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The Urban District Council  
A.  
of Mold

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ANNUAL  
HEALTH REPORT  
For 1962

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Medical Officer of Health :

D. J. FRASER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

C. R. CRESSWELL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.H.E.

Edwards, Printers, Mold.



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## MOLD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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To the Chairman and Members.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Report on the health of the District, together with the Report of the Public Health Inspector, for the year ended 31st December, 1962.

There were 143 live births, 11 more than in 1961, giving a birth rate higher than that for England and Wales.

Still births totalled 2, compared with 3 in 1961. Deaths numbered 75, 24 fewer than in the previous year. The leading causes of death were again circulatory diseases and cancer. Table IV gives an analysis of the causes of death. Once again there were no deaths associated with pregnancy and childbirth.

There were 6 deaths of infants under a year old, compared with 4 in 1961.

During the year there was only 1 notification of infectious disease (excluding tuberculosis). There were no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria. 3 new cases of tuberculosis were reported. There were no deaths from this complaint.

The Mass Radiography Unit continued to visit Mold every three weeks. 670 persons were examined during the year.

B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis continued and 72 children in local schools were protected.

Poliomyelitis vaccination continued, the local acceptance rate being very high.

I commend to you the Report of the Public Health Inspector. This deals with the large mass of day to day work which is carried out in a Health Department.

I wish to thank the Council and the Officers for the help which has been freely given throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. J. FRASER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Town Hall,

Earl Road, Mold.

Telephone—Mold 176 (Office), Mold 316 (Home).

## VITAL STATISTICS, 1962.

Population : Registrar General's estimate at mid-year	...	...	...	...	7,000
Census, 1961	...	...	...	...	6,857
Live Births :					
Number	...	...	...	...	143
Rate per 1000 population	...	...	...	...	20.42
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births					4.19
Still Births :					
Number	...	...	...	...	2
Rate per 1000 total live births and still births	...				13.79
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	145
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	6
Infant Mortality Rate :					
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	...				41.95
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	36.49
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	166.66
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	...			...	13.98
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	...	...		...	13.98
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	...	...	...	...	27.58
Maternal mortality (including abortion) :					
Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	—
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	...			...	—
Deaths (from all causes)	...	...	...	...	75

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING CHIEF INDUSTRIES.

There has been no change in the area under this heading during the year under review.

Area in acres—1160 statutory acres.

Population (Census 1961)—6857.

Number of inhabited houses—2,117.

Rateable Value—£79,945.

Product of a penny rate—£333.



The various vital statistics are listed below in tabular form. For the purposes of comparison, figures for last year are given and, where appropriate, the rates for England and Wales as a whole.

TABLE I.

## Live Births.

		Males.		Females.		Total.
Legitimate	...	69	...	68	...	137
Illegitimate	...	3	...	3	...	6
		—		—		—
Total	...	72		71		143
		—		—		—

## Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1956—15.22

1957—14.65

1958—20.00

1959—17.51

1960—18.62

1961—19.29

1962—20.42

## England and Wales : Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1956—15.7

1957—16.1

1958—16.4

1959—16.5

1960—17.1

1961—17.4

1962—18.0

These figures show a rise in the local birth rate. There were 143 live births, compared with 132 in 1961.

The Registrar General's "Comparability Factor" being 1.01, the corrected birth rate is 20.62 per 1000 population.

TABLE II. Still Births.

		Males.		Females.		Total.
Legitimate	...	1	...	1	...	2
Illegitimate	...	—	...	—	...	—
		—		—		—
Total	...	1		1		2
		—		—		—

**Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births :—**

1956—56.60
1957—30.30
1958—36.49
1959—48.78
1960—45.80
1961—22.22
1962—13.79

**Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population :—**

1956—0.91
1957—0.45
1958—0.75
1959—0.89
1960—0.89
1961—0.43
1962—0.28

**England and Wales : Still Birth Rate per 1,000  
Live and Still Births :—**

1956—23.0
1957—22.4
1958—16.4
1959—20.7
1960—19.7
1961—18.7
1962—18.1

There were 2 still births in 1962 compared with 3 in 1961, 6 in 1960, 6 in 1959 and 5 in 1958.

**TABLE III. Death (General) Rate :—**

All ages (all causes)—Males 37, Females 38, Total 75, compared with 99 in 1961, 84 in 1960 and 82 in 1959.

**Death Rate per 1,000 Population :—**

1956—12.48
1957—10.22
1958—13.48
1959—12.27
1960—12.51
1961—14.47
1962—10.71

England and Wales : Death Rate per 1,000 Population :—

1956—11.7

1957—11.5

1958—11.7

1959—11.6

1960—11.5

1961—12.0

1962—11.9

There has been a fall in the crude death rate for the Mold Urban District. The rate for England and Wales was 11.9. The rate for Mold is lower than that for England and Wales as a whole. There were 75 deaths.

TABLE IV. Deaths (General) Analysis.

Causes.		M.	F.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Population.	
Cancer of stomach	...	—	1	1	...	0.14
Cancer of lung, bronchus	...	1	1	2	...	0.28
Cancer of breast	...	—	1	1	...	0.14
Cancer of other organs	...	—	5	5	...	0.71
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	7	13	20	...	2.85
Coronary disease, angina	...	9	2	11	...	1.56
Hypertension with heart disease	...	1	1	2	...	0.28
Other heart disease	...	4	4	8	...	1.14
Other circulatory disease	...	1	—	1	...	0.14
Bronchitis	...	4	—	4	...	0.57
Pneumonia	...	3	2	5	...	0.71
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	—	—	—	...	—
Congenital malformations	...	1	—	1	...	0.14
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	2	5	7	...	1.00
Motor vehicle accidents	...	—	—	—	...	—
All other accidents	...	1	1	2	...	0.28
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	—	—	—	...	—
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	...	1	—	1	...	0.14
Influenza	...	1	—	1	...	0.14
Other respiratory diseases	...	1	—	1	...	0.14
Respiratory tuberculosis	...	—	—	—	...	—
Leukaemia	...	—	—	—	...	—
Diabetes	...	—	1	1	...	0.14
Suicide	...	—	—	—	...	—
Nephritis, nephrosis	...	—	1	1	...	0.14
Total	...	37	38	75	...	...



From this table it is seen that the leading causes of death are circulatory diseases with 42 deaths and cancer in one form or another with 9 deaths. There were no deaths from tuberculosis. Bronchitis caused 4 deaths, pneumonia 5, accidents 2, influenza 1.

**TABLE V. Deaths (Childbirth)—Nil.**

There were no deaths attributable to pregnancy or childbirth.

**TABLE VI. Death Rate (Infantile)—that is, infants under one year old :—**

		Males.		Females.		Total.
Legitimate	...	3	...	2	...	5
Illegitimate	...	—	...	1	...	1
		—		—		—
Total	...	3		3		6
		—		—		—

**Infantile Death Rate of Legitimate babies per 1,000**

**Legitimate Births :—**

1955—31.57  
 1956—50.50  
 1957—32.25  
 1958—16.52  
 1959—17.63  
 1960—24.79  
 1961—32.00  
 1962—36.49

**Infantile Death Rate of Illegitimate babies per 1,000**

**Illegitimate Births :—**

1955—Nil  
 1956—Nil  
 1957—Nil  
 1958—Nil  
 1959—Nil  
 1960—Nil  
 1961—Nil  
 1962—166.66

**Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births (Legitimate and Illegitimate) :—**

1955—	30.30
1956—	50.00
1957—	31.25
1958—	15.15
1959—	17.09
1960—	24.00
1961—	30.30
1962—	41.95

**England and Wales : Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births :—**

1955—	24.9
1956—	23.8
1957—	23.0
1958—	22.5
1959—	22.0
1960—	21.7
1961—	21.4
1962—	21.6

There were 6 deaths of infants under one year old, compared with 4 in 1961.

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

**Officers**—The other Officers serving the Urban District during the year were :—

**Clerk**—E. H. Rees, A.I.M.T.A.

**Treasurer**—R. Gregory.

**Surveyor**—A. Hughes, M.A.P.H.I.

**Laboratory Facilities**—Provided by the Public Health Laboratories at Conway and Chester, and the Public Analyst, Chester.

**Ambulance Services**—Provided by the Flintshire County Council. Ambulances are stationed within the Urban Area on a 24-hour service.

**Midwifery and Home Nursing Services** are provided by the County Council. Two District Nurse/Midwives reside in the area.

**Home Help**—This service is provided by the County Council. Persons requiring home help should get in touch with the Home Help Organiser at the County Health Department or with the Medical Officer of Health.



**Tuberculosis.**

Clinics—"Oaklands," Chester Road, Queensferry; Wednesdays at 9-30 a.m. The Clinic, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham; Mondays at 9-30 a.m.

**Ante-Natal Clinics.**

The Clinic, Mold. First and third Mondays of the month at 9-30 a.m.

**School Clinic.**

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. Wednesdays at 9-30 a.m.

**Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation.**

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. First Friday of each month, 2 to 4 p.m.

**B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis.**

This is done in the schools and at Chest Clinics.

**Dental Clinic.**

School children and expectant mothers are treated at the Clinic, King Street, Mold, by appointment.

**Orthopaedic Clinic.**

Shotton—New Clinic, Central School. First and third Wednesdays of each month at 10 a.m., and at Wrexham and Holywell.

**Infant Welfare.**

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. Wednesdays at 1-30 p.m.

**Ophthalmic Clinic.**

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. The second and fourth Mondays of the month at 1-30 p.m. (by appointment).

**Speech Therapy Clinic.**

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

**Health Visiting.**

Health Visitor/School Nurses are provided by the County Council. These Nurses visit children in their homes up to school age, and attend at the Infant Welfare Clinic sessions.

**Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.**

This service is maintained by close liaison between the Medical Officer, Health Visitor/School Nurses, Tuberculosis Health Visitors, Home Help Organiser, the Welfare Depart-



ment, the County Health Department, and voluntary bodies, including associations caring for the blind and deaf, and those otherwise handicapped.

**Vaccination** is carried out by general medical practitioners, but it may be done by the Medical Officer on request.

**National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47).** (Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention).

No cases were dealt with under this heading during the year, but several cases were visited in this connection.

### Hospitals.

Hospital accommodation is provided by the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee. Mold Cottage Hospital remains in use and provides services for local residents. Patients are admitted to other hospitals in the district, mainly in Wrexham and Chester. The provision of out-patient facilities at Mold is much appreciated by local residents.

### Prevalence and control of Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis), 1962.

TABLE VII.

Diseases.	Cases notified.		Deaths notified.
Scarlet Fever	...	— (1)	—
Whooping Cough	...	— (0)	—
Measles	...	— (1)	—
Acute Pneumonia	...	— (0)	5
Meningitis	...	— (0)	—
Erysipelas	...	— (0)	—
Poliomyelitis	...	— (0)	—
Dysentery	...	— (1)	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	— (0)	—
Food Poisoning	...	1 (0)	—
Total	...	1 (3)	5

Figures in brackets are those for 1961.

The case of food poisoning was in a visitor who fell ill upon arrival in Mold. He had had a meal during the journey. He was admitted to hospital and rapidly recovered. There were no further cases.

TABLE VIII.

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases. The figures shown in column 1 of the previous table are analysed in age groups below.

Disease.	Under 1.	2-3.	10-14.	15-24.	25 & over.	Age unknown.
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	1	—

There were no cases of infantile paralysis (poliomyelitis). There were no cases of diphtheria and no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year. Influenza of a mild type was prevalent in the spring causing one death. Combined vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus is now available. Most mothers now have their children protected. Chickenpox was prevalent amongst the younger children.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

##### New cases notified during 1962.

Age Groups.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Total.
Under 5 years	...	—	...
5-14 years	...	1	1
15-24 „	...	—	...
25-44 „	...	1	1
45-64 „	1	...	1
65 and over	...	—	...
	—	—	—
All ages	1	2	3

It will be seen that the notifications of new pulmonary cases numbered 1 and non-respiratory cases 2, compared with 6 in 1961. There were no deaths from tuberculosis. Of the new cases, 2 were males and 1 a female. All these patients visited the Chest Clinics and were supervised at home by the Health Visitors. One of the cases was found during medical inspection of children at a local school. He made a good recovery.



### **Mass X-Ray Surveys.**

It was decided in 1957 to have regular visits by the Semi-Static Mass X-Ray Unit, the Unit being stationed at the County Hall Field for one whole day every three weeks. This new system began operating in July, 1957, and results have been satisfactory. Adults and children of thirteen years and over can attend, with or without a doctor's letter, and this procedure has continued since. 670 persons were examined during the year—an average of 45 persons per visit of the Unit. 10 persons were referred to Chest Clinics and 9 others were found to have chest abnormalities.

In addition to the above programme, the Mass X-Ray Unit continues to visit schools, factories and other works in the County.

### **B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis.**

This service continued during 1962. Vaccination is offered to all suitable secondary school pupils between 12 and 14 years. The children are "skin-tested" in school, and those with a negative reaction are given the necessary single injection. At Mold Grammar School 142 were tested and 32 received the injection. At Ysgol Daniel Owen (Mold Secondary Modern School) 116 were tested and 40 had the injection.

### **Anti-Poliomyelitis Vaccination.**

During 1962 vaccination against poliomyelitis continued. In the County as a whole, by the end of 1962 50,296 persons had had three injections. At the end of the year 74 per cent. of children under 15 years had been vaccinated, and 50 per cent. of persons between 15 and 40 years of age.

In February, 1962, the Sabin vaccine—a live vaccine given by mouth—was introduced at Mold Clinic. By the end of 1962, 1,768 persons had received the Sabin vaccine, the majority being infants under one year and children up to 15 years.



## REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the year changes were made in the office accommodation which improved working conditions in some respects. In June the Council appointed Mr. I. W. Price as Pupil Public Health Inspector and as he gradually learns more of public health work his assistance could be most helpful. At the same time as this appointment, it was decided that the typing of letters, reports, notices, etc., should be done by the staff of the Clerk of the Council, whilst all filing, time-sheets, accounts, recoverable works, etc., should be carried out by Mr. Price and myself. This arrangement has not worked entirely satisfactorily and it is hoped that the Council will be able to review these arrangements next year, particularly as Mr. Price will be attending a diploma course and his services will therefore be lost for two days per week.

In August it was reported to the Committee that the supervision of the outside staff was unsatisfactory, and detailed instances of when things had gone awry were quoted. The taking of remedial action was however deferred and the position had not changed at the end of the year.

Not all the progress and improvements that it had been hoped to achieve in the year were realised. As the report indicates however a beginning has been made in new fields so far as Mold is concerned, whilst the day to day routine work and inspections have produced results which, if not spectacular, must assist in improving the health of the public of Mold.

### Type and Number of Inspections.

Public Health Acts	...	...	...	312
Housing Acts	...	...	...	149
Food and Drugs Act and Hygiene Regulations	...	...	...	228
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	178
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	156
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	15
Meat Inspection (at slaughterhouses)	...	...	...	476
Meat Inspection (at butchers' shops)	...	...	...	2

Public Conveniences	...	...	...	93
P.M. Room and Mortuary	...	...	...	55
Clean Air Act	...	...	...	1013
Street Stalls	...	...	...	36
Street Scavenging	...	...	...	28
Litter	...	...	...	6
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	52
Improvement Loans	...	...	...	4
Water Supply	...	...	...	90
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	318
Petroleum Acts and Regulations	...	...	...	9
Factories	...	...	...	99
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	1
Milk and Dairies Regulations	...	...	...	4
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	33
Drainage	...	...	...	49
Home Safety	...	...	...	2

#### Notices Served.

##### Formal :

Housing Act, 1957—

Section 9	...	...	...	1
Section 170	...	...	...	2

Public Health Act, 1936—

Section 25	...	...	...	2
Section 39	...	...	...	3
Section 45	...	...	...	2
Section 75	...	...	...	23
Section 93	...	...	...	5

##### Informal :

Housing Act, 1957—

Section 9	...	...	...	1
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Public Health Act, 1936—

Section 39	...	...	...	4
Section 45	...	...	...	11
Section 65	...	...	...	1
Section 75	...	...	...	23
Section 93	...	...	...	1

Section 138 (as amended by  
Section 30, Water Act, 1945) ... 1

Clean Air Act, 1956 ... 9

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 21

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 ... 2

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928 ... 14



### Water Supply.

The water supply to Mold is provided by the Wales Gas Board and during the winter months comes more or less entirely from the Brithdir Mawr reservoir which was built in 1894 and has a capacity of only 8,000,000 gallons. This reservoir is totally inadequate in spring, summer and autumn unless the weather is exceptionally wet. The bulk of Mold water has therefore to be obtained from the Birkenhead supply. It was not necessary to cut off the supply to the whole or part of the district because of water shortage during the year.

Many of the water mains are over sixty years old, badly encrusted and in need of renewal. Others of steel are between thirty-five and forty-five years old and again renewal is urgent. The age and condition of the mains does at times lead to fractures which, in turn, means temporary disruption of the supply to sections of the town and the possibility of contamination to the water. The arrangements for warning the public before cutting off the water supply have undoubtedly improved and only one complaint in this respect was received during the year.

Chlorination of the Brithdir Mawr water is carried out immediately it leaves the reservoir but as there is a service reservoir (capacity 800,000 gallons) at Gwernymynydd and houses in the locality are supplied from this point, by the time the water reaches Mold there is little or no free chlorine in it. The supply has been tested on numerous occasions in various parts of the town using a chloroscope, but I have always failed to find free chlorine. Apparently chloramination was carried out at one time but due to the expense and difficulty with the special fittings and connections required it was discontinued. I realise that chloramination may be looked upon as out-dated, and that time is required in order for it to provide a safe water, but suggest that on public health grounds, in our position, it is infinitely superior to chlorination.

The large number of ball fire hydrants are still in use in the town, but at long last our representations have had some effect and a promise was received that they would be replaced during the current financial year.



No bacteriological examination of the raw water in the reservoir were made to my knowledge, but the twenty-four samples taken from the main supply were all reported as satisfactory by the Public Health Laboratory.

One chemical sample of the mains water was reported upon by the Public Analyst as follows:—

Appearance	...	clear and colourless	
Odour	...	...	—
Reaction, pH	...	...	6.5
			parts per million
Total solids	...	...	101
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	...	...	0.00
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	...	...	0.00
Nitrogen as nitrates	...	...	—
Nitrogen as nitrates	...	...	0.5
Chlorides as Cl	...	...	18
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27 deg. C	...	...	1.12
Total hardness	...	...	33
Temporary hardness	...	...	22
Permanent hardness	...	...	11
Alkalinity	...	...	22
Free chlorine	...	...	—
Poisonous metals	...	...	—
Potassium as K	...	...	0.4
Anionic synthetic detergents	...	...	—

The amount of water supplied to the Mold Urban District during the year amounted to 197,359,000 gallons, or approximately 42 gallons per person per day. Only seven houses are without an internal water supply and have to rely on stand-pipes. The properties should be demolished during 1963.

#### Offices Act, 1960.

As reported last year no Regulations have been made under this Act and therefore it has not been possible to make any progress in improving office accommodation generally.

So far as our own facilities are concerned the sanitary accommodation for the staff and persons using the Lecture Room has not changed and the same conveniences have to be used by both sexes. Similarly the artificial lighting to some of the offices is still a long way from what can be considered reasonable.

### **Post-Mortem Room and Mortuary.**

The conversion of one of the Chapels at the Cemetery into a Post-Mortem Room and Mortuary was completed early in August. Byelaws were approved, and charges introduced when the accommodation is used for the bodies of persons who resided outside Mold Urban District. A charge of £2/0/0 is made for the use of the Post-Mortem Room and 10/- for the Mortuary. As a temporary measure the Sexton, who lives nearby, was appointed as Caretaker on a part-time basis, and this arrangement has worked successfully to date.

From the opening on 8th August until the end of the year there were fourteen post-mortems carried out and the Mortuary was used on two occasions.

The Coroner, Pathologists and Undertakers have all expressed their approval of the new accommodation. At long last we have eliminated one of Mold's faults, the old Mortuary, and provided something which can be compared with advantage to any similar accommodation in the County.

### **Food and Drugs Administration.**

The routine inspection of food premises has continued and many premises have been modernised or improved to comply with legislation. Mold has a large number of shops selling food for the area and population and it is a long slow job to carry out the inspections required and to get all the necessary improvements carried out.

A complaint was received in February that a packet of butter purchased from a Mold shop contained a piece of wood. The butter was obtained pre-packed from a large wholesale firm in Liverpool and as the Liverpool Public Health Inspector reported that the premises of this Company were in excellent condition and every possible care was taken to ensure a clean product, the Council decided to send a warning letter.



In September a local shopkeeper selling cream asked for advice as he was worried that the cream had at times a slightly bitter taste and a few complaints had been received from members of the public. The Analyst subsequently reported the presence of copper in the cream, probably coming from a copper cooler where the tin lining had become damaged or worn. The cream was withdrawn from sale immediately and the Public Health Inspectors to the Food and Drugs Authority and the neighbouring rural district, where the cream was produced, were given all the facts.

A sample of boiled ham purchased in Mold appeared to be contaminated with particles of glass and the ham was withdrawn from sale until we could get a sample analysed. After a little delay the Analyst reported that the crystals in the ham were of struvite, a naturally occurring magnesium ammonium phosphate not often found in tinned ham. This report enabled the shop to start selling the ham again much to the relief of those concerned.

A pint bottle of milk supplied to a Mold house from a dairy outside the area was subsequently found to contain a snail. After carefully looking into all the circumstances the Council decided to send a warning letter to the dealers, reminding them of their obligations and should anything similar come to their notice again proceedings would be instituted without fail.

Forty premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, to sell ice cream but only one firm in Mold manufacture their own product. Eight samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, two from large scale firms manufacturing outside Mold Urban District and six from our one and only producer. The results from the large manufacturer were Grade 1. The first two samples collected from our local producer, however, were graded as 4 and 3, but immediate inspections and suggestions about the use of detergent sterilisers, etc., brought a run of four Grade 1 samples before production ceased for the winter months. Undoubtedly, vehicles from which ice cream is sold are most important particularly with the introduction of soft ice cream. It is, however, suprisingly difficult to find these vans at times which samples can be transported to the Public Health Laboratory. More efforts will be made in this direction in 1963.



Five premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale in accordance with Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Fourteen samples of sausage or sausage meat were taken for bacteriological analysis, seven were found to contain faecal coli but thorough inspections and education have produced improved results. There still remains a lot of work in this field but it is mostly a matter of education and therefore slow, taking up a great deal of time. In general, short talks to small groups of food handlers on food hygiene appears to do more good than organising exhibitions.

The School Meals Organiser was recommended to ask the Cook in charge of each School Kitchen to keep a sample meal each day for 24 hours. In the event of any outbreak of food poisoning a great deal of time and possible illness could be saved. This recommendation was made after numerous complaints from school children that the meat they were being given had a peculiar taste. Bacteriological and chemical analyses failed to reveal anything out of the ordinary, and the Inspector at the slaughterhouse from which the meat had come was satisfied that there was no medicine taint.

The following foods were found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered :—

Pears	...	...	...	43 tins
Apricots	...	...	...	26 tins
Pineapple	...	...	...	28 tins
Grapefruit	...	...	...	30 tins
Peaches	...	...	...	68 tins
Oranges	...	...	...	7 tins
Fruit Cocktail	...	...	...	14 tins
Fruit Juice	...	...	...	23 tins
Soup	...	...	...	24 tins
Peas	...	...	...	36 tins
Beans	...	...	...	46 tins
Tomatoes	...	...	...	64 tins
Salmon	...	...	...	24 tins
Corned Beef	...	...	...	15 tins
Jam	...	...	...	10 tins
Steak	...	...	...	4 tins
Ox Tongues	...	...	...	1 tin
Sardines	...	...	...	14 tins

Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	7 tins
Rice Pudding	...	...	...	16 tins
Milk	...	...	...	24 tins
Plaice Fillets	...	...	...	3 stone
Kippers	...	...	...	8 stone
Cod Fillets	...	...	...	2½ stone
Haddock Fillets	...	...	...	2 stone
Pork	...	...	...	2 legs
Pork	...	...	...	2 shoulders
Grapes	...	...	...	20 lbs.

### **Milk and Dairies.**

One new dairy was brought into use during the year, the premises were satisfactory on inspection and accordingly registered under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

### **Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.**

Only one of the two slaughterhouses which were originally to remain in operation was in fact put in order and has functioned all year through. Hygienic standards have not always been as high as could be reached and on quite a few occasions it has been necessary to remind the occupier of his obligations.

Sunday and Bank Holiday slaughtering still remains the biggest problem and one can only hope that the new Regulations governing meat inspection will provide an opportunity to limit the slaughtering carried on outside normal working hours.

For the second year no cattle were found infected with tuberculosis but twelve cases of cysticercus bovis were found, the carcasses being put into cold storage for three weeks.

The absence of tuberculosis confirms the success of the Government's animal health policy but unfortunately little or no progress is being made in eradicating bovine cysticercosis. In conjunction with the Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, attempts are being made to trace back animals found to be affected, but to date no animals appear to have come from the same farm. Notification to the Ministry of hydatid cysts in food animals is still being made, but no report has been issued to my knowledge, as to whether progress is being made in getting rid of this parasite so particularly dangerous to man.



	Cattle excluding Cows.			Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.			Pigs.	
Number killed	...	696	...	45	...	11	...	5581	...	1563
Number inspected	...	696	...	45	...	11	...	5581	...	1563
All diseases except tuberculosis :										
Whole carcasses condemned	...	3	...	—	...	2	...	1	...	—
Part carcasses or offal condemned	...	46	...	10	...	4	...	56	...	21
Percentage affected with disease other than tuberculosis	...	7.04		22.22	...	36.4	...	1.00	...	1.34
Tuberculosis only :										
Whole carcasses condemned	...			—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Part carcass or offal condemned	...			—	...	—	...	—	...	30
Percentage affected with tuberculosis	...			—	...	—	...	—	...	1.91
Cysticercus Bovis :										
Whole carcasses condemned	...			—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Part carcass or offal condemned	...	10	...	2	...	—	...	—	...	—
Percentage affected with cysticercus bovis	...	1.44	...	4.44	...	—	...	—	...	—

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

Licences were granted to eleven persons permitting them to slaughter animals in a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard.

### Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

No complaints were made of excessive noise and in consequence no visits or action were necessary under the Act. It is doubtful whether the public are aware of the new powers given to the Council, but no doubt this knowledge will gradually spread, particularly people working shifts will ask for help in getting noise reduced.

### **Radiological Health and Safety.**

Towards the end of the year I attended a course, held partly in Liverpool and partly at the Flintshire Technical College on Radiological Health and Safety. I learned a great deal about nuclear physics, but the value of the course to the Council and myself was simply not worth the upset and overtime caused in order to attend every lecture.

This is in no way a reflection on the Flintshire Technical College or the Liverpool College of Technology, both of whom went to a great deal of trouble preparing and arranging the syllabus and Course. The rôle of a Public Health Inspector in radiation and health appears to be vague or non-existent, and I personally feel that much more value could have been gained from a course on a subject such as bacteriology.

The Council decided to ask the Ministry, in view of their Circular recommending the training of Public Health Staff on radiation and health, what rôle they envisage the Public Health Inspector playing. No reply had been received by the end of the year.

### **Shops Act, 1950.**

The Council are the authority for enforcing the provisions of the Shops Act relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary accommodation. The shops visited during the year all sold food or drink and were inspected for the above provisions along with other matters.

### **Home Safety Act, 1961.**

Two B.S.S. Nursery Fireguards are on show in the Mold Clinic in an attempt to get mothers to realise the importance of using a well designed guard.

The Health Committee considered publishing a handbook on Home Safety, the cost being paid for by advertisers. These booklets are attractively designed, do a good job, and do not require more advertisers than are normally obtained for the Town Guide. Unfortunately the local Chamber of Trade gave the idea a lukewarm reception when we asked for support. The press report of the meeting of the Chamber when the idea was discussed quoted one member as saying that so many booklets of this type were circulating and that one more would be superfluous: a second, that in many houses this type of magazine would just be thrown away.



In the last eight years I have not seen any Home Safety booklets of this type published in Mold so I doubt if one in eight years could be considered many. Advertisers always seem to be forthcoming for a Guide, primarily circulated to persons outside Mold, whilst a booklet to be given out to Mold people could not get support from local traders.

The general public still do not realise that there are more accidents in the home than on the road, and that the problem requires just as urgent attention if we are to make much headway in reducing the number of people hurt and maimed.

#### **Litter Act, 1958.**

Over fifty litter bins are sited in various parts of the town. Approximately thirty of these bins are the Council's own property, the remainder are provided by a firm who pay the Council for the privilege of putting advertisement plates on the receptacles.

Two street stallholders were successfully prosecuted under the Act for leaving a quantity of refuse in High Street after the Wednesday Market.

#### **Scavenging.**

Street sweeping is carried out partly by mechanical means and partly by hand. The mechanical sweeper from Holywell U.D.C. is hired for one full day per week. This machine sweeps all the County and Trunk Roads and approximately a third of the District Roads each week. Two men are engaged full time on hand sweeping and have been provided with modern up-to-date street orderlies.

These facilities and men keep the town centre and the immediate outskirts fairly clean but the fringes of the town could do with more attention. This, however, is mainly a matter of finance.

#### **Disinfestation.**

The first house found to be infected with bed bugs since 1955 came to light this year. It was thoroughly treated with Gammexane and at a later inspection no bugs could be found.

The larvae of the wood beetle continues to spread and presumably as it has no direct bearing on human health there is little concerted effort to deal with it effectively. Experiments in two isolated cases with alder blocks has proved to my satisfaction that this could provide the answer to an owner/occupier who was prepared to go to a bit of trouble to keep his house free from wood beetle. This method however would not be effective in tenanted houses unless one could ensure 100 % co-operation from every tenant.

### **Street Market.**

The street market has once again proved extremely popular with both the public and stallholders with a further increase in Saturday business in addition to the more traditional Wednesday market. The two stallholders selling food other than greengrocery were asked to stop, as it was thought that the facilities available were inadequate although the food being sold was wrapped.

### **Pet Animals Act, 1951.**

One shop is licensed under this Act and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

### **Refuse Collection.**

The weekly system of collection was maintained except during periods of very bad weather. Bank Holidays were made up for by the staff working over before and after the holidays.

One eighteen cubic yard Karrier rear loader with a dual tipper and diesel engine is manned by a driver and four loaders. This gang are on refuse collection full-time and as a type of incentive, whenever one of the loaders is away through sickness or holidays, the remainder complete the round and share the missing man's pay for the period between them. The second lorry is manned by a driver and two loaders for two days per week collecting shop refuse, and then spends a further day, assisted by a third loader, collecting house refuse. This vehicle is a six years old petrol-driven Karrier, seven cubic yard side-loader, which continues to give the Council good service largely due to the interest the particular driver takes in maintaining the vehicle well.



The time spent on collection by the second vehicle is certain to increase gradually each year as the total number of properties within the district increases. Unfortunately, the time has not been opportune to re-introduce the incentive bonus scheme, but as the outdoor staff have remained unchanged all the year and the work has proceeded reasonably smoothly, the workmen are presumably not too unhappy with their lot.

Further thought has not been given by the Committee to the possibility of introducing paper sacks for refuse collection in lieu of dustbins. Both household incinerators which can be operated smokelessly and garbage grinders or macerators are both making strides forward in design and price reduction and the future of refuse collection may possibly lie between one of these two methods. I did see one small Macerator in action during the year and was impressed by its capabilities, but thought that it was too expensive at present to consider introducing even on a pilot scheme basis. It appears to be a time to sit on the fence until each of the various methods of collecting household refuse has been developed further and reached the limit of their capabilities.

In November the Council accepted a scheme for charging for the collection of trade refuse. Each year the District Auditor had raised this question but to date it has been possible to satisfy him that the cost of administering any scheme would outweigh possible income. However, the advent of the new and large stores into the town has increased the quantity of trade refuse enormously. Some of the managers of these new stores have been persuaded to move their own refuse, either to premises outside the district or to our own tip. This, of course, works unfairly in that it costs the Council a lot of money to remove refuse from one premises whilst another carrying on an identical type of business removes his own without cost to the town.

Some people have had the impression that as a lot of the trade refuse collected consists of waste paper and cardboard, which is sold to a merchant outside the area, the Council are making a profit out of them. It does however cost more to transport the material to this merchant's premises than to our own tip, and on balance there is no financial gain. In any event, at present the salvage market in the area is dead and shows little signs of revival.



The scheme accepted and to be put into operation next year involves notifying all traders that it has been decided to introduce a charge of 9d. per bin for the removal of trade refuse and that any trader desiring his refuse removed can come to the office and purchase a book of tickets. Each ticket will be worth 9d. and the number of tickets given to the driver will correspond to the amount of refuse. The driver will later hand in the tickets he has collected to the office. Any trader wanting to take refuse to the tip by his own transport will be allowed to without charge, and each premise will be allowed to have one bin emptied, again without charge.

The idea of introducing a charge was naturally not too well received by the local Chamber of Trade and although I met their Committee, explained the scheme in detail and answered all their questions, the members were far from satisfied that the scheme was necessary.

#### **Refuse Disposal.**

Modified controlled tipping has continued on the land adjoining Bromfield Lane with one man fully engaged in supervising the tip.

Once again difficulty has been experienced with people gaining access at nights and weekends and sorting over the refuse. Three young men were prosecuted under Section 76 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and were all found guilty, but the Magistrates did not impose fines or allow costs. This seemed rather strange to say the least, as one of the men had been prosecuted and fined previously for the same offence in the same Court. The Council felt that this, to some extent, undermined their efforts to control the tip and therefore referred the matter to the U.D.C. Association with a recommendation that the Minister be requested to increase the maximum small fine of £5, this amount having a tendency to make people feel that any offence committed was trivial.

As the end of the life of the Bromfield tip is now in view, efforts have been made to secure an alternative site. No suitable land could be found within the urban area but a disused gravel pit situated within the Holywell Rural District about half a mile outside our boundary appeared to be



an admirable site. Unfortunately although the Agents were agreeable to our using the pit, the owner refused the necessary permission and we were forced to look elsewhere.

After spending a considerable time scouring the neighbourhood, a smaller disused gravel pit was discovered approximately three miles outside of Mold in the opposite direction to the first one. The owners, the British Transport Commission, were agreeable to leasing the land to us and an application for approval under the Planning Acts was made in April. The County Planning Committee rejected this application eventually, simultaneously recommending that we apply for permission in respect of the first and nearer gravel pit, as, in the Committee's opinion, this was much the better site. A second application was subsequently submitted to the Planning Authority but for reasons best known to themselves it was rejected primarily on the grounds of possible nuisance. The Council are appealing against this latest decision, but the Inquiry will not be held until 1963.

#### **Clean Air Act, 1956.**

The Council designated 45 acres on the western and windward side of the town as our first Smoke Control Area, this being their first step towards making the whole town smokeless. The area at present includes 229 properties, but the erection of a further 78 Council Houses and 135 private dwellings will be commenced in 1963. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government agreed to the provisional order and several meetings and discussions were held with the local coal merchants. During December the draft Order was submitted to the Ministry but their reply had not been received by the end of the year. All the houses in the area have been visited at least once, the effect of the Act explained to the occupiers and advice offered on fuels, etc.

A volumetric smoke measuring machine was installed in a position recommended by a representative of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. We commenced taking readings on this machine from the beginning of August and the results in microgrammes per cubic metre per day from then until the end of the year are as follows:—August 68, September 91, October 142, November 253, December 286. The comparatively low average daily figure for



December emphasises one of the points constantly made about Mold and smoke, namely, that our trouble is largely due to the fact that the town is in a valley and the smoke tends to hang overhead in a pall unless there is a strong wind blowing. One day early in December we had a reading of 704 microgrammes for a day, then came a fortnight of gales and high winds when the reading dropped to as low as 36 microgrammes. The area surrounding the machine is typical estate development of twelve houses to the acre with only one fireplace to each house.

The film "Clean Air" was shown one November evening in the Town Hall when, despite a great deal of publicity, there was a disappointing attendance.

The one large factory chimney in the area continues to produce too much smoke. Numerous visits have been made and discussions had with the Manager. Later in the year a small conference attended by the Manager, Assistant Manager, representatives of the fuel suppliers and the National Coal Board and myself was held. As a result of this it is hoped that the firm will install new underfeed stokers which the National Coal Board Technical Expert was convinced would overcome the trouble.

### **Factories.**

There are no outworkers in the Mold Urban District.

It appears that there is reluctance on the part of some factory occupiers to carry out what may appear minor infringements of the Regulations, but no doubt continued pressure will gradually get them to carry out the work.

A full list of the factories in the area was forwarded to the Factory Inspector so that the two lists could be checked against one another. A reply had not been received by the end of the year however.



# Factories.

Premises. (1)	Number of :				Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
	No. on Register. (2)	Inspections. (3)	Written Notices. (4)		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	3	20	2	...	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	54	79	19	...	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	...	—
Total ...	57	99	21	—	—

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.					
	(1)	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred		in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
				To H.M. In- spectors. (4)	By H.M. In- spectors. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	...	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :—						
(a) Insufficient	...	4	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	...	19	8	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	...	4	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	...	—	—	—	—	—
Total	...	29	12	—	—	—



### **Movable Dwellings.**

There are no licensed sites within the Mold area and following up on last year's suggestion only one small area of land, which was not ideally suitable, could be found for use as a possible Council site. The County Planning Officer did not appear enamoured with it and in consequence I am trying to find alternative land which would form a more suitable site.

### **Public Conveniences.**

The new Conveniences in Earl Road were opened for public use in mid-April and have been highly praised by many visitors to the town. In addition to the cleanliness, the public appreciate the hot and cold water for hand washing and paper towels, the value and free use of these facilities being commented upon by many people.

The Grosvenor Street Conveniences continue to be damaged and misused constantly and the only answer in the end may be to provide external doors or gates which can be locked when the Attendants go off duty in the evening.

### **Offensive Trades.**

Byelaws were eventually approved by the Ministry and came into operation on the 1st July, 1962.

Conditions in the two offensive trade factories have been reasonably satisfactory during the year. The emission of noxious gases from the fat melting plant in Bromfield seems to have been overcome by the use of a small scrubber and the addition of a chemical which masks the smell of escaping gases. The chemical in particular is very effective and the only complaints I have had during the year regarding smell were at a time when the firm had temporarily run out of supplies of the masking chemical.

### **Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

The Rodent Operator spends a little over half of his time each week on rodent work, the remainder of his time being occupied on looking after the conveniences, drainage work, etc. A charge is made for any treatment carried out in business premises, but the initial survey of these premises and the treatment of all other types of land and buildings



is free. 285 treatments were carried out during the year, excluding a survey and test baiting of 10 % of the sewer manholes. The latter proved negative with the exception of a single manhole where we had a small amount of bait taken.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

There are still six cottages in Mold using bucket latrines but five are due for demolition when the Council build more houses. In addition to these there are six houses, seven bungalows and a factory not connected to a public sewer, but in all cases the properties are too low to be connected and used by gravity.

The drainage of the factory and three of the houses passes through a small treatment plant before the effluent is discharged to the river. The other houses are connected to septic tanks or settlement tanks, the effluent being disposed of into the subsoil of the surrounding land.

Most of the older part of Mold is unfortunately drained on the combined system and this has given rise to some trouble at times of heavy rain, apart from increasing disposal costs. The use of pitch fibre on new drainage work has reduced the number of drains failing to pass the test and appears to be an improvement in many cases over the use of glazed stoneware.

The schemes to renew part of the sewerage system have not yet been completed and it may well be that the inadequacy of some of the sewers, together with the strong influent at the works making treatment difficult, might hold up future development.

### **Sewage Disposal Works.**

The plan to convert the existing works and make use of the activated sludge process has been scrapped. The main reason for abandoning this plan is the Council's agreement with the Holywell Rural District Council to form a Joint Committee and for the disposal works to be modified to take the drainage from part of the rural district. The new works will be designed for a population of approx. 20,000 persons and it will, of course, take the Consulting Engineers some time to prepare all the plans and specifications.



A great deal of time was taken up in dealing with river pollution and many complaints were received from people living in the Lead Mills area. The river in this vicinity was quite often foul in appearance and smell. Eight samples of the water were submitted to the Analyst at various times, and numerous hours at evenings and weekends were spent in trying to locate where the pollution commenced. Eventually the Analyst was satisfied that the river contained methyl alcohol and formaldehyde. An Abatement Notice was served on a firm occupying a factory alongside the river and manufacturing formaldehyde from methyl alcohol. The pollution gradually disappeared shortly afterwards as the flow of water also increased with the autumn rains.

#### **Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.**

Twenty premises were licensed under the Act and again close co-operation was maintained with the Fire Protection Officer of the Flintshire Fire Service.

#### **Housing.**

The Council decided to start building houses again and a tender for seventy-six houses was obtained. Work should commence on these houses early in 1963, and the Council have agreed to allocate a minimum of forty for slum clearance to begin with. A survey carried out in response to a Ministry circular showed that we have approximately 174 houses which could be considered to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense. The Council decided that these houses could be demolished and the occupiers all re-housed within the next five years.

Private building of houses for sale still continues despite continued rising prices. There are six sites where private building is progressing, involving well over three hundred houses, and a seventh has recently been the subject of planning approval.

Only one person borrowed money during the year under Section 43 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, as amended by the Housing Purchase and Housing Act, 1959. The work was carried out satisfactorily.

Three applications were received for standard improvement grants and two for discretionary grants. All were approved and the work completed satisfactorily. Once again, in spite of advertisements in the local press and numerous enquiries, the applications were limited to owner/occupiers.

Many requests for information on rent control and maximum permitted rents were received, but no applications for Certificates of Disrepair were made.

The owner of one house in multiple occupation, closed the top floor for human occupation because the cost of providing means of escape in case of fire was prohibitive.

Five dangerous structures were demolished in default under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1961, and three Closing Orders made under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957.

In one or two cases of alterations or new buildings where plans had been deposited and approved, on routine inspection later it was found that the structures did not comply with the Factories Act, Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, etc. This once again has led me to request the Surveyor to permit me to see deposited plans before they are submitted to the Planning Committee and thus obviate ill-feeling between members of the public and Council officials at a later date.

### Food Sampling.

As the Flintshire County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority for this area routine food samples are taken by Mr. E. Lewis, County Public Health Inspector, and I am indebted to him for the following information:—

Description of Article.	No. of Samples taken.	Genuine.	Not Genuine or below standard.
Milk	8	8	—
Dairy Products	4	3	1
Ice Cream, etc.	6	5	1
Alcoholic Drinks	9	9	—
Fish and Meat Products	4	4	—
Patent Medicines	2	2	—
Miscellaneous Groceries	6	6	—
Fruit and Vegetables	6	6	—
Sausages	4	4	—
	49	47	2



A complaint was received that a carton of milk purchased locally had a bitter taste. On analysis, this was found to be due to the presence of slight traces of copper—0.7 parts per million. An inspection of the farm dairy, which was very clean, showed that during the production of the cream the milk was passed through a copper wire sieve.

The producer was asked to contact the Advisory Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The label used on a sample of ice cream lolly did not comply with the labelling of food order and a warning letter was sent to the manufacturer.

Nine samples of beer were submitted for chemical analysis and the Public Analyst reported that the amount of arsenic and lead was negligible.

Six samples of vegetables and fruit were examined for fungicides and other poisonous chemicals and all were satisfactory.

Foodstuffs were also submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

Four samples of raw milk were tested for the presence of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis and these were found to be satisfactory.

Fourteen samples of pasteurised milk were tested for their keeping quality and for the efficiency of pasteurisation and these complied with the Regulations.

Samples of desiccated coconut, minced beef and confectionery were also submitted for bacteriological examination.

### **General.**

My thanks are due to the Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor E. S. Roberts, and Dr. D. J. Fraser for their support and courtesy, and to Mr. Price and Miss Fielding both of whom helped considerably in the work described in this Report. Finally, mention must be made of the way in which Mrs. J. Blackwell manfully coped with the typing and clerical work of the Surveyor and myself for the first six months and then later in the year still found time to do letters and reports when Miss Fielding was busy.

Yours faithfully,

C. R. CRESSWELL,

Public Health Inspector.







