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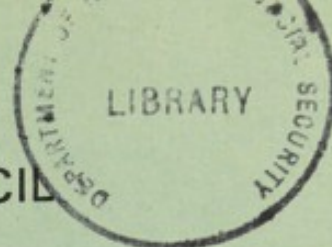
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RHYL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(D. P. W. ROBERTS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
M.F.C.M., 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

**1972**



CYNGOR DOSBARTH DINESIG Y RHYL



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

Gyda Adroddiad Blynyddol y

PRIF ARCHWILIWR IECHYD CYHOEDDUS  
E. G. BLACK, F.A.P.H.I.

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# 1972



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## URBAN DISTRICT OF RHYL

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*Health Department Offices :*

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

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*PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1972*

Councillor G.H. ROBERTS  
(Chairman of the Council).

Cllr. J. C. ESPLEY (Chairman).	Cllr. H. A. WESTON.
" W. ELWYN CONWAY.	" GWILYM HUGHES.
" J. SKEFFINGTON.	" ERIC J. DAVIES.
" R. MERVYN OWEN.	" W. T. REID.
" D. ROBERTS	

*PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :*

*Medical Officer of Health :*

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

*Chief Public Health Inspector & Housing Manager :*

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 :*

P. IBALL.

*Senior Clerk :*

S. R. SYMS.

*Clerical Assistant :*

Miss C. ELIE.

*Shorthand Typist :*

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*Secretary :*

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*Maintenance Supervisor :*

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*Disinfecter :*

A. S. JONES.

*Rodent Officer :*

W. H. THOMAS.

ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1972

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Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Edwards and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1972, which will be the last report to the Rhyl Urban District Council.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population was 22,010 which was an increase of 410 over the previous year. There were 286 live births giving an adjusted birth rate of 15.9 per thousand population compared with the national birth rate of 14.8. 6 deaths of infants under one year of age occurred during the year, giving a local infant mortality rate of 21 per thousand live births compared with the national figure of 17. 3 still births were recorded during the year, giving a local still birth rate of 10 per thousand births compared with the national figure of 12. The illegitimacy rate remained high (48 births) recording a local figure of 16% compared with the the national average of 9%.

437 deaths were registered in 1972, and after adjustment the standardised death rate was 12.7 per thousand population compared with the death rate for England and Wales of 12.1. Nearly one third of the deaths (142) were due to ischaemic heart disease (heart attacks) but 80 of the total of deaths were in people over 75 years of age and 128 of the deaths were in people over 65 years of age. Cancer of the bowel caused 17 deaths out of a total of 80 deaths. This was the commonest site of the development of cancer, followed in order by the lungs—15; stomach—6; breast—5 deaths.

I have included in my report a summary of some historical highlights of the annual reports of the Medical Officers of Health since 1876. Space does not allow the inclusion of much that is worth referring to and commenting upon.

The slum clearance programme has been completed, and in future emphasis will be laid upon house improvement where possible. This, of course, is applicable to both owner occupied and tenanted dwellings. I believe that this is a very wise course to pursue, although house improvements can be very disruptive and upsetting to the life of the occupiers of such dwellings whilst improvements are being carried out.

From the infectious disease aspect, the year passed without any major outbreaks. Cases of tuberculosis still occur and constant vigilance is necessary to follow up cases and contacts to minimise the spread of infection.

There was no appreciable change in the level of sulphur dioxide in atmosphere of the town although the smoke level fell slightly compared with the average of the previous five years.

Construction work continued on the Maes Emlyn flats and there may be need in the future for further accommodation for the elderly and handicapped in the town. Difficulty in obtaining land will, I'm sure, will be the major obstacle to overcome in this respect, but nevertheless I hope that the new district council will take active steps to ensure that the needs of the elderly, the physically handicapped, and the deprived families are met.

The year has seen the virtual completion of the town sewerage scheme and the only outstanding matter requiring attention is the sea outfall. This matter will regrettably, have to be left to the new authority but I earnestly hope that it will not be shelved for years, and that either the outfall is considerably extended or a new sewage works is constructed inland. Whichever procedure is followed will involve the public in very considerable expenditure, but we have a duty to our successors to safeguard the environment. Let us live up to our responsibilities and match our words by digging deeper into our pockets.

I would like to pay warm tribute to the excellent work carried out by the voluntary organisations in the town in their untiring efforts for the welfare of the people of Rhyl. It is to be hoped that the spirit of voluntary work will continue unabated in the future. There are many new battles to be fought. Reorganisation of the local government and health services will in no way supercede the voluntary services — at least for many years to come.

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

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 1972 (Registrar General's estimate) ... ..	22,010
Population change compared with previous year (increase of) ... ..	410
Numer of inhabited properties (end of 1972) ... ..	7,775
Number of empty properties (end of 1972) ... ..	184
Rateable value of the Urban District at end of 1972 ... ..	£1,326,452
Product of a penny rate ... ..	£12,632
General rate £1 ... ..	1,095
No. of rated premises ... ..	9,268

## VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births: Male 143, Female 143 ... ..	286
Legitimate live births: Male 119, Female 119 ... ..	238
Illegitimate live births: Male 24, Female 24 ... ..	48
Illegitimate local rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	160
National illegitimate rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	94
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population ... ..	13.0
Birth rate comparability factor ... ..	1.22
Birth rate standardised ... ..	15.9
National birth rate per 1,000 population ... ..	14.8
Still births (total) ... ..	3
Legitimate still births ... ..	2
Illegitimate still births ... ..	1
Local still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births ... ..	10
National still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births ... ..	12
Infant deaths under one year of age ... ..	6
Legitimate infant deaths under age of 1 year ... ..	4
Illegitimate infant deaths under age of 1 year ... ..	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	21
National infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	17
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..	17
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ..	42
Infant deaths under 4 weeks of age (Neo-natal) ... ..	4
Legitimate infant deaths under 4 weeks of age ... ..	3
Illegitimate infant deaths under 4 weeks of age ... ..	1
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	14
National neo-natal mortality rate ... ..	12
Total perinatal deaths (still-births and deaths under one week combined) ... ..	7
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births ... ..	24
National perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births ... ..	22
Deaths in first week of life (early neo-natal period) ... ..	4
Early neo-natal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ... ..	14
National early neo-natal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ... ..	10
Maternal mortality, including abortion:	
Number of deaths ... ..	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births ... ..	Nil

## DEATHS

Deaths: Male 233, Female 204 ... ..	437
Crude death rate per 1,000 population ... ..	19.9
Comparability factor ... ..	0.64
Death rate standardised per 1,000 population ... ..	12.7
National death rate for England and Wales ... ..	12.1

## 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
1971	21,600†	+ 100	— 103	+ 203
1972	22,010	+ 410	— 151	+ 561

†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 11 over 1971, and the deaths from lung cancer increased by 2. 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	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Lung ... ..	6	12	15	13	12	12	20	11	14	21	12	10	18	13	15
Stomach ...	10	10	13	9	9	5	8	7	4	5	7	5	13	10	6
Breast .....	6	6	9	7	6	4	8	3	11	3	6	3	12	10	5
Uterus .....	5	3	4	4	3	5	2	2	2	1	—	3	—	4	2
Leukaemia	1	2	2	1	3	4	2	1	1	—	1	2	2	1	3
Other sites	22	27	34	26	17	29	28	42	35	38	36	40	35	31	49
Total deaths all sites ...	50	60	77	60	50	59	68	66	67	68	62	63	80	69	80

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

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Deaths .....	60	80	62	87	85	81	79	90	101	88	93	128	85	121	142

*BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE  
ANNUAL REPORTS SINCE 1876*

I think that it would be remiss not to make mention of some of the highlights of the Annual Reports of the Medical Officers of Health and Health Inspectors since the first report of 1876 by Dr. Eyton Lloyd.

In his first report he mentions that there were 1,040 houses in Rhyl, with a population of 4,229, and that there were 101 deaths, of which 21 occurred in infants under the age of one year. The infant mortality rate was 198 per 1,000 births, and this was more or less the average figure for the succeeding 10 years. A large number of the deaths in infants were due to diarrhoea, "disease of the bowels", "general debility" "convulsions" and "scrofula marasmus". There were 14 deaths of children between the ages of 2 and 12, and of the adult deaths only 20 occurred over the age of 70 years. Only 1 death was due to a stroke and only 9 deaths due to diseases of the heart. Many of the terms used for causes of death are, of course, inadmissible to-day, and medical progress has made vast strides since those early days. It must be remembered that this first report was compiled before bacteria were discovered !

In Dr. Lloyd's report of 1878, he sets out advice to the public for the prevention of the spread of infectious disease and refers to "the free ventilation of the sickroom, disinfection of all excreta, disinfection of clothes, linen, smearing of the whole body with carbolised oil, disinfection of the room after removal of the patient and attention to drains, cesspools and midden steads". This advice is, of course, perfectly relevant to-day almost 100 years after these words were written. There is no doubt that at that time flies were a particular nuisance, aggravated by the large number of horses used for public transport and the large number of middens, cesspools, pail closets etc.

In 1877, the Medical Officer referred to the need to ventilate all sewers by means of soil pipes and also the need for a piped water supply to the dwellings in the town. At that time, the responsible authority was the 'Rhyl Urban Sanitary District'. Quick notice was taken of these recommendations and considerable progress was subsequently made in the provision of piped water supplies and sewers in the then developed part of the town (which was largely the west and central areas of the present town).

Infectious diseases were a particular hazard to the young, and in the five years to 1887 there were 68 deaths due to infectious disease in a population of about 5,000 of which diarrhoea accounted

for 21, Scarlet Fever 12, Whooping Cough and Croup 18, Typhoid Fever 5, Diphtheria 4, Measles 2 and Rheumatic Fever 1.

The present Health Inspectors were known as 'Inspectors of Nuisances' and it was the responsibility of such an inspector to ensure that the scavenging service was satisfactory, the refuse was collected, the night soil containers emptied, and the various deposits of excreta were removed to the town manure heap. There is a graphic description of the town manure heap and the nuisances created in the summer from smells, and it was felt that it should be resited in a rural setting. A site was suggested where the present Cefndy Road is now.

In 1887 there was an investigation made into the discharge of sewage into the sea, and this was carried out by Dr. Bostock Hill and a Mr. Pritchard, Sanitary Engineer, in conjunction with the local Town Surveyor and Medical Officer of Health. Concern was expressed at the arrangements for the discharge of sewage into the River Clwyd near the Clwyd Bridge, and it was felt that a new survey might suggest a better site. Float tests were carried out, and there is a very lengthy description of the results of the float tests and conclusions thereon. It was felt that there should be a very long sewer outfall near the place where the present outfall is situated, and that sewage should be discharged on the ebb tide only, and that it was quite impossible to ensure that there would be no return of sewage on to the beach under certain conditions of weather wind and tide.

They comment in the report that they consider the Clwyd carries down a large quantity of clay marl and animal manures, and the presence of the Clwyd River has a deleterious effect upon the Rhyl beach—a point which is, of course, as true to-day as it was then.

In 1892 sanction for a loan for the erection of an isolation hospital was obtained, and construction work started in 1893 at Towyn, in the urban district of Abergele. In the same year, the Alliance Steam Disinfector was purchased and the Waterworks were considerably enlarged, together with the provision of a large number of new water mains in the town. At this time, a separate report appeared from the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Huxley, previously Inspector of Nuisances. Tents and caravans were a nuisance even in 1892, especially during a cholera and smallpox scare. There is no mention in the report as to how the caravans arrived on the scene — whether they were motorised or not!

In 1897, Dr. Lloyd makes the comment that there is no ambulance in the town to transport cases to the Fever Hospital, and he tells of a young lady who died from typhoid fever whilst being conveyed from her home to the hospital. This matter of the ambulance was attended to the following year and a comfortable brougham was purchased.

In 1902 cases of smallpox occurred in Rhyl, and Dr. Lloyd points out the lack of special provision for the reception and treatment of such cases.

Mr. Robert Lowe was appointed Sanitary Inspector at the turn of the century.

Reference was made in 1908 to the new water tower erected on the present Towers Estate to improve the pressure in the water mains of the town.

Dr. Hughes Jones succeeded Dr. Lloyd in 1918, and comments upon the proposal to build the present War Memorial Hospital and Maternity Home, and that every encouragement should be given to seeing that such provision is made in the town.

Dr. Hughes Jones continued as Medical Officer of Health until 1948, when on the reorganisation of the local government health districts, Dr. Rhydwen was appointed. Mr. Robert Lowe retired in 1930 to be succeeded by Mr. E. L. Lloyd Jones, M.B.E. who was Chief Public Health Inspector until he retired in 1970.

Space does not permit a review of the developments of the sanitary circumstances in the town in detail from 1914 onwards, except to say that Rhyl was well ahead of comparable authorities in the provision of local government services in health and related fields, and it is only since the last war that the adjoining rural authorities have "caught up" so to speak, so far as main drainage water supply, provision of electricity to homes and farms is concerned. Now that urban and rural areas will be combined administratively, I hope that the benefits and wealth of the authorities will be spread evenly between the urban and rural areas, and where there is need for drainage and water supply, these needs should be met. I hope, too, that in future, efforts will be made to reduce the already small amount of air pollution to a virtual non-existent level. I am, of course, referring to the fact that air pollution to-day is largely from domestic premises. When the combustion of coal becomes a rarity and the consumption of low sulphur content oil becomes an absolute requirement, I can see the atmosphere being almost clear of S.O.<sub>2</sub> and smoke, apart from that due to motor vehicles combustion.

## INFANT MORTALITY 1972

There were 6 deaths of infants under one year of age. Details of 5 deaths from local returns are given below:—

Age at death	Cause of death	(M. or F.)
8 hrs ... ..	Respiratory distress ... .. Prematurity Difficult breech	M
3 hrs ... ..	Prematurity and severe eclampsia ... ..	M
4 days ... ..	Heart failure and pulmonary stenosis ... ..	M
2 days ... ..	Tracheo-oesophageal fistula and Prematurity ... ..	M
4 months ... ..	Acute bronchiolitis ... ..	M

## STILLBIRTHS

3 Stillbirths were recorded in 1972 of which the details are as follows:—

Age at death	Cause of death	(M. or F.)
32 weeks ... ..	Accidental haemorrhage due to cord around neck	M
36 weeks ... ..	Cord around the neck ... ..	F
38 weeks ... ..	Foetal hypoxia. Maternal pre-eclamptic toxæmia ... ..	M

TABLE SHOWING VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT FOR THE PAST TWENTY ONE YEARS IN DETAIL

Year	Registrar-General's 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 mortality rate
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
1971	21,600	263	12.2	13.5	16.0	366	16.9	12.2	11.6	2	8.0	18.0
1972	22,010	286	13.0	15.9	14.8	437	19.9	12.7	12.1	6	21.0	17.0

Registrar-General's Office  
 Government of Madhya Pradesh  
 Bhopal









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

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Deaths	3	2	—	2	—	1	2	1	1	4	1	4	1	—	1	2	—

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were 9 cases of measles, 5 cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 2 cases of dysentery notified during the year.

The year passed off rather uneventfully from the aspect of infectious disease and it is gratifying that the dysentery outbreak of 1971 was not repeated. Tuberculosis is still present in the community and most of the cases are usually among the elderly who probably contracted the infection during their early life and during their declining years, the infection, which probably was dormant for many years in the lungs then becomes re-activated. Constant vigilance is necessary to ensure that all new cases are carefully treated and followed up and that all contacts are traced.

If there is a significant decline in the number of new cases of tuberculosis, then it may be necessary to review the requirements to vaccinate 13 year old schoolchildren against tuberculosis. At the present time, the indications are that B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis will be necessary for some years to come .

Notification of infections under the current public health legislation only gives a small indication of the amount of bacterial and viral infection in the community. Most minor infections are often of a viral nature, the diagnosis of which is often difficult and the treatment even more difficult and unsatisfactory.

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN 1972

Disease	Age Group										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 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	3	1	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid and Typhoid ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	—	—	2*	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	18
Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tetanus ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Tuberculosis : Respiratory .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—
Tuberculosis : Non-respiratory..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

\*Suspected Food Poisoning

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 :—

Diseases	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Scarlet fever ... ..	2	5	22	5	4	3	1	—	10	—
Whooping cough ... ..	1	2	6	—	4	1	—	2	1	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	104	116	74	15	79	46	8	36	6	9
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	1	1	3	1	—	2	5	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	19	1	9	16	3	—	7	4	99	2
Food poisoning ... ..	—	8	1	1	—	4	7	9	6	4
Paratyphoid and typhoid... ..	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Tetanus ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis: Respiratory ... ..	9	5	10	8	4	7	3	1	8	5
Tuberculosis: Non-respiratory	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS

As will have been seen in the previous tables, there were 5 new cases of Tuberculosis. 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... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—10 " ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11—15 " ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16—20 " ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21—25 " ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26—35 " ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36—45 " ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
46—55 " ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
56—65 " ... ..	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

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

The tuberculosis register kept at the Urban District office was revised at the end of the year. It is customary to review the register every five years and as a result of the information provided by the local chest clinic the position is as follows:—

Pulmonary, Male	16
Female	11
	—
	27
	—

Non-Pulmonary, Male	2
Female	1
	—
	3
	—

*REPORT OF THE CHEST PHYSICIAN*

The following information on the work of the Chest Clinic during the year 1972 has been kindly supplied by Dr. Morrison:—

Number of new cases in Rhyl U.D. Area during the period ... ..	4
Number of cases and contacts attending clinic during the period ... ..	445
Transfer in of existing cases of Tuberculosis ... ..	5

*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 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 Fforddlas weekly and are staffed by hospital medical and nursing personnel, under the direction of the Consultant Obstetricians.

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, Fforddlas, 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, in which case 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**

Five full-time health visitors are responsible for giving advice to families on all aspects of health education. 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 and oral vaccine at 4 months of age, and repeated at 6 months and finally at 10 months. 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**

Routine vaccination of babies against smallpox has now been discontinued.

#### **MEASLES**

Immunization against measles is offered to all babies who have not had the disease after completion of the course of immunization against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and polio, and consists of one injection with very few reactions.

### TUBERCULOSIS

All 13 year old children are offered vaccination (by the use of live attenuated tubercule baccilli B.C.G.) against this disease. The majority of children are vaccinated subject to parental consent, after preliminary skin tests to ascertain the degree of natural protection already present.

### RUBELLA (*German Measles*)

All girls between 12 and 14 years of age are eligible to be vaccinated against this disease in order to reduce the risks of congenital malformations in any babies born to young women who might contact German Measles in the early months of pregnancy.

### SECTION 27—AMBULANCES

The ambulance service is radio-controlled and administered from the headquarters at Mold. A new ambulance station has recently been opened 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

The care of the mentally ill and sub-normal is the responsibility of the County Council Social Services Department. Children who are retarded mentally and are unable to keep up with the curriculum in an ordinary school are admitted to Tirionfa School, Rhuddlan, and those children who are only slightly retarded mentally and other children who are of a reasonably normal intelligence but who are educationally subnormal, have the opportunity to receive educational training in Glan Morfa Special E.S.N. School. Entry to both schools is by selection and assessment.

During my stay in Rhyl over the past 12 years, it is refreshing to see the strides and progress that have been made in the care of the handicapped child in the County. These special day schools enable children to have the specialised tuition and facilities that they require and yet can enjoy living at home. The County Authorities provide the necessary transport to the schools. It is to be hoped the amalgamation of the existing counties to form the new County of Clwyd will enable further progress to be made in this field.

### SCHOOL HEALTH

I visit the primary and secondary schools in Rhyl and carry out many routine and special examinations on schoolchildren, and it is pleasing to record the very high standard of general health which has been maintained over the years. There are one or two schools where there is a distinctly high incidence of head lice infestation and body scabies. Some of these lice infestations are persistent, in spite of repeated attempts made by the school nursing sisters to arrange and carry through treatment. In such cases very often the whole family are infested, and it becomes necessary as a last resort, to exclude these children from school until the infestation has been cleared.

It has to be accepted that lice infestation can occur in children who come from good and clean homes. These children usually catch the infestation in school from children with persistent head lice infestation, but invariably the infestations are cleared up quickly with treatment.

Plantar warts (verruca) are becoming very prevalent as a result of greater use of local swimming facilities and it is difficult to say whether the absence of a footbath at Pontin's Holiday Camp has any bearing upon this rise in incidence of these warts. It is important that children who are affected should be kept away from the baths until the wart or warts have gone, and that all children must use the foot baths and wash their feet well after returning home from the baths. Another factor in the spread of these warts is perhaps the practice of indoor gymnasium play in bare feet. The cause of plantar warts has not been found, but it is generally believed to be a virus. More often than not, the warts themselves disappear naturally, although treatment can assist.

### SCHOOL PREMISES

A few schools in the town are still overcrowded and temporary accommodation in the form of mobile class rooms does relieve the situation to a certain extent. The Rhyl High School is at the present time being reconstructed and extended and this has obviously thrown a great strain upon the staff and pupils of the school and it is to be hoped that the work will be carried out as speedily as possible in the interests of all concerned.

### 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 Social Service Departments.

### *WELFARE HOMES*

Persons who are unable to look after themselves satisfactorily may be admitted to County Council Homes which are situated at Plas Coed, Y Gorlan, The Lawns, Part of the Women's Convalescent Home, Rhyl; Carr Holme, Park House, Llys Nant, Prestatyn; Hafan Glyd, Shotton, and Llys Gwenffrwdd, 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 1972 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 ... ..	—
Private properties, mainly bungalows ... ..	113

Since the war the Council have built 1,216 houses, bungalows and flats. The table shown below indicates the yearly totals of new housing construction in the town :—

Year	New Council houses, bungalows or flats	New Private houses, bungalows or flats	No. of inhabited properties in town
1972 ... ..	—	113	7775
1971 ... ..	69	75	7655
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

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

*HOUSING REVIEW CARRIED OUT IN 1971 IN ENGLAND AND WALES*  
Survey details as follows:—

Percentage of dwellings lacking

Inside water closet — 11.9%

Fixed Bath — 9.5%

Wash Basin — 11.9%

Dwellings with all these amenities — 83.2%

*STANDARD OF HOUSING AMENITIES IN RHYL*

*FROM 1971 CENSUS (BY COURTESY OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL)*

	Total Householders	No hot water supply %	No fixed bath %	Outside W.C. only %	Inside W.C. exclusive use of %	With exclusive use of hot water, bath and inside W.C. %
Total Tenures	7,995	1.7	2.6	0.1	90.8	88.8
Owner Occupiers	4,735	0.6	1.4	—	97.8	96.5
Rented from Council	1,325	1.5	1.5	—	98.5	97.7
Unfurnished, private rented	1,075	5.6	8.8	—	87.4	82.8
Rented furnished	790	2.5	3.8	1.3	43.0	37.3
Not stated	70	7.1	7.1	—	78.6	78.6

On Census Night 1971 out of 7,910 occupied dwellings in Rhyl, 195 had no household present (2.3%).

In Flintshire the equivalent figure was 2.5%.

	Population	Persons per room	Absent private household
Rhyl U.D.C. ... ..	20,805	0.52	195
<i>Wards</i>			
East ... ..	3,015	0.49	40
East Central ... ..	1,475	0.47	25
South Central ... ..	1,845	0.48	10
South East ... ..	4,935	0.53	45
South West ... ..	5,510	0.61	30
West ... ..	2,355	0.45	30
West Central ... ..	1,670	0.48	15

In Flintshire, number of persons per room — 0.57

Examination of the records of the density of persons per room in Rhyl in 1971 in various types of accommodation is as follows :-

	Households	Households having over 1½ persons per room	Households having over 1 person per room
Owner occupier ... ..	4,732	10	65
Council dwellings ... ..	1,325	30	125
Rented unfurnished in unshared dwellings ... ..	1,075	10	25
Rented Furnished ... ..	790	100	35

Assuming that a unit of accommodation with more than 1 person per room is moderately overcrowded and over 1½ persons per room very overcrowded, there would appear to be in 1971 about 30 overcrowded council houses and 100 families in overcrowded privately furnished accommodation, in the town.

## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN THE TOWN

Age Groups	All persons	Males	Females
0- 4 years ... ..	1,335	695	640
5- 9 years ... ..	1,570	800	770
10-14 years ... ..	1,510	770	745*
15-19 years ... ..	1,385	675	710
20-24 years ... ..	1,390	695	695
25-29 years ... ..	1,010	490	520
30-34 years ... ..	965	455	510
35-39 years ... ..	1,105	525	580
40-44 years ... ..	1,220	600	620
45-49 years ... ..	1,335	620	715
50-54 years ... ..	1,265	570	690
55-59 years ... ..	1,465	655	810
60-64 years ... ..	1,580	660	920
65-69 years ... ..	1,585	650	930*
70-74 years ... ..	1,345	540	800*
75-79 years ... ..	900	300	600
80-84 years ... ..	525	175	350
85-89 years ... ..	260	65	190
90-94 years ... ..	60	15	45
95 and over ... ..	15	5	10
	*21,820	*9,970	11,850

\* Discrepancies present



TABLE SHOWING HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN TOWN  
OVER PAST 100 YEARS

Year	No. of dwellings	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
1971	7904	21600	2.7
1972	8018	22,010	2.75

The above table shows the improvement in overcrowding that has taken place in the town, especially in the past twenty years. 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 1972 was as follows :—

Number of families on general list	432
Number of persons waiting for old persons' accommodation	277
	<hr/>
	709
	<hr/>

## SLUM CLEARANCE AND SUB-STANDARD PROPERTY

The re-development of Walford Ave. was completed during the year and construction continued on the erection of 57 flats for the elderly and wardens accommodation in the grounds of Y Gorlan, Brighton Road, and it is hoped that some of these flats will be available for occupation by March 1973 and completion in June 1973.

The last clearance areas in the town were declared during the year—Cefndy Terrace and Bethel Terrace. Emphasis is now placed on improvement and repair of existing sub-standard properties wherever possible rather than the demolition of such properties. I think this is a very welcome step and I might add that I am very glad Rhyl have not provided or contemplated providing highrise multi-storied accommodation.

## 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.

46 samples were taken during the year: 44 were found to be satisfactory and 2 unsatisfactory.

## *Plumbo Solvency*

Considerable public concern was expressed in the United Kingdom during the year regarding the risks to health in the consumption of lead-contaminated public water supplies and this is a particular hazard in water supplies from upland moors, where the water is naturally acid and this tends to react on the lining of lead service pipes.

46 samples of water were taken in the year and six samples showed more than 0.1 parts per million of lead. The current World Health Organisation standard for the maximum permissible level of lead in public water supplies is 0.1 P.P.M. All these 6 samples were on overnight standing and subsequent samples taken during the day showed a level below 0.1 P.P.M. My advice is that where there is a lead service pipe that the water should be run off a short period in the morning before use.

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

Sample marked:— Treated Water Glascoed.

*Analysis :*

Date of sample 6th December, 1972

Appearance ... ..	Clear and Colourless
Odour ... ..	nil
Reaction, pH ... ..	7.4
Colour (Hazen Units) ... ..	less than 5
	Parts per million :
Total Solids ... ..	119
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia ... ..	0.00
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia ... ..	0.00
Nitrogen as nitrites ... ..	nil
Nitrogen as nitrates ... ..	less than 0.5
Chlorides, as Cl. ... ..	19
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27° C. ... ..	1.0
Total hardness ... ..	63
Temporary hardness ... ..	34
Permanent hardness ... ..	19
Alkalinity ... ..	34
Total residual Chlorine ... ..	nil
Free available Chlorine ... ..	nil
Potassium, as K. ... ..	0.4
Anionic Synthetic detergents ... ..	—
Manganese, as Mn. ... ..	—
Cyanides and thiocynates ... ..	—
Poisonous metals ... ..	nil
Free Carbon Dioxide ... ..	3.0

*Opinion :*

The chemical condition of this water is satisfactory.

**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 90 samples were submitted for analysis. 87 were satisfactory, and 3 were unsatisfactory.

No water heating arrangements are provided.

**CHILDREN'S PADDLING POOL**

The water in the pool is chlorinated, and the plant is satisfactory. 26 samples were taken and submitted for analysis, of which 1 was 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.

The main drainage scheme is virtually complete, except for the town centre scheme and the need to either extend the existing sea outfall or provide full treatment at an inland works.

#### *RHYL CUT*

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

The amount of water in the Rhyl Cut has been significantly reduced as a result of the surface water drainage scheme carried out by the Dee and Clwyd River Authority at the eastern end of the town.

The public should not consume the water cress from this water course because of the danger to health.

I believe the only long-term satisfactory solution will be the culverting of sections of this water course, but this is going to be an extremely costly operation.

#### *CAMPING AND CARAVAN SITES*

The number of licensed sites used for camping was thirteen 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, 38 medical examinations were carried out on employees of the Urban District Council in connection with fitness for employment and absence through ill-health.

*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 1972

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Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Edwards, and Gentlemen,

This Annual Report upon the Health Department for the year 1972 will be the last report for the Urban District of Rhyl and also the last presented by myself.

The Council's policy to promote the modernisation and repair of older houses and thus prevent their decay and ultimate demolition with expensive replacement has continued very satisfactorily and was given considerable impetus by the Government's decision to include Rhyl in the areas where 75 per cent grant of the cost of work is given to applicants. It is also interesting to note that many of the larger authorities are seeing the wisdom of this policy and adopting it into their housing programmes. I would stress that the 75 per cent grant terminates after June 1974, and it is therefore, necessary to make application as soon as possible in order to complete work by this date.

The Housing Finance Act, 1972, phased out Qualification Certificates for unfurnished rented accommodation and whilst this has meant less work for the department, it has also removed a very satisfactory means of keeping some dwellings in good repair and decoration.

With the declaration of Bethel Terrace, Vale Road, as a clearance area, the Council have now dealt with all the areas in the district where there are unfit houses requiring demolition.

Construction on the Maes Emlyn scheme for housing for the elderly continued during the year. The number of applicants on the register for sheltered accommodation show that whilst this estate will be welcome when completed, it will not be enough to solve the increasing demand for accommodation for elderly citizens and I would urge the new Rhuddlan Authority to give this problem priority in its housing policies. The elderly are having to wait many more years for accommodation than young families and time is not on their side at that end of life's span.

The Public Health Inspectorate were again involved in a considerable amount of work during evenings and at week-ends, with

the considerable variety of complaints and investigations required in the Department.

In conclusion, may I express my appreciation of the loyalty and support I have received from all the members of the Health Department staff and my fellow chief officers. I am proud to have served the Rhyl Council for a period of 38 years and the public health profession has not been just a job but a vocation and at all times I have been conscious of the efforts of Councillors for the district to promote the well-being of its citizens and to the best of their ability. It is my fervent hope that the Councillors of the new Rhuddlan district will carry this civic consciousness into the new authority and work together for the community as a whole. If the attitude of local retrenchment and parochialism is carried into the new Council chamber, then I fear for the future of the district and its citizens.

"Amicus humanis generis" is the motto of the Association of Public Health Inspectors and I cannot commend a better final thought than this to the members of the new authority.

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 ... ..	2216
Number of Drains and W.C.s Released and Cleansed by Department ...	2432
Number of Nuisances Found (including under Factories Act) ... ..	130
Number of Nuisances Abated ... ..	87
Number of Preliminary Notices Served ... ..	54
Number of Statutory Notices Served .. ..	5
Number of Preliminary Notices served for Fire Escape ... ..	—
Number of Statutory Notices served for Fire Escape ... ..	10

## SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Public Health Acts—	
Complaints ... ..	231
Infectious Disease ... ..	71
Refuse Collection and Disposal ... ..	147
Schools ... ..	15
Offensive Trades ... ..	4
Smoke Observations ... ..	27
Water Supply ... ..	15
Swimming and Paddling Pools ... ..	63
Camping Grounds ... ..	45
Drain Tests, etc. — Smoke Machine ... ..	37
Theatres and Cinemas ... ..	12
Verminous Premises ... ..	38
Factories and Workplaces ... ..	47
Rats and Mice ... ..	1436
Housing Acts — Inspections ... ..	355
Houses in Multiple Occupation ... ..	123
Council House Inspections ... ..	431
Pet Animals Act — Inspections ... ..	7
Housing Applicants Visited ... ..	371
<i>Means of Escape in Case of Fire :</i>	
Number of Premises Surveyed ... ..	110
Number of Visits in connection with Survey ... ..	150



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

	Registered	Visits
Abattoir (Municipal) ... ..	1	368
Butchers ... ..	22	37
Bakehouses ... ..	5	17
Boarding Houses and Hotels ... ..	272	137
Confectioners ... ..	19	53
Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	—	35
Fishmongers and Poulterers ... ..	10	26
Fish and Chip Shops ... ..	16	42
Food Factories ... ..	3	19
Grocers ... ..	42	143
General Stores ... ..	20	137
Greengrocers ... ..	28	51
Holiday Camp Kitchens ... ..	2	8
<b>Ice Cream —</b>		
Retailers ... ..	113	121
Wholesalers ... ..	3	14
Manufacturers ... ..	1	4
Kiosks ... ..	7	24
Mobile Vans ... ..	9	16
Soft Ice ... ..	18	80
Licensed Clubs ... ..	20	66
Public Houses ... ..	42	57
Snack Bars ... ..	12	36
Stalls — Shellfish ... ..	3	12
Stalls — Miscellaneous ... ..	14	40
Sweets and Minerals ... ..	38	15
Restaurants and Cafes... ..	88	197
<b>Wholesale —</b>		
Grocers ... ..	2	72
Greengrocers ... ..	1	14
Poulterers ... ..	1	7

**TABLE II. — SANITARY DEFECTS**

Damp Living and Bed Rooms ... ..	21
Defective Chimney Pots, Flues, Stacks and Flashings ... ..	—
Defective Roofs ... ..	5
Defective Floors, Living and Bed Rooms ... ..	2
Defective Gutters and Downspouting ... ..	12
Defective Plaster, Wall and Ceilings ... ..	3
Defective Skylights, Window Frames, Casing and Doors ... ..	12
Defective Fireplaces ... ..	—
Remove Accumulation, Manure and Refuse ... ..	20
Defective Yard Surface ... ..	—
Defective Dust Bins ... ..	1
Animals in such a state as to be a Nuisance ... ..	—
Offensive Smell/Effluvia/Dust ... ..	7
General Defects ... ..	—
Defective Brickwork ... ..	21
Filthy Rooms, Walls, Floors, Bedding and Furniture ... ..	6
Defective Timberwork ... ..	13
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>123</b>

**CLEAN AIR ACTS, 1956 & 1968**

Dark Smoke Emissions from Chimneys ... ..	—
Dark Smoke Emissions ... ..	—

**PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936: SECTION 75**

Defective, or want of, Dustbins (Supplied) ... ..	179
Defective, or want of, Dustbins (Trade) ... ..	21

**NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960**

Complaints Received ... ..	28
Cases Complained of ... ..	13
Nuisance Remedied—Informally ... ..	13

**FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955 & 1970**  
**FOOD HYGIENE (MARKET STALLS & DELIVERY VEHICLES)**  
**REGULATIONS, 1966**

	Infringements Found
Cleanliness of Equipment ... ..	21
Protection from risk of Contamination ... ..	15
Sanitary Conveniences ... ..	29
Wash-hand Basins ... ..	47
First Aid Materials ... ..	17
Accommodation for Clothing, etc. ... ..	7
Facilities for Washing Food and Equipment ... ..	16
Food Room not to be/or communicate with Sleeping Place ...	—
Cleanliness and Repair of Food Rooms ... ..	41
Accumulation of Refuse ... ..	5
Stalls—Names inscribed thereon ... ..	9
Overalls for Food Handlers ... ..	7
Personal Cleanliness ... ..	11
Ventilation ... ..	1
	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>226</b>
	—
No. of Warning Letters ... ..	43

**DRAINAGE: WATER CLOSETS AND WATER SUPPLY**

Defective W.C., Walls, Roofs and Doors ... ..	11
Defective Fittings, W.C., Sinks and Baths ... ..	2
Defective Access Covers, Chambers and Drains ... ..	5
Defective Water Services ... ..	—
Defective Soil Pipes ... ..	2
Defective Urinal Channel ... ..	—
Filthy W.C. Premises, Basins and Urinals ... ..	3
Defective Sink Waste Pipes ... ..	4
Defective Cesspools ... ..	2
	—
	29
	—

**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 ... ..	11	11	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ... ..	65	15	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers Premises) ... ..	10	7	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>—</b>

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) ... ..	—	—	—	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

**TABLE III. — INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

Number of Rooms Disinfected, Lamp and Spray ... ..	—
Number of Rooms Disinfected, Spray only ... ..	—
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 ... ..	3
Number of Bungalows or Chalets Disinfected ... ..	1
Miscellaneous (School Toilets) ... ..	—
Number of Articles Destroyed with Consent of Owner ... ..	—
Number of Articles Disinfected by Steam ... ..	311
Number of Articles Disinfected by Lamp and/or Spray ... ..	—
Disinfectant used (Steam) ... ..	19
Number of Articles Hot Air Dried ... ..	—

TABLE IV. — DISINFESTATION

Number of Rooms Disinfested (D.D.T.) ... ..	26
Number of Wards, Shops, Cafes or Cinemas and Theatres Disinfested (D.D.T.) ... ..	11
Number of Houses or Flats Disinfested (D.D.T.) ... ..	4
Number of Caravans or Chalets, etc., Disinfested (D.D.T.) ... ..	1
Miscellaneous Items (D.D.T.), including Wasps Nests ... ..	—
Number of Houses, Flats, Cinemas, Caravans or other Premises Disinfested (Smoke Generators) ... ..	5
Number of Hospitals Partly Disinfested (Spray D.D.T.) ... ..	2
Number of Houses, Cinemas, Wards, Heating Ducts, etc., Disinfested by D.D.T. Powder ... ..	1

#### *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.

All complaints of stale or unsound food were investigated, although no occasions were found for the institution of legal proceedings. Time and again it was necessary to draw the attention of shopkeepers to the essential need to preserve correct stock rotation so that food is sold to the customer as fresh as possible.

It is hoped that when the promised legislation by the Government on compulsory date stamping comes into operation, the public will be in a position to demand the freshest food possible.

#### *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.

## FOOD SURRENDERED OR CONDEMNED

	Tons	cwts.	lbs.
1. Fresh Meat ... ..	2	1	14
2. Cooked meat and meat products ... ..	—	—	—
3. Canned meats ... ..		2	62
4. Other canned foods ... ..		6	70
5. Fish (fresh) ... ..		—	17
6. Fruit and Vegetables (fresh) ... ..		—	—
7. Frozen foods due to cabinet breakdown ... ..	9	4	5
8. Other foods ... ..		5	1
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>57</b>

A copy of the Report for the period 1st January to 31st December, 1972, received from Mr. Harold E. Roberts, M.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, 1972*

Description of Article	Number of Samples taken	Genuine	Not Genuine
Milk ... ..	20	20	—
Dairy Produce (Inc Ice Cream) ... ..	17	17	—
Alcoholic Drinks ... ..	5	5	—
Bread and Confectionery ...	6	6	—
Sausages & Meat Products	7	7	—
Miscellaneous Groceries ...	38	38	—
Patent Medicines ... ..	4	4	—
	<u>97</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>—</u>

Samples of articles taken under the provisions of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926 were found to be satisfactory and no evidence was found of excessive contamination of fruit and vegetables by residues or fungicides and/or pesticides.

Premises inspected under the provision of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act 1933 were found to be satisfactory.

(Signed) H. E. ROBERTS

County Public Health Officer.

## MILK SUPPLY

Regular bacteriological sampling of milk and cream were carried out. During the year 96 samples of milk were taken — 88 satisfactory and 8 unsatisfactory.

24 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	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised and T.T. Pasteurised ... ..	41	40	1
Sterilised ... ..	29	29	—
U.H.T. ... ..	—	—	—
	70	69	1
	—	—	—
Raw Milk ... ..	26	19	7
Cream ... ..	18	13	5
	44	32	12
	—	—	—
Raw Milk Ring Test ... ..	24	24	—

## 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 ... ..	1
Retailers ... ..	117
Wholesale Distributors (Storage) ... ..	3
Mobiles ... ..	10
Soft Ice ... ..	17
	148

During the year, 94 samples were taken for bacteriological examination.

*Table of Samples Taken*

	Grade				Total
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	
Soft Ice Machines ... ..	35	6	6	6	53
Retailers/Wholesalers ... ..	17	24	—	—	41
	52	30	6	6	94

**OTHER FOODS**

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

	No. Taken	No. Un-satisfactory
Meat Pies ... ..	12	—
Sliced Meats ... ..	31	2
Chickens (Cooked and Uncooked) ... ..	1	1
Sausages ... ..	1	—
	<hr/> 45	<hr/> 3

5 samples of food were submitted for chemical analysis following complaints to the department.

**SCRAP METAL DEALERS**

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

**PUBLIC ABATTOIR**

Animals slaughtered from 1st January 1972, to 31st December, 1972:—

Cattle ... ..	2,300
Calves ... ..	1
Sheep and Lambs ... ..	9,920
Pigs ... ..	8,048
	<hr/> 20,269

	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.
Meat Condemned ... ..	1	14	0	7

There has been an increase in the number of animals slaughtered, being 2475 more than during 1971.

There were no cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* detected during the year.

**CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE  
OR IN PART FOR THE YEAR 1972**

	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed (if known) ..	2105	195	1	9920	8048	20269
Number inspected ... ..	2105	195	1	9920	8048	20269
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned...	—	—	—	1	1	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	107	14	—	129	719	969
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ... ..	5.08	7.18	0.00	1.30	8.93	4.78
<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 ... ..	—	—	—	—	0.19	0.08
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

**TABLE V. — REFUSE COLLECTION**

Total Loads of all Refuse to Tip ... ..	3,123½
Total Weight (calculated in accordance with Ministry Recommenda- tions — 1 cubic yard Refuse = 2 cwt.) ... ..	10,932 tons 5 cwt.

**REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

The Productivity Incentive Scheme for refuse collection continued to operate very successfully, and few complaints were received of the service during the year.

The sack system of refuse collection was extended to another 700 dwellings in the east and in this case the system adopted was that of the plastic bin liners. In this system a plastic sack is fitted each week inside the plastic holder, the shape and size of a conventional dust bin and fitted with a lid. This system has been operating very satisfactorily and due to the present price of plastic with considerable economy over the paper sack.



The Council have agreed to extend the sack system to all dwellings in the district and it is hoped to bring this into operation in late 1973.

Refuse disposal is still by means of controlled tipping on the Cob land. In my last annual report I stated that I had reported during 1971 on the future of refuse disposal under reorganisation and that, in my opinion, the matter would require to be dealt with as a matter of urgency by the new authority when elected in 1973. It is with considerable apprehension for the future that in my final report, I can report no further progress in the last 12 months.

I append herewith table showing costs of Collection and Disposal.

Category	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
General and totally condemned	—	—	—
Generated and totally condemned	—	—	—
Generated and partially condemned	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by incineration	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by other means	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only	—	—	—
Cysticercosis	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis other than tuberculous cysticercosis	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only	—	—	—
Cysticercosis	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis other than tuberculous cysticercosis	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only	—	—	—
Cysticercosis	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis other than tuberculous cysticercosis	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—

TABLE V. — REFUSE COLLECTION

Total Loads of all Refuse to Tip ... 3,123  
 Total Weight (calculated in accordance with Ministry Recommendations — 1 cubic yard Refuse = 2 cwt) ... 10,822 tons 8 cwt

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Productivity Incentive Scheme for refuse collection continued to operate very successfully, and few complaints were received of the service during the year.

The sack system of refuse collection was extended to another 700 dwellings in the east and in this case the system adopted was that of the plastic bin liner. In this system a plastic sack is fitted each week inside the plastic holder, the shape and size of a conventional dust bin and fitted with a lid. This system has been operating very satisfactorily and due to the present price of plastic with considerable economy over the paper sack.

**TABLE VI. — REFUSE**

*Showing Cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal Year 1972/73 (To 31st March, 1973)*

Particulars	Collection		Disposal (Tip)		Total	
	Including loan charges	Excluding loan charges	Including loan charges	Excluding loan charges	Including loan charges	Excluding loan charges
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross Expenditure ... ..	61,473	60,019	11,663	11,010	73,136	71,029
Gross Income ... ..	2,321	2,321	4,176	4,176	6,497	6,497
<b>Net Cost ... ..</b>	<b>59,152</b>	<b>57,698</b>	<b>7,487</b>	<b>6,834</b>	<b>66,639</b>	<b>64,532</b>
Net Cost per 1,000 Population ... ..	2,687.50	2,621.44	340.16	310.50	3,027.66	2,931.94
Net Cost per 1,000 Premises ... ..	6,382.39	6,225.50	807.83	737.38	7,190.22	6,962.88
Net Cost, Equivalent Rate in the £ ... ..	4.65p	4.53p	0.59p	0.54p	5.24p	5.07p

Estimated Population (R.G.R. Mid-year 1972 ... 22,010  
 Number of Rated Premises ... .. 9,268  
 Total Rate in the £ ... .. 109½  
 Product of a 1p Rate ... .. (est.) £12,724

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

## HOUSING

The approximate number of all Dwellings for all classes to end of 1972 is 8,018.

*Dwellings Erected and in the course of Erection during 1972—*

By the Council :—			
Erected (Houses —; Bungalows —) ... ..			—
Houses and Flats in course of erection ... ..			59
By Private Enterprise :—			
Erected (Houses - 91; Flats - 4; Bungalows - 18) ... ..			113
Houses and Bungalows (in course of erection) ... ..			163
Adaptations and Conversions ... ..	Gains	5	} Net +1
	Losses	3	
(Due to demolition)	1		

## MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE

After taking Counsel's opinion and considerable discussion, the Council decided to re-survey all premises coming within their jurisdiction, with the Fire Authority and having regard to the new standards required by them. This re-survey is now in progress.

## HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

*(A) Houses Demolished during the year 1972—*

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

Unfit for human habitation ... ..	Number of houses ... ..	4
	Number of separate dwellings contained therein ... ..	4
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 ... ..	1
Number of separate dwellings contained therein ... ..	1

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

*(B) Unfit Houses closed during the year in pursuance of closing orders or undertakings :*

Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961 ...

Number of houses ... ..	3
Number of separate dwellings contained therein ... ..	3

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 ... ..	2
From houses to be demolished not in or adjoining clearance areas ... ..	2
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 ... ..	2
From houses to be demolished not in or adjoining clearance areas ... ..	—
From houses to be closed ... ..	1
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 ... ..	3
(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 ... ..	13
After formal action under Section 19(1A) Housing Act 1957 :	
(a) by owner ... ..	4
(b) by local authority ... ..	Nil
After informal action by local authority ... ..	38

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

## Position at end of year—

Retained for temporary accommodation ... ..	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*

Four 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 three 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.

I did, however, have to express my concern to the Licensing Justices at the continued habit of smoking by persons whilst engaged in working in the licensing trade. This, of course, is an offence under the Food Hygiene Regulations and I trust that the Council will not have to resort to legal proceedings in order to eradicate the habit.

*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, 1972, 171 properties were treated for rats.

Three hundred and ninety eight properties further to the above were treated for mice, and 289 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 several times throughout its entire length in the Rhyl area.

Total number of visits made during the year for rats and/or mice: 1,436.

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

Several small infestations of pigeons, numbering 29 were eradicated. It is unfortunate that in certain circumstances these birds become a pest and a nuisance and have to be destroyed.

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

### *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, 1972, 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, 1972, 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, 1972, 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 1972, ending on the 31st December.

During the year, 10 persons registered premises, bringing the total registered to 515 at the end of the year.

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 ... ..	1 ...	94 ...	34
Retail Shops ... ..	9 ...	304 ...	213
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ... ..	1 ...	16 ...	27
Catering establishments open to the public canteens ... ..	1 ...	99 ...	103
Fuel storage depots ... ..	— ...	2 ...	1
Total ... ..	12 ...	515 ...	378

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

378

No exemptions under Parts 1, 11, 111 and 1V 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 ... ..	784
Retail shops ... ..	1264
Wholesale departments, warehouses ... ..	177
Catering establishments open to the public ... ..	1030
Canteens ... ..	10
Fuel storage depots ... ..	24
Total ... ..	<u>3289</u>
Total Males ... ..	<u>1345</u>
Total Females ... ..	<u>1944</u>

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

No. of letters sent re infringements ... ..	9
Abstract not displayed ... ..	1
Cleansing and re-decoration of premises required (internal) ... ..	2
General Repairs ... ..	—
Defective or dangerous staircase ... ..	4
Defective water closet basins, pedestals and seats ... ..	5
Inadequate accommodation for clothing ... ..	—
Inadequate artificial lights ... ..	1
Inadequate cold water supply ... ..	—
Inadequate heating facilities ... ..	—
Inadequate hot water supply ... ..	2
Inadequate natural light ... ..	—
Inadequate sanitary accommodation ... ..	—
Inadequate ventilation ... ..	1
Inadequate washing facilities ... ..	2
Inadequate facilities for taking of meals ... ..	1
Insufficient first aid requisites ... ..	1
No balustrade or handrail round cellar opening in floor or on landings or staircases ... ..	2
No intervening ventilated space to water closet ... ..	—
No thermometer ... ..	—
Obstructed and dangerous surfaces to floors, staircases, etc. ....	1
Overcrowding ... ..	—
Washing facilities not marked for sexes ... ..	—
Washing facilities not separate for sexes ... ..	—
Water closet accommodation not marked for sexes ... ..	1
Unguarded machinery (Food slicers, etc.) ... ..	4
TOTAL ... ..	<u>37</u>

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 Gent's toilets at the Bowling Green was enlarged and is proving satisfactory. The John Street toilets have been demolished due to their delapidated condition and new toilets constructed on the site.

The system of free washing facilities, including supply of towel, at all conveniences where an attendant is on duty, is proving highly satisfactory, showing little abuse by the public.

*ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION**AVERAGE CONCENTRATION OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE EXPRESSED AS MICROGRAMMES PER CUBIC METRE OF AIR*

Month	Smoke	Sulphur Dioxide
January ... ..	70	43
February ... ..	55	71
March ... ..	40	70
April ... ..	15	42
May ... ..	14	46
June ... ..	13	45
July ... ..	15	64
August ... ..	13	60
September ... ..	35	58
October ... ..	54	85
November ... ..	39	45
December ... ..	63	76

Averages for Winter months, 1972 (January—March and October—December):  
Smoke 61.5, Sulphur Dioxide 62.3.

Averages for Summer months, 1972 (April to September): Smoke 17.6  
Sulphur Dioxide 52.5

TABLE F-4 Inspectors

No. of inspectors assigned under Section 53(1) or (2) of the Act  
 No. of other staff employed for most of their time on work in con-  
 nection with the Act

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

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

The public conveniences at the Bowling Green were enlarged and improved during the year. The John Street public conveniences have been demolished and new public conveniences and new toilets constructed on the site.

The system of free washing facilities, including supply of towels at all public conveniences where an attendant is on duty, is proving highly satisfactory, showing little abuse by the public.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

AVERAGE CONCENTRATION OF SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE EXPRESSED AS MICROGRAMMES PER CUBIC METRE OF AIR

Month	Sulphur Dioxide
January	43
February	71.5
March	70
April	43
May	43
June	43
July	43
August	43
September	43
October	43
November	43
December	43

Averages for Winter months 1972 (January—March and October—December):  
 Smoke 87.5 Sulphur Dioxide 63

Averages for Summer months 1972 (April to September):  
 Smoke 71.5 Sulphur Dioxide 53

