8

The above table shows the improvement in overcrowding that has taken place in the town, especially in the past decade. The majority of the serious long-standing cases of overcrowding have been re-housed, but there are still a few families in houses in multiple occupation, where living conditions require improvement. The Authority is continually faced with the problem of tenants being unable to meet their rent commitments because of an inability to budget their finances satisfactorily, and this is aggravated by gross overspending on hire purchase commitments. It is extremely distasteful to have to evict such families, especially where children are concerned, as they are the unfortunate victims of their parents' mismanagement.

The waiting list for Council accommodation at the end of 1970 was as follows :—

Number of families on general list	285
Number of persons waiting for old persons' accommodation	155
	—
	440
	—

SLUM CLEARANCE

Slum clearance programme was completed with regard to the housing area in Victoria Road, Vale Road and William Street. A total of 46 Flats, Bungalows and Maisonettes have been provided in the Victoria Road, Trellewelyn Road redevelopment areas. The Council is proceeding with unfit property in the Bedford Street/Vaughan Street area, and a clearance area has been declared. The improvement of the former railway houses in Marsh Road is now in progress. Work has been commenced on a scheme for the redevelopment of Walford Avenue.

SUB STANDARD PROPERTY

The improvement of the former railway-owned cottages in Marsh Road and subsequently acquired by the Council continued during the year and also a Public Inquiry was held in Rhyl into the Council's plan for dealing with substandard properties in Vaughan Street and Wellington Road.

Work continued in 1970 on the redevelopment of Walford Avenue.

WATER SUPPLY

There is an efficient and abundant supply of bacteriologically and chemically pure water. Regular samples are taken and the results are always satisfactory. The Water Engineer of the local Water Board and his staff exercise extreme vigilance in ensuring a satisfactory supply from the bacteriological aspect.

Eighty-four samples were taken during the year : 80 were found to be satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory.

There is one private supply in the district, from a bore-hole 250 ft. deep, but this well is not used now.

A recent sample of water was submitted for analysis chemically and the following details are given below :—

Analysis :

Appearance	Clear and Colourless
Odour	nil
Reaction, pH	7.0
Colour (Hazen Units)	less than 5
	Parts per million :
Total Solids	130
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	nil
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	less than 0.01
Nitrogen as nitrites	nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	1.0
Chlorides, as Cl.	15
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27° C.	2.0
Total hardness	58
Temporary hardness	44
Permanent hardness	14
Alkalinity	44
Total residual Chlorine	less than 0.1
Free available Chlorine	nil
Potassium, as K.	1.8
Anionic Synthetic detergents	—
Manganese, as Mn.	—
Cyanides and thiocynates	—
Poisonous metals	nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	11

Opinion :

The chemical condition of this sample is satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLY

83 samples were taken by the Chief Public Health Inspector for bacteriological analysis and 20 samples were taken for biological examination. Full details appear in his report. My chief concern is the presence of brucella organisms in milk, which can occur in unpasteurised T.T. Supplies. I should like to see all milk pasteurised. The ultimate responsibility for ensuring a satisfactory milk supply for sale to the public still remains with the district health authority.

ICE CREAM

Fifty-nine samples of ice cream were taken, and where unsatisfactory results were obtained, personal contact was made to the manufacturers to ensure an improvement in supplies.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR

The number of animals slaughtered increased by 2,572 on the previous year.

The amount of condemned meat was 2 tons, 11 cwt., 3 qtrs., 3 lbs.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS — OPEN AIR

These baths are owned by the local authority and are open for the season.

The water was regularly sampled and 38 samples were submitted for analysis, all of which were satisfactory.

As has been previously mentioned, there is need for new baths with a heated supply of water.

CHILDREN'S PADDLING POOL

The water in the pool is chlorinated, and the plant is satisfactory. 51 samples were taken and submitted for analysis, of which 4 were found to be slightly contaminated.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There are ten cesspools in the district, and these are emptied at regular intervals by means of a cesspool emptier, the contents being disposed of into the main sewer. There are no pail closets in the district, the remainder of the properties being connected to main drainage.

In the eastern portion of the district, the sewage gravitates to a small pumping station, where it is pumped through a rising main to a branch sewer. The remainder of the sewage gravitates to a main pumping station where, after maceration, it is pumped into a high-level storage reservoir of a holding capacity of $1\frac{3}{4}$ million gallons, and from the storage tank it gravitates out to sea, where it is discharged approximately 1,000 yards from the high water mark into the sea, commencing half-hour on ebb after high water for two hours, when the valve is closed until the next tide.

This applies to undiluted sewage, but during heavy rainfalls the valve into the main outfall pipe has to be opened to discharge the storm water. Work continued during the year on the Rhyl Cut Scheme and the provision of an improved drainage system in the southern and eastern aspect of the town. This work, when completed, will release large areas of land for future building development and reduce risk of flooding in the Brynhedydd Road area.

RHYL CUT

Parts of this stream are in a very unsatisfactory condition, with indiscriminate dumping of rubbish, making parts of the Cut unsightly.

CAMPING AND CARAVAN SITES

The number of licensed sites used for camping was eleven and strict control under a local Act is enforced to prohibit tenting. The estimated number of campers resident in the district at the height of the season is about 6,000.

SMOKE CONTROL

It has been increasingly recognised that atmospheric pollution, from whatever source, can cause ill-health, whether in the form of bronchitis or cancer of the lung.

The new building bye-laws make it compulsory for all new grates to be capable of burning smokeless fuels.

The principal industrial smoke nuisances in the town have been eliminated and the source of the smoke is now entirely from the domestic chimney, and the coal burnt is becoming increasingly smokier every year. Fortunately, there is a progressive trend for householders to install central heating which is run by gas, electricity, oil or smokeless fuel, which reduces the atmospheric pollution from smoke.

SUPERANNUATION

During the year, 9 medical examinations were carried out on employees of the Urban District Council in connection with fitness for employment and absence through ill-health.

FOOD HYGIENE

The refrigerator has now become accepted as a standard part of the equipment of a kitchen and listed below is a table showing how long various foods should be kept either in a refrigerator or a cool larder before the quality and safety of the food is affected.

Food	Refrigerator 38-42°F	Cool Larder 45-55°F
Meat		
Raw - Sausage	2 - 3 days	1 - 2 days
Meat		
Cooked - Meat Pies	2 days	1 day
Cooked Sausages		
Prepared Meals		
Milk	3 - 4 days	2 days
Cream	3 - 4 days	1 day
Milk Puddings	2 days	1 day
Fish - Raw	2 - 3 days	1 day
Baby Food (opened)	1 day	use immediately
Eggs (shell)	12 days	about 4 days
Stock, Soup, Gravy	2 days	use as soon as possible.

Frozen foods can be kept in a frozen food compartment for up to 1 week if the temperature is about 21°F and up to 1 month if at 12°F, and up to 3 months if at 0°F. The temperature of the frozen food compartment should be checked with a thermometer but most modern refrigerators have an asterisk on the door of the compartment. One asterisk indicates that food can be kept for up to 1 week, two asterisks implies safe storage for 1 month and three asterisks indicate storage for 3 months.

DE-FROSTING AND COOKING OF CHICKENS

1. Deep-frozen chickens should be thawed for about 8 hours on an average, at room temperature.
2. Average weight chickens should be roasted at 400°F for 2 hours before the temperature of the oven is reduced.
3. Spit cooking of chickens requires 30 minutes cooking per lb. which means about 2½ hours is needed for the average chicken at 400°F.
4. All birds must be cooled as rapidly as possible after cooking, preferably within 3 hours, to a temperature of about 40°F and placed in a refrigerator.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1970

New food hygiene regulations were introduced in 1970 and the principle requirements of these regulations are as follows:—

- “1. The cleanliness of premises used for the purposes of food business and of the equipment used shall be of the highest order.
2. Any person handling open food must wear clean and washable overclothing.
3. A person who engages in the handling of food shall
 - (a) keep as clean as may be reasonably practical all parts of his person and his clothing which are liable to come into contact with the food;
 - (b) keep all open cuts, or abrasions, covered with a suitable waterproof dressing;
 - (c) refrain from spitting;
 - (d) refrain from the use of tobacco whilst working in food premises.
4. All food to be protected from risk of contamination and should not be placed on any forecourt or yard lower than 18" from the ground unless adequately protected from risk of contamination.
5. If a person engaged in food handling becomes aware that he is suffering from or is a carrier of enteric, salmonella, bacillary dysentery or staphylococcal infections, he must directly or through his employer inform the local medical officer of health.

6. Persons engaged in the handling of food must not use wrapping material, including printed material not specially designed for the purpose, or container, which is not clean or which is liable to contaminate the food, other than uncooked vegetables or unplucked game or poultry.
7. All food premises must have sufficient wash hand basins for the use of all persons engaged in the handling of food and each wash hand basin must have a supply of hot and cold water; where no open food is handled, of cold water; and every wash hand basin must have an adequate supply of soap and clean towels. There shall also be provided facilities for the washing of equipment used in the preparation of food.
8. All food rooms must have sufficient lighting and ventilation and no food room shall be used as a sleeping place. All food rooms shall be kept in a clean and good state of repair.
9. All food consisting of meat, fish, gravy or imitation cream, or prepared from, or containing any of these substances or egg or milk brought into any food premises, on or from which is carried on a catering business, shall, if not already at a temperature of 145°F (62.7°C) or above on the one hand or below 50°F (10°C) on the other hand, be brought to one or other of these temperatures without any avoidable delay after arrival." *(Extract from Regulations).*

PRE-COOKED FROZEN FOODS

The Department of Health & Social Security have recently issued a very useful guide on pre-cooked frozen foods. Listed below is an extract from the booklet.

1. Pre-cooked frozen foods are cooked foods that have been frozen rapidly by plate or blast freeze and are stored at minus 18°C (0°F) or below.
2. The following principles must be adhered to :—
 - (a) Food that has been issued for consumption and has thawed, either partially or completely, must not be allowed back to the freezers or to the deep freeze stores.
 - (b) Final heating must immediately follow removal from frozen or refrigerated food store.
 - (c) The food must be eaten as soon as possible after the final heating.
3. Pre-cooked frozen food should be stored at 0°F and the shelf life is approximately 8 weeks.
4. Great care is required in the final heating to ensure that the food is not overheated, which can impair the nutritive value and palatability. Food that has been heated and subsequently allowed to cool should not be re-heated.

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE

Rhyl Improvement Act, 1852, 1872, 1901.
 Rhyl Water Act, 1912.
 Rhyl U.D.C. Act, 1935.
 Rhyl U.D.C. Act, 1956.

BYELAWS

Camping, 1935 and 1951.
 Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures, 1913.
 Offensive Trades — Dealers in Rags and Bones, 1915.
 Register for Marine Stores, 1915.
 Common Lodging Houses, 1877.
 Nuisances, 1890.
 Removal of Offensive Matters, 1896.
 Sanitary Conveniences, 1897.
 Food, 1951.
 Slaughterhouse, 1957.
 Removal Through Streets of Offensive or Noxious Matter or Liquids, 1964.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the Urban District.

INSPECTIONS UNDER FACTORIES ACT, 1937 TO 1959

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

(Signed) D. P. W. ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the year ended 31st December, 1970

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Edwards, and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report upon the Health Department for 1970, having taken over the responsibilities of Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager in April, 1970. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my predecessor, Mr. E. L. Lloyd Jones, who handed over to me such an efficient and well maintained department.

The Public Health Inspection service is a general environmental health service and deals with every aspect of our surroundings. The aim of such a service should be not only to remove unhealthy conditions, but also to promote a better environment so that the greatest number of people may enjoy living in its broadest sense.

During the year, the Council re-appraised housing conditions in the area, having regard to the new provisions of the Housing Act 1969, and formulated a new policy for the modernisation and repair of a number of dwellinghouses that were previously regarded as likely to become unfit for habitation with the passage of time. Only a very small number of houses were left that were regarded as being unfit and required to be dealt with by demolition or closing procedure under the Act. This programme, with the aid of Improvement Grants, is proving to be very successful in maintaining housing stock without the present high cost of new house building to provide alternative accommodation.

A Public Inquiry was held into the Vaughan Street/Wellington Road area which was the subject of the Rhyl Urban District Council (Clearance Area No. 12) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1969. The Minister accepted that the houses in Vaughan Street in the Order were unfit for habitation and confirmed the Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of these properties.

The new procedure whereby landlords can change the tenancy of unfurnished dwellinghouses from "controlled" to "regulated" and thereby obtain increased rents came into force during the year. It is necessary for landlords to obtain a Qualification Certificate which states that the house is in good repair and possesses all standard amenities before the rent can be increased through the Rent Officer. This has meant a considerable amount of inspection work to ascertain if premises are satisfactory. This legislation is intended to maintain houses in good repair.

7 Applications for Grants totalling £1278 were approved during the year, and it is hoped that more owners of older properties will avail themselves of grants for repair and modernisation. No general improvement areas were declared as it was not felt that there are any sufficient large areas of sub-standard houses in the district to make this procedure necessary.

The necessity of providing more suitable accommodation for our elderly citizens became more apparent and the Maes Emlyn scheme for the provision of 58 elderly persons flats was adopted by the Council, and will now become a reality in the near future.

Construction work on the houses and bungalows on the Walford Avenue estate continued during the year and some were completed and occupied.

Modernisation of the former Railway owned houses in Marsh Road commenced and has proceeded very satisfactorily. This work is an excellent example of what can be done to maintain the older stock of dwellinghouses and at the same time provide them with what is now accepted as essential facilities in a dwellinghouse, in the form of baths, hot water supply and internal water closets.

The number of complaints of noise nuisance rose significantly during the year, and although it was only necessary to resort to Court proceedings on one occasion, the Public Health Inspectorate were involved in quite a considerable amount of extra duty in alleviating complaints. Noise nuisance invariably occurs at night and requires frequent late night work and observations to investigate.

In conclusion I must express my appreciation of the support I have received from the Chairman and members of the Committee and my fellow Chief Officers. The diligence, hard work and loyalty of every member of my staff have made my task so much easier and contributed to what I am proud to think of as a team effort.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Edwards and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. GEOFFREY BLACK,

Chief Public Health Inspector and
Housing Manager.

TABLE I. — GENERAL SUMMARY

Number of Complaints Received	2103
Number of Drains and W.C.s Released and Cleansed by Department ...	2232
Number of Nuisances Found (including under Factories Act)	237
Number of Nuisances Abated	78
Number of Preliminary Notices Served	126
Number of Statutory Notices Served	15
Number of Preliminary Notices served for Fire Escape	31
Number of Statutory Notices served for Fire Escape	7

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Public Health Acts—

Complaints	254
Infectious Disease	46
Refuse Collection and Disposal	67
Schools	15
Offensive Trades	4
Smoke Observations	23
Water Supply	17
Swimming and Paddling Pools	42
Camping Grounds	28
Drain Tests, etc. — Smoke Machine	4
Theatres and Cinemas	6
Verminous Premises	15
Factories and Workplaces	63
Rats and Mice	4299
Housing Acts — Inspections	189
Houses in Multiple Occupation	72
Council House Inspections	342
Pet Animals Act — Inspections	7
Housing Applicants Visited	147
<i>Means of Escape in Case of Fire :</i>	
Number of Premises Surveyed	102
Number of Visits in connection with Survey	170

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT REGULATIONS.
SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.**

	Registered	Visits
Abattoir (Municipal)	1	589
Butchers	22	81
Bakehouses	10	54
Boarding Houses and Hotels	272	163
Confectioners	19	58
Dairies and Milkshops	—	33
Fishmongers and Poulterers	10	47
Fish and Chip Shops	16	51
Food Factories	3	27
Grocers	42	132
General Stores	20	121
Greengrocers	28	42
Holiday Camp Kitchens	2	17
Ice Cream —		
Retailers	148	231
Wholesalers	2	9
Manufacturers	1	11
Kiosks	7	68
Mobile Vans	8	19
Soft Ice	16	71
Multiple Stores	2	127
Licensed Clubs	19	41
Public Houses	42	37
Snack Bars	12	27
Stalls — Shellfish	3	8
Stalls — Miscellaneous	14	17
Sweets and Minerals	38	14
Restaurants and Cafes	88	176
Wholesale —		
Grocers	1	59
Greengrocers	1	8
Poulterers	1	14

TABLE II. — SANITARY DEFECTS

Damp Living and Bed Rooms	27
Defective Chimney Pots, Flues, Stacks and Flashings	4
Defective Roofs	8
Defective Floors, Living and Bed Rooms	9
Defective Gutters and Downspouting	7
Defective Plaster, Wall and Ceilings	12
Defective Skylights, Window Frames, Casing and Doors	2
Defective Fireplaces	1
Remove Accumulation, Manure and Refuse	17
Defective Yard Surface	—
Defective Dust Bins	2
Animals in such a state as to be a Nuisance	—
Offensive Smell/Effluvia/Dust	3
General Defects	—
Defective Brickwork	1
Filthy Rooms, Walls, Floors, Bedding and Furniture	—
Defective Timberwork	—
Total	93

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Dark Smoke Emissions from Chimneys	2
---	---

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936: SECTION 75

Defective, or want of, Dustbins (Supplied)	159
Defective, or want of, Dustbins (Trade)	20

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Visits	15
Warning Letters	3

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955 & 1960

Regulation No.		Infringements Found
5	Cleanliness of Equipment	14
8	Protection from risk of Contamination	—
	Sanitary Conveniences —	
14 (1) (a)	Clean and Efficient Order	19
14 (2)	Lighting and Ventilation	3
14 (4)	Communicating with Food Room	1
14 (5)	Notices re. Hand Washing	5
16 (1)	Wash-hand Basins	10
16 (2)	Absence of Hot Water	4
16 (3)	Absence of Soap, Towels, Nailbrushes	3
17	First Aid Materials	3
18	Accommodation for Clothing, etc.	5
19	Facilities for Washing Food and Equipment	9
22	Food Room not to be/or communicate with Sleeping Place	—
23	Cleanliness and Repair of Food Rooms	23
24	Accumulation of Refuse	—
26 (a) (b)	Stalls (Names inscribed thereon) and Cleanliness	—
28	Supply of Water to Stalls	—
	Total	89
	No. of Warning Letters	27

DRAINAGE: WATER CLOSETS AND WATER SUPPLY

Defective W.C., Walls, Roofs and Doors	20
Defective Fittings, W.C., Sinks and Baths	6
Defective Access Covers, Chambers and Drains	4
Defective Water Services	—
Defective Soil Pipes	—
Defective Urinal Channel	—
Filthy W.C. Premises, Basins and Urinals	—
Defective Sink Waste Pipes	—
Defective Cesspools	—
	30

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961 :—

Part I. of the Act

1.—Inspections for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) :—

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of written notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	16	15	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	76	15	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers Premises)	16	7	—
Total	108	37	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found :—

Particulars	No. Found	No. Remedied	Referred to H.M. Ins'tor.	Referred by H.M. Ins'tor.
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective... ..	—	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes... ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—

TABLE III. — INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Number of Rooms Disinfected, Lamp and Spray	—
Number of Rooms Disinfected, Spray only	2
Number of Houses Disinfected, Spray	—
Number of Houses Disinfected, Lamp and Spray	—
Number of Wards, Cubicles or Operating Theatres Disinfected (L. & S.)	3
Number of Schools Disinfected	8
Number of Motor Ambulances, Cars or Vans Disinfected	1
Number of Caravans or Huts Disinfected	6
Number of Bungalows or Chalets Disinfected	—
Miscellaneous (Police Cell, Lamp and Spray)	1
Number of Articles Destroyed with Consent of Owner	1
Number of Articles Disinfected by Steam	835
Number of Articles Disinfected by Lamp and Spray	—
Disinfector used (Steam)	20
Number of Articles Hot Air Dried	—

TABLE IV. — DISINFESTATION

Number of Rooms Disinfested (D.D.T.)	3
Number of Wards, Shops, Cafes or Cinemas and Theatres Disinfested (D.D.T.)	—
Number of Houses or Flats Disinfested (D.D.T.)	3
Number of Caravans or Chalets, etc., Disinfested (D.D.T.)	1
Miscellaneous Items (D.D.T.), including Wasps Nests	1
Number of Houses, Flats, Cinemas, Caravans or other Premises Disinfested (Smoke Generators)	6
Number of Hospitals Partly Disinfested (Spray D.D.T.)	—
Number of Houses, Cinemas, Wards, Heating Ducts, etc., Disinfested by D.D.T. Powder	—

HYGIENE IN SHOPS, RESTAURANTS, HOTELS, ETC.

Constant visits continue to be made to all food premises to enforce the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations and to endeavour to continually educate new employees into the food handling trade.

The number of complaints of unsound food increased during the year and although no legal proceedings were instituted there is need for constant vigilance by the food trade. There is increasing concern for the sale of stale or mouldy food and it is essential to preserve correct stock rotation in all premises to prevent this happening.

FOODSTUFFS

The details of foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered during the year still appears to be formidable, but it shows that there is very close co-operation between the retailers and the officers of the department.

CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS

Meat, 120 tins & 252 lbs. 5 ozs.; Ducklings, 14. Chickens, 5; Chicken Portions, 20; Vegetables, 113 tins, 1 barrel; Fruit, 161 tins; Fruit Drinks, 4 bottles; Fish, 24 tins & 50 lbs.; Cheese, 40 lbs.; Soup, 10 tins. Cereals, 3 tins & 85 pkts.; Mixed Peel, 5 pkts.; Treacle, 1 tin; Marmalade, 2 jars; Sauce, 1 pkt.

Frozen Foods: Meat, 338 pkts.; Meat and Veg., 15 pkts.; Meat Pies, 30; Rissoles, 62. Burgers, 78; Faggots, 3 pkts.; Vegetables, 941 pkts.; Pies, 302; Fish, 1366 pkts.; Fish Cakes, 86; Fish & Chips, 27 pkts.; Fruit Drinks, 58; Fruit Juice, 21; Cakes, 16; Pastry, 134 pkts.; Mousse, 50; Ice Cream, 23 servings. Sweets, 26 pkts.

Carcase Meat, 3 cwts. 59 lbs.; Canned Meat, 80 lbs.; Other Canned Foods, 2 cwts. 86 lbs.; Fish (Fresh), 50 lbs.; Frozen Foods (due to Cabinet Break-down), 15 cwt. 95 lbs.; Other Foods, 1 cwt. 58 lbs.

A copy of the Report for the period 1st January to 31st December, 1970, received from Mr. Elwyn Lewis, M.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., County Public Health Inspector, who is responsible to the County for samples taken in Rhyl and District under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is appended hereunder :—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Particulars of the Samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in the Rhyl Urban District area during the year ended 31st December, 1970

Description of Article	Number of Samples		Not genuine or	
	taken	Genuine	below standard	
Milk	20	20	...	—
Dairy Produce	6	6	...	—
Ice Cream and Lollies	11	11	...	—
Alcoholic Drinks	3	3	...	—
Cakes and Confectionery	10	10	...	—
Patent Medicines	5	5	...	—
Miscellaneous Groceries	46	46	...	—
Sausages	11	11	...	—
	<hr/> 112 <hr/>	<hr/> 112 <hr/>		<hr/> — <hr/>

No evidence of brucellosis or bovine tuberculosis was found in any milk sample submitted for bacteriological examination. All articles examined under the Pharmacy & Poisons Act, Fertiliser and Feeding Stuffs Act, and Trade Descriptions Act in so far as it applies to foodstuffs, were found to be satisfactory.

(Signed) ELWYN LEWIS,

County Public Health Inspector and
Food and Drugs Inspector.

MILK SUPPLY

Despite the fact that the responsibility for the cleanliness of milk supplies is, in the main, outside the purview of the local authority, the sampling of milk continues and on the whole the results of bacteriological examination are satisfactory.

Regular bacteriological sampling of milk and cream is carried out. During the year 83 samples of milk were taken — 81 satisfactory and 2 unsatisfactory.

Twenty samples of milk were tested for T.B. and Brucella infection. All were found to be satisfactory.

Analysis of Grades of Milk

	No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Pasteurised and T.T. Pasteurised	42	41	1
Sterilised	16	16	—
U.H.T.	—	—	—
	58	57	1
Raw Milk	21	20	1
Cream	4	4	—
	25	24	1

ICE CREAM

The following table gives the number of manufacturers and retailers of ice cream registered within the district under the Rhyl Urban District Council Act, 1935 (Section 110) :—

Manufacturers and Retailers (including 31 Soft Ice)	35
Retailers (including 8 Mobile Shop Vehicles)	119
Wholesale Distributors (Storage)	2
	156

During the year, 59 samples were taken for bacteriological examination.

Table of Samples Taken

	Grade				Total
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	
Manufacturers	2	—	—	—	2
Soft Ice Machines	25	8	3	3	39
Retailers/Wholesalers	16	2	—	—	18
	43	10	3	3	59

OTHER FOODS

Routine samples were taken of the following for bacterial examination :—

	No. Taken	No. Un- satisfactory
Oysters	10	—
Shellfish	21	—
Meat Pies	10	4
Sliced Meats	32	3
Chickens (Cooked and Uncooked)	18	3
	70	10

4 Agaroid Cultures were taken, 2 were unsatisfactory, 2 were satisfactory.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS

There are three Dealers registered under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR

Animals slaughtered from 1st January, 1970, to 31st December, 1970 :—

Cattle	1,863
Calves	6
Sheep and Lambs	9,529
Pigs	5,455
	<hr/>
	16,853

	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.
Meat Condemned	2	11	3	3

There has been an increase in the number of animals slaughtered, being 2,572 more than during 1969.

There were 4 cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* detected during the year, which were refrigerated for the prescribed period.

**CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE
OR IN PART FOR THE YEAR 1970**

	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed (if known) ..	1724	139	6	9529	5455	16853
Number inspected	1724	139	6	9529	5455	16853
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned...	—	—	1	4	7	12
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	243	16	—	151	570	980
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	14.09	11.51	16.66	1.62	10.57	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—	—	—	16	16
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	.29	—
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	4	—	—	—	—	4
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	4	—	—	—	—	4
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE V. — REFUSE COLLECTION

Total Loads of all Refuse to Tip 3,398
 244 Working Days, Total Loads : 3398 = 13.92 per working day.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Productivity Incentive Scheme for refuse collection continues to operate very satisfactorily. An experiment was made during the year in the use of plastic instead of paper refuse sacks. There was a substantial economic difference but it was not felt that this was sufficient to balance the disadvantages which came to light, and the system was not proceeded with any further. Plastic sacks are sold to business people, etc., for commercial refuse disposal and in this usage have been found to be extremely successful.

Refuse disposal is still by means of controlled tipping on the Cob land and this continues to be satisfactory. Under the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, the Council permits members of the general public to deposit domestic refuse outside normal working hours. Unfortunately, many careless people dump refuse hapazardly on the roadway and down the banks and appear to be unable to read the simple direction signs that are erected. This thoughtless carelessness all adds to rate costs as the refuse has to be again picked up and covered.

Itinerant gypsies continued to be a very serious nuisance at the beginning of the year on the tip land and adjacent car park, and repeated towing off proved to be unsuccessful. The filth left on the land by these people was so serious that the Council had to take Court injunctions against three families to prevent them from re-entering the land. Finally the land was fenced off and the nuisance ceased.

I append herewith table showing costs of Collection and disposal :—

TABLE V — REFUSE COLLECTION
 Figures in column 1 are in pounds 10/- and 10/-
 Total loads of all Refuse to Tip and about 275.2 tons in 1968
 344 Working Days. Total loads = 3388 = 13.85 per working day.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL
 The Productivity Incentive Scheme for refuse collection continues to operate very satisfactorily. An experiment was made during the year in the use of plastic instead of paper refuse sacks. There was a substantial economic difference but it was not felt that this was sufficient to balance the disadvantages which came to light and the system was not proceeded with any further. Plastic sacks are sold to business people, etc., for commercial refuse disposal and in this usage have been found to be extremely successful.

TABLE VI. — REFUSE
Showing Cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal Year 1970/71 (To 31st March, 1971)

Particulars	Collection and Salvage		Disposal (Tip)		Total	
	Including loan charges	Excluding loan charges	Including loan charges	Excluding loan charges	Including loan charges	Excluding loan charges
Gross Expenditure	£ 48,975	£ 44,126	£ 12,509	£ 10,481	£ 61,484	£ 54,607
Gross Income	675	675	4,373	4,373	5,048	5,048
Net Cost	48,300	43,451	8,136	6,108	56,436	49,559
Net Cost per 1,000 Population	2,246.51	2,020.98	378.42	284.09	2,624.93	2,305.07
Net Cost per 1,000 Premises	5,372.64	4,833.26	905.01	679.42	6,277.65	5,512.68
Net Cost, Equivalent Rate in the £	9.53d	8.58d	1.61d	1.20d	11.14d	9.78d

Estimated Population (R.G.R. Mid-year 1970) ... 21,500
 Number of Rated Premises 8,990
 Total Rates in the £ 17/3
 Product of a 1d Rate (est.) £5,066

(Signed) E. G. BLACK,
 Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

The approximate number of all Dwellings for all classes to end of 1970 is 7,767.

Dwellings Erected and in course of Erection during 1970—

By the Council :—

Erected (Houses – 6; Bungalows – 2)	8
Houses & Flats in course of erection	61

By Private Enterprise :—

Erected (Houses– 22; Flats – 0; Bungalows – 65)	87
Houses & Bungalows in course of erection	46
Adaptations and Conversions	Gains 12
	Losses
(Due to demolition) 6	Net 6

Work proceeded in implementing Section 60 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1961, regarding the provision of Means of Escape in Case of Fire, and the response to Notices served was extremely satisfactory.

Premises Surveyed	1340
Visits to Premises in connection with Survey	2699
Informal Notices Served	736
Statutory Notices Served	396

Due to many changes of ownership and change of use, constant visits have to be made to ascertain that premises comply with whichever Act is applicable. Over the last 2 to 3 years, I would consider that the standard in most boarding-houses and flatlet houses has improved. It is noted also that the people concerned have been most helpful and are now realising the advantages in complying with the Council's policy.

There are really no unhealthy areas in the district.

*HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE**(A) Houses Demolished during the year 1970—*

In or adjoining Clearance Areas declared under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957 :

Unfit for human habitation	Number of houses	Nil
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil

Included by reason of bad arrangement	Number of houses	Nil
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
On land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	Number of houses	Nil
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
Not in or adjoining Clearance Areas : As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	Number of houses	Nil
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Number of houses	Nil
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	Number of houses	Nil
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
Houses included in unfitness orders made under para. 2 of the Second Schedule to the Land Compensation Act, 1961	Number of houses	Nil
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
Number of separate dwellings included above which were previously reported as closed	In or adjoining Clearance Areas	Nil
	Not in or adjoining Clearance Areas	Nil
<i>(B) Unfit Houses closed during the year in pursuance of closing orders or undertakings :</i>		
Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961 ...	Number of houses	Nil
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
Under Sections 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	Number of houses	Nil
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
Parts of Buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957 ...	Number of dwellings	Nil

(C) Number of Persons Displaced during year :

From houses to be demolished in or adjoining clearance areas	Nil
From houses to be demolished not in or adjoining clearance areas	Nil
From houses to be closed	Nil
From parts of buildings to be closed	Nil

(D) Number of Families Displaced during year :

From houses to be demolished in or adjoining clearance areas	Nil
From houses to be demolished not in or adjoining clearance area	Nil
From houses to be closed	Nil
From parts of buildings to be closed	Nil

(E) Unfit Houses made fit :

After informal action by local authority : by owner	Nil
After formal notice under Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957 :	
(a) by owner	Nil
(b) by local authority	Nil
After formal notice under Public Health Acts	Nil
After modification or revocation of a clearance order made under Section 21, Housing Act, 1961	Nil
After determination of a demolition order under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil
After determination of a closing order under Section 27 Housing Act, 1961	Nil

(F) Other Houses in which Defects were Remedied :

After formal notice under Public Health Acts	21
After formal action under Section 19(1A) Housing Act 1957 :	
(a) by owner	Nil
(b) by local authority	Nil
After informal action by local authority	34

(G) Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957) :

Position at end of year—

Retained for temporary accom-		
modation	Number of houses	Nil
Under Section 48	Number of separate dwellings	
	contained therein	Nil
Under Section 17 (2)	Number of houses	Nil
	Number of separate dwellings	
	contained therein	Nil
Under Section 46	Number of houses	Nil
	Number of separate dwellings	
	contained therein	Nil

Licensed for temporary accommodation under Sections 34 or 53 :

Number of houses	Nil
-------------------------	-----

(H) Purchase of Houses by Agreement :

Houses in Clearance Areas other		
than those included in confirmed		
orders or compulsory purchase		
orders	Number of houses	Nil
	Number of occupants	Nil

The staff engaged on Housing Inspections are the Public Health Inspectors, along with their other general duties

The investigation of all applicants for Council houses is carried out by the Public Health Inspectors, and the actual letting of the houses after the allocation by the Council is carried out by this department.

The houses on the Council estates are visited and inspected during the year.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There is now only one property in the district which is registered under the above Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Five premises are registered under the above Act.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1964

Six premises are registered under the above Act.

RHYL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL ACT, 1956

Thirty-six Hairdressing Establishments are registered under the above Act.

LICENSED PREMISES

In general, all the licensed premises in the town are of a very high standard and there is a very happy relationship between the Licensing Bench, the Police Authorities and the Public Health Department, such relationship having, I feel, some bearing on the high standard referred to.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PEST ACT, 1949 RATS AND MICE

The Council continue to take energetic measures in their area.

From 1st January to 31st December, 1970, 217 properties were treated for rats.

Five hundred and twenty-seven properties further to the above were treated for mice, and 903 other properties were inspected.

The sewers were test-baited for the presence of rats, and two treatments were carried out in areas where rat traces were found.

The Rhyl Cut was treated three times throughout its entire length in the Rhyl area.

Total number of visits made during the year for rats and/or mice : 4,299.

The latest methods of rodent destruction, as laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, are in operation.

Constant vigilance and trapping at the Royal Alexandra Hospital has reduced the pigeon population to a minimum, 49 pigeons being trapped.

In addition, several small infestations of pigeons, numbering 24, were eradicated, bringing the total number of pigeons destroyed up to 73.

Several visits were made to various properties for the eradication of moles, ants and wasps nests.

Due to the sudden death of the Rodent Officer for the St. Asaph, Abergele and Aled Districts, an emergency service was given by this Department for a period of 3 months, from January to April, 1970. All complaints were attended to.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The Council are the authority responsible for operating the Shops Act, 1950.

The Public Health Inspectors are responsible for the whole of the administration of the Shops Act, 1950. The Council made the following Orders during the year :—

- 1—Sunday Trading Order, 1970, Section 51, exempting for 18 Sundays the Sunday Closing Provisions of the Act for the sale of
 - (a) Any articles required for the purposes of bathing or fishing.
 - (b) Photographic Requisites.
 - (c) Toys, Souvenirs and Fancy Goods.
 - (d) Books, Stationery, Photographs, Reproductions and Postcards.
 - (e) Fried Fish and Chips.
- 2—Extension of Hours Order, 1970, for 18 weeks : Substituting for paragraph (b) of Section 2 of the Shops Act, 1950 :
 - (a) At 9.30 p.m. in the evening on the late day.
 - (b) At 9 p.m. in the evening on any other day.
- 3—Rhyl (Suspension of Weekly Half-Holiday) Order, 1970, for 18 weeks.

Regular visits and inspections were made to see that the requirements of the Act were complied with.

There were no prosecutions instituted under the Act.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

I have to report upon the workings of the above Act for the year 1970 ending on the 31st December.

During the year, 19 persons registered premises, bringing the total registered to 558 at the end of the year.

During the year only 2 accidents were reported where the employee was disabled for 3 days or more. I would like to think this is because employers and employees are becoming more safety conscious and therefore taking steps to prevent accidents, but I am afraid the real reason for such a low figure is the failure to report some accidents. The reason for the requirement to report accidents is not punitive but so that investigation can be made by a trained officer and steps taken and advice given to prevent the recurrence of such accidents. For this reason I must stress the seriousness of the failure to comply with the accident procedure under the Act.

I append the various tables required by the Ministry of Labour in accordance with Section 60.

TABLE A — Registration and General Inspections

Class of premises	No. of premises newly registered during the year.	Total no. of reg. premises at end of year.	No. of reg. premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
Offices	5	112	19
Retail Shops	8	316	185
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	—	16	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	5	112	112
Fuel storage depots	1	2	2
Totals	19	558	320

TABLE B — Number of Visits of all kinds (including General Inspections) to Registered Premises :

408.

No exemptions under Parts I, II, III and IV of the Act are in force.

TABLE C — Analysis by Workplace of Persons employed in registered premises at end of year

Class of workplace	No. of persons employed
Offices	816
Retail shops	1483
Wholesale departments, warehouses	187
Catering establishments open to the public	1292
Canteens	27
Fuel storage depots	32
Total	3837
Total Males	1490
Total Females	2347

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

No. of letters sent re infringements	13
Abstract not displayed	—
Cleansing and re-decoration of premises required (internal)	2
General Repairs	5
Defective or dangerous staircase	—
Defective water closet basins, pedestals and seats	4
Inadequate accommodation for clothing	3
Inadequate artificial lights	—
Inadequate cold water supply	—
Inadequate heating facilities	—
Inadequate hot water supply	—
Inadequate natural light	—
Inadequate sanitary accommodation	—
Inadequate ventilation	—
Inadequate washing facilities	8
Inadequate facilities for taking of meals	—
Insufficient first aid requisites	7
No balustrade or handrail round cellar opening in floor or on landings or staircases	—
No intervening ventilated space to water closet	—
No thermometer	3
Obstructed and dangerous surfaces to floors, staircases, etc.	—
Overcrowding	—
Washing facilities not marked for sexes	—
Washing facilities not separate for sexes	—
Water closet accommodation not marked for sexes	—
Unguarded machinery (Food slicers, etc.)	—
Total	32

TABLE F — *Inspectors*

No. of inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) or (5) of the Act	3
No. of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act	—

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The management and control of all public conveniences is in the Health Department.

The Coliseum Toilets were demolished at the end of the season and work commenced on the erection of a new toilet block.

The Council had previously decided that on decimalisation all toilets in the town area should be made free, and during the year further considered the provision of washing facilities. I am very pleased to say that the Council accepted a recommendation that free washing facilities including soap and towel should be provided at all public conveniences when an attendant is present. This proposal will be implemented on decimalisation day and I trust the public will co-operate and not abuse this new facility.

The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act was passed during the year and the Council agreed to convert existing toilets in the Town Hall Conveniences to provide facilities for disabled persons in wheelchairs. Similar facilities had already been allowed for in the new Coliseum block.

*CONCENTRATIONS EXPRESSED AS MICROGRAMMES PER
CUBIC METER OF AIR*

Month	Smoke	Sulphur Dioxide
January	74	101
February	51	51
March	39	50
April	25	36
May	24	34
June	15	38
July	10	19
August	20	21
September	21	31
October	31	59
November	48	81
December	57	88

Averages for Winter months, 1970 (January—March and October—December):
Smoke 50.0, Sulphur Dioxide 71.6

Averages for Summer months, 1970 (April to September): Smoke 19.1,
Sulphur Dioxide 29.8

METEOROLOGY

(For Statistical Tables see pages 60 — 63)

MISCELLANEOUS

The Instruments used are by Negretti and Zambra, and are situate in Westbourne Avenue (opposite the Pumping Station). They include a Maximum, Minimum, Dry and Wet Bulb Thermometers in a Stevenson Screen, a Grass Minimum Thermometer, Rain Gauge and Measure, a Campbell-Stokes Sunshine Recorder and a Wind Vane. A Hyetograph, giving the rate and duration of rainfall, is situate outside the Pumping Station. The Barometer (Kew Pattern) and Thermometer attached is also at the Pumping Station.

At the Meteorological Kiosk on the East Promenade a Self-recording Barograph and Thermograph, Maximum and Minimum Thermometer, Tide Table, previous day's Sun Card, Daily Weather Forecast Report of the Air Ministry and combined Weather Charts and records are exhibited for public information.

Observations are taken at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Greenwich Mean Time each day. Code Weather Telegrams are despatched daily to the Meteorological Office at 6 p.m. Greenwich Mean Time for certain evening papers served (through the Meteorological Office) by the Press Association.

Weekly, monthly and Annual Reports are prepared and are furnished to the local paper, and supplied to any enquiries — advertisement or private. Full reports monthly are forwarded to the Meteorological Office.

NOTES

The Station is situate 31 feet above sea level. Latitude $53^{\circ} 19' \text{N}$. Longitude $3^{\circ} 30' \text{W}$. The Sunshine Recorder is 11 feet above the ground on which it is sited, and the Rain Gauge is one foot above the ground.

Humidity is calculated with Hygrometrical Tables, published by the Meteorological Office (Saturation = 100 per cent.).

The percentage of possible duration of sunshine is calculated by the Meteorological Office, with reference to the maximum duration theoretically possible in the latitude. The percentage of normal figures represent the mean daily duration for the year X

100 the average for the year (the past 30 years ending 1960 being the figure taken = 4.06 hours for Rhyl). The average rainfall for the years 1916-1950 (35 years) is 26.63 inches, and is the figure used by the Meteorological Office.

A fall of one inch (25.4 millimetres) is equivalent to nearly 101 tons of water to the acre. One ton of rain equals 224 gallons or nearly 36 cubic feet. An inch of rain implies 64,640 tons or 14,479,360 gallons of rain per square mile.

ANNUAL SUNSHINE AND RAINFALL, ETC., REPORT, AND STATISTICAL TABLES FOR THE YEAR 1970

RAINFALL

The rainfall for the year was nearly 2 inches more than the 30 years' average (26.63 inches), the total being 26.69 inches as against 28.55 inches for the year 1969 — which shows a decrease of 1.86 inches. The year's total was below the national average by 5.98 inches.

The average rainfall for England and Wales (35 years' average) is 32.67 inches, and we usually find Rhyl well below this figure, as shown by Rhyl's 89 years' average (1881-1970) = 25.72 inches.

During the year 1970 rain fell on 184 days, as against 180 in 1969.

The monthly average of rains works out at 2.22 inches as against 2.38 inches for 1969, and a monthly average of 15.3 days on which rain fell, as against 15.0 days in 1969.

The highest recorded during the year (on one day was recorded on August 15th, when at 9 a.m. of 16th August 0.84 inches was recorded.

The wettest month during the year was November, with a total of 4.62 inches. The driest was December, with a total of 0.78 inches, whilst May was close behind with 0.84 inches.

SUNSHINE

The total bright sunshine recorded by the Campbell-Stokes Recorder during 1970 was 1,574 hours 54 minutes, as compared with 1,481 hours 30 minutes during 1969.

The instrument is now verified bi-annually by an official of the Meteorological Office. No inspection was made this year.

The total record for 1970 is 93 hours 24 minutes more than that of 1969 which year was 24 hours 36 minutes more than that of 1968.

It is interesting to note the sunshine for the past ten years, including 1970 (see page 61).

These figures will show that the year 1970 was 90 hours 24 minutes more than the average total number of hours for the past ten recorded years, and 70 hours 0 minutes more than that of the average for 20 years.

During the past 20 years, the records show that Rhyl has enjoyed, on an average, 303 days per annum with registered sunshine. This is a fine record, especially so when it is remembered that the district is free from fog and has the lowest rainfall of any health resort on the Western coast of Great Britain. This is due, it is officially stated, to its unique position at the mouth of the famed Vale of Clwyd and protected as it is on the West by the Snowdonian mountains.

The daily average of recorded sunshine works out at 4 hours 19 minutes as against 4 hours 3 minutes in 1969; 3 hours 59 minutes in 1968; 4 hours 1 minute in 1967; 3 hours 46 minutes in 1966; 3 hours 56 minutes in 1965; 3 hours 49 minutes in 1964; 4 hours 9 minutes in 1963; 4 hours 17 minutes in 1962; and also in 1961.

Rhyl's daily average of recorded sunshine for 30 years (1931-60) is 4.06 hours, as against the national average for England and Wales (40 years) of 3.94 hours.

It is interesting to note that the highest day's record of sunshine in Rhyl during the whole of the year 1970 occurred on 14th June, there being 15 hours 24 minutes, as against 15 hours 30 minutes in June 1969.

TEMPERATURES

January: 57°F. (14°C.) on the 20th was the highest maximum for January since 1960 (also 57°F. on the 22nd).

May: 43°F. (6°C.) on the 29th was the highest minimum temperature on record for May.

June: 80°F. (27°C.) on the 8th and 10th was the highest maximum for June since 1960 (83°F.).

July: 47°F. (8°C.) on the 22nd was the highest minimum temperature for July since 1953 (also 47°F.).

SUMMARISING

The year 1970 was above the 20 years' average and above the 10 years average for sunshine. The year's rainfall was 1.86 inches less than that of 1969 and 0.85 inches above the 20 years' average.

The temperature throughout the year was just above that of the past ten years, but equal to the 20 years' average.

This will be my last Report Year of Meteorological Recordings and Returns as I intend retiring in 1971. I have carried out this work for Rhyl since 1929, after taking over from the Publicity Department and the late Mr. Polkinghorne. At the time of compiling this Report for 1970, my successor and future organisation of Meteorological Work has not been decided upon.

(Signed) W. A. FIELD, B.E.M., A.C.C.S.,

Meteorological Observer.

TABLE I. — METEOROLOGICAL TABLES FOR 1970

Month.	Air Temperature in Degrees Fahrenheit.						Rainfall.						Wind					
	Means of		Means of A. and B.	Highest Maximum	Date	Lowest Minimum	Date	Inches	No. of days Rain Fell	Most in a Day — Ins.	Date	.04 or More		Prevailing Direction	Bright Sunshine			
	A. Maximum	B. Minimum										Days	Nights		Most Sun in one Day — Hours	Daily Average — Hours	Days on which Bright Sunshine was recorded	Total Hours
January	45.7	35.3	40.5	57	20	21	5	2.11	21	.44	15	7	11	S.E.	6.1	1.11	19	34.4
February	43.9	34.8	39.3	54	21	27	6/13	2.56	18	.27	4	7	11	W.	9.2	3.43	24	96.1
March	45.2	36.1	40.7	56	17	27	9/25	2.87	20	.72	3	5	13	W.	10.6	4.02	27	124.6
April	50.4	40.1	45.2	59	17/30	31	1	2.38	17	.63	5	4	10	N.W.	13.0	5.74	28	172.3
May	60.6	48.7	54.6	70	4/31	43	29	0.84	8	.41	5	3	3	W.	12.7	6.07	30	188.2
June	69.1	53.2	61.1	80	8/10	45	15	1.11	8	.21	22	4	7	W.	15.4	9.22	30	276.7
July	64.4	54.3	59.4	72	18	47	22	1.67	14	.37	26	2	8	W.	12.7	5.21	31	161.4
August	66.6	55.1	60.8	79	4	46	19	3.18	10	.84	15	3	9	S.W.	12.6	4.99	29	154.6
September ..	64.6	53.1	58.8	75	23/25	40	15	1.62	14	.50	9	4	7	W.	10.9	5.25	29	157.5
October	58.3	47.0	52.6	69	14	36	9	2.95	17	.63	27/30	6	13	S.E.	9.8	3.74	24	115.9
November ...	51.8	42.8	47.3	60	2/24/25	34	8/16/20	4.62	24	.63	17	9	18	S.E.	7.3	1.53	20	46.0
December ...	46.3	38.7	42.5	55	18	29	25	0.78	13	.27	5	1	3	S.E.	6.1	1.52	20	47.2
Total for year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26.69	184	—	—	55	113	—	—	—	311	1574.9
Monthly Average	55.6	44.9	50.2	—	—	—	—	2.22	15.3	—	—	4.6	9.4	—	—	4.32	25.9	131.2
Total for 1969	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28.55	180	—	—	53	85	—	—	—	288	1481.5
Monthly Average	54.9	43.9	49.4	—	—	—	—	2.38	15.0	—	—	4.4	7.1	—	—	4.05	24.0	123.5

TABLE II. — 10-20 YEARS AVERAGES SUNSHINE, RAINFALL AND HUMIDITY

Year	RAINFALL					SUNSHINE						Humid- ity.
	Inches	Monthly Aver- age.—Inches	Total Rain Days	Month's Greatest Fall.—Inches	Month's Lowest Fall.—Inches	Hours	Sunless Days	Sunshine Days	Daily Average —Hours	Highest in One Month.—Hours	Lowest in One Month.—Hours	
1961	27.18	2.26	173	3.53	0.68	1566.3	45	320	4.28	234.8	33.8	77
1962	19.40	1.62	165	3.05	0.64	1566.5	67	298	4.28	229.9	52.6	76
1963	19.92	1.66	167	3.91	0.22	1514.6	60	305	4.15	207.8	43.1	79
1964	20.38	1.70	160	3.79	0.28	1392.5	64	302	3.81	192.3	42.0	76
1965	29.14	2.43	189	4.37	0.48	1450.7	64	301	3.96	220.2	30.8	77
1966	27.24	2.27	185	4.58	0.93	1376.8	67	298	3.76	231.0	25.2	77
1967	29.99	2.50	190	5.75	0.87	1464.7	55	310	4.01	248.4	35.6	77
1968	26.80	2.23	158	4.18	1.34	1456.9	74	292	3.99	220.5	27.7	77
1969	28.55	2.38	180	6.38	0.70	1481.5	77	288	4.05	267.4	22.7	78
1970	26.69	2.22	184	4.62	0.78	1574.9	54	311	4.32	276.7	34.4	75
Totals	255.29	...	1751	...	...	14845.4	627	3025	...	...	...	769
Average 10 years...	25.53	2.13	175	...	...	1484.5	63	303	4.06	...	...	77
Average 20 years...	25.84	2.15	174	...	...	1497.9	63	303	4.10	...	...	77

TABLE IV. — 9 YEARS' MONTHLY SUNSHINE AND RAINFALL TOTALS

Month	SUNSHINE (Hours)									RAINFALL (Inches)								
	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Jan.	33.8	59.4	64.9	53.6	53.3	34.6	53.0	27.7	37.3	3.53	3.05	1.19	0.49	2.98	0.95	0.87	2.65	2.07
Feb.	77.1	52.6	102.8	61.2	30.8	59.9	70.4	86.4	48.5	2.33	1.22	0.22	0.28	0.48	2.36	2.66	1.79	2.64
March	133.6	155.1	126.4	70.8	137.1	115.0	180.3	112.1	89.8	0.68	0.87	1.72	2.08	1.85	0.93	1.33	1.92	1.59
April	111.2	194.1	114.8	130.6	154.4	113.2	108.8	187.7	212.1	2.87	1.75	2.24	1.53	1.65	2.67	1.25	1.35	1.63
May	234.8	214.5	207.8	180.6	170.1	231.0	161.6	182.8	159.3	1.38	1.65	0.55	0.85	2.44	1.38	3.70	2.30	6.05
June	222.5	229.9	204.7	161.4	220.2	157.5	248.4	220.5	267.4	1.06	1.27	2.93	2.09	2.71	2.37	0.91	2.28	1.68
July	161.9	156.1	182.0	160.0	161.8	194.3	178.4	179.8	223.6	3.06	0.64	0.81	1.33	2.52	2.69	1.12	3.01	0.92
August	197.6	164.8	108.7	192.3	195.9	162.1	142.7	177.0	129.7	2.87	1.77	2.22	2.14	1.99	2.00	3.39	1.76	1.48
Sept.	144.3	103.6	162.6	169.6	89.9	152.7	134.4	119.4	97.9	1.63	2.08	1.68	1.18	3.52	1.62	3.36	4.18	0.87
Oct.	116.6	118.6	142.2	95.2	128.6	97.2	89.1	67.0	120.9	2.92	0.98	2.18	2.84	1.98	3.29	5.75	2.49	0.70
Nov.	60.5	57.8	54.6	75.2	62.7	34.1	62.0	50.3	72.3	1.83	1.87	3.91	1.78	2.65	2.40	2.41	1.34	6.38
Dec.	72.4	60.0	43.1	42.0	45.9	25.2	35.6	46.2	22.7	3.02	2.25	0.27	3.79	4.37	4.58	3.24	1.73	2.54
*Difference from Average for the Year	+ 0.22	+ 0.22	+ 0.09	- 0.25	- 0.10	- 0.30	- 0.05	- 0.07	- 0.01	+ 0.55	- 7.23	- 6.71	- 6.25	+ 2.51	+ 0.61	+ 3.36	+ 0.17	+ 1.92

Sunshine:— *This figure is the 30 years daily average = 4.06 hours.

Rainfall:— This figure is 30 years yearly average = 26.63 inches



