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**Contributors**

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ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



# 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**

LESLIE LOWE, M.A.P.H.I.

FOR THE YEAR

1972



CITY OF ST. ALBANS  
ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT  
HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT  
ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT

With the Compliments  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
BLEAK HOUSE  
CATHERINE STREET  
ST. ALBANS

Telephone:  
ST. ALBANS 59211



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

Councillor R. B. Sparrow (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs. C. M. Hadow (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor T. F. Biggs  
Councillor J. Hoey  
Councillor W. Inglis  
Councillor J. P. Mead  
Councillor W. Pitt  
Councillor R. N. B. Prior  
Councillor J. M. Webb  
Councillor M. O'B West

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

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

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

L. Lowe, M.A.P.H.I.,  
Chief Public Health Inspector

W. A. Beere, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,  
Deputy Public Health Inspector

H. Sumner, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,  
Additional Public Health Inspector

R. J. Murphy,  
Student Public Health Inspector

Mrs. D. B. Jones  
Senior Clerical Assistant

CITY OF ALBANY  
MEMORANDUM  
DATE: 10/10/2011  
TO: THE ALBANY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
FROM: [Name]

MEMORANDUM FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- 1. [Item 1]
- 2. [Item 2]
- 3. [Item 3]
- 4. [Item 4]
- 5. [Item 5]
- 6. [Item 6]
- 7. [Item 7]
- 8. [Item 8]
- 9. [Item 9]
- 10. [Item 10]

MEMORANDUM FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

[Name]  
[Title]  
[Address]  
[City, State, Zip]



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1972

To the Councillors of the Rural District of St. Albans.

Mr. Chairman, 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 District. 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.

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 teeth, but that sugar is possibly linked with other of the more serious degenerative diseases of middle age.

Finally, I must thank Mr. L. Lowe, the 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, Mr. Chairman,

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	45,410
Area (in acres)	32,084
Number of Inhabited Houses on the Rate Books	
Dwelling Houses	13,570
Shops with Living Accommodation	59
Licensed Premises with Living Accommodation	50
Rateable Value	£6,322,203

BIRTHS

	<u>Number</u>	<u>St. Albans R.D.C.</u>	<u>Herts</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
Live Births - and Rate per 1,000 population	564	12.1	14.3	14.8
Illegitimate Live Births - and Rate % of total live births	30	5.0	-	9.0
Stillbirths - Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	5	9.0	11.8	12.0
Infant deaths (deaths under one year) - Rate per 1,000 live births	4	7.0	13.4	17.0
Illegitimate Infant deaths - and Illegitimate infant death rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	1	33.0	22.4	21.0
Neo-Natal Mortality - (deaths under 4 weeks of age) and Rate per 1,000 total live births.	3	5.0	9.1	12.0
Early Neo-Natal Mortality - (deaths under 1 week) and Rate per 1,000 total live births.	2	4.0	8.0	10.0
Peri-Natal Mortality - (stillbirths and deaths under one week) - Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths.	7	13.0	19.6	22.0

There was a small decrease in the actual number of births (564) in the Rural District in 1972, and the birth rate fell slightly to 12.1 live births per 1,000 population. The adjusted comparable birth rate of 12.1 compares with 14.2 for the County of Hertfordshire and 14.8 for England and Wales.

There were 5 stillbirths in 1972, giving a stillbirth birth rate of 9.0 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths, compared with 8.0 in 1971.

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

	<u>St. Albans R.D.C.</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Herts.</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
Crude Birth Rate	12.1	1.00	14.4	0.98	14.8
Corrected Birth Rate	12.1		14.1		14.8



## Comments on Births

4 children died under the age of 1 compared with 6 in 1971, a decrease of 2. This makes the infant mortality rate in 1972, 7.0 compared with 10.0 in 1971.

Breaking down the number of children who died under the age of 1 year, 2 children died in the first week of life compared with 3 in 1971, giving an early neo-natal mortality rate of 4.0 in 1972 a total of 3 children died under the age of 1 month, compared with 5 children in 1971, giving a neo-natal mortality rate of 5.0.

There was one death of a child between 1 month and 1 year old in 1972. 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 13.0. The National figures for England and Wales are given for comparison. There were no deaths due to maternal causes or abortion.

## DEATHS

Number of Deaths: 574  
 Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: 12.6

There were 574 deaths in the district in 1972, compared with 547 in 1971. This gives a death rate of 12.6 compared with a death rate of 12.2 in 1971. When these figures are corrected, the death rate treated in this way becomes 8.9 in 1972 and 7.9 in 1971. The death rate for England and Wales to be compared with this is 12.1.

	<u>St. Albans R.D.C.</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Herts</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
Crude Death Rate	12.6	0.71	9.5	1.11	12.1
Corrected Death Rate	8.9		10.5		12.1

## Death, Birth, Infant Mortality, Stillbirth and Perinatal 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	6.8	12.8	8.1		
1953	18.1	14.5	28.6		
1954	17.7	14.5	16.6		
1955	19.1	15.2	15.3		
1956	19.3	14.4	19.8		
1957	16.0	15.3	17.8		
1958	13.6	17.3	18.5		
1959	12.1	17.7	23.5		
1960	12.4	17.6	22.9		
1961	12.3	17.4	16.5	19.2	35.4
1962	12.7	18.7	20.4	9.5	21.6
1963	13.6	18.2	8.2	12.2	14.9
1964	10.7	17.9	9.5	6.7	10.8
1965	12.3	15.3	13.9	12.2	22.9
1966	13.0	14.7	8.0	11.1	15.9
1967	11.9	14.3	7.0	8.0	11.0
1968	13.5	14.2	17.8	14.4	27.2
1969	13.8	14.0	10.0	8.0	16.0
1970	13.2	14.1	13.0	16.0	24.0
1971	12.2	14.1	10.0	8.0	13.0
1972	12.6	12.1	7.0	9.0	13.0

Causes of Death

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	1	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	1
Cancer - Buccal Cavity	-	1
Cancer - Oesophagus	-	1
Cancer - Stomach	4	5
Cancer - Intestine	6	9
Cancer - Lung, Bronchus	20	2
Cancer - Breast	-	13
Cancer - Uterus	-	3
Cancer - Prostate	1	-
Leukaemia	2	1
Other Cancers, Etc.	12	9
Diabetes Mellitus	1	2
Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	-	4
Mental Disorders	2	5
Multiple Sclerosis	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, Etc.	3	4
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	3	8
Hypertensive Disease	-	7
Ischaemic Heart Disease (Coronary)	65	62
Other Forms of Heart Disease	14	19
Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke)	20	35
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	12	15
Influenza	2	1
Pneumonia	23	65
Bronchitis and Emphysema	20	5
Asthma	2	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	5
Peptic Ulcer	-	3
Appendicitis	2	-
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	4
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	3	6
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	4	4
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous tissue	1	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	2
Congenital Anomalies	2	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, Etc.	1	-
Other Causes of peri-natal mortality	3	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	6	2
All Other Accidents	4	15
Suicide and Self Inflicted Injuries	2	1
All Other External Causes	2	-
<b>Total All Causes</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>323</b>

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	20	2	15	4	17	7	11	5
Cancer Stomach	4	5	4	3	7	5	6	3
Coronary	65	62	54	58	60	85	65	74
Stroke	20	35	20	27	26	44	23	44
Pneumonic	23	65	26	63	24	67	38	56
Bronchitis	20	5	16	6	21	14	22	10

Coronary and cancer of the lung are the commonest killers in middle aged men and of the above totals, 11 men under 65 died of cancer of the lung and 34 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.

The national figures for deaths from cancer of the lung continue to rise steadily from 23,779 in 1962 to 31,649 in 1972 in England and Wales. 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.

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 chance 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 }  
Friday } 2-4 p.m.  
(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 }  
Thursdays } a.m. &  
Fridays } p.m.  
(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. } Fridays - 9.30-12 noon } By 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

STATISTICS OF AND SERVICE OVER THE YEAR 1952

	Beds Allocated	In-Patient Discharges	Out-Patients	
			New	Total Attendances
General Medicine	67	1,464	802	4,609
Pediatrics	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
R.D.			511	996
Geriatrics	85.8	217		
General Surgery	57	1,831	1,702	5,686
N.T. (T & A)	8.1	155	1,252	2,783
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	35.2	935	849	6,936
- Post-Natal			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
<b>Totals</b>			<b>13,439</b>	<b>49,663</b>
Accident & Emergency	378.1	7,659	14,537	24,965

Obstetrics: Live Births 799  
Still Births 7

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

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

The following infectious diseases were notified to the M.O.H. during the year:-

Food Poisoning	1
Scarlet Fever	7
Whooping Cough	6
Measles	35
Meningitis	2
Infective Hepatitis	3
Dysentery	14
Mumps/Encephalitis	2
Tuberculosis	5

The age/sex breakdown of the tuberculosis cases is as follows:-

Age Group	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	1	-	-	-	1	-
25 - 44 years	1	1	-	-	1	1
45 - 64 years	1	1	-	-	1	1
65 years and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	2	-	-	3	2

During the year 14 cases of tuberculosis had recovered sufficiently to require no further surveillance. One respiratory (male) case transferred into the area.

Food Poisoning

I am glad to be able to report that only one case of food poisoning was reported to me during the year. Credit for this must in no small measure be due to the watchful eye of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Venereal Diseases

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

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

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR TO THE CHAIRMAN AND  
MEMBERS OF THE ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the work carried out by the Council's Public Health Department during 1972.

No major public health problems emerged during the year.

Improvement grant work was a prominent feature of departmental activities, and many worthwhile improvements were carried out by house owners in the area. Improvement grant work in this area is not bedevilled by the property speculator, and, in fact, over 87% of grants paid were in respect of owner-occupied properties, or properties with statutory tenants.

May I once again express my thanks to the Councillors for their support, to fellow officers of the Council for their co-operation, and lastly, but by no means least, may I record my sincere appreciation of the work carried out by members of the staff of the public health department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

LESLIE LOWE

Chief Public Health Inspector

GENERAL SANITATION

WATER SUPPLIES

(a) Public

The supplies of water distributed in the area by the statutory undertakers have been satisfactory in quality, and sufficient in quantity, and there is no evidence that the water is liable to plumbo-solvency. The statutory undertakers sample the water regularly, and keep the department fully informed of the results of the examinations.

(b) Private

There are no dwelling houses within the district served by stand-pipes, but 91 houses still rely on private bores or wells, of which there are 65. These dwelling houses and wells are located as follows:-

	<u>Wells</u>	<u>Dwellings served</u>
Colney Heath	4	4
Harpندن Rural	4	6
London Colney	2	2
Redbourn	3	3
St. Michael	2	2
St. Stephen	12	14
Sandridge	15	23
Wheathampstead	23	37
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	65	91
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Three houses within the district are supplied by a private well situated in the area of a neighbouring Authority. A further three bores are in use to supply Institutions, the two largest of these supplies being properly chlorinated.

In all, a total of 103 samples of well water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Luton for examination. The results of these examinations showed all well water in the district to be of uniformly high quality.

#### SWIMMING POOLS

The Council have no swimming pools under their management, but, nevertheless, the department maintains close contact with the managements of all pools in the area. Technical advice is freely given in what is a very complex matter, and the pools regularly visited during the summer months. In addition to instant pool-side tests, a total of 96 samples of swimming pool water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination.

#### COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses within the district.

#### AIR POLLUTION

##### POLLUTION MEASUREMENT

We have continued to operate the air pollution measurement station at the Council's London Colney Depot, and to send the measurements obtained to the Department of Trade and Industry, who conduct a National Survey of Air Pollution, and return to us information obtained from hundreds of similar measurement stations throughout the United Kingdom.

As was indicated in my last report, the London Colney Station has now been operating sufficiently long for firm conclusions to be made regarding the conditions existing at London Colney, and as soon as the detailed results are to hand, it will be possible to make a detailed report on the situation.

In general, however, it is already manifest that the trend to smokelessness is continuing unabated.

## ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

At the end of the year, there were ten premises licensed under the above Act within the district. Conditions at these Boarding Establishments are extremely good.

### CONTROL OF REFUSE DISPOSAL

Refuse collection and disposal is undertaken by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, a bin liner system, very popular with householders in particular, being operated for domestic refuse.

In addition to local refuse, a considerable volume of refuse from the Greater London area, and also neighbouring districts, is disposed of within the district by tipping in disused gravel pits.

During the year, the disposal of toxic waste became very topical, but no difficulties were experienced in this area, since the disposal of toxic waste by tipping had, in effect, been prohibited for a number of years under the local County Council Act.

Control of the tips is exercised jointly by the Hertfordshire County Council and this Council, and does require very regular visits and constant vigilance.

### ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Mr. H. Wilkinson, Engineer and Surveyor to the Council, has kindly supplied the following note on arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal.

"All the principal centres of population, containing about 95% of the dwellings in the district, are served by public sewers varying in diameter from 6" to 15", and having a total length of approximately 65 miles. The Council has approved in principle sewer extensions to serve a further 70 dwellings in less densely populated areas.

The Rural District Council is a constituent authority member of the West Hertfordshire Main Drainage Authority, with whose trunk sewers most of the public sewers connect. The Authority's treatment works is at Maple Cross, near Richmansworth, and the new Blackbirds Works are being brought into partial operation. Agreements with neighbouring local authorities provide for the inter-communication of sewers, resulting in an efficient and economic sewerage system in areas near to the Rural District's boundary.

The Council's only sewage disposal works is situated at Wheathampstead, and treats an average dry weather flow of approximately 180,000 gallons per day. The effluent from the works is discharged into the River Lee, the Catchment Board imposing a 10/10 p.p.m. standard for suspended solids and 5 day Biochemical Oxygen Demand.

Being conscious of the importance of protecting the high quality of the water in the River Lee, and to ensure the standard of the effluent being maintained as development takes place in the future, a scheme for the extension of the sewage works has been submitted to the Department of the Environment, further investigations are being made, and it is very much to be regretted that this appears to be holding up certain small sewerage schemes at Gustard Wood and Marford Road in Wheathampstead."

## SANITATION

### (a) Cesspools

In addition to the public sewerage system, some 500 houses in the area have a water carriage system of sanitation incorporating the use of cesspools. These are emptied regularly by the Council, two specialised vehicles being provided for this purpose.

### (b) Pail Closets

The number of dwellings within the district with pail closet sanitation is now only 5. The dwellings concerned are located as follows:-

St. Stephen	2
Harpden Rural	2
Colney Heath	1

None of the premises concerned is within reasonable distance of sewers, and hence formal action for abolition of the pail closets cannot be undertaken, though the situation is constantly kept under review, and owners advised of the financial assistance available to abolish these unsatisfactory closets.

## NUISANCES

A total of 360 complaints alleging nuisance were made to the department during 1972, and these were fully investigated, and appropriate action taken.

## WASPS

The Council continued their policy of undertaking the destruction of wasps' nests free of charge. During the summer season of 1972, a total of 96 nests were destroyed. This service is one which is greatly appreciated by residents throughout the district.

## RODENT CONTROL

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, within their district, and since the coming into operation of this Act, it has been the Council's policy to carry out free treatment at domestic premises. In the case of commercial premises and agricultural holdings, charges are made on a scale regarded as sufficient to cover the cost involved, the department being prepared to quote for either single treatments, or for a contract period of one year. On 31st December, 1972, fifty-two contracts were running, with an annual value of £635.50. Of these, twenty-five were in respect of farms, and twenty-seven in respect of industrial premises.

Statistics in respect of rodent control works are shown overleaf.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	15642	358
2.(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notifications	484	25
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	367	25
(ii) Mice	90	8
3.(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	368	6
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	3	1
(ii) Mice	0	0

#### HOUSING

There is a very good standard of housing within the district generally, more than half the dwellings being of post-war construction.

The following summary gives details of formal action relative to property within the district.

1. Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of demolition or closing orders. 2
2. Number of demolition or closing orders made, and undertakings accepted:-
  - (a) Demolition Orders 1
  - (b) Closing Orders, whole premises 1
  - (c) Undertakings accepted that houses would be made fit 3
  - (d) Undertakings carried out to the satisfaction of the Council 2
3. Number of houses demolished:-
  - (a) As a result of Demolition Orders 2
  - (b) In Clearance Areas 0

4.	(a) Number of Discretionary Improvement Grants approved by the Council	69
	(b) Number of applications formally refused	0
5.	Number of Standard Grants approved by the Council	12
6.	Number of Special Grants approved by the Council	0

#### SLUM CLEARANCE

There are no areas within the district which warrant action by way of slum clearance areas, such unsatisfactory properties as exist being best dealt with as individually unfit houses as and when circumstances permit. There are probably only about two dozen such properties now standing.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING

There was a considerable increase in the number of house improvements with the assistance of grants during the year, the total being 81.

#### QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES.

In addition to the improvement provisions, the Housing Act 1969 enables landlords with controlled tenants to seek rent increases in certain circumstances. A pre-requisite is that the house shall be in reasonably good repair, and have all the standard amenities. The local authority signifies these conditions are met upon application by the issue of a Qualification Certificate.

A total of 15 applications were received during the year, together with 2 applications for Certificates of Provisional Approval, which are certificates indicating that the Council will be prepared to issue a full Qualification Certificate when certain lacking amenities are provided.

#### COUNCIL HOUSES

At the end of 1972, the Council had a total of 2902 council houses under its control.

#### CARAVAN SITES (CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT) ACT 1960, & CARAVAN SITES ACT 1968

Eighty-four caravans are licensed on private sites in the district under the above Act, seventy-four being used as permanent residences, and ten for holidays and week-end use. In addition, the Council own two sites, one for sixty-nine caravans, and one for twenty-nine caravans, while the Hertfordshire County Council has provided one site for itinerants with a maximum of fifteen standings.

#### FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

##### MEAT INSPECTION

During the course of the year, the slaughterhouse at London Colney

was closed down, and there is now only one small slaughterhouse, situated in Wheathampstead, licensed in the district.

All carcasses and their associated offals were inspected during the year.

No *Cysticercus Bovis* was detected in cattle, the quality of which remained high, and liver spoilage, due to parasitic infestations, continued to be the principal cause for rejection of animal parts.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART FOR THE YEAR 1972

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	528	150	138	973	2098	38
Number inspected	528	150	138	973	2098	38
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	3	4	2	7	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	35	43	8	10	102	7
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

The Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations 1966

The hours for slaughtering prescribed by the Council under the above Regulations proved quite workable once again, although some small amount of overtime work was called upon from the Inspectors.

Imported Food Regulations, 1968

These regulations permit foodstuffs to be imported direct to inland areas



without prior inspection at the dockside. This work has not imposed any great burden on the Department so far, and some of the earlier problems encountered now seem to be things of the past.

## FOOD HYGIENE

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

#### Registrations under Section 16

Seventy premises are registered in connection with the manufacture and sale of ice-cream and preserved foods, etc. Of these, fifty-two are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream.

##### (a) Milk Supplies

(i) Ten distributors are registered under Regulation 8 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

##### (ii) Brucella Abortus

The cattle in one dairy herd in the district continued to yield milk which showed a positive reaction to tests for Brucellosis, and the Pasteurisation Order in force against the farm was continued.

##### (b) The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

##### (c) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

A total of 235 premises in the district are the subject of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960. The table which follows shows the grouping according to the categories of trade carried on in these premises the number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16, and the number of premises affected by Regulation 19.

DETAILS OF FOOD PREMISES AS AT THE 31st DECEMBER, 1972, GROUPED IN TRADE CATEGORIES, TOGETHER WITH OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Type of Food Premises	Total No. of Premises	Number of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16	Number of Premises to which Regulation 19 applies	Number of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19
1. Grocery, Provisions & General	37	37	37	37
2. Grocery, Provisions, & Butcher	2	2	2	2
3. Butcher	11	11	11	11
4. Baker's Shop	7	7	7	7
5. Bakeries	2	2	2	2
6. Sweets, Confectionery, and/or ice-cream	18	18	18	18
7. Greengrocery	10	10	10	10
8. Fish	2	2	2	2
9. Fish & Greengrocery	-	-	-	-
10. Food Factories/ Wholesale Food	9	9	9	9
11. Schools & Institutions	31	31	31	31
12. Hospitals & Nursing Homes	7	7	7	7
13. Factory Canteens	19	19	19	19
14. Cafes including Clubs & Licensed Restaurants	19	19	19	19
15. Licensed Hotel/ Restaurant	6	6	6	6
16. Off Licences	6	6	3	3
17. Public Houses	49	49	49	49
TOTALS	235	235	232	232

In general, a good standard is to be found in food premises within the district, with most food workers anxious to carry out the spirit of the Regulations.

## HEALTH EDUCATION

During the spring, a ten-lecture course in food hygiene in preparation for the appropriate certificate of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene was held at the St. Albans College of Further Education, the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector contributing some of the lectures. Some of the successful candidates in the examination are employed within the Rural District.

## POULTRY INSPECTION

Slaughtering of poultry in the area is irregular, there being only one establishment where this is carried on at present, and even at this establishment slaughtering is on a minor scale.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES REGULATIONS 1963

The number of infringements under the Regulations noted during the year was 20, being mostly of a minor nature. No prosecutions were undertaken in connection with the infringements, which were all remedied after informal action.

During the year, one accident notification was received. An investigation was undertaken, but no further action was indicated.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

### (I) PARTICULARS of Registrations and Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of Premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of Premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	2	34	27
Retail shops	3	95	70
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	2	4	4
Catering Establishments open to the public; canteens	1	25	25
Fuel Storage Depots	-	2	-
TOTALS	8	160	126

(II) ANALYSIS of persons employed in registered premises by workplace

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed		
	Males	Females	Totals
Offices	297	188	485
Retail Shops	82	247	329
Wholesale Departments; warehouses	42	19	61
Catering Establishments open to the public; Canteens	28	58	86
Fuel Storage Depots	33	16	49
TOTALS	482	528	1010

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Inspections and other details as required under the Factories Act of 1961, are shown in Appendix I.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1972  
FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. ALBANS IN THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the 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	3	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	103	95	6	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	8	3	-	-
TOTALS	114	98	6	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted  (6)
	Found  (2)	Remedied  (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector  (4)	By H.M. Inspector  (5)	
Want of cleanliness (s.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (s.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (s.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (s.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	3	3	-	-	-
TOTALS	7	7	-	-	-

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF AREA

The following is a summary of visits and inspections carried out during the year. It does not include work carried out by the Rodent Operator, or Student Public Health Inspector.

GENERAL SANITATIONPublic Health Acts

Primary Inspections	113
Re-visits	115
Infectious Diseases (including Food Poisoning)	62
Water supply and sampling	103
Drainage	57
Keeping of Animals	11
Refuse Disposal	128
Pest Control	30
Atmospheric Pollution	48
Noise Nuisances	47
Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963	18
Housing Acts (All purposes, including grants and Qualification Certificates)	692
Immigrants	2
Food Premises	293
Food Vehicles	10
Caravans and Caravan Sites	41
Miscellaneous Visits (including unsuccessful visits)	204
Miscellaneous Food Visits	128
Meat Inspection	599
Offices, Shops, and Railway Premises Act	133
Factories Act	98
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	2932
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APPENDIX IIINOTICES

The following notices were served during the year.

Informal Notices served	83
Informal Notices complied with	80
Formal Notices served	3
Formal Notices complied with	3





