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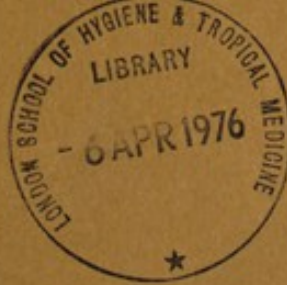
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CITY OF ST. ALBANS



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. NORMAN-TAYLOR, M.D. (LOND.), D.P.H., D.I.H., *F.R.S.H.*

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

L. A. CROFT, M.A.P.H.I., *F.R.S.H.*

FOR THE YEAR

1972



ST. ALBANS CITY

HEALTH AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE



Alderman J. Farrelly (Chairman)
Councillor G. Bilsborough (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Mrs. D. Almond
Councillor Mrs. P. Brown
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Councillor J.H. Penton
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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

W. Norman-Taylor, M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H., D.I.H., F.R.S.H.
Medical Officer of Health

P.B.M. O'Reilly, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health

L.A. Croft, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Chief Public Health Inspector

F.W.P. Harmsworth, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

D.E. Allamand, M.A.P.H.I.
M.J. Gleadow, M.A.P.H.I.
A. Robertson, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed March 1972)


J.D. Buxton
Student Public Health Inspector

J.D. Curzon, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.
Public Analyst

Mrs. M. Nunn
Senior Clerk Typist

Miss N.E. Fowler
Junior Clerk Typist

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Public Health Assistant



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1972

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. Albans.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report, together with that of your Chief Public Health Inspector, for the year 1972, as required by the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959.

This is the last but one report which will be written by the Medical Officer of Health of this City. Under the new Local Government Act, the post of Medical Officer of Health, a post which goes back over 100 years, will be discontinued as from 1st April, 1974. However, the actual functions under the heading of "public health" will still remain the responsibility of the successor district council - in other words they will have the same job to do but the executive officer who has been responsible for these functions will no longer be on their staff. This is the culmination of a long series of moves in this direction going back over many years. One of these has been the greatly improved training and status of the health inspectorate, a profession in their own right, and capable of carrying out most of the duties, provided that advice on the medical aspects of their work is available when required. The other has been the tendency for legislators in recent years not to put legal authority directly in the hands of officers (the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968 are an example) but to place powers and duties with the Council itself, to act on the advice of their officers. At the time of writing we have had little or no guidance as to how this "advice" on the medical aspects of public health, is to be provided to the Council in the future, but the Council may rest assured that it will be forthcoming.

Quite apart from the Council, the public, as such, may be wondering who is to fill the role of "MOH". To the public, the MOH is an authoritative figure in the background, keeping an ombudsman-like eye on matters which may pose a threat to the health of the citizens of the district. He is known by name to many members of the public, and his utterances on health topics are often eagerly sought after by the press. He is regarded as a sort of long-stop, a point beyond which the buck cannot be passed. Whether this view of the role of the MOH is true or not the fact remains that there will be a gap in our social structure unless the new arrangements are such that a definite personality, with definite responsibilities, can emerge from the community health department of the reorganised National Health Service, to take his place.

In the pages which follow will be found details and figures which reflect the state of the public health, together with a record of what your health staff have been doing to maintain, and if possible to improve this. On the whole I may say that we are a very average community, little better and no worse than most other places, and certainly there are no health problems for which this particular community can be directly blamed.

St. Albans District Health Authority

Crude Birth Rate	15.1	0.79	14.3	0.98	14.3
Corrected Birth Rate	14.9		14.0		14.0

As in previous years, I must again draw attention to the strain being put on the financial resources of the National Health Service (i.e. the taxpayer) in having to devote so much time, energy and resources (not to mention the nervous strain on surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses) in attempting to treat lung cancer. Most of these cases are due to the patient's persistent self-pollution with cigarette smoke.

Another disease of self-indulgence, gonorrhoea, is, as will be seen in the statistics which follow, still very much with us and figures show little sign of improvement over the past years in spite of increased public education on the subject.

I am glad to report on the other hand that obesity, usually due to the persistent intake of calories over and above the body's requirements, appears to be on the decline, though the motivation is often cosmetic rather than concern with one's longevity. The obesity clinics set up by the County Council during the year to help persons who need to slim for medical reasons, appear to be meeting a great demand. Much more education is still needed among mothers (and friends and relations) so that they realize that it is not a kindness to give sweets to children except as a very occasional treat. Health experts are beginning to find evidence that sweets cause not only obesity and diabetes, and also rot the teeth, but that sugar is possibly linked with other of the more serious degenerative diseases of middle age.

Finally, I must thank Mr. L.A. Croft, your Chief Public Health Inspector, for the continued support he has given me and particularly for the zeal which he and his staff have shown in helping me to deal with the infectious diseases which occasionally pose a threat to the public.

I am,

your obedient servant,

WILLIAM NORMAN-TAYLOR, MD (Lond), DPH., DIH.,
MCFM., FRSH.

Medical Officer of Health

St. Albans

April 1973

Section A

HEALTH STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population	53,020
Area (in acres)	5,129
Number of Inhabited Houses on the Rate Books	
Dwelling Houses	17,543
Shops with Living Accommodation	219
Licensed Premises with Living Accommodation	57
Rateable Value	£8,673,211

BIRTHS

	<u>Number</u>	<u>St.Albans</u>	<u>Herts.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Live Births - and Rate per 1,000 population	798	15.1	14.3	14.8
Illegitimate Live Births - and Rate % of total live births	56	7.0	-	9.0
Stillbirths - Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	9	11.0	11.8	12.0
Infant deaths (deaths under one year) - rate per 1,000 live births	9	11.0	13.4	17.0
Illegitimate Infant deaths - and Illegitimate infant death rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	1	18.0	22.4	21.0
Neo-Natal deaths (deaths under 4 weeks of age) and Rate per 1,000 total live births	8	10.0	9.1	12.0
Early Neo-Natal deaths (deaths under 1 week) and Rate per 1,000 total live births	6	8.0	8.0	10.0
Peri-Natal deaths (stillbirths and deaths under one week) - Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	15	19.0	19.6	22.0
Maternal Mortality (including abortion) per 1000 live and stillbirths	0	0	0	0.15

There was a decrease in the actual number of births (79) in the City in 1972 as compared with 1971, and the birth rate showed a decrease from 16.6 live births per 1,000 population in 1971 to 15.1 in 1972. The adjusted comparable birth rate of 14.9 compares with 14.7 for the County of Hertfordshire and 14.8 for England and Wales.

There were 9 stillbirths in 1972, compared with 11 in 1971, giving a stillbirth rate of 11.0 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths, compared with 12.0 in 1971.

Corrected Birth Rates (Crude rates multiplied by the "Comparability factor" to allow for difference in age and sex population as compared with country as a whole)

	<u>St.Albans</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Herts.</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Crude Birth Rate	15.1	0.99	14.3	0.98	14.8
Corrected Birth Rate	14.9		14.0		14.8

Comments on Births

9 children died under the age of 1 compared with 16 in 1971, a decrease of 7. 8 of these were under 4 weeks and 6 under 1 week.

Considering together the stillbirths, and those children who died in the first week of life (that is, those children whose death resulted as a complication of pregnancy, and childbirth), the perinatal mortality rate was 19.0 compared with 20.0 in 1971. Although all these rates vary from the previous year, these differences are really very small and all could be due to chance variations. The national figures for England and Wales are given for comparison.

DEATHS

Number of Deaths:	607
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	11.4

There were 607 deaths in the City in 1972, compared with 558 in 1971. This gives a death rate of 11.4 compared with a death rate of 10.6 in 1971. When these figures are corrected, the death rate treated in this way becomes 11.9 in 1972 against 11.0 in 1971. The death rate for England and Wales to be compared with this is 12.1

Corrected Rate

	<u>St. Albans</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Herts.</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Crude Death Rate	11.4	1.04	9.5	1.11	12.1
Corrected Death Rate	11.9		10.5		12.1

Death, Birth, Infant Mortality, Stillbirth and Peri-Natal Mortality Rates

<u>Year</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>	<u>Stillbirth Rate</u>	<u>Peri-Natal Mortality Rate</u>
1952	10.6	16.5	27.1		
1953	11.5	15.6	29.9		
1954	10.8	15.4	18.5		
1955	10.3	15.9	15.2		
1956	11.0	16.3	15.8		
1957	10.9	15.5	15.0		
1958	10.5	16.9	22.3		
1959	11.5	17.6	16.3		
1960	10.8	19.3	13.7		
1961	11.6	16.5	8.5	24.9	30.8
1962	10.8	18.4	15.1	19.1	29.7
1963	11.7	18.9	18.9	13.5	24.8
1964	10.2	17.4	16.7	20.7	27.3
1965	11.3	19.3	12.9	12.8	20.6
1966	10.3	17.5	15.3	8.6	17.3
1967	10.3	16.8	24.0	16.0	26.0
1968	11.2	15.2	12.5	11.2	19.8
1969	10.6	16.2	16.0	14.0	24.0
1970	11.7	16.8	19.0	6.0	16.0
1971	10.6	16.6	18.0	12.0	20.0
1972	11.4	15.1	11.0	11.0	19.0

Causes of Death

	Male	Female
Late Effects of Respiratory T.B.	1	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	8	7
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	3	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	33	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	18
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	4	-
Leukaemia	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	14	17
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	4	-
Diabetes Mellitus	2	3
Other Endocrine etc., Diseases	1	1
Mental Disorders	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	2	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	1
Hypertensive Disease	3	12
Ischaemic Heart Disease	95	66
Other Forms of Heart Disease	9	16
Cerebrovascular Disease	32	56
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	20	11
Influenza	2	3
Pneumonia	7	18
Bronchitis and Emphysema	18	14
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	6	3
Asthma	-	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	2
Appendicitis	1	-
Intestinal Obstruction	1	3
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	5	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1
Other Diseases Genito-Urinary System	5	1
Hypertrophy of Prostate	3	-
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	5
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	4	3
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	-
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	3
All Other Accidents	4	6
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	-	3

Totals: 305 302

It will be seen that the principal causes of death were, as has been usual in recent years, the following:-

	<u>1972</u>		<u>1971</u>		<u>1970</u>		<u>1969</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Cancer Lung	33	6	15	6	32	5	28	6
Cancer Stomach	6	4	11	4	5	7	6	4
Coronary	95	66	84	64	96	62	67	50
Stroke	32	56	44	47	34	60	29	54
Pneumonia	7	18	18	21	18	22	24	19
Bronchitis	18	14	31	5	21	8	17	13

Coronary and cancer of the lung are common in middle aged men and of the above totals, 17 men under 65 died of cancer of the lung and 30 died of coronary. Cancer of the stomach is not uncommon at this age, too, and 2 men under 65 died of this during the year. Of the 3 suicides listed, all were under the age of 65.

The national figures for cancer of the lung continue to rise steadily, there were 31,649 deaths from this cause in England and Wales in 1972 as compared with 30,746 in 1971 and 23,779 in 1962. Other cancers are not increasing at this rate. We had only one death from an infectious disease, namely tuberculosis, though there were 1,293 such deaths in the country as a whole.

Deaths from coronary are also on the increase and, while the infectious diseases, the major killers of an earlier generation, have largely been conquered by improved standards of living and hygiene, immunisation and modern methods of treatment with germ killing drugs, the degenerative and malignant diseases emerge as the great public health problem of the present. Much can be done by the individual to reduce his or her chances of succumbing prematurely to one of these conditions but unfortunately like so much good advice it is easier to give than to act upon. There is no doubt, nevertheless, that (1) dietary control to avoid overweight and intestinal stasis due to the consumption of refined foods, (2) the taking of regular exercise, and (3) the shunning of cigarettes would, if widely adopted have a dramatic effect on the figures quoted in these pages.

Section B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Welfare Centres and Clinics

Bricket Wood - St. Luke's Church Hall

Infant Welfare 2nd and 4th Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m.
(Dr. Attends)
Vaccination & Immunisation 3rd Wednesdays - 9.30-11.30 a.m.

Colney Heath - The Pavilion

Infant Welfare 1st and 3rd Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m.
(Dr. Attends)

Harpenden - 40 Luton Road, (Tel: Harpenden 2040)

Ophthalmic Mondays - 9.30-11.15 a.m.
(By Appointment)
Vaccination & Immunisation 2nd & 4th Wednesday in Month -
10.30-11.30 a.m. (Dr. Attends)
Speech Therapy Tuesdays & Thursdays - 9.30-12 noon
2-4 p.m. (By Appointment)
Infant Welfare Wednesdays - 1.45-4.00 p.m.
(Dr. Attends)
Dental Monday } 9.30-12 noon
to } 2-4 p.m.
Friday }
(By Appointment)
Cytology Clinic Thursdays 9.30-11.30 a.m.
(By Appointment)

Harpenden - Batford J.M.I. School, Pickford Hill.

Infant Welfare 2nd & 4th Thursdays - 1.45-4.00 p.m.
(Dr. Attends)
Speech Therapy Tuesday - 2-4 p.m.

Harpenden - Health Annexe, Grove Road.

Infant Welfare Fridays - 2-4.30 p.m.
(Dr. Attends 2nd & 4th)

London Colney - Community Centre, Caledon Road.

Vaccination & Immunisation Fridays - 9.30-12 noon
(Dr. Attends)
Infant Welfare Thursdays - 1.45-4.30 p.m.
(Dr. Attends)

Redbourn - Congregational Hall

Infant Welfare 2nd & 4th Tuesdays - 2.30-4.30 p.m.

St. Albans - School Hall, Branch Road.

Infant Welfare	Mondays - 1.30-4 p.m.
	(Dr. Attends 2nd & 4th)
Vaccination & Immunisation	1st Monday - 2-4 p.m.

St. Albans - Mandeville Health Clinic,
Mandeville Drive.
(Tel: St. Albans 50471)

Infant Welfare	Thursdays - 2-4 p.m.
	(Dr. Attends 1st, 3rd & 4th)
Dental	Tuesdays } 9.30-12 noon
	Wednesdays } 2-4 p.m.
	(By Appointment)
Immunisation & Vaccination	1st, 3rd & 4th Thursdays - 2-2.30 p.m.

St. Albans - Margaret Wix Health Clinic
High Oaks.
(Tel: St. Albans 56994)

Infant Welfare	Wednesdays - 1.30-4 p.m.
	(Dr. Attends 2nd & 4th)
Speech Therapy	Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m.
Dental	Mondays } a.m. &
	Thursdays } p.m.
	Fridays } (By Appointment)

St. Albans - Prae Wood Health Annexe,
King Harry Lane.
(Tel: St. Albans 65719)

Infant Welfare	Wednesdays - 2-4 p.m.
	(Dr. Attends 1st & 3rd)
Immunisation & Vaccination	4th Wednesdays - 2-4 p.m.

St. Albans - Principal Health Clinic,
Civic Centre.
(Tel: St. Albans 59211)

Immunisation & Vaccination	Mondays - 9-12 noon
	(Dr. Attends 9.30 a.m.)
Dental	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday - 9.30-12.30 p.m. : 2-5 p.m.
	Saturdays - 9.30-12 noon (alternate)
Orthoptic	Monday - 9-12 noon : 2-4.30 p.m.
	Wednesday - 9-12 noon : 2-4.30 p.m.
	Thursday - 9.30-12 noon : 2-4.30 p.m.
	Friday - 9-12 noon : 2-4.30 p.m.
	(By Appointment)
Ophthalmic	Monday and Tuesday - 9.30-12.30 p.m.
	(By Appointment)
Speech Therapy	Tuesday - 9.30-12 noon : 1.30-4.30 p.m.
	Thursday - 1.30-4.30 p.m.
	(By Appointment)
Ante-Natal	Wednesday - 2-4 p.m.

St. Albans - Principal Health Clinic (continued)

Infant Welfare	Tuesday & Friday - 1.30- 4 p.m. (Dr. Attends) (Welfare Foods issued Tuesday and Friday)
Audiometrician	2nd Tuesday - 2-4.30 p.m. Thursdays - 9.30-12.30 p.m. : 2-5 p.m. Fridays - 2-4.30 p.m. (By Appointment)
Audiology	2nd & 4th Wednesdays - 9.30-12 noon 2-4 p.m. 2nd Tuesday - 2.00-4.30 p.m. (By Appointment)
Cytology	Mondays - 6.30-9.00 p.m. } By Fridays - 9.30-12 noon } Appointment

St. Albans - Cunningham Hill Health Clinic,
Cell Barnes Lane.
(Tel: St. Albans 53025)

Infant Welfare	Mondays - 2-4.30 p.m. Wednesdays - 2-4.30 p.m. (Dr. Attends)
Immunisation & Vaccination	1st & 3rd Thursdays - 9.30-12 noon (By Appointment)

St. Albans - Skyswood Health Clinic,
Marshalswick Estate.
(Tel: St. Albans 57041)

Infant Welfare	Fridays - 2-4.30 p.m. (Dr. Attends)
Immunisation & Vaccination	Mondays - 2-4 p.m.
Speech Therapy	Thursday - 9.30-12 noon (By Appointment)
Dental	Mondays } Tuesdays } 10-12 noon Wednesdays } 2-4 p.m. Fridays } (By Appointment)

St. Albans City Hospital - Normandy Road Wing.
(Tel: St. Albans 52211)

V.D. (Women)	Thursdays - 1.30-3 p.m.
V.D. (Men)	Tuesdays - 4-6 p.m.
Post-Natal	Wednesdays - 11 a.m.
Chest Clinic	Mondays - 9 a.m. } Wednesdays - 9 a.m. } By Appointment Thursdays - 9 a.m. }

Sandridge - Parish Hall

Infant Weighing	2nd & 4th Wednesdays 2.30 - 3.30 p.m.
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Shenley - Village Hall

Infant Welfare

1st & 3rd Wednesdays - 2-4 p.m.
(Dr. Attends)

Wheathampstead - Mead Hall, East Lane.

Infant Welfare

2nd & 4th Fridays - 2.30-4 p.m.
(Dr. Attends 3.00 p.m.)

Some of the County Council premises are also used by other organisations, principally the Family Planning Association who hold sessions at St. Albans, Borehamwood and Harpenden, and the Blood Transfusion Service who hold Donor Sessions at St. Albans Principal Health Clinic.

Hospitals

I am indebted to Mr. K.S. Robson, Group Secretary, Mid-Herts. Group Hospital Management Committee, for the following information relating to Hill End, High Wick and St. Albans City Hospitals.

HILL END HOSPITAL

No. of Beds	756	Psychiatric
No. of Discharges	957	

Out-Patients

No. of New Patients	259
No. of Attendances	2,145

Day Patients

No. of New Patients	77
No. of Attendances	9,741

X-Ray Department	3,670	Units
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Physiotherapy Department	3,416	Attendances
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HIGH WICK

Regional Unit for Psychotic and Maladjusted Children

Beds	18
Discharges	11
Waiting List	9

ST. ALBANS CITY HOSPITAL

	Beds Allocated	In-Patient Discharges	Out-Patients	
			New	Total Attendances
General Medicine	67	1,464	802	4,609
Paediatrics	18.3	474	384	3,194
Infectious Diseases	8.1	58		
Diseases of the Chest	1.7		572	3,459
Dermatology			513	1,447
Neurology			81	241
Physical Medicine			327	3,229
V.D.			511	996
Geriatrics	85.8	217		
General Surgery	57	1,831	1,702	5,686
E.N.T. (T & A)	8.1	155	} 1,252	2,783
E.N.T. (Other)		196		
Trau. and Orth. Surgery	41.2	1,121	1,969	4,749
Ophthalmology	7.4	263	709	2,995
Radiotherapy			73	603
Thoracic Surgery			12	56
Dentistry	0.1	29	500	1,283
Orthodontics			206	1,245
Neurosurgery			7	16
Gynaecology	24.2	802	933	2,843
Obstetrics - Ante-Natal			849	6,936
- Post-Natal	35.2	935	784	784
Special Care Baby Unit	12	114		
Mental Illness			259	891
Allergy			261	261
Private Section 1	6			
" " 4	6			
Other Medical			733	1,357
Totals			13,439	49,663
Accident & Emergency	378.1	7,659	14,537	24,965

Maternity: Live Births 799
Still Births 7

X-Ray Department: 69,845 Units

Physiotherapy Department
24,469 In-Patient Treatments
3,737 Group Exercises (In-Patients)
29,111 Out-Patient Treatments
5,121 Group Exercises (Out-Patients)

Section C

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following infectious diseases were notified to the City Council during the year:-

Typhoid	1
Scarlet Fever	13
Whooping Cough	2
Measles	62
Food Poisoning	5
Infective Hepatitis	7
Dysentery	5
Meningococcal Meningitis	3
Pulmonary T.B.	6
Non-Pulmonary T.B.	1
Mumps/Encephalitis	4

The following shows the age and sex distribution of the new cases of tuberculosis which were notified.

Age Group	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	1	-	-	-	1
15 - 24 years	1	-	-	-	1	-
25 - 44 years	1	-	1	-	2	-
45 - 64 years	2	1	-	-	2	1
65 years and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	2	1	-	5	2

During the year one male respiratory case was transferred into the Area, 20 cases were removed from our list.

Food Poisoning, and other diseases spread by infected food or drink

The follow-up of these cases continues to be one of the major activities of the health inspectorate in as far as infectious disease control is concerned. That the figures are relatively low must in no small measure be due to the constant vigilance, and the hygiene educational campaigns, of the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff.

Venereal Diseases

The number of new cases of venereal diseases in the St. Albans Division during the year were as set out below.

Syphilis		Gonorrhoea		Other Genital Infections		Other Conditions		Total	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
2	4	27	12	65	63	65	31	159	110

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,
34 St. Peter's Street,
St. Albans.

July 1973

To: The Right Worshipful the Mayor,
Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. Albans

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1972.

Owing to changes in the Department during 1971, we started the year under establishment, but when Mr. Robertson was appointed as Additional Public Health Inspector in March we again had a full complement of professional staff and were able to complete a successful year's work.

More of the manpower resources of the Department were able to be devoted to housing work with particular regard to the closure of unfit houses and improvements in houses in multiple occupation.

The authorised site for gypsies (with six pitches) at the Old Sewage Works was completed and occupied in June. The actual move onto the site did not take place smoothly as too many gypsies tried to occupy the available pitches and the matter was not resolved until some moved away on seasonal business.

The unauthorised site at the Park Street Roundabout was sealed off as soon as the occupants moved onto the new site and it was hoped that it would not be re-occupied. Unfortunately, the site did not remain empty very long as more gypsies moved on in August and at the end of the year there were again eight caravans on the site. As the land is owned by the Department of the Environment the situation was referred to the Gypsies Sub-Committee and appropriate representations made. Occasionally, gypsies occupied the verges of the A405 road and have moved on after the facts have been reported to the County Council.

We had some difficulty with pest control owing to the prolonged illness of the rodent operator and were at times only able to provide a limited service by employing a part-time assistant with some assistance from the Rural District. The Inspectors also undertook some of the work, for which I am grateful. An outside contractor was employed for a limited period when other resources became unavailable.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Protection Committee for their support and interest, fellow officers, Mr. J.D. Curzon the Public Analyst and members of the staff for their co-operation during the year.

I close my introduction on a sad note as my predecessor, Mr. R.E.C. Goddard, died suddenly on 23rd December, after enjoying only 15 months of retirement. He is sadly missed.

L.A. Croft
Chief Public Health Inspector

INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of visits made during the year:-

Public Health Acts

Houses, Primary Inspections	135
Revisits	684
Moveable Dwellings	83
Infectious Diseases	177
Theatres, Cinemas & Public Halls	2
Swimming Pools	68
Drainage	329
Dirty and Verminous Premises	66
Dilapidated Premises	8
Keeping of Animals	28
Sundry Nuisances	238

Clean Air Act

Smoke Observations	53
Boilerhouses	12
Smoke Nuisances	41
Pollution Measurements	621

Housing Acts

Houses, Primary Inspections	955
Revisits	384
Overcrowding	7
Houses in Multiple Occupation	181

Factories Act

Factories with Power	29
Factories without Power	5
Building Sites	6

Food Premises

Visits - see later section

Noise Abatement Act

Noise Observations	118
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Pet Animals Act - Inspections

20

Animal Boarding Establishments Act

5

Riding Establishments Act

2

Miscellaneous Visits

621

Interviews

436

DEFECTS REMEDIED AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

The defects and nuisances remedied or abated 367, and two hundred and twenty-five preliminary and one hundred and three statutory notices were served in connection therewith.

In addition to these notices, the abatement of insanitary conditions is effected by an interview with those directly concerned.

The following summary gives particulars of work carried out as a result of inspections:

GENERAL

Roofs renewed or repaired	16
Chimney stacks rebuilt or repaired	7
Rainwater gutters/pipes renewed or repaired	26
External walls rebuilt or repaired	6
Wall or ceiling plaster renewed or repaired	36
Floors renewed or repaired	9
Windows or doors renewed or repaired	61
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	3
Stairs renewed or repaired	3
Dampness abated	25
Yards and passages paved or repaired	2
Accumulations removed	8
Dustbins provided	7
Repairs to water supplies	4
Sinks and basins provided	7
Drains provided or repaired	6
Inspection chambers provided or repaired	6
W.C. provided or rebuilt	3
W.C.'s repaired	14
Gullies provided or repaired	5
Waste pipes and soil pipes provided or repaired	4
General repairs not included above	10
Drains and cesspools cleansed	9
Dirty premises cleansed	2
Premises rat-proofed	1
Dangerous and dilapidated structures dealt with	1
Overcrowding abated	2
Smoke nuisances abated	1
Noise nuisances abated	1
Other nuisances abated	9
Other heating provided	1

FOOD REGULATIONS

Rooms cleansed	16
Equipment cleansed	8
Food and equipment washing facilities improved	2
Staff washing facilities improved	11
Food storage improved	1
Food display improved	1
Other matters remedied	33

HOUSING

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

A. Houses Demolished

In Clearance Areas:	Houses	Displaced during	
	Demolished	year	
		Persons	Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	-	-	-
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	-	-	-
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act 1957	-	-	-

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	<u>Persons</u> <u>Families</u>
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NOT in Clearance Areas:

(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act 1957	-	-	-
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health	-	-	-
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	-	-	-
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	-	-	-

B. Unfit Houses Closed

(8) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act 1957	12	25	17
(9) Under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act 1957	-	-	-

C. Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(11) After informal action by local authority	33	-
(12) After formal notice under:		
(a) Public Health Acts	8	-
(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act 1957	13	-

D. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act 1957)

	<u>Number of Houses</u>	<u>Number of separate Dwellings contained in column (1)</u>
	(1)	(2)
(14) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) Under Section 48	-	-
(b) Under Section 17(2)	-	-
(c) Under Section 46	-	-
(15) Licenced for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	-	-

E. Purchase of Houses by Agreement

	<u>Number of Houses</u>	<u>Number of occupants of houses in column (1)</u>
	(1)	(2)
(16) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Order, purchased in the Year	-	-

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

I was able to give more attention to dealing with unsatisfactory conditions in houses in multiple occupation. 181 visits were made to such houses. Four Directions to Prevent or Reduce Overcrowding in a House in Multiple Occupation under Section 19 of the Housing Act 1961 and one Order applying Management Regulations to premises in Multiple Occupation under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1961 were made.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are one hundred and thirty-six caravans in the City stationed singly or in groups.

The Corporation owns three sites, one at Drakes Drive, which holds thirty-seven caravans, one at Cell Barnes Lane, which holds eight caravans and one at Sutton Road, which holds twenty-three caravans.

The unauthorised site at the Park Street Roundabout was cleared in June and six of the occupants moved onto the authorised site at the Old Sewage Works. Unfortunately the barriers on the roundabout site were breached in August and the site re-occupied by eight gipsy families.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

This Act came into force on 1st April 1952, and the City Council adopted the recommendations of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals regarding conditions of licence. Inspections revealed that conditions were satisfactory.

Six licenses were renewed during the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

Three premises within the City are licensed under the above Act. Regular visits revealed that conditions were satisfactory.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACTS 1964 & 1970

One premises is licensed under the above Acts and is found to be well conducted.

SWIMMING BATHS

Regular visits were made to the swimming pools at Westminster Lodge,

Cottonmill, Girls High School, St. Albans School and the Paddling Pool at Verulamium. Pool side tests were carried out to determine the chlorine level and a total of 120 water samples were taken to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. A number of samples from Westminster Lodge showed a high plate count but this was rectified by increasing the dosage of chlorine to the water. Otherwise the results were satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLIES

The whole of the City area is served from public water mains direct to the houses with the exception of a small number which are being dealt with under the Housing Acts.

Quarterly samples of water from the mains supply of the Colne Valley Water Company have been submitted to the Public Analyst for bacteriological examination, and all the samples were very satisfactory.

SEWERAGE

With the exception of a few houses connected to cesspools, all properties are on main drainage, the whole of the City being within the area of the West Herts Main Drainage Authority.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The following table shows the visits paid to food premises during the year:

Butchers shops and stalls	57
Fishmongers	21
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	27
Grocers	123
Fried Fish Shops	16
Other Food Shops	47
Bakehouses	31
Licensed premises	107
Restaurants, Dining Rooms and Kitchens	251
Factory Canteens	16
Mobile Canteens	5
School Canteens	9
Other Food Premises	41
Dairies and Milkshops	31
Ice Cream Premises	31
Water Cress Beds	10
Food Vehicles	33
Vending Machines	7

A list of food condemned at these and other premises is included in a later paragraph. This includes a large amount of frozen food removed from retail premises owing to refrigerator breakdown. Retailers have been

requested to check refrigerators more frequently and not to overload them in order to reduce some of this work.

Visits were made when funfairs came to the City, particularly regarding the food hygiene of hot dog stalls, mobile fish and chips vans etc. Generally, conditions were satisfactory.

Inspections of food stalls on the market are carried out every Saturday. Generally the traders comply with the Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, although most Saturdays it is necessary to remind some traders that greengrocery should be placed on empty boxes or staging raised off the ground to protect from contamination, e.g. dogs.

PRESERVED FOODS, ETC

Thirty-two premises are registered for the preparation and manufacture of preserved food such as sausages, ham cooking and meat pickling.

FOOD COMPLAINTS

One hundred and twenty complaints regarding the condition of food were received, eighteen more than in the previous year. The increasing tendency of consumers to make complaints continues, partly owing to greater publicity on this subject in the press and on television. Many of the complaints are of a minor nature but all are thoroughly investigated. Every opportunity is taken to prevent similar occurrences by advice on proper stock rotation, coding systems and control of insect infestation.

An unusual complaint was made regarding a quantity of assorted cooked meats which had been placed on a stainless steel tray, wrapped in foil and placed in a refrigerator. When taken out the following day several small holes were noticed in the foil and there were metallic deposits on the meat, and the facts were reported to me for investigation. There was no evidence of insect attack and the material was sent to the Public Analyst. He expressed the opinion that aluminium from the foil had been electrolytically deposited on the meat because an electrochemical circuit had been formed between the stainless steel dish and the aluminium foil with the surface of the meat, which had a high salt content, acting as the electrolyte. The complainant was advised to use a china plate in future.

Complaint was made that locally purchased sausages had caused food poisoning, but laboratory examinations of the remainder of the sausages and from the consumer did not substantiate this allegation.

Complaint was made that chocolate truffles had caused sickness on consumption, but chemical and bacteriological examination of the remainder of the purchase did not reveal any pathogenic organisms, rancidity or metallic contamination so there must have been some other cause for the sickness complained of.

Eleven complaints were dealt with at the Magistrates' Court:

Cigarette end in fish and chips	fine	£50
Mouldy Clementines	fine	£25
Piece of metal in Pork Sausages	fine	£20 + £10 costs
Mouse droppings in Bacon	fine	£25 + £13 costs
Cockroach in Fresh Cream Eclair	fine	£40 + £ 8 costs
Unsound vacuum packed Bacon	fine	£50 + £10 costs
Mouldy Scotch Eggs	fine	£25 + £10 costs
Fly in Ham Roll	fine	£25
Wasp in Dried Milk	fine	£30
Mouldy Veal & Ham Pie	fine	£25
Mouldy Pork Sausages	fine	£20

AIR POLLUTION

The amount of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere is recorded in Victoria Street and at Mandeville Clinic on the Cottonmill Estate. This work commenced in 1963 and I produce two graphs to show how these emissions have varied over the ensuing years. It will be seen that emissions of sulphur dioxide fluctuate but Mandeville had a much greater reduction than Victoria Street and this may have been due to the cessation of coal carbonising at the Gas Works. At both stations the downward trend in smoke emissions was halted. Mandeville being a predominantly residential area where bituminous coal is burned, records mostly smoke from domestic premises. In Victoria Street traffic smoke makes a substantial contribution to the total and it will be interesting to see if this trend continues.

Very little trouble regarding smoke was noted from industrial premises as most commercial concerns are cost conscious and realise that the production of smoke is a waste of money.

Advice was given to various commercial undertakings regarding satisfactory chimney heights for boiler installations.

HEALTH EDUCATION

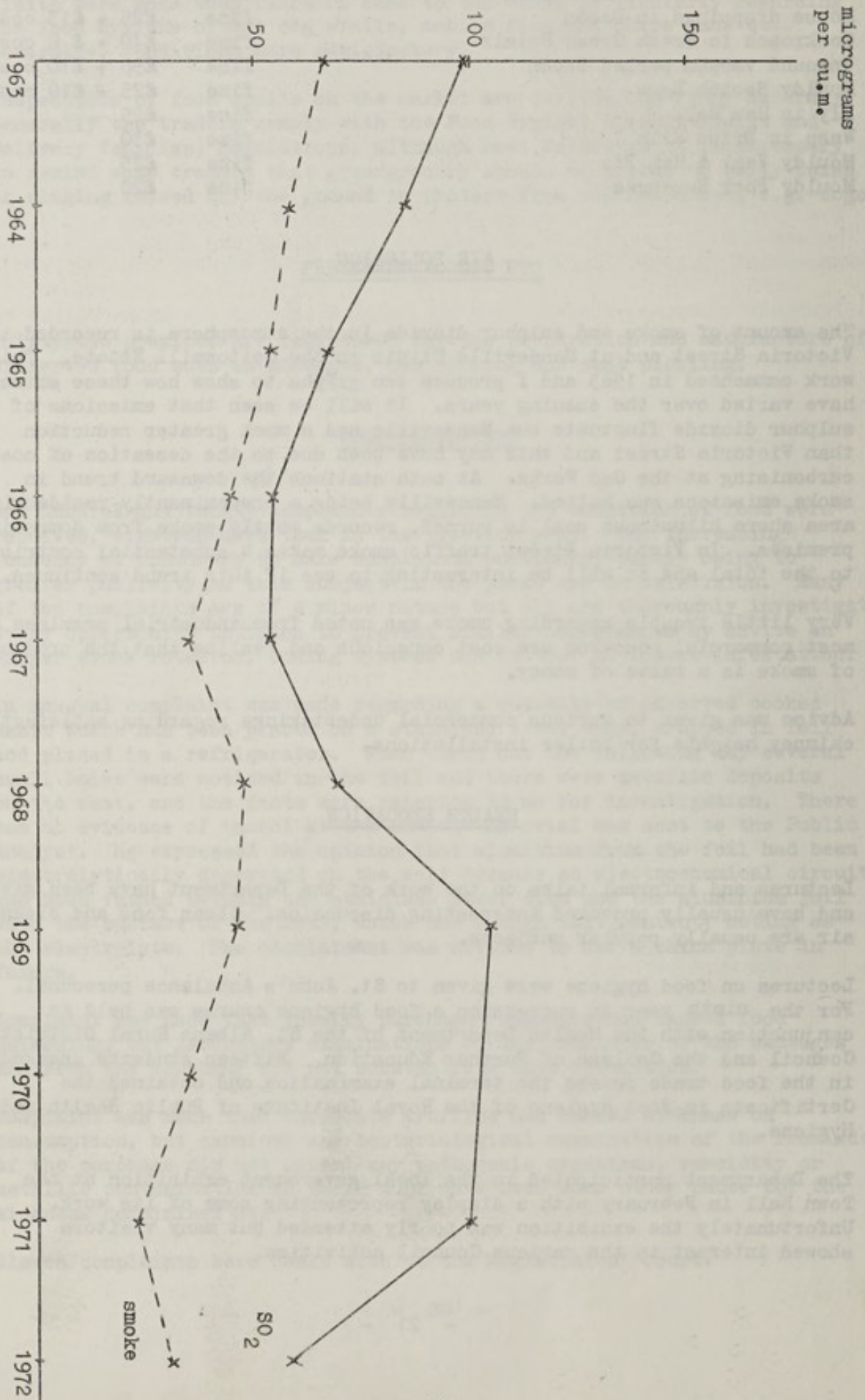
Lectures and informal talks on the work of the Department have been given and have usually provoked interesting discussion. Clean food and clean air are usually popular subjects.

Lectures on food hygiene were given to St. John's Ambulance personnel. For the ninth year in succession a food hygiene course was held in conjunction with the Health Department of the St. Albans Rural District Council and the College of Further Education. Fifteen students engaged in the food trade passed the terminal examination and obtained the Certificate in Food Hygiene of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

The Department participated in the local government exhibition at the Town Hall in February with a display representing some of its work. Unfortunately the exhibition was poorly attended but many visitors showed interest in the various Council activities.

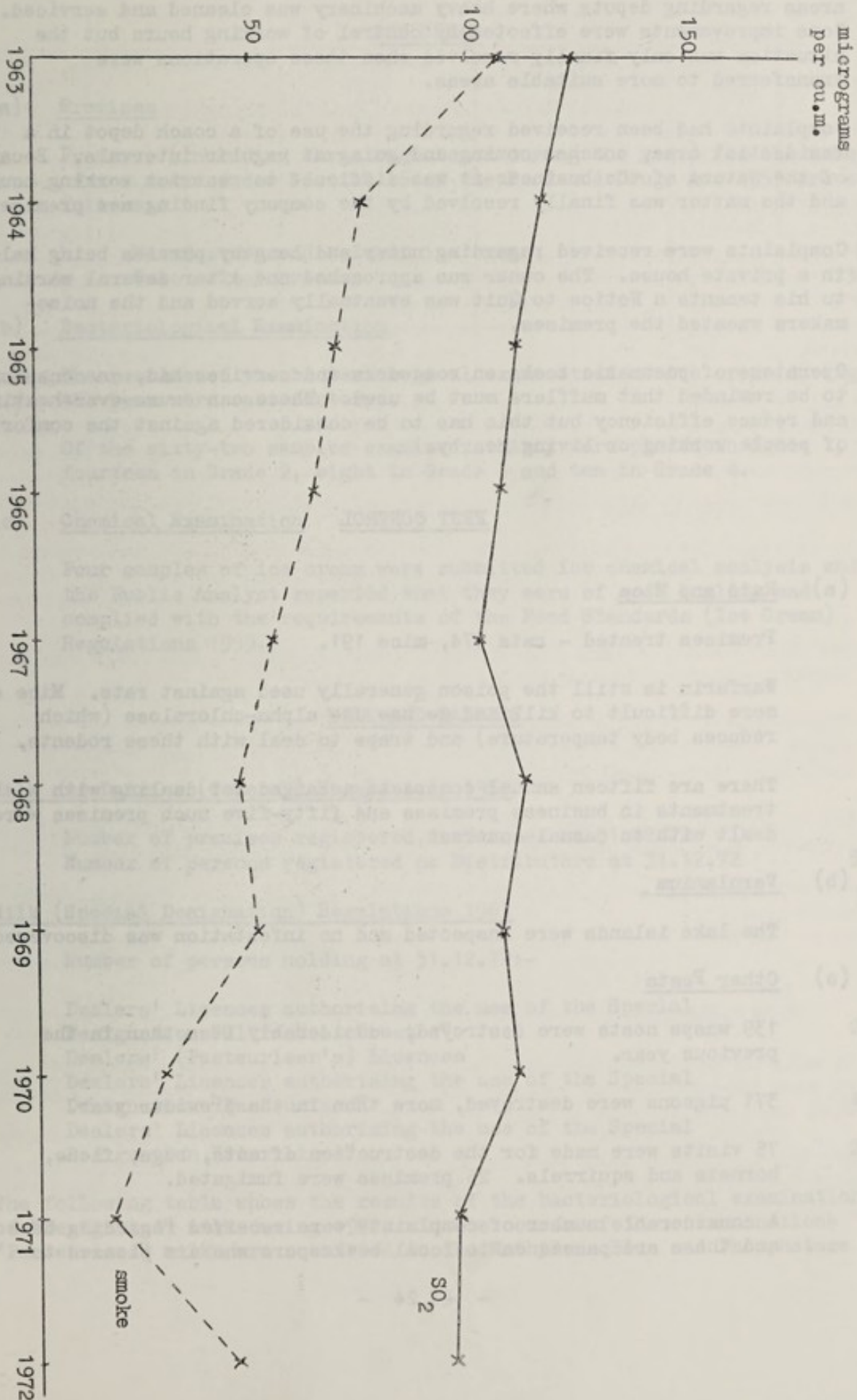
Mandeville Clinic

St. Albans 1



Victoria Street

St. Albans 2



NOISE

Complaints were received from householders in two mainly residential areas regarding depots where heavy machinery was cleaned and serviced. Some improvements were effected by control of working hours but the situation was only finally resolved when these operations were transferred to more suitable areas.

Complaints had been received regarding the use of a coach depot in a residential area, coaches coming and going at regular intervals. Because of the nature of the business it was difficult to restrict working hours and the matter was finally resolved by the company finding new premises.

Complaints were received regarding noisy and lengthy parties being held in a private house. The owner was approached and after several warnings to his tenants a Notice to Quit was eventually served and the noise-makers vacated the premises.

Operators of pneumatic tools on roadworks and services had, on occasion, to be reminded that mufflers must be used. These can cause over-heating and reduce efficiency but this has to be considered against the comfort of people working or living nearby.

PEST CONTROL

(a) Rats and Mice

Premises treated - rats 574, mice 191.

Warfarin is still the poison generally used against rats. Mice are more difficult to kill and we now use alpha-chloralose (which reduces body temperature) and traps to deal with these rodents.

There are fifteen annual contracts arranged for dealing with treatments in business premises and fifty-five such premises were dealt with on casual contract.

(b) Verulamium

The lake islands were inspected and no infestation was discovered.

(c) Other Pests

139 wasps nests were destroyed, considerably less than in the previous year.

371 pigeons were destroyed, more than in the previous year.

75 visits were made for the destruction of ants, bugs, fleas, hornets and squirrels. 25 premises were fumigated.

A considerable number of complaints were received regarding bees and these are passed on to local beekeepers who are pleased to

remove a swarm. Complaints were also received regarding small field bees flying around house windows, but as these bees are harmless, complainants were so advised.

ICE CREAM

(a) Premises

Premises (including three registered during the year) for the sale of ice cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 are as follows:-

Manufacture and sale of ice cream	2
Sale of ice cream	138

(b) Bacteriological Examination

The results of the bacteriological examination of ice cream during the year were satisfactory.

Of the sixty-two samples examined, thirty were placed in Grade 1, fourteen in Grade 2, eight in Grade 3 and ten in Grade 4.

(c) Chemical Examination

Four samples of ice cream were submitted for chemical analysis and the Public Analyst reported that they were of good quality and complied with the requirements of the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Regulations 1959.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959

Number of premises registered as Dairies at 31.12.72	1
Number of persons registered as Distributors at 31.12.72	59

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963

Number of persons holding at 31.12.72:-

Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Ultra Heat Treated"	25
Dealers' (Pasteuriser's) Licences	1
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	44
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised"	23

The following table shows the results of the bacteriological examination of "Designated" milk during 1972. In the course of these examinations "Pasteurised" milks are submitted to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase

Tests, "Ultra Heat Treated" milks are submitted to the Colony Count Test and "Sterilised" and "Separated" milks are submitted to the Turbidity Test.

The figures in brackets refer to the corresponding results in 1971.

Designation	No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Turbidity Test		Colony Count Test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	33 (58)	31(57)	-(1)	33(58)	-				
Pasteurised Channel Island	15 (30)	15(30)	-	15(30)	-				
Separated	2 (1)					2 (1)	-		
Sterilised	4 (2)					4 (2)	-		
U.H.T.	3 (4)							3 (4)	-
TOTALS	57 (95)	46(87)	-(1)	48(88)	-	6 (3)	-	3 (4)	-

N.B. Two samples were void for the Methylene Blue Test.

FOOD AND DRUGS

The Public Analyst (Mr. J.D. Curzon, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.) reports on samples submitted during the year, as follows:-

"The number of samples examined under the Food and Drugs Act for the year ending 31st December 1972 amounted to 134 of which 29 were Formal and 105 Informal. There were 29 Formal samples of Milk.

The following table shows the average composition of the milk samples as compared with those submitted during the previous twelve months

	January 1971 to December 1971	January 1972 to December 1972
Fat:	3.53%	3.74%
Solids-non-fat	8.80%	8.81%

It will be seen from the above table that there has been a slight increase in both the average fat content and the solids-non-fat content as compared with the previous year which I do not find significant.

All the samples of milk were up to standard and complied with the Sale of Milk Regulations in respect of their composition and were free from preservatives.

A miscellaneous selection of samples of various kinds has been examined during the year and these can most conveniently be divided into three categories:-

FOODSTUFFS
SPICES
DRUGS

FOODSTUFFS

Pork sausages	Yoggets	Tomato ketchups
Beef sausages	Fruit cocktails	Fruit salads
Instant coffee	Coffee with chicory	Mexicana drinks
Dubonnet blonde	Dubonnet	Lemon squash
Lemon juice cordial	Lime juice cordial	Orange squash
Lime juice (unsweetened)	Diabetic orange squash	Glace fruits
Sausalatas	Wholemeal plain flour	Rye flour
Black molasses	Dried pears	Redcurrant drink
Jelly Crystals	Ice creams	Cream soda
Plum jam	Apricot jam	Cherry jam
Whole fruit apricot jam	Strawberry jam	Raspberry jam
Blackcurrant jam	Red plum jam	Orange marmalade
Mixed fruit jam	Thick cut marmalade	

The above samples of foodstuffs were all satisfactory.

Thirteen samples of pork sausages and three samples of beef sausages were submitted to me for examination during the year and I set out below the average meat content of these samples.

Pork	73%
Beef	62%

The meat content found in all these samples complied with the minimum requirements of the Sausage and Other Meat Products Regulations 1967. The amounts of Sulphur Dioxide in all of these sausages were within the permitted limit.

SPICES

Cayenne pepper	Powdered nutmeg	Powdered Turmeric
Ground ginger	Powdered mace	Curry powder
Black pepper	Powdered paprika	Steak spice
Cayenne	Paprika	

These were all of good quality and no complaint could be made as to their composition.

DRUGS

Plamil liquid food	Peppermint tablets
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The samples of drugs were satisfactory.

TOWN WATER SUPPLY

I have made, as usual, during the twelve months under review, a quarterly examination of the St. Albans water supply, and am pleased to be able to report that it continues to possess a high degree of bacteriological purity and is, in every way, suitable to be used for both drinking and other general domestic purposes.

Your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. L.A. Croft, also submitted to me during the year under review, certain special samples and I will now refer to these.

COOKED MEAT AND ALUMINIUM FOIL

Small holes appeared when aluminium foil covered salami and ham on a stainless steel tray. These small holes were due to electrochemical action associated with an electrical circuit being formed between the stainless steel dish and the aluminium foil, the contact being the salt content of the meat.

GRAPEFRUIT JUICE

The grapefruit juice had an unusual flavour and aroma and was Greek in origin. I could find nothing wrong with the juice and it would appear that the flavour and aroma is natural to grapefruit of this origin.

BACON WITH FOREIGN MATTER

I found the foreign matter to be a mouse dropping.

MILK WITH FOREIGN BODY

This contained an assortment of foreign bodies comprising natural straw, vegetable tissue and particles of soil.

MILK CONTAINING FOREIGN BODY

I found the foreign body of consist of vegetable tissue having the general characteristics of a leaf.

VIOTA DESSICATED COCONUT

This contained a suspicious looking grey-black pellet. I found this to consist of charred vegetable matter, probably coconut.

MILK BOTTLE WITH FOREIGN MATTER

I found the foreign matter to be cork.

MOUSE DIRT

Fifteen mouse droppings were identified which had been found on the shelving of a wine store.

CRESS AND CRESS WATERS

Samples of treated and untreated cress together with samples of water taken from the cress beds have been submitted to me. A small amount of contamination was present in the cress bed water and also in the untreated cress, but this is reduced to a safe level by the dipping into hypochlorite solution which the cress received before being sold.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. L.A. Croft, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., and his colleagues in the Public Health Department for the valuable co-operation I have received from them."

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Four hundred and twenty-seven visits were made for the inspection of meat and other foods, and the following list shows the food condemned:-

Fruit	2340 tins
Tomatoes	1059 tins
Vegetables	640 tins
Milk/cream	74 tins
Meat	270 tins
Fish	161 tins
Fruit Juice	284 tins
Miscellaneous	219 tins
Miscellaneous tins	5 cases
Bacon	4024 lbs.
Fish	313 lbs.
Beef	34 lbs.
Cheese	40 lbs.
Offal	264 lbs.
Miscellaneous meats	241 lbs.
Frozen Meat	916 pkts.
Frozen Fish	1548 pkts.
Frozen Vegetables	1394 pkts.
Miscellaneous	9974 pkts.
Ice Cream	46 gallons
Ice Lollies	510

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

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

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	280	29	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	9	6	-	-
TOTAL	307	40	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	2	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	-	1	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	1	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	7	-	1	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Section 133)

Nature of Work	Number of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists of the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Wearing) Making apparel) etc. Cleaning and Washing	3	-	-
Other classes of work	-	-	-
Total	3	-	-



