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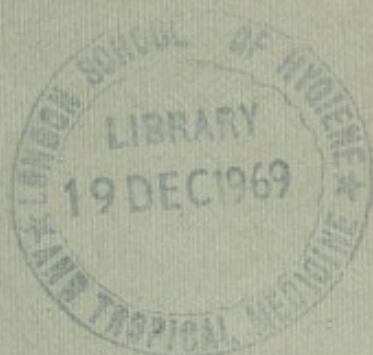
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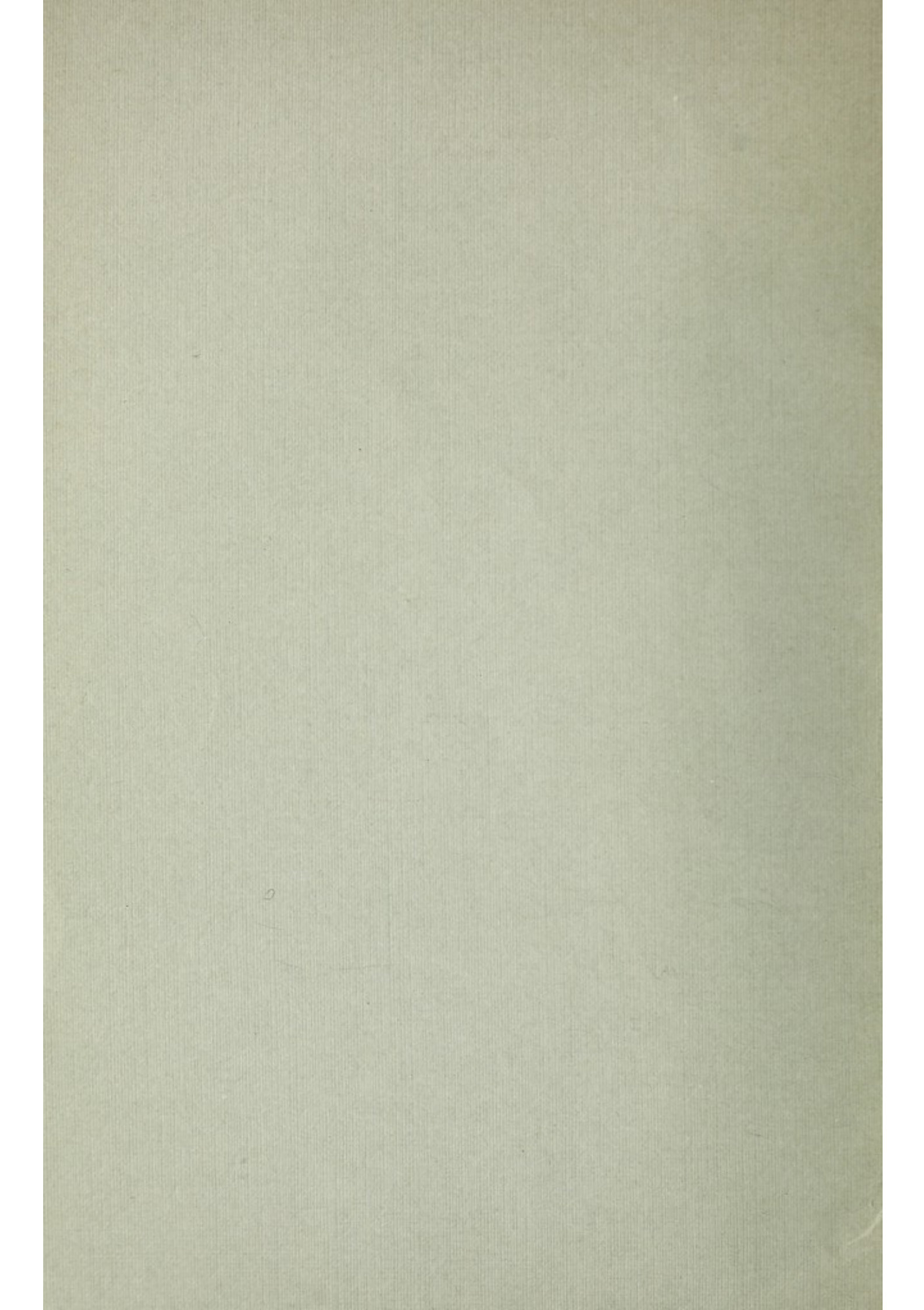
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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
1968

J. W. Lobban. M.A., M.D., D.P.H.



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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

HEALTH COMMITTEE

(As at 31.12.68)

His Worship The Mayor
Alderman J.H. Crosby, J.P.

Chairman:

Councillor Miss D. Tomlinson

Deputy Chairman:

Alderman Mrs. A.L. Crombleholme

Aldermen:

Mrs. E.F. Gardner

C.S. McDonald

R. Pilkington

J.W. Oates

(Ex-officio, Chairman of Finance Committee)

H. Platt, O.B.E., J.P.

(Ex-officio, Chairman of General Purposes Committee)

Councillors:

J. Davies

L.N.S. Jones

A.N. Dean

P.A. Wilson

J.E. Evans, J.P.

A.E. Wise

Miss B. Jackson

Co-opted Members:

Mrs. E. Banner

Mrs. A.W. Osborne

Mr. F.S. Dawson

Mr. D. Owen

Mr. L. Toale

S T A F F

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

J.W. Lobban, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

A.H. Wilde, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICERS IN DEPARTMENT:

Pamela P. Griffith, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

Alan K. Spence, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.C.H.

CHIEF DENTAL OFFICER:

W.M. Shaw, L.D.S.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND INSPECTOR

UNDER FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:

M. Holgate, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

CHIEF MEAT INSPECTOR:

T.K. Ward, LL.B. (Lond.), M.R.S.H., M.Inst.M.

SUPERINTENDENT HEALTH VISITOR:

Miss A.E. Griffiths, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.C.

NON-MEDICAL SUPERVISOR OF MIDWIVES AND

SUPERINTENDENT OF HOME NURSING SERVICE:

Miss M. Pringle, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.T.D., H.V.C.

CHIEF CLERK:

S. Duckworth

CHIEF CHIROPODIST:

Mr. G. Burns, M.Ch.S., S.R.Ch.

(Commenced 1st February, 1968)

TO: THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD:

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the eve of my retirement as your Medical Officer of Health I write this letter to accompany the Annual Report for 1968, which will be written by my successor, Dr. P.O. Nicholas, although he will not be responsible for the work of the Health Department in 1968.

He will face a difficult time from the medical staffing point of view. Already in the autumn of 1968, the uncertainty as to the future created in Public Health medical staffs and in possible candidates for junior posts was evident. This uncertainty was produced by the Seebohm Report, the Green Paper on the National Health Service, and finally by the long promised report on Local Government Reform which had not yet seen the light of day. Dr. W.F. Gollins left the service to take a post in Industry; Dr. A.K. Spence was appointed Deputy Medical Officer of Health of Stockport, and Dr. Wilde, Deputy Medical Officer of Health for the last ten years was appointed Medical Officer of Health for Dawley Urban District (ultimately to be Dawley New Town) and Senior Medical Officer of Health to Salop County Council.

There were no suitable applicants for the Medical Officer in Department posts and judging by the experience of other Local Authorities the Deputy Medical Officer of Health's post will be difficult to fill. Fortunately, part-time Medical Officers are still available for clinical work but administrative help will obviously be lacking when Dr. Wilde leaves in March, 1969. Other sections have been more fortunate. At the end of 1968, Public Health Inspection recruitment was looking up, and the three branches of the nursing profession - Health Visitors, District Nurses and Midwives - were up to strength.

I am grateful to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and other members of the Council for their kind expressions of good wishes on my retirement.

I commend my successor to you knowing he will have your support and the assistance of a loyal and conscientious staff, which I have enjoyed during the time I have been Medical Officer of Health. I welcome this opportunity of acknowledging the help I have received from all members of the Health Department staff.

I have seen many changes in my Public Health career - the 1929 Act, the National Health Service Act, 1946, and now the impact of the Seebohm Report, Green Paper and Boundary Revision. The Public Health Service has triumphed over difficulties in the past and I look forward with confidence to the future.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J.W. LOBBAN,
 Medical Officer of Health.

12th January, 1969.

GENERAL STATISTICSPOPULATION

Registrar General's estimated population mid year 1968	142,480
Census Population 1961	141,683

BIRTHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>	
Live Births Legitimate	1118	1135	2253	
Illegitimate	124	122	246	2,499
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	17.5
Comparability factor	..	..	..	0.99
Birth Rate as adjusted by factor ..	..	..	..	17.3
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births				9.8

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>	
Still Births Legitimate	20	16	36	
Illegitimate	2	4	6	42
Total live and still births	..	..	..	2,541
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)				16.9

DEATHS

Number of deaths:	Males 889) Females 822)	..	..	..	..	1,711
Death Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	12.0
Comparability factor	..	..	..	..	..	1.11
Death Rate as adjusted by factor ..	..	..	..	..	..	13.3

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of all infants under one year	..	..	..	..	64
Rate per 1,000 total live births	..	..	..	..	26
Deaths of legitimate infants under one year	..	..	..	..	56
Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	24.4
Deaths of illegitimate infants under one year	..	..	..	..	8
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	32.5

NEONATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under four weeks	..	..	..	..	37
Rate per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	16.5

EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one week	..	..	..	..	32
Rate per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	14.7

POST NEONATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of infants over four weeks and under one year	..				27
Rate per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	11.9

PERINATAL MORTALITY

Still births and deaths of infants under one week	..				74
Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	..	..			29.6

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Maternal deaths	..	..	..	..	..	0
Rate per 1,000 total births	..	..	..	..	..	0.00

<u>EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS</u>	..	..	..	..	..	788
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GENERAL

Area of Borough (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	8,643
Number of houses in Borough	..	..	..	..	..	43,671
General Rate 1968/69:	..	..	..	..	..	12/6d.
Domestic properties	..	..	..	..	..	11/8d.
Mixed properties	..	..	..	..	..	12/1d.
Estimated product of a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	£19,900

DEATHS

1,711 deaths occurred during the year (889 males and 822 females). This represents a death rate of 13.3 per 1,000 population. The comparable death rate for England and Wales is 11.9 per 1,000 population. Recent annual figures are as follows :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Borough</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
1956	12.8	11.7
1957	12.7	11.5
1958	13.3	11.7
1959	12.9	11.6
1960	12.9	11.5
1961	14.0	12.0
1962	13.5	11.9
1963	13.8	12.2
1964	12.5	11.3
1965	12.8	11.5
1966	12.5	11.7
1967	12.8	11.2
1968	13.3	11.9

INFANT MORTALITY

There were 64 deaths of children under 1 year of age, which represents an infant mortality rate of 26, compared with the National average of 18.3.

The causes of death were as follows :-

Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Accidents (other than motor vehicle)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
									—
									64
									—

These figures show an increase over the previous year of 4 accidental deaths and 7 deaths due to pneumonia.

Deaths due to Tuberculosis

		<u>Rates per</u> <u>1,000 population</u>
Respiratory	8	0.05
Non-respiratory	3	0.02

Deaths due to Cancer of the Lung

The number of deaths was 115 compared with 100 in 1967. The marked disproportion between males and females has continued - 92 males and 23 females have died from this condition.

Recent figures are as follows :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1956	48	8	56
1957	53	7	60
1958	79	11	90
1959	58	17	75
1960	64	19	83
1961	59	8	67
1962	68	8	76
1963	89	15	104
1964	92	9	101
1965	70	14	84
1966	70	13	83
1967	84	16	100
1968	92	23	115

The local figures represent 0.8 per 1,000 population.

Cancer of Other Sites

268 deaths occurred as a result of cancer of other sites, representing 1.8 per 1,000 population.

Heart Disease

Heart disease accounted for 526 deaths.

Pneumonia and Bronchitis

Pneumonia claimed 133 victims, while bronchitis was the cause of death in 82 cases. Together these diseases represented 12.5% of total deaths. 104 of the deaths due to these diseases occurred in the age group 75 years and over. 3 of these deaths occurred as a result of complications from influenza.

Maternal Deaths

There was no maternal death during the year.

Accidents

16 deaths occurred as a result of motor vehicle accidents and 39 as a result of other accidents. 7 accidental deaths occurred in children under 1 year of age.

Altogether 55 deaths were caused by accident, which is a decrease of 1 compared with 1967.

Suicide

12 cases of suicide occurred during the year, compared with 10 in 1967.

SUMMARY OF COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	<u>Birkenhead</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	17.3	16.9
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births)	16.9	14.3
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	13.3	11.9
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	26	18.3
Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	16.5	12.3
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	14.7	10.5
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still births and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total births live and still)	29.6	24.7

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1968
(as compiled by the Registrar General)

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS								75 & over																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
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/Continued overleaf....

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1968 (CONTINUED)
(as compiled by the Registrar General)

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS							75 & over	
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-		65-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	5	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5
Other Diseases,	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Genito-Urinary System	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Diseases of Skin,	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
Subcutaneous Tissue	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diseases of Musculo-	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Skeletal System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Anomalies	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	6	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	7	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birth Injury, Difficult	M	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Labour, etc.	F	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Causes of	M	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Perinatal Mortality	F	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and Ill-	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Defined Conditions	F	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	13	-	-	-	-	4	1	1	1	5	1	-
	F	3	-	1	-	3	1	1	2	2	3	2	5
All Other Accidents	M	27	-	5	1	1	1	1	4	2	2	1	5
	F	12	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
Suicide and Self-	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Inflicted Injuries	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Other External	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Causes	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total All Causes	M	889	21	17	4	6	7	17	23	70	198	251	275
	F	822	16	10	5	4	1	8	24	53	97	179	425

SUSPECTED FOOD POISONING CASES AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES
ASSOCIATED WITH FOOD AND/OR DRINK

During the year 133 cases of suspected food poisoning or dysentery were notified to this department. Investigations involved 216 visits to patients' homes and the submission of 566 specimens for bacteriological examination.

The causal agent was confirmed in the following cases :-

Salmonella typhimurium	7
Salmonella panama	1
Salmonella virchow	1
Salmonella dublin	1
Salmonella schwarzengrand	1
Salmonella braenderup	1
Shigella sonnei	30

The dysentery cases were mostly in family outbreaks and the opportunity was taken to give advice on personal hygiene to the families concerned. There was an outbreak in a Children's Home where Shigella sonnei was isolated in 14 cases.

The Salmonella cases were all in isolated family outbreaks and no specific food could be implicated as the source of infection. Two of the cases followed visits abroad on holiday.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year certain changes were made in the diseases which are to be notified.

As will be seen from the tables on the following pages there has been a decrease in the number of cases of whooping cough notified, which can be accounted for by the increased number of children being immunised. Owing to an outbreak of measles before the measles vaccine became available, there has been an increase in the number of measles notified.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1968

10

	Acute Poliomyelitis													
	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles		Dysentery		Paralytic		Non- Paralytic		Diphtheria	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number originally notified:														
TOTAL (ALL AGES)	48	34	26	35	931	931	35	35	-	-	-	-	-	-
After Correction:														
Age under 1 year	1	-	2	1	55	41	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age 1	1	1	3	6	147	110	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age 2	3	4	5	9	152	160	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age 3	2	4	5	6	131	159	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age 4	8	2	3	4	132	162	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age 5 - 9 years	27	18	7	8	306	292	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age 10 - 14 years	3	3	-	1	5	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age 15 - 24 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age 25 years and over	-	-	1	-	1	3	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL (ALL AGES)	46	32	26	35	930	931	24	20	-	-	-	-	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1968

11

	Acute Pneumonia		Acute Encephalitis				Typhoid Fever		Paratyphoid Fever		Erysipelas		Food Poisoning	
			Infective		Post-Infectious									
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number originally notified: TOTAL (ALL AGES)	16	18	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	1	12	12
After Correction:														
Age under 5 years	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Age 5 - 14 years	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Age 15 - 44 years	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	6
Age 45 - 64 years	6	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Age 65 years and over	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Age unknown	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL (ALL AGES)	16	17	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	1	4	8

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1968

12

	Respiratory		Tuberculosis		Meninges and C.N.S.		Infective Jaundice*		Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number originally notified:										
TOTAL (ALL AGES)	23	12	-	-	4	3	29	50	1	2
After Correction:										
Age under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Age 2 - 4 years	1	2	-	-	-	-	6	4	-	-
Age 5 - 9 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	12	20	-	-
Age 10 - 14 years	2	1	-	-	-	-	4	11	-	-
Age 15 - 19 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-
Age 20 - 24 years	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-
Age 25 - 34 years	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-
Age 35 - 44 years	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Age 45 - 54 years	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Age 55 - 64 years	5	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-
Age 65 - 74 years	1	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Age 75 years and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL (ALL AGES)	22	10	-	-	4	3	28	50	1	2

* Infective Jaundice became notifiable from 15th June, 1968.

TUBERCULOSISNotification

42 primary cases of tuberculosis were notified during 1968, as against 45 notified during 1967.

Of the 42 notified during 1968 - 35 were cases of respiratory tuberculosis, 1 a spine infection, 1 uro-genital, 2 cervical glands and 3 were cases of renal tuberculosis.

Mortality

11 patients died from tuberculosis during the year; this figure includes 3 who were not previously known to us and who were notified by local Registrar. 17 patients died from other causes.

Tuberculosis Register

The Register shows a decrease of 175 during the year. 45 new cases were added to the Register, 42 being primary cases of tuberculosis and 3 transfers into the Borough. 220 patients were removed from the Register; of these - 28 patients died, 170 recovered, 19 left the Borough and 3 were untraced.

	Adults	Children (under 15 years)	Total
Respiratory - Male	337	10	347
- Female	254	20	274
Non-respiratory - Male	20	1	21
- Female	46	5	51
Totals - Male	357	11	368
- Female	300	25	325
Grand Total - 1968	657	36	693
- 1967	834	34	868

24 of the above patients are known to be sputum positive.

In addition to the 868 patients whose names are on the Tuberculosis Register, 1,048 cases of quiescent tuberculosis attend the clinics at Hamilton Square and Mill Lane - as follows:-

42, Hamilton Square	..	948
Mill Lane Hospital	..	100

FORMAL NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS

PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIOD	1-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	TOTAL
Respiratory - Males ...	-	1	1	2	1	1	4	3	3	5	1	-	22
- Females ...	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	-	10
Non-respiratory - Males ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	4
- Females ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	3
TOTAL ...	-	3	1	3	1	3	4	6	5	7	6	-	39

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NEW CASES OTHER THAN BY FORMAL NOTIFICATION

Death returns from Local Registrars:													
- Males ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
- Females ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
TOTAL ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3

TOTALS ... 42 in all

Department	Not Passed		Deferred for further examination	Passed for:						Recommended for Premature Retiral	Examination for:				Special Examinations	Totals
	Service	Superannuation		Service	Service and Superannuation	Service, Superannuation & Driving P.S.V.'s	Superannuation	Teaching Appointments	Entry into Teacher's Training Colleges		Driving P.S.V.'s	Work in Mersey Tunnel	Tar Cancer	Disablement		
Architect	1	1	1	2	11	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	15
Baths and Markets	3	1	5	20	10	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	52
Borough Valuer	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Children's	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Cleansing	4	1	9	44	10	1	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	101
Education	4	1	3	186	32	1	7	20	172	2	2	2	2	2	2	434
Engineer and Surveyor	1	1	2	23	28	1	7	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	69
Fire and Ambulance	1	1	1	6	4	1	10	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	24
Health	1	1	1	7	11	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
Housing	1	1	1	1	17	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
Libraries	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	17
Magistrates' Clerk	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Other Authorities	3	1	2	31	15	1	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	15
Parks and Cemeteries	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	66
Probation Service	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
Town Clerk	1	1	1	1	27	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	28
Transport	9	2	22	42	73	179	14	1	1	1	4	45	1	1	1	426
Treasurer	1	1	1	1	19	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	22
Welfare	1	1	9	19	12	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	44
Weights and Measures Works	1	1	10	16	6	1	14	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	64
TOTALS	21	4	64	403	289	180	83	20	172	19	45	1	9	3	102	1415

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Details of the various medical examinations carried out by the Medical Staff for other Corporation Departments will be found in the preceding table.

CREMATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health is Medical Referee to the Landican Crematorium, and the Deputy Medical Officer of Health acts as his deputy. During 1968, 2,307 cremations took place, compared with 2,176 in 1967.

ACCIDENTAL POISONING

Despite the wide publicity given at National and local level on the avoidance of accidental poisoning, the number of such cases has again increased. As usual the greatest increase has occurred in the 1 - 5 year age group. Those engaged in the Health Services are trying by every means to prevent this type of accident by advising parents of the dangers of allowing their children to have access to any type of poisonous substance.

Children's Hospital - Poisoning Cases treated

during the year ended 31st December, 1968,

compared with the year 1967

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
<u>Total Number of Poisoning Cases treated:</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>186</u>
<u>Age Incidence:</u>		
Birth to 1 year	9	6
1 year to 2 years	56	53
2 years to 3 years	88	62
3 " to 4 "	48	40
4 " to 5 "	18	14
5 " to 8 "	15	5
8 " to 11 "	2	3
Over 11 years	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

<u>Nature of Poisoning:</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
Drugs or Medicines	144	116
Domestic Items	96	70
<u>Drugs:</u>		
Aspirin	58	35
Tranquillisers	27	26
Other types of tablets	25	25
Others	34	30
<u>Domestic Items:</u>		
Bleach and Disinfectants	16	16
Paraffin and Turpentine	16	14
Polishes	5	4
Cosmetics	4	6
Mice, Rat and Fly Poisons	4	2
Toadstools and Berries	16	3
Other Domestic Substances	35	25
<u>Means by which Poisons were obtained:</u>		
Left lying loose in house, i.e. tables, drawers, mantelpiece, shelves, cupboards, etc.	173	126
Obtained from handbags	15	13
Obtained from other persons	7	7
Found in gardens, streets and old properties	20	6
Details not known	25	34

The total figure for 1968 - 240, is the highest since the Annual figures were submitted for 1963, the total figures for each year being as follows :-

1967	-	186
1966	-	156
1965	-	150
1964	-	175
1963	-	138

INCIDENCE OF BLINDNESS

The total number of Registered Blind Persons on 31st December, 1968, was 378 (128 males and 250 females). On the corresponding date in 1967 there were 400 (135 males and 265 females). New cases during 1968 numbered 30 (9 males and 21 females). Inward transfers numbered 3 (3 males).

Deaths, and transfers to other areas accounted for the deletion of 54 names (19 males and 35 females). There was 1 case de-certified (1 female).

The number of registered Partially Sighted Persons on 31st December, 1968, was 86 (37 males and 49 females). The corresponding figures for 1967 were 82 (38 males and 44 females). Additions to this register during 1968 were 19 (5 males and 14 females). Deaths, removals from the Borough and transfers to the Blind Register, numbered 15 (7 males and 8 females). There was 1 case re-certified (1 male) and 1 case de-certified (1 female).

Of the 378 registered Blind Persons 202 (46 males and 156 females) are over the age of 70, and of the Partially Sighted 36 (7 males and 29 females) are over 70.

There are 5 blind (1 male and 4 females) and 5 partially sighted children (2 males and 3 females) under 16 years of age.

Blind and partially sighted persons in employment number 52 (45 males and 7 females) respectively.

During 1968, 69 examinations were carried out by ophthalmic surgeons - 47 first examinations and 22 re-examinations.

The cause of blindness in the 30 new cases was as follows :-

Cataract	10
Glaucoma	6
Congenital, myopic and other defects	14

The partially sighted persons notified in the same period were :-

Cataract	4
Glaucoma	2
Other defects	13

A. Follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons.

- (i) Number of cases registered during the Year in respect of which Para. 7 (c) of Form B.D. 8 recommends:

(a) No Treatment

(b) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical)

- (ii) Number of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment.

	Cause of Disability		
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Others
(a) No Treatment	5	6	14
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical)	9	2	13
(ii) Number of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment.	3	2	12

B. Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases - Nil

Retrolental Fibroplasia cases - Nil

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDRENINFANT WELFARE CENTRES

At the end of the year, Infant Welfare Centres were open as follows :-

Central Clinic	Wednesday	2 - 4 p.m.
South Clinic	Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday	2 - 4 p.m.
North Clinic	Wednesday and Thursday	2 - 4 p.m.
Balls Road Clinic	Thursday and Friday	2 - 4 p.m.
Upton Clinic	Tuesday and Friday	2 - 4 p.m.
Woodchurch Clinic	Monday and Wednesday	2 - 4 p.m.
Prenton Clinic	Monday and Thursday	2 - 4 p.m.
Thingwall Clinic	Friday	2 - 4 p.m.

From the 23rd March, 1968, it was decided to hold only one session each week at Central Clinic as the attendances there had fallen. This fall occurred when the clinic premises were moved from Conway Street to Hamilton Square. The new premises were further away from homes and shops and the pram shelter was not easily accessible.

Where new and attractive premises exist, there is a higher attendance at the clinics. Staffing at the Infant Welfare clinics has depended on help from part-time doctors, without whose assistance the service could not have been maintained. It is the practice to have a doctor in attendance at as many infant welfare sessions as possible.

RECORD OF CLINIC ATTENDANCES - INFANT WELFARE

Clinic	Total Attendances		Total	No. seen by Doctor	Doctor Sessions	Year of birth for those making first attendance this year			Total	Sessions
	First Visits	Re- Visits				1968	1967	1966		
North	428	3168	3596	1501	86	289	269	249	807	102
South	579	5013	5592	2270	94	90	79	410	579	146
Central	108	1189	1297	390	49	35	21	64	120	84
Balls Road	349	3792	4141	1368	79	63	41	254	358	119
Upton	331	2522	2853	848	96	201	119	171	491	102
Woodchurch	151	1979	2130	715	49	161	97	116	374	97
Prenton	226	4249	4475	906	59	255	85	189	529	99
Thingwall	82	1519	1601	165	29	90	42	74	206	51
Totals	2254	23431	25685	8163	541	1184	753	1527	3464	800

DENTAL TREATMENT

By arrangement with the Education Committee, expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age can receive dental treatment by the School Dental Staff at the School Dental Clinic. During the year dental care was provided as follows :-

	Examined	Treated	Fill-ings	Extrac-tions	General Anaesthetics	Dentures provided
Expectant & Nursing Mothers	10	10	27	3	1	1
Children under 5	156	122	75	267	108	-

DAY NURSERIES

The following table shows the attendances during the year.

Name of Nursery	Capacity	Number on register at end of the year		Average daily attendances during the year	
		0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5
Cavendish Road	25 places	8	16	5	13
Old Chester Road	25 places	11	16	6	12

NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION - PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 - SECTION 187

At the end of the year there were two Nursing Homes registered in the Borough.

The Nursing Homes are inspected periodically by Medical Officers of the Health Department.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

During the year 197 premature babies were born. 24 were still-born and 173 born alive. 187 were born in hospital, and 9 at home. 1 of the babies born at home was transferred to the Premature Baby Unit for nursing. All premature infants are the subject of particular attention by Midwives and Health Visitors and are included in the "At Risk" register.

CONVALESCENT TREATMENT

During the year no pre-school children were referred for convalescence, which reflects the improvement in general health of young children.

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ASSISTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

St. Elizabeth's Convent

Number of attendances during the year

113 First Visits

1846 Re-Visits

WELFARE FOODS

The issue of welfare foods on behalf of the Ministry of Health continues from the nine distribution centres but sales have again decreased.

Other authorities share this experience and it is evident that more children are being given proprietary milk foods and vitamin products.

"AT RISK" REGISTER

The Ministry of Health asked Health Departments to keep a register of "at risk" babies born each year. The schedule of "risk" groups prepared by Dr. Sheridan of the Ministry of Health has been in use by hospitals and General Practitioners.

The medical staff of hospitals in the town and the General Practitioners give whole-hearted support and a comprehensive register has been established. The register is kept under regular review in order to keep it up to date.

During the year 502 new cases were registered and 394 were removed after review leaving a total of 458 at 31st December, 1968, compared with 350 at 31st December, 1967.

It is gratifying that the work involved in maintaining this register is having the desired result of enabling earlier diagnosis and treatment of handicapped children.

INCIDENCE OF CONGENITAL ABNORMALITIES

The Registrar General requires monthly returns of congenital abnormalities detected at birth and to ensure that such information is submitted in respect of each child born in the Borough an entry has been inserted on the birth notification cards 'was any congenital abnormality detected at birth?' and when the answer is in the affirmative a form is sent to the Doctor in charge of the case for insertion of all the information required by the Registrar General.

A register is kept of all children suffering from congenital abnormalities (whether detected at birth or later) and this register is kept under constant review. During the year 31 new cases were registered, 11 taken off register due to death or removal from the district, 28 were transferred to the list of handicapped pupils on reaching two years of age. At 31st December there were 39 children on the register.

DAY CARE OF CHILDRENNURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS REGULATIONS ACT, 1948
AS AMENDED BY THE HEALTH SERVICES AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1968

At the end of the year there were 4 private nurseries, two child minders, 3 nursery schools and 14 playgroups registered under the Act.

All registered premises are the subject of periodic visits by medical staff in addition to the visits of the Health Visitors for the area.

MIDWIFERY SERVICENUMBER OF MIDWIVES

During the year, 56 Midwives gave notice of their intention to practise in the Borough :-

Municipal Midwives	14
Private Midwives	-
Midwives in Hospitals and Institutions	42
Midwives in Nursing Homes.. .. .	-
	56

SUPERVISIONInspection of Midwives:

Visits to Midwives' homes	25
Office Interviews	410

Pupil Midwives:

Supervision of nursings.. .. .	182
Supervision of deliveries	20
Lecture Sessions	42

Miscellaneous Visits:

Cases requiring medical aid	20
Cases of puerperal pyrexia	-
Cases of ophthalmia neonatorum	-
Expectant mothers	41
Visits to Ante-Natal Clinics.. .. .	6
*Visits to Relaxation Clinics.. .. .	91

* The above figures include both the Non-Medical Supervisor's visits and those paid by other Midwives.

NUMBER OF CASES ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES

The number was 237 of which 185 were attended by Midwives alone (in 1967 there were 291 cases of which 253 were attended by Midwives alone).

CASES REQUIRING MEDICAL AID

107 cases were notified by Municipal Midwives in which medical aid had been called, as compared with 162 in 1967.

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM MIDWIVES

Still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Liability to be a source of infection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Laying out of a dead body	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Baby deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-

MUNICIPAL MIDWIVES

The following is a summary of the work of the Municipal Midwives during the year :-

	(1967)	1968	
Number of bookings	(390)	271	
Number of births attended			
(a) Doctor present	(38)	52)	
(b) Doctor not present	(253)	185)	237
Administration of gas and air analgesia	(249)	218	
Administration of pethidine	(218)	192	
Total visits paid to patients	(20889)	22740	

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Three cases were notified.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE

A central Booking Clinic is held at 40 Balls Road for any patient who wishes to attend there - 118 new patients have attended for booking purposes.

The number of patients discharged home early decreased to 1,901. Of these, 993 were discharged home after 48 hours.

The arrangement for Domiciliary Midwives attending Hospital Ante-Natal Clinics continues to run smoothly and pupil midwives engaged in Part 1 Training at St. Catherine's Hospital spend a day with the domiciliary midwives.

DISTRICT MIDWIFERY TRAINING

The usual arrangements for Pupil Midwives' Part II Training have continued, although some difficulty has been experienced in providing the necessary number of domiciliary cases.

Tutorial classes have been held at 40 Balls Road, as usual. 10 Pupils completed their training, all of whom were successful in passing the qualifying examination of the Central Midwives Board.

REFRESHER COURSES

As in past years, arrangements were made for Midwives to attend such Courses. Much benefit is derived from the contacts made with Midwives from other Local Authorities, and from the lectures and visits arranged during the Course.

A study day was organised jointly by St. Catherine's Hospital and the domiciliary midwifery staff. It was well attended and proved to be a very instructive exercise.

CARE OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS

There has been a slight increase in numbers, and close co-operation has been maintained with both Birkenhead and Wirral Moral Welfare Association and the Church Authorities.

ANTE-NATAL RELAXATION EXERCISES - DETAILS

Clinic	Sessions	Patients	Attendances
North	49	72	431
Prenton	51	38	268
South	49	75	508
	149	185	1207

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (FAMILY PLANNING) ACT, 1967.

There has been an increase in the numbers attending this clinic during the past year. The number of new patients seen was 981 of whom 411 were from Birkenhead. The increase occurred despite the fact that three new clinics were opened in the surrounding areas in Cheshire County.

HEALTH VISITING

During the year under review there have been staff changes. Two Health Visitors resigned during the year but two student Health Visitors were successful in their examinations. Another two sponsored students commenced the training course in September.

Refresher Courses were attended by two Health Visitors; one Health Visitor attended the Course in Liverpool and one attended a course in Oxford.

Continued use has been made of part-time help, and State Registered Nurses, both full-time and part-time, have assisted, particularly in the hygiene surveys in schools.

ASSOCIATION WITH HOSPITALS

Health Visitors have continued their attendance at the Paediatric Clinics at St. Catherine's Hospital and the Children's Hospital and at the Geriatric Department at St. Catherine's Hospital.

Mothercraft teaching is carried out at the Ante-natal Clinics at St. Catherine's Hospital by a Health Visitor. Dr. Zausmer requested the service of a Health Visitor at his out-patient clinics. We now have one attending three times weekly.

PHENYLKETONURIA TESTING

This has continued. During the year 2,351 babies were tested. There was no positive reaction.

SCREEN TESTING FOR DEAFNESS

This has continued as in previous years. 374 children were tested and 22 recalled for a second test. Two children were referred to General Practitioners and two to Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeons.

PROBLEM FAMILIES

The meetings with social workers in other Departments of the Corporation concerned with these families have continued throughout the year. There is still a hard core of problem families who need the continued support of all agencies, statutory and voluntary.

Bad housing and inadequacy, both morally and mentally, continue to be the main causes of our problem families. Progress is greatly hampered by the very limited facilities for cleansing, bathing and treating scabious conditions which go hand in hand with problem families.

CO-OPERATION WITH GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

We now have two partial attachments of Health Visitors to Group practices and indications are that this service will be extended.

MOTHERS' CLUB AT WOODCHURCH

This has continued to flourish during the year and obviously is appreciated by the mothers of the district.

This is in no small way directly due to the work of the Superintendent Health Visitor and the Health Visitors of the district.

HEALTH EDUCATION

The Health Visitors have collaborated with Dr. Fergusson, Health Education Officer, during the year.

The Health Visitors now attend two secondary modern schools for girls for regular sessions for the teaching of mothercraft, public services and safety in the home, etc. - when necessary the girls attend the clinics for practical work and the showing of films.

The Health Visitors have had instruction on the use of the film strip - "Self-examination of the Breast", and early in 1968 the campaign for the education of women in the Borough was in full operation. This film was shown to small groups, and at the 31st of December 1,188 persons had seen this film and we remain with a large number of requests.

VISITS

Groups of students from Calder College of Domestic Science and student nurses from local Hospitals have spent some time on the district with Health Visitors.

Senior school girls and students from the Technical College have visited various clinics.

STATISTICS OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY HEALTH VISITORS

- 2,438 first visits were paid to infants under one year
- 12,177 subsequent visits were paid to infants under one year
- 20,958 routine visits were paid to infants between one and five years of age
- 952 visits were paid to expectant mothers
- 1,596 visits were paid in connection with miscellaneous matters
- 8,671 visits were paid in which no access was obtained
- 1,649 first visits were paid to aged
- 55 first visits were paid to tuberculous patients
- 500 subsequent visits were paid to tuberculous patients

CLINIC DUTIES AND ATTENDANCES

Cytology (Cervical)	..	..	..	..	..	..	60
Infant Welfare	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,008
Medical Examinations	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
B.C.G. Vaccination at Chest Clinic	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Ante-Natal Relaxation	..	..	..	..	..	..	311
Mothercraft (St. Catherine's Hospital)	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Hearing Screening (under 5 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	109
Hospital Attendances: Geriatric Clinic	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Paediatric Clinic	..	..	..	..	..	..	84

HOME NURSING SERVICE

Owing to the tendency of patients being discharged earlier from hospitals, more highly skilled and more intensive nursing care is required especially in the case of patients over the age of 65 years. The liaison between hospitals and the Domiciliary Service has increased and all student nurses spend some time with the District Nurses.

TRAINING

The Queen's Institute of District Nursing no longer act as a training body; this function has now been taken over by the Ministry and many Local Authorities now run their own training scheme approved by the Ministry. Three members of staff completed their training successfully, and at the end of the year one member was in training.

INCONTINENT SICK

The demand for incontinence pads has remained at about the same level, but there has been an increased demand from ambulant incontinent patients requiring the provision of protective aids.

SOCIAL WORK

There have been many more calls on the Home Nursing Service to deal with social problems as well as nursing problems, and a close liaison exists between the Welfare Department and the Home Nursing Service.

CLASSIFICATION OF CASES AND VISITS PAID

	<u>Cases</u>		<u>Visits</u>	
	<u>1968</u>	<u>(1967)</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>(1967)</u>
Medical	1511	1529	36909	39620
Surgical	259	271	7349	6724
Infectious Diseases	5	1	13	4
Tuberculosis	23	24	1075	1135
Maternal Complications	33	39	273	393
Others	35	43	45	53
	1866	1907	45664	47929

	<u>1968</u>	<u>(1967)</u>
Number of patients over 65 years	1287	1223
Number of visits paid to patients over 65	31609	47929
Number of patients under 5 at first visit	15	25
Number of visits paid to under 5's	78	174

VISITS BY SUPERINTENDENT

	<u>1968</u>	<u>(1967)</u>
Supervisory and Teaching Visits:	216	451
Extra Calls: Nursing)	581	524
Casual)		
	797	975

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following is the programme of immunisation practised in the Health Department :-

<u>Age</u>	<u>Vaccine</u>	<u>Interval</u>
6 - 8 months	Triple (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough) and Poliomyelitis	1st) 6 - 8 weeks 2nd)
12 months	Measles Vaccination	
13 months	Smallpox Vaccination	
14 months	Triple and Poliomyelitis	3rd
<u>SCHOOL ENTRY</u>	(Parents to be approached at Medical Examination of Entrants)	
5 - 7 years	Diphtheria/Tetanus Booster and Poliomyelitis	4th
12 years	B.C.G. Vaccination	

Consent forms were again sent to parents of children reaching the age of six months and to parents of school entrants aged five years.

A good response was obtained once again from the parents of school children but the figures relating to children under five years remain disappointing.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATIONIMMUNISATIONS IN 1968

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Reinforcing Injections</u>
0 - 3 years	1901	972
4 - 7 years	479	2008
8 - 15 years	21	87
	2401	3067

	<u>Medical Officers</u>	<u>General Practitioners</u>
Immunisations against Diphtheria	19	4
Reinforcing Injections against Diphtheria	42	-
Triple Antigen	1158	808
Triple Antigen (Reinforcing Injections)	767	445
Immunisations against Diphtheria and Tetanus	400	10
Immunisations against Diphtheria and Tetanus (Reinforcing Injection)	1718	91
Quadruple	-	2
Quadruple (Reinforcing Injections)	-	4
	4104	1364

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

	<u>Infant Welfare Centres</u>	<u>General Practitioners</u>
0 - 1 year	190	134
1 - 2 years	769	502
2 - 3 years	114	96
3 - 4 years	44	26
5 - 7 years	44	29
8 - 15 years	-	10
	1161	797

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

By Medical Officers at Infant Welfare
Centres

664

By General Practitioners

557

Age at Date of Vaccination	0 - 1 years	1 - 2 years	2 - 4 years	5 - 15 years	Total
Number Vaccinated	77	407	449	176	1109
Number Re-Vaccinated	-	1	8	103	112

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

During 1968 the following were given :-

ORAL POLIOMYELITIS VACCINE

	Health Department	General Practitioners	Total
Oral Primary Course	535	711	1246
4th Oral	1658	369	2027

IMMUNISATION AGAINST TETANUS

Tetanus immunisations were continued in the Infant and Junior
Schools.

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Reinforcing Injections</u>
0 - 3 years	1826	892
4 - 7 years	547	2110
8 - 15 years	41	105
	2414	3107

The following tabulated statement shows the numbers

Age in Yrs. on 31st Dec. of the Corres. Yr.	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Under 1 yr.	30	71	60	27	45	539	535	637	626	524	510
1 year	712	1009	1124	1020	981	564	494	378	270	228	467
2 years	241	353	385	316	289	181	261	251	245	294	130
3 years	93	113	144	148	80	63	96	75	85	67	60
4 years	71	71	84	136	67	86	67	60	77	57	60
5 years	55	56	80	212	137	275	136	176	243	232	194
6 years	33	31	58	344	135	279	249	236	359	244	141
7 years	20	28	41	281	115	150	165	123	186	111	60
8 years	26	26	21	331	161	116	98	77	89	74	35
9 years	17	11	33	273	131	81	57	44	34	61	27
10 years	14	20	22	267	114	124	78	37	21	60	35
11 years	8	13	33	221	105	90	46	19	7	25	18
12 years	5	14	7	62	57	71	15	7	1	6	7
13 years	7	6	7	13	23	123	6	1	4	-	-
14 years	7	6	6	14	12	142	7	-	1	-	-
15 years	15	14	14	11	19	16	12	6	8	9	3
Total each year	1354	1842	2119	3676	2471	2900	2322	2127	2256	1992	1747
Reinforcing Injections	47	123	77	4352	2368	2198	1428	1715	1339	2150	1344

immunised against Diphtheria each year since 1947 :-

1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	Total Immu- nised at 31st Dec. 1968
69	148	325	612	176	219	184	234	187	232	328	Age Under 5 years 6738
617	647	860	1161	674	839	1125	1179	1103	1172	1286	
201	217	331	270	116	143	306	177	241	178	215	
37	94	191	147	46	28	85	67	110	70	72	
40	50	139	123	27	17	27	58	107	53	57	
49	47	112	96	27	33	26	61	125	76	163	Age 5 - 9 years 9666
93	43	115	224	26	219	97	436	344	323	228	
40	47	170	278	37	28	75	322	58	27	31	
35	26	160	208	51	14	43	44	31	7	6	
25	16	91	194	91	6	104	10	12	3	6	
12	14	66	172	48	11	113	3	7	4	5	Age 10 - 14 years 8881
15	8	26	199	28	2	68	3	6	4	-	
8	2	12	78	17	-	38	-	-	1	3	
-	8	11	18	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	
-	3	14	12	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	
4	-	36	52	15	6	1	1	-	-	-	23361
1245	1370	2659	3844	1381	1566	2293	2598	2332	2151	2401	48646
746	355	2322	1507	482	1078	2822	3161	3221	2846	3067	38748

VACCINATION AGAINST MEASLES

	<u>Health Department</u>	<u>General Practitioners</u>	<u>Total</u>
0 - 3 years	441	144	585
4 - 7 years	528	132	660
8 - 15 years	17	10	27
	986	286	1272

B.C.G. VACCINATION - SCHOOL CHILDREN, 1968.

B.C.G. Vaccination was offered to 12 year olds during the year.

Children found to be positive following testing are sent for X-ray examination and certain cases are referred to the Chest Physician.

	Multiple Puncture Test			
Parents Notified	Children Tested	Positive	Negative	Children given B.C.G.
2226	1472	150	1322	1322

AMBULANCE SERVICE

I am indebted to the Chief Fire Officer for the following report :-

The Ambulance Service responded to 66,843 calls during the year with a mileage of 213,114 miles.

Malicious False Alarm calls increased to 141 compared with what was considered the previous year to be a disgraceful total of 88. This is gross abuse of a humanitarian Service which is already hard pressed to cope with the fantastic demands made upon it. It is not only the number of such calls received but the amount of time involved in checking and re-checking both the call and the address stated before it is considered safe to assume the call is false. Almost anything I say in connection with these Malicious False Alarms is bound to be a repetition of my comments made in previous years but I will never accept them as commonplace and will continue to bring these acts of irresponsibility by the few to the notice of the general public and to ensure that every effort is made in each case to trace and apprehend the offenders.

Oxygen was administered by ambulance crews on 154 occasions during the year and all ambulances are now equipped with the Minuteman Resuscitator.

In 1968, ambulances conveyed the Obstetrical Flying Squad to 39 incidents and the Paediatric Squad to 32 incidents. Ambulance personnel were called upon to deliver babies before the arrival of doctors or persons qualified in midwifery on 18 occasions; some of these occurred at the home of patients and others in the ambulance en route to hospital.

The acquisition of the Auxiliary Fire Service garages, which became available following the stand down of Civil Defence, provided much-needed covered accommodation for the Ambulance Service and it is now possible to get ten out of the fourteen vehicles under cover. The ambulance accommodation as a whole still continues to make life extremely difficult for the personnel, with personal lockers in the main garage, cramped feeding and rest rooms, and an almost impossible turnout area. There is, of course, little that can be done at this stage; a new station is planned and should be available in under three years.

ESTABLISHMENT

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>31.12.1968.</u>
Station Officer	1	1
Deputy Station Officer	1	1
Section Leaders	4	4
Driver/Attendants	38	36
	<u>44</u>	<u>42</u>

Variations:

Resignations:	7 Driver/Attendants
Appointments:	6 Driver/Attendants

Courses Attended

Two members of the Ambulance Service attended Preliminary Training Courses for ambulance personnel at the Cheshire County Training Centre, Wrenbury Hall, Nr. Nantwich, Cheshire.

38 members qualified for First Aid awards at examinations conducted under the British Red Cross Society. Examinations ranged from first year to fifteenth year grades.

Institute of Certified Ambulance Personnel

One member of the Service passed the Graduateship examination of the above Institution.

Safe Driving Competition Sponsored by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

<u>Oak Leaf to 10-year Bar</u>	<u>10-year Medal</u>	<u>Bar to 5-year Medal</u>
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5

3

7

<u>5-year Medal</u>	<u>Diploma</u>
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4

14

Entries for 1968:	37
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Awards granted:	33
-----------------	----

Vehicles

	<u>Type</u>	<u>Year</u>
1	Austin Car/Ambulance	1964
1	Morris Ambulance, Diesel	1964
2	Morris Ambulances, Diesel	1965
1	Morris Ambulance, Diesel	1966
2	Morris Dual Purpose Ambulances, Diesel	1966
3	Morris Ambulances, Diesel	1967
2	Morris Ambulances, Diesel	1968
1	Morris Dual Purpose Ambulance, Diesel	1968
1	Commer Dual Purpose Ambulance, petrol engine	1965

The Commer Dual-Purpose Ambulance which was obtained from the Civil Defence pool when that Service was disbanded has been altered and fitted out by workshop personnel to supplement the vehicles used mainly to convey sitting case patients. This addition to the fleet at the financial adjustment agreed proved an economic way of increasing an under-strength vehicle establishment.

CLASSIFICATION OF CALLS

		<u>Calls</u>	<u>Patients</u>	<u>Mileage</u>
<u>EMERGENCY</u>	Home Accidents	849	855	3,718
	Works Accidents	543	551	2,044
	Street Accidents	1,400	1,582	5,651
	Maternity	1,093	1,093	5,046
	Emergency Illness	2,433	2,434	10,704
<u>REMOVALS</u>	Ambulance	28,156	28,503	96,126
	Sitting Cars	30,176	30,176	82,617
<u>SPECIAL SERVICES</u>	Midwives	83	-	379
	Bedding	2	-	12
	Others	52	-	190
<u>AMBULANCES NOT REQUIRED</u>	Malicious False Alarms	141	-	466
	Others	1,915	-	6,161
		66,843	65,194	213,114

Special Services

A total of 137 Special Service calls were attended and included the conveyance of midwives on 83 occasions.

SUMMARY OF CALLSASSISTANCE TO AND FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES

	<u>Calls</u>	<u>Standbys</u>
Assistance to:		
Wallasey	36	37
Cheshire	34	-
Liverpool	7	-
Others	3	-

AMBULANCES NOT REQUIRED

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Calls</u>
<u>EMERGENCY</u>	Refused conveyance	170
	Removed - passing car, etc.	48
	Transport not required	343
<u>OUT PATIENTS</u>	Too ill to travel	261
	Made own way	149
	Appointment errors	160
	Wrong address	30
	Not at home and not ready	396
	Refused conveyance	44
	Case cancelled	88
<u>IN PATIENTS</u>	Wrong address	23
	Too ill to travel	23
	Made own way	47
	Not at home and not ready	54
	Refused conveyance	25
	Case cancelled	54
		1,915

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

There has been an increase in the number of cases provided with domestic help during the year as well as an increase in the number of hours worked by the Home Helps. Difficulty in recruitment of suitable personnel, at times, hindered the provision of an adequate service, particularly during holiday periods, but recently this situation has improved. Routine visits for re-assessment purposes to individual households continue to be made by the staff.

The following are the statistics for the year :-

Short term sickness and maternity cases	52
Chronic sick, aged and infirm	962
Others (psychiatric)	8
	1,022
Supervisory visits by Organiser and staff	2,797
Hours worked by Home Helps	114,521½

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER CARE

Examination of tuberculosis contacts is carried out by Dr. Merrin, Consultant Chest Physician, at the Chest Clinic, 42 Hamilton Square.

Home Nursing Equipment, paper handkerchiefs and destructible paper cups are issued where necessary, and free milk can be allowed where home circumstances justify the supply being made.

During the year the Tuberculosis Social Worker held 946 office interviews and made 832 home and hospital visits.

The 1966 National Insurance Act introducing the Earnings Related Short Term Benefits Scheme has resulted in a reduction of the cases referred for Supplementary Benefit. 26 cases were referred for Supplementary Benefit during 1968. 292 cases were referred to other organisations including the John Lloyd Corkhill Trust.

18 families were referred for more suitable housing accommodation - 16 to the Housing Committee and 2 to the Birkenhead Housing Aid Society. 6 families were rehoused by the Birkenhead Housing Committee and 1 by the Birkenhead Housing Aid Society.

Convalescence was arranged for 14 patients, of these - 12 patients were paid for by the John Lloyd Corkhill Trust.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

16 patients attended daily at the Anne Glassey Workshop in Wallasey and Home Teaching continued for one session each week.

REHABILITATION

Of the 16 patients who attended the Anne Glassey Workshop for occupational therapy, one male patient was referred to the Ministry of Labour for training and has since been placed in employment. One older male patient became unfit to make the daily journey to the Workshop and has been supplied with equipment and materials to enable him to work at home.

14 patients were referred to the Ministry of Labour and registered as Disabled Persons. 7 of these patients were placed in employment.

SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

4 patients attended sheltered workshops during the year. 2 young women and one middle-aged man attended the Anne Glassey Workshop and one male patient was employed at the British Legion Village, Maidstone, Kent.

EXAMINATION OF CONTACTS

145 adults and 365 children attended for contact examination. 5 children were found to have active tuberculosis and in addition it was thought advisable to give two children preventative chemotherapy.

Of the 365 children who attended - 275 were negative, 22 had a positive heaf reading, 39 who had received B.C.G. at an earlier date were positive, and seven received X-ray examination only.

Of the 275 children who were negative - 272 were given B.C.G. vaccination. The parents of 3 children refused vaccination.

In addition to these figures 99 babies were vaccinated at birth in hospital.

The ratio of contacts per notified case was 12.14.

B.C.G. VACCINATION

As stated above: 272 children were vaccinated following heaf test.

99 babies were vaccinated at birth in hospital.

In addition 12 student nurses received B.C.G. vaccination.

CHIROPODY

In addition to the provision of chiropody treatment at the Central Clinic we have been able to establish, during the past year, three chiropody surgeries in the clinics at North, South and Prenton. The present surgery service is as follows :-

- 3 Sessions per week at South Clinic
- 1 Session per week at Prenton Clinic
- 2 Sessions per week at North Clinic
- 16 Sessions per week at Central Clinic

The domiciliary treatments are carried out mainly by private chiropodists working on a contractual basis.

The following classes of patient remain eligible for treatment under the scheme :-

- (1) Persons of either sex over 65 years of age;
- (2) Handicapped persons of all ages;
- (3) Expectant mothers.

YEAR	PLACE OF TREATMENT				TOTAL		NUMBERS (INCLUDED IN COLS. (2) TO (7) INCLUSIVE) OF FREE CASES AND TREATMENTS	
	Surgery		Home of Patient					
	Cases	Treat-ments	Cases	Treat-ments	Cases	Treat-ments	Cases	Treat-ments
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1968	871	5326	808	4469	1679	9795	1398	8013

Chiropody PATIENTS on Register as at 31st December :-

Table 1.

Year (1)	Aged 65 and Over (2)	Handicapped Persons Under 65			Expectant Mothers (6)	Grand Total (7)
		Blind (3)	Other Physical Handicap (4)	Total (5)		
1968	1615	4	60	64	Nil	1679

Table 2.

	Patients receiving DOMICILIARY Treatments				Patients receiving SURGERY Treatments				Total Patients receiving Treatment			
Year (1)	Free (2)	@ 2/6 (3)	@ 5/- (4)	Total (5)	Free (6)	@ 2/6 (7)	@ 5/- (8)	Total (9)	Free (10)	@ 2/6 (11)	@ 5/- (12)	Grand Total (13)
1968	682	84	42	808	716	103	52	871	1398	187	94	1679

Chiropody TREATMENTS given during year :-

Table 3.

Year (1)	Domiciliary Treatments				Surgery Treatments				Totals			
	Free (2)	@ 2/6 (3)	@ 5/- (4)	Total (5)	Free (6)	@ 2/6 (7)	@ 5/- (8)	Total (9)	Free (10)	@ 2/6 (11)	@ 5/- (12)	Grand Total (13)
1968	3712	498	259	4469	4301	731	294	5326	8013	1229	553	9795

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY, 1968.

Number of women tested	..	..	..	..	..	1,040
Number of women re-tested	..	..	..	..	..	26
Number on waiting list	..	..	..	..	..	97

Of the 1,040 tested, 6 had positive smears and these women were referred for further investigation.

18 women were advised to consult their doctors regarding minor conditions although their smears were negative.

HEALTH EDUCATION

In addition to delivering lectures in many of the Birkenhead schools, Dr. Fergusson, Health Education Officer, has successfully developed and organised numerous Health Education programmes. Lectures have been given to women's organisations, church groups, youth clubs and civic societies. Health Education programmes have also been extended to factories, stores and shops. Schemes are being developed to expand this service in order to include more of the general public.

The subjects covered last year were varied :-

Dental Hygiene
Dangers of Smoking
Elementary Biology
Diets and Health
Bodily Hygiene
Cancer Education
First Aid
Venereal Diseases
Health in Retirement

and many others.

Much work was done in projecting the campaigns suggested by the Local Authorities and the Ministry. Those projects included :-

Measles Immunisation
Home Accidents
Accidental Poisoning of Children
Abuse of Drugs

Standard advertising techniques were used in promoting these campaigns, e.g. :-

Articles in the local press, usually
accompanied by photographs.
Broadcasts on Radio Merseyside
Posters produced by the Laird School of Art
The use of loud-hailers lent by the Police

The co-operation of the schools' staff in displaying suitable material on fireworks and bonfire hazards was much appreciated, and it was gratifying that accidents arising from this source were the lowest in recent years.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICESTATISTICS1968MENTAL ILLNESSCases referred to Mental Welfare Department

By General Practitioners	332
By Police (including courts)	40
By others (General Hospital, N.A.B., Welfare Department, etc.)	238
By Psychiatric Hospitals	156
By Psychiatric Out-Patients Departments	111
	—
	877
	—

Admissions to Hospital (Arranged by the
Mental Welfare Department)Under Mental Health Act 1959

Informal Admissions (Section 5)	342
Urgency Applications (Section 29)	31
Observation (Section 25)	110
Treatment (Section 26)	14
Hospital Order (Section 60)	2
	—
	499
	—

Rehabilitation

Richmond Fellowship and Chapel Hey	7
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Industrial Therapy Organisation

Number on Register at 31.12.68.	Male	11
	Female	8
		—

19

Average daily attendance	15
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MENTAL SUBNORMALITYCases referred to Mental Welfare Department

From Education Committee	23
From General Practitioners	1
From Police (including courts)	3
From other sources (N.A.B., Welfare Department, etc.)	3
Transfers from other Local Authorities	-
From Hospitals (Discharges)	2
From Hospitals (Licence)	-
Transfers In	-
	—
	32
	—

Admissions to Hospitals

Informal Admissions (Section 5)	2
Treatment (Section 26)	3
Urgency Application (Section 29)	-
Court Orders (Section 60)	-
Court Orders (Section 61)	-
	—
	5
	—

SHORT TERM CARE ADMISSIONS

To Hospitals	20
To other Establishments	35
	—
	55
	—

Transfers Out

-

Deaths

-

WAITING LIST OF PATIENTS REQUIRING HOSPITAL CARE

Urgent	9
Less Urgent	6
	—
	15
	—

Appeals to Mental Health TribunalsJUNIOR TRAINING CENTRE

Number on Register at 31.12.68.	Male	28
	Female	29
		—
		57
		—
Average daily attendance		40

Adult Training Centre

Number on Register at 31.12.68.	Male	38
	Female	37
		—
		75
		—
Average daily attendance		58

Position as at 31.12.68.

Number in Hospital	232
Number under Guardianship	1
Number under Home Supervision	218
	—
Number on Register	451

The overall figures for this year show a slight decrease on the previous year but are still running very high.

Admissions of selected cases for rehabilitation to Chapel Hey, Moreton, and Richmond Fellowship continue. This is a growing and important part of the service. It is difficult to assess yet the results of this type of work, but as further use is made of these establishments, a more accurate picture will emerge.

The Industrial Therapy Unit in Price Street caters for many Birkenhead residents for whom we continue to make a grant. Building has begun on the new Junior Training Centre on a site at Moreton adjacent to the Adult Training Centre. The new Centre will incorporate a Special Care Unit; it is expected to be ready for use early in 1970.

The Adult Training Centre has continued to be used at its full quota of places. Unfortunately, we have not been able to accommodate all persons wishing to avail themselves of the excellent facilities of this unit, and ways of overcoming this deficiency are being considered.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Duties under this Act have been assigned to the Welfare Committee of the Council.

There is the utmost co-operation between the staffs and useful information about handicapped persons or the aged and infirm is exchanged between the Welfare Department and Health Visitors, Public Health Inspectors, Mental Welfare Officers, and the Domestic Help Organiser.

During the year, no case required to be dealt with under Section 47 of the Act. Several cases were visited, but in each it was eventually found possible to take alternative action.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

Indoor swimming pools are provided at Byrne Avenue and Livingstone Street Baths and, since the 23rd June, 1967, at Woodchurch Baths.

There are two pools at each of these Establishments, all being open during the summer months, but during the winter one pool at Byrne Avenue is closed for conversion to a Sports Centre.

The swimming bath water at Livingstone Street is obtained by pumping salt water from the River Mersey, the two other Establishments being supplied from the Town's mains. The water is continuously filtered and in the case of Byrne Avenue and Woodchurch Baths sterilised by the 'break-point' chlorination process, marginal chlorination being operated at Livingstone Street Baths.

Frequent tests are carried out daily by the Baths Department staff to ensure satisfactory chemical treatment and periodical bacteriological examinations are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

SEWERAGE

The majority of the property in the Borough is served by public sewers with the exception of a few properties which still have cesspools or septic tanks and these are gradually being eliminated as new developments bring the drainage facilities within their reach.

The Borough is adequately served by the sewers with the exception of the area on the western side which lies within the North Wirral Drainage Area.

This area, together with adjacent areas in Wallasey County Borough, Hoylake Urban District Council and Wirral Urban District Council, has been the subject of a joint scheme for the improvement of the sewerage facilities to serve these areas.

The scheme has been prepared by Consultant Engineers for draining the whole area and involves preliminary treatment of the flow and a 3 mile long sea outfall near Dove Point, Meols.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government has approved the scheme in principle and there are tentative proposals for the construction work to commence in October 1969 and be completed by December 1971.

There is no sewage treatment works in the Borough and the sewer outfalls to the River Mersey discharge untreated sewage.

WATER SUPPLY

I am indebted to the Engineer and Manager of the Wirral Water Board for information about the water supplies in the Borough.

The supply to the Borough is, in the main, a mixture of impounded water from the Alwen Reservoir in North Wales and river water abstracted from the River Dee at Chester, together with a small amount of underground water taken from the Wells at Spring Hill and Flaybrick, which are situated within the Borough; the proportion of well water again having increased to some extent over the previous year.

The supply to the Borough may be described as moderately soft, though slight variations do occur according to the conditions of the raw River Dee water abstracted and dependent upon the use of the well supplies. During the summer period, if the river flow is low, then there is a tendency for the hardness of the supplies distributed to increase.

The Main Water Works laboratory is situated at Sutton Hall Treatment Works near Capenhurst, and is operated by a full-time Chemist and Bacteriologist and four assistants, who supervise the treatment processes and undertake regular chemical and bacteriological examinations of the raw water and the treated water to ensure purity of supplies to the consumer.

The Board's Undertaking continues to be a source of interest to the public and numerous visits to the various works have been arranged during the year.

The supply to the statutory area has in all cases been satisfactory, both in quality and quantity.

The water as supplied to the consumer is generally not regarded as plumbo solvent in action. All new mains put into operation are sterilised and similar action is taken after the cleaning of any tanks or service reservoirs.

Treatment of the Alwen supply is by pressure filtration followed by sterilisation by chlorine and ammonia.

Treatment of the Dee supply is by settlement in upward flow sedimentation tanks followed by rapid gravity filtration and super chlorination.

Treatment of the Wells supply - marginal chlorination only.

The Wirral Water Board carries out regular bacteriological and chemical analyses of the water from the different sources.

Copies are supplied to the Health Department. Samples of the water as supplied to the consumer are taken regularly by the Health Department for bacteriological analysis and the results sent to the Wirral Water Board. Throughout the year, the results have been satisfactory as regards quality and the quantity of water supplies has been adequate.

The estimated number of dwellings in the Borough is 43,671. All properties are supplied direct from the distributive system.

Fluoridation

The position is as before. The principle of fluoridation was rejected by the Borough Council in 1968.

Lead in Drinking Water

The results of the special analysis confirm that the supplies in general are well below the limits laid down for lead in drinking water.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

The Chief Public Health Inspector has supplied the following particulars of the work of his section of the Health Department :-

Shortage of inspectorial staff reported in previous years reached a climax in 1968 when from July to the end of November there were only two district inspectors instead of the six normally available. During this period it was possible only to deal with the most urgent work. Routine inspections had to be abandoned and revisiting cut to a minimum.

One district inspector retired at the age of 65 years, another was appointed to the vacant specialist smoke inspector's post and a third left to go to another authority. The pests officer resigned to take up work outside the local authority and the rodent operator (sewers) had to be transferred to this post.

All this obviously meant that fewer visits were made and this in turn is reflected in the figures shown later in the report being lower than in previous years. The department's relationship with the general public deteriorated as a result.

The Health Committee were very concerned at this state of affairs and due to their action it was possible to recruit 3 qualified inspectors by the end of the year. A pupil inspector qualified during the year so that in December there was a full staff of qualified inspectors.

The only vacancies at the end of the year were for a rodent operator to deal with sewer infestations and for one pupil inspector.

The present establishment is :-

- 1 Chief Inspector
- 1 Senior Inspector
- 1 Specialist Food and Drugs Inspector
- 1 Specialist Smoke Inspector
- 1 Specialist Housing Inspector
- 6 District Inspectors
- 1 Technical Assistant - Offices, Shops and
Railway Premises
- 2 Technical Assistants - Smoke Control Areas
- 1 Pests Officer
- 1 Rodent Operator - sewer control (1 vacancy)
- 3 Pupil Inspectors (1 vacancy)

INSPECTION AND REPAIR OF DWELLING HOUSES

All repairs to houses have been secured as a result of the service of notices under the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954. No notices were served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957.

3,165 complaints were received during the year. This is in addition to complaints made to the inspectors on their districts.

Number of inspections under the Public Health Act, etc.	10,925
Number of re-inspections under the Public Health Act, etc.	12,319
Number of informal notices served under the Public Health Act	1,972
Number of Statutory notices served under the Public Health Act	894
Number of Statutory notices served under the Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954, Section 52	183
Number of Statutory notices served under the Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954, Section 66	Nil
Average number of notices outstanding	840
Number of notices complied with during the year	2,319
Number of defects remedied during the year	6,102

Summary of Improvements effected :-

Roofs repaired	910
Chimney stacks repaired	76
Rainwater gutters repaired	747
Downspouts repaired	202
Walls pointed or repaired	226
Lighting or ventilation improved	6
Windows repaired	145
Window sash cords removed	187
Firegrates repaired	34
Hearthstones repaired	2
Floors relaid or repaired	164
Skirting boards repaired	54
Wallplaster repaired	508
Ceiling plaster repaired	279
Doors repaired	180
Staircases repaired	12
Sinks renewed	8
Sink waste pipes trapped or repaired	88
Washing boilers repaired	1
Dampness remedied	691
Yard surface repaired and relaid	90
Yards drained	3
Sufficient water supply provided	90
Drains constructed, altered or repaired	83
Drains cleansed	456
Water closets repaired	382
Food stores provided	6
Tents, vans, sheds removed	20
Verminous persons/clothing/premises treated	22
Miscellaneous	430

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Legal proceedings were instituted under Section 94, Public Health Act, 1936, in 12 cases where owners had failed to comply with the requirements of Abatement Notices. Fines were imposed in three cases and totalled £12.0.0. Costs amounting to £6.10.6. were awarded in respect of 4 cases. Nuisance Orders were made in 7 cases when the work was not completed at the date of the hearing.

Work done by Local Authority in default of owners

The Local Authority cleansed obstructed drains at 72 houses where owners had failed to comply with 48 hour notices under the provisions of Section 52, Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954. At the request of owners, drains were cleansed at a further 38 houses.

Drains were repaired at 3 premises where owners had not complied with notices served under Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936.

Various items of repair were executed at 2 houses, in one case by agreement and in the other case following a Nuisance Order made by the Magistrates.

The costs of the above work are recoverable from the owners. During the year the costs recovered amounted to £239.14.9.

HOUSING ACT, 1957, Sections 17 and 18Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation

17 houses or parts of buildings used as dwellings were reported to the Health Committee as being unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered so fit at reasonable expense.

During the year the Council made the following Orders :-

Demolition Order in respect of 1 dwelling.

Closing Orders in respect of 12 dwellings and 4 parts of buildings.

Demolition and Closing of Unfit Dwellings

11 unfit houses, not in Clearance Areas, were demolished during the year and, following the re-housing of the occupants, 11 dwellings were closed.

18 families comprising 73 persons were re-housed from dwellings subject to demolition or closing orders.

HOUSING ACT, 1957, Section 42Clearance Areas

The Medical Officer of Health represented the undermentioned areas and the Council declared them to be "Clearance Areas".

Area	No. of dwellings	No. of families	No. of persons
Walton Street Clearance Area	4	4	23
Field Street Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Clearance Areas	134	135	416
	138	139	439

During the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government confirmed the Order made in respect of the undermentioned area :-

	No. of dwelling houses	Properties Upgraded as "Not Unfit"	Well-Maintained Payments
Eastham Street Clearance Area 1968	134	1	10

Rent Act, 1957.

Once again I have to report that little use has been made of this Act during the past year.

Formal details of the applications made for the issue and cancellation of certificates are set out below :-

Part 1 - Applications for Certificates of Disrepair

1) Number of applications for certificates	1
2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates	1
3) Number of decisions to issue certificates	
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	Nil
(b) in respect of all defects	-
4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	Nil
5) Number of undertakings refused by the Local Authority under the proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	Nil
6) Number of certificates issued	Nil

Part 2 - Applications for Cancellation of Certificates

7)	Applications by landlords for cancellation of certificates of disrepair	1
8)	Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	1
9)	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of objection by tenant	Nil
10)	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	Nil

Rent Act, 1965, Part III

The Chief Public Health Inspector is the officer authorised to deal with complaints of harassment and/or illegal eviction and to institute legal proceedings where necessary.

8 complaints of harassment were investigated. 5 of these concerned the withdrawal of essential services, chiefly the cutting off of supplies of electricity together with threatened eviction. In all cases the landlords were interviewed or letters were sent and the cases were settled without court action. In two cases harassment was not confirmed and in the third case the complainant left his room before any investigation could be made and he could not be traced.

There were 2 cases of illegal eviction. The first of these resulted in Court proceedings but the Magistrates were not satisfied with the evidence and dismissed the charge. In the second case the complainant disappeared without trace and no further action was possible.

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959Standard Grants

71 applications for standard grants were dealt with during the year. 33 of these were in respect of tenanted houses and 38 were from owner/occupiers.

62 of the applications were approved and 9 refused.

The grounds for refusal were mainly that alterations to the structure were required, which would be better dealt with under a discretionary grant, or the amenities applied for already existed.

The number of dwellings improved during the year amounted to 67 and the amenities provided were :-

- 53 fixed baths
- 58 wash-hand basins
- 53 hot water supplies over baths
- 58 hot water supplies over wash-hand basins
- 41 hot water supplies over sinks
- 65 water closets within the house
- 62 food stores

The total grant paid amounted to £7,737. 9. 4. averaging £115.9.8. per house against an average last year of £126.0.1.

Discretionary Grants

33 premises were surveyed following applications for discretionary improvement grants.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

The Council's policy for the improvement of living conditions in houses in multiple occupation is by the gradual reduction in the numbers of families inhabiting such houses rather than by the increase in the facilities available, the ultimate aim being to secure self-contained accommodation for each family. To secure this end the person in control of a house is encouraged not to re-let rooms as they become vacant until the number of families is such that can be reasonably accommodated. At the same time a schedule of additional requirements and repairs that will be required if the rooms are re-let is issued to each landlord. This policy has resulted in reducing the number of lettings in many houses.

Overcrowding of individual lettings is not a serious problem.

4 houses were surveyed during the year. These contained 15 separate lettings and housed 39 persons.

2 houses have been closed as unfit for habitation and 4 are no longer in multiple occupation. These houses had originally contained 28 separate lettings and housed 88 persons.

The population of 34 houses which were sublet at the beginning of the year contained 124 separate lettings and accommodated 310 persons of all ages.

Common Lodging Houses

One house was demolished during the year. There are now 2 registered premises providing accommodation for 87 men.

There are no lodging houses for women.

24 visits were made to these premises during the year. One house is conducted in a satisfactory manner but at one house the standard continues to be below what could be reasonably expected. Much attention has been paid to this particular case without any apparent success.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Smoke Control Areas

The following table gives details of the Smoke Control Orders in operation. The No. 6 Bidston Hill Order became operative on the 1st August. The No. 10 Nocturnum Area was surveyed during the year and details presented to the Council.

There has been considerable new building in the areas so that the number of buildings now subject to smoke control orders far exceeds the number specified in the original Orders. At the end of the year there were 12,489 premises in smoke control areas, which is 28.8% of the total premises in the Borough. The area controlled covers 2,395 acres or approximately 27.7% of the Borough.

Details of Orders made are as follows :-

<u>Area</u>	<u>No. of Acres</u>	<u>No. of Buildings at Date of Order</u>	<u>No. of Premises at 31.12.68.</u>	<u>Order</u>		
				<u>Made</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>	<u>Operative</u>
1. Woodchurch	394	3002	4424	8. 2.61.	13.7.61.	1. 7.62.
2. Bidston	386	719	719	23. 3.62.	31.5.62.	1. 7.62.
3. St. James	196	1907	1931	21. 2.63.	21.5.63.	1. 7.64.
13. Fender Valley	418	55	670	11.11.64.	8.7.65.	1. 7.66.
14. Ford	174	2	429	11.11.64.	8.7.65.	1. 7.66.
4. Claughton	277	2922	2975	21.10.65.	25.3.66.	1.12.67.
5. Upton	281	1071	1134	25. 8.66.	6.1.67.	1.10.67.
6. Bidston Hill	269	181	207	25.10.67.	24.1.68.	1. 8.68.
Totals:	2395	9859	12489			
10. Noctorum	371	1024	-	15. 1.69.	-	-

Future Areas in the planned programme are :-

<u>Number</u>	<u>Area</u>
8	Saughall Massie
9	Thingwall
7	Oxton
11	Prenton
12	Higher Tranmere

Industrial

General observations are made from time to time in conjunction with the work on Smoke Control Areas and there appears to be little cause for complaint. An improvement has been made by the abolition of steam locomotives on the railway and their replacement by diesel locomotives.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

Number of complaints received	6
Number of observations of factory chimneys	31
Number of contraventions recorded	22
Number of prosecutions	Nil
Number of visits to factories	28

Clean Air Act, 1956.

Notifications of installations of furnaces (Section 3)	12
Prior approval of new furnace installation (Section 3)	Nil
New chimney heights approved (Section 10)	5

National Survey of Air Pollution

The four stations have been in operation since December 1961.

This survey gives a daily record of the amount of smoke and sulphur-dioxide present in the air in the vicinity of each station, viz :-

1) Tranmere Abattoir	-	an industrial area
2) Central Library	-	a densely built up residential area
3) Water Tower, Hill Road	-	a lightly built up residential area
4) Woodchurch Estate	-	a clean air zone

EXTERMINATION OF PESTSRats and Mice(a) In Sewers

Due to difficulties in obtaining staff and transport, the treatment of sewer manholes ceased completely in June. Up to that time 1,283 manholes had been baited with 3% Fluoracetamide. Efforts to obtain labour were renewed and a new van was ordered. It is hoped to start regular and continuous sewer treatments early in 1969.

(b) In surface premises

Number of premises inspected by rodent operator	1,217
Number of premises found to be infested with rats or mice	880
Number of treatments by rodent operator	825
Total number of visits by rodent operator	2,926
Total number of visits by Public Health Inspectors	1,256

Insect Pests

Number of houses and other premises involved	142
Number of rooms treated	455
Verminous articles treated	Nil
Wasps' nests destroyed	34
Verminous persons cleansed	2

A nominal charge is made for this work.

36 occupiers of 37 premises retain the services of the rodent operator to make regular visits to their premises throughout the year to keep them free from rats, mice and insect pests.

Treatments were carried out to deal with infestations of bugs, fleas, ants, clover mites, spider beetles, cockroaches, flies, etc.

Disinfection

There were no requests for disinfection of premises.

2 bundles of bedding were disinfected.

BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION ACT, 1881, Section 90 - PIG-KEEPING

There were no new applications for permission to keep pigs.

There are now 10 pig-keepers in the Borough.

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

The department is responsible for the issue of licences to persons, other than pharmacists, who sell by retail those poisons set out in Part II of the Poisons List.

New licences issued during the year	4
Licences renewed during the year	115
Change of address	Nil
Number of visits to shops	184
Contraventions of Regulations	6
Unlicensed sellers of poisons	11

THE RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

In accordance with the provisions of the above Act the under-mentioned premises have been included in the Statutory Register.

Premises licensed for the manufacture and storage of Rag Flock Nil

Premises registered for the manufacture of new upholstery 3

5 samples were sent for analysis during the year, with the following results :-

	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>	<u>Total</u>
Hair Mixture	1	-	1
Coir Fibre	2	-	2
Rag Flock	2	-	2
	5	-	5

OFFENSIVE TRADES

No applications for the establishment of new trades were received.

1 visit of inspection was made.

NOISE ABATEMENT

17 complaints of noise nuisance were received during the year. All were investigated and involved the making of 125 visits by Inspectors. Nuisance was confirmed in 15 cases.

Informal representations to the responsible parties secured remedies in 14 cases and negotiations to effect a cure are still in progress in the remaining case.

Some of the nuisances were, in any case, of a very temporary nature, e.g. use of pneumatic drills, renewing a roof of corrugated iron sheeting, temporary night work at a printing works due to a rush order, etc., etc.

Other nuisances were caused by the use of loudspeakers at a motor car sales establishment, the running of refrigerators and ventilating fans particularly at night and the delivery of goods and use of noisy vehicles in the early hours of the morning.

CARAVANS

There were no applications to place caravans on land within the Borough.

Groups of "travellers" parked their caravans and lorries varying from 4 to 12 in number, on various sites within the Borough. As they have no water supply, sanitary accommodation or means of refuse disposal, the sites soon become a danger to health to the very deep concern and dismay of local residents. 20 vans were moved and 55 visits were paid to these sites.

THE BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION ACT, 1954.Register of Barbers and Hairdressers

New registrations during the year	4
Number on register at end of year	194
Number of visits to hairdressers premises	31

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY ON THEIR PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE ACT

Prescribed particulars to be included in the annual report to the Minister of Labour by Local Authorities under Section 60

TABLE A - REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Period Covered - 1st January to
31st December 1968

Class of premises (1)	Number of premises newly registered during the year (2)	Total number of registered premises at end of year (3)	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year (4)
Offices	28	354	163
Retail shops	36	779	502
Wholesale shops, warehouses	4	39	20
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	5	161	66
Fuel storage depots	-	3	-
TOTALS:	73	1336	751

TABLE B - Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises

= 1143

TABLE C - ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR

Class of workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)
Offices	3610
Retail shops	4022
Wholesale departments, warehouses	460
Catering establishments open to the public	1631
Canteens	91
Fuel storage depots	13
	63
TOTAL	9827
Total Males	3337
Total Females	6490
TABLE D - EXEMPTIONS	NIL
TABLE E - PROSECUTIONS	NIL

TABLE F - STAFF

Number of inspectors appointed under
Section 52 (1) or (5) of the Act

9

(only one inspector is employed
(full time on this work

Number of other staff employed for most
of their time on work in connection
with the Act

NIL

REGISTRATIONS

73 new premises were registered during the year - 35 of these were registered only after personal contact had been made to the employer, Form O.S.R.1. handed to him and the Act explained. Due to re-development, road improvement works, slum clearance and occupiers ceasing to employ assistants, 91 premises were removed from the register. Transfer of ownership and closure of premises is not generally brought to the notice of the authority, and the means of obtaining this information is only when a visit is made.

Employers in general have become more conscious of the requirements of the Act and readily comply when contraventions are brought to their notice.

It has not been necessary to institute legal proceedings in any case.

Plans for new constructions or alterations to existing premises are examined in order to ensure that on completion the buildings will comply with the requirements of the Act. Employers are advised of the number of persons who could be accommodated. Attention is drawn to the requirements for sanitary and washing accommodation.

In accordance with regulations "Facilities for the eating of meals" (Section 15) applies only to "shop premises". At inspections carried out at "Betting Offices", it would appear to be the general practice for staff to eat meals in view of the public and in most cases whilst attending to customers.

ACCIDENTS

50 accidents were reported, of which 19 required investigation. There were no fatal accidents. H.M. Factory Inspector was notified of advice given to employers in respect of 2 accidents caused by machinery.

Falls at the same level accounted for the majority of reported accidents, i.e. slipping on wet floors and no subsidiary cause; the floor surfaces being even and soundly constructed.

Management and staff have been continually warned of the danger of accidents when using machinery, if guards are not in position and the machine is not operated in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

CONTRAVENTIONS

479 contraventions were brought to the attention of occupiers of registered premises.

Summary of Contraventions

Section	4	Cleanliness	62
"	5	Overcrowding	1
"	6	Temperature	15
"	7	Ventilation	4
"	8	Lighting	7
"	9	Sanitary conveniences	128
"	10	Washing facilities	108
"	12	Accommodation for clothing	3
"	15	Eating facilities	1
"	16	Floors, passages, stairs	83
"	24	First aid	34
"	50	Information to employees	33
			479

F A C T O R I E S A C T, 1 9 6 1

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspection tations (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	14	-	-
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	394	121	30	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	37	19	-	-
TOTAL:	452	154	30	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
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	1	-	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	28	24	-	22	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	30	25	-	24	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(SECTIONS 133 AND 134)

Nature of work	Section 133				Section 134		Prosecutions
	Number of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1)(c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	68
Wearing } Making Apparel } etc. } Clean- } ing } and } Wash- } ing	5	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL:	5	-	-	-	-	-	

MILK SUPPLY

The arrangements for processing and distributing milk in the Borough continue to be satisfactory. Supervision and control by sampling are carried out mainly at the two processing dairies, where over 30,000 gallons of milk are pasteurised and bottled or cartoned each day.

The numbers of registered dairies and dairymen and of licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations are :-

Number of registered dairies	29
Number of registered dairymen	235
Dealers licensed to sell pre-packed milk	233
Processor's licences to pasteurise milk	2
Number of visits to dairymen's premises	163

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

Samples were submitted with the following results :-

	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pasteurised Milk	133	4	137
Sterilised Milk	25	-	25
Ultra High Temperature Milk	7	-	7
Untreated Milk	14	2	16
	179	6	185

The failures were in respect of the methylene blue test in samples taken from vending machines. The phosphatase test was satisfactory in all cases.

Examination for Brucella Abortus etc.

The untreated milk sold in Birkenhead is bottled on farms situated within the area of other local authorities. Regular samples are taken of this milk and in the event of positive samples, the Medical Officer of Health of the district concerned is notified.

Number of samples of milk examined	..	16
Number of positive samples found	..	Nil

These 16 samples were also examined by guinea-pig inoculation for T.B. No evidence of T.B. was reported.

Chemical Analysis of Milk

All milk for the two pasteurising dairies arrives in tankers, each containing the bulked milk from several farms. Samples taken after processing are of a satisfactory standard, as is the farm bottled milk from Channel Island herds.

121 samples were submitted for analysis.

All samples were found to be "genuine".

ICE CREAM

Details of the premises retained on the statutory register are as follows :-

Manufacture of Pasteurised Ice Cream	14
Manufacture of Cold Mix Ice Cream	12
Manufacture of Lolly Ices only	7
Sale of Ice Cream and/or Lolly Ices	576
Number of visits to premises	132

56 samples of Ice Cream and 9 samples of Lolly Ices were submitted for Bacteriological examination during the year and reported upon as follows :-

Samples of Ice Cream placed in Grade I	31
" " " " " " " II	11
" " " " " " " III	6
" " " " " " " IV	8
	56

The Lolly Ice samples were satisfactory.

In addition, 11 samples of Ice Cream were submitted for Chemical Analysis, with satisfactory results.

Ice Cream is not now manufactured at many of the premises registered for that purpose. The majority of the above samples were taken from the manufacturers still operating.

LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963.

1) Number of Egg pasteurising plants	None
2) Number of samples taken	10

All samples passed the Alpha Amylase test.

No problems have arisen in the administration of these Regulations.

WATER SUPPLY

During the year, 14 samples of Drinking Water were taken from various points within the Borough for Bacteriological examination.

All the samples were satisfactory.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

Fifty samples of water from the 3 public swimming baths in the Borough were taken for Bacteriological examination.

Three samples were reported to contain more than 300 bacteria per ml.

No B.Coli or Coliform organisms were present.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.Analysis of Food (other than Milk)

A wide variety of foods and drugs were sampled during the year. A total of 249 samples (in addition to the 121 milk samples previously mentioned) were submitted to the Public Analyst, Tennyson Harris, Esq., Ph.C., F.P.S., F.R.I.C., at Manchester, whose help and co-operation are gratefully acknowledged.

The following samples were found to be unsatisfactory :-

Sausages	-	deficient in lean meat content
Meat Pies	-	4 samples deficient of meat
Steak and Kidney Pies	-	2 samples deficient of kidney
Iodised table salt	-	deficient in stated iodine content
Brandy	-	contained a proportion of still spirit
Jelly spread	-	label unsatisfactory
Cheese	-	deficient in fat

Warnings were given in respect of these samples and where appropriate, stocks were withdrawn from sale.

In 13 of the complaints from members of the public mentioned later, the food or foreign object was sent to the Public Analyst for examination.

Pesticidal Residues in Foodstuffs

This authority is participating in the National Investigation into Pesticide Residues in Food.

A total of 34 samples were taken during the year and Pesticidal residues found in the following foods :-

Oranges	-	Aldrin	0.05 p.p.m.
Cucumber	-	D.D.T.	0.10 p.p.m.
Milk	-	Heptachlor	0.04 p.p.m.
Strawberries	-	Aldrin	0.02 p.p.m.
Lettuce	-	Lindane	0.02 p.p.m.
Peaches	-	Lindane	0.05 p.p.m.
Melon	-	Heptachlor	0.02 p.p.m.

Food Complaints

Seventy-two complaints were received during the year regarding food alleged to be unfit for consumption. All complaints were investigated with the retailers, manufacturers or importers concerned. However, in a few cases it was difficult to establish whether the food was in the alleged condition at the time of sale.

Foreign objects were responsible for 35 of these complaints, food affected by mould for 16 complaints, dirty milk bottles for 5 complaints and unsound food for 16 complaints.

From the varieties of foods, bread and confectionery caused 23 complaints; meat and meat products 22 complaints; milk and dairy products 11 complaints; while there were 16 complaints about a wide range of miscellaneous foodstuffs.

It was again found difficult to investigate satisfactorily any complaint where the product was affected by age. This usually results in mould growth, and if the product is pre-wrapped, this mould is not seen at the time of sale. Most manufacturers apply some form of private code to the wrapper or container and the date of manufacture is easily ascertained. However, unless a retailer applies his own code to the article, it is very difficult for him to establish with certainty when the article was delivered to his premises. The best possible remedy is the marking of perishable foods with the last date on which they can be sold.

Legal proceedings under Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, were instituted in the following case :-

Part of a cigarette found in a meat pie -

This case was dismissed by the Magistrates.

FOOD HYGIENE

This work is carried out by a Food Inspector and six district inspectors, there being no specialist Food Hygiene Inspector. Some 1,169 visits were paid during the year to shops and other food premises of all types.

During visits, inspectors point out to shop assistants and managements the importance of personal hygiene, cleanliness of premises, proper storage and rotation of stock, adequate refuse disposal, correct use of refrigerators.

Legal proceedings under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, were instituted against one food manufacturer whose premises were found to be unsatisfactory after the contraventions had been brought to his notice on previous occasions. The total fine in respect of 14 summonses was £130.0.0. and 2 further summonses were dismissed. Details are as follows :-

<u>Regulation</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Result</u> <u>Fine</u>
23	Dirty walls, floor and ceiling of storeroom	£10. 0. 0.
23	Dirty walls, floor and ceiling of preparation room	£10. 0. 0.
23	Dirty walls, floor and ceiling of kitchen	£10. 0. 0.
23	Dirty floor of preparation room	£10. 0. 0.
23	Dirty walls, floor and ceiling of bakery	£10. 0. 0.
16(1)	Lack of suitable wash-hand basins	£10. 0. 0.
16(1)	Refrigerator not clean	£10. 0. 0.
16(1)	Gas cooker not clean	£10. 0. 0.
16(1)	Tray rack not clean	£10. 0. 0.
16(1)	Preparation table not clean	£10. 0. 0.
16(1)	Dough divider not clean	£10. 0. 0.
16(1)	Pie forming machine not clean	£10. 0. 0.
14(5)	"Wash Hands" notices not displayed	£5. 0. 0.
14(2)	W.C. not suitably lighted	£5. 0. 0.
14(1)	W.C. not in efficient order	Dismissed
14(1) (a)	W.C. not kept clean	Dismissed

The following premises are registered under the provisions laid down in Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Fish fryers	95
Fish fryers and chicken roasters	9
Butchers manufacturing sausages	55
Butchers manufacturing sausages and cooked meats	39
Ham boiling	1
Grocers manufacturing cooked meats	7
Pickle manufacturers	2
Chicken roasters	13
Meat products factories	2

223

Premises registered under the provisions laid down in the Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954 :-

Notification of new food premises	(Sec: 101)	1
Food hawkers and their premises	(Sec: 102)	7
Vendors of shell fish and their premises	(Sec: 103)	Nil

During the year 112 written notices and 57 verbal notices were given under the Food Hygiene Regulations, covering 362 separate items.

Summary of Inspections and Defects remedied

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

	Shops	Cafés	Food Preparing Premises	Licensed Premises	Mobile Shops and Stalls
Number of premises	675	115	133	158	121
Fitted to comply with Regulation 16	670	115	132	158	118
Premises to which Regulation 19 applies	600	115	133	156	76
Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19	600	115	133	156	75

	Shops	Cafés Canteens	Food Preparing Premises	Licensed Premises	Mobile Shops and Stalls	Totals
Number of premises	675	115	133	158	121	1202
Number of inspections	757	56	147	19	59	1038
<u>Defects and Contraventions remedied</u>						
Walls, floors, ceilings, doors, windows						
(a) repaired	18	-	-	-	-	18
(b) cleansed	24	3	4	-	-	31
Food rooms cut off from sleeping place	1	-	1	-	-	2
Accumulations of refuse removed	23	4	1	-	-	28
Cleanliness of persons, utensils, clothing	1	1	-	-	-	2
Wash-basins provided	4	1	-	-	-	5
Sinks provided, renewed	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hot and cold water supply	2	-	-	-	-	2
Towels, soap, etc., provided	5	1	-	-	-	6
Protection from contamination of food	40	2	-	-	-	42
	118	12	6	-	-	136

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the Borough.

Unsound Food

The inspection of food in shops, warehouses, canteens, etc., was carried out by all the public health inspectors. All condemned food was disposed of - mainly by tipping on the Corporation tip - under supervision. The following list shows the types and quantities of food dealt with.

Canned and Bottled Goods

Meat	2,923
Fruit and Vegetables	18,580
Fish	1,022
Soup	832
Milk	576
Preserves	17
Puddings	1,505
Meat and meat products	737 lbs.
Poultry	579 lbs.
Fats	114 lbs.
Cheese	101 lbs.
Cream	36 lbs.
Frozen Foods	1,206 lbs.
Miscellaneous	70 lbs.

MEAT INSPECTION(Report of the Chief Meat Inspector)

The year commenced with parts of the North-West still in the grip of foot-and-mouth disease. Restrictions on the movement of livestock impeded the transit of animals into the local slaughterhouse and quantities of carcase meat and offal were brought in from abattoirs in uninfected areas. Fresh outbreaks in March resulted in the whole of the Wirral being declared an Infected Area and the only movement of livestock was that permitted by licence in approved circumstances. The disease, begun in October 1967, was finally eradicated in June 1968 after enormous financial loss to the country and the destruction of 427,000 animals.

Although the disease advanced to within two miles of the Borough boundary, the farms and smallholdings in Birkenhead remained free from the infection. This was due in no small part to the co-operation given to the Corporation's Inspectors by the local farmers, smallholders, pig-keepers, horse riders and dog owners, who heeded advice and followed instructions.

Last year it was possible to report that, for the first time during a twelve-month period, no whole carcase had been condemned for tuberculosis at local slaughterhouses. This year shows an added improvement. No carcase meat whatsoever, either whole or part carcase, was condemned for tuberculosis. No cases of tuberculosis were found among English cattle sent to the slaughterhouse for routine slaughter.

A total of 63 cattle which had reacted to the Tuberculin Test were sent for slaughter under the Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order 1950, of which 26 cattle disclosed minor early lesions warranting only visceral condemnation. Of the Irish cattle slaughtered, only two disclosed evidence of tuberculosis, again of a minor and early nature warranting only condemnation of the organs concerned.

Following the success of the Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme which has virtually eliminated tuberculosis as a major menace to cattle, a similar scheme for the eradication of Brucellosis is being operated on a national scale. Under this scheme animals which show a positive reaction to the official Brucella blood-test are required to be sent for slaughter under licence. Brucella organisms are the cause of Undulant Fever in humans and the successful operation of this scheme should alleviate a situation that was causing concern in Public Health circles.

The principal Acts and Regulations which enable the Meat Inspection Staff to exercise its powers of inspection and to maintain supervision of meat supplies are :-

Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954
Foods and Drugs Act, 1955
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958
Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958
Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty)
Regulations, 1958
Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations, 1960

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960
 Food Hygiene (Docks, Carriers, etc.) Regulations, 1960
 Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963
 Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) (Amendment) Regulations, 1966
 Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1966
 Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles)
 Regulations, 1966

MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS, 1963.

During the year a total of 35,981 animals were slaughtered within the Borough.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
1968	7441	47	22362	6131

All were subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection. The following table represents a summary of the results of the post-mortem inspections of the various classes of livestock.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Slaughtered	7441	47	22362	6131
Number Inspected	7441	47	22362	6131
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci - whole carcasses condemned	10	3	32	30
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3062	3	8754	2025
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	41%	15%	39%	33%
Tuberculosis only - whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	56	7	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.75%	15%	Nil	Nil
Cysticercosis - Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Weight of condemned carcasses and portions - 6 tons 7 cwts.
 Weight of condemned offal and portions - 47 tons 16 cwts.

The number of animals slaughtered at Woodside Lairage and Tranmere Abattoir respectively during the year was as follows :-

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Woodside Lairage	2998	-	14	13
Tranmere Abattoir	4443	47	22348	6118
Totals:	7441	47	22362	6131

WOODSIDE LAIRAGE

The Mersey Cattle Wharf, or Woodside Lairage as it is more familiarly known, is owned by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, and was first established in 1879 to deal with the import of live-stock from abroad. Its object was to isolate such stock in order that no disease could be carried to the herds and flocks in this country.

In those early days the only country exporting stock to England, apart from Ireland, was the United States of America which, in 1879, sent 32,000 cattle to Birkenhead. The trade quickly grew and soon cattle were being imported from Canada, Argentine, Spain and Portugal, and sheep from Chile, Iceland and the Falkland Islands, the importations rapidly increasing to 282,000 cattle and 287,000 sheep in 1897. Between the years 1897 and 1911 the number of livestock imported gradually declined until, in 1912, the vast organisation which had been developed to deal with it was nearly idle. Then occurred a major outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Ireland.

For many years Ireland had exported to England, annually, three-quarters of a million cattle and many hundreds of thousands of sheep, lambs, goats and pigs, which were then sold on the hoof in open markets up and down the country. The presence of the disease in Irish livestock now made that mode of sale extremely dangerous. If the disease became established among the English flocks and herds it would have been a national catastrophe.

It was providential during this crisis that all the services at Woodside, built up over long years for the foreign animals trade, were available, for, as the stream of cattle-boats discharged their cargoes at Birkenhead they were steadily absorbed by the only installation in England capable of dealing with the situation. The wharf continued its intense activity through two world wars and the years between them. It still continued unabated after the second world war until 1963 when the number of animals slaughtered fell below 100,000. The reason was seen in the development of the slaughtering industry in Ireland. More and more abattoirs were being built, the container trade was growing and the demand for the slaughtering facilities at Woodside decreased.

Early in the year the kosher trade, long established at Woodside, removed to Liverpool. The need for the slaughterhouses at Woodside was now so reduced that at the end of October the facilities offered for commercial slaughter were withdrawn. The store cattle trade continues and livestock are still imported in quantity, but the only cattle, sheep and pigs that are slaughtered at Woodside now are those which are unfit for any reason to travel further.

The following tables show the number of carcasses and part carcasses condemned at Woodside, both for tuberculosis and for conditions other than tuberculosis.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Whole carcasses condemned for tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Part carcasses condemned for tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of carcasses of which some organ was condemned for tuberculosis	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.07	Nil	Nil	Nil

Total weight of carcase meat condemned for tuberculosis

Nil

Total weight of offal condemned for tuberculosis

48 lbs.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Whole carcasses condemned for conditions other than tuberculosis	4	Nil	Nil	1
Parts of carcasses condemned for ditto	103	Nil	Nil	6

Total weight of carcase meat condemned for conditions other than tuberculosis

2 tons 5 cwt.

Total weight of offal condemned for ditto

11 tons 16 cwt.

TRANMERE ABATTOIR

In 1886, nine years after Birkenhead had received its Charter of Incorporation, the corner-stone of a new Public Abattoir was laid in New Chester Road. The abattoir, modern in its time, and ornate with carved stone bovine heads over the façade and on the pediments, served the needs of the surrounding district and for the next three-quarters of a century was controlled and maintained by the Birkenhead Corporation. In 1962, the Fatstock Marketing Corporation showed interest in acquiring the premises, and accordingly it passed to that organisation under lease. Modifications were made including the installation of a refrigerated store and chill room, and the replacement of the old method of hand-scraping pigs by a mechanical dehairer. Today, however, the abattoir has reached a crucial point in its long career. Ministerial insistence on rigid application of modern slaughterhouse regulations is bringing premature closure to many slaughterhouses. Tranmere Abattoir stands in urgent need of improvement and modernisation if it is to continue its present function. Negotiations which have been proceeding between the Birkenhead Corporation and the Fatstock Marketing Corporation are approaching the final stage and it is anticipated that a programme of modernisation will be launched early in 1969.

The following tables are a summary of condemnations at Tranmere Abattoir, together with percentage figures of the incidence of tuberculosis and conditions other than tuberculosis.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Whole carcasses condemned for tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Part carcasses condemned for tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of carcasses of which some organ was condemned for tuberculosis	56	7	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.2	15%	Nil	Nil

Total weight of carcase meat condemned for tuberculosis

Nil

Total weight of offal condemned for tuberculosis

5½ cwt.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Whole carcasses condemned for conditions other than tuberculosis	6	3	32	29
Part carcasses condemned for ditto	28	Nil	55	442

Total weight of carcase meat condemned
for conditions other than tuberculosis 4 tons 2 cwts.

Total weight of offal condemned for
ditto 16 tons 14 cwts.

EMERGENCY SLAUGHTER

During the year at Woodside Lairage a total of 193 animals comprising 108 bullocks, 51 heifers, 7 cows, 10 sheep, 4 lambs, 3 boars and 10 sows were considered to be sick or injured and were the subject of casualty slaughter. The entire carcasses of 1 bullock, 2 heifers, 1 cow and 1 boar were condemned, as also were part carcasses of 22 bullocks, 9 heifers, 5 cows, 1 boar and 3 sows. In the case of the remainder, condemnations were confined to the viscera.

IMPORTED FOOD REGULATIONS, 1968.

These Regulations, which came into force in August 1968, contain measures for the protection of public health in relation to imported food. They replace the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations of 1937 and 1948. Notification was received that 180 cartons of imported boneless beef which had not been examined at the port of entry had been consigned to Birkenhead. This meat was examined in cold store and samples submitted for laboratory examination. Reports proved satisfactory and the meat was released for human consumption.

WHOLESALE MEAT DEPOTS

Check inspections of meat stored for sale in Cold Stores and Wholesale Meat Depots were made. A total of 160 visits were made and as a result of inspections 2 tons 16 cwts. of meat and other foods were condemned, comprising 1 ton 11 cwts. of carcase meat, 13 cwts. of offal, 153 tins of cooked meat weighing 11 cwts. and 28 poultry carcasses weighing 1 cwt.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE (HYGIENE) REGULATIONS, 1958.

Periodic inspections of the slaughterhouses are made under the provisions of these Regulations. Works of improvement at Woodside Lairage included cleansing, painting and limewashing. Since the ending of commercial slaughter in November, the main slaughterhouses have stood idle but the three designated

slaughterhouses are in intermittent use.

The sub-standard conditions at Tranmere Abattoir have been the subject of discussions between Corporation officials and the representatives of the lessees. Plans for the necessary improvements have been drawn up and tenders for the work invited. This preparatory work is near completion and improvements will commence in the near future.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (PREVENTION OF CRUELTY) REGULATIONS, 1958.

Woodside Lairage

There is lairage accommodation on the Cattle Landing Stage for any animals fatigued by the sea voyage, and a casualty slaughterhouse is also available on the stage. The main lairages offer accommodation for 6,000 cattle, 5,200 sheep and 2,000 pigs at any one time. All lairages are equipped with water troughs to each of which there is a permanent water supply. Large stocks of hay and straw are always available for feeding and bedding. Two other slaughterhouses have been designated for use for the slaughter of any animals too sick or injured to be transported alive from the Wharf.

Tranmere Abattoir

The main slaughter-hall is equipped with three stunning pens for cattle. Electric stunning instruments are installed for pre-slaughter stunning of pigs, sheep and lambs. The cattle-pens are fitted with overhead mangers, and hay and straw are stored for feeding and bedding. The pens are provided with drinking troughs, and water for drinking is available at all times.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958.

The stunning and slaughtering of animals in a slaughterhouse is prohibited except by persons in possession of a Slaughterman's Licence granted by the Local Authority. As at 31st December, 1968, there were 28 licences in force.

FOOD HYGIENE (DOCKS, CARRIERS, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1960.

Periodic visits of inspection to cold stores, wholesale meat depots, offal houses, and carriers' premises were made under the provisions of these regulations.

FOOD HYGIENE (MARKETS, STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES) REGS. 1966.

All butchers' shops and stalls within the Borough were visited and the effect of these regulations in so far as they applied to the meat trade was explained. Meat delivery vehicles were inspected and minor infringements were dealt with by verbal warning or cautionary letter.

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED MEAT AND OFFAL

Meat and offal, which is rejected as unfit for human consumption at abattoirs, cold stores and wholesale meat depots, is removed by contractors to processing plants for heat treatment. By-products include animal foodstuffs, tallow and fertiliser.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1926.

Orders made under the above Act, as applied to certain classes of chilled, frozen, boneless and salted meats and edible offals, provide that such foodstuffs shall bear an indication of origin, a further object of the Orders being to ensure that such foodstuffs shall be easily identified when exposed for sale. Visits were paid to all butchers' shops and stalls under the provisions of the Orders. Minor infringements were dealt with by verbal caution.

This Act has now been replaced by the Trades Descriptions Act, 1968.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

This Act regulates the sale of pet animals and makes it an offence to keep a pet shop except under the authority of a licence granted by the Local Authority. During the year one application for licence was granted, one licence was surrendered and nine licences were renewed. These shops are visited periodically to ensure compliance with the terms of the licence. Notice served in respect of one pet-store requiring improvement of ventilation by mechanical means was complied with.

BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION ACT, 1954.

Section 98 of the above Act regulates the sale of animal feeding meat and provides for the registration of approved premises. During the year three registrations were cancelled on changes of business at the registered premises. There are now fourteen registered premises within the Borough all receiving periodic visits of inspection.

MEAT (STAINING AND STERILISATION) REGULATIONS, 1960.

These Regulations require all butchers' meat and imported meat which is unfit for human consumption to be sterilised, and all knacker meat to be stained or sterilised, before sale as pet food. Regular visits keep a check on the sources of cooked and uncooked pet food and the conditions of storage.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1964.

This Act provides that no person shall keep a riding establishment except under the terms of a licence granted by the Local Authority. Three applications for the renewal of licence were

granted after inspection of the premises. One licence was surrendered when the business was terminated. During the year periodic visits were paid to all riding establishments and the horses observed at exercise in the paddocks. Stables were inspected and found to be in a clean and satisfactory state and the horses and premises in good condition.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963.

This Act provides for a system of licensing of premises at which a business of accommodating cats and dogs is carried on. Two applications for renewal of licence were received and were granted after inspection of the kennels. Periodic inspections of the premises are made and the conditions of the animals observed.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1950.

In addition to the publication of the Orders of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the supervision of cleansing and disinfection of infected farm premises, and the licensing of the movement of livestock, it is also the duty of the Local Authority to enforce all Orders made for the protection of animals and poultry from unnecessary suffering during transit.

The principal Orders which enable the Inspectorate to exercise their powers of inspection are :-

- Transit of Animals Order, 1927.
- Fowl Pest Order, 1936.
- Anthrax Order, 1938.
- Foot-and-Mouth (Amendment) Order, 1938.
- Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order, 1950.
- Transit of Horses Order, 1951.
- Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957.
- Regulation of Movement of Swine Order, 1959.
- Movement of Animals (Records) Amendment Order, 1960.
- Live Poultry (Restrictions) Order, 1963.
- Swine Fever Order, 1963.
- Exported Animals Protection Order, 1964.
- Diseases of Animals (Seizure of Carcases) Order, 1964.

TRANSIT OF ANIMALS ORDER, 1927.

During the year a total importation of 142,674 cattle, 2,865 sheep and lambs and 410 pigs from Ireland, 2,850 cattle from Isle of Man and 648 cattle from Canada, were landed at Woodside Lairage. The withdrawal by British Railways of the cattle transport service from the Cattle Wharf has meant that all livestock must now be transported away from Woodside by road. As a consequence the number of live transport vehicles entering the wharf has greatly increased. Check inspections are made on these vehicles and any found to be in a condition which does not comply with the Order are turned away. The livestock, while in detention in the Lairages, are adequately fed and watered.

FOWL PEST ORDER, 1936.

A suspected outbreak of Fowl Pest in a neighbouring area caused restriction of movement of poultry for a period. Poultry-keepers and egg-packing plants were visited and all precautions taken against further spread. There were 98 confirmed outbreaks in Great Britain during the year which compares favourably with 198 outbreaks in 1967. There were no cases or suspected cases of Fowl Pest among poultry kept at farms and small-holdings within the Borough.

ANTHRAX ORDER, 1938.

During the year there were 211 confirmed outbreaks of anthrax in Great Britain involving the death of 221 animals. This is a little less than half the totals for 1967, the statistics for that year being 438 confirmed outbreaks causing the death of 487 animals. There were no outbreaks within the Borough.

TUBERCULOSIS (SLAUGHTER OF REACTORS) ORDER, 1950.

Sixty-three cattle which had reacted to the Tuberculin Test were received into Tranmere Abattoir for slaughter and inspection. Twenty-six of the cattle disclosed tuberculous lesions on post-mortem examination, and reports were sent to the Ministry of Agriculture.

TRANSIT OF HORSES ORDER, 1951.

During the year a total of 3,252 horses and asses were landed at Woodside Lairage. During their detention they were adequately fed and watered. Check inspections of horse-boxes and transport vehicles were made before the animals left the premises.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

This Order prohibits the feeding of unboiled waste food to farm animals or poultry and requires that such waste food shall be boiled for at least an hour in boiler plant licensed by the Local Authority. There are at present eight such licences in force and regular inspections of piggeries and boiler plants were made to ensure that the Order was being complied with.

REGULATION OF MOVEMENT OF SWINE ORDER, 1959.

During the year 903 store pigs were brought into the Borough on Movement Licence. During the period of 28 days detention the farms and piggeries concerned were visited and the pigs were examined.

IMPORTATION OF CATS AND DOGS ORDER, 1928.

Owing to a change in the ownership and crew of a steamship in Birkenhead Docks, it became necessary for the ship's dog to be put ashore. There being no person available to stand surety for the dog's detention in quarantine, it was humanely destroyed under supervision.

MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS (RECORDS) ORDER, 1960.

This Order requires that records be kept of the movement of animals onto and off farm premises, and that such records be retained for a specified time. There are seven cattle-keepers and eleven pig-keepers within the town's boundaries. During the year visits to these premises were made and the record-books inspected.

SWINE FEVER ORDER, 1963.

For the second successive year there were no confirmed outbreaks of Swine Fever in Great Britain. Although it may yet be too early to be definite, it would appear that there is reason to hope that this virulent disease may have been eradicated.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH (INFECTED AREAS) ORDER, 1938.

As a result of the outbreaks of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the County, the above Order remained in force for the first six months of the year. During that time over 500 applications for Movement Licences were investigated and dealt with.

EXPORTED ANIMALS PROTECTION ORDER, 1964.

Two Aberdeen-Angus Bulls were exported from Birkenhead Docks on licence to South Africa for breeding purposes.

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