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Contributors

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I



BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1969



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TOWN HALL
BEBINGTON, WIRRAL
CHESHIRE, L63 7PT
STD CODE 051 645 2080

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FOR THE YEAR

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TOWN HALL
BEBINGTON, WIRRAL
CHESHIRE, L43 7PT
STD CODE 09 445 1080

Revised
BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

H. C. JENNINGS,
M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D. OBST., R.C.O.G.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

—
TELEPHONE
ROCK FERRY 2080

YOUR REF.

MY REF.

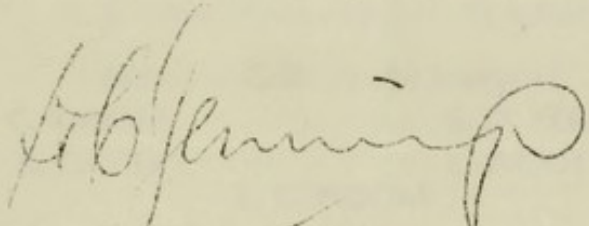
TOWN HALL
BEBINGTON
WIRRAL

1st. April 1971

ANNUAL REPORT 1969 - INFECTIOUS DISEASES TABLE CORRECTION


I regret that an error appears in table 5 on page 12 of my Annual Report for 1969. There were 5 confirmed cases of Paratyphoid fever in the Borough and 6 symptomless excretors were ascertained. The figure 5 should, therefore, be inserted against the heading Paratyphoid for the year 1969.

Only 6 cases of food poisoning were actually confirmed although some suspected cases were notified. The figure against the food poisoning for 1969 should, therefore, be changed to 6.


Medical Officer of Health

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BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor B. S. Horn

Vice-Chairman: Councillor A. E. Richmond

Aldermen:

H. GARNER

J. K. TRENCH

Councillors:

B. A. BRYNING

W. LUNGLEY

Mrs. D. GOODFELLOW

J. E. MATHIE

Mrs. J. L. GREEN

J. J. McGOVERN

Mrs. H. G. HEBRON

Mrs. E. POWL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

H. C. JENNINGS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.OBST., R.C.O.G.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

T. TOWNSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

R. B. VAUGHAN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

J. C. KNEALE

B. D. YOUNG

T. A. DAVIES

L. WOOTTEN

L. C. MOORE

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

R. C. MILNER

Technical Assistant:

R. D. GREEN

Clerical Staff:

Miss M. HOSKER

Mrs. M. WHEAT

Mrs. J. HOLLAND

Miss C. RADSTOCK

(To 26.10.69)

(From 24.3.69)

Miss P. SHUKER

Mrs. C. BALE

(To 15.3.69)

(From 27.10.69)

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report for 1969.

The adjusted birth rate per thousand of the estimated population was 17.3 – for the second year in succession.

For the nineteenth successive year no death was associated with pregnancy or childbirth. The overall adjusted death rate was 12.7 per thousand of the estimated population. This figure represents a difference of less than 1% from the 1968 statistic.

For the sixteenth year in succession no case of diphtheria was notified in the Borough and for the sixth successive year no case of poliomyelitis was notified. As I pointed out in the preface to last year's report there must be no complacency regarding this freedom from serious infectious disease and it is essential that a very high acceptance of immunisation of children should be maintained.

However, the importation of certain infectious diseases from abroad may be impossible to prevent if their presence remains undetected during transit, (e.g. because the illness is still in the incubation stage) and if specific immunisation is not mandatory. This point is illustrated by the following account of a general outbreak of Paratyphoid that occurred in 1969 amongst a party of Bebington and Birkenhead people who had visited the Channel Islands:

On the 1st October the Divisional Education Officer advised the Public Health Department that an employee in the School Meals Service was absent from duty suffering from enteritis. That same afternoon a message was received from a local practitioner to the effect that a male patient had been admitted to Clatterbridge Hospital and was thought to be suffering from Paratyphoid Fever. Immediate action was taken. The school canteen employee was visited and found to have fallen ill on the 30th September with abdominal pain, fever and vomiting. These initial symptoms had abated considerably but the patient was still confined to bed. It was ascertained that she had been to the Channel Islands with a party of people consisting mainly of old age pensioners. A visit was then paid to the home of the man who had been admitted to hospital. It was a matter of some alarm to learn that he too was associated with food handling. He had been on the same holiday. Fortunately, since his return home he had had no contact with food designed for sale to the public. Steps were taken to investigate the immediate contacts of both patients.

Visits were then paid to the organisers of this holiday in order to find out the identity of all those people who had participated in the trip. Unfortunately, the lists of holiday makers were both incomplete and inaccurate. It is clearly essential that organisers of holidays abroad, such as this, should compile full and accurate lists of all the participants. In this particular incident a great deal of hard and needless work was required before all holiday makers had been traced to our satisfaction.

Neighbouring public health departments were alerted of the outbreak, which is the standard procedure, quite apart from the fact that a handful of holiday makers lived outside the Bebington and Birkenhead boundaries. It was eventually discovered that 97 people went on this holiday. Visits were paid to them all and arrangements made for their examination. Consequently 22 people were found to be affected by a Paratyphoid Group B organism. In view of the potential gravity of the situation it was thought wise to obtain three consecutive negative faecal results before regarding the remaining 75 people as unaffected. Of the 22 people found to be excreting bacteria only seven were found to have suffered symptoms, but it is sad to record that the patient who was admitted to Clatterbridge Hospital died six days after admission. The well known danger of the symptomless excretor of enteric fever organisms was well illustrated by this investigation and indicates how infection could spread insidiously without detection unless full precautions are taken. Altogether three affected food handlers were excluded from employment. A total of 320 visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors of this borough in the course of dealing with this incident. Several visits were made to the meeting places of old age pensioners, who had been on this holiday, in order to explain as clearly and accurately as possible to them the salient features of the illness and the steps to be taken in its eradication in this borough. In all, a considerable amount of time was spent outside the normal working hours of the department in order to trace and interview all possible contacts.

Another familiar characteristic of the infecting organism, well illustrated by this incident, was the protracted carrier state found in a minority of those infected. All infected persons were required to submit four consecutive negative faecal specimens before being released from surveillance. Owing to the possibility of sporadic recurrence of excretion of the organism after what appears to be the end of a prolonged carrier state a handler of open food discontinued employment. A home help who had been infected without symptoms was excluded from work for a period of six weeks. She appeared to be quite free from infection at the end of this period and was allowed to return to certain duties.

Yet another principle illustrated by this episode was the high degree of co-operation elicited from the public by helpful investigators who are prepared to explain the full purpose of the essentials of infectious disease control.

My thanks are due once again to Mr. Townson, the Chief Public Health Inspector, for compiling the report on environmental hygiene which follows, and to Mr. Turner, my administrative assistant, for presenting the vital statistics.

H. C. JENNINGS

September, 1970

VITAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	12,244
Registrar General's estimated population (mid 1969)	...	...	...	...	...	57,060
Dwelling houses at 31st December, 1969	...	...	...	...	...	19,660
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1969	...	...	...	...	...	£2,869,811
Product of Penny Rate 1969/70 (Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	£11,871

Live Births	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
Legitimate	918	453	465	
Illegitimate	53	25	28	
	—			
	971			
	—			
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	...	17.0
Birth rate adjusted by comparability factor of 1.02	...	...	...	17.3
Birth rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales	...	...	...	16.3
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	5.5

Still Births	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
Legitimate	12	7	5	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
	—			
	12			
	—			
Total live and still births...	...	...	...	983
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	12.2
for England and Wales	...	...	...	13.0

Infant Deaths

Deaths of Infants under ONE year—Legitimate 9 }				
Illegitimate 2 }	...	...	...	11
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	11.3
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	9.8
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	37.7
Deaths under FOUR WEEKS—Legitimate 7 }				
Illegitimate 1 }	...	...	...	8
Neonatal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)...	...	...	...	8.2
for England and Wales	...	...	...	12.0
Early Neonatal Deaths (under 1 week)	...	...	...	7
Early Neonatal mortality rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	7.2
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	...	...	...	19.3

Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)

Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	Nil
for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	0.19

Deaths	Total	Male	Female
	681	320	361
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	11.9
Death rate adjusted by comparability factor of 1.07	...	...	12.7
Death rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales	...	...	11.9

TABLE I
Comparative Annual Numbers and Rates of Births and Deaths for
Borough of Bebington since 1939

Year	Popula- tion	Live Births		Infant Deaths		Maternal Mortality			Deaths all ages	
		Total No.	Rate Per 1,000 Popu'n (ad- justed)	Total No.	Rate Per 1,000 Live Births	Puer. Fever	Other	Rate Per 1,000 Live Births	Total No.	Rate Per 1,000 Popu'n (ad- justed)
1939	42,000	781	18.61	34	43.53	—	2	2.56	396	9.38
1940	43,180	682	13.48	46	67.2	2	1	4.68	470	10.88
1941	41,910	688	16.42	36	52.6	—	1	1.46	482	11.5
1942	41,880	748	17.8	21	28.07	—	—	—	403	9.6
1943	41,300	748	18.11	47	62.83	—	—	—	455	11.01
1944	41,970	857	20.41	36	42.00	—	—	—	434	10.34
1945	42,390	788	18.3	39	49.00	1	2	3.8	419	10.02
1946	45,620	875	19.4	45	51.0	—	1	1.14	489	10.8
1947	46,640	914	19.6	47	51.3	—	1	1.09	470	10.1
1948	46,780	809	17.2	37	45.5	—	1	1.2	432	9.2
1949	47,030	706	14.9	24	33.9	—	2	2.8	471	9.9
1950	47,150	687	14.5	18	26.2	—	1	1.4	460	9.7
1951	47,300	648	13.7	17	26.3	1	—	1.52	562	11.6
1952	47,790	651	13.7	17	26.2	—	—	—	529	11.0
1953	48,220	643	12.9	21	32.6	—	—	—	499	11.0
1954	48,740	635	13.7	15	23.6	—	—	—	478	10.2
1955	49,100	663	14.2	19	28.7	—	—	—	513	10.8
1956	49,950	753	15.8	16	21.2	—	—	—	509	11.4
1956	50,150	766	15.9	10	13.1	—	—	—	524	11.6
1958	50,540	722	15.9	21	27.2	—	—	—	552	12.1
1959	51,050	816	16.6	18	22.1	—	—	—	554	12.1
1960	51,640	870	17.5	27	31.0	—	—	—	554	12.0
1961	52,060	907	17.6	16	17.6	—	—	—	639	14.1
1962	52,980	858	16.4	16	18.6	—	—	—	641	13.8
1963	53,420	978	18.7	16	16.4	—	—	—	708	14.6
1964	54,070	954	18.0	15	15.7	—	—	—	632	12.8
1965	54,520	928	17.4	20	21.6	—	—	—	639	12.6
1966	55,140	929	17.1	17	18.3	—	—	—	663	12.7
1967	55,520	1018	18.7	10	9.8	—	—	—	650	12.6
1968	56,230	954	17.3	17	17.8	—	—	—	674	12.8
1969	57,060	971	17.3	11	11.3	—	—	—	681	12.7

It will be noted that the death rate for all ages was higher in 1969 than 1939. The reason for this lies in the fact that our population is ageing, and the proportion of elderly people in the community has become higher.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population of the borough at the 30th June was 57,060.

All statistical data for the year throughout this report is based on the mid-year estimate of 57,060. This is 830 more than 1968 and shows the uninterrupted upward trend since 1946.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1989
(As Compiled by the Registrar-General)

[illegible]

[illegible]

Births

971 live births were referable to the borough which gave a rate of 17.3 per thousand of the population compared to 954 and 17.3 the previous year.

53 illegitimate births were registered during the year.

Deaths

According to the Registrar General 681 deaths were referable to Bebington during 1969 giving a crude death rate of 11.9 and an adjusted death rate of 12.7.

There were 6 residents of the borough killed in road accidents.

Infant Mortality

11 infants under one year of age died giving an infant Mortality Rate of 11.3 per thousand compared with 17 deaths and a rate of 17.8 in 1968. 8 of these deaths were under one month. The rate for England and Wales was 18.0 per thousand.

The Perinatal Mortality Rate which is now recognised as the rate for infant deaths under one week and still births was 19.3.

TABLE III

Cause of death of those dying under one month

Cause of death	Male	Female	Total
Prematurity	2	4	6
Pneumonia	1	—	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	—	1
TOTAL	4	4	8

Maternal Mortality

No Maternal death has occurred in the borough since 1951. Statistically, on the basis of the national figures, one maternal death should occur in the borough once in every four years.

TABLE IV

Stillbirths, Neonatal (Infants under 1 month) Deaths and Rates per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths

Year	Total No. of Live and still Births	No. of Still Births	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and still Births	No. of Deaths Infants under one month	Neo-Natal Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births	No. of Still Births plus No. of Neo-Natal Deaths	Early Neo-Natal Death and Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and still Births
1939	807	26	32	26	32	52	64
1940	722	38	53	22	30	60	83
1941	708	24	34	18	25	42	59
1942	771	23	30	8	10	31	40
1943	788	40	51	29	25	60	76
1944	884	27	31	23	26	50	57
1945	881	23	28	23	29	46	57
1946	900	25	28	32	35	57	63
1947	936	22	24	35	37	57	61
1948	832	23	28	26	31	49	59
1949	730	19	26	19	26	38	52
1950	711	24	24	15	21	39	55
1951	655	7	11	11	16	18	27
1952	670	19	28	15	23	34	51
1953	661	18	27	15	23	33	50
1954	654	19	29	13	20	32	49
1955	681	18	26	13	20	31	46
1956	771	18	23	13	16	31	39
1957	786	20	25	6	8	26	33
1958	785	13	17	15	19	28	36
1959	828	12	15	15	18	27	33
1960	883	13	15	21	24	34	39
1961	921	14	15	12	13	26	28
1962	875	17	19	10	11	27	31
1963	999	21	21	11	11	32	32
1964	972	18	19	11	12	29	30
1965	939	11	12	12	13	23	21
1966	946	17	18	14	15	31	32
1967	1030	12	12	8	8	20	19
1968	964	10	10	12	13	22	20
1969	983	12	12	8	8	20	19

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

TABLE V

No. of notified infectious diseases occurring in Bebington according to year and disease.

DISEASE	YEAR														
	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Scarlet Fever ...	34	15	37	38	74	31	21	17	33	22	56	49	47	19	15
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	97	150	134	27	80	58	12	11	42	86	41	22	49	8	18
Measles ...	497	255	496	170	906	327	681	606	345	610	425	381	404	584	13
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis...	1	1	6	8	6	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	3	2	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	39	19	22	18	69	22	22	345	24	62	168	34	90	5	31
Food Poisoning	47	9	4	54	20	48	18	13	19	23	25	15	—	19	23
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Malaria...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	18

Scarlet Fever

15 cases of scarlet fever were notified during 1969. This disease continues in a very mild form and no case was admitted to hospital during the year.

Diphtheria

It is now sixteen years since a case of diphtheria was notified. It is most important that young children are immunised against this disease in order to prevent any future outbreak which could well prove deadly.

Whooping Cough

18 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year. 7 of these were known to be immunised. There were three cases under one year which is the age at which this disease is most severe. Whilst it is known that immunisation is not 100% effective against this disease even when not completely preventative it modifies the course of the disease and the serious sequelae which used to occur are uncommon in the immunised child.

Measles

13 cases of measles were notified during 1969.

Smallpox

No cases were notified in the borough — none was notified for England and Wales.

Poliomyelitis

No cases were notified in the borough for the sixth successive year.

Food Poisoning

23 notifications of food poisoning were received during the year.

Dysentery

31 cases were notified during 1969.

Sonné dysentery is a mild disease more of a nuisance than an illness to the majority of sufferers although it can have serious consequences in the very young and the very old and probably only a very small percentage of sufferers call in a doctor and are subsequently notified to the health department. Although it is always with us some years it is more prevalent than others.

Tuberculosis

There were 5 notifications of respiratory tuberculosis in 1969.

Two deaths were attributed to respiratory tuberculosis during 1969.

TABLE VI
Notifications and the number of deaths from tuberculosis during 1969.

Age in years	Notifications				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 —	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
35 —	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45 —	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
55 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 —	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
75 & over	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	2	3	3	1	1	1	—	—
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"><div style="text-align: center;">5</div><div style="text-align: center;">4</div><div style="text-align: center;">2</div><div style="text-align: center;">—</div></div>								

TABLE VII

The following table shows the number of notifications, the number of deaths, and the death rate from Tuberculosis during the last twenty-two years.

Year	Notifications				Number of Deaths				Death rate from Resp. T.B. England & Wales per 1,000 popul'n
	Respiratory Total No.	Rate/1,000 popul'n	Non-Respiratory Total No.	Rate/1,000 popul'n	Respiratory Total No.	Rate/1,000 popul'n	Non-Respiratory Total No.	Rate/1,000 popul'n	
1948	37	0.79	5	0.11	18	0.38	2	0.04	0.51
1949	50	1.06	6	0.13	23	0.49	2	0.04	0.49
1950	41	0.87	8	0.17	11	0.23	—	—	0.36
1951	47	0.99	9	0.19	11	0.23	4	0.08	0.32
1952	42	0.88	11	0.23	11	0.23	4	0.08	0.24
1953	35	0.73	5	0.10	4	0.08	1	0.02	0.20
1954	42	0.86	12	0.25	2	0.04	2	0.04	0.18
1955	29	0.59	2	0.04	5	0.10	—	—	0.13
1956	44	0.88	3	0.06	9	0.18	—	—	0.11
1957	36	0.72	2	0.04	2	0.04	—	—	0.095
1958	21	0.42	6	0.12	4	0.08	1	0.02	0.10
1959	12	0.24	3	0.06	4	0.08	—	—	0.077
1960	17	0.33	3	0.06	3	0.06	2	0.04	0.068
1961	11	0.21	2	0.04	1	0.02	—	—	0.065
1962	20	0.38	3	0.06	2	0.04	—	—	0.059
1963	18	0.34	—	—	1	0.02	—	—	0.056
1964	10	0.18	—	—	2	0.04	—	—	0.047
1965	15	0.27	—	—	2	0.04	2	0.04	0.042
1966	7	0.13	—	—	3	0.05	—	—	0.043
1967	5	0.09	3	0.05	1	0.02	—	—	0.037
1968	2	0.04	—	—	—	—	1	0.02	0.030
1969	5	0.09	4	0.07	2	0.04	—	—	0.022

Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1969

Respiratory Cases 121

Non-Respiratory Cases 20

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

TABLE VIII

This Table shows the number and types of Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during. 1969.

	Totals for 1969	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices	Notices complied with
Dwellinghouses Inspected	1,688	206	—	—
Dwellinghouses Reinspected	2,372	—	61	202
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises ...	1,125	77	—	56
Tents, Vans and Sheds	13	—	—	—
Factories with Mechanical Power ...	65	13	—	1
Factories without Mechanical Power ...	36	1	—	1
Workplaces	5	—	—	—
Schools	27	—	—	—
Hairdressers	17	3	—	—
Public Conveniences	24	—	—	—
Drains	1,244	49	25	43
Ditches and Watercourses	43	2	—	—
Cesspools	5	—	—	—
Septic Tanks	40	—	—	—
Courts and Passages	39	—	—	—
Refuse Tips	54	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	103	—	—	—
Dustbins	355	—	—	—
Food Premises	1,130	113	—	64
Food Hawkers	37	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	67	1	—	—
Animal Boarding Establishments ...	4	—	—	—
Piggeries	1	—	—	—
Pet Shops	9	1	—	—
Scrap Metal Dealers	4	—	—	—
Food Poisoning Visits	658	—	—	—
Dysentery Visits and Revisits	388	—	—	—
Infectious Disease Visits	6	—	—	—
Rodent Control	860	8	—	—
Verminous Premises	122	—	—	—
Smoke Control	3,461	1	—	—
Atmospheric Pollution	109	—	—	—
Noise Observations	19	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	597	—	—	—
Appointments Outside Office	283	—	—	—
<i>Food and Drugs Sampling:</i>				
Nature and Substance	125	—	—	—
Visits	19	—	—	—
<i>Bacteriological Sampling:</i>				
Ice Cream	8	—	—	—
Milk	12	—	—	—
Swimming Bath Water	54	—	—	—
Other Foods	2	—	—	—
TOTALS:	15,230	475	86	367

HOUSING

During the year, as anticipated, the 1969 Housing Act came into force, an Act primarily designed to encourage further the improvement of dwellings lacking the basic amenities. The new incentives are – increase in grants, standard grants increase from £155 to £200 for all the standard amenities, and improvement grants from £400 to £1,000, and a very important new section allowing grants to cover certain repairs and replacements needed for the purpose of making fully effective other improvements carried out at the same time. The cost of these works of repair and replacement which can be approved is limited however to a maximum of 50% of the whole amount approved. Examples of this type of repair are replacement of damp proof courses and roof repairs, rainwater pipes and gutters, worn out electrical wiring installations etc.

The 1969 Act also introduces a new system governing the rents of privately controlled rented dwellings which have been brought up to a satisfactory standard. It will be the duty of the Local Authority to deal with applications for qualification certificates from landlords of controlled dwellings to enable the tenancy to be changed from controlled to regulated and if approved to allow the landlord to contact the Rent Officer to have a fair rent fixed. The qualifying conditions for the approval of these certificates are that the dwelling has all the standard amenities for the exclusive use of the occupants, that it is in a good state of repair, having regard to its age, character and locality, internal decorative repair being disregarded and that it is otherwise fit for human habitation. The result of these added incentives means that the compulsory improvement of dwellings allowed under the previous Act which has worked quite well in the Borough has been repealed. Whether the new incentives of larger grants and increased rents after improvements (the rents could be raised between £1.10.0 – £2.0.0 per week) will result in an increase in the number of dwellings improved is in my opinion open to doubt. Although it is early yet to give a definite answer I feel that the powers of compulsory improvement should have been retained. The coming into force of this Act has certainly slowed down our applications for grants and improvements in our No. 3 and 4 Compulsory Improvement Areas i.e. Trafalgar Drive and Marquis Street.

Compulsory Improvement of Dwellings:

Trafalgar Drive, Erfurt Avenue, Poplar Drive, Bromborough Road, Collingwood Road, Carlton Road and Newlands Road, Bebington.

Area No. 3

Work continued during the year on the conversion of small rear bedrooms into bathrooms and by the end of the year nine such conversions had been completed.

Marquis Street, Kempton Road, Esher Road, Earl Street, New Ferry.

Area No. 4

The properties in this area were declared an Improvement Area towards the end of last year. Up to date no work of improvement has commenced, the landlords in question were obviously awaiting the introduction of the new Act. Since the Act came into force at the end of July, negotiations have again commenced with the various agents for the properties.

Napier Road 2 to 46, 1-51, 61-65, Ingleby Road 2-32, 1-31, Woodford Road 2-30, 1-29, Cecil Road 2-16, 1-27, Beverley Road 29-47 and New Ferry Road 65-71, 73-89, 97-105, New Ferry.

Area No. 5

In January the above dwellings in the named roads and streets were declared No. 5 Compulsory Improvement Area. The area comprised 174 dwellings, 79 tenanted, 91 owner/occupied and 4 vacant. As on all previous occasions discussions took place with the various interested parties and advice was given on the implications arising from the improvement of the properties. By the end of the year 3 tenanted and 1 owner/occupied properties had been improved by the addition of extension bathrooms.

Private Improvement:

Port Sunlight Village

Work continued satisfactorily during the year on the improvement scheme for this Village and by the end of the year 38 more dwellings were completed namely 6 in Circular Drive, 2 in Poolbank, 4 in Lodge Lane and 26 in New Chester Road.

Bromborough Pool Village

Work commenced at the beginning of the year on the improvement of the dwellings in the above Village, as outlined in last years Annual Report. By the end of the year 12 dwellings had been brought up to the required standard by the addition of extension bathrooms. Work is proceeding satisfactorily and it is anticipated that the whole of Stage I will be completed by the middle of 1970. One pleasing aspect in the improvements is the environmental work carried out by the owners of the Village, Price's Chemicals Ltd., especially in the York Street area.

52-74 Eastham Village Road

One further improvement has been carried out during the year. The owner has again been approached and advised of the new improvement and repair grants now available under the new Act.

Standard Grants:

During the year 57 applications were received and approved. 35 of these qualified for the higher limit for extension bathrooms mainly at Bromborough Pool at an average of £319 per dwelling. The other 22 were for the provision of various standard amenities to bring the dwellings up to the full standard at an average of £111 per dwelling.

Discretionary Improvement Grants:

7 applications were received and approved. 1 application was for the provision of a damp proof course, one for the division of a bedroom into a bathroom, and the other for the conversion of one house to 3 dwellings, at an average of £208 per dwelling.

Housing Repairs:

During the year a total of 147 complaints were received. 206 Informal Notices and 61 Statutory Notices were served to secure the abatement of nuisances.

CLEAN AIR

The Smoke Control policy for the Borough continued to progress smoothly during the year. The survey of No. 13 area was completed and details duly submitted to the Health Committee, and it was recommended that the Minister be requested to confirm the Order made in respect of this Area. The Order was subsequently confirmed and comes into operation on July 1st 1970. This area is the final stage in the first phase of the Councils Smoke Control programme which when in operation will result in the whole of the north western area of the Borough being smokeless.

This area is bounded by the westerly side of the Chester/Birkenhead railway line, extending from the North side of Spital Road to the south side of Bebington Road and continuing along the easterly side of the Village and Church Road thence westerly along the south side of Fairacres Road and Quarry Avenue and following a line to the junction with Cross Lane and Beechway to the junction with Spital Road, thence easterly along the north side of Spital Road to the railway line. The area is approximately 220 acres in size comprising 934 privately owned dwellings, 356 local authority dwellings, 34 commercial premises and 1 industrial premises and 8 others. The total estimated cost of replacements and conversions amounted to £65,000 for privately owned dwellings and £24,500 for local authority dwellings.

Now that No. 13 area is completed it is intended to survey the pockets of areas west of the railway line not covered by Smoke Control Orders. There are areas that were left when smoke control areas were made on land due for redevelopment. This development is now virtually completed and it is intended to circle the area commencing from Spital Station thence westerly along Spital Road to its junction with Poulton Road thence southerly along Poulton Road to the Dibbinsdale Brook, then following the Brook to Eastham Rake, plus a small area east of the railway line, to bring in the older dwellings in Plymyard Avenue. The first phase will be the overall control of the Poulton area comprising 2 new development areas and 1 area comprising dwellings built before 16th August 1964. These areas will be numbered 20(2) and 20(3) and 20(4). The second phase will be the "Marfords" area which will include the two areas Nos. 18 and 21, the third phase the control of the Brookhurst Area No. 22 and finally the Plymyard Avenue Area No. 16. By the end of the year the two development areas

No. 20 (Stage 2) 24 acres in size comprising 166 dwellings, and No. 20(3) 72 acres in size comprising 11 privately owned dwellings and 345 local authority dwellings, had been submitted to the Committee, and the necessary orders made which were eventually confirmed by the Minister, both areas to come into operation on the 1st July 1970. The cost to the Local Authority for these two areas amounts to £300. The two areas No. 20(4) 22 acres in size and comprising 101 dwellings at a cost of £1,860 to the local authority, and Area No. 18, thirty-three acres in size, comprising 144 dwellings, at a cost of £425 to the local authority were also submitted to Committee, and the necessary orders made which were subsequently confirmed by the Minister to come into operation on July 1st 1971.

Regular inspections carried out at our Smoke Control Areas again revealed that occupiers were complying with the Order to burn only authorised smokeless fuels.

Once again visits to the industrial area revealed that on the whole very little trouble was experienced from smoke nuisances. As a result of complaints of a fall-out onto the nearby industrial village from a chimney serving an incinerator, the firm in question installed arresting equipment and observations since have shown a definite improvement. Due to the increased use of plastics which are extremely difficult to burn satisfactorily without causing a smoke nuisance it was necessary to contact the firm requesting that the persons concerned with the burning be made fully aware of the strict precautions to be taken to prevent the emission of black smoke.

Five applications were received during the year under Section 3 of the Clean Air Act 1956 for prior approval to install furnaces. These applications were approved.

NOISE NUISANCE

Further complaints were received during the year from the Arkwood Close area of a noise nuisance described as a high pitch whining noise similar to that mentioned in last year's Annual Report. Investigations revealed that the source of the noise, which could never be classed under the heading of a statutory nuisance, was an extractor fan in a factory on the east side of New Chester Road. Investigation following the first complaint revealed that the trouble had been caused by the failure to replace the casing surrounding the fan after maintenance, the second complaint was caused by the failure to replace the casings around the belt drive and motor after a breakdown of the motor, and the third the result of a further breakdown of the wet extractor plant. Observations at varying times are still being carried out.

When investigating complaints of this nature the inspector invariably finds himself involved in problems. He interviews people living in the area where one person is convinced there is a noise nuisance whilst a near neighbour will scarcely hear a noise. These noise complaints almost always happen late at night or in the early hours of the morning even though perhaps the noise may be produced twenty-four hours a day. High pitched

whining noises from fans and some electric motors are the most common source of complaint, and were typical this year. Much work, including many visits in the late evening and early hours of the morning have been carried out by this Department and when it has been found necessary to approach any particular firm full co-operation has been forthcoming in all cases. By this informal approach much has been accomplished to reduce the sound level in the Borough.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

By the end of the year a total of 428 premises had been registered under the Act. The number of persons employed at the premises were 2,273, this total being sub-divided into 831 males and 1,442 females.

The number of premises receiving a full general inspection during the year were:

Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Wholesale Premises and Warehouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

The total number of visits and re-visits during the year were 1,125 which resulted in 71 Informal Notices being served on 11 offices, 55 shops and 1 catering establishment. A total of 295 offences were found and are summarised as follows:

Section		Offices	Shops	Wholesale and Warehouses	Catering Establishments
4	Cleanliness ...	2	24	—	—
5	Overcrowding ...	2	—	—	—
6	Temperature ...	5	14	—	—
7	Ventilation ...	4	16	—	—
8	Lighting ...	7	35	—	—
9	Sanitary Conveniences ...	8	33	—	—
10	Washing Facilities ...	4	25	—	—
11	Drinking Water ...	2	6	—	—
12	Clothing Accommodation...	3	6	—	—
13	Seating Accommodation ...	—	2	—	—
14	Seats for Sedentary Workers ...	—	1	—	—
15	Eating Facilities ...	—	2	—	—
16	Condition of Floors, Passages and Stairs ...	—	22	—	1
17	Guarding of Machinery ...	—	9	—	—
24	First Aid ...	—	27	—	—
27	Dangerous Acts ...	—	1	—	—
42	Common Parts ...	2	1	—	—
49	Notification of Employment ...	—	1	—	—
50	Absence of Information for Employees ...	—	29	—	—
20	Hoist and Lift Regulations ...	—	1	—	—

Ten accidents all in shops were notified during the year, one more than in the previous year. Investigations were carried out in all cases. Six accidents were falls, three were caused by the use of hand tools, two by cleavers, one by knife, and one by striking an object. None of the accidents was fatal and informal advice was given in each case.

It was found necessary to take legal proceedings for offences at two premises during the year.

Ladies Hairdresser:

Prosecutions taken for:

1. Effective and suitable provision was not made for securing and maintaining the ventilation of the salon (section 7)1).
2. Effective provision was not made for securing and maintaining suitable and sufficient lighting on the staircase (section 8)1).
3. Effective means of lighting the washroom used by the male employees had not been provided (section 10)2).
4. The First Aid Box did not contain First Aid requirements and appliances as prescribed by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises First Aid Order 1964 (section 24)2).

Items 3 and 4 were completed before the Court hearing.

The Inspector gave evidence and advised why in his opinion power ventilation was necessary in the Salon and why additional lighting at least to the minimum standard recommended as acceptable by the Ministry was required on the staircase. The defendant pleaded not guilty but refused to give evidence and made a statement to the Court. Each offence was found proved, however, and fines of £10, £3, £3 and £3 imposed respectively with £7.7.0 advocates fee and £1.16.0 costs, a total of £28.3.0d.

Greengrocers:

Prosecution taken for:

1. Failure to provide effective means of ventilation in the washroom (section 10)3).

The defendant pleaded not guilty by letter but the inspector's evidence convinced the Court that it would be reasonably practicable to provide adequate ventilation in the washroom and that this need not adversely affect the security of the premises. The case was found proved and a fine of £10 imposed with £7.7.0 advocates fee, a total of £17.7.0.

The necessary work has since been completed at both premises.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1957 and 1959

The number of factories at the end of the year totalled 153. The following tables show the results of inspection in the form required by the Minister of Labour.

TABLE IX

I. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	36	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	111	65	13	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	21	15	—	—
Total	153	116	14	—

TABLE X

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	14	8	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total	16	10	—	—	—

TABLE XI
3. OUTWORKERS

Nature of work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (b) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel (Making)	2	—	—	—	—	—

GENERAL SANITATION

Water Supply:

The Wirral Water Board supply water from four sources, Prenton, Mouldsworth, Hooton and Sutton Hall. The first three named are underground supplies, the last one is River Dee derived.

The supply in the area has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

Regular Bacteriological and chemical examinations are made and in the case of Bebington the results are satisfactory.

The fluoride content of the supplies is less than 0.1 p.p.m. in all cases.

Unfortunately no separate figures are available for the Bebington area with regard to the number of dwelling-houses and the number of population supplied from public water mains direct to the houses, or by means of stand-pipes.

Sewerage:

The main drainage work at Eastham commenced on the 8th May 1969 the duration of the Contract being two years and at present work is up to schedule. On completion the serious surcharging of the existing sewers together with surface flooding should be abated.

It is proposed in Blakeley Road to eliminate certain septic tanks from older properties by extending a recently laid builder's estate sewer. Subject to obtaining loan sanction the work could commence within twelve months.

Detail plans of sewers and a sewage disposal plant for the village of Brimstage are to be prepared.

House Drainage:

During the year 371 complaints of choked drains were received by the Department. Testing and examination of drains resulted in 1,244 visits being made, 49 informal notices and 25 statutory notices being served.

Public Conveniences:

Public Conveniences were regularly inspected throughout the year and all nuisances and defects reported to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor were remedied without delay.

Tips:

No complaints were received from the public during the year regarding the Spital Refuse Tip and routine visits showed the Tip to be well worked and controlled.

Pet Shops:

There are three Pet Shops registered with the Local Authority and inspections revealed the premises to have a high standard of cleanliness.

Animal Boarding Establishments:

The four Animal Boarding Establishments registered were found to be well kept and the facilities provided for the animals were satisfactory.

Riding Establishments:

Two Riding Establishments are licensed with the Council. These licences were approved by the Health Committee on the recommendations of a Veterinary Certificate.

Schools:

Routine visits were again made to schools to inspect kitchens, dining halls, conveniences and ablutions. In all cases where defects were found the Divisional Education Officer was informed.

Disinfestation:

The Health Department provides a disinfestation service for the destruction of insect pests of all kinds. In addition to this, treatment of bedding and clothing can be undertaken by steam disinfestation.

The following figures show the number of premises treated:

- 4 Household bed bugs
- 12 Houses for woodworm infestation
- 231 Houses for other vermin.

RODENT CONTROL

Infestations of mice found to be resistant to Warfarin were again the main problem and there is increasing evidence that Alphakil a narcotic poison is not fully effective. Zinc Phosphide an acute poison was finally used to clear the affected premises. The control of rats in the Borough was, however, highly successful.

The following statistics indicate the work carried out during the year:

Major Primary – Infestation 20 and over

Minor Secondary – Infestation up to 20

TABLE XII

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses including Council Houses	All other including Business Premises	Total of Columns 1, 2 & 3	Agricultural
Total number of Properties inspected as a result of Survey or otherwise ...	72	303	129	504	55
Total inspections carried out including re-inspections ...	174	1603	686	2463	113
No. of Properties inspected which were found to be infested by:					
Rats ... Major ...	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ...	47	186	76	309	39
Mice ... Major ...	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ...	21	109	43	173	10
No. of infested properties treated by L.A. ...	74	295	120	489	49
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments ...	162	1572	569	2303	73

Types of visits made :

Dwellinghouses

(including Council Houses) ... 1603

L.A. Property

1. Tips and non-agricultural work ... 68
2. Sewage Works ... 43
3. Other Buildings ... 63

Business Premises

1. Factories and Workplaces ... 400
2. Shops... ... 90
3. Places of Entertainment ... 5
4. Licensed Premises ... 5
5. Cafes and Canteens... ... —
6. Non-agricultural land ... 14

Agricultural Properties

1. Market Gardens and Farms	...	...	...	74
2. Piggeries	...	...	...	26
3. Agricultural land	...	...	...	13

Other Authority Properties

1. Schools	...	...	...	97
2. Hospitals	...	...	...	75

2576

No. of Dwellinghouse contracts signed	...	...	...	232
No. of Estimates provided (Industry and Business premises)				92
No. of Contracts signed	...	...	...	78
Value of Estimates during 1969	...	...	...	£852.3.4d.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT 1955 — FOOD HYGIENE

As in previous years a substantial part of the district public health inspector's time was spent on food hygiene dealing with routine inspection under the Food Hygiene Regulations, following up of complaints and a very important aspect, the giving of advice to managers and shop assistants impressing upon them the importance of prevention of disease of the food poisoning type. The trade in Bebington is now generally convinced of the need for hot water, wash hand basins and adequate sinks, and dirty premises are now uncommon in the Borough.

The main problems encountered during the year were refrigeration and the storage and disposal of waste. Refrigerator breakdowns create a great deal of work for the public health inspectors who are called upon by the shopkeeper to examine the foods, and if necessary to arrange for its disposal. Why there are so many refrigeration failures is not easy to determine. Certainly in some but not all instances failure is due to overloading.

The problems encountered with regard to the storage and disposal of waste from food shops, particularly from super-markets, are due to two factors. Firstly the increase in wrapped goods and the wide range of foods, and secondly, and the more important, the lack of ample storage facilities which are provided. These mainly arise at premises which have been converted from the general grocers shop into a "self-service Supermarket but even in some newly designed Supermarkets this same state exists. It would be beneficial both to the trade and the Department if the architects would consult with the Chief Public Health Inspector at the Planning Stage.

FOOD PREMISES

Registered Premises under the Food & Drugs Act

Preserving and frying of food	66
Ice Cream	153
Registration of Hawkers under the Cheshire County Council Act, 1953	53

Meat Inspection:

Meat inspection is now only carried out at the small private slaughterhouse in New Ferry and the quality of animals are such that no problems have been encountered during the year.

TABLE XIII

NEW FERRY

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed ...	76	—	—	393	—	469
Ante-mortem inspection including supervision of humane slaughter	76	—	—	393	—	469
Notice of slaughter received ...	76	—	—	393	—	469
Emergency notifications ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-mortem inspection ...	76	—	—	393	—	469
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	29	—	—	61	—	90
Percentage of number affected	40.2%	—	—	15.3%	—	19.9%

Other Condemned Food:

The following table indicates tinned and other goods found to be unsound following notification or visits to warehouses, canteens and shops:

1,988 tins Meat	96 Steak and Kidney Puddings
51 tins Fruit and Vegetable	62 tins Soup
2 lbs. Beef Sausage	4 tins Spaghettia Hoops
146 lbs. Bacon	4 pkts. Cereals
67 lbs. Ham	3 jars Preserves
30½ lbs. Rib Beef	4 jars Salad Cream
1 leg Lamb	1 tin Pie Filling
12 Chickens	66 jars Oxo
12 Chicken Breasts	24 jars Bifti
7 lbs. Fish	1 bottle Lemon Drink
72 tins Steak and Onions	1 tin Milk
1 bottle Sauce	56 lbs. Dried Milk
1 oz. Ground Pepper	1 lb. Currants
3 lbs. Marzipan	342 Meat Pies and Pasties
1 pkt. Bread Crumbs	9 lbs. Sugar
1 pkt. Ryvita	140 lbs. Flour
1 tin Syrup	1 tin Macaroni
3 pkts. Biscuits	1 pkt. Cut Peel

Due to refrigeration breakdown the following frozen foods were condemned:

82 pkts. Beef	15 pkts. Fish and Chips
4 pkts. Steaklets	31 pkts. Fish Cakes
125 pkts. Beefburgers	29 pkts. Fish
10 pkts. Cheeseburgers	4 pkts. Potato Fry
37 Savoury Beef Pies	17 pkts. Potato Croquettes
192 Steak and Kidney Pies	16 pkts. Chips
15 Chicken and Ham Pies	9 pkts. Peas
7 Shepherds Pie	67 Chickens
15 Sausage Savouries	32 Chicken Joints
38 pkts. Rissoles	116 Pasties
16 pkts. Mushroom Casserole	135 pkts. Pastry
26 pkts. Cream Cakes	70 pkts. Chocolate Mousse
27 tins Fruit Juice	352 pkts. Fruit and Vegetables

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS 1963

The total number of licences issued under the above Regulations at the end of the year totalled:

Untreated Milk ...	...	...	...	...	89 Dealers
Pasteurised Milk...	...	...	...	...	89 Dealers
Sterilised Milk ...	...	...	...	...	89 Dealers
Ultra Heat Treated	...	...	...	...	89 Dealers

SAMPLES OF MILK FOR BIOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL TESTS

TABLE XIV

Tests for Tuberculosis in Milk and Brucella Infected Milk:

No. of samples taken	Designation	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
1	Untreated	1	Nil

In addition the County Medical Officer of Health reports that his staff took samples of Milk from one herd in the Borough producing Untreated Milk for sale to the public. Details are given below:

	Total Submitted	No. of Brucella Positive
Bulk Samples	9	—
Dealer Samples (Herd Samples) ...	4	—
Individual Cow Samples	—	—
	—	—
Total	13	—
	—	—

TABLE XV

Tests for keeping Quality

No. of samples taken	Designation	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
11 1	Pasteurised Untreated	10 1	1 —

TABLE XVI

Tests for Adequate Pasteurisation or Sterilisation

No. of samples taken	Designation	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
11	Pasteurised	11	—

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF ICE CREAM

During 1969 the undermentioned samples of Ice Cream were purchased and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories, Chester, for examination.

Results: 3 samples Grade I Satisfactory
4 samples Grade II Satisfactory
1 sample Grade III Unsatisfactory

The Grade III sample was manufactured locally and the premises were visited by a public health inspector who gave advice to the manufacturer with the result that a subsequent sample was satisfactory.

Experience over the years has shown that Ice Cream manufactured by the principal companies is invariably Grade I and it was decided to concentrate on Ice Cream made and sold on the premises, this description being also applied to Ice Cream vans. Difficulties were encountered with vans on two counts. Firstly, it is not always possible to find them and secondly, they mostly appear in the area late in the afternoon which means that samples taken would not reach the Public Health Laboratories that day and cannot be stored overnight and comply with laboratory requirements. However, it is felt that the effort is worthwhile and will perhaps be more successful in 1970.

SWIMMING BATH WATER

TABLE XVII

Bacteriological Sampling:

54 samples were taken from New Ferry, Port Sunlight and Clatterbridge Hospital Pools.

Results of Examination:

	Number Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
New Ferry	25	19	6
Port Sunlight... ..	12	9	3
Clatterbridge Staffs Pool	10	8	2
Clatterbridge Spastics Pool	7	6	1

There has been an improvement in the standard of water at Clatterbridge Hospital and it was found the one unsatisfactory sample from the Spastics Pool was due to a human error of chlorine omission after the Pool had been cleaned.

The unsatisfactory samples from New Ferry and Port Sunlight baths were during very high bathing load periods. These periods occur during long sunny days and being open air baths, the free chlorine content of the water is reduced by the effect of strong sunlight. It is not easy to maintain a suitable level of free chlorine without creating discomfort.

Generally, however, New Ferry and Port Sunlight Baths maintain a high standard of water hygiene.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOODSTUFFS IN GENERAL

During 1969, four samples of Miscellaneous foods were submitted to the Public Health Laboratories at Chester for bacteriological examination.

TABLE XVIII

Sample	Number Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Liver Sausage and Tongue	1	1	—
Roast Pork	1	1	—
Boiled Ham	1	1	—
Pork Luncheon Meat	1	1	—

The above were taken during suspected food poisoning investigations and all proved negative.

The following table refers to specimens and samples taken in connection with dysentery suspected food poisoning, and associated cases.

TABLE XIX

Type	Number Taken	Result
Faeces	747	49 Shigella Sonnei 9 Salmonella Indiana 15 Salmonella Enteritidis 3 Salmonella Typhimurium 2 Salmonella Virchow 37 Salmonella Paratyphi B

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING

Nature, Substance and Quality:

TABLE XX

	No. of samples of each article examined			No. of samples of each article regarded as adulterated		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
Raw Farm Milk	—	21	—	—	—	—
Channel Island Milk	—	4	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised Milk	—	18	—	—	—	—
Beef Sausage	—	7	—	—	5	—
Pork Sausage	—	3	—	—	—	—
Tomato Puree	—	2	—	—	—	—
Pork Pie	—	2	—	—	—	—
Steak and Kidney Pie	—	2	—	—	1	—
Beef Pie	—	2	—	—	—	—
Single Cream	—	2	—	—	—	—
Concentrated Lemon Juice	—	2	—	—	2	—
Bottle of Shandy	—	2	—	—	—	—
Cambridge Sausage	—	1	—	—	1	—
Full Fat Soft Cheese with Garlic and Herbs	—	1	—	—	1	—
Bread with Foreign Matter	—	1	—	—	1	—
Q.C. Sherry	—	1	—	—	1	—
Packet of Tea (opened)	—	1	—	—	1	—
Red Cheshire Cheese	—	1	—	—	1	—
Popcorn	—	1	—	—	—	—
Meat Sauce	—	1	—	—	—	—
Iced Lemon Tea Mix	—	1	—	—	—	—
Risotto Al Pomodoro	—	1	—	—	—	—
Escoffier Idle Onion	—	1	—	—	—	—
Danish Cheese Spread with Mushroom	—	1	—	—	—	—
Escoffier German Mustard	—	1	—	—	—	—
Smoked Processed Cheese	—	1	—	—	—	—
Rose Cream Mallows	—	1	—	—	—	—

	No. of samples of each article examined			No. of samples of each article regarded as adulterated		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
Chicken Fillets in Jelly...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Canadian Apple Sauce ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Jar of Cockles ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Packet of Creamed Potatoes ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Sweet and Sour Sauce ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Water Chestnut ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Chow Mein Noodles ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Full Cream Evaporated Milk ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Camembert Petit Patre ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cocktail Cubes Cheese Spread	—	1	—	—	—	—
Sponge Mixture...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Mixed Dried Fruit ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ham and Tongue Pate ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Liver Pate ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Butter Snap Milk Chocolate ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Sage and Onion Stuffing ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Double Devon Cream ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Fresh Cream Apple Tart ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Fresh Cream Cake ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dried Grated Cheese ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Orange Drink ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dairy Cream ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tinted Dragees ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Meat Pie ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Artificial Cochineal Colouring...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Orange Flavouring ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dried Vegetables ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Scotch Pie ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Food Colours ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
7 VP Drink ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Sweet Whip ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
4 Battered Pork Cubes ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Hot Curry Sauce Mix ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Scouser Brew ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Toffee Apple ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
American Dry Ginger Ale ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Orange Sandwich ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Milk Shake Syrup ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cranberry Sauce ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tea ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Glace Cherries ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ready Gravy ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Certo ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	—	125	—	—	14	—

	Milk Fat	Non-Fatty Solids	Water
Milk average for the year ...	3.8%	8.9%	87.3%
Legal minimum standard ...	3.0%	8.5%	—
Channel Island Milk:			
Average for the year ...	4.9%	9.5%	85.6%
Legal minimum standard	4.0%	8.5%	—

DETAILS OF SAMPLES ADULTERATED OR BELOW STANDARD

TABLE XXI

Sample No.	Article	Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Action Taken
1	Sausage (Cambridge)	Informal	Sausage containing sulphur dioxide preservative, the presence of which was not declared	Vendor warned to exhibit notice stating that his sausage contained preservative
2	Cheese (Full fat soft)	Informal	The surface of which contained a large quantity of foreign mould (penicillium)	Importer warned
3	Pie (Steak and Kidney)	Informal	Deficient in meat to the extent of 17%	This deficiency discussed with manufacturer
4	Beef Sausage	Informal	Sausage contained sulphur dioxide preservative, the presence of which was not declared	This was taken up with the butcher concerned and a suitable notice declaring the presence of sulphur dioxide is now exhibited
5	Lemon Juice (Concentrated)	Informal	Containing sulphur dioxide preservative	<p>These samples were taken from casks of imported lemon juice consigned to Food Industries Ltd., Bromborough, Cheshire direct from a vessel at West India Dock, London.</p> <p>A document complying with Regulation 3(1)(b) of the Preservatives in Food Regulations 1962 accompanied the fruit juice certifying that it contained sulphur dioxide to the extent of 1,500 parts per million.</p> <p>The samples did not exceed the stated amount</p>
6	Lemon Juice	Informal	Containing sulphur dioxide preservative	

Sample No.	Article	Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Action Taken
7	Bread	Informal	Bread containing foreign matter, not of animal origin. It consisted of carbon with some slight iron contamination	This sample was sent to the analyst as a result of a complaint alleging mouse droppings. "The mouse droppings" were in fact the carbon with some slight iron contamination. The matter was discussed with the manufacturer
8	British Cream Sherry	Informal	The sample consisted of water heavily contaminated with fungal growth and bacterial slime, in which were included sulphate-reducing bacteria	Producer/vendor warned
9	Beef Sausage	Informal	Sausage contained undeclared sulphur dioxide preservative	Vendor warned and suitable notice now exhibited
10	Mantunna Tea	Informal	Tea containing an excess of lead and grossly contaminated with foreign matter	Vendor prosecuted and fined £20 with £7 7s. costs
11	Beef Sausage	Informal	Sausage containing undeclared sulphur dioxide preservative	Vendor warned and suitable notice now exhibited
12	Beef Sausage	Informal	Sausage containing undeclared sulphur dioxide preservative	Vendor warned and suitable notice now exhibited
13	Beef Sausage	Informal	Sausage containing undeclared sulphur dioxide preservative	The sulphur dioxide contained did not exceed the permitted limit but its presence was undeclared. The vendors have been warned and a suitable notice is now conspicuously exhibited
14	Cheese containing bandage	Informal	Cheshire cheese together with an associated piece of lint	Legal proceedings pending

Action taken under the Food and Drugs Act and Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959:

1. Stale odour from piece of fish	...	...	Retailer warned
2. Foreign body in packet of Cornflakes	...	...	Manufacturers warned
3. Foreign body in piece of fish	...	...	Wholesalers warned
4. Foreign matter in loaf of bread	...	...	Manufacturers warned
5. Paraffin taste in Sliced Loaf	...	...	Manufacturers warned
6. Sour taste to prawns	...	...	Retailer warned
7. Infested packet of Rusks	...	...	Retailer warned
8. Two bottles Sour Milk	...	...	Wholesaler warned
9. Deficiency of meat content in Steak and Kidney Pie	...	...	} Manufacturers warned
10. Foreign body in sweet known as "Snowball"	...	...
11. Paraffin taste in loaf	...	...	Manufacturers warned
12. Foreign body in bottle of milk	...	...	Wholesaler warned
13. Foreign black matter in loaf	...	...	Manufacturer warned
14. Mould in tin of Pork Sausage and Beans	...	...	Retailer warned
15. Box of mouldy Vanilla Slices	...	...	Manufacturers warned
16. Piece of wood in tin of Peas	...	...	Wholesaler warned
17. Mould growth on sausage roll	...	...	Retailer warned
18. Foul smelling bottle of Sherry containing sediment	...	...	} Retailer warned
19. Mould in strawberry delice	...	...
20. Sour taste to Scotch Egg	...	...	Retailer warned
21. Fly in tin of Fish	...	...	Wholesaler warned
22. Foreign bodies in packet of Tea	...	...	} Wholesaler fined £20 and Costs £12.1.0d.
23. Mould on Date and Walnut Loaf	...	...
24. Mould growth on jar of Apricot Jam	...	...	Manufacturer warned
25. Mould on loaf of bread	...	...	Manufacturer warned
26. Mould growth on Potato Croquettes	...	...	Retailer warned
27. Bottle milk containing strawlike adhesions	...	...	Wholesaler warned
28. Mould on crumpets	...	...	Retailer warned
29. Piece of razor blade in packet of Crisps	...	...	Manufacturer warned
30. Mould on crumpets	...	...	Retailer warned
31. Mould on loaf of bread	...	...	Manufacturer warned
32. Stone in Malt Loaf	...	...	Manufacturer warned

33. Mould on Queen Cakes	...	...	Retailer warned
34. Piece of tin in tin of Corned Beef	...	...	Wholesaler warned
35. Mould on Chocolate Fondants	...	...	Wholesaler warned
36. Inner Biro Refill in tin of Ham and Turkey	...	...	Wholesaler warned
37. Mould on packet of Cheese...	...	...	Retailer warned

POULTRY INSPECTION

There are no poultry processing premises in this Borough.

SHOPS ACT, 1969

YOUNG PERSONS EMPLOYMENT ACT, 1938

The Chief Public Health Inspector who is Chief Inspector under the above mentioned Acts, reports that during the year the following warnings were given in regard to offences:

Mixed Business Notices not provided 9

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

BEBINGTON DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1969

Divisional Health Office,
Town Hall,
BEBINGTON,
Cheshire.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
BEBINGTON DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE
(at 31st December 1969)

REPRESENTING BEBINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. D. Goodfellow
Deputy Chairman: Alderman Mrs. E. B. Williams
Aldermen:
R. EVANS H. GARNER
Councillors:
R. BEVAN Mrs. H. G. HEBRON
B. A. BRYNING, J.P. W. LUNGLEY
Mrs. J. L. GREEN Mrs. S. A. PRICE
H. HARRIMAN A. E. RICHMOND

REPRESENTING CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

County Alderman: Miss B. E. WILSON, J.P.
County Councillor: Mrs. E. POWL
County Councillor: G. POWELL

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

County Alderman: Sir GEORGE ASTBURY, J.P.
County Councillor: A. RICHARDSON

REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

R. A. FORSYTHE, Esq., J.P.
Bebington Divisional Executive for Education
Dr. B. CARRUTHERS
County Palatine of Chester Local Medical Committee
A. F. DRAKE, Esq.
County Palatine of Chester Local Dental Committee
J. J. BROWN, Esq.
Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee
Mrs. M. SEXTON
Wirral Society for Mentally Handicapped Children
J. H. SPEED, Esq.
Bebington Old People's Welfare Committee
Mrs. M. GITTINS
A. L. RADCLIFFE, Esq.

STAFF

<i>Divisional Medical Officer</i>	H. C. Jennings, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.
<i>Clerk to the Divisional Health Committee</i>	G. Chappell, O.B.E., LL.B.
<i>School Medical Officers</i>	Jessie Tough, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Helen Brass, M.B., B.A.O., B.Ch.
<i>Divisional Administrative Assistant</i>	W. R. Turner
<i>Health Visitors</i>	Mrs. E. Jones, Mrs. M. Morris, Miss E. Nicholson, Mrs. F. J. Vaughan, Miss D. Roberts, Miss D. K. Whyte, Mrs. E. J. Clarke, Miss S. V. Phillips
<i>Clinic Nurses</i>	Mrs. E. M. Ellis, Mrs. M. Wightman
<i>Home Nurses</i>	Mrs. B. Baker, E. Cochrane, Mrs. A. Davies, Mrs. I. M. Eden, Miss M. G. Griffiths, Mrs. M. R. Heatley, Miss E. Phillips, Mrs. R. Kophamel, Miss M. M. Farrall
<i>Midwives</i>	Mrs. D. Clarke, Mrs. C. R. Green, Miss J. V. Joyce, Mrs. M. C. O'Brien
<i>Area Mental Welfare Officer</i>	E. M. Harborow
<i>Mental Welfare Officers</i>	A. J. Hotchkiss (Deputy), Mrs. P. M. Tomkins, Miss P. Whiteside, B. Rowe
<i>Matron (Day Nursery) Supervisor</i>	Mrs. W. I. Boulton
<i>(Junior Training Centre)</i>	Mrs. M. Sutton
<i>Home Help Organiser</i>	Mrs. J. M. Bryne
<i>Chiropodist</i>	Mrs. J. R. Abraham (from 1.12.69)
<i>Occupational Therapist</i>	Mrs. V. B. Van der Horst (to 21.3.69) Miss S. Grant-Wilson (from 1.4.69)
<i>Clerical Staff</i>	Mrs. M. L. Bartholomew, Mrs. E. Bieniek, Mrs. E. Davies, Mrs. E. Insley, Miss N. Mackey, Mrs. L. Satterthwaite, O. H. Smith, Mrs. S. Whitehouse (to 30.6.69) Miss B. J. Oakes (from 3.2.69) Miss L. Hartson (from 1.7.69)

ASSOCIATED CONSULTANTS

<i>Chest Physician</i>	C. T. Jenkins, M.B., Ch.B.
<i>Obstetrician/Gynaecologists</i>	J. A. Bentham, M.B., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., D.P.H. W. Gault, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., M.R.C.O.G.
<i>Ophthalmic Surgeon</i>	J. D. E. Edwards, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S., R.C.P.S.I.
<i>Paediatrician</i>	K. R. Llewellyn, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P., D.C.H.
<i>Physician</i>	P. Robinson, M.D., M.R.C.P.
<i>Physician (Geriatrics)</i>	J. Aitken, M.B., M.R.C.P.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE BEBINGTON DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

No major changes took place during 1969 in the provision of the personal health services. There were, however, some disappointments. One of the two main sources of measles vaccine was discontinued pending further tests and consequently the ensuing general shortage necessitated removing measles vaccination from the computer programme. Supplies of the vaccine were fairly plentiful locally and considerable efforts were made to get parents to take advantage of this situation. Nevertheless the response was disappointing and for some months the notifications of measles have been coming in with monotonous regularity. This state of affairs is even more unfortunate because the fault imputed to the withdrawn vaccine has not been validated and furthermore there developed a misguided but understandable tendency to regard all measles vaccines with suspicion. In this region of England with its disproportionately high incidence of chronic bronchitis and emphysema, it is vitally important to reduce the toll of this gravely disabling condition, and I believe that measles vaccination, by preventing the chest complications of the infection, can help to do this, if only to a small extent.

In the prevention of bronchitis the community could take more care of itself by observing simple precautions to reduce the spread of colds and coughs. People with such infections should keep them to themselves. Windows should be opened in offices, schools, homes and wherever people have gathered indoors breathing each other's germs.

Chronic bronchitis is with us year after year in epidemic form, now claiming annually in England and Wales the lives of some 30,000 victims, the majority of them men. It is an evil which is insidious and relentless. Like the newer epidemics – cancer of the lung and coronary thrombosis – it lacks the dramatic explosiveness of the great infections of the nineteenth century. It does not arouse any public clamour and yet bronchitis affects about one in every six middle-aged men in the general community. After the age of 30 there is an increasing divergence in the death rates of men and women. In fact, between the ages of 55 and 65 the male death rate is more than twice that of the female. Lung cancer, coronary thrombosis and chronic bronchitis mortality accounts for this sex difference in death rates. We know of no genetic or hormonal influence that would cause susceptibility to these diseases in the male. But their preponderance among men could be largely explained by their higher consumption of cigarettes. There is in any case a definite association between heavy cigarette smoking and lung cancer, coronary thrombosis, and chronic bronchitis. It is a matter of the deepest disappointment to the public health authorities that despite the widest dissemination of information regarding the dangers of cigarette smoking nevertheless some 75% of adult males in the general community still choose to jeopardise their health if not their lives by continuing the cigarette habit.

Another serious failure in public health advancement must be recorded with profound regret. One more year has passed without the introduction of fluoridation into our water supply. The vocal minorities who oppose this measure still spout their spurious arguments despite the complete and utter refutation of each and every objection put forward on grounds of alleged hazards to health. Education of parents and children in better dental care and hygiene has not proved successful in penetrating the ranks of the general public. When will health committees and councils realise that they have within their immediate power the introduction of what could prove the most important advance in public health in the whole of the second half of the twentieth century?

A further disappointment arose in the shape of a Social Services Bill designed to strip Health departments of certain personal services, notably domestic help, mental welfare, day nurseries and child minder supervision, and the domiciliary care of handicapped persons. This legislation has proceeded with an almost indecent haste on the recommendation of the Seebohm Committee, whose members did not include a medical officer of health.

Apart from the doubtful wisdom of removing from Health departments certain important functions in the promotion of community health and preventive medicine, the timing of the move appears to be ill-considered. The new organisation and administration of social services will no doubt be subject to drastic revision with the advent of local government reform. The reorganisation of the National Health Service is also likely to affect its function and cause some reorientation. This will not only be confusing to all concerned – not least of all the public – but wasteful of effort, time and money only too recently expended. On the other hand a substantial wedge will have been driven into the local authority health and welfare services. This will accelerate the modern trend to introduce a more expert and professional medical component into preventive medicine and it will inevitably direct our thinking and practice towards amalgamation with the other branches of the profession. There is little doubt in my mind that the mental and conceptual slide away from local authority management of the purely medical aspects of the public health service (prompted by the Green Papers) will receive considerable momentum when the new social service departments are fully established. I have no doubt that they will try hard to do a first class job. To do this, however, they will need something that the health departments have never had – a first class budget. Even the Seebohm committee conceded that an effective family service could not be provided without additional resources.

H. C. JENNINGS

Divisional Medical Officer

1st July 1970

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISIONAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

SECTION 22 — CARE OF MOTHERS and YOUNG CHILDREN

(i) Day Nursery

The average daily attendance was 22 as compared to 25 in 1968.

The average number of priority cases on the register throughout the year was 29.

TABLE I

Total number of priority cases attended during 1969	TYPE OF PRIORITY CASE					
	Illegiti- mate children	Parents separated/ Divorced	Mother widowed	Mentally Hand- icapped children	Other (medico/ social	Mother Teaching
47	15	8	—	5	12	7

Table II shows attendances made during the year:

TABLE II

	0—2 years	2—5 years	Total
Average daily attendance	1072 4	4299 18	5371 22

Whereas local health authority day nurseries still cater for mothers who must work, more private day nurseries and play groups are appearing in this country, and these are used rather by mothers who merely prefer to follow some employment or who believe that certain developmental advantages will be conferred on their children. For similar reasons we believe that young handicapped and retarded children may sometimes benefit by attending the day nursery and respite may be afforded to their mothers. There were twelve registered play groups in the borough by the end of the year.

(ii) Mothers' Clinics

(a) Ante-Natal and Post-Natal

Combined ante-natal and post-natal clinics are held at the New Ferry Clinic Centre on Wednesday mornings and the Clinic Centre, Eastham on Friday mornings. The mothers are examined by the consultant obstetrician and advice and education about pregnancy and infant care is given by the health visitors.

TABLE III

		New Cases	Total Attendances
New Ferry	Ante-Natal	35	237
	Post-Natal	—	2
Eastham	Ante-Natal	152	578
	Post-Natal	—	15

(b) Preparation Class

Preparation classes are held weekly at the Clinic Centre, Eastham on Monday mornings and at New Ferry Clinic Centre on Monday afternoons. These clinics are run by a Health Visitor and a physiotherapist. The midwives attend whenever their duties allow.

Table IV gives the attendances made during the year:

TABLE IV

	New Cases	Attendances
New Ferry	97	604
Eastham	124	690

(iii) Child Health Clinics

There are two permanent clinics in the borough, one at New Ferry where a child health clinic is held each Wednesday afternoon and one at Eastham where a clinic is held every Monday afternoon. In addition child health clinics are held in rented premises at Mayer Hall, Bebington each Friday afternoon; at Victoria Hall, Higher Bebington, on alternate Tuesday afternoons and at Bromborough Council Offices on Thursday mornings. Thornton Hough clinic continued during the year on a fortnightly basis.

TABLE V

Total attendances and new cases at child health clinics during 1969:

	Attendances		New Cases under 1 year
	Under 1 year	1—5 years	
New Ferry	912	227	143
Eastham	1560	217	222
Higher Bebington	683	210	105
Bromborough	912	289	155
Lower Bebington	561	199	117
Thornton Hough	126	32	26
	4754	1174	768
	5928		

Although the number of infants brought to the clinics was slightly greater than in the previous year, their total attendances were only 72% of the total attendances made in 1968. This reduction probably reflects the withdrawal of branded infant foods previously sold in the clinics and the proportion of people whose chief purpose in visiting a clinic was the purchase of that food.

New cases and attendances of children under five:

TABLE VI

	New Cases	Attendances
New Ferry Clinic Centre	33	91
Eastham Clinic Centre	15	47

(b) Paediatric Clinic

Consultant clinics continued to be held on Tuesday mornings (second and fourth in the month) at New Ferry Clinic Centre and on the first, third, and fourth Friday afternoons in the month at the Clinic Centre, Eastham.

(iv) Ancillary Services and Special Clinics held in County Council Clinic Premises

(a) Ophthalmic Clinic

A combined session for pre-school and school children is held each Thursday morning at New Ferry Clinic Centre and once fortnightly on a Thursday afternoon at Eastham Clinic Centre.

TABLE VII

	New Cases	Attendances
New Ferry Clinic Centre	34	163
Eastham Clinic Centre	22	399

(c) Blood Investigations

Arrangements exist at New Ferry Clinic Centre for mothers and children to undergo simple blood tests if they are considered advisable by the paediatrician or obstetrician.

(d) Hearing Clinics for Young Children

These are conducted by health visitors who, if in doubt, refer children to the School Medical Officers.

Whilst ideally every child should be tested and so far as possible this is done, attention is paid more particularly to children "at risk" i.e., children born with other congenital abnormalities, or children with Rh neg. mothers or congenitally deaf close relatives, etc.

TABLE VIII

	New Cases			Re-tests		
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5
New Ferry Clinic Centre ...	80	7	18	4	3	2
Bromborough Council Offices...	129	7	1	16	-	-
Eastham Clinic Centre ...	235	-	1	37	5	-
Mayer Hall ...	59	22	13	1	-	-
Victoria Hall ...	62	3	2	2	1	-

No child during the year was found to be deaf.

(v) Welfare Foods

New Ferry and Eastham clinics are the main distribution centres and are open for this purpose each morning from Monday to Friday between 9.0 a.m. and 12 noon and on the afternoons of the child health clinics.

During the year the following Welfare Foods were issued and the comparative figures for 1968 are shown in brackets:

National Dried Milk	2,877	(4,425)
Cod Liver Oil	536	(714)
Vitamin A and D Tablets	816	(956)
Orange Juice	13,261	(15,479)

SECTION 23 — MIDWIFERY SERVICE

The establishment of midwives for the area is four.

The midwives now hold Ante-Natal Clinics weekly at the New Ferry Clinic Centre and the Clinic Centre, Eastham for their own booked cases.

Births notified to the borough during the year:

Home confinements	67
Hospital confinements	885
	<hr/>
	952
	<hr/>

The number of domiciliary confinements continues to fall as the institutional confinements increase. This however means much maternity nursing for the domiciliary midwives because of the number of "short stay" hospital confinements.

SECTION 24 — HEALTH VISITING

The establishment of health visitors for the division is eight. Routine work was carried out in the ante-natal, and in child health clinics, and in specialists clinics in geriatrics, obstetrics and paediatrics.

SECTION 25 — HOME NURSING SERVICE

At the end of 1969 nine home nurses including a male nurse were serving residents in the division who were considered by general practitioners to be in need of home nursing, and the relevant numerical data for the year are shown in conjunction with the 1968 figures, which are given in brackets.

New Cases	Visits Paid
421 (357)	17,509 (17,611)

During the year discussions took place with family doctors with a view to the attachment of public health nursing staff to their practices. The arrangements made were due to become operative in January 1970.

SECTION 26 — VACCINATION and IMMUNISATION

(i) Vaccination against Smallpox

TABLE IX

Number of children vaccinated against smallpox in 1969:

0-4 years	5-15 years	Re-vaccination
467	29	24

(ii) Diphtheria Immunisation

TABLE X

Number of children immunised against diphtheria, generally in the form of triple antigen, during 1969:

Under 5 years	5-15 years	Re-inforcing doses
265	93	703

The last case of diphtheria in Bebington was notified in 1953.

(iii) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Whooping Cough immunisation was continued throughout the year, usually combined with diphtheria and tetanus toxoids.

TABLE XI

Number of children immunised against whooping cough either alone or combined with diphtheria and tetanus toxoids:

Under 5 years	5-15 years	Re-inforcing doses
259	76	241

(iv) Tetanus Immunisation**TABLE XII**

Number of children immunised against Tetanus either alone or combined with diphtheria and whooping cough during the year:

Under 5 years	5-15 years	Re-inforcing doses
267	112	718

(v) Poliomyelitis Vaccination**TABLE XIII**

Number of children vaccinated against Poliomyelitis in 1969:

Under 5 years	5-15 years	Re-inforcing doses
334	85	642

(vi) Measles Vaccination**TABLE XIV**

Number of children vaccinated against Measles during 1969:

Under 5 years	5-15 years
304	155

(vii) B.C.G. Vaccination (Tuberculosis)

Table XV gives details of numbers vaccinated.

TABLE XV

B.C.G. Vaccination of thirteen year old schoolchildren:

1. Number of consent forms issued	1,077
2. Number of children for whom consent received	940
% consenting	87
3. Number tuberculin tested	874
4. Number tuberculin positive	18 (previously vaccinated)
% positive	2
5. Number vaccinated with B.C.G.	824
6. Percentage vaccinated	76

All mothers having their babies in hospital and general practitioner maternity homes are encouraged to have them vaccinated early in life.

The percentage of positive reactors falls steadily year by year and is regarded as a reliable index of the extent to which tuberculosis is prevalent in the community. These declining figures are therefore very encouraging but, as with all infectious diseases, constant vigilance must still be exercised.

SECTION 28 — PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE and AFTER-CARE

(a) Tuberculosis

The following table shows the state of the register at the 31st December 1969 and other relevant figures for the year.

TABLE XVI

					Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary (lung) ...	...	...	...	...	67	54	121
Non-pulmonary ...	...	...	...	...	7	13	20
							<hr/> 141 <hr/>
New cases placed on register:							
Pulmonary ...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
Non-pulmonary ...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
							<hr/> 9 <hr/>
Cases removed from Register ...	...	...	...	...			10

(b) Handicapped Persons Club

The number of persons on the register at 31st December 1969 was 32 and there was an average attendance of 24 during the year.

The Club was run by a part-time occupational therapist and one of the clinic nurses. Instruction is given in rugmaking, hand weaving, knitting, cane work and the making of soft toys with the use of foam rubber.

Early in the summer a number of these handicapped persons had a week's holiday at Pontin's Holiday Camp, Lytham St. Annes, arranged by the department.

(c) Chiropody

The Chiropody Service for persons over 65, handicapped persons, and expectant mothers continues. Recipients must have their doctors or district nurses' recommendation.

In December the department secured the part-time services of its own chiropodist, who will assess the need for and frequency of treatments. She will hold clinics at New Ferry Clinic Centre and Eastham Clinic Centre. This appointment, which is in accordance with county policy, is welcomed as a future means of facilitating the control and administration of this service.

113 males and 567 females had treatment during the year.

TABLE XVII

PLACE OF TREATMENT	CATEGORY							
	OVER 65				PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED			
	No. of patients		No. of treatments		No. of patients		No. of treatments	
**	P	C	P	C	P	C	P	C
Chiropodist's Surgery ...	391	8	2,191	8	6	—	39	—
Home of Patient ...	256	—	1,407	—	19	—	135	—

** P — PRIVATE CHIROPODIST C — COUNTY CHIROPODIST

Number of cases in which County Council paid full fees ... 561

Number of cases in which County Council paid part fees ... 119

(d) Geriatric Consultant Clinic

Clinics of this nature together with domiciliary services marshalled by the health visitor can often be instrumental in maintaining these elderly patients in their own homes in the community. Admission to hospital or hostel may either be postponed or avoided altogether.

A clinic is held at New Ferry on the third Thursday afternoon in the month and at Eastham on the second Tuesday afternoon in the month. Attendances at both showed a marked increase in 1969.

TABLE XVIII

	Attendances
New Ferry Clinic Centre	163
Eastham Clinic Centre	143

(e) Elderly Persons Health Advisory Clinic

Total number of attendances ... 115

This clinic which is held on the second Thursday afternoon in each month at the New Ferry Clinic Centre is intended primarily as a preventive service for relatively fit elderly people. Its aims include both the early detection of disorder – physical, mental, emotional and social – and, by health education, the promotion of a state of positive health. In my view the only way of organising effective preventive care for the elderly is the early selection of vulnerable people by public health nursing staff attached to group practices. Health centres would lend themselves to the thorough examination of the ambulant elderly.

(f) Cervical Cytology Clinic

Number of patients examined ... 984 (4 early lesions detected)

The opportunity is taken to examine the genital organs, breasts, and urine, and many conditions have been detected which respond to advice and treatment.

(g) Family Planning Clinic

	Eastham	New Ferry
New Patients	85	34
Total Patients	259	38
Total Attendances	619	184

(h) Home Nursing Equipment

During the year issues of home nursing equipment on loan totalled 172.

(i) Meals on Wheels

The voluntary "Meals on Wheels" Service run by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service supplied 22,630 meals to aged and handicapped people during the year. The W.R.V.S. have three vans operating this service, which affords to some their chief form of nourishment. Meals are supplied daily from Mondays to Fridays.

(j) **Recuperative Holidays**

In 1969 there were no applications for recuperative holidays arranged by the department.

(k) **Alterations and Adaptations to Property**

During the year financial assistance was granted in seventeen cases to meet the cost of alterations and adaptations to property occupied by physically handicapped people.

(l) **Special Washing Service**

The issue of disposable paper drawsheets and pants has proved to be very useful for the care of incontinent cases and as a result no-one has required a special washing service.

(m) **Health Education**

Much health education is carried out at preparation classes for ante-natal mothers, at child health clinics, and at school medical inspections. Much more is imparted in the course of home visits.

SECTION 29 — HOME HELP SERVICE

The National Health Service Act 1946 (S.29) gave the local authority power to establish a service – “for providing domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged or a child . . .”.

During 1969 home helps were employed for a total of 32,925 hours. At the end of the year 41 part-time helps were employed.

TABLE XIX

	No. of Cases	No. of hours help provided
(a) Persons aged 65 years or over ...	271	29,703
(b) Persons aged under 65 years:		
(i) Chronic sick and tuberculous ...	24	2,305
(ii) Mentally disordered ...	2	423
(iii) Maternity ...	9	132
(iv) Others ...	11	362
	<hr/> 317 <hr/>	<hr/> 32,925 <hr/>

There is a scale of charges in operation whereby the amount paid for the service is assessed according to the income of the family concerned after deductions are made for rent, rates and personal allowances. The maximum charge is 6s. 4d. per hour. No charge is made in respect of help supplied to a patient whose income consists of or includes any payment from the Ministry of Social Security.

MENTAL HEALTH

(a) Staff

The Mental Health section is staffed by an Area Mental Welfare Officer, Deputy Area Mental Welfare Officer, and three mental welfare officers, one of whom is away on full-time training. In addition two trainees are attached to the section. These officers are responsible for the areas of the Bebington and Deeside divisions.

Mental Welfare Officers are charged with the care and after-care of the mentally disordered, that is both the mentally ill and the mentally sub-normal.

(b) Junior Training Centre

The children attending this Centre require a good deal of individual attention but by the same token relief is afforded to parents, and it is hoped that with care and patience much progress may be made in their special education.

There were 95 children (40 girls, 55 boys) on the register at the 31st December 1969.

The register was made up as follows:

District								No. of children on register
Bebington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Ellesmere Port	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Heswall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Neston	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Hoylake and West Kirby	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
								—
								95
								—

Before the end of the year building commenced on a wing to accommodate children aged two to five years. The opening of the Neston Junior Training Centre will relieve some of the congestion in the Eastham school where the staff have long been creditably coping with almost twice the number of children for whom the Centre was designed.



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