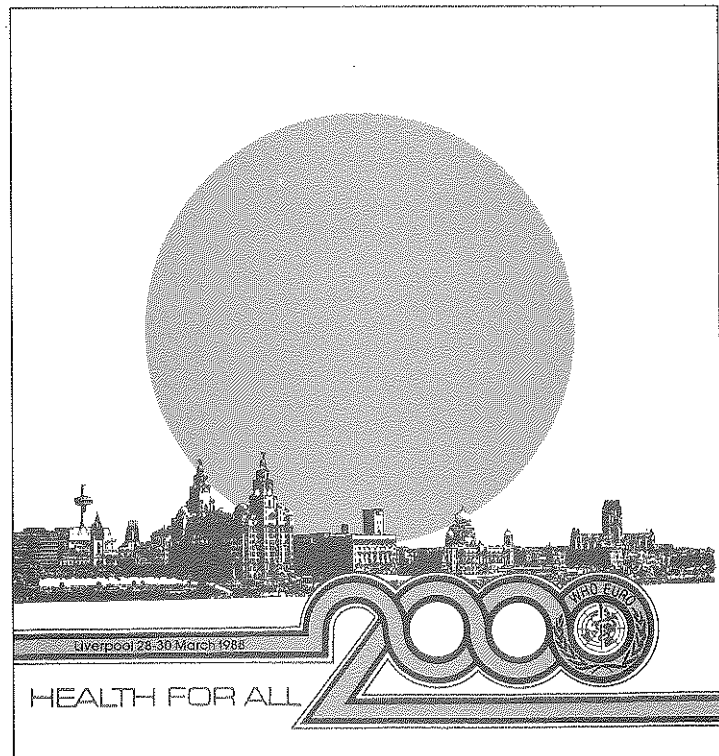


Proceedings of the first United Kingdom Healthy Cities Conference

Edited by
Dr John Ashton and
Ms Lindsay Knight

Liverpool 28-30 March 1988



City 2000

by Adrian Henri

In this city
filled with the sound of alarm-bells
police sirens howl
like animals mating,
vagrants huddle together
in cardboard cities;
in a damp bed-sit
a girl dreams visions of Patmos,
cool white spaces,
the dusk gleam of an icon,
THE NIGHT
written in dripping white
on a railway wall.

swarming city,
city full of dreams ...

In this city
the sound of the bulldozer is banished from the
land,
swingeing custodial sentences imposed
on anyone designing a building
finished in shuttered concrete.

Carparks burst into flower
narcissi, blue-flags, lilies-of-the-valley
pushing up through the tarmac,
the streets heaped with yellow marigolds.
All planning decisions are referred to
the postman Ferdinand Cheval
Charles Rennie Mackintosh
and
Antoni Gaudi
(all speaking through a medium).

This city
no longer an embarrassment,
the too-much-loved-mother
at the School Speech Day,
lipstick blurred,
smelling of gin-and-lime.

As the sun rises over
this city,
your morning face on the pillow
through strands of dark brown hair,
the river lying back open to the day,
the lace curtains of terrace-houses
sing like schoolchildren.

This city
is your mother,
and your lover.

She is your first thought,
and your last.

She is your future,
and your past.

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**Department of Public Health
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Dr John Ashton
Department of Public Health
University of Liverpool
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Liverpool L69 3BX

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Contents

- Foreword** Dr John Ashton 1
Commentary Dr Tony Delamothe 2

Philosophy and Background

- Overview** Sir Donald Acheson 7
Environmental Health in Urban Areas Mr Eric Giroult 9
The Healthy Cities Project Dr John Ashton 12
Sociological Perspectives on the Healthy City: looking at Europe Mr Robert Anderson 15
Ecological economies and healthy cities Dr David Morris 22

Urban Issues and Health

- Unhealthy housing** Ms Sheila McKechnie 27
Community architecture and how to give inner cities new life Dr Rod Hackney 29
Polluted cities Mr Bob Tanner 34
Greening cities Prof Tony Bradshaw 37
Unhealthy work and unemployment Dr Alex Scott-Samuel 43
Community action Mr Peter Kuenstler 45
Transport and the healthy city Dr Mayer Hillman 48

Making the City Healthy

- The ecological city** Prof Tjeerd Deelstra 53
Health, poverty and policy in the city Prof Peter Townsend 62
The future of cities: economic choices and possibilities Mr James Robertson 68
Visions of regeneration – USA Mr Robert Rodale 73
The Eldonian papers The Eldon Street Community Association 76
Creating partnerships for healthy cities Prof Graeme Davies 79
Conclusion Cllr Keva Coombes 81

Appendices

- 1 The Liverpool Declaration on the Right to Health** 87
2 Black Declaration to the Conference 89
3 Statement from Voluntary Groups and Community Groups 90