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THE HEALTH OF BIRKENHEAD

1973

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, and the
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER



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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

HEALTH COMMITTEE



Chairman:

Alderman C.S. McRonald

Deputy Chairman:

Councillor J.S. Kellett

Alderman:

R. Pilkington

Councillors:

Mrs. B. Bagnall

M.R. Hesketh

Mrs. MacDougall

M.F.H. Noonan

E.J. Parnall

Mrs. C.J. Rimmer

Mrs. M. Ryan

W.W. Smith

R. Stretch

Miss D. Tomlinson

A.S. Truffet

P.A. Wilson, J.P.

Co-opted Members:

Dr. N.E. Nathanson

Mrs. S.E. Jones

Mr. L.N.S. Jones

Mrs. G. Twidale

Ex-Officio Members

Miss E.M. Keegan - His Worship the Mayor

Alderman J.H. Roberts, J.P.

Alderman D.A. Fletcher, J.P.

Alderman J.W. Oates

Councillor G.B. Porter

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health:

P.O. NICHOLAS, M.B., Ch.B., M.F.C.M., D.C.H., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

MARY P. HARAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Senior Medical Officer:

MARGARET HOUGHTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MARGARET C. BLACK, M.B., Ch.B., M.F.C.M., D.Obst. R.C.O.G.

School Medical Officer:

ANN WILSON, M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G.

Local Medical Practitioners who provide
part-time services on a sessional basis:

OLIVIA S. CROSTHWAITE, M.B., Ch.B.

JOYCE M. OWEN, M.B., Ch.B.

PAMELA ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.Obst. R.C.O.G.

SHIRLEY NICHOLAS, M.B., Ch.B., D.Obst. R.C.O.G.

NORA M. ENGLISH, M.B., B.Ch. (Ophthalmic)

PHYLLIS JEAN DISLEY, M.B., B.Ch.

E.N. GOLD, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.G.P.

M. SNELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

W.J.F. GOLLINS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

RUTH CARDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

Chief Dental Officer:

W.M. SHAW, L.D.S.

Director of Nursing Services:

Miss J.J. McDONALD, S.R.M., S.C.M., H.V.C., N.E.B.S.S.C., Q.I.D.N.

Area Nursing Officer/Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives:

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

Chief Public Health Inspector:

C.D. DARLEY, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

F. RUTTER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant Chief Public Health Inspector:

T.K. WARD, LLB. (Lond.) M.R.S.H., M.Inst.M.

Chief Administrative Officer:

S. DUCKWORTH

Chief Chiropodist:

G.C.H. BURNS, M.Ch.S., S.R.Ch.

"The British have one rather odd characteristic: they can only see the writing on the wall when they have their backs to it".

For much of 1973 the staff of the Health Department have had their backs to the wall; they have suffered the dual trauma of reorganisation of local government, for which they were so long a part, and the reorganisation of the National Health Service of which they hope to become a part. In spite of views reassuring them to the contrary, there was a feeling that the Personal Health Services were being taken over by the Hospital Service and that treatment was becoming more important than prevention and care. Nothing of course can be further from the truth, we have moved a long way from the year 1847 when William Duncan was appointed the first Medical Officer of Health for Liverpool. Those were the days of acute disease and early death and little treatment. Today, as we move towards the dissolution of the Medical Officer of Health and the start of the life of the Community Physicians we have almost passed the era of treatment and are truly in the era of chronicity and care: - the Community is one, and the hospital, although a big spender of money, is but a small part of that Community.

Unfortunately the progress in local government reorganisation ran far ahead of the delayed National Health Service reorganisation. The Medical Officer of Health found that his service on the Management Structure Working Party was soon at an end in the early part of the year, and by mid 1973, the chief officers of the new Wirral Metropolitan District Local Authority were appointed.

Work on the Joint Liaison Committee continued and much of the worst of preparation of the Profile fell upon the Working Parties formed from the membership of this Committee and the drawing together of this document on the Chairman and Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Joint Liaison Committee, ably assisted by the hard working typists and secretaries Miss Treanor and Mrs O'Neill, of the Birkenhead and Wallasey Health Departments. The Chairman and Wirral Area Health Authority members appointed by the end of 1973, rightly expressed their gratitude for the effort put into the working party reports and into the Area Profile. I can say from personal experience as the Secretary, the work involved many long hours and much overtime - maps, statistics, tables; all will help in the eventual management of the health of the Wirral.

While reorganisation of local government and health services proceeded the health of Birkenhead was not neglected. In January the work on the Health Centres in Birkenhead continued. It is a credit to the Health Department staff particularly to Mr. Duckworth and Mr. Robinson, that in spite of reorganisation, Health Centre development progressed rapidly; so that by April 1973 Ford Health Centre was opened by the Mayor Alderman C.S. McRonald. This was one of his final duties as Mayor of Birkenhead and it was pleasing that he was present as Chairman of the Health Committee in September, when Miriam Clinic was opened by the new Mayor, Alderman Miss Eileen Keegan.

Miriam Clinic represents one of the best achievements towards health in the borough. In the month that it was opened, Ilchester Square flats began to be demolished. Mismanaged property was one hazard removed from the North End of Birkenhead and a new purpose built clinic as a focus for health is much needed.

How wise the previous Health Committee was, which decided that the affluence of Upton did not need a clinic and the disadvantaged North End of Birkenhead did. This is what raising the health of the borough is all about. The National Health Service has tended to give too much to those who already are well blessed and not enough services to those who really need them - I pray that a change of emphasis will be achieved in the forthcoming reorganisation.

February saw the setting up of a working party to look into the high Perinatal Mortality rate in the North Wirral. Birth took our interest and then death brought sadness as Dr. Christian, the so newly-appointed Medical Officer of Health for Wallasey, died. I felt his loss greatly, and when Dr. Bell was appointed Deputy Medical Officer of Health for Wallasey the same week, I was only too glad to try to help, to find in April that I had an additional onerous duty when appointed acting Medical Officer of Health to Wallasey. Yet the increasing work load had advantages as I came to know more and more about the health of North Wirral.

March and April, 1973 were the months for progress in the services ancillary to health which are so much a part of health. We began a Physiotherapy service for the elderly at one of the clinics. Unfortunately this failed in the year because of shortage of transport to convey the elderly people. However, in April we were very fortunate to appoint Miss Evans as a full time Speech Therapist and our establishment of three, which had been reduced to one part-timer in 1972, was now restored nearer to two.

May and June were the months to consider some of the wide activities of Merseyside. Radio Merseyside gave the work of the Health Department some publicity and I became involved with the Merseyside Structure Plan. During the winter months the various societies requested talks from members of the Health Department staff, and considering all the stress of reorganisation, our thanks are due to all those who gave of their spare time. Talks were given to church groups; lectures and demonstrations to nursing staff, and if talking and discussions is a means of assisting improvement in health, then we have more than contributed as a department to this improvement during 1973.

Staff changes occurred during the year. We lost one Senior Medical Officer who became a partner in a general practice but fortunately as Dr. Houghton left, Dr. Black was appointed. She brings much experience from Liverpool and has helped to strengthen the clinical team. It is to be profoundly hoped that in all this talk about management we do not forget the clinical side of community medicine - we anxiously await the report of the committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Court - a decision must be made quickly about the career structure of clinical doctors in the service.

Equally during 1974, rapid decisions must be taken to give security of tenure to the administrative and clerical staffs of the Personal Health Department. Without the support of those stalwarts who remain, there will be diminution of health services to the people after 1st April, 1974. I thank the staff for all their support and help during 1973. To members of the Health Committee, and to the Chairmen, Councillor Miss Tomlinson and later Alderman McDonald after his year as Mayor, our grateful thanks. I will miss the unity which has been displayed over the years in Birkenhead Health Committee - the Health Committee can be justly proud of the achievements to improve the standard of health in the town.

P.O. Nicholas
Medical Officer of Health

CALENDAR FOR 1973

January:-

It was announced that rates were going up in the Spring. Birkenhead Co-operative Society introduced unbreakable mild bottles to be produced for a quarter of the normal cost at a rate of a bottle every second - was there a disposal problem?

February:-

The town's gas supplies were threatened by an industrial dispute and many people had their gas cut off. Cooking became difficult for some old age pensioners. The gas supplies were not connected to the newly constructed extension of South Clinic - shortly to become the Rock Ferry Health Centre and as the plaster did not dry out there was some damage to the new decorations. Apart from this, the new extension was not usable for clinical purposes while the older South Clinic building was reconstructed. Fortunately we were able to have the use of the Old People's Community Centre which enabled a skeleton clinic service to continue in the South end of the town.

March:-

Militant mothers blocked the junction between the Bidston by-pass and Hoylake Road to protest at the lack of safety precautions for pupils of a nearby school. They wanted barriers erected on the pavement to protect the children from the fast moving traffic.

This was a month of industrial unrest; the railwaymen were on strike, and thus, citizens without cars had to queue for cross-Mersey ferries or try to thumb a lift through the tunnel. The civil servants were restless; in their biggest ever demonstration local civil servants picketed Birkenhead's Town Hall.

April:-

Two hundred students set about the town's litter, filling 43 bags with rubbish from the main shopping area.

V.A.T. came to the nation and caused some chaos in Birkenhead shops for a few weeks.

Voters sorted out a new council for the Merseyside Metropolitan Area.

The Mayor of Birkenhead, Alderman Charles McDonald, opened the new Ford Health Centre.

May:-

There was some discussion in the Town Hall Committees over the building of flats on sites previously occupied by houses - in the end, planning permission was granted and Birkenhead received the doubtful blessing of more flats.

June:-

The Medical Officer of Health was beset by meetings of varied description; Chief Officers' Meetings in Wallasey; Joint Liaison Committee meetings at Clatterbridge Hospital and, getting nearer the patient, meetings took place with Dr. Garewal, the Geriatric Physician, concerning the Day Hospital just opened in Wallasey and the building of the Day Hospital in St. Catherine's Hospital grounds in Birkenhead. Meetings with Dr. Ghosh, the locum Consultant Paediatrician on non-accidental injury in children; meetings to discuss the problem of drug abuse in the community; discussions on the future of the Family Planning Services with the Branch Executive members of the Family Planning Association.

July:-

This was a month when Birkenhead mothers were cautious for the safety of their children. Two young children were victim of facial injuries as they sat in their prams waiting for their mothers. The attackers were never found. This is just one more, fortunately rare form of non-accidental injury to children but it highlighted the need for co-ordinated action to try and protect children as much as possible.

A Town Hall statement said the expensive Grange Road shopping precinct would be making one million pounds a year when it was completed. This would enable payment of the expected cost within 10 years; - however, the shopping precinct progressed all too slowly!

August:-

In the Town Halls of Wirral a row was brewing over the location of the new Wirral Town Hall - in the end Wallasey Town Hall was chosen. At the same time the new council adopted as a symbol of unity, the Five "W"s, to represent Wirral's five constituent authorities.

A Dialysis Unit was built into one of the corporation houses and one into a private home - two young people's lives saved!

September:-

Official opening of the new Miriam Clinic by the last Mayor of Birkenhead Alderman Miss Eileen Keegan.

Numerous other discussions took place on Clinic and Health Centre projects. All the efforts in improving the Dental service in the centres seemed worthwhile when Ministry Dental Inspectors gave a good report about the Dental services.

October:-

War waged in the Middle East and fuel problems began.

November:-

Street lighting was reduced by 10%, although mild weather helped to keep the lights going while people made voluntary economies in the use of electricity. Crowded Post Offices started to issue the never used petrol coupons.

However, it was not all bad news, Bonfire Night, although cold and wet, was safe and no one was hurt in the celebrations.

There was enough electricity for lighting and heating in the completed Rock Ferry Health Centre and though there were still some final touches to complete the building, the first two family doctors moved in.

December:-

Everybody in the town decided to make the best of the fuel crisis and shops made special arrangements for lighting when they could not use electricity; and so on to Christmas.

As a Christmas gift to the town, the Corporation announced a £436,650 scheme to give Oak and Eldon Gardens a complete face lift during the next few years. Perhaps 1974 and the reorganisation will bring about improvement in some of the town's multi-storey properties.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 1973

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

Area of Borough (in Acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,643
Population (Census 1973)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	135,750
" (Estimated Home Population 30th June 1972)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	135,750
Estimated Number of Houses in the Borough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45,509
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1972	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	98p
General Rate 1972/73:										
Domestic Properties	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87½p
Mixed Properties	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	93p
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate 1972/73	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£52,000
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population (Corrected)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.4
Stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Total Live and Stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,127
Infant Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births - Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births -										
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births -										
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (under one week)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Post Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (over four weeks and										
under one year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Maternal Deaths (including Abortion)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	NIL
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live and												
Stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	NIL
Perinatal Mortality per 1,000 Total Births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,722
* Death Rate (Adjusted)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.7
* Death Rate from all forms of Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.2
* Death Rate from Cancer (Lung)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.785
* Death Rate from Cancer (Other sites)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.8
* Death Rate from Diseases of the Respiratory System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.77
* Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.029

ENGLAND AND WALES

* Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.7
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 Total Births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
* Death Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Infant Mortality (Deaths under one year												
per 1,000 Live Births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17

* Per 1,000 of Population

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

There were 2,096 births in Birkenhead in 1973, 1,056 males and 1,040 females. The live birth rate adjusted was 15.4 - this is still higher than the average for England and Wales which is 13.7. Though the birth rate has been falling for some years the numbers of births still exceeds the numbers of deaths in 1973 by 370. An unfortunate fact is that 12% of the births in the town of Birkenhead during 1973 were illegitimate which is, once again, higher than the national figure of 9%.

96% of the births occurred in hospital and it says much for the quality of the midwifery that there were only 31 still births.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Registrar General's Estimate of Population</u>	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Excess of Births over Deaths</u>	<u>Live Births Rate per 1,000 Population</u>
1967	143,550	2,562	1,672	890	17.6
1968	142,480	2,499	1,711	788	17.3
1969	141,950	2,488	1,764	724	17.3
1970	141,410	2,526	1,732	794	17.7
1971	138,090	2,555	1,774	782	18.5
1972	137,020	2,321	1,763	558	16.9
1973	135,750	2,096	1,722	374	15.4

BIRTHS WHICH OCCURRED IN THE BOROUGH

	<u>Live</u>	<u>Still</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>In Institutions</u>			
Birkenhead Maternity Hospital	466	1	467
St. Catherine's Hospital	1,542	39	1,581
<u>Born at Home</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>42</u>
<u>Total Births occurring in the Borough including transfers out:</u>	<u>2,049</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>2,090</u>

As will be seen from the figures, only 2% of births occurred at home.

There were 128 premature live births - 17 fewer than the previous year.

DEATHS

The numbers of deaths in the year 1973 is the lowest since 1968. The figure in 1973 was 1722 (824 males and 895 females). This represents an adjusted death rate of 12.7 compared with the figure for England and Wales of 12.0.

Recent annual figures are as follows:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Borough</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
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
1969	13.8	11.9
1970	13.3	11.7
1971	12.8	11.6
1972	12.9	12.1
1973	12.7	12.0

Once again, we have an excess of births over deaths, in 1973 some 374. However, the estimated population of Birkenhead continues the slow fall of recent years. This, presumably, represents younger workers and families moving to distant parts of the country, but also the movement of population from industrial Birkenhead to re-housing in the country areas of the Wirral. With a Wirral authority proposed for the future, there will be no distinction between town and country in this area. It is to be hoped we shall have an ever greater link with each other.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

There were no deaths in 1973.

INFANT MORTALITY

There were 51 deaths in infants under one year in 1973 compared with 58 deaths in the previous year 1972. This slight fall in number does not lessen the fact that the infant mortality rate of 24 per 1,000 live births is higher than the figure of 17 per 1,000 for England and Wales. The primary causes of death in the infant period are shown in the following table:-

INFANT DEATHS

CAUSE OF DEATH	0-7 days	8-14 days	15-21 days	22-28 days	Total under 4 wks.	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total each cause
Prematurity	14	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	14
Congenital Malformations	7	1	-	-	8	2	2	1	-	13
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	1	2	3	1	-	7
Birth Injuries	5	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
Other Causes	2	1	-	-	3	6	2	1	-	12
Total Death in each age group	29	2	-	-	31	10	8	3	-	51

The pattern of infant deaths was similar to the previous year. It is not always possible to accurately separate the primary from the secondary cause of infant death, e.g. several of the prematures died from intra cranial haemorrhage, which might have been classified as a birth injury. The numbers of infants who died from pneumonia was 7 in 1973 compared with 11 in 1972.

SUMMARY OF COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	<u>Birkenhead</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	15.4	13.7
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births)	15	12
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	12.7	12
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	24	17
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	14	11
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	13	10
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total births)	28	21

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

The perinatal mortality rate is the number of stillbirths added to the number of infant deaths during the first week of life expressed as a rate per thousand total births live and still. In 1973 the perinatal mortality rate in Birkenhead was 28 compared with a figure of 27 for 1973.

Though this figure is a continuing improvement in the higher rates of previous years, there is still a long way to go to reach the lower figure of 21 for England and Wales.

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
Infant Mortality Rate	28	29	27	25	24
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	20	22	17	17	14
Stillbirth	18	18	19	12	15
Perinatal Mortality Rate	34	39	34	27	28

GENERAL DISCUSSION:-

Though in 1973 there was general improvement in slightly lower mortality figures, Birkenhead still has too high a figure for infant and neonatal deaths and perinatal deaths.

During the year we continued our liaison with the hospital obstetric services and by the time of reorganisation it will not be difficult to form a unified midwifery service under the guidance of the Obstetricians. The collecting of data - facts and figures about perinatal and neonatal mortality continued during 1973, and in time we may have the answer to the higher mortality figures. It is probable that the causes will be multifactorial and one of the major factors will be the increasing provision of new centrally heated modern houses. Birkenhead as it forms part of the new Wirral borough can take pride in the new housing estates built in recent years, this warm housing offers the best chance of health in small babies.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

During the year, 128 premature babies were born alive and 14 stillborn. Between the weights of 3 lbs 4 ozs and 14 lbs 6 ozs, 21 were born alive and it is a credit to the care these babies received from the skilled hospital staff that 14 of these babies survived. With premature babies over 4 lbs 6 ozs in weight the survival rate was excellent - those mothers who tend to have small babies must be thankful that the nurses show such dedication to the task.

1973

P R E M A T U R E I N F A N T S

Weight at Birth	Total Prematures Born Alive	Prematures Dying			Total Still Births
		Within 24 hrs.	In One and Under 7 Days	7-28 Days	
2lbs 3oz or LESS	2	1	-	-	2
OVER 2lbs 3oz up to and including 3lbs 4oz	11	6	3	-	6
OVER 3lbs 4oz up to and including 4lbs 6oz	21	1	6	-	3
OVER 4lbs 6oz up to and including 4lbs 15oz	30	-	-	-	1
OVER 4lbs 15oz up to and including 5lbs 8oz	64	2	-	-	2
TOTAL	128	10	9	-	14

DEATHS DUE TO CANCER OF THE LUNG

The number of deaths was 106 compared with 103 in 1972. The marked disproportion of deaths between males and females has continued:- 81 males and 25 females died from this condition.

Recent figures are as follows:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
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
1969	79	15	94
1970	94	20	114
1971	101	19	120
1972	86	17	103
1973	81	25	106

The winter of 1973 brought industrial problems in the fuel industries with reduction of street lighting and with a poor availability of clean fuels. One could not blame the elderly and families with children using smokey fuels for heating purposes. Though there was some temporary suspension of smoke control orders during the height of industrial troubles, the Borough Council rapidly reinstated smoke control and increased the area of the town covered by such orders as soon as more smoke free fuels became available.

It would seem that cleaning up the atmosphere in our industrial towns is the best hope we have of reducing chest disease. I need hardly reiterate that personal pollutions by smoking tobacco is a more serious hazard than industrial pollution, but though we press on with anti-smoking health education, particularly amongst the school children, with adults smoking as heavily as before, it is difficult to give young people a lead.

By the time of writing this report it is interesting to note that the Hunter Committee has permitted a tobacco substitute to be given a trial. Let us hope that the tobacco substitute proves less injurious to the health of the lung than tobacco. The trouble is we will have to wait many years to be certain - the obvious improvement would be for people who smoke to give up the habit.

CANCER OF OTHER SITES

243 deaths occurred as a result of cancer of other sites, representing 1.8 per 1,000 population. The National rate is 1.7.

Malignant Neoplasm - Buccal Cavity, etc.	..	5
" " - Oesophagus	..	14
" " - Stomach	..	36
" " - Intestine	..	46
" " - Larynx	..	2
" " - Breast	..	28
" " - Uterus	..	12
" " - Prostate	..	8
Leukaemia		9
Other Malignant Neoplasm	..	83
		<hr/>
		243
		<hr/>

ROAD ACCIDENTS

I am indebted to the Chief Superintendent of Cheshire Constabulary, Birkenhead, for the following report:-

"Total injury accidents	-	597	(65)
" casualties	-	787	(805)
Number of deaths	-	13	(21)"

Comparison with last year's figures again shows a reduction in accidents and casualties and it is pleasing to see that the deaths are the lowest since 1969, viz. 1970 - 17, 1971 - 41, 1972 - 21, 1973 - 13.

The main causes of accidents continue in the same pattern and it is difficult to educate road users to exercise more care in these situations:-

1. Drivers crossing junctions without due care;
2. Pedestrians crossing road from behind parked cars;
3. Drivers following too close or travelling at excessive speed having regard to conditions.

Following in the path of the "No Lights" parking legislation in 1971, accidents involving parked vehicles again show a slight increase but generally they do not involve injury. The attitude of some drivers and their lack of responsibility is shown in many of these cases, when after the accident, the offending driver fails to stop or report the collision. This means that in many cases the true cause of the accident is not known".

SUICIDE

7 cases of suicide occurred during the year. The table for preceding years is shown below:-

1969	-	15
1970	-	6
1971	-	5
1972	-	5
1973	-	7

HEART DISEASES

Heart diseases accounted for 535 deaths (an increase of 40 over the previous year). This represents 4.2 per 1,000 population.

PNEUMONIA AND BRONCHITIS

Pneumonia claimed 99 victims, while bronchitis was the cause of death in 113 cases. Together these diseases represented 11.75% of total deaths.

DEATHS DUE TO TUBERCULOSIS

					<u>Rates per 1,000 Population</u>
Respiratory	..	..	4	..	.029
Non-Respiratory	..	..	Nil	..	-

PART II

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

- 1) HEALTH CENTRES AND CLINICS
- 2) NURSING SERVICES REPORTS
 - a) General résumé by Director of Nursing Services
 - b) Health Visiting - reports of Nursing Officer for Health Visitors.
 - c) Midwifery Service
 - Report of Area Nursing Officer
 - Report of Nursing Officer for Family Planning and Cytology
 - d) Home Nursing Service
 - Report of Nursing Officer for Home Nursing

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

AMBULANCE SERVICE

HEALTH EDUCATION

CHIROPODY

HEALTH CENTRES

Whetstone Lane Health Centre:-

The four family doctors in partnership continued to work with great harmony with their attached nursing staff. It is a pity that there is little land on the site to expand this excellent health centre, but this was the pioneer centre in Birkenhead and though others that followed had structural improvements there could not be improvement in working relationships between staff and patients. Whetstone Lane Health Centre presents a united atmosphere.

Balls Road Health Centre:-

The centre continues to progress and though sadly one of the doctors died at the turn of the year, the other two doctors have continued to give excellent service and in this they have been assisted by their practice staff and the attached nursing staff in the adjoining clinic.

The Ford (Fender Way) Health Centre:-

After three years of effort this centre costing over £60,000 was occupied in March and opened by the Mayor, Alderman C.S. McDonald, in April. This is an excellent building. Perhaps we could have improved on the telephone consul in its relation to the reception area, but other than this we got the best we could out of the limited money available. Ministry cost limits on health centres are very tight and take no account of nearly £3,000 spent on anti-vandalism precautions. However, people are learning to respect their health centre and the six doctors, attached nursing staff, receptionists, dental surgeon, chiropodists and others are providing an excellent service to the community.

The Rock Ferry Health Centre:-

By September 1973 the conversion of the South Clinic was sufficiently complete for two family doctors, followed a month later by three doctors in another partnership to practice from this new health centre. We needed the sophisticated telephone and call systems as by the onset of 1974 the Executive Council for Birkenhead, just as they handed over to the Family Practitioners' Committee, stated that two other new doctors were to come into the centre. The larger reception area which improved Ministry standards provided will certainly be needed. Fortunately, the waiting room can be extended by moveable screens. All these improvements have been learnt in our previous experience of building health centres.

Conway Health Centre:-

This new Health centre is now well advanced in building. The Hostel for Mentally Handicapped adults on an adjoining site was opened in March 1974. It is hoped that the Health Centre will be completed in June or July. Four more family doctors will be provided with excellent facilities and joined by community nursing staff to provide a continuity of service to the people of the down town area of Birkenhead.

The Bidston Clinic:-

The adaptation of the ground floor flat at Halstead Close for the Ford Estate was completed in early 1972. The attendances at the child welfare clinic and the family planning clinic are improving but the flat is a little difficult to find in the maze of roads and passages on the Ford Estate. At the end of 1973 we were discussing with the architect and surveyors the signing of the clinic, but the high costs and shortage of money have caused us to leave this matter for negotiation by the Area Health Authority.

Miriam Clinic:-

In September, 1973 this clinic was officially opened by the last Mayor of Birkenhead, Alderman Miss Eileen Keegan. Predictions that the clinic would not survive the rigours of life in the North end of Birkenhead have proved unfounded - people have respected their health clinic. This is a modern building with a Health Centre suite inside from which an interested family doctor could practice in the future. In the meantime much needed clinic services are run. With the provision of these better premises the services run from Perrin Church Hall were discontinued - we are grateful to the Rev. Spurry and the members of St. James' Church for the temporary use of Perrin Hall.

CLINIC SERVICES

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Midwives' Clinics -

North Clinic	Tuesday	2.00 p.m.
Prenton Clinic	Wednesday	2.00 p.m.
South Clinic	Friday	2.00 p.m.

Relaxation Clinics

North Clinic	Monday	1.30 p.m.
Prenton Clinic	Wednesday	9.00 a.m.
South Clinic	Tuesday	9.00 a.m.
Ford Clinic	Thursday	2.00 p.m.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

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

Wednesday	2 - 4 p.m.
Monday and Tuesday	2 - 4 p.m.
Wednesday and Thursday	2 - 4 p.m.
Thursday and Friday	2 - 4 p.m.
Tuesday and Friday	2 - 4 p.m.
Monday and Tuesday	2 - 4 p.m.
Monday and Thursday	2 - 4 p.m.
Friday	2 - 4 p.m.
Tuesday	2 - 4 p.m.

(Clinic closed 22/5/73)

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES (Continued)

Whetstone Lane Clinic (opened 29.6.71)	Tuesday	2 - 4 p.m.
Bidston Clinic (opened 15.9.72)	Friday	2 - 4 p.m.
Miriam Clinic (opened 29.5.73)	Tuesday	2 - 4 p.m.
Ford Clinic (opened 2.4.73)	Wednesday	2 - 4 p.m.

WELFARE FOODS

The issue of Welfare Foods on behalf of the Ministry of Health continues from the eleven distribution centres.

Sales of National Dried Milk are increasing since the introduction of free milk for low income families, or those in receipt of supplementary Benefit.

	<u>National Dried Milk</u>	<u>A. D & C Drops</u>	<u>A. D & C Vitamin Tablets</u>	<u>Orange Juice</u>
1967	6,281	-	1,798	21,755
1968	4,770	-	1,427	20,581
1969	2,445	-	1,457	21,209
1970	1,791	-	1,829	22,884
1971	1,850	2,553	1,656	25,468
1972	3,997	6,084	1,358	855
1973	3,243	6,165	1,570	-

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	Fillings	Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Dentures Provided
Expectant & Nursing Mothers	52	50	99	72	22	7
Children Under 5	356	209	316	246	106	-

CONVALESCENCE

In 1973, no pre-school children were referred for convalescence.

RECORD OF CLINIC ATTENDANCES - CHILD WELFARE CENTRES 1973

CLINIC	FIRST VISITS (NEW CASES)	RE-VISITS	TOTAL	NUMBER SEEN BY DOCTOR	NUMBER OF DOCTOR SESSIONS	YEAR OF BIRTH FOR THOSE MAKING FIRST ATTENDANCES THIS YEAR			TOTAL 70 69 68 67	TOTAL NUMBER OF SESSIONS - NS
						1973	1972	1971		
NORTH	193	2823	3016	1066	87	156	240	182		113
SOUTH	363	3614	3977	1535	98	266	273	179		99
CENTRAL	203	1506	1709	762	50	114	109	114		51
BALLS RD	303	2763	3066	1271	95	223	185	100	70	98
UPTON	159	2537	2696	970	98	138	204	154		103
PRENTON	331	4375	4706	1521	92	301	211	127		97
WOODCHURCH	132	2042	2174	914	90	105	153	128		97
THINGWALL	53	1379	1432	458	49	52	45	24		50
*PERRIN HALL	32	260	292	101	17	28	37	3		20
*MIRIAM	109	884	993	302	26	97	6	13		30
WHETSTONE L.	240	1898	2138	778	48	138	167	78	63	50
*BUDE CLOSE	24	72	96	73	11	13	26	26	16	11
BIDSTON	98	898	996	379	48	50	80	42	3	51
**FORD	95	692	787	417	37	71	30	25	3	33
TOTALS	2335	25743	28078	10547	846	1752	1766	1195	155	903

*Perrin Hall closed 22/5/73

**Miriam opened 29/5/73

*Bude Close closed March 1973

**Ford opened 2/4/73

NURSING SERVICES

Report of Miss J. J. McDonald, Director of Nursing Services and Nursing Officers.

"Co-ordination can only be successfully achieved through participation and co-operation".

Anonymous.

STAFF SITUATION - NURSING OFFICERS

- 1 Director of Nursing Services
- 1 Area Nursing Officer
- 1 Home Nursing Officer
- 1 Midwifery Nursing Officer
- 3 Health Visiting Nursing Officers.

The structure below indicates the function and selected duties of Nursing Officer Personnel and point of contact :-

NURSING STRUCTURE

(TOP MANAGEMENT)

DIRECTOR OF NURSING SERVICES

POLICY

Miss J.J. McDonald - Ext: 380

(MIDDLE MANAGEMENT)

AREA NURSING OFFICER

and

NON-MEDICAL SUPERVISOR OF MIDWIVES

PROGRAMMING

Miss M. Pringle - Ext: 381

(LOWER-MIDDLE MANAGEMENT)

HEALTH VISITING NURSING OFFICERS

HOME NURSING OFFICER

MIDWIFERY NURSING OFFICER

E X E C U T I V E

E X E C U T I V E

From 1.10.1972.

Mrs. E.R. Kilgannon

Miss F. Butt

Mrs. D.G. Riley

Miss P.E. Goldsmith

Mrs. G.R. Jukes

Selected Duty
(Handicapped)

Selected Duty
(School Health)

Selected Duty
(Health Education)

Selected Duty
(Hospital Liaison)

Selected Duty
(Family Planning)

Liaison with Social
Services

Child Welfare
Clinics

Marie Curie
Service

Cytology

Field Staff

Field Staff

Field Staff

Field Staff

Field Staff

H/V 's

H/V's

H/V's

HOME NURSES

MIDWIVES

Ext: 383

Ext: 383

Ext: 383

Ext: 385

Ext: 378

OTHER NURSING STAFF

HEALTH VISITING	HOME NURSING	MIDWIVES
22 F/T Health Visitors 6 P/T Health Visitors 1 F/T S.R.N. 8 P/T S.R.N. 3 Student Health Visitors 1 Student Health Vacancy	23 F/T SRN Home Nurses 3 F/T SEN Home Nurses 6 Auxiliary Nurses 1 Auxiliary - Vacancy	10 F/T (Domiciliary Midwives) 2 Vacancies

HEALTH VISITING SECTION

SERVICE FOR CHILDREN "AT RISK" AND HANDICAPPED

Report of the Nursing Officer - Mrs. E. Kilgannon

INCIDENCE OF CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS

Of the 39 congenital abnormalities reported on the Birth Notifications, 6 concerned children residing outside the Borough.

The 33 Birkenhead cases were as follows:-

Anencephalus	5 Stillborn
Harelip - cleft palate	2 Stillborn + 3 Live
Spina Bifida	1
Hydrops Foetalis	2 Stillborn
Mongol	2
Hypospadias	2
Meningocele	2
Imperforate Anus	1
Haemangioma	2
Talipes	1
Exomphalus	1
Achondroplasia	1
Micrognathia	1
Cyanosis	1
Wide open fontanelle and sutures	1
Angioma	1
Sacro-coccygeal Teratoma	1
Extra digits on both hands	2
Malformation of both feet	1
	<hr/>
	33
	<hr/>

"AT RISK" REGISTER

The assessment system based on Mary Sheridan tests started in 1969 has been continued since that date. Every baby is tested at 6-8 weeks, 6-9 months, 12-18 months. Before testing begins, the health visitor asks the mother a standard series of questions which may highlight babies at minimal risk. The health visitors are now well acquainted with the method of testing and those babies at minimal risk are being found. Some of these minor signs clear up, but any baby who continues to cause concern is referred via the family doctor to the consultant paediatricians. The clinic doctors also keep up a supervision of these potential "at risk" babies.

At the 6-9 month test, assessments of the baby's hearing are made. During 1973, the health visitors were more successful than in previous years in spotting babies with varying degrees of hearing loss.

During the year, 702 new cases were placed on the "At Risk" Register, and 373 were removed after review; a total of 1,660 by the 31st December, 1973, compared with 134 at the 31st December, 1972.

It may be argued that this is a great deal of work for little result, as many babies are found to be normal on review. Even if the findings are small, it does enable early diagnosis of any real handicap, and early help and treatment to be given.

STATISTICS OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY HEALTH VISITORS

Children born 1973	..	..	..	..	2126
First visits to children under 1 year	..	..	..	..	2100
Subsequent visits to children under 1 year	..	..	..	..	7509
Visits to children 1 - 5 years	..	..	..	..	13834
Visits to expectant mothers	..	..	..	..	603
Visits re. miscellaneous matters	..	..	..	..	4566
Visits with no access	..	..	...	..	6834
Visits to Senior Citizens	..	..	..	..	2014
First visits to T.B. cases..	..	..	..	..	45
General Practitioner attachment Visits	..	..	..	..	191

CLINIC ATTENDANCES

Infant Welfare	..	..	..	..	2222
Relaxation - Mothercraft	..	..	..	..	212
Relaxation - Mothercraft, St. Catherine's	..	..	..	..	76

HOSPITAL ATTENDANCES

Geriatric Clinic	..	..	..	..	37
Paediatric Clinic	..	..	..	..	82

STAFF ALLOCATION TO GENERAL PRACTITIONERS
This was completed during the year and all Medical Nurses were allocated to
General Practitioners within the Borough of Wirral.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

All children who are "At Risk" or handicapped are referred to the Nursing Officer with special responsibility for handicapped children. Each child is carefully followed up from infancy by the Hospital Consultants, Local Authority Medical Officers and family Health Visitors. Developmental progress is monitored and the family are given support and advice from both Nursing Officer and Health Visitors.

After each handicapped child's second birthday, parents are invited to bring the child to our Assessment Clinic. Both parents and children are seen by the Assessment Team, comprising Consultant, Paediatrician, Local Authority Medical Officer, Educational Psychologist, Nursing Officer (Health Visitors), Social Worker and other therapists, depending on the child's problem. A programme of education and treatment is devised and at this stage it is usual for mentally handicapped children to commence at Shrewsbury Road School where intensive physiotherapy and stimulation are provided. The physically handicapped children are encouraged to join Playgroups and they go on to Trinity Street Special Unit after their third birthday. All are reviewed routinely throughout school life and case conferences are held each term to which Health Department staff are invited.

One State Enrolled Nurse from the Health Department continues to help with the physically handicapped children at Trinity Street School. One school nurse is responsible for the Special Schools in the Borough. The Physiotherapist, Mrs. Breckon, continues to treat the children both at school and in the summer holidays. Mr. Sandeman, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, sees the Spina Bifida children at a special session in the Children's Hospital three-monthly session, when Health Department staff also attend.

Liaison with Social Services Department has developed and a Health Care team on Mental Health has met for a number of discussions. Rossclare House continues to accept children for short term care on a rota basis. Four families referred to the Joseph Rowntree Family Fund have been helped. A local branch of the Townswomen's Guild helped to send a family with two handicapped members on a holiday to Spain.

The Wirral branch of the Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida Association continues to run its Playgroup twice weekly at Birkenhead. A branch of the Toy Library for the Disabled now holds a Playgroup once weekly at the Red Cross Headquarters, Birkenhead.

The activities of all involved in caring for the handicapped are co-ordinated by the Health Visitor Nursing Officer. The aim of the Health Department is to endeavour to improve the quality of care and support extended to all families with handicapped children.

1975	1975
1975	1975

STAFF ALLOCATION TO GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

This was completed during the year and all District Nurses were allocated to General Practitioners within the Borough of Birkenhead.

Ford Health Centre and Rock Ferry Health Centre were both opened during the year and as at Whetstone Lane Health Centre, daily treatment clinics were established and have been well attended.

The inclusive number of patients attending the above clinics were 494.

The numbers of treatments were 1,620.

NURSING AUXILIARIES

In August the fourth Nursing Auxiliary commenced duties with the District Nursing Sisters. Their service has proved invaluable and the total number of Domiciliary visits made by them in 1973 was 3,369. They were of course also involved in many other non-nursing duties i.e. packing of dressings, etc.

DISTRICT NURSE TRAINING

Three members of staff passed the National Certificate for District Nurse training and two were undergoing training at the end of the year.

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BALLS ROAD CLEANSING CENTRE

This is administrated and staffed by members of the Home Nursing Service. Normally a State enrolled nurse is in charge and she is assisted by two of the auxiliary nurses attached to the above service.

Attendances are especially high for hair care and much work is still needed in the education of parents for the prevention of head infestation (rather than the cure), but most parents are grateful for all help and advice given at the Clinic.

The number of patients transported for baths is increasing, and thanks are due to the continued co-operation between the Health and Social Services Departments.

CLEANSING CENTRE ATTENDANCES :-

Excluded from Schools (for pediculi	662
Voluntary attendance (and Nits	497
Referred by General Practitioners and Health Visitors.	78
Treated for Scabies	68
Treated for Impetigo	28
Attended for baths and showers	427
Advice only	70
Total 1973	1,790
Total 1972	2,066

STATISTICS

Number of Physically Handicapped children born	..	..	..	27
Number of Mentally Handicapped children born	..	..	..	6
Home visits by Nursing Officer	..	..	..	83
Hospital Visits	..	..	..	18
School visits	..	..	..	22
Playgroup visits	..	..	..	10
Social Service referral discussions	..	..	..	12
Case Conferences	..	..	..	6
Assessment Sessions	..	..	..	5
Wirral for the Disabled Meetings	..	..	..	2
Spastic Society Meetings	..	..	..	2
Referrals to Rowntree Fund	..	..	..	4
School Nurse visits	..	..	..	67
Visits to Handicapped Schools	..	..	..	56
Visits to children at home	..	..	..	6
Cases referred to Education Special Services	..	..	..	1
Referrals to Rowntree Fund	..	..	..

SCHOOL STATE ENROLLED NURSE

Help is given at Trinity Street School daily during the school term.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

In April, another Health Centre was opened at Fender Way, Ford, which also housed five General Practitioners and the appropriate staff to work with them.

In June 1973, the South Clinic staff went back from their temporary accommodation to the newly enlarged premises which had been converted into a Health Centre with surgeries for five General Practitioners with the Local Authority Nursing and other services attached. Both Local Authority Health staff and G.P's seem to get on very amicably together, thus ensuring a better service to the patients.

In September Miriam Place Clinic was opened to replace Perrin Hall, since when the numbers attending have doubled. The services include Chiropody, Infant Welfare and Family Planning.

In addition to the existing Health Centre at Whetstone Lane, Balls Road Clinic now accommodates two General Practitioners in surgeries on the premises. Community Staff are attached to the practices and are available to assist where necessary.

Each clinic in the Town has been visited regularly by Miss Butt, Nursing Officer.

SCHOOL HEALTH

The School Nurses have regularly visited schools to carry out cleanliness inspections. Cases that have needed to be excluded have either been referred to Balls Road Cleansing Centre, or to their own home, returning to school when cleaned. On the whole parents have co-operated very well.

STAFF MEETINGS

During 1973 Nursing Officers held regular meetings with nurses in these groups to communicate policy and to review, plan and develop the various aspects of nursing care in the community, e.g :

- Attendance at School Entrance Medicals by Health Visitor.
- Implementation of Health Education programme.
- Actions related to head infestation.
- Modification of G.P. attachment schemes.

Participation of all Nursing Staff has contributed effectively to the development and smooth running of the services.

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REHOUSING ON MEDICAL GROUNDS

Rehousing poses a problem in parts of this area, and Health Visitors have continued their excellent work of investigating cases for rehousing on medical grounds. Whereas some 460 visits were made by Health Visitors in 1972 over 1000 were made in 1973.

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BATTERED BABY SYNDROME

This year a Departmental Circular was issued to encourage more effective action to be taken in these cases. When potential cases of non-accidental injury have arisen, case conferences have been held, attended by doctors, social workers, the local N.S.P.C.C. officer, a police officer, and nursing staff. The knowledge the health visitor has of these children greatly assists the future co-ordination and management of the cases. It is essential that the parents receive support and the particular child does not fall through the net of supervision and care.

	1971	1972	1973
Number of cases referred	1	2	10

The increase in case conferences in 1973 shows that we are being more diligent about the problems of non-accidental injury to children. The more we discuss, the more we shall learn.

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AUDIOMETRY

Number of children tested	3,025
Number of children referred to S.M.O	329

EYE TESTING

Including children under 5 referred by Health Visitors

Number of children sent for	..	1,337
Number of children attended	..	866

The high number of defaulters at the clinics poses a problem to the Health Visitors to encourage the stragglers to attend.

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STAFF MEETINGS

Nursing Officers held regular meetings with allocated staff to communicate policy and to review, plan and develop the various aspects of care related to the service in the Community e.g.

- Attendance at School Entrance Medicals by Health Visitors.
- Implementation of Health Education Programme.
- Action related to head infestation.
- Modification of G.P. attachment schemes.
- Opportunity for two-way communications.

Participation of all Nursing Staff has contributed effectively to the development and the smooth running of the services.

REHOUSING ON MEDICAL GROUNDS

Housing poses a big problem in this area and Health Visitors continue to follow up numerous requests for rehousing on Medical Grounds.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Health Visitors and Midwives shared in much of the Group Health Education given in the Borough. They gave the Mothercraft talks at the two Clinics and newly-opened Health Centres where relaxation classes are held.

Health Visitors continued to visit St. Catherine's Hospital and Birkenhead Maternity Hospital to talk about health and child care to the expectant mothers attending classes held by hospital staff.

There was an increase both in the numbers of schools visited by Health Visitors and the subjects covered, despite the fact that staff were still adjusting to general practitioner attachment schemes and the many other demands made on their time.

HEALTH EDUCATION SESSIONS ATTENDED BY HEALTH VISITORS

At health centres	55
At GP premises (excluding those in health centres)	2
At maternity and child health centres	677
At school	146
In hospital	445
Elsewhere	14
TOTAL	1,339

GIRL GUIDES

A course was given for Girl Guides preparing for their Child Nurse badge and further requests for this and other badge awards have been received.

HEALTH VISITING

The Health Visitors primary function remains the prevention of ill-health and the promotion of positive health. This work is undertaken in the homes, clinics and schools within the community. Of all the Community Nursing services, Health Visiting is the most difficult to sell and, because of this, it was agreed with the kind assistance of the Birkenhead News to publish a series of articles describing the range of duties performed by the Health Visiting Staff.

STATISTICS OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY HEALTH VISITORS.

Children born in 1973	1946
Other children aged under 5	7713
Persons aged between 5 and 16 seen as part of health visiting, (ie excluding those seen as part of school health service)	348
Persons aged between 17 and 64	4849
Persons aged 65 and over	899
Households visited on account of tuberculosis	226
Households visited on account of other infectious diseases	660
Households visited for any other reason	98
TOTAL	16,739
	Mentally handicapped 80
	Mentally ill 188

CLINIC ATTENDANCES

Infant Welfare 4,868
 Relaxation-Mothercraft L/A) 941
 Relaxation-Mothercraft St.Catherines)

HOSPITAL ATTENDANCES

Geriatric 37
 Paediatric 82
 Psychiatric..... 104

FIELD WORK INSTRUCTION

Two students completed their training successfully and joined the staff in September. The Student establishment was increased to four which necessitated the training of one other Health Visitor in field work instruction. Three students are at present training at the Liverpool School of Hygiene.

PLAYGROUPS

Report on Nurseries, Playgroups and child minders show that in 1973 there were:

- 2 Corporation Nurseries
- 3 Private Day Nurseries
- 3 run as Nursery Schools
- 30 Playgroups

One of the Corporation Nurseries increased numbers during the year from 25 to 30 children. This increase was welcome, but we still must rely on the excellent help given in the private and voluntary sector. There is no doubt the private day nursery properly supervised by Nursing and Educational Staff give a good standard of care, particularly to that group of children who have been other peoples' problems.

As far as the play groups are concerned the specialist Health Visitor inspects all premises prior to registration and continues to give guidance and supervision to established play groups.

Liaison with the Education Department Nursery Classes has continued with Joint meetings of the Nursery Schools Association which the play leaders attend. Most certainly a health visitor should visit all play groups once a term to report early observation of defects and give advice. It is helpful if an officer of the Education Service can give added expertise.

Miss Asquith the Specialist Health Visitor for Nurseries and Play Groups is retiring at the turn of the year. Her courses for Play leaders (6-8 sessions) were continued in 1973. The courses are on lines recommended by the Pre-school Play-groups Association. Let us hope Miss Asquith will continue this service in retirement as it is certainly worthwhile and we offer thanks to her. During 1973 Miss Asquith was joined in this work by Miss Skinner, the newly appointed Community Liaison Officer.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE

Report by the Area Nursing Officer - Miss M. Pringle

Domiciliary Staff

1 Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives (Area Nursing Officer)

1 Nursing Officer (Mrs. G.R. Jukes)

11 Midwives

The subjects selected as projects to be completed during this period of Pupil Midwife Training have again shown considerable variation, and these completed projects are now being built into a library.

Supervision of Nursings	..	..	..	..	60
Lecture sessions to Pupil Midwives		..	..		41
Number of cases attended by Domiciliary Midwives	..				58
Cases requiring Medical Aid	..	..	..		98

Domiciliary Midwives

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

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
Number of bookings	82	34
Number of births attended	58	35
(a) Doctors present	17	7
(b) Doctors not present	41	28
Administration of Gas and Air (Entonox)	55	35
Administration of Pethilorfan	52	37
Total visits to patients	26,592	17,687
Number of Planned Early Discharges	965	699
Actual Number of Early Discharges	2,089	2,091

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

The number of mothers attending the Midwives' Ante-Natal Clinics during 1973 continues as in previous years to be relatively few, due to the fact that fewer mothers are being delivered at home. On the other hand, the percentage of hospital deliveries continues to increase.

Attendances at Ante-Natal Clinics were as follows:-

Ford Clinic	..	Thursday (From Sept. 1973)	..	35
North Clinic	..	Tuesday	..	64
Prenton Clinic	..	Wednesday, 2 - 4 p.m.	..	55
South Clinic	..	Friday, 2 - 4 p.m.	..	56
Total Number of Patients :				210

Number of Attendances	..	..	941
Number of Sessions	..	..	137

WORK OF NURSES IN THE SCHOOLS

Hair Inspections in schools:

The figures for 1973 are as follows:-

Number examined	..	56,665
Number clean	..	54,880
Number unsatisfactory	..	1,784

Nursing Auxiliaries are being trained to assist in Hygiene Inspections in schools with severe head infestations.

Study of Growth and Development

This is the second year the study on Growth and Development has taken place at Vyner School. This is to continue yearly, up to five years altogether. Selected schools in different areas of the country are participating in this study, so far, the parents of the children concerned have been most co-operative.

Other duties in which the S.R.M.'s have been involved are, vaccinations and immunisations. All Head Teachers at the beginning of the Autumn term were notified of the names of the H.V's and S.R.N's attached to the school so they could ring either for information regarding their pupils.

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NURSING TRAINING AND EDUCATION

MEETINGS ATTENDED BY STAFF

Nursing Officers attended Peri-Natal mortality meetings at St. Catherine's Hospital each month.

Staff attended a conference on the Briggs report.

The Screening test Phenylketonuria was undertaken by the Domiciliary staff over this last year - new staff were trained in this procedure.

During the year Midwives undertook to do a survey in conjunction with H.V's on Infant and still birth mortality.

EARLY DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL

The number of discharges has fallen due to the decline in the birth rate and in present housing conditions.

The following is a summary of work of the Domiciliary Midwives during the year.

	1972	1973
Number of Bookings	82	34
Number of births attended	58	35
(a) Doctors Present	17	7
(b) Doctors not present	41	28
Administration of Gas & Air	55	35
Administration of Pethilorfan	52	37
Total visits to Hospital	26,592	17,687
Number of planned early discharges	965	699
Actual number of planned early discharges	2,089	2,091

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS LOCAL AUTHORITY

A small number of mothers attended the Midwives Ante-Natal Clinics during 1973 - see report of midwifery services.

FAMILY DOCTORS ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

The liaison arrangements still continues with the general practitioners several of whom run ante-natal clinics assisted by the district midwives. A new family doctor ante-natal clinic was opened at the Ford Health Centre during 1973.

Thus Midwives now attend ten surgeries and two health centres. A total of 459 attendances was made to family doctor surgeries in 1973. Provided we have sufficient midwives working in the community we are happy for this liaison with the family doctors to be extended. It is sometimes difficult to provide a continuing midwifery service with the continual change of staff, though four midwives commenced duties on the district in 1973; two midwives transferred to Health Visiting and three midwives resigned.

ST. CATHERINE'S HOSPITAL ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Midwives still continue to attend St. Catherine's Hospital Ante-Natal Clinics and good liaison exists between the two services.

EARLY DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL

Even though more than 96% of the deliveries occur in hospital this is only possible by the early discharge of mothers from the hospital wards. During 1973 partly due to the decline of the birth rate in Birkenhead and to the unsuitable home conditions for some mothers the number of early discharges were fewer than the previous year.

FAMILY PLANNING

Trained staff from both services visited the two Maternity Hospitals each day to talk individually to newly delivered mothers about the reasons for Family Planning and to discuss methods and facilities available. Patients in the Gynaecological wards were also seen if advice was considered necessary.

The Family Planning service is carried out by a team of staff trained by the Family Planning Association.

Clinics are held in the following premises:-

Central Clinic, Cleveland Street	- Thursday	9 a.m. - 11.45 a.m.
		2 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.
7 Halstead Court, Ford Estate	- Monday	9 a.m. - 11.45 a.m.
Miriam Place Clinic	- Friday	9 a.m. - 11.45 a.m.

Number of new cases during the year	800
Number of revisits	2,407

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY

Cytology Clinics are arranged by appointment.

Number of women tested for first time	591
" " " retested routine	958
" " " retested on request of Pathologist	99
" " " tested at Family Planning Clinic	241
" " " retested routine	134
" " " retested on request of Pathologist	4
Birkenhead women tested other than at own Clinics	993
	<hr/>
	3,020
Number on waiting list	284

STATUTORY AND POST GRADUATE TRAINING

DESIGNATION	TITLE OF COURSE	DURATION
Director of Nursing	Top Management Course Re-organisation Course Briggs Study	4 weeks 3 weeks 1/2 day
Area Nursing Officer	Briggs Study Research Study	1/2 day 1 day
Nursing Officers 4 1 1 2	Briggs Study " " Administrative Students Study Re-organisation Course	1/2 day 1 day 1 day 4 days
Health Visitors 19 2 2 1 2 1 3 13	Briggs Study Briggs Study Integration of Nursing Services Field Work Instructors (Bolton) Educational Personal Relationships Misuse of Drugs Facilities for children in Hospital Epilepsy	1/2 day 1 day 1 day 3 x 2 weeks 1973-1974 3 days 2 days 1/2 day 1 day
District Nurses 2 2 4 1 1 1 1 3 2	Briggs Study Briggs Study Integration of Nursing Services First Line Management Misuse of Drugs Facilities for children in Hospital Problems relating to Mental Disorders District Nurse Training Epilepsy	1/2 day 1 day 1 day 2 weeks 2 days 1/2 day 4 days 3 months 1 day
Midwives 6 1 3	Briggs Study Clinical Teachers Course Statutory Post Graduate Course (Keel University)	1/2 day 1/2 day per week 12 months 1 week

HALF-DAY BRIGGS CONFERENCE 19TH MARCH 1973

The above conference was planned by this Department to help alleviate fears following Briggs proposal. Miss W. Frost O.B.E. Director of Nursing Services, Bedfordshire, a member of the Working Party was the guest speaker. Nursing staff throughout the Region were invited and the response of the Staff and success of the Conference was very encouraging.

IN SERVICE TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION

Complete In Service training for 6 Auxiliary Nurses, period of training 2 weeks.

In Service instructions included :-

- 1/2 day Family Planning talk and films
- 4 showings of "Ortho" Family Planning Film
- 4 talks and films on treatment of Anaemia
- 2 talks on the introduction and value of research in Nursing

- 1 talk and film on Episiotomy
- 1 tank and film on Stoma Care
- 1 talk and film on Modern Methods of assessing infant progress
- 1 talk and film Modern Methods of feeding
- $\frac{1}{2}$ day talk, discussion and film on early detection of abnormal behaviour.

OUTSIDE VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT

STUDENT HEALTH VISITORS

Three student Health Visitors from other sponsoring areas have been seconded for experience one or two weeks. The remaining two for one week.

A Midwifery Sister Tutor spent one week in the Department.

Forty-four Student Nurses have visited and spent one day with the District Nurses and one with Health Visitors.

Nineteen Cadet Nurses spent $\frac{1}{2}$ day in the Department.

Three Student Teachers spent one day with Health Visitors.

Seventy-four schoolgirls and their six tutors have been on visits of inspection.

Twenty-four Nursery Nurse Pupils have visited and attended a Child Health Clinic.

Nine lectures were given to Student Nurses in training.

Twelve lectures on First Aid were given to Cooks and Relief Cooks.

PUPIL MIDWIVES

Fourteen Pupil Midwives completed the Second Period training in the Committee during 1973. Of these, ten successfully passed the Part II Examination of the Central Midwives Board.

Three will take this Examination during March, 1974.

Three Pupil Midwives remained in training at the end of 1973.

.....oOo.....

RETIREMENTS

Miss P. Fraser - Part-Time Health Visitor.

retired after eight years' extension.

Miss Asquith

Retires on March 31st but hopes to help with Play Groups on a voluntary basis.

RESIGNED

To take up other appointments

Miss V. Keymer - Joined S & S.A.F.A. in Germany in the same capacity.

Miss A. Cringle - Went to Missionary College in Birmingham with a view to becoming a Missionary Nurse in Hong Kong

Every effort has been made by myself as Director of Nursing Services, the Area Nursing Officer, Nursing Officers and staff of all three Services to make the best use of skills and potentials to develop the services and to liaise with Hospitals, Education and Social Services Departments, with one aim - to provide a comprehensive service in anticipation of 1974.

Looking back on the fast developing services this adds up to a creditable year's work.

In the cessation of my role as Director of Nursing Services on the 31st March, 1974, I would like to conclude my report by expressing my appreciation to the Medical Officer of Health and his staff, to other staff of the Health Service, to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and last, but not least, the Nursing Staff with whom it has been a pleasure to work during my two years in Birkenhead.

Wherever we may serve in 1974, I hope we can look forward to greater things being achieved through the new concept of an integrated service for better Patient care.

FAMILY PLANNING AND CERVICAL CYTOLOGY

Report of the Nursing Officer, Mrs. G.R. Jukes

FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS

SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRE, CLEVELAND STREET

9.30 a.m.	-	12.30 p.m.	-	Thursday
2.00 p.m.	-	3.30 p.m.	-	Thursday

MIRIAM CLINIC F.P. CLINIC Opened 7/9/73

9.30 a.m.	-	11.00 a.m.	-	Friday
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BIDSTON F.P. CLINIC

9.30 a.m.	-	11.00 a.m.	-	Monday
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In addition the Family Planning Association have clinics on Mondays to Fridays at Oxton Road and see some cases on an agency basis.

FAMILY PLANNING

Health Visiting and Midwifery Staff trained in Family Planning attend Ante-natal Clinics and Post-Natal Wards at St. Catherine's Hospital to give family planning advice. This scheme has also been extended to cover the Maternity Hospital, Grange Mount.

The following methods were used by the 869 new applicants for family advice in 1973..

- 384 - on oral contraceptives.
- 178 - I.U.C.D'S inserted at three clinics; the total number of patients for I.U.C.D. devices inserted during the year 1973 was 189, these included the new women attending and those women (11) whose I.U.C.D. device had to be replaced.
- 327 - used diaphragm sheath or other methods.

The vast majority of women who attended were married (including widowed, separated, or divorced) namely 780 of the 869, thus leaving 89 who were single. The idea that is occasionally put forward that the Clinic would attract young teenagers has not been so; one or two teenagers attended, a few in the late teens, but more single women in the twenties and thirties and a small number forty years of age.

The distribution of the number of children of married and single women attending shows the extent of help required.

Central

13		1
12		1
11		-
10	children	-
9	"	1
8	"	3
7	"	10
6	"	6
5	"	30
4	"	77
3	"	142
2	"	293
1	child	211
0	"	94
		<hr/>
		869
		<hr/>

The efforts of the nursing staff and doctors in promoting family planning services over the past few years seems to be producing several dividends. Firstly, enabling parents to plan the births of their children and, secondly, lowering the number of births in Birkenhead - this has been particularly necessary in some of the already overcrowded family situations. For some of the families who already have the children they can care for, contraception rather than family planning has been the parental aim. The nursing staff have carried this contraceptive advice and help into the homes and where necessary, have brought parents and children in the clinics for help.

In 1972 there were 657 new attendances for help with contraception and family planning, while in 1973 the number of new attendances had risen to 869. By the time of writing this report we have a free service and a vast increase in attendances at the clinic. Women are now attending in great numbers and a few fathers are coming seeking advice as well. In younger marriages there is the hopeful sign of acceptance of a joint responsibility in family planning as couples come together. What is certain there is a tremendous untapped need in the community for this service. We shall need all the hard working training staff in family planning to meet this need satisfactorily.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY, 1973

Number of women tested at Cytology Clinic	..	..	591
Number of women re-tested at Cytology Clinic	..	..	958
Number of women re-tested at Family Planning Clinic on request of Pathologist	..	..	99
First time	..	..	241
Re-tested	..	..	134
On request of Pathologist	..	..	4
			<hr/>
			2027

Number on waiting list for cytology clinic 284

Birkenhead women tested in other than Birkenhead Clinics 993

Cytology clinics also provide the opportunity for instruction to be given on breast self-examination and general health care.

Of the 2027 women receiving cervical smear tests, 13 showed a positive result suggesting pre-malignant changes of the cervix.

- Case No.1 - Aged 28 - Referred to St. Catherine's Hospital - carcinoma in situ amputation of cervix - repeat smear six months later satisfactory.
- Case No.2 - Aged 41 - Referred to Wallasey Women's Hospital further tests - no evidence of carcinoma.
- Case No.3 - Aged 29 - Referred St. Catherine's Hospital - cone tropsy - chronic infection and areas of squamous metaplasia.
- Case No.4 - Aged 35 - Referred to St. Catherine's Hospital, further tests - no evidence of malignancy.
- Case No.5 - Aged 35 - Referred to St. Catherine's Hospital - hysterectomy - histology findings inconclusive.
- Case No.6 - Aged 26 - Referred to St. Catherine's Hospital - cone bicipsy performed - repeat smear six months later satisfactory.
- Case No.7 - Aged 39 - Referred to St. Catherine's Hospital - cone biopsy - carcinoma in situ with spreading epithelial changes. Total hysterectomy being considered - at present patient in good health.
- Case No.8 - Aged 39 - Referred to St. Catherine's Hospital - cone biopsy revealed chronic cervicitis.
- Case No.9 - Aged 37 - Referred to St. Catherine's - further tests following cone biopsy - satisfactory.
- Case No.10 - Aged 52 - Referred to St. Catherine's Hospital - after treatment for vaginal infection, dyskariosis of cells of cervix cleared up.
- Case No.11 - Aged 64 - Referred to St. Catherine's Hospital - Carinoma of uterus, needed radiotherapy.
- Case No.12 - Aged 37 - Referred to St. Catherine's Hospital - hysterectomy performed - carcinoma in situ.
- Case No.13 - Aged 21 - Referred to St. Catherine's Hospital - awaiting further histology report - probably clear.

HOME NURSING SERVICE

PLACE WHERE FIRST TREATMENT BY HOME NURSES WAS GIVEN DURING YEAR UNDER REVIEW	NUMBER OF PERSONS TREATED DURING YEAR - AGES			
	0 - 5	5 - 64	Over 65	TOTAL
Patients Homes	17	687	1575	2279
Health Centres	7	330	267	504
C.P's premises excluding those in Health Centres	-	-	-	-
Residential Homes	-	1	24	25
Elsewhere	-	12	6	18
TOTAL	24	930	1872	2826

Patients carried forward from 1972 .. 919
New Patients during year1413

NEW PATIENTS REFERRED BY:-

Family Doctor	..	..	..	..	849
Hospital	..	..	..	..	352
Health Department	..	..	..	..	26
Direct Application	..	..	..	..	74
Social Service Department	..	..	..	..	48
Other Sources	..	..	..	..	64
					<u>1,413</u>

RESULT OF DISCONTINUED CASES

Convalescent	..	..	..	..	550
Hospital	..	..	..	..	302
Died	..	..	..	..	203
Other Causes	..	..	..	..	268
Still on books	..	..	..	..	1,009
					<u>2,332</u>

Total number of injections given to Patients having no other treatment	.. ..	<u>12,080</u>
Total number of Nursing visits paid	.. ..	60,700
Total number of Supervisory and Teaching visits	.. ..	909
		<u>61,609</u>
Number of Clinic Attendances	.. ..	<u>1,620</u>

LOANS SERVICE

There is still a constant demand for all types of aids for nursing patients in their own homes, the following were issued in 1973:-

74	Back Rests
88	Bed Pans
54	Urinals
24	Wheelchairs
30	Enuresis Alarms
71	Commodore
8 sets	Fracture Boards
1	Walking stick
15	Pulpit Walking Aids
6	Tripod and Quadrupe Sticks
1	Hoist
26	Bed Cradles
2	Mattresses
61	Air Rings
2	Bed Tables
1	Hospital Type Bed with Chain Lift
1	Toilet Aid
3	Ripple Beds
1	Dunlopillo Cushion
1	Raised Toilet Seat
3	Cot Sided Beds

INCONTINENT SICK

The need for protective garments, disposable pads and incontinence rolls is as great as ever, and this service is provided for (and much appreciated) by the incontinent sick of all ages.

HOSPITAL LIAISON

This has progressed steadily, the selected members of each discipline have continued to visit the various Hospitals within the Birkenhead Borough and have attended clinics, ward rounds, meetings, etc.

In October a meeting was arranged between four Consultant Psychiatrists in St. Catherine's Hospital and two local authority Nursing Officers. Following this, two members of the community Nursing service were allocated to liaise with the Psychiatrists. Since then they have visited many patients in their own homes and presented written reports.

The year's summary of Hospital Liaison visits made by the Community Nursing Service is as follows:-

158	Ward Rounds
335	Sessions (i.e. Clinics etc)
1,393	Patients discussed
1,424	Patients seen

MARIE CURIE SERVICE

Five patients were given help "in kind".

Thirty six patients were nursed by five Marie Curie nurses employed by the Marie Curie Foundation Scheme, London.

RENAL DIALYSIS

Two patients were discharged home to Birkenhead for home dialysis and after a fortnight of supervision from the two members of staff who have been trained in this specialised nursing procedure, have managed to continue their, dialysing with the support of their family.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

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	
14 months	Triple and Poliomyelitis	3rd
SCHOOL ENTRY	(Parents to be approached at Medical Examination of Entrants)	
5 - 7 years	Diphtheria/Tetanus Booster and Poliomyelitis	4th
12 years	B.C.G. Vaccination	
12 years	Rubella Immunisation (Girls only)	

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; the figures relating to children under five years improved again this year.

IMMUNISATION IN 1973

	<u>Medical Officers</u>	<u>General Practitioners</u>
Immunisation Against Diphtheria	-	-
Reinforcing injections against Diphtheria	-	-
Triple Antigen	1266	471
Triple Antigen (Reinforcing injections)	1044	237
Immunisation Against Diphtheria/Tetanus	314	13

	<u>Medical Officers</u>	<u>General Practitioners</u>
Immunisation Against Diphtheria/Tetanus (Reinforcing Injections)	1202	152

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

	<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>REINFORCING INJECTIONS</u>
0 - 3 years	1717	1118
4 - 7 years	314	1471
8 - 15 years	33	46
	<u>2064</u>	<u>2635</u>

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

	<u>Infant Welfare Centres</u>	<u>General Practitioners</u>
0 - 1 year	311	42
1 - 2 years	827	279
2 - 3 years	66	104
3 - 4 years	34	16
5 - 7 years	27	27
8 - 15 years	1	3
	<u>1266</u>	<u>471</u>

IMMUNISATION AGAINST TETANUS

	<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>REINFORCING INJECTIONS</u>
0 - 3 years	1718	1119
4 - 7 years	317	1478
8 - 15 years	40	76
	<u>2075</u>	<u>2673</u>

VACCINATION AGAINST MEASLES

	<u>Health Department</u>	<u>General Practitioners</u>	<u>Total</u>
0 - 3 years	773	178	951
4 - 7 years	105	29	134
8 - 15 years	5	4	9
	<u>883</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>1094</u>

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

ORAL POLIOMYELITIS VACCINE

	<u>Health Department</u>	<u>General Practitioners</u>	<u>Total</u>
Oral Primary Courses	1375	482	1857
4th Oral	1000	283	1283

IMMUNISATION AGAINST RUBELLA (GERMAN MEASLES)

During 1973 immunisation against Rubella was offered to girls 12 years of age in Birkenhead schools.

	<u>Health Department</u>	<u>General Practitioners</u>	<u>Total</u>
	1076	24	1100

B.C.G. VACCINATION - SCHOOL CHILDREN

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.
3461	2989	70	2348	2348

In spite of impending re-organisation in 1973 we continued our efforts to increase the number of babies and children immunised. It is doubtful whether we have managed to correct the low percentages of protection which have been present in Birkenhead over the years. Re-organisation and the lack of computer space has prevented us from streamlining our record systems. There seem signs that when the new Regional Authority for Health has been in operation a few years there may be computer space on the new computer. However, computers alone will not solve the problem - parental consent and parental interest in bringing the children for immunisation is essential.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

I am indebted to the Chief Fire Officer for his report on the Ambulance Service for 1973 as follows:-

"1973 was marked by the opening of the new Ambulance Station in Bentinck Street. The whole new Fire Brigade and Ambulance complex was opened by Alderman J. Roberts, Leader of the Council. The Mayor of Birkenhead Alderman C.S. McDonald officiated. During the year the Authority agreed to the increase in vehicle establishment by two sitting case ambulances, in order to be prepared to cope in 1974 with the increased work load involved by the introduction of new Geriatric Day Clinics at Birkenhead and Wallasey Hospitals.

The pending transfer of the Ambulance Service from Local Government to Health Authorities involved senior staff in a tremendous amount of extra administrative work during the year and this work is still continuing.

The total number of calls responded to were 65,799, a drop of 2% over the previous year, and a similar percentage reduction in mileage incurred brought this down to 187,037 miles. It is pleasing to be able to record a reduction in Malicious False Alarm calls of about 12%, but the figure of 154 such incidents still resulted in a considerable amount of time being wasted by crews of emergency ambulances and on a number of occasions could well have had tragic consequences.

Oxygen therapy and resuscitation using the minuteman resuscitator equipment was carried out on 453 occasions, and the wisdom in introducing Entonox analgesic equipment into the Service was fully confirmed by the fact that by self-administering this analgesic 121 patients were able to temporarily relieve themselves from extreme pain and suffering arising from injuries or serious illness. During the year the Service conveyed the paediatric and obstetric flying squads to incidents on 13 occasions and, because of force of circumstances, ambulancemen were required on 4 occasions to act in a midwifery capacity with a pleasing end product of four normal births.

The following statistics show the work load undertaken during 1973, the last complete year that the Ambulance Service will have been a Birkenhead Health Authority responsibility.

EMERGENCY CASES

<u>Type of cases</u>	<u>Patients conveyed</u>	<u>Calls answered</u>	<u>Mileage incurred</u>
Home Accidents	1,352	1,333	6,043
Works Accidents	586	568	2,344
Street Accidents	1,544	1,350	5,374
Maternity Cases	703	713	3,639
Emergency Illness	3,375	3,374	14,641
Emergency Ambulance not required		314	942
Malicious False Alarms		154	656
TOTAL	7,570	7,807	33,639

NON-EMERGENCY CASES

<u>Type of Cases</u>	<u>Patients Conveyed</u>	<u>Calls answered</u>	<u>Mileage incurred</u>
Ambulance: Stretcher S-2	26,719	26,613	103,399
Sitting Cases	29,648	29,648	78,673
Assistance to other Authorities		33	76
Midwives		3	26
Ambulance not required		1,695	4,863
TOTAL	56,367	57,992	187,037
GRAND TOTAL - ALL INCIDENTS	63,937	65,799	220,676

This brief annual report in respect of 1973 will be reproduced as part of the Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report to the Health Committee, but as this is the last time that I will, as Chief Officer responsible for the Ambulance Service be reporting to the Birkenhead County Borough Health Committee, I would like to record my appreciation for the understanding and encouragement I have received from the Chairman and members of the Committee during the period the Service has been their responsibility and, to commend to your Committee the loyalty, efficiency and first class co-operation I have always enjoyed from the members of the Ambulance Service whom I feel have served the Authority and the public of Birkenhead in an exemplary manner over many long years".

HEALTH EDUCATION

The American Medical Association has stated that "Health is a basic and major objective of education and is fundamental to the present and future of the nation, and nothing is more important and nothing should be allowed to interfere with the time the teacher should devote to health". The Health Education Officer and other professional members of the Health Department spend a considerable amount of time and effort in persuading teachers that time given to health education matters in school is very worthwhile. I am, therefore, pleased to report that most schools are becoming more involved in health education programmes and there is excellent co-operation between teaching staff and the Health Education Unit. During the year 573 lectures and illustrated talks were given in Birkenhead and Wallasey.

SCHOOLS

Details of Health Education activities are given in the Principal School Medical Officer's Report.

LEAFLETS AND POSTERS

Leaflets on child health and a wide range of other health subjects were available, free of charge, from each of the Clinics and Health Centres in Birkenhead. Comprehensive stocks of leaflets were maintained at the leaflet store in the Health Department. It must be appreciated that the cost of production and purchasing of leaflets and particularly posters is extremely high and causes great strain on the Health Education budget allowance.

Posters are periodically sent out to schools, clinics, doctors' surgeries and occasionally for display on the hoardings.

LECTURES AND FILM SHOWS

Illustrated talks were given to youth clubs, Young Wives' Groups, Mothers' Unions, Parents' Meetings, Voluntary Organisations, etc. on the following subjects:-

- Accidents in the Home
- Breast Self-Examination
- Cancer
- Misuse of Drugs
- Health in Retirement
- Local Authority Health Services
- Personal Relationships
- Sex Education
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Smoking and Health

Most of these were, of course, given in the evening and I would like to record my thanks to those who have so willingly given up their evenings to become involved in Health Education activities.

AUDIO-VISUAL AID LIBRARY

Constant use is made by staff in schools and colleges, and other members of the Department, of a comprehensive range of slides, film strips, overhead projection transparencies, film loop cassettes, wall charts and flannelgraphs covering a wide range of subjects.

There is a selection of Health Education films, but this will be enlarged as more finance becomes available. Films do become out of date and are very costly to replace.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING

In-Service training sessions were arranged for Nursing Staff to ensure that the staff were updated in Health Education subjects.

The Health Education Officer continued to lecture on the subject of Health Education at the Health Visitors' Course at the Harris Polytechnic, and also lectured to student nurses in Birkenhead. In November he took part in an Education for Personal Relationships Course organised by the E.P.R. Working Party.

FUTURE HEALTH EDUCATION

The Department of Health and Social Security have indicated that the immediate need is for the Area Health Authorities to ensure continuity in the services which are provided by the Local Health Authorities. Area Health Authorities, Local Authorities and the Health Education Council should establish working relationships as soon as possible, for example on the provision of advice, materials, and other forms of mutual assistance in this field. It is expected that Local Authorities will normally obtain such services and facilities from the Area Health Authority (usually through the Health Education Officer).

The priority to be given to the development of Health Education in relation to other National Health Service activities, including the rate at which staffing deficiencies can be made good, will be for consideration by the Area Health Authority in the light of available manpower and financial resources as part of their plans for health services for the area.

Health Education represents an investment in the future. Many Health problems will only be resolved as a result of the active co-operation of an educated public. A failure to make adequate provisions for their education in the Health Service re-organisation could result in costly and unnecessary sickness in the years to come.

CHIROPODY SERVICE REPORT

Mr. G.C.H. Burns, Chief Chiropodist, reports:-

The Chiropody Service expanded slowly but steadily during 1973. We experienced some difficulty in maintaining services during the first six months of the year, principally due to problems in staffing. Services in the Rock Ferry area were hampered somewhat by the closure of South Clinic for conversion into a Health Centre. Gradually the difficulties were surmounted and I am pleased to report that, from September, 1973 onwards, services have been provided at the highest level yet attained.

Service to the elderly has due to the opening of new chiropody clinics at Ford Health Centre and Miriam Place, the service to the elderly has improved. I am delighted to report that Mrs. P.M. Codd has joined the establishment as a whole time chiropodist, and following her appointment on 1st September, 1973, additional chiropody sessions for elderly people were provided at Central Clinic and South Clinic.

Service to school children has also expended considerably during the past year. From September 1973 onwards it was found necessary to allocate additional clinical time to meet the heavy demands from the schools.

Persons at present eligible for treatment are divided into the following categories:-

A. Persons aged 65 years and over.

B. Handicapped persons.

C. Expectant Mothers.

D. School Children.

The number of sessions held weekly are as follows:-

14 sessions per week at Central Clinic.

11 sessions per week at South Clinic

5 sessions per week at North Clinic

1 session per week at Prenton Clinic

3 sessions per week at Miriam Clinic

3 sessions per week at Ford Clinic

In addition, 6 children's sessions are held each week at Central Clinic.

The number of aged and handicapped persons who attended clinics increased by 4.5% overall, and we have broken our previous record number of clinic treatments given during the year. From September onwards the increase in service over the previous year was 10%, and this represents the level at which services are being currently provided.

REPORTS FROM THE CLINICS

Central Clinic

Central Clinic is the hub of the chiropody service; fourteen sessions for elderly people and six school children's sessions are held each week in the two surgeries.

South Clinic

During the early part of the year, South Clinic was converted into a Health Centre which necessitated its closure for a few weeks. The chiropody service was maintained during this period, as we were able to hold sessions in the Old Person's Club in Albany Road by kind permission of the members. By this means we were able to reduce inconvenience to patients to a minimum. The service was resumed at the Health Centre in March.

When Mrs. P.M. Codd joined the staff on a full time basis we were able to increase the service at South to its present level of eleven sessions per week.

North Clinic (Claughton Village)

North Clinic was beset with staff problems this year. We were sorry to lose Mrs. Glossop who had worked at North Clinic for some years. Services were maintained, however, during the difficult period of trying to find replacement staff, and we were pleased to welcome Mr. Jones and Mrs. Utley, who currently work five sessions per week at this clinic.

Ford Health Centre

This was a new venture which proved so popular with the elderly people in the Ford, Noctorum and Upton areas that we have presently three sessions per week in operation.

Miriam Clinic (Laird Street)

On 6th September we held the first session at Miriam Clinic, which proved instantly popular with the elderly residents in the area and we now hold three sessions per week to cope with the demand. The Clinic is ideally situated to serve the North End of the town.

Prenton Clinic

One session per week is at present held at Prenton. Demand for treatment is not generally high in this area.

Total numbers of treatments given at clinics in 1973 were 8,563 as against 8,212 in 1972, an increase of 4.4%.

Total number of persons who attended clinics in 1973 was 1,504 as against 1,438 in 1972, an increase of 4.6%.

This represents a total increase in the clinic service of 4.5%.

DOMICILIARY SERVICE

The domiciliary chiropody service has also shown steady expansion.

The total number of patients treated in 1973 was 1,068, as against 993 in 1972.

The total number of treatments given in 1973 was 4,668, as against 4,344 in 1972.

This represents an increase in domiciliary service of 7.5%.

The domiciliary visits were carried out, as before, by private practitioners working on a contract basis. This system proves very satisfactory, patients are assured of regular attention, and I am able to maintain a close liaison with the visiting chiropodists, thus enabling this branch of the service to function efficiently and economically.

Once again, I am indebted to the District Nursing Service for referring housebound and disabled persons to me for treatment.

1973		1972		1971		1970		1969	
Treatments		Treatments		Treatments		Treatments		Treatments	
4668	1068	4344	993	4000	900	3800	850	3500	800

Domiciliary Service (Continued)

Disabled persons were also referred for treatment by the Social Services Department, and by arrangement with Wallasey Corporation Health Department. We hold one session at Moreton Adult Training Centre every eight weeks, for the benefit of handicapped young people who are Birkenhead residents.

A review of income levels governing eligibility to receive treatment was made during the year, bringing the scale of allowances and charges into line with increased state pensions and the rising cost of living.

The new scale was presented to Council and passed and patients were assessed accordingly.

OLD SCALE

SINGLE	MARRIED	CHARGE
Receiving supplementary benefit. Or, other income not over £8.	Receiving supplementary benefit. Or, other income not over £13.	FREE
Income over £8 and not over £13.	Income over £13 and not over £17.	13p
Income over £13 and not over £16.	Income over £17 and not over £20.	25p
Income over £16.	Income over £20	Not eligible

NEW SCALE

SINGLE	MARRIED	CHARGE
Receiving supplementary benefit. Or, other income not over £9.	Receiving supplementary benefit. Or, other income not over £15.	FREE
Income over £9 and not over £14.	Income over £15 and not over £19.	13p
Income over £14 and not over £17.	Income over £19 and not over £22.	25p
Income over £17.	Income over £22.	Not eligible

Year	Place of Treatment				Total		Columns 2-7 FREE	
	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)
1973	1504	8563	1068	1668	2572	13231	2002	10254

Table 1.

Year	Aged 65 and over	Handicapped Persons Under 65			Expectant Mothers	Total
		Blind	Other Physical Handicaps	Total		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1973	2430	4	138	142	Nil	2572

Table 2.

Year	Patients Receiving Domiciliary Treatments				Patients Receiving Surgery Treatments				Total Patients Receiving Treatments			
	Free	13p	25p	Total	Free	13p	25p	Total	Free	13p	25p	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
1973	883	149	36	1068	1119	284	101	1504	2002	433	137	2572

Table 3.

Year	Domiciliary Treatments				Surgery Treatments				Grand Totals			
	Free	13p	25p	Total	Free	13p	25p	Total	Free	13p	25p	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
1973	3824	680	164	4668	6430	1588	545	8563	10254	2268	709	13231

I have included a graph in this year's report which indicates the average age of clinic and domiciliary patients. As can be seen, the average age of clinic attenders is 72 years, whilst the average age of those having domiciliary treatment is 82 years. The statistics also showed that 20% of patients on the register were male and 80% female.

During the early part of 1974 we shall implement our plan to start chiropody sessions at Woodchurch Community Centre, and later in the year at the Conway Health Centre.

The general trend over the last few years has been towards de-centralising the service, I find that patients appreciate the new district clinics, particularly in winter when travelling is difficult.

At present, we face the prospect of a re-organised, chiropody service governed by the new Area Health Authority and it is my earnest hope that the progress made will continue. Over the years the service has become a valuable asset to the community health team and I feel that it has earned an honourable place in the future health service.

In conclusion, I should like to thank all my staff, both professional and administrative, for their loyal support and conscientious efforts during the past year.

PART III

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

Tuberculosis

Venereal Disease

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

TABLE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AFTER CORRECTION OF DIAGNOSIS

	1968		1969		1970		1971		1972		1973	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	24	20	41	32	-	2	12	10	25	29	-	2
Encephalitis	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	4	33	66	8	1	-	7	2	-	-	20	8
Measles	930	931	31	17	738	694	32	41	253	240	264	247
Opthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	2	13	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	46	32	20	12	17	15	11	15	6	6	1	5
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	26	35	9	9	35	33	11	10	-	2	5	9
Food Poisoning	4	8	4	4	5	8	7	11	16	17	25	34
*Infective Jaundice	28	50	63	57	29	21	32	30	37	25	24	20

*Notifiable since 15th June, 1968

Pneumonia not shown as it has not been notifiable since 1968.

Certain diseases with nil return not shown.

Numbers of all cases of infectious and other notifiable diseases originally notified during the year, and of the final numbers according to sex and age after corrections subsequently made either by the Notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

	Measles (excluding rubella)		Dysentery		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Acute Meningitis		Acute Poliomyelitis			Other notifiable diseases. Specify Disease and Sex but not age.		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	Paralytic	Non- Paralytic	Original	Final		
Numbers originally notified																
Total (All Ages)	264	247	-	2	1	5	-	-	20	8	-	-				
Final numbers after correction:																
Under 1 year	19	12	-	1	-	-	-	-	9	1	-	-				
1 -	39	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-				
2 - Years	37	46	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	-	-				
3 -	35	34	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-				
4 -	52	43	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-				
5 - 9	77	83	-	-	1	2	-	-	3	2	-	-				
10 - 14	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
15 - 24	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
25 and over	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Total (All Ages)	264	247	-	2	1	5	-	-	20	8	-	-				
Acute Encephalitis																
Infective																
Post-Infectious																
Lepto-spirosis																
Paratyphoid Fever																
Typhoid Fever																
Food Poisoning																
Whooping Cough																
Numbers originally notified	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	34	5	9

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:-

The figures show that during 1973 Birkenhead experienced only isolated and small numbers of people with infectious diseases - indeed the notified cases were fewer than the previous year in several of the diseases. There was a particular improvement in the number of cases of dysentery notified. However, we must not be too complacent as we are well aware that many cases of diarrhoea and vomiting are not investigated.

The control of infectious diseases has been a team effort between doctors, nurses and Public Health Inspectors. Mr. Dick, the Senior Public Health Inspector has once again linked the various people together and has been in constant touch with the laboratory staff who give us so much help.

SMALLPOX - No cases in 1973.

MEASLES - The same number of cases occurred in 1973 as in the previous year, the relatively low number of 264 males and 247 females. Though even lower figures would be better, we will only achieve these by encouraging measles vaccinations in young children.

INFECTIVE JAUNDICE

The number of cases remain at the same level as previous years, 24 males and 20 females with what appears to be a usual peak in the age group 5 to 9 years.

TUBERCULOSIS

NOTIFICATIONS

During the year 26 primary cases of tuberculosis were notified showing no change in the incidence of the disease as compared with 1972.

Of the 26 patients notified, 1 was a posthumous notification and 3 other patients died during the year.

			<u>PRIMARY CASES</u>	<u>DIED DURING THE YEAR</u>
Respiratory	..	..	22	4
Non-Respiratory	..	..	4	-

MORTALITY

During the year a total of 14 patients whose names were on the active Register died, 7 as a result of their tubercle and 7 from other causes.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

As compared with the year ended 31st December, 1972, the Register shows a decrease of 39; 27 cases were added to the Register, this figure includes 26 primary cases as stated above and 1 transfer into the Borough. 66 cases were removed from the Register for the following reasons:-

Through Death	14
Recovery	44
Left the Borough	7
Lost sight of	1

		Adults	Children (under 15 yrs)	Total
Respiratory	Male	217	15	232
	Female	184	21	205
Non-Respiratory	Male	25	1	26
	Female	40	5	45
GRAND TOTALS 1973		466	42	508
1972		506	41	547

5 of the above cases were known to be sputum positive; 3 of this number being new cases of tubercle and 2 being chronic cases of the disease.

In addition to the 508 patients who are on the active Register 928 cases of quiescent tuberculosis attended the Chest Clinics at 42 Hamilton Square and Mill Lane, as follows:-

42 Hamilton Square ..	843
Mill Lane	85

SOCIAL CARE

Miss B.C. Harvey, Medical Social Worker, received 1,455 social enquiries in her office at the Chest Clinic, 42 Hamilton Square. 880 visits were made to patients at home or in Hospital.

A good liaison was maintained with statutory and voluntary bodies which exist to relieve hardship and to assist in the care of invalid and handicapped folk.

We are grateful to the Social Services Department for its continued help with transport for our patients to and from convalescence at Southport, Home Aids, Telephones, Home Help, Meals on Wheels and in many other ways.

During the year 3 patients received weekly benefit from the Cancer Relief Fund; 4 applications for help were met by the Mayor's War Fund.

Claims were made under the provisions for compensation for Industrial Diseases for 4 patients who were found to be suffering from such a disease. One of these patients died during the year.

We are grateful to the John Lloyd Corkhill Trust for continued and generous financial help. The cost of convalescence for 13 patients was met by the Trust; Free Milk was allowed to 14 patients; 18 Cash Grants were made; 100 Food Parcels and Toys for 120 children were provided.

We are also grateful to the Girling Charity Fund which again gave £100 to be distributed to patients before Christmas.

19 families were referred to the Medical Officer of Health for consideration as requiring urgent rehousing. One notable case being that of a family of six who were living in old dilapidated property. Five members of this family had been found to be suffering from active respiratory tuberculosis.

During the year an urgent need for sheltered accommodation for elderly and invalid patients was highlighted.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

8 Birkenhead patients attended daily at the Annie Glassey Workshop and Home Teaching continued for one session each week.

REHABILITATION

9 patients were referred to the Ministry of Employment and Productivity as disabled and requiring suitable light employment.

SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

2 patients continued in their employment at the Annie Glassey Workshop.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS - CARE AND AFTER CARE

Dr. Merrin, Consultant Chest Physician, continues to carry out the examination of contacts at the Chest Clinic in Hamilton Square.

During the year under review 154 new adult contacts attended for X-Ray examination. 396 children attended for skin tests and/or B.C.G. vaccination. Four child contacts were found to be suffering from respiratory tuberculosis.

Of the 396 children who attended, 255 were very young babies vaccinated without a skin test, 135 were given a skin test and 6 were X-rayed. Of the 135 who were tested, 11 failed to attend for the reading, 100 were negative and were vaccinated, 24 showed a positive reaction but of this number 10 children had previously received a B.C.G. vaccination.

As stated above 4 children were found to be suffering from active tuberculosis.

86 child contacts were vaccinated at other hospitals.

7 Students were vaccinated following skin test at the Chest Clinic, Hamilton Square.

A total of 448 children and students received B.C.G. vaccination as follows:-

Children who were known contacts vaccinated at the Chest Clinic.	Without Skin test After Skin Test	121 100
Children who were known contacts vaccinated at other Hospitals		86
Babies vaccinated at parents' request		134
Students following skin test		7

The ratio of contacts per notified case was 11.81.

PRIMARY NOTIFICATION OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS - YEAR 1973

AGE PERIOD	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	TOTAL
Respiratory Males			1	1		1				3		1	1	2	2	12
Females							1	1	1		1	1	1	1	3	10
Non-Respiratory Males									1			2				3
Females										1						1
TOTALS:	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	2	4	1	4	2	3	5	26

Posthumous Notification.

1 Male aged 78 years.

Included in Primary Notifications shown above.

SPECIAL CLINIC

Dr. F. Lanceley, Consultant Venereologist, and the staff held Clinic sessions at St. James' Hospital on the following days:-

Monday to Friday .. 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Wednesday .. 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

ANNUAL STATISTICS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Syphilis</u>	<u>Gonorrhoea</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Total</u>
1969	13	290	780	1,083
1970	8	307	787	1,102
1971	9	298	1,068	1,375
1972	15	263	1,134	1,422
1973	12	286	1,282	1,580

The Health Education campaign against venereal disease continued in 1973. It would seem that the numbers of patients with Gonorrhoea attending St. James' Clinic are about the same as the previous year. However, there is no need for compacency as not all cases from this area are seen at St. James' Hospital, some attend the Seamen's Hospital in Liverpool or go to Chester in the same way that as the table shows patients from distant areas of Lancashire and Cheshire attend in Birkenhead. Thus it is difficult to say how many people in Birkenhead suffered from venereal diseases in 1973. In allowing patients to travel widely and in enabling them to maintain anonymity it has helped them to get proper treatment so much the better.

During 1973 a Health Visitor helped the Consultant Venereologist and the nurses at the Clinic by following up contacts to persuade them to attend for treatment. This is particularly important in women as they may be carriers of venereal infection without suffering any symptoms - a situation which harms them and is a risk to any promiscuous man.

If only we could get away from the name Venereal disease or Special Clinics - and use the wording "Genito Urinary Clinic" this would create a better image.

As the statistics show, many other conditions are found and treated - conditions which have nothing to do with venereal disease, but cause much anxiety and discomfort. The staff at the Clinic would like to impress on men and women to attend early for treatment. Early treatment means certain cure - delay may mean misery, but most of all, as is taught in education for personal relationships in our schools, to avoid promiscuity is to avoid venereal disease.

.....oOo.....

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

C.D. DARLEY, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

STAFF

The Management Services and Establishment Committee of the Council agreed to an increase in the establishment of the section by the creation of an additional post of Specialist Public Health Inspector (General Environment).

The reason that I asked for this post to be established was to attempt to create an improvement in the general environmental circumstances of the Borough, particularly in so far as derelict houses and sites were concerned and badly overgrown gardens. Mr. G. Povall, a Public Health Inspector on my staff was appointed to this post and he has been most successful in achieving improvements.

The establishment of the section is as follows:-

- 1 Chief Public Health Inspector
- 1 Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector
- 1 Assistant Chief Public Health Inspector
- 1 Specialist Public Health Inspector (Food and Drugs)
- 1 Specialist Public Health Inspector (Air Pollution)
- 1 Specialist Public Health Inspector (Housing)
- 11 District Public Health Inspectors
 - 1 Senior Meat Inspector
 - 3 Authorised Meat Inspectors (one vacancy)
 - 2 Meat Detention Officers (two vacancies)
 - 1 Technical Assistant (Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act)
 - 2 Technical Assistants (Air Pollution)
 - 6 Technical Assistants, including one labourer (Pest Control)
 - 3 Trainee Public Health Inspectors (one vacancy)
 - 2 Trainee Authorised Meat Inspectors (two vacancies)
 - 1 Senior Section Clerk.
 - 5 Assistant Section Clerks.

This report, which will be brief by comparison with previous years, indicates the vast amount of work that has been undertaken by my staff. There is no doubt whatever that all of the work has led to an improvement in the quality of life of people living in the Borough.

Much of my own personal work during the period under review has been related to the re-organisation of Local Government and I was honoured by the Wirral District Council when they appointed me as their Director of Housing and Environmental Health.

I am enthusiastically looking forward to taking up my new duties and am certain that the wealth of experience which I have gained since coming to Birkenhead in 1969 will stand me in very good stead.

The work which has been undertaken during the course of 1973.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The following is a resume of the general Public Health work carried out within the Borough in 1973.

Number of inspections under the Public Health Acts:	17,958
Number of re-inspections under the Public Health Acts:	10,760
Number of informal notices served under the Public Health Acts:	1,662
Number of Statutory notices served under the Public Health Acts:	886
Number of statutory notices served under the Birkenhead Corporation Act 1954, Section 52.	166
Number of statutory notices served under the Housing Acts 1957/69: (Section a)	63
Average number of notices outstanding:	825
Number of notices complied with during the year:	1,382
Number of defects remedied during the year ...	4,869

SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS EFFECTED

Roofs repaired	355
Chimney stacks repaired	147
Rainwater gutters repaired	271
Walls pointed or repaired	239
Lighting improved	7
Ventilation improved	36
Windows repaired	224
Window sashcords renewed	183
Firegrates repaired	24
Hearthstones repaired	6
Floors re-laid or repaired	115
Skirting boards repaired	99

SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS EFFECTED (Contd)

Wallplaster repaired	327
Ceiling plaster repaired	146
Walls and ceilings cleansed	8
Doors repaired	118
Staircases repaired	30
Sinks renewed	35
Wink waste pipes trapped or repaired	107
Dampness remedied	417
Yard surfaces repaired or relaid	56
Yards drained	27
Sufficient water supply provided	72
Drains constructed, altered or relaid	114
Drains cleansed	458
Water closets repaired	236
Nuisance from animals abated	6
Verminous persons/clothing/premises treated..	3
Miscellaneous	756

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings under Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were instituted against owners of ten premises because they had failed to comply with statutory Notices served upon them.

In six cases the work had been done prior to the date of the hearing, one summons was withdrawn and in the remaining three cases the Court made Nuisance Orders.

A total of £40 in fines and £30 in costs were imposed upon the respondents.

WORK DONE BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY IN DEFAULT OF OWNERS

Obstructed drains were cleaned at 52 premises following the failure of the Owners to comply, within 48 hours with the Notices served upon them under the provision of Section 52 of the Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954.

At the request of the Owners a similar service was given at 41 other properties.

Defective drains were also repaired at four houses and in one of the cases the whole drainage system was re-laid at the cost of approximately £217.

As the Owners could not be traced a Court Order was obtained authorising the Corporation to cleanse, make safe and secure a derelict house. The cost of this work will be made a charge against the property but in all other cases the charges are recoverable from the Owners.

During the year accounts totalling £672.69p were rendered upon the Owners concerned.

HARRASSMENT AND ILLEGAL EVICTION

The Chief Public Health Inspector, his Deputy and the Assistant Chief Public Health Inspector are the officers authorised to deal with matters arising from the above.

During the year complaints and enquiries were received in respect of 23 dwellings. This shows an increase over last year.

In many cases advice and information was being sought rather than complaint of actual harrassment; although in some cases the tenants feared that the latter might well be committed. In many instances both Landlords and tenants are unaware of the position with regard to the protection and security of tenure that the law provides. The Department has, therefore, been able to assist in the prevention of infringements of the Act by timely advice and guidance to the parties involved. Once again, quarrels of a domestic nature between resident Owners and sub-tenants and friction over use and payment for electricity charges have figures largely in the cases investigated.

In seven cases, where notice to terminate the tenancy has been given, discussions with the Landlords and the Tenants were held. The steps needed to legally obtain possession were explained and this removed the threat and fear of improper action.

In four cases differences over the carrying out of improvements led to complaints but after the intervention of the Department the problems were ultimately resolved.

Fears by a deserted wife that she would be evicted from her dwelling held by her husband on a service tenancy were allayed after assurances were obtained from the Employers and Solicitors concerned.

In another case a tenant had unlawfully sub-let some rooms and obtained cash from the incoming occupier by purporting to be the Owner. The true Owner instituted proceedings against the original tenant and the Department obtained an assurance from the Landlord that the tenancy would be given to the innocent sub-tenant.

A Widow, having been an Owner/Occupier, had given her house to her married daughter and son-in-law. She later complained that the young couple wished her to leave. Advice was given and efforts made to reconcile the parties.

Quarrels between sub-tenants in a house in multi-occupation finally resulted in physical violence. Police help was enlisted in this case and the position was discussed with all tenants and the Landlord in an attempt to improve the situation.

In two cases, where the cutting-off of electricity by the Landlord was alleged, allegations of tampering with the meters were made against the Tenants and the matters were dealt with by the Police.

Malicious damage by the Owner to the tenants belongings following alleged waste and excessive use of electricity also involved matters which made it necessary to refer the incidents to the Police.

MILL STREET CENTRAL IMPROVEMENT AREA

Progress has continued during 1973 particularly in the improvement of the individual houses themselves.

Many houses have already been reconditioned and applications for grants have been made in respect of at least 50% of the private dwellings. The condition of a number of the others is satisfactory and efforts are continuing to persuade all Owners to co-operate.

There have been some difficulties over the acquisition of certain Lands and Buildings required to implement the scheme and some amendments to the proposed environmental works may be necessary. In addition, it has been decided to close Chesnut Grove to traffic also.

The Council have resolved to use compulsory purchase powers, if necessary, to acquire the necessary land and it is hoped that the environmental alterations and improvements will be put in hand at an early date.

CLEARANCE AREAS

During the year three clearance areas were represented.

Title	No. of Dwellings	No. of Families	No. of Persons
Marion Grove	32	18	47
Beaconsfield Road Nos 1 and 2	168	165	457
TOTALS	200	183	504

The comparable figures for 1972 were 378 dwellings and 383 families. This slump decline, roughly 50% was due to factors outside the control of my Department. Early in the year it was realised that the re-housing of occupiers of houses in confirmed clearance areas was not proceeding at the predicted rate. Many reasons have been given for this inability to cope with a rate of slum clearance based on predictions of the supply of Council-owned dwellings for this purpose. As this is the concern of other Departments, I can only state that the programme had to be slowed down during 1973 to enable those in confirmed clearance areas to be re-housed. Continuation at the planned rate would have been of no benefit to the occupiers of property and would, in fact, have resulted in a long period of waiting between confirmation of the areas and re-housing. The practical effect of a long gap between condemnation and re-housing is to make enforcement of repairs difficult.

HOUSING ACT 1957 SECTIONS 17 & 18

DWELLINGS UNFIT TO HUMAN HABITATION NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS

16 houses or parts of buildings used for human habitation were reported to the Housing and Building Committee as unfit for human habitation and not capable of being made fit at reasonable expense.

During the year the Council made the following Orders:-

Demolition Orders in respect of 10 Houses.
Closing Orders in respect of 4 houses or
parts of buildings used as dwellings.

DEMOLITION AND CLOSING OF UNFIT DWELLINGS

Following the re-housing of the occupants, 9 dwellings not in clearance areas were demolished and 12 dwellings or parts of buildings used for human habitation were closed. Five families comprising a total of 9 persons were rehoused from premises subject to either Demolition or Closing Orders.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During 1973 2,295 applications for Improvement Grants were dealt with by the Department. This was an increase of 12.3% on the figure for 1972. There is no doubt that this figure would have been higher but for the Council's decision early in the year to limit grants to houses built before the end of 1930. Such a limit was, however, necessary in order to direct building resources in the area to the older houses. I would estimate that the limit reduced applications by at least 10%.

STANDARD GRANTS

During the year only 6 applications were received for Standard Grants compared with 29 in 1972. This trend is understandable when it is realised that Owners took advantage of Discretionary Improvement Grants to not only fit the Standard amenities (i.e. bath, wash hand basin, sink, hot water supply and indoor toilet) but also to improve the whole dwelling.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES (Housing Act 1969/Housing Finance Act 1972)

During 1973 there was a marked reduction in the application of this legislation to rented houses. The reasons for this are firstly that in the preceeding years most of the property to which this law applied have been dealt with and, secondly, that under the Housing Finance Act 1972 houses subject to rent control were phased out of control and converted to Regulated Tenancies. The effect of this was that Owners could, in the case of houses of a higher rateable value, apply directly to the Rent Officer without first obtaining a Qualification Certificate from the Local Authority.

RENT OF DWELLINGS IN GOOD REPAIR AND PROVIDED WITH STANDARD AMENITIES

Sn. 28 Qualification Certificate

(a)	Applications	received	.....	10
(b)	"	granted	.....	30
(c)	"	refused	.....	2
(d)	Appeals	allowed	.....	NIL
(e)	"	disallowed	.....	NIL

Sn. 29 Certificate of Provisional Approval

(a)	Applications	received	.....	54
(b)	"	granted	.....	47
(c)	"	refused	.....	NIL

Sn. 33

Number of County Court Orders made empowering landlords to enter and carry out Works	NIL
--	-------	-----

COMPULSORY IMPROVEMENT NOTICES

During the year 71 applications for Compulsory Improvement Notices were made by tenants of houses which lacked some or all of the standard amenities.

HOUSING ACTS 1961/1969

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

A house in multiple occupation is defined as a house which is occupied by a number of persons who do not form a single household. Examples of this are found in the older parts of town where large houses have been let off in rooms or apartments to separate tenants using common hallways, passages, and staircases and sharing bathroom and water-closet facilities.

In the worst examples, the parts of the houses which are used in common become dirty and neglected because nobody is prepared to accept the responsibility of cleaning them. Similarly garden areas at front and rear become overgrown and become repositories for refuse, the garden walls disintegrate, the dustbins overflow, and the deterioration of a neighbourhood is in progress.

The Council has set a prescribed standard of amenities for such houses, including lighting, ventilation, water supply, washing facilities, water closet and bathroom accommodation, cooking facilities and space-heating.

Inspections of multi-occupied houses have continued and progress made as shown below:-

Number of houses inspected	182
Number of lettings involved	490
Number of persons involved	1,526
Number of visits made	242
Number of Notices for repairs served	104
Number of Notices for facilities served	61
Number of cases of overcrowding	2

OFFENSIVE TRADES

No applications for the establishment of new offensive trades were received during the year. The existing premises continued to be operated in a satisfactory manner. Investigation of complains did not disclose any serious nuisances and routine inspections showed that the managements were complying with the necessary conditions.

The Bye-laws governing the removal through the streets of offensive or obnoxious material have been generally observed and no nuisance from this source has been reported.

CARAVANS

There are no licensed sites within the Borough and only one caravan is known to be permanently used and occupied on unlicensed land.

Occasionally, however, groups of itinerant tinkers or gypsies do move on to vacant sites in the town for comparatively short periods.

During the past year sites in Price Street and the Priory Street area were occupied by a number of such caravans.

Public health problems almost invariably arose in these circumstances. There is an absence of a suitable and sufficient water supply, sanitary accommodation is primitive or non-existent and facilities for the storage of refuse quite inadequate. Attempts are made, with the co-operation of the Cleansing and other Department, to mitigate the unsatisfactory conditions and an effort is made to persuade the travellers to help themselves by providing more suitable sanitary and refuse facilities, by availing themselves of the assistance offered and by maintaining a better standard of hygiene on the site.

Although some improvement was noticed on more recent occasions, the response is not always encouraging, and when the sites are vacated it is often necessary for fairly extensive cleaning up operations to be carried out.

A number of these persons deal in scrap metals from derelict vehicles. Having cannibalised the cars and lorries of the salvageable materials, the unwanted parts are abandoned on the site.

BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION ACT 1954

REGISTER OF BARBERS AND HAIRDRESSERS

New Registrations during the year	....	7
Total number of registered premises on 31.12.73.	....	199
Number of visits and inspections of hairdressing premises	....	40

Whilst the number of registered premises shows no significant change there is a moderate turn-over of staff and change of ownership of such premises.

Opportunity is taken during the routine visits by the Inspector, to stress the importance of adequate hygiene precautions and the provision and maintenance of adequate sterilising equipment and laundering facilities. I am still not satisfied that either the trade or the public really appreciate the need for higher standards to be maintained.

THE RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951

No premises are licensed for the manufacture of Rag Flock or other filling materials. One new factory was registered for the manufacture of new upholstery, bringing the number of these premises up to four.

Nine samples of the materials used in registered premises were taken and submitted to a prescribed Analyst.

The materials tested were Rag Flock (3 samples); Cotton Linters (2 samples); Coir Fibre; Black Fibre; Cotton Wadding; Feathers.

All samples passed the tests prescribed in the Regulations.

BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION ACT 1881

SECTION 90 - PIG KEEPING

The small area of farm land on the perimeter of the town continues to be eroded by urban development and there remain only three farms within the boundaries of the Borough. Of the three registered pig-keepers, only one actually kept pigs during the year under review.

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT 1933

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

New Licences issued during the year	.....	11
Licences renewed during the year	.....	75
Number of inspections of shops	.....	89
Number of Licences deleted	.....	7

PEST CONTROL

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
ANNUAL REPORT ON RATS AND MICE

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1973

Local Authority BIRKENHEAD COUNTY BOROUGH
County CHESHIRE

READ NOTES CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS

1. Number of Properties in district
2. a Total number of properties
(including nearby premises)
inspected following
notification
- b Number infested by (i) Rats
(ii) Mice
3. a Total number of properties
inspected for rats and/or mice
for reasons other than
notification
- b Number infested by (i) Rats
(ii) Mice

TYPE OF PROPERTY	
Non- agricultural	Agricultural
54,470	17
1,742	
440 875	
375	4
76 223	4

SEWERS

- 4 Were any sewers infested by rats
during the year (Tick as appropriate)

YES ✓	1	NO	0
----------	---	----	---

Sewer treatment with fluoracetamide has continued in the borough and by the end of 1973 almost 70% of the sewers had been cleared of rat infestation. Permanent baiting around the cleared sewers has prevented their re-infestation and I now confidently look forward to all of the sewers in the borough being cleared by 1976.

It is very satisfying to note the number of properties which have been inspected, following notification, having increased by 200. This is an indication that the public are co-operating in a "Report that Rat" campaign. I did warn the Council that within 3 or 4 years of developing my new Pest Control Section (at the end of 1969) that an increase in service would lead to an increase in the number of complaints. The number of rat infested premises following notification has reduced and this is no doubt due to the greater efficiency in methods of eradication.

As expected the number of premises infested by mice has increased. I do not consider this to be the result of Warfarin resistance. It is more the higher degree of co-operation from the public leading to an increased notification and also, to some extent, due to migration of mice from demolition areas etc.

The service provided by the Department to Industrial and Commercial Organisations is obviously successful, for I am certain that I now am responsible for more contract treatments than all the Commercial Pest Control Organisations combined.

The relationship between me and my staff and the Regional and Divisional Pest Control staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is particularly good and I value the assistance which I receive from them on request. As a result of Local Government re-organisation the borough will come within the new Metropolitan District of Wirral, comprising the County Boroughs of Birkenhead and Wallasey, Municipal Borough of Bebington and the Urban Districts of Hoylake and Wirral. Having been appointed Director of Housing and Environmental Health to the new authority, I look forward to continued co-operation from the Central Government department though it is apparent that the County Of Merseyside will lead to my associating with another Regional Officer.

My report last year indicated the development of a Pest Free Zone and despite misgivings of other officers, it is quite apparent that this form of control, unique as it may be, is economically viable and highly successful. A film has been made by Messrs. Fisons Limited, Agrochemical Division, Harston, Cambridge, on the project and I hope that it will be of value to other authorities in determining future patterns of pest control.

The staff employed on pest control have worked hard and loyally and much of the credit for the improvements achieved must fall to them.

I would claim to have probably the most efficient and well trained pest control team in the country and a report by a body investigating training methods expressed similar views. Bearing this in mind, I was personally disappointed that I did not have the opportunity of contributing to a Working Party set up nationally to investigate methods of training pest control staff. Nevertheless, I expect that not everybody can serve on the various committees.

My Senior Technical Assistant Pest Control (Mr. J. Glover) has considerable ability in staff management and the practical aspects of treatment whilst he is very well supported administratively by Mrs. K. Hibbs. This job calls for team work, together with a high degree of enthusiasm; which is apparent by the results of the year's work. I would express my appreciation to all my staff who have contributed in some way to reducing the pest problem in the borough and also to the Regional and Divisional Pest Control staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The following other pests were dealt with during the year:-

		<u>1973</u>
Insects on quarterly "Business Premises"	.....	43
Sewers treated with fluoracetamide	.....	4133
Sewers test baited with Rusks	.....	297
Sewers found free of rats	.....	ABCDE
Premises treated for fleas	.....	145
" " " bugs	.....	141
" " " Cockroaches	.....	247
" " " Wasps	.....	111
" " " Other Insects	.....	336
Inspection and pre-baiting of empty houses prior to demolition.		
Per the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	.....	700
Inspection of premises prior to removal	.....	272
" " " " " development	.....	160
" " " " " demolition	.....	309

	1973
Number of dirty houses cleaned	9
Condemned food transported to Bidston Tip	15 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons
Inspection of premises for pigeon complaints	63
Number of pigeons caught on treatment	2728
Inspection of premises for fox complaints	17
Treatment for eradication of foxes	8
Inspection of premises for insects	736
Sewer Swabs for analyst	8
Number of patrols for dogs, per Road Traffic Act, 1960	366
Number of prosecutions	-
Number of fines	-
Number of warning letters per CPHI	17
Number of Premises Inspected, North End, From September, 1971	1063
" " " " " " " " RATS	-
" " " " " " " " MICE	-
" " " " " " " " COCKROACHES	-
" " " " " " " " FLEAS	-
" " " " " " " " BUGS	-
" " " " " " " " OTHERS	-
Number of obstructed drains from April 1972	275
" " " " " " " cleared	90
Rats on quarterly business premises	25
Mice on quarterly business premises	70
Dogs to Police Pound	8

		<u>1973</u>
Dogs complaints in schools	.....	20
Rats on P.F.Z. No.1	.....	1

MEAT INSPECTION

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
 Food and Drugs Act, 1955
 Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958
 Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958
 Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958
 Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960
 Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963
 Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1966
 Slaughterhouses (Hygiene)(Amendment) Regulations, 1966
 Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles)
 Regulations, 1966

MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS, 1963

During the year a total of 39,593 animals were slaughtered within the Borough:-

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
1973	4042	-	25253	10298

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

Fig. 1.

	CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Number slaughtered	4042	-	25253	10298
Number inspected	4042	-	25253	10298
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci whole carcasses condemned	3	-	132	37
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1455	-	8080	3913
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	36%	-	32%	38%
Tuberculosis only - whole carcasses condemned	nil	-	nil	nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	nil	nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.0005%	-	nil	nil
Cysticercosis - Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	nil	nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	nil	nil
Generalised and totally condemned	nil	-	nil	nil

Weight of condemned carcasses and portions - 6 tons 11 cwt

Weight of condemned offal and portions - 15 tons 17 cwt

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

	CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Tranmere Abattoir	4042	-	25253	10298

TRANMERE ABATTOIR

The following tables are a summary of condemnations, together with statistics of carcase meat and offal rejected as unfit for human consumption.

	CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Whole carcasses condemned for tuberculosis	NIL	-	NIL	NIL
Part carcasses condemned for tuberculosis	1	-	NIL	NIL
Number of carcasses of which some organ was condemned for tuberculosis	2	-	NIL	NIL
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.0005%	-	NIL	NIL

Total weight of carcase meat condemned for tuberculosis $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt

Total weight of offal condemned for tuberculosis 1 cwt

	CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Whole carcasses condemned for conditions other than tuberculosis	3	-	132	37
Parts of carcasses condemned for ditto	112	-	146	733

Total weight of carcase meat condemned for conditions other than tuberculosis 6 tons 11 cwt

Total weight of offal condemned for ditto 15 tons 17 cwt

EMERGENCY SLAUGHTER

During the year at Woodside Lairage a total of 12 animals - comprising 10 bullocks and 2 sheep - were considered to be sick or injured and were the subject of immediate slaughter. The carcasses were not eviscerated and were despatched direct to a processing plant outside the Borough.

IMPORTED FOOD REGULATIONS, 1968

During the year notifications were received from various Port Health Authorities of the delivery to Birkenhead of 7 consignments of imported food comprising 60 sides of bacon, 262 cases of grapefruit juice, 3,120 boxes of ice-cream confectionery and 3,000 cases of tinned tomatoes. In addition, 15 consignments of animal fat were delivered to a local processing factory. All consignments were inspected and were found to be in good condition.

WHOLESALE MEAT DEPOTS

Check inspections of meat stored for sale in Cold Stores and Wholesale Meat Depots were made. A total of 170 visits were made and as a result of inspections 1 ton 14 cwt. of meat and other foods were rejected, comprising 1 ton of carcase meat, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of offal, 3 tins of livers and 111 tins of cooked meat weighing $10\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., 34 poultry carcasses weighing 1 cwt. and 1 cwt. of other foods.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958

Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, paid periodic visits of inspection to Tranmere Abattoir under the supervisory powers of this Act. After detailed inspections directed to all the points enumerated in the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations and the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, satisfaction was declared as to the general organisation and conditions obtaining at this slaughtering centre.

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, 1973, there were 14 licences in force.

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 outside the Borough for heat treatment. By-products include animal foodstuffs, tallow and fertiliser.

EXPORT OF MEAT PRODUCTS

During the year licences were issued for the export of 1- tierces and 100 bundles of New Zealand Lamb casings to Spain.

MEAT (STERILISATION) REGULATIONS, 1969

These Regulations amend and replace the Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations, 1960. The effect is to prohibit entirely the sale of unprocessed meat as pet animal food unless it has been inspected and passed for human consumption. It is no longer legal to offer for sale stained knacker-meat or other condemned meat or offal. Regular visits keep a check of the sources of pet meat and conditions of storage.

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 one registration was cancelled, one application for transfer of registration was made, and there are now nine registered premises within the Borough all receiving periodic visits of inspection.

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
- Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order, 1950
- Transit of Horses Order, 1951
- 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
- Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Amendment) Order, 1969
- Rabies (Importation of Mammals) Order, 1971
- Swine Vesicular Disease Order, 1972
- Movement of Pigs (Waste Food Precautions) Order, 1973
- Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1973

TRANSIT OF ANIMALS ORDER, 1927

During the year a total importation of 148,175 cattle, 2,412 sheep and lambs, 300 pigs and 1,544 goats - from Ireland and the Isle of Man - were landed at Woodside Lairage. This shows a decrease of 32,607 animals over the importations during 1972. Check inspections are made on transport vehicles and arrangements exist for the cleansing of any vehicles which require such service. The animals while detailed in the Lairage are adequately fed and watered.

FOWL PEST ORDER, 1936

This year's total outbreaks numbered 74, a decrease of 326 outbreaks compared with 1972.

No outbreaks occurred within the Borough.

ANTHRAX ORDER, 1938

There were no cases of Anthrax locally during the year. The national incidence was 41 confirmed outbreaks during the year compared with 82 during 1972. The resultant deaths of 47 farm animals compares with a total of 89 last year.

SHEEP SCAB ORDER, 1938

This disease made an unwelcome appearance during 1973 when 42 outbreaks were confirmed.

No outbreaks occurred within the Borough.

EXPORTED ANIMALS PROTECTION ORDER, 1964

No animals were exported from Birkenhead during the year.

BRUCELLOSIS (ACCREDITED HERDS) SCHEME

Under this Scheme, animals which show a positive reaction to the official Brucella blood test are required to be sent for slaughter under licence issued by the Ministry of Agriculture. During the year 14 cows and 3 heifers were received into Tranmere Abattoir in accordance with the terms of the Scheme.

TUBERCULOSIS (SLAUGHTER OF REACTORS) ORDER, 1950

During the year no Reactor cattle were received at Tranmere Abattoir.

TRANSIT OF HORSES ORDER, 1951

During the year a total of 1,753 horses and 574 asses were landed at Woodside Lairage - an increase of 948 and decrease of 237 respectively - over the importations during 1972. During their detention they were adequately fed and watered and check inspections of horse-boxes and transport vehicles were made before the animals left the premises.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1973

This order replaces the Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957, and prohibits possession of unprocessed waste food for the purpose of feeding to livestock or poultry. At present one licence is in force and regular inspections of piggeries and boiler-plant were made during the year.

Further prohibitions, restrictions and licensing of premises are to be made effective during 1973.

REGULATION OF MOVEMENT OF SWINE ORDER, 1959

During the year no store pigs were received into the Borough.

RABIES (IMPORTATION OF MAMMALS) ORDER, 1971

This order revokes and replaces the Exotic Animals (Importation) Order, 1969. Its effect is to impose a general prohibition on the importation (otherwise from Ireland, Isle of Man or Channel Islands) of certain nominated categories of mammals except in accordance with the terms and conditions of a licence. It also prescribes certain ports and airports at which such animals may be landed.

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 three cattle-breeders and three 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

No outbreaks of Swine Fever were confirmed in England during the year.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1969

There was no confirmed outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease anywhere in Great Britain during the year.

SWINE VESICULAR DISEASE ORDER, 1972

137 outbreaks of this disease - with the resultant deaths of 89,112 animals - occurred in Great Britain. The Borough remained within the prescribed "controlled area" and movement of pigs was restricted in accordance with the provisions of the Order.

MOVEMENT OF PIGS (WASTE FOOD PRECAUTIONS) ORDER, 1973

The restrictions imposed by the Order are designed to reduce the dangers to the livestock industry generally from disease introduced in swill.

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 licence was surrendered, one licence was transferred and nine licences were renewed. These shops are visited periodically to ensure compliance with the terms of the licence.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1964/70

One application for renewal of licence was received and was granted under the provisions of the Act: the licence was surrendered at the end of the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1961

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

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.

COMMODITYWeightTons Cwts

Cooked Meat and Meat Products	2	10
Canned Meats	2	11
Other canned foods	4	6
Fish (Fresh)		14
Fruit and Vegetables (Fresh)		13
Frozen Food Due to Cabinet Breakdown	2	1
Other Foods	3	15
	<hr/>	
Total weight	16	10

NO. OF PROSECUTIONS UNDER SECTION 2	7
NO. OF PROSECUTIONS UNDER SECTION 8	1
TOTAL MOUNT OF FINES AND COSTS IMPOSED	£314

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

Fish fryers	..	63
Fish dryers and chicken roasters	..	6
Butchers manufacturing sausages	..	39
Butchers manufacturing sausages and cooked meats	..	23
Chicken roasters	..	9
Meat products factories	..	5
Grocers manufacturing cooked meats	..	6
		<hr/>
		151
		<hr/>

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

Food hawkers and their premises (Section 102) .. 47

Vendors of shellfish and their premises
(Section 103) .. 24

Summary of Inspections and Defects Remedied

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

	Shops	Cafes	Food Preparing Premises	Licensed Premises	Mobile Shops and Stalls
Number of premises	853	89	236	195	106
Fitted to comply with Reg. 16	774	89	233	195	106
Premises to which Reg. 21 applies	802	89	225	195	85
Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 21	793	89	223	195	85

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD AND WATER

I would like to acknowledge the co-operation of the Director and Staff of the Liverpool laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service, who examine the several hundreds of samples and specimens submitted by my Department. I am sure that this liaison will continue after the reorganisation of local government.

1. ICE CREAM

The established pattern of ice cream trading in Birkenhead has changed little in the past year. The major amount sold in the shops is pre-packed by one or another of the national producers, and a considerable trade in soft frozen ice cream mainly retailed from mobile vans. Only one manufacturer is now producing ice cream in Birkenhead, and sampling has been concentrated on the mobile vans and this manufacturer.

A total of seventy five samples were obtained during the year and examined by the "advisory" Methylene Blue Test.

51	were	placed	in	Grade	I
11	"	"	"	"	II
8	"	"	"	"	III
5	"	"	"	"	IV

The Grade IV samples were all obtained from mobile vans. Now that suitable sterilising compounds are readily available, there is no excuse for ice cream to fall into Grade IV when subjected to the Methylene Blue Test. This result indicates that the equipment was not maintained in a satisfactory manner, and the necessary advice was given in each case although no penal sanction can be imposed on this advisory standard.

2. CREAM

Sampling of fresh cream and testing by the advisory Methylene Blue Test, has continued during the year. A total of 34 samples were taken with the following results:-

18	were	considered	Satisfactory
5	"	"	Fairly Satisfactory
11	"	"	Unsatisfactory

The unsatisfactory samples were investigated with the manufacturers in each case. Only one dairy in Birkenhead is cartoning cream, and following an unsatisfactory result, advice was given on the cleaning and sterilising of filling equipment. The following samples were satisfactory.

3. LIQUID EGG

It has been found that bakeries are using less of this product than in previous years. Only 6 samples were obtained this year. All passed the prescribed Alpha-Amylase test, and no salmonella organisms were isolated from the samples.

4. DRINKING WATER

A total of 59 samples were taken of drinking water as supplied to the consumer. These were procured from various points for bacteriological examination. Only two were found to be in any way unsatisfactory. These were from a house with a mixing tap, and further follow-up samples were satisfactory.

5. SWIMMING BATH WATER

Regular samples have been taken from the three Public Baths and the one School Bath in the Borough. In addition checks are made to ensure that the level of chlorine in the water is maintained at a satisfactory level. A total of 177 samples were taken, only 2 were reported as containing coliform organisms. These results are very good and continue the pattern of previous years, reflecting the excellent supervision of the Baths management.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

MILK SUPPLY

The main source of supply in the Borough continues to be a dairy which pasteurises, bottles and cartons over 15,000 bottles of milk a day. This dairy has installed machinery to manufacture plastic bottles on the premises. The bottles are made from plastic crumb at high temperature. As they are completely sealed, they can be stored until ready for filling. The top of the bottle is then removed, and after filling with milk, an aluminium foil cap is heat sealed in position. There are considerable hygienic advantages with this type of milk container over the traditional glass bottle, but the cost is greater. They are mainly sold from shops, where the casual customer is unlikely to return a bottle to the dairy.

Milk is also distributed in Birkenhead which has been pasteurised and bottled elsewhere in Cheshire. The only untreated milk is sold from two vending machines operated by a Wirral farmer.

Samples are taken regularly from the processing dairy, distributors, retail shops and the vending machines to ensure that the prescribed standards are achieved. While the following results show that the vast majority are satisfactory, difficulties have continued to be experienced with milk from the vending machines. I refer to this situation in greater detail in the paragraph dealing with Brucella Abortus.

1. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

During the year, 205 samples of milk were examined in the Department by the Gerber Test to determine the fat and non-fat solids content. In addition, eight samples were sent to the Public Analyst for a full analysis of the milk. The Sale of Milk Regulations lay down a presumptive standard of 3% Fat and 8.5% of non-fat solids and the Channel Island Milk Regulations 1956 state that this milk shall contain 4% of fat. None of the samples tested were found to be deficient of fat, but 19 were naturally deficient of non-fat solids. Subsequent samples from these products were satisfactory.

2. THE MILK & DAIRIES REGULATIONS

The number of registered dairies and distributors licences issued under these Regulations are as follows:-

Registered Dairies	-	9
Registered Distributors	-	210
Dealers licenced to sell prepacked milk		206
Producers licenced to pasteurise milk		1

A total of 255 visits were made to these premises and 282 samples of milk taken to ensure that the various requirements of these Regulations were complied with. The results are summarised in the following table:-

	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>
Pasteurised Milk	175	8
Sterilised Milk	72	1
U.H.T. Milk	25	1
Untreated Milk	-	-
	<u>272</u>	<u>10</u>

The failures in respect of pasteurised milk were all from milk sold in vending machines and processed by a producer of Untreated Milk subject to a Pasteurisation Order. His treatment plant was not licenced by the Authority in whose area the premises are situated. These failures led to legal proceedings against this producer and following a successful prosecution, he ceased attempting to pasteurise milk and obtained a cartoned supply from a licenced producer. This supply has been satisfactory. Details of the proceedings are given in the following paragraph.

3. BRUCELLA ABORTUS

All samples of Untreated Milk are examined for the presence of this organism, which can cause an illness known as Undulant Fever in consumers of infected milk. The only Untreated Milk sold in Birkenhead was from vending machines. Only one of these machines now remains in Birkenhead, and this has not been in working order or stocked with milk for some time. The order made by the Medical Officer of Health Bebington, in 1971 requiring that all milk from the herd of the producers supplying milk to these machines, shall be pasteurised to ensure its safety, is still in force. However, these producers continued to attempt to pasteurise milk on the farm premises in improvised apparatus, even though they had been fined £90 with £55 costs in 1972 for non-compliance with the Order by selling milk which was not efficiently pasteurised.

The issue was further complicated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, suspending for 3 months the producers' licence to use the designation "Untreated". In spite of being reminded of the legal requirements, no application was made by the producers for a licence to use the designation "Pasteurised". In addition, samples of milk from the machines were found not to be properly pasteurised in accordance with the Order by the Medical Officer of Health, Bebington. Further legal proceedings were instituted, and fines totalling £400 were imposed for selling milk contrary to the Order, and for using a Special Designation without a licence. The producer ceased attempting to pasteurise milk on his own premises and obtained cartoned supplies of pasteurised milk from a licenced operator. These supplies have been satisfactory.

OTHER FOODS & DRUGS

A total of 222 samples of various foods and drugs have been procured and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. The analysis is not only to check compliance with the general provisions of the Act, but also to see that the various standards of composition and labelling are achieved. As in previous years, a wide variety of articles have been sampled, with the emphasis on locally manufactured products. The help and co-operation of the Public Analyst, Mr. T. Harris, F.R.I.C., F.P.S., M.Chem.A., in all these matters is gratefully acknowledged.

The following foods were found to be not of the required standard, or have some deficiency in the labelling of the article where it was prepacked.

Sausage (2 samples)	Beefburger
Meat Pies -do-	Fish Cakes (2 samples)
Chicken Chop Suey	Sweet Chutney
Wrapped bread	Mayonnaise

In all cases a warning was given regarding the unsatisfactory nature of the article. Further samples taken later revealed that, except in two cases, the warning advice had been acted upon. Legal proceedings were instituted in the two cases - one for an infringement of the Fish Cakes Order and the other for an offence against the Labelling of Food Order. Fines totalling £40 with £23 costs were imposed.

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS REGARDING FOOD & DRUGS

During the year, 210 complaints were received from members of the public concerning unsatisfactory food. This number is an increase on those received in the previous year, and continues the trend whereby persons are increasingly aware of the facilities offered by this department for a thorough investigation into all the circumstances regarding the complaint. Each complaint is a possible contravention of the Food & Drugs Act, and detailed enquiries are made with the retailer, wholesaler and manufacturer in every case.

The pattern of complaints broadly follows that of previous years, with bread, flour confectionery, meat and meat products being the articles of food responsible for most dissatisfaction. The following table gives a full summary of the varieties of food involved in complaints:-

<u>FOOD</u>	<u>FOREIGN MATERIAL</u>	<u>MOULD</u>	<u>UN SOUND OR SOUR</u>
MILK	9	-	3
BUTTER	1	1	-
CHEESE	2	10	-
BREAD	23	11	-
MEAT AND POULTRY	-	-	15
CANNED MEAT	6	2	1
COOKED MEATS	4	3	11
MEAT PIES	4	2	3
SAUSAGES	4	-	3
FISH (including canned)	4	-	7
FRUIT " "	8	-	2
JAM	2	-	-
VEGETABLES (including canned)	11	1	4
CEREALS	6	-	-
SWEETS	7	4	-
FLOUR CONFECTIONERY	8	6	6
OTHER FOODS	8	1	7
	<u>107</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>62</u>

Warnings were given in the majority of cases where a definite contravention of the Act was established. However, the following cases were considered sufficiently serious, or were a repetition of a previous complaint, that legal proceedings were instituted.

	<u>FINE</u>	<u>COSTS</u>
FLY LARVAE IN SAUSAGES	£40	£5
WOOD IN A CREAM CAKE	£50	£15
MOULD ON PREPACKED CHEESE	£20	-
BREAD CONTAINING A CIGARETTE	Case not yet heard at time of printing	

FOOD POISONING AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASE ASSOCIATED WITH FOOD

The department received 171 notifications of suspected food poisoning, dysentery of enteritis during the year. Investigations into all these cases involved 515 visits to patients' homes and other premises and the submission of 694 specimens for bacteriological examination.

Salmonella organisms were isolated in the following 59 cases:-

SALMONELLA	TYPHIMURIUM	3
"	AGONA	37
"	NEWPORT	7
"	St. PAUL	4
"	PANAMA	3
"	JAVA	2
"	LONDON	1
"	BREDENEG	1
"	STANLEY	1

The unusually high number of cases of Salmonella Agona were due to an outbreak involving a number of families in the Wirral following the consumption of frozen chickens which had been spit roasted in a supermarket. Investigations revealed that sales of Frozen chickens over the Easter holiday completely exhausted stocks held at the store. Fresh supplies obtained the following week had not been completely defrosted before spit roasting operations began on the Friday. Although the roasting machine is automatically timed and thermostatically controlled, the inadequate defrosting did not allow adequate heat penetration of the chicken carcasses to ensure the destruction of any organisms which were present. This outbreak was an example of expediency over-riding the well established procedures for safe handling and processing of deep frozen chickens. All the recommendation dealing with the defects in management have been acted on by the organisation concerned.

All the remaining cases were in isolated family outbreaks and no specific food could be implicated, or any connection established with other families who had suffered a similar infection. In view of experience in a past year when a cholera outbreak abroad gave the opportunity of investigating returning holidaymakers, revealing a number of Salmonella cases, I consider it likely that there may be some connection between these isolated cases and unknown symptomless carriers who may have contracted the disease while on holiday abroad. It is an unfortunate facet of a Salmonella infection, that the patient may recover quickly from the illness but continue to carry the organism for some considerable time afterwards. This fact is not always appreciated by the Person concerned, with the result that there may be a relaxation of the strict personal hygiene required.

FOOD HYGIENE

The District Public Health Inspectors have carried out inspections of all classes of food premises. These include canteens, clubs, schools, hospitals, public houses and any trade or business where persons are engaged in the handling of food, as well as normal food shops.

While it is regretted that, due to other commitments on the Inspector's time, the level of this service has not been raised to the level I would desire, there has been considerable improvement in some areas. This is particularly noticeable in the central area of the town, where a small district was created with the specific intention of concentrating work on shops, offices and the Market Hall. Considerable improvements have been made to the standards in this area. These may not always be apparent to members of the public, as where poor conditions exist they are generally out of sight in rear preparation rooms.

It was found necessary to take legal proceedings in respect of unsatisfactory conditions at two premises during the year. In one case a total of seven infringements of the Regulations resulted in total fines of £175 with £5 costs, and in the other case, nine infringements resulted in fines of £180 with £20 costs.

The following premises are registered under the requirements of Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 -

Fish fryers	-	63
Fish fryers & chicken roasters	-	6
Butchers manufacturing sausages	-	39
" " " and cooked meats		23
Chicken roasters	-	9
Meat products factories	-	5
Grocers manufacturing cooked meats	-	6
		<hr/>
		151

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

Food Hawkers & their premises (Section 102)	47
Vendors of Shellfish & their premises (Section 103)	24

DEPOSIT OF POISONOUS WASTE ACT 1972

This Act which was quickly drafted and came into force in August, 1972, as an emergency measure, has been found to have several deficiencies, particularly where poisonous waste is temporarily deposited in barges or ships moored in Birkenhead Docks for ultimate disposal at sea. At the beginning it was considered that these operations might come within the notification procedure, as some waste is held in barges while the ships are at sea. However, legal opinion is that no notifications are required to this Authority, as the waste is finally deposited at sea.

In view of the considerable amount of poisonous wastes and sewage sludge which pass through the barges each week, it is regretted that this Authority has no control over these materials which may be held temporarily in their area. The Act is under review and would have been amended by the Environmental Protection Bill, but with the dissolution of Parliament, the future of this measure is uncertain. It is to be hoped that any future legislation will strengthen the notification procedure.

Only a small quantity of waste was notified for deposit at the Corporation Tip. This is a regular consignment of waste grease or water and wax emulsion from a local refinery, and a three monthly "season ticket" notice has been agreed with the producers.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951

There are no premises in Birkenhead licenced for the manufacture of Rag Flock or other filling materials, but four premises are registered for the manufacture of new upholstery using these materials.

Eight samples of the materials used in registered premises were taken during the year and submitted to a prescribed Analyst for examination.

The materials tested were Rag Flock (3 samples); Cotton Wadding (2 samples); Cotton Felt; Coir Fibre (2 samples).

All samples passed the tests prescribed in the Regulations.

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 Secretary of
State by Local Authorities under Section 60

TABLE A - REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS Period covered 1st January to
21st December 1973

Class of premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspect- ions during the year.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Offices	29	346	251
Retail shops	52	696	656
Wholesale shops warehouses	5	53	50
Catering establish- ments open to the public, canteens	1	140	130
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	87	1235	1087

TABLE B - Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises = 1311

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

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
(1)	(2)
Offices	3151
Retail shops	4267
Wholesale Department, warehouses	498
Catering establishments open to the public	1527
Canteens	104
Fuel storage depots	-
TOTAL	9547

Total Males	3177
Total females	6370
TOTAL	<u>9547</u>

TABLE D - EXEMPTIONS Part I and Part II NIL

Part III - Sanitary Convenience (Sec: 9)

Class of premises	No. of exemptions current at end of year	No. of exemptions newly granted
(1)	(2)	(3)
Offices	2	NIL
Shops	1	NIL

Part IV - Washing facilities (Sec: 10(1))

Class of premises	No. of exemptions current at end of year	No. of exemptions newly granted
(1)	(2)	(3)
Offices	2	NIL

TABLE E - PROSECUTIONS

<u>Number of informations laid</u>	<u>Section of Regulations</u>	<u>Number of Convictions</u>
1	4	1
4	6	4
2	9	2
1	10	1
1	16	1
1	24	1

Number of companies involved 1

Penalties

Total amounting to £30.00 plus £5.00 costs

TABLE F - STAFF

Number of Inspectors appointed under Section 52 (1) or (5) of the Act	17	{ 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

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAYS PREMISES ACT 1963

In the ten years since the Act became Law, it is obvious that the protective nature of the legislation has been beneficial, both to employees and employers. It has promoted a better working environment, resulting in greater efficiency and less hazardous conditions of employment.

However, more detailed information regarding all accidents would result in a better appreciation of the various hazards. I consider that all accidents involving injury should be reported, even though the person concerned is not absent from work. In addition, where hoists and lifts are concerned, accidents involving injury to persons not employed in the premises, should be reported for investigation.

The legislation might be extended to cover the part-time occupation of school children at weekends and holidays. This leisure time should be for activities in the fresh air and not spent as part-time shop assistants or shampooing hair in hairdressing salons. This latter occupation is potentially hazardous, as many young persons may develop allergy problems with certain hairdressing preparations.

Many new office buildings or shopping complexes are built as a "shell" without knowledge of the business or type of shop which will be using any particular part of the structure. This can lead to difficulties in securing compliance with some details of the legislation. For instance, it was recently discovered that in a new shopping complex under construction, sanitary accommodation is being provided without any ventilated space between the accommodation and what could be workrooms or food rooms. This detail was being left for construction by the tenants.

In practice, many such tenants, unless advised beforehand, will assume that any new structure will comply in all respects with current legislation and that the plans will have been passed accordingly by the Local Authority.

Many new buildings or those recently constructed combine central heating and air conditioning, with natural ventilation being restricted to a minimum. Theoretical calculations and assessments do not prove in all cases to be suitable in practice. There is, therefore, a case for stipulating a maximum as well as a minimum temperature for working conditions in offices and shops! One of the reasons for uncomfortably high temperatures in some premises in summer is the provision of roof lights.

It has been found that, while using the recommended standards as a guid line, only the experience of Inspectors has enabled sufficient and suitable standards of lighting to be determined.

In most self-service shops, the major portion of floor space is taken up by goods displayed for sale. Although it is the policy of the larger multiple companies to have a central depot to control deliveries according to demand, the promotion of sales or lack of efficiency in stock control sometimes leads to overstocking, with the resulting congestion of the small storage area.

Most premises have inadequate provision for the storage and disposal of waste and refuse, although many larger establishments are equipped with baling machines and have little difficulty in dealing with bulky waste from packaging materials.

The design of staircases, floors and passages are adequately covered by regulations.

While it is required that persons employed in shops should have reasonable opportunity for sitting, without detriment to their work, it is found that the competitive nature of distributive trades do not allow time for staff to have the opportunity for sitting, although the required number of seats are provided.

Special advice and guidance has been sought on two occasions during the past year regarding Hoists and Lifts. One concerned the temporary installation of a hoist by a hire company, when it was considered necessary to insist on some modifications. On another occasion, an Insurance examiner requested advice regarding his decision to accept for insurance a lift designed and installed by a private company. The apparatus was not satisfactory in my opinion and has now been dismantled.

A potential hazard was noticed in relation to office furniture. While no accident was reported, it was noted that where four drawer steel filing cabinets are used, if the top three drawers are full and left open while files are consulted, the cabinet is very delicately balanced and easily tips forwards. This could result in a serious accident if the cabinet falls upon an employee. The remedy might be to introduce a locking bar with other cabinets, or if the cabinet is a sole fixture, to interlock the drawers so that only one may be opened at the same time.

ACCIDENTS

60 accidents were reported representing 0.57% of the working force, of which 28 received special investigation.

No fatal accidents were reported.

Analysis

Offices	8
Shops	30
Wholesale/Warehouses	10
Catering Establishments	10
Canteens	2

It was not considered necessary to institute legal proceedings but to give formal and informal advice.

WATER SUPPLY

A recommendation was forwarded to the officer appointed under Section 57 together with a drawing for the fitting of a guard on a BORN BINDER machine and for consideration for the fitting of this type of guard to all similar type machines.

Summary of Inspections of Hoists and Lifts

<u>Type of Lift</u>	<u>Number of Inspections</u>
Passenger (only)	22
Passenger/Goods	32
Goods (only)	20
Service	14
Bullion	10
Platform	2

FLUORIDATION

The fluoride content of the water from all sources is less than 0.1 p.p.m. During 1973, there was no further discussion on the question of fluoridation. The fact that Onondaga County Council approved the policy of fluoridation of water supplies in 1971 has not been followed by any enthusiasm for fluoridation in the town of Birkhead and Hallsby. There must eventually be a serious agreement if the water supply is ever to contain 1 p.p.m. of fluoride. In the meantime, the station of the Birkhead School Dental Service show once again that of the several thousand school children examined in 1973, a great proportion required dental treatment. These figures are not going to alter appreciably as long as we are denied by the lack of "pure" water.

WATER SUPPLY

Birkenhead, Wallasey, Bebington, Ellesmere Port, Hoylake, Neston and Wirral Urban District, are supplied by the Wirral Water Board which was established in 1963. The Wirral Water Authority was a prelude to the now proposed Wirral Local Authority. The Water Board receives its water from three sources - an impounding reservoir at Alwen, North Wales, Water from the River Dee and a number of boreholes dotted around Wirral; two of these wells at Springhill and Flaybrick are situated within the Borough of Birkenhead.

The main waterworks laboratory is situated at Sutton Hall, and is operated by a full-time chemist and bacteriologist and four assistants who supervise the treatment process and undertake regular chemical and bacteriological examinations. During 1973, the water supplied to the Borough has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. There have been no cases of contamination and all new mains are chlorinated before being brought into use.

The Board do not have the actual figures for the number of houses but all properties are supplied direct from the distribution network.

Regular bacteriological and chemical analyses have been carried out, and copies of results have been sent to the Health Department. The results throughout the year have been satisfactory.

With the rise in demand, the proportion of the River Dee water has continued to increase and this source now provides some $\frac{2}{3}$ rds. of the total supply. Borehole supplies, on the other hand, have been reduced slightly and this trend is also likely to continue.

FLUORIDATION

The fluoride content of the water from all sources is less than 0.1 p.p.m. During 1973, there was no further discussion on the question of fluoridation. The fact that Cheshire County Council approved the policy of fluoridation of water supplies in 1971 has not been followed by any enthusiasm for fluoridation in the towns of Birkenhead and Wallasey. There must eventually be unanimous agreement if the water supply is ever to contain 1 p.p.m. of fluoride. In the meantime, the statistics of the Birkenhead School Dental Service show once again that of the several thousand school children examined in 1973, a great proportion required dental treatment. These figures are not going to alter appreciably as long as we are bemused by the idea of "pure" water.

SEWERAGE

Mr. Oxburgh, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, kindly reports:-

MERSEY ESTUARY AND FORESHORE POLLUTION

Since the setting up of the Steering Committee and the Technical Sub-Committee, the working parties have carried out further investigations into the problem concerning the pollution of the Mersey Estuary and Foreshore.

The Committees are representative of the Merseyside Local Authorities, the Mersey and Weaver River Authority, the Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries Committee, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, the Confederation of British Industry, and many of the major industrial undertakings on Merseyside. Observers from the Department of the Environment also attend the Technical Sub-Committee meetings.

The Steering Committee at its meeting on the 7th July, 1972, appointed J.D. & D.W. Watson, Chartered Civil Engineers, as consultants to prepare a master plan for the disposal of sewage on Merseyside.

During the last year, the Consultants have submitted their progress reports and the Committees have been considering those dealing with (a) River Quality Standards, (b) Sites for Water Pollution Control, together with reports by the Water Pollution Research Laboratory on the progress made of the development of a mathematical model and also the Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries Joint Committee.

The preparation of a scheme by the Consultants is continuing and it is hoped that this together with their final recommendations will be submitted to the Technical Sub-Committee in the near future.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF CORPORATION EMPLOYEES

There were during 1973, 1376 questionnaire type forms received compared with 1,112 in 1972. 784 people required medical examinations, related to Sickness and Superannuation Schemes.

During 1973 there were 11 applications for Driving Licences in connection with Motor Vehicle (Driving Licence) Regulations, 1970. The recent legislation represents an easing in allowing licences for certain people whose epilepsy is now well controlled on treatment. In spite of the easing of regulations great care is taken as the traffic on the roads is too fast and dense to allow for any driver who will faint over the wheel. Thus several drivers who were granted a licence during the year 1973 were only given a licence for one year, subject to review.

During 1973, 305 disabled people were seen for Leg Disability Passes, 255 of these people had to be examined as it is an almost impossible task to say who has a 35% disability and who has not. Is the disability all due to the legs or some other system of the body? We all hope in the near future we can devise a more sensible system of assessment of these special Travel Passes.

Occupational health has still received scant attention in the re-organised National Health & Local Government Service. It is certain that the new local authorities will expect the Community Physician to give the same help the Medical Officers of Health have given in past years. Local Government and the National Health Service are big industries with many employees - over 15,000 in Wirral alone. There will be the stress or re-organisation for several years and there will be need for good medical advice.

	NOT PASSED		DEFERRED FOR FURTHER EXAMIN- ATION	PASSED FOR				EXAMINED FOR			SPECIAL EXAMIN- ATION	TOTAL
	SERVICE	SUPER- ANNUATION		SERVICE	SUPER ANNUATION	TEACHING APPOINT- MENTS	ENTRY TO TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE	RECOMMENDED FOR PREMATURE RETIRAL	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE	TAR CANCER	DIS- ABLEMENT	
ARCHITECTS				2				1			1	4
BATHS		2	1	4	10			1				18
BOROUGH VALUER						4						4
EDUCATION	2	1	15	55	95	29	152				4	353
ENGINEER SURVEYOR	1	6	6	24	46			5	7	8	8	111
FIRE & AMBULANCE			2	16	20			1			2	41
HEALTH				1	17						3	21
HOUSING		1	1	3	8							13
LIBRARIES		1		1	11						1	14
MARKETS		1	1		1			1				4
OTHER AUTHORITIES				1	2							3
PARKS & CEMETERIES		4	4	27	14			1	4			54
SOCIAL SERVICES	1	2	3	19	35			2			1	63
TOWN CLERK		1		16	6						1	24
TREASURER					5							5
WEIGHTS & MEASURES			2		2							4
WORKS	1	5	11	10	10			3			8	48
	5	24	46	179	286	29	152	15	11	8	29	784

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Duties under the Act will now be assigned to the new Social Services Committee of the Council.

There is the utmost co-operation between the staff and useful information about handicapped persons or aged and infirm is exchanged between social workers and various officers of the Health Department.

During 1973, the Medical Officer of Health was asked to see several elderly and severely infirm people who were thought to need action under Section 47 of the Act. Fortunately after discussion and persuasion all were persuaded to receive the help that was required.

WORK DONE ON BEHALF OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Throughout the year, the routine medical supervision of children in care of the Local Authority has been carried out by Medical Officers of the Health Department. Examinations continue to be carried out at the larger group homes and in foster homes, as laid down by the Home Office Boarding-out Regulations.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE - PROBLEM FAMILIES

As in previous years so in 1973, meetings were held to co-ordinate the work of the various Departments of the Corporation dealing with these families in trouble.

NURSING HOMES

There are still only two registered Nursing Homes in the town, though there are several private homes for the more ambulant elderly that are registered with the Social Services Department.

Work continued during the year to inspect these homes and to try to raise standards. Some modifications were carried out but there is still much to be done. The dilemma remains, that high standards in building terms must be paid for in higher costs - fees to the elderly patient.

CREMATIONS 1973

The deputy Medical Officer of Health acted as Medical Officer to the Crematorium during 1973. One full-time Medical Officer acted as Deputy Referee as did the Medical Officer of Health during the holidays of the other referees.

REVENUE OF MEDICAL PROVIDERS

The numbers of cremations in 1973 was 2664, compared with 2658 in 1972.

The Landican crematorium serves a wide area as is shown by the following figures:

Birkenhead	815
Wallasey	768
Bebington	371
Hoylake Area	311
Heswall Area	188
Neston Area	77
Chester Area	48
Others	86
	<hr/>
	2664

2664

REHOUSING ON MEDICAL GROUNDS

In 1973 an increased number of applications were received for consideration by the Medical Officer of Health, the figures are as follows:

Applications	1,525
Granted *priority	137
Granted ** priority	199
Granted *** priority	57
To be reviewed in twelve months	298
To be reviewed in six months	89
No medical priority	412
Memoranda to the Housing Manager or Director of Social Services seeking help or making a recommendation for the applicant, but not giving any medical priority	122
+ At present pending	211

+ This figure is accounted for because of the following reasons:

- a) The Health Visitors have been unable to contact the applicant and make a report on their housing and medical conditions.
- b) The applicants have been considered for Sheltered Accommodation or Part III Accommodation.
- c) Applicants have left the district since completing application form.

Many cases had a record of serious illness or chronic infection; many were overcrowded and others presented social problems. Where necessary applicants were interviewed by Health Visitors to discuss health problems. In cases of environmental difficulties, Public Health Inspectors visited and action was taken to improve conditions.

Re-housing in some cases has created further problems, as tenants who previously lived in the Central and South areas of the town do not settle when they are moved away from family surroundings. Vandalism of Corporation property is still a cause for concern and adds to the suffering of tenants who would otherwise be considered as suitably housed. So far as Birkenhead is concerned, this major problem needs special attention to ensure that Corporation property is maintained in good order.

Following re-organisation in April, 1974, much of this work will pass to the Director of Housing and Environmental Health, but the need for medical guidance as the health requirements of some of the more seriously ill people will remain and this must be given adequate attention by the new Area Health Authority. The outstanding *** priority cases still awaiting rehousing must be followed up. The outstanding ** and * priority cases may still have to wait as the new local authority tries to catch up with the building of more houses. Rehousing in right conditions and correct positions and situations of houses, will remain a priority in health terms in the tougher parts of the new Wirral County Borough.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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ANNUAL REPORT

on the

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1973

by

P. O. NICHOLAS

M.B.,Ch.B., M.F.C.M., D.C.H., D.P.H.

Principal School Medical Officer

"We all breathe the same air; we all cherish our children's future. We are all mortal". President John F. Kennedy.

Foreward to the School Health Report

It is a privilege to write a foreward to this School Health Report for 1973. It shows the efforts of individuals and groups of professionals who have worked hard to ensure the health of the children of Birkenhead. Their reports speak for themselves and I am indebted once again to Mr. C.G.D. Taylor, Senior Administrative Officer in the School Health Section of the Health Department, for the meticulous way in which he has drawn together these various reports. All this work has been performed at a time when the School Health Service is heading to the 1st April and being taken in to the control of the Area Health Authority.

I trust people who read this report realise that child health is a much wider subject than Paediatrics, which means child treatment. Child health deals also with the preventive aspects and social conditions. The need for good health for the child and young person to get the best out of education; and the need to consider care of the child which may be the loving care within the home, to the more enveloping care which is needed by the handicapped children.

One has heard so much in the Courses on Reorganisation of making the best use of resources. This school report shows we are making the best use of resources. We aim to detect hearing defects as early as possible; to give help as soon as possible to the partially-hearing child. Help comes from the teachers and we are particularly indebted to Mr. H.N. Fletcher, Head of the Teaching Services for the Deaf. Help also comes from the doctors and we are grateful to Mr. A.K. Baruah the Consultant E.N.T. Surgeon.

This is but one example of co-operation between the various disciplines to bring about child health. The same co-operation is shown in child guidance. During the year Mr. P.J. MacDonald, the Principal Psychologist, moved to a new post and we wish him well, and we are pleased to welcome Mr. B.A. Bourne in his place. How difficult it is to get sufficient psychological help for the many disturbed children in Birkenhead - there is a shortage of consultant psychiatric sessions, though we are more than appreciative of the efforts of Dr. Sheila Wright and Dr. D.M. Zausmer.

Consultants cannot function alone, they need social workers, nurses and those precious speech therapists - Miss H.R. Evans joined us, full time, in 1973. Without assistance and with insufficient sessions, in all fields, waiting lists occur. One of the most important resources of all are skilled people to serve - how can we as a country channel this resource of skilled people, into areas of country where their services are most needed?

Another good use of resources was the development of the School Chiropody Service. It is much more sensible to preserve the foot health of the young with particular attention to good footwear rather than waiting until severe disability of the feet, which so often occurs some years before pensionable age. We learn as April, 1974, approaches, that Chiropody services are to be free to priority groups - the school children, the handicapped or the pensioners. A fine idea, but are resources of money going to be allocated sufficiently to this service and can Mr. G.O.H. Burns, our Senior Chiropodist, who does such good work, get sufficient help from his valuable colleagues to meet the pressure on the chiropody services which are likely to occur - only time will tell us the answer.

Full time school doctors are few in number and I am grateful to Dr. Haran, the Deputy Principal School Medical Officer, who has held clinical responsibility for the School Service, and to the medical officers who have assisted her. During the year Dr. A. Wilson, one of the full-time School Doctors underwent a training course run at Alder Hey Children's Hospital by the University of Liverpool, for the assessment of Handicapped children - we are glad to have another doctor trained in these skills. Some of the sessional work has fallen on part-time and family doctors and, if the school service is to be maintained at the present intensity, we shall need more help into reorganisations. It is likely that routine work in schools by doctors will have to be taken over by the school nursing and health visiting staff. Miss J.J. McDonald, the Director of Nursing Services, has really developed the nursing services in the 2 years since she came to Birkenhead, particularly in the attachment of nursing staff to family doctors and to the schools. Now the fates of reorganisation have deemed that she should take over school nursing in St. Helens Area Health Authority - one can only say that St. Helen's gain is Wirral's loss.

To all the staff of the School Health Service, grateful thanks. To the Director of Education, who fortunately has been appointed as Director of Education for the New Wirral Local Authority, we offer our thanks for his continuing co-operation. Also thanks to the Assistant Director, Mr. J. Moore and the education staff, we cannot name you all, but you may rest assured the handicapped children of Wirral will be praising the officers of both Health and Education departments for the ever improving standard of service they have received

I would thank the Chairman, Councillor Miss Tomlinson, and the members of the Education Committee and Sub Committee for their efforts on behalf of all the children of Birkenhead. Your work still goes on, in that, you can, through the collaboration committees, set up jointly with the Wirral Area Health Authority see that there is no diminution of interest in the School Health Service in the future and ensure that we do maintain a proper Child Health Service for the Wirral Area.

P.O. Nicholas

Principal School Medical Officer

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1973)

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR MISS D. TOMLINSON

Deputy Chairman:

COUNCILLOR G. J. LLEWELLYN

Aldermen:

D. A. FLETCHER, J.P.

J. W. OATES

J. H. ROBERTS, J.P.

Mrs. M. C. WINTER

Councillors:

M.H. BAKER

H. DEVERILL

M. W. HARLAND

R. KIMBERLEY

G.C. LINDSAY

P. J. ROBERTS

A. E. SMITH

Mrs. N. E. UNDERHILL

E. G. WILLIAMS, J.P.

Co-opted Members:

THE REV. J. BURGON

THE REV. J. ST.H. MULLETT, M.A.

PROFESSOR T. W. GOODWIN, D.Sc.

F.R.I.C., F.I., Biol., F.R.S.

MR. G. FLINT

MR. D. J. GAY, J.P.

MR. J. KING

MR. K. G. ALLEN

MR. E. CODY

Mrs. M. MUIR, J.P., B.Sc.

S T A F F

Principal School Medical Officers:

P. O. NICHOLAS, M.B., Ch.B., M.F.C.M., D.C.H., D.P.H.

Deputy Principal School Medical Officers:

MARY P. HARAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Senior Medical Officers:

MARGARET HOUGHTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 31.8.73)

MARGARET C. BLACK, M.B., Ch.B., M.F.C.M., D.Obst. R.C.O.G.
(Appointed 1.11.73)

School Medical Officers:

ANN WILSON, L.L.M.R.C.P., L.L.M.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G.

Local Medical Practitioners who provide part-time service on a sessional basis:

OLIVIA S. CROSTHWAITE, M.B., Ch.B.

JOYCE M. OWEN, M.B., Ch.B.

PAMELA ROBERTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.Obst. R.C.O.G.

SHIRLEY NICHOLAS, M.B., Ch.B., D.Obst. R.C.O.G.

NORA M. ENGLISH, M.B., B.Ch. (Ophthalmic)

PHYLLIS JEAN DISLEY, M.B., B.Ch.

E. N. GOLD, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.G.P.

M. SNELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

W. J. F. GOLLINS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

RUTH CARDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

Consultant Psychiatrists:

SHEILA L. WRIGHT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M., D.C.H.

Consultant E.N.T. Surgeon:

A. K. BARUAH, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.E., D.L.O.

Chief Dental Officers:

W.M. SHAW, L.D.S.

Senior Dental Officers:

STEPHANIE TWIDALE, B.D.S.

A. R. GILL, L.D.S.

N. KENDALL, L.D.S.

Dental Auxiliary:

RACHAEL ATKINSON (Appointed 1.7.1973)

Local Dental Surgeons who provide part-time service on a sessional basis

H. HEWITT, L.D.S.

MAUREEN MORTON, B.D.S.

Consultant Orthodontist:

T. WYNNIE, P.H.D., B.D.S., F.D.S., D.Ortho. R.C.S.

Anaesthetists (Part-time)

ANTHEA BUSHBY M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A.

N. J. PAYMASTER, M.B., B.S., D.A., F.F.A., R.C.S.

(Appointed November, 1973)

B. McLOUGHLIN, M.B., F.F.A., R.C.S. (Deceased August, 1973)

Speech Therapists:

Mrs. R. S. LAW, L.C.S.T. (Part-time)

Miss H. R. EVANS, L.C.S.T. (Appointed 9.7.73)

Director of Nursing Services:

Miss J. J. MACDONALD, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.C., N.E.B.S.S.C., Q.I.D.N.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD
(Number of Schools and Children)

Comprehensive, High and Secondary Schools:

9 Units 7,912

County Middle Schools:

17 Units 5,181

County Primary Infants Schools:

18 Units 4,516

County Combined Primary and Middle Schools:

5 Units 2,047

Voluntary Middle Schools:

7 Units 1,924

Voluntary Primary Infants Schools:

9 Units 1,811

Voluntary Combined Primary and Middle Schools:

6 Units 1,713

Special Schools:

3 Units 172

Hospital Schools:

3 Units 53

Total Number of Pupils 25,329

Secondary Schools (non-maintained)

There are four direct grant Secondary Schools in the Town as follows:-

- The Birkenhead School for Boys, Shrewsbury Road.
- The Birkenhead High School for Girls, (G.P.D.S.T.)
Devonshire Place.
- The Convent, F.C.J., High School, Holt Hill.
- St. Anselm's College, Manor Hill.

Nursery Classes

Nursery Classes exist in connection with the Infants' Departments of the following schools:-

Cathcart Street Primary
Rock Ferry Primary
The Dell Primary
Bedford Drive Primary
Cole Street Primary
Devonshire Park Primary
St. Anne's R.C. Primary
St. Joseph's R.C. Primary
Fender Primary
St. Michael & All Angels Primary
Arrowehill

Progress Classes

Progress Classes are maintained at the Woodlands, St. Anne's R.C., Trinity Street and Gilbrook Schools.

Special Schools and Education in Hospitals

Educational facilities are provided as follows:-

Gilbrook School	-	Day Special Schools for ESN and Maladjusted Pupils.
Woodvale School	-	Day Special School for ESN Pupils.
Thingwall Hospital	-	Hospital Special School.
St. Catherine's Hospital	-	Hospital Special School.
Children's Hospital	-	Hospital Special School.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

The arrangements for the reference of children found to require treatment at routine, special and selective medical inspections have continued as in previous years.

The flow of information about school children from the medical staffs of Hospitals on Merseyside, particularly of Children's Hospitals, has continued. Much useful information has been sent to the School Health Service.

Medical histories of school leavers have continued to be sent to the General Practitioner, when considered desirable.

Medical inspections are held as follows:-

- (a) New entrants to maintained Schools as soon as possible after date of admission.
- (b) Selective medical inspection of pupils carried out in maintained Schools at age of 7-8 years and between 11 years to 12 years of age.
- (c) Every pupil attending maintained High Schools during the last year of attendance at schools.

The following additional examinations were carried out:-

Children referred for convalescence	15
Employment out of school hours	150
Audiometry - Sweep Tests in school	2,684
Clinic examinations	341
Other minor examinations	301

The selective medical inspection is arranged from children known to have defects (Entrants), any suggested by the Director of Education, Headteachers and at the request of Parents.

537 re-inspections were made in the case of children with defects necessitating a "follow-up".

CO-OPERATION WITH PARENTS

Parents attended at the examination of 2202 (79.00%) of the 2785 pupils seen at medical inspections.

Age Group Inspected (By year of birth)	Number of pupils inspected	Number of parents present	%
1969 (and later)	98	94	95.92
1968	1,031	844	81.86
1967	839	807	96.19
1966	109	68	62.40
1965	57	37	65.00
1964	66	28	42.42
1963	89	58	65.20
1962	75	44	59.00
1961	319	227	71.29
1960	104	89	86.00
1959	-	-	-
1958 (and earlier)	-	-	-

It is encouraging that so many parents take an interest and attend the medical examination, particularly in the early stages of their child's school life.

NUTRITION

Of the 2,785 children medically examined it will be seen that 2,766 children, 99.32%, were classified as satisfactory and only 19 children were considered as unsatisfactory. (Please see returns to the Department of Education and Science, contained in this report).

PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK

The total number of school meals provided during 1973 was 2,815,716, an increase of 145,773 on 1972. Of this number 2,007,606 were supplied on payment and 808,110 were provided free.

These figures refer only to maintained schools and to school meals supplied to Teachers, but not to those for members of the kitchen and canteen staff. During the year 1,830,734 one-third pint bottles of milk were supplied to schools in the Borough, including non-maintained schools.

Approval of school milk on health grounds was continued during the year and up to 31st December, 1973, the total number of pupils granted free milk in school since the inception of the scheme in September, 1971, was 4,406.

CLEANLINESS AND CLOTHING

1,784 pupils of the 56,665 examined were found to be infested with head lice and nits in varying degrees. In many instances re-infection occurred after cleansing. The establishment of a Cleansing and Bathing Centre at Balls Road Clinic was completed during the previous year.

It was considered that the standard of clothing and footwear was generally satisfactory.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

During the past year 132 children of school age were vaccinated and 227 re-vaccinated against smallpox.

B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

Arrangements were again made during the year to vaccinate 12 year old children in school, subject to the usual consent being obtained from parents.

Children found to be strongly positive following testing are sent for x-ray examination at the Mass Radiography Unit and certain cases are referred to the Consultant Chest Physician.

12 YEAR OLDS Parents Notified	MULTIPLE PUNCTURE TEST		VACCINATION
	Children Tested	Positive Reaction	Children given B.C.G.
3,461	2,989	70	2,348

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DEPTHHERIA

The following are details of immunisation against Diphtheria of school children, carried out in schools:-

Treatment completed	..	..	..	..	347
Receiving reinforcing injection			..	..	1,517

IMMUNISATION AGAINST TETANUS

During 1973 immunisation against tetanus was continued with sessions held in schools and in clinics. The following number of children were immunised:-

Received a complete course	..	..	..	..	357
Received a reinforcing injection			..	..	1,554

IMMUNISATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

In 1973 immunisation against poliomyelitis continued and the following number of school children were immunised:-

Primary course	..	..	..	..	270
Received reinforcing dose			..	..	1,251

MINOR AILMENTS

Children referred by the Director of Education and Headteachers are medically examined at special sessions arranged for this purpose and these arrangements are proving adequate.

DEFECTIVE VISION

Dr. Nora M. English, an approved Ophthalmic Medical Practitioner, has continued to review children with defective vision, referred from school medical inspections. At the present time two weekly sessions are held at the Eye Clinic, Social Services Centre, Birkenhead.

I am grateful for the information about school children with defective vision referred to Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners and Dispensing Opticians in the Borough. I receive a copy of reports which are sent to the Family Doctors, following such examinations.

Particulars of school children seen at the Eye Clinic during the past year are given below:-

	New Cases	Re-examinations	Total
Glasses prescribed	132	336	468
Glasses not prescribed	127	271	398
Number examined	259	607	866

During the year a total of 1,337 appointments were despatched and of this number 471 children failed to attend the Clinic for vision testing.

KEYSTONE SCHOOL VISION SCREENERS

The vision screening of children in schools continued during 1973 and the two screeners were used constantly in the assessment of pupils' vision, within the age groups 5+ to 14+ years of age.

Children found to have visual defects are either referred to their own Ophthalmic Medical Practitioner or Optician of their choice, or offered an appointment at the Local Authority Eye Clinic.

The details of the children vision screened are given below:-

Number of children tested	..	..	..	..	..	6,390
Number of children with defects of varying degree	..	..	..	..	..	1,637
Number with normal vision	..	..	..	..	..	4,377
Number already wearing spectacles	..	..	..	..	..	376

The screeners were used in 54 schools and 193 sessions were devoted to these examinations.

There is still the lack of suitable accommodation for vision screening since the inception of comprehensive education in the Borough; it was not possible to visit a number of schools, therefore, the pupils concerned were not tested, but may be examined later in the screening programme.

EDUCATIONALLY SUBNORMAL CHILDREN

During the past year 26 pupils were assessed as being educationally subnormal and requiring special educational treatment.

Pupils in attendance at the Day Special Schools for Educationally Subnormal pupils were kept under review and re-ascertained in connection with special school leaving and at routine re-inspections.

BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PUPILS

The number of Blind and Partially Sighted pupils is very small and these children are accommodated in other Authorities special schools or local ordinary schools as appropriate.

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

Mr. A.K. Baruah, Consultant E.N.T. Surgeon, holds a monthly session in the Central Clinic, to which children seen at routine, special and selective medical examinations are referred for specialist opinion.

During the past twelve months 114 appointments were offered and 20 children failed to attend. The children who failed their appointments were followed up by School Nurses and advice was given to parents to seek appropriate treatment.

From returns submitted by Birkenhead Hospitals, the following treatment was reported to have been given during 1973:-

Hospital	For adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	For other nose and throat conditions
St. Catherine's	20	16
Children's	117	37

CONVALESCENCE AND AFTER CARE

In 1973 the Medical staff examined 15 school children who were referred for convalescence and approval was given in all cases, but parents declined the offer of treatment in two cases.

DEAF AND PARTIALLY HEARING CHILDREN

During the past year work continued in the ascertainment of children with hearing difficulties and the placement of such pupils in suitable educational establishments.

SERVICE FOR HEARING-IMPAIRED CHILDREN

Mr. H.N.W. Fletcher, M.A., Dip.Ed., Cert.T.D., Head of the Teaching Services for the Deaf, has kindly submitted the following report on his work during the past year:-

As before, an important aim was to show the parents of pre-school children how to help their children. The high total of December, 1972, of pre-school children with known or suspected hearing difficulties fell to ten by the end of 1973, seven of them girls.

The Partially Hearing Unit at Townfield School continued to care for ten or eleven pupils between the ages of five and twelve. They had the advantage both of education in ordinary classes and of specialist help in very small groups for part of each day. During 1973, two children moved to other schools (one to the High School or her choice) and another moved away from Birkenhead. Four new children were admitted, one from a Residential School for the Deaf and the others from their Local Primary and Middle Schools. A second Wallasey child was admitted.

The main event of the year was the building and equipping of a second Partially Hearing Unit, which opened in September. This new Unit at Fender School is conveniently close to Ganneys Meadow Nursery Classes, where two partially hearing infants were able to receive help from the Unit.

In December, 1973, there were thirty-six other partially hearing pupils in Birkenhead schools, twenty-five having hearing aids. There were also thirty-eight with severe or total deafness of one ear. If the twenty-four boys and girls attending special schools for the hearing-impaired are included, there were one hundred and twenty-four Birkenhead children with serious hearing handicap.

The Teacher of the Deaf continued to co-operate with the Health Department in the routine examination of many children with temporary and less serious ear trouble. The screening procedure was revised in order to ensure a complete screening of each year group and a speedy follow-up. In the screening of children born between 1st September, 1965, and 31st August, 1966, more than two thousand were tested and more than one hundred required subsequent investigation. This age group already included one profoundly deaf child, attending a Special School and five partially hearing pupils, who had received help in the Partially Hearing Units. In obtaining accurate test results, the acoustically-treated room proved to be very valuable.

AUDIOMETRIC SWEEP TESTING

The two audiometers for sweep testing of school children in schools and clinics continued and the School Nurses examined the following number of children during the past year:-

Total number seen	..	..	..	..	3,025
Number referred for Specialist opinion	..	..	..	..	329

REVIEW OF PILOT SCHEME FOR HEARING SCREENING AND FOLLOW-UP

The scheme attempted to screen those children born between 1st September, 1965, and 31st August, 1966, for hearing defects.

The co-operation of the Education Department and Mr. H.N. Fletcher, Teacher of the Deaf, was much appreciated and the scheme could not have been attempted without their help.

A programme of schools was organised by Mr. Fletcher and, together with three School Nurses, trained in audiometric sweep testing, the programme was carried out between 24th September, 1973 and 5th October, 1973, with a second screening taking place two to three weeks later.

Children failing the sweep test on two occasions, or absent on both occasions, were subsequently given appointments to attend for a full audiometric investigation in the soundproof room in the Social Services Centre, Cleveland Street. A Doctor was present at these sessions to investigate any clinical ear, nose and throat problems, and to deal with them as thought appropriate.

Total number of children swepttested	2,090
Number absent on two occasions	25
Number of children on rool to be tested	2,115
Number of children failing two swepttests	127
Percentage of children failing	Approx. 8%

Breakdown of Children sent for to be tested in Health Department

Number of children found to be already receiving treatment for hearing difficulties	60
Number sent for by appointment	92

Number in need of ENT treatment	17
Number already attending for specialist treatment	7
Number of cases to be kept under review by Medical Officer	29
Number discharged as satisfactory	15
Number not attending	24
	—
	92
	==

Children in need of either treatment or observation of a hearing difficulty not previously known	50%
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Remarks

1. Organisation can only be doen with co-operation of Education Department.
2. Failure to attend follow-up appointments is disappointing and looking at the areas that the failures come from these children are probably those most in need.
3. This scheme is a useful contribution to the School Health Service and future Schemes should be more streamlined with some system devised for catching those not attending follow-up appointments.
4. Testing of children by sweep method averaged at 30 to 35 children per hour. Obviously with younger ones this will take longer, possibly only 20 may be done per hour.
5. It is recommended that such a scheme involving School Health and Educational staff be introduced for the 5+ age group and be introduced in the Spring term of 1974.
6. A co-ordinated energetic programme, such as described, is obviously much more efficient - or should be with practise - than the previous haphazard methods spreading over the whole school year.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Mr. C.J. Nelson, Health Education Officer, has submitted the following report:-

Schools

There has been a further increase during the year in health education activities in schools and colleges of further education, in Birkenhead, in the form of lectures and illustrated talks by the Health Education Officer and other members of the Department who find a considerable amount of job satisfaction in this type of work.

Health education programmes in schools included the following subjects:- Accidents in the Home, Budgeting and Family Problems, Care of the Feet, Dental Health, Diet, Misuse of Drugs, Environmental Health, Family Planning, Local Authority Health Services, Personal Health, Personal Relationships, Sex Education, Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Smoking and Health.

It is encouraging to note that professional members of the Health Department staff are becoming more involved in health education activities.

The School Chiropody Service was involved in a health education project, "Care of the Feet." This took the form of a series of talks on foot health supported by the showing of films. It is hoped that this will be extended in the forthcoming year together with more foot inspections carried out by the chiropody service in schools.

The Dental Health Service in Birkenhead was engaged in dental health education by giving simple but effective demonstrations of "How to clean your teeth", to classes in Primary Schools. Each child in the entrance class of each school visited received a Dental Hygiene Kit consisting of a toothbrush, toothpaste and a beaker on which was inscribed a simple rhyme giving instructions on when a child should clean it's teeth. The three aims of this exercise were:- to dispel the fears of children that are associated with the dentist or the dental nurse, the present the child with it's own toothbrush kit, and to remind parents of the importance of dental hygiene.

Health Visitors are becoming increasingly engaged in more group health education activities in schools and this is appreciated by both children and teaching staff.

Leaflets and Posters

Leaflets on child health and a wide range of other health subjects were available free of charge from each of the clinics and health centres in Birkenhead. Comprehensive stocks of leaflets were maintained at the leaflet stores in the Health Department. It must be appreciated that the cost of production and purchasing of leaflets and particularly posters is extremely high and causes great strain on the health education budget allowance.

Posters are periodically sent out to schools, clinics, doctors' surgeries and occasionally for display on the hoardings.

Audio-Visual Aid Library

Constant use is made by staff in schools and colleges, and other members of the Department, of a comprehensive range of slides, film-strips, overhead projection transparencies, film loop cassettes, wall charts, flannelgraphs covering a wide range of subjects. There is a selection of health education films, but this will be enlarged as more finance becomes available. Films do become out of date and are very costly to replace.

Education for Personal Relationships

The Health Education Officer is a member of the Education for Personal Relationships Working Party and also meets with the school E.P.R. Co-ordinators, and as a result close liaison is maintained between the teaching staff involved in E.P.R. and the Health Education Unit.

SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHIROPODY SERVICE

Mr. G.C.H. Burns, Chief Chiropodist, has submitted the following report:-

The school chiropody service has had a very successful year. Demand for treatment has been very high and the response from parents, teachers and general practitioners most encouraging. Great interest is being shown in the scheme and we are currently providing sixty treatments per week.

With the consent of the Headteachers, it was possible to carry out a programme of school foot inspections on a much larger scale than we were able to do last year. I was delighted by the way in which the schools welcomed the service, physical educationalists have been most enthusiastic.

In general I feel that the majority of children have a reasonable standard of foot health. I do feel, however, that the general standard of children's footwear leaves a lot to be desired. In my opinion it is time a national standard was established to govern the quality and design of children's shoes. Such a standard would be a positive step towards an improvement in foot health.

The following table names the schools at which foot inspections were held and shows the number of children referred for treatment.

REPORT OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS IN BIRKENHEAD

<u>School</u>	<u>Number Inspected</u>	<u>Number of Infectious Conditions</u>
Fender Middle School	407	29
St. Laurence's R.C. Middle School	200	10
Woodchurch High School	890	36
Manor Middle School	329	10
St. Michael & All Angels School	300	11
St. Werburgh's R.C. Middle School	342	16
Conway Middle School	289	14
Mersey Park Middle School	240	11
The Woodlands Combined School	280	12
Oxton St. Saviour's School	281	2
Arrowe Hill Middle School	303	16
Manor Middle School	308	10
Fender Middle School	421	9
Birkenhead Institute High School	521	24
Hillside Middle School	398	9
Park High Lower School	468	28
Devonshire Park Combined School	277	6
Prenton High School	362	17
Noctorum High School	265	10
Bidston Avenue Middle School	318	6
St. Anne's Middle School	324	11
Overchurch Middle School	400	4
Cavendish Middle School	365	12
	<u>8,328</u>	<u>313</u>

It is important to note that the majority of these cases would have gone undiagnosed were it not for the provision of this service.

The total number of children who attended clinics in 1972 was 303, in 1973 the total was 494, an increase of 63%. The total number of treatments in the clinic in 1972 was 1396, in 1973 the total was 2320, an increase of 66%.

Foot Health Education

During the year talks on foot health were held at three schools. The talks included a film on foot care and I am pleasantly surprised to find that children showed considerable interest in the subject. I think that the health education aspect of the service is of value and it is hoped that it can be extended. The children's service is most important. Without doubt the best age to tackle foot health problems is in childhood. The expansion of this service is surely a sound investment in the foot health of future generations. I hope funds will be made available under the new Authority to provide a full children's service throughout the area of Wirral.

In conclusion, I should like to commend Miss S. Wood for her steady and conscientious work in building up the children's service.

REPORT OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS IN BIRKENHEAD

The Director of Education has submitted the following report:-

Physical activities have played a most important part in the curriculum of all the town's schools this year. Further courses for teachers have been held in "Movement", for staffs of Primary Schools in particular. A course in the teaching of games was conducted by a local college of education lecturer for the staffs of Middle Schools. Several of our teachers have recently attended courses in Physical Education conducted by the Wallasey Local Education Authority. Swimming, both in High and Middle Schools, has proved increasingly popular and by the time children leave Middle Schools most of them are able to swim.

Out of school activities have taken place as usual. In the Middle and Combined Schools great support has been given to the inter-schools leagues and raillies in football, cricket, rounders and netball. The Middle Schools' athletic meeting was as usual a resounding success and greatly supported.

Many activities have taken place in the Secondary Schools. The great event of the year was the holding of the National Athletic Championships at the Oval. Many key positions were filled very capably by Birkenhead teachers and close contact was maintained between the local Authority's officials and teachers to assist the Championships. Mr. R.E. May of Woodchurch High School was Chairman of the English Schools' Athletic Association and in this capacity had the honour of entertaining H.R.H. Princess Anne during the Championships. Birkenhead provided forty new hurdles for use at the games. One hundred and seventy-one Birkenhead teachers helped at the sports and considerable help was also given by parties of pupils.

The Secondary School boys and girls of the town displayed their usual energy and enthusiasm in taking part in county meetings in most sports, and several scholars represented the county in national meetings.

In this report, which covers the period prior to the formation of the new Wirral Authority, tribute must be paid to the great voluntary support given by Birkenhead teachers to school sporting activities throughout this and previous years. The officials of the Birkenhead Schools' Sports Associations deserve the highest praise for their great work.

SPEECH THERAPY REPORT, 1973

The present staff consists of one full-time and one part-time Speech Therapist. Children are offered treatment at Prenton, Ford Health Centre, the Children's Hospital, the Social Services Centre, Woodvale and Gilbrook Schools.

Abnormalities in the development of spoken language are referred by Health Visitors and School Doctors at an early age. This enables the Therapists to give treatment, counsel mothers and thus alleviate problems before school entry.

The co-operation of the Health and Education Services has been much appreciated and has facilitated the work of the Speech Therapist.

Discharges	46
Receiving Speech Therapy	38
Under Review	58
Waiting List	44

M E D I C A L I N S P E C T I O N R E T U R N S
Y E A R E N D E D 3 1 S T D E C E M B E R 1 9 7 3

M E D I C A L I N S P E C T I O N O F P U P I L S A T T E N D I N G
M A I N T A I N E D P R I M A R Y A N D S E C O N D A R Y S C H O O L S

P E R I O D I C M E D I C A L I N S P E C T I O N S

Age Groups inspected (By year of Birth)	Number of Pupils Inspected	PHYSICAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED		Number of Pupils found not to warrant a medical examination
		Satisfactory Number	Unsatisfactory Number	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1969 & later	98	97	1	-
1968	1,031	1,025	6	-
1967	839	836	3	-
1966	109	108	1	-
1965	57	54	3	1
1964	66	66	-	-
1963	89	87	2	-
1962	75	73	2	-
1961	317	316	1	1,072
1960	104	104	-	-
1959	-	-	-	-
1958 & earlier	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2,785	2,766	19	1,072

Column (3) total as a percentage of Column (2) total .. 99.32%
Column (4) total as a percentage of Column (2) total .. 00.68%

O R T H O P A E D I C A N D P O S T U R A L D E F E C T S

	Number of cases known to have been treated
(a) Pupils treated at Clinics or Out-Patients Departments	494
(b) Pupils treated at school for postural defects.	
TOTAL	494

CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT

	Number of cases known to have been treated
Pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinic	334

DISEASES OF THE SKIN (excluding uncleanliness)

	Number of cases known to have been treated
Ringworm - (a) Scalp:	-
(b) Body:	-
Scabies	71
Impetigo	27
Other Skin Diseases	22
TOTAL	120

SPEECH THERAPY

	Number of cases known to have been treated
Pupils treated by Speech Therapists	172

OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN

	Number of cases known to have been treated
(a) Pupils with minor ailments (attended Local Authority's Clinic)	301
(b) Pupils who received convalescent treatment under School Health Service arrangements	13
(c) Pupils who received B.C.G. Vaccination	2,989
(d) Other than (a) (b) and (c) above	
(i) Audiometry (sweep tests) in schools	2,684
(ii) Audiometry-Clinic tests by School Medical Officers	341
(iii) General Medical and Minor Ailments treated at Birkenhead Hospitals	556
TOTAL (a) - (d)	6,884

REGISTERED HANDICAPPED CHILDREN - SUMMARY OF PLACEMENT
(Position as at January, 1974)

	<u>Pupils</u>
<u>Categories (a) Blind and (b) Partially Sighted</u>	
St. Vincent's School, Liverpool	2
Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool	3
Holmrook School for Partially Sighted, Liverpool	1
Lickey Grange	1
<u>Categories (c) Deaf and (d) Partially Hearing</u>	
Royal School for the Deaf, Manchester	1
St. John's School for the Deaf, Boston Spa	1
School for Partially Hearing, Birkdale	3
Alice Elliott School, Liverpool	17
<u>Category (e) Educationally Subnormal</u>	
Pitt House School, Torquay	2
St. Christopher's School, Bristol	1
Pontville R.C. School, Ormskirk	4
Allerton Priory, Liverpool	7
Spring Hill School, Ripon	1
Crowthorn School, Bolton	6
Aldwark Manor, Kingston-upon-Hull	1
Hindley Hall, Gateshead	1
Beechwood School, Liverpool	1
The Woodlands, Deganwy	3
Northcliffe Day Special School (Lancs C.C.)	2
Woodvale Day Special School, Birkenhead	113
Autistic Unit, Woodvale School, Birkenhead	4
Autistic Unit, Neston, Wirral.	1
Moreton Cross Day Special School, Moreton	65
Gilbrook School, Birkenhead	27
Ravenswood School, Berks.	1
Ingsdon, Torquay	3
Massey Hall, Warrington	1
Sheiling Curative Schools, Bristol	1
Spastic School, Birkenhead	20
<u>Category (f) Epileptic</u>	
Maghull Homes for Epileptics, Maghull	3
David Lewis Homes, Alderley Edge	1
Soss Moss, Manchester	1
<u>Category (g) Maladjusted</u>	
Bryn Alyn Community, Wrexham	4
Larches House, Preston	1
St. Thomas More's School, East Allington	2
Shton Hall School, Shrewsbury	1
Clwyd Hall, Ruthin	8
House in the Sun, Tring	1
Gilbrook School, Birkenhead	26
Bank Hall School, Stockport	1
Burnt Norton, Market Drayton	1
<u>Categories (h) Physically Handicapped and (j) Delicate</u>	
Convalescent Home and School, West Kirby	6
Bethesda Home, Cheadle	1
Elleray Park Day Special School, Wallasey	23
Home of Recovery, Liverpool	1
Corfield Residential School, Coventry	1
St. Catherine's Venter, I.O.W.	1
Pinetree School, Moreton	2

RETURN OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

PART 1

Details of handicapped pupils requiring education at Special Schools, returned to the Department of Education and Science on Form 2M, an extract of which is reproduced.

New assessments and placements

During the calendar year ended 31st December, 1973:-		Blind	PS	Deaf	Pt.Hg.	PH	Del.	Mal.	ESN (M)	ESN (S)	Epil	Sp.Def.	Aut	TOTAL
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
A	How many handicapped children were newly assessed as needing special educational treatment at special schools or in boarding homes ?	Boys 2	-	1	1	5	2	24	17	10	-	-	1	63
		Girls 2	1	-	1	1	-	2	9	2	1	-	1	20
B	How many children were newly placed in special schools or boarding homes ?													
	(i) of those included at A above	Boys 1	-	1	1	2	1	8	4	4	-	-	1	23
		Girls 1	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	1	-	-	1	8
	(ii) of those assessed prior to January, 1973	Boys -	1	2	-	2	-	4	8	2	-	-	-	19
		Girls -	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	-	-	-	8
	(iii) TOTAL newly placed -	Boys 1	1	3	1	4	1	12	12	6	-	-	1	42
	(B(i) and (ii))	Girls 1	-	-	-	1	-	1	10	2	-	-	1	16

HANDICAPPED PUPILS AWAITING PLACEMENT (1-5 AND 14) AND RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION TREATMENT (6-12)

As at 17th January, 1974		Blind (1)	P.S. (2)	Deaf (3)	Pt.Hg. (4)	P.H. (5)	Del. (6)	Mel. (7)	ESM (M) (8)	ESM (S) (9)	Epil. (10)	Sp.Def. (11)	Aut (12)	TOTAL (13)
Awaiting places in special schools														
(1. waiting before 1st January, 1973)														
(a) Day Boys		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Boarding Boys		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Boarding Girls		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(2. newly assessed since 1st January, 1973)														
(a) Day Boys		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
(b) Boarding Boys		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Boarding Girls		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(3. waiting before 1st January, 1973)														
(a) Day Boys		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
(b) Boarding Boys		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
(c) Boarding Girls		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(4. newly assessed since 1st January, 1973)														
(a) Day Boys		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
(b) Boarding Boys		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
(c) Boarding Girls		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Total number of children awaiting admission to special schools. (1 to 4 above)														
(a) Day Boys		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	3	-	-	-	14
(b) Boarding Boys		-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	2	-	-	-	3
(c) Boarding Girls		1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	1	4
6. Maintained Special Schools including attached units and Hospital Special Schools														
(a) Day Boys		-	-	7	12	12	-	23	77	37	-	-	2	170
(b) Boarding Boys		-	-	3	8	11	-	3	53	28	-	-	2	108
(c) Boarding Girls		-	1	-	-	1	1	-	5	-	1	-	-	8
7. Non-maintained Special Schools including attached units and Hospital Special Schools														
(a) Day Boys		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
(b) Boarding Boys		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Boarding Girls		1	3	2	2	6	2	-	10	-	1	-	-	22
8. Independent schools under arrangements made by the Authority														
(a) Day Boys		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	12
(b) Boarding Boys		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	8
(c) Boarding Girls		-	-	-	-	-	-	16	5	1	-	-	-	22
		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	3

PART II (cont)

		Blind	P.S.	Deaf	Pt.Hg.	P.H.	Del.	Nal.	ESN (M)	ESN (S)	Epil.	Sp.Def.	Aut.	TOTAL
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
As at 17th January, 1974														
9. Special classes in ordinary schools (assume all day)	Boys Girls	- -	- -	- -	- -	3 6	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	3 6
10. Total on registers (6-9 above)	(a) Day (b) Boarding Boys Girls	1 -	- -	7 3	12 8	15 17	- -	23 3	77 53	49 36	- -	- -	2 2	196 122
11. Boarded in homes and not already included above	Boys Girls	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 -
12. Educated under arrangements made by (a) in hospitals the Authority in accordance with Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944.	Boys Girls	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	- -	- -	- -	1 1
(b) in other groups e.s. units for Spastics	Boys Girls	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
(c) at home	Boys Girls	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
13. Total number of handicapped children awaiting places in Special Schools: receiving education in Special Schools: Independent Schools: Special Classes and Units: under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944: and boarded in homes. Totals of 5, 10, 11 and 12.	Boys Girls	1 2	1 4	10 3	14 9	22 17	2 2	49 6	107 647	54 41	1 5	- -	3 2	263 155
14. Aged 5 years and over for whom no education is provided, included in 5 above	(a) at home (b) in hospitals and other places	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- 2	- 1	- -	- -	1 3

1973 ANNUAL REPORT

CHIEF DENTAL OFFICER

This year has seen a marked extension to the dental clinic facilities within Birkenhead. At the end of April, dental sessions were commenced at the new Ford and Rock Ferry Health Centres. Unfortunately, there was about six months delay between the closure of the old South Clinic and the opening of the Rock Ferry Health Centre, and this somewhat disrupted the dental services in that area of Birkenhead at the beginning of the year. However, by the August, the two-surgery dental suite at Rock Ferry was working at full capacity, both surgeries being in full time use. There was no doubt that the extended dental facilities were very much needed in this very busy area of Birkenhead. The dental clinic at the Ford Health Centre, which is a single surgery dental suite with facilities for further expansion should the need arise in the future, was also very much in need. This now provides dental facilities for the children in the Ford and Noctorum areas who previously had to travel to the Woodchurch Clinic. The clinics at both Ford and Rock Ferry are provided with modern equipment with all the facilities for a comprehensive dental service. I am most grateful for these improved facilities which should provide a considerable extension to Birkenhead's School Dental Service.

The staffing situation has remained stable during the year and there was little change in the Dental Officer and supporting team since the previous year. However, I am pleased to report that we were able to recruit a Dental Auxiliary in Mrs. Rachael Atkinson, who commenced her duties at the end of July. Since then, Mrs. Atkinson has been engaged in both clinical work and in dental health education. Mr. Nelson, Health Education Officer, and myself had decided that we should concentrate our efforts in dental health education on the younger age groups in the primary schools. Mrs. Atkinson has proved most valuable in this work, for she has shown considerable enthusiasm in visiting these young children, involving them in projects designed to give them an awareness of the importance of looking after their teeth. Visual aids and "dental hygiene kit" handouts were a prominent feature of these visits.

Apart from the recruitment of our Dental Auxiliary, I am also pleased to report that Establishment Committee approved an increase in the Dental Officer establishment during the year. It was felt that with the extended dental clinic facilities at Ford and Rock Ferry, the present establishment of five (whole-time equivalent) dental officers would be insufficient to man the six clinics (nine surgeries) now in use. However, at this very uncertain time of imminent reorganisation, it is unlikely that we shall be able to recruit a suitable dental officer to the new post. Every effort

A reference to the statistical tables will show that 8,349 children were dentally inspected at school, which, together with the 3,980 children inspected at the clinics, represents just over half the school population of Birkenhead; a figure similar to that of 1972 and a considerable increase on that of previous years. 79% of these children dentally inspected, were found to be in need of dental treatment; as in previous years this is a much higher figure than the national average (56%). 40% of the children offered treatment expressed the wish to obtain the treatment through the school dental service. This figure is showing a slight increase over the years. The figures relating to the amount of conservative dental treatment carried out in the year show a small increase on those for 1972. Over the last few years, there has been an increase in the amount of conservative dental treatment carried out in the service and this in itself is a quantitative measure of the progress that has been made. For example, there was a total of 12,650 "fillings" for the year, compared with 12,175 for 1972, 10,507 for 1971 and 9,793 for 1970. Another quantitative measure of progress is shown in the number of courses of dental treatment completed in the year, which totals 3,290 compared with 2,947 for 1972, 2,103 for 1971 and 1,553 for 1970. Unfortunately, the number of dental extractions and attendances for emergency dental treatment remain high. There is no indication that "toothache" amongst Birkenhead's school children is disappearing. Again and again we find that the children who attend the clinics for the relief of "toothache" are those, with few exceptions, who never attend for a course of dental treatment even though given every encouragement by us to do so.

In my last two annual reports, I have expressed concern over the high percentage of broken dental appointments in the service. In 1972 this was as high as 20%. I am pleased to report a drop to 18% for this year. Although this is a most welcome improvement, I cannot feel complacent about this, for that 18% represents far too much wasted time. The period of one year is not long enough to be able to assess the significance of this drop - but I am wondering if this could perhaps be the result of the improved dental facilities at Rock Ferry and Ford, bringing dental services nearer to many children. If this downward trend should continue, this would certainly strengthen that theory.

This concludes my seventh and final report since I was appointed to my post in July 1967. These years have been happy ones for me, for I have felt that I have had the strong support necessary in order to make any progress in the development of Birkenhead's School Dental Service. There is no doubt that considerable progress has been made, as I have indicated, and my grateful thanks must go to Dr. Nicholas and the Education and Health Committees, who have made this possible. Once again I wish to express my thanks to all those involved in the work of the dental section; The Dental Officers, Anaesthetists, Nursing and Clerical staff. I have no doubt that the work of this section will continue in the coming years but within the framework of the reorganised National Health Service. I hope that the level of progress can be sustained. However, I must stress what I consider to be most important for the future of the school dental service in this area - and that is the continued close liaison with the local Education Authority and this is bound to be somewhat more difficult in a service which is administratively divorced from that authority. I look to the future of the School Dental service in the area with a degree of anxiety - I hope this will prove to be unfounded.

DENTAL INSPECTIONS AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT
BY THE AUTHORITY

DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1973

ATTENDANCE AND TREATMENT

	Ages 5 to 9	Ages 10 to 14	Ages 15 & over	TOTAL
First visit	1,922	2,012	560	4,494
Subsequent visits	3,377	5,031	1,480	9,888
Total visits	5,299	7,043	2,040	14,382
Additional courses of treatment commenced	185	218	59	462
Total courses commenced	2,107	2,230	619	4,956
Courses completed	-	-	-	3,290
Fillings in permanent teeth	2,423	6,032	2,229	10,684
Fillings in deciduous teeth	1,773	193	-	1,966
Permanent teeth filled	1,646	4,692	1,853	8,191
Deciduous teeth filled	1,542	177	-	1,719
Permanent teeth extracted	249	808	324	1,381
Deciduous teeth extracted	2,984	962	-	3,946
General anaesthetics	1,020	658	126	1,804
Emergencies	616	415	123	1,154

Number of pupils x-rayed
Prophylaxis
Teeth otherwise conserved
Teeth root filled
Inlays
Crowns

343
2,187
59
17
-
20

ORTHODONTICS

New cases commenced during the year
Cases completed during the year
Cases discontinued during the year
Number of removable appliances fitted
Number of fixed appliances fitted
Number of pupils referred to
Hospital Consultants

90
68
8
135
1
-

ANAESTHETICS

General Anaesthetics administered
by Dental Officer

-

DENTURES

Number of pupils fitted with dentures for the first time:-

- (a) with full denture
- (b) with other dentures

Number of dentures supplied (first or subsequent time)

Ages 5 to 9	Ages 10 to 14	Ages 15 & over	TOTAL
-	-	1	1
5	16	22	43
8	30	37	75

SESSIONS

- Dental Officers (incl. PSDO)
- Dental Auxiliaries
- Dental Hygienists

Adminis- trative sessions	Number of clinical sessions worked in the year					Total Sessions
	School Service			M & CH Service		
	Inspec- tion at School	Treat- ment	Dental Health Educa- tion	Treat- ment	Dental Health Educa- tion	
95	85	1887	1	147	-	2215
-	-	157	23	7	-	187
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

