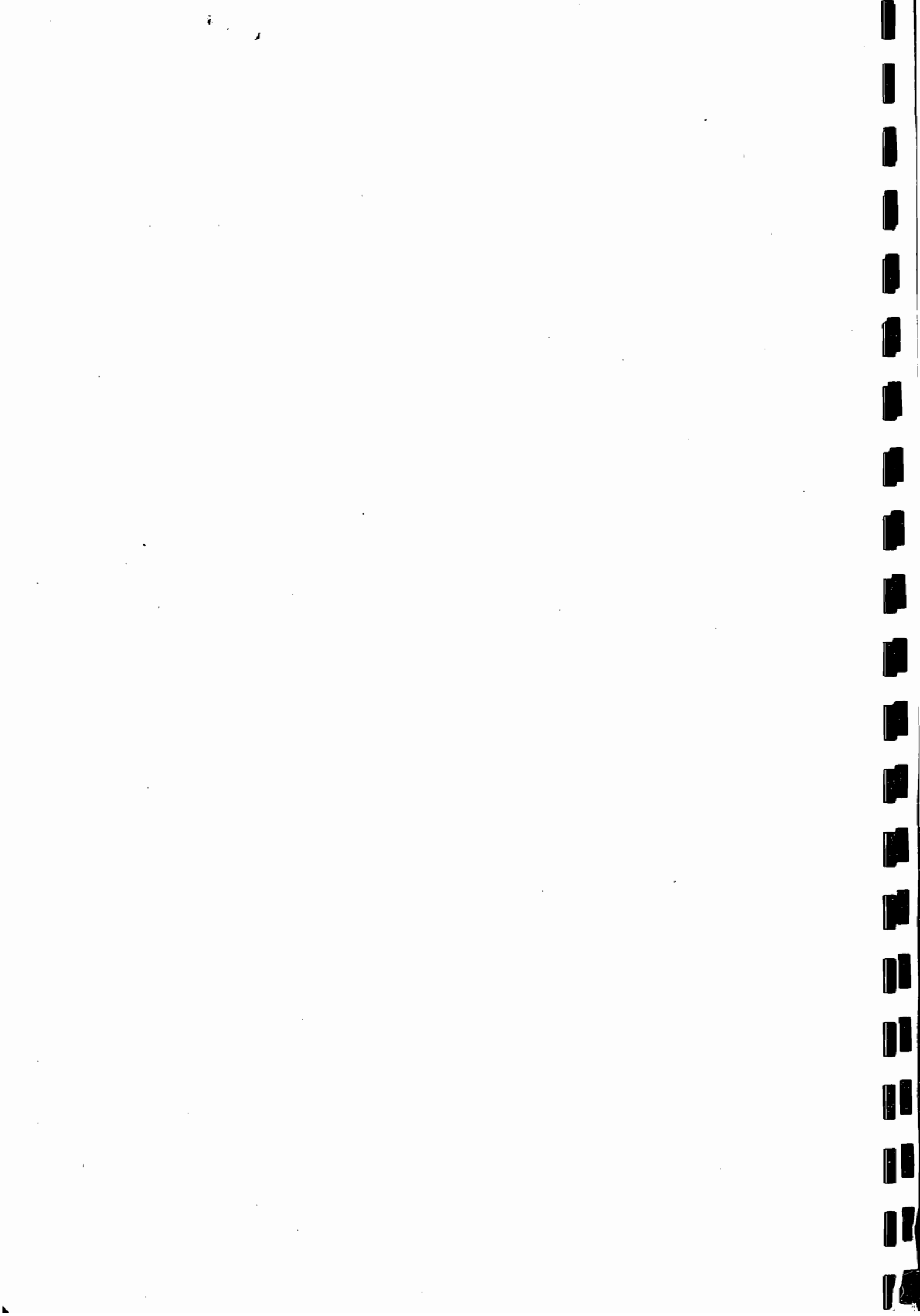


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NATIONAL POISONS INFORMATION
CENTRE,
BEAUMONT HOSPITAL,
PO. BOX 1297,
BEAUMONT ROAD,
DUBLIN 9.
IRELAND.

ANNUAL REPORT 1995



POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE, BEAUMONT HOSPITAL DUBLIN 9.

Phone: 379964 or 379966

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF POISONING

INGESTED POISONS

1. Make patient vomit, if

- (a) a toxic dose may have been taken
- (b) less than 2 hours since poison ingested

DO NOT induce vomiting if:-

- (a) Patient is unconscious/semiconscious or having fits.
- (b) Patient has ingested a corrosive (acid or alkali) product. Give liquids.
- (c) The swallowed poison contains paraffin oil, petrol, lighter fuel, furniture polish or other petroleum distillates. Give liquids.

2. Directions for inducing emesis.

(A) Give 15-30 mls (1-2 tablespoons) of syrup of ipecac
Followed by 1/2 glass of water.
For children use 10-15 mls of syrup of ipecac

OR

(B) Give water. Gently tickle back of throat with a spoon or blunt object. Place patient in spanking position when vomiting begins.

INHALED POISONS

- 1. Remove from exposure.
- 2. Clear airway. Give O₂ and artificial respiration if necessary.

SKIN CONTAMINATION

(Avoid contaminating operator)

- 1. Drench skin with water in tub or shower.
- 2. Apply stream of water on skin while removing clothing.
- 3. Cleanse skin thoroughly with soap and water.
- 4. **DO NOT** attempt to use chemical antidotes.

EYE CONTAMINATION

1. Hold eyelids apart. Wash eye for 15 min., with running water.
2. DO NOT attempt to use chemical antidotes.

SUBCUTANEOUSLY INJECTED OVERDOSE OF DRUGS

1. Apply a rubber band tourniquet (1 x 50 cm) proximal to the side of injection. The pulse beyond the tourniquet should not disappear. Loosen tourniquet for 1 minute in every 10.
2. Transport patient to hospital.

IDENTIFICATION OF UNKNOWN TOXIC AGENT

The following information is useful in attempting to identify a toxic agent. The container should be available when calling the Poisons Information Centre.

1. Physical state (solid, liquid, gas).
2. Odour.
3. Trade name.
4. Imprinted code on tablet or capsule, tablet colour and shape.
5. Use.
6. Presence of poison label.
7. Inflammability warning.

These emergency management of poisoning guidelines, were prepared and approved by the Poisons Information Centre and are presented as a service to the medical profession with the compliments of Beecham Research Laboratories. April 1989



Beecham Research Laboratories

Ferry House, 48/53 Lr. Mount St., Dublin 2
Tel. 01-762385

AUGMENTIN "ON CALL" Twenty Four Hours Every Day
clavulanate-potentiated amoxycillin PA 49/35/1

NATIONAL POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE
BEAUMONT HOSPITAL
PO. BOX 1297
BEAUMONT ROAD
DUBLIN 9
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Telex : 33353
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Internet address : freid@iol.ie
Director : Dr. J.A. Tracey

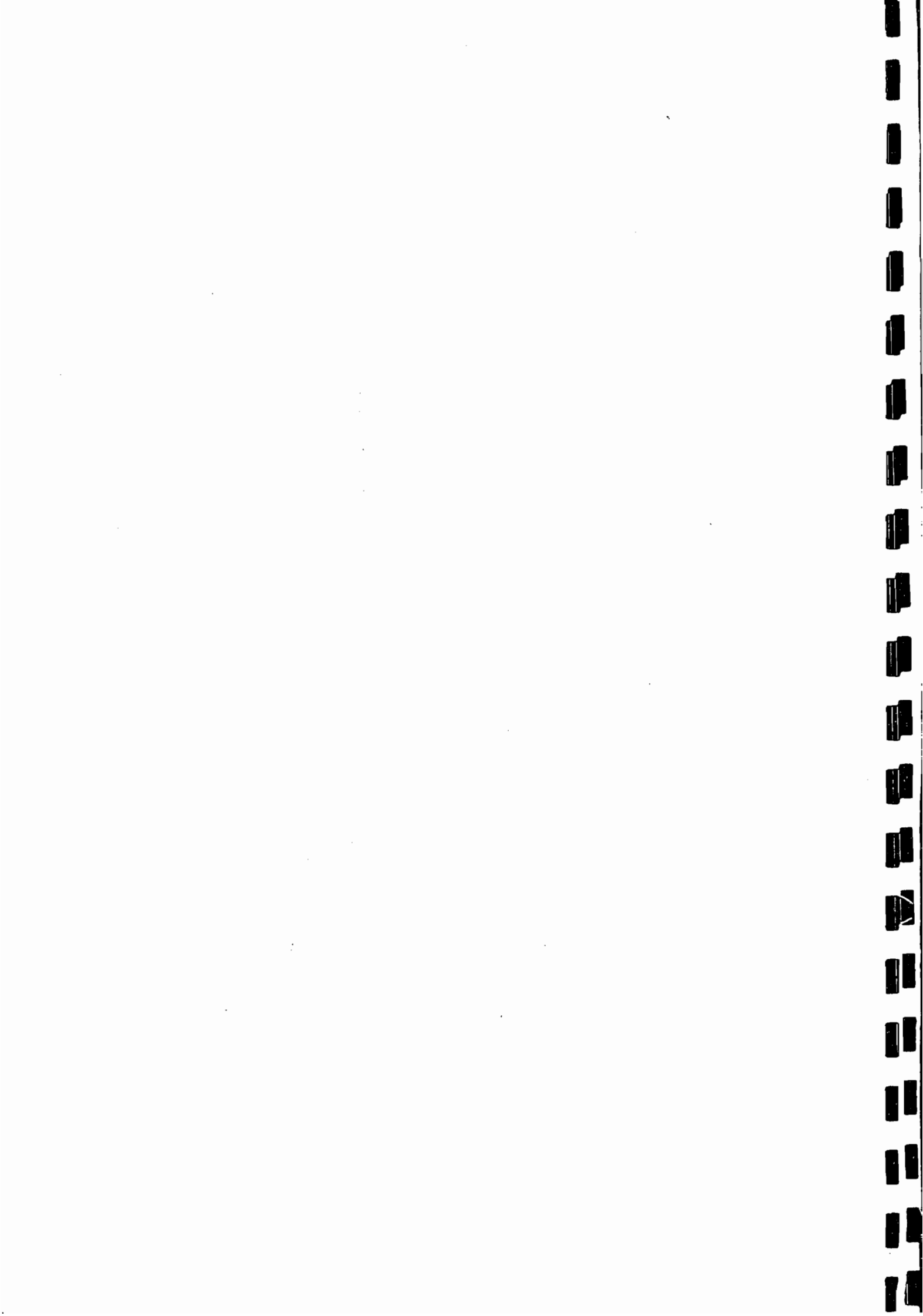
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ADMINISTRATION OF THE POISONS CENTRE

Staff : Director
: 4 Poisons Information Officers
: 1 Clerical Officer
Source of finance : Department of Health
Population served : 3.5 million

The poisons information centre operates a 24 hour telephone service, primarily for medical personnel, providing information on the diagnosis and treatment of poisoning from all causes (industrial agents, agricultural agents, household agents, drugs, plants). In 1996, cover will be provided by the poisons information officers between 8am and 10pm Monday to Friday and between 10am and 6pm Saturdays and Sundays. At all other times the calls are taken by the nursing staff in St. Michael's Ward.

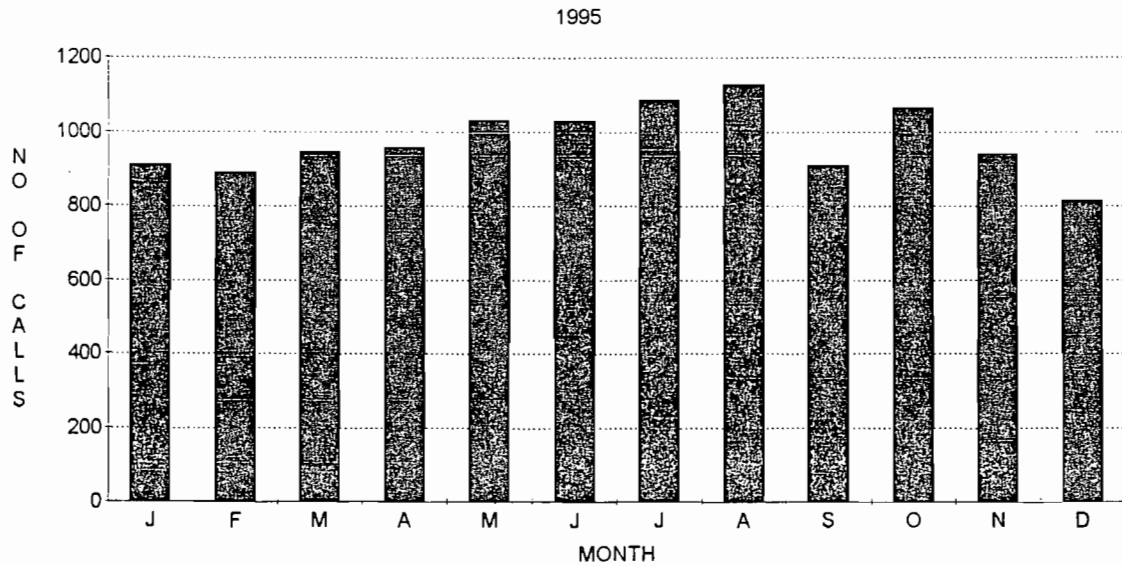
The poisons information centre has a number of computerised databases including Toxbase, Poisindex, Tomes, TicTac and UK-PID. The nursing staff in St. Michael's ward use Toxbase to answer enquiries.



CALLS TO THE CENTRE

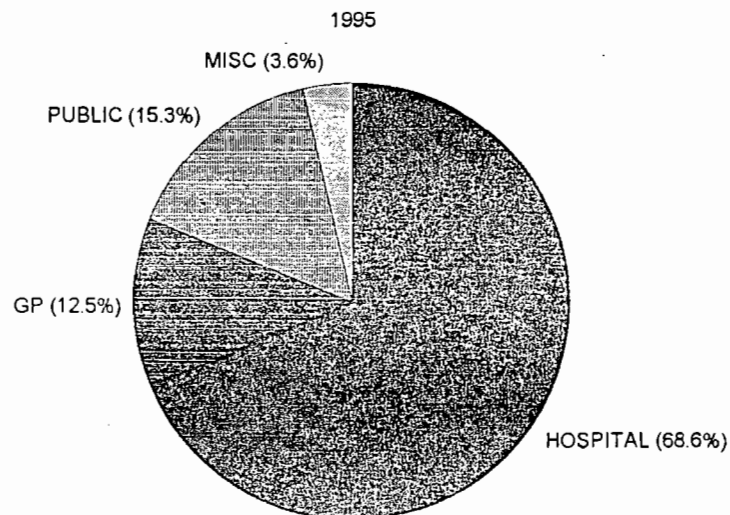
In 1995, 11720 calls were received. The monthly variation in calls is shown below with the summer months being busiest.

MONTHLY VARIATION IN CALLS



Most enquiries are made by telephone. Calls are received mainly from hospital doctors but also from the general public, GPs, vets and others. Calls from the public accounted for 14.4% in 1993, 14% in 1994 and 15.3% in 1995.

TYPE OF CALLER



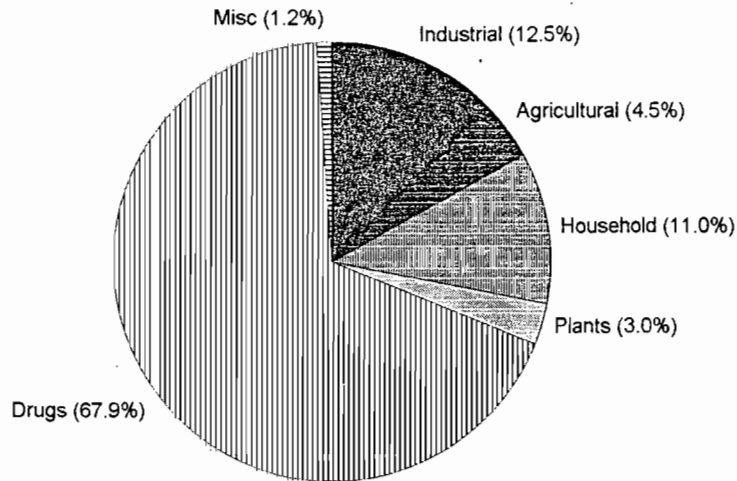


POISONING CASES

The total number of poisoning cases involving human beings was 11128. There were 5056 calls about males, 5353 about females and 719 about victims of unknown sex. Calls concerning drugs form by far the largest proportion of enquiries. Cosmetics are included as household agents.

CALLS BY AGENT CLASS

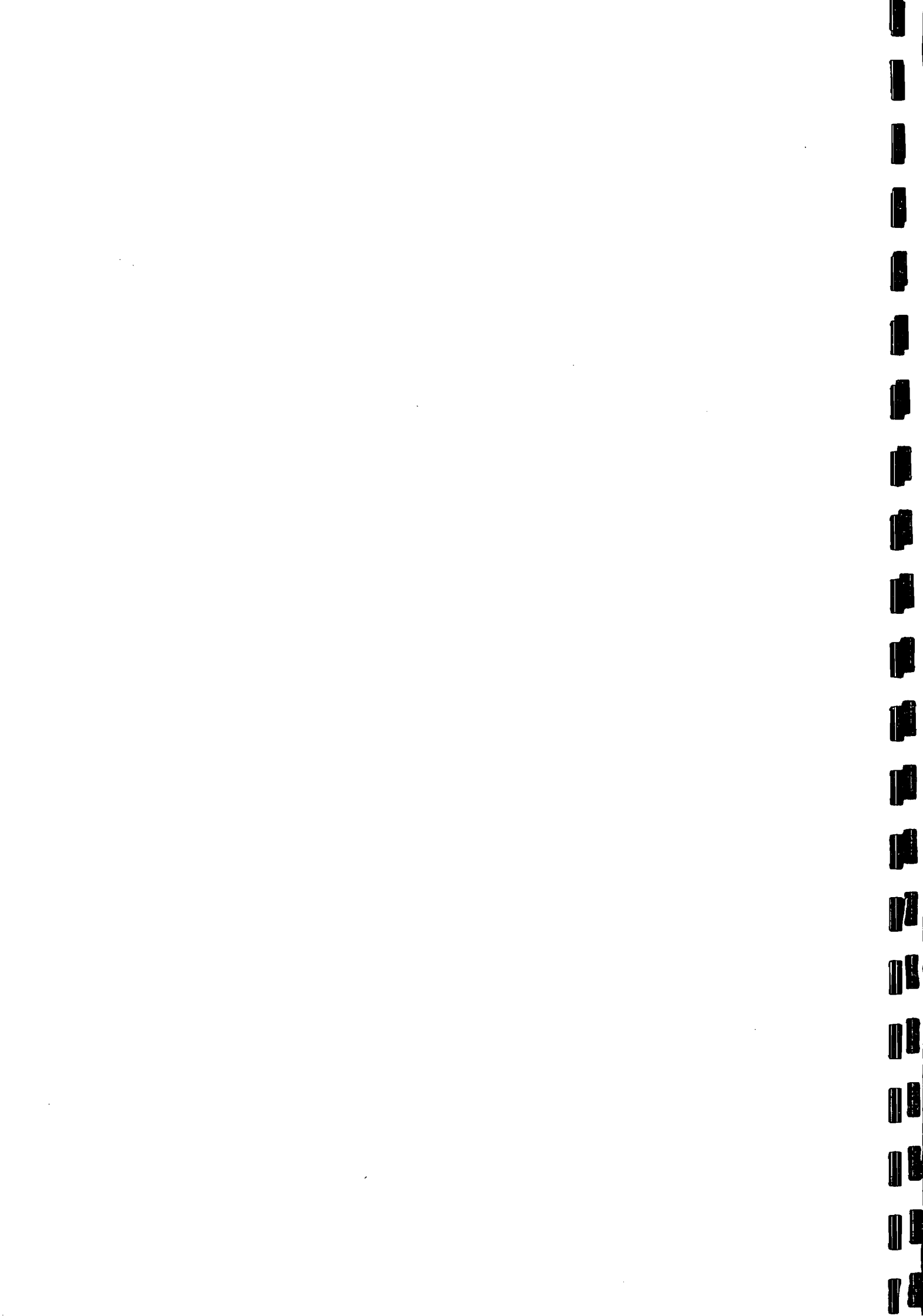
1995



The table below shows the 15 most frequent agents of poisoning in decreasing order of frequency.

THE 15 MOST FREQUENT CAUSES OF POISONING 1995

AGENT	ATC CLASSIFICATION	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-49	50-69	>70	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
BENZODIAZEPINES	N05CD	1	100	5	38	71	596	95	18	97	1017
PARACETAMOL	N02BE01	7	270	24	58	197	308	13	4	59	940
NSAIDS	M01A	3	90	4	34	101	194	14	3	35	478
TRICYCLIC ANTIDEPRESSANTS	N06AA	1	48	4	25	40	246	56	5	32	457
ANTIBIOTICS	J01	8	112	14	14	55	99	8	4	42	356
OTHER ANTIDEPRESSANTS	N09A	0	9	3	6	33	213	38	7	45	354
HYDROCARBONS		15	209	13	19	9	37	5	2	16	325
PHENOTHIAZINES	N05A	1	22	4	6	29	200	31	1	21	315
COUGH SYRUPS	R05	4	260	21	2	1	7	0	2	6	303
ASPIRIN	N02BA	2	35	1	19	58	141	9	4	28	297
BRONCHODILATORS	R03	3	117	11	11	34	57	19	7	11	270
ANTIEPILEPTICS	N03	0	31	8	15	38	111	5	3	12	223
BLEACH		11	102	11	5	8	33	17	5	20	212
CNS STIMULANTS	N07	0	2	0	4	65	110	0	0	22	203
PARACETAMOL WITH CODEINE	N02BE51	0	31	2	15	34	83	12	1	17	195



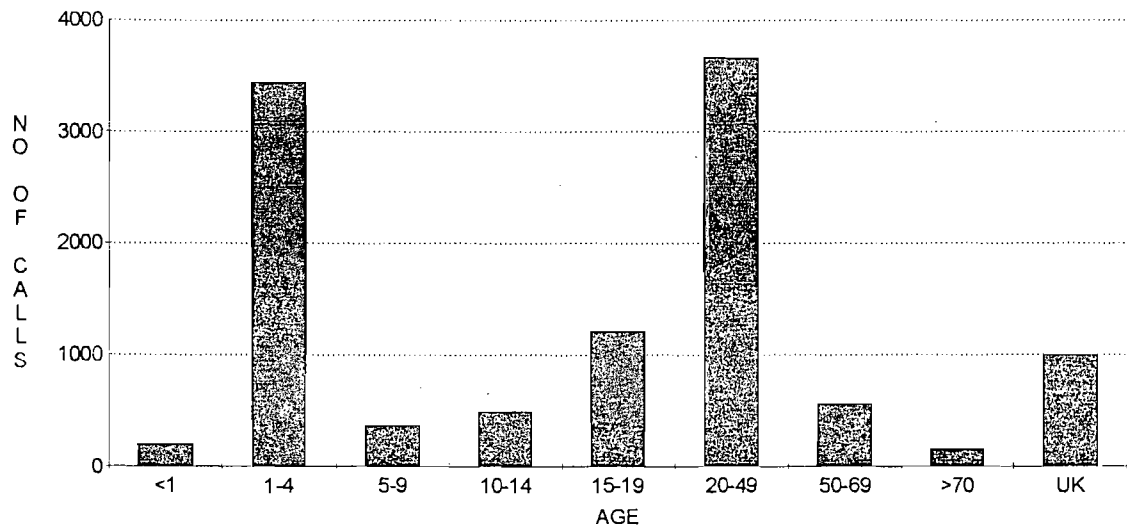
The table below shows the distribution of calls concerning human victims according to agent type and age.

ENQUIRIES BY AGENT TYPE & AGE 1995

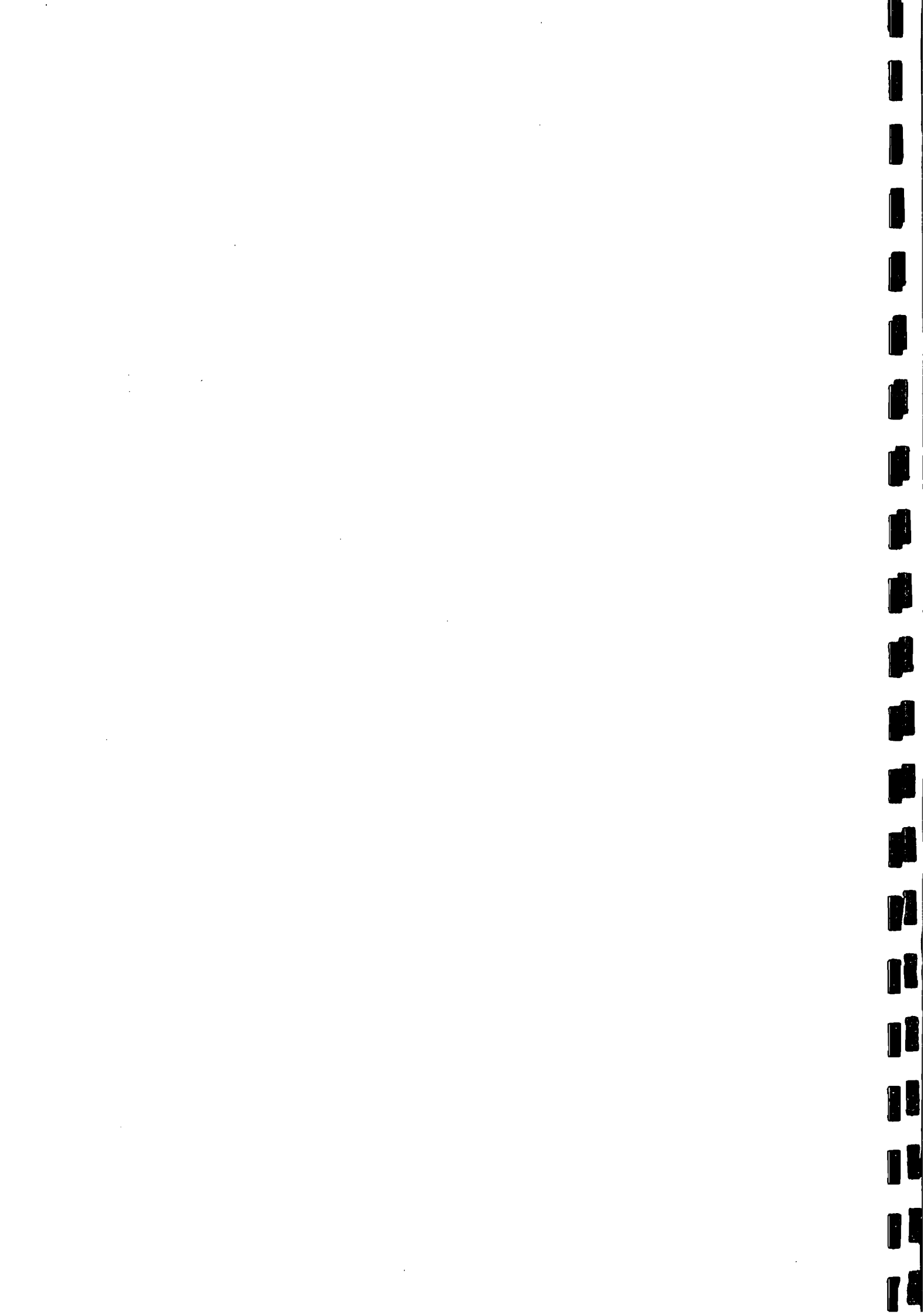
AGE	PLANTS	DRUGS	HOUSEHOLD	AGRICULTURAL	INDUSTRIAL	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
<1	22	60	81	13	31	0	207
1-4	122	1956	726	119	514	7	3444
5-9	27	193	61	25	65	3	374
10-14	31	318	39	20	87	2	497
15-19	40	1018	40	25	84	5	1212
20-49	29	3037	144	132	317	6	3665
50-69	9	406	43	40	66	3	567
>70	4	88	23	11	30	0	156
UNKNOWN	33	603	114	59	181	16	1006
TOTAL	317	7679	1271	444	1375	42	11128
FATALITIES	0	13	0	15	2	0	30

CALLS BY PATIENT AGE

1995



There were 82 calls involving animal victims.



REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

The following are the agents for which there are most requests for information:

- 1 Poisons information centre statistics, tel.no. etc.
- 2 CNS stimulants (Ecstasy)
- 3 Paracetamol
- 4 Drug identification
- 5 Benzodiazepines
- 6 Organophosphates
- 7 Unknown agent but poisoning suspected
- 8 Antibiotics
- 9 Mercury
- 10 Paraquat

MEETINGS

- 1 Cardiff, 9th January,
UK-PID training day,
Attended by Ms Reid.
- 2 Beaumont Hospital, 31st March,
Symposium on Agrochemical Poisoning,
organised by the Poisons Information Centre.
- 3 Birmingham, 28th April,
Seminar on Gut Decontamination,
Attended by Dr Tracey & Ms Reid.
- 4 Beaumont Hospital, 16th June,
TicTac meeting,
hosted by the Poisons Information Centre.
- 5 Belfast, 29th September,
Meeting on Chemical Incidents,
Attended by Dr Tracey & Ms Reid.
- 6 Luxembourg, 16th November,
5th EC Meeting on acute human poisoning,
Attended by Dr Tracey.

The staff of the centre give lectures to various groups including the National Ambulance Training School and speciality training courses (e.g. Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland). Lectures are also given in all three medical schools in Dublin.