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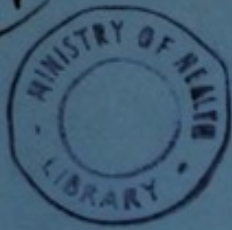
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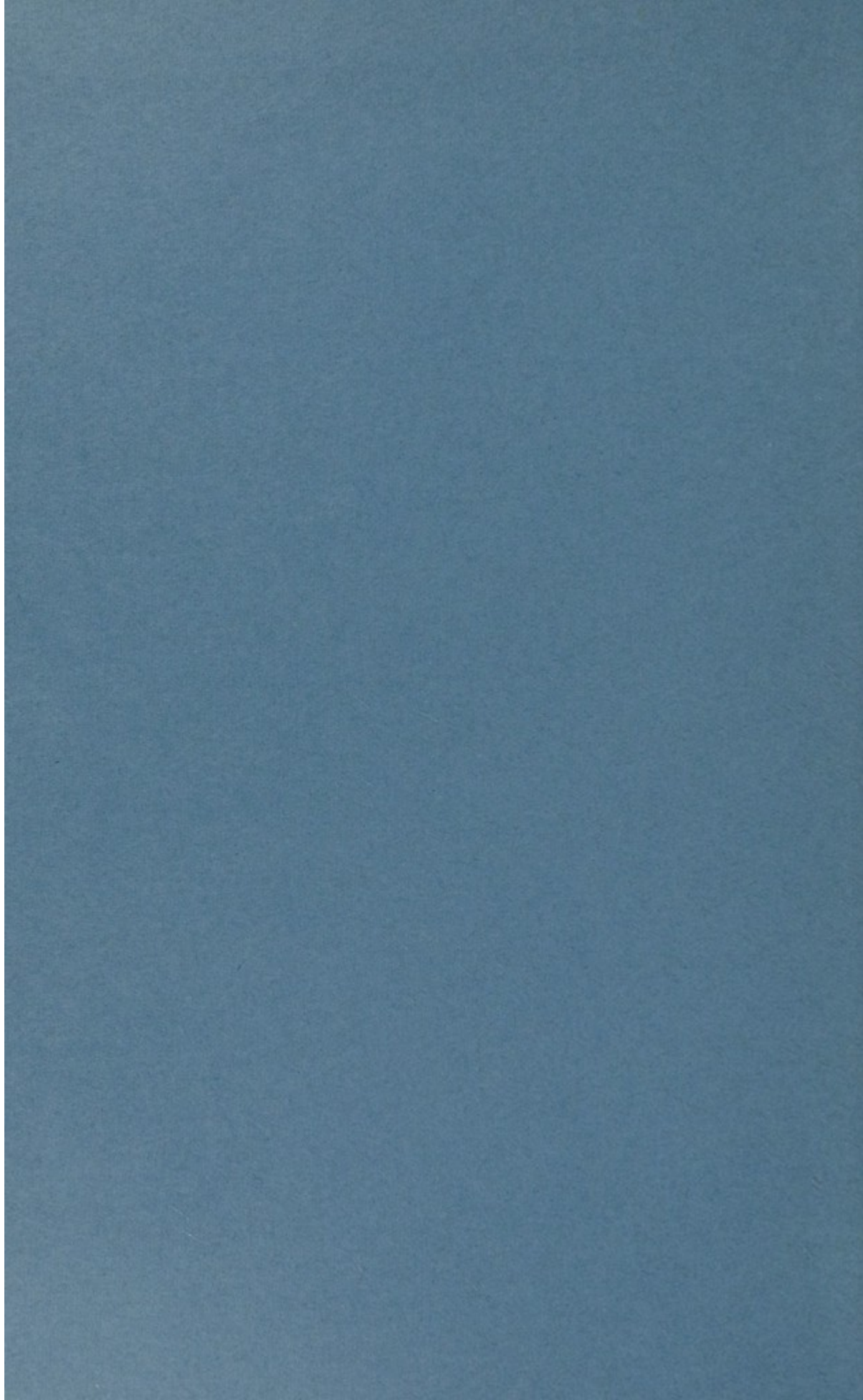
PUBLIC HEALTH

in

South East Essex

1966

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban
Districts of Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh and the
Rural District of Rochford



Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1966

Tel. Rayleigh 6101

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
134, HIGH STREET,
RAYLEIGH, ESSEX.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Councils of Benfleet,
Canvey Island and Rayleigh and the Rural District of Rochford.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit my report on the health of your Districts for the year 1966.

During 1966 the pressure of the population on local resources became even greater than in previous years and a further brake had to be applied. Thus in April 1966 the County Council's Planning Authority forbade the granting of any further outline planning applications in Benfleet and Rayleigh Urban Districts and in the Rochford Rural District on grounds that the water available would be insufficient for anything greater than the present population, and that facilities for the purification and disposal of sewage and waste water were already in many places inadequate.

The Rochford, Rayleigh and Benfleet Councils are pursuing a vigorous programme of expansion and renewal of their drainage and sewage disposal facilities, and should each be able to cope with further expansions of the population in the early 1970's. The new sewage works at Canvey Island came into operation in 1966 and at Canvey Island expansion of the drainage facilities should keep pace adequately with the rise in population.

Canvey Island is also fortunate in that a part of the water supply is from local wells and therefore contains an adequate amount of fluoride. In the rest of South East Essex supplementing of the fluoride level may have to wait until the water supply from river sources is adequate to meet most demands.

Influenza attacked children and adults in the early months of 1966 and there was a good deal of absence from work and school. The incidence of complications does not appear to have been high, but there were some deaths from pneumonia.

The rising tide of tuberculosis in Benfleet was turned. It is not possible to say whether this is due only to the normal service of diagnosis, treatment and prevention given by the Chest Clinic and Health Visitors or whether the aid given by the Mass X-ray Survey was critical.

In Benfleet, almost 4,000 people out of an adult population of about 26,000 were screened. This represents about 15% of this population. As a survey, it indicates a rate of 0.5 per 1,000 (2 cases in 3,925). This would suggest a substantial reduction in the incidence of tuberculosis since 1964 when the last survey was made. As a preventive measure, it brought to treatment two men who were not aware of their condition and would,

therefore, have spread the disease inadvertently both in Benfleet and elsewhere. It also probably reduced the amount of time that they needed to spend under treatment.

In Canvey Island 1,809 out of an adult population of about 16,000 were screened; in Rayleigh 2,758 in an adult population of 17,500; and in Rochford 1,213 out of an adult population of 23,000. Rochford was given only two public sessions in the Market Square and was not fully screened on this occasion. It is hoped a fuller survey will take place in Rochford in 1968/69.

The following details were provided by Dr. E. G. Pyne, the Medical Director of the Mass X-ray Unit, in respect of the overall survey for 1966:—

	No. of cases of Tuberculosis requiring Close supervision and/or treatment	Occasional supervision	No. of Bronchial Carcinoma	Other diseases
Canvey Island	1	1	2	Neurilemona Retrosternal thyroid (2) Cardiovascular Sarcoidosis
Benfleet	1 (resident at Ilford)	1	2	Cardiovascular (2)
Thundersley	1	1	1	Cardiovascular Rheumatoid lung
Tarpots	—	—	1	Cardiovascular Retrosternal thyroid
Hadleigh	—	2	1	Metastases Retrosternal thyroid (2) Cardiovascular Arc Welder's lung Sarcoidosis
Rochford	—	1	1	Pneumoconiosis (2) Hypertension Sarcoidosis
Rayleigh	1 (resident at Basildon)	3	—	Adenoma Cardiovascular (3) Dextrocardia Retrosternal thyroid Sarcoidosis

Some progress was made in Health Education. After a preliminary meeting of representatives of voluntary bodies and the Local Authorities in May 1966, the inaugural meeting of the South East Essex Home Safety Committee was held at Rayleigh in September. Councillor I. J. Smith of

Benfleet was elected Chairman and Mr. R. F. Stripp Secretary. This Committee has proved most useful, both as a means of spreading education on dangers in the home, and as a source of advice. Besides representatives of voluntary organisations, Local Authorities, Public Health and Area Health staff, there also attend representatives of the County Welfare Department, the County Police, and the County Fire Service. Advice on and investigation into the dangers of poisoning were the principal activities during the last three months of 1966.

The campaign against smoking continued. Dr. R. Beaver, the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, and myself started a programme of talks to the top classes of the Primary Schools, and by the end of the year had visited about two-thirds of these schools in the area. We showed the children the film THE SMOKING MACHINE then gave a short talk and answered questions. The questions were many and various and there is little doubt that almost all the children understood the dangers that cigarette smoking can bring.

Conversion of the smoking addict is more difficult, but we have made a beginning. A successful Smokers' Advice Clinic was held at the Hockley Health Services Clinic, Greensward Lane in October. As elsewhere, the programme followed was one of films, talk and discussion, the discussion taking place over a cup of tea. Four weekly sessions were held and 14 people attended three or more. Six of these became non-smokers and all but one of the remainder cut their smoking by at least half. A further clinic held at the Thundersley Health Services Clinic in November and December had a slightly better success. Nineteen people attended the clinic and seven became non-smokers. Here again, of the remainder, all but one were able to reduce the daily consumption of cigarettes or tobacco by at least half.

Finally, the vacant post of Health Education Officer (shared with the County Council) was filled in October, though Miss Clarke did not take over the appointment until January 1967.

We can again show a fairly clean bill of health. There has been as I hoped, a slight reduction in the risks to health in South-East Essex.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. A. SMYTH,

Medical Officer of Health

August, 1968.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Composite Public Health

Medical Officer of Health: D. A. Smyth, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.,
(also Area Medical Officer and Divisional
School Medical Officer, South East Essex)
(appointed 3rd January, 1966).

*Deputy Medical Officer
of Health:* R. G. A. Beaver, M.B., B.S., D.C.H.,
D.P.H., (also Departmental Medical
Officer, Essex County Council).

*Secretary to Medical
Officer of Health:*

R. F. Stripp

Clerical Staff:

Mrs. B. Day (resigned 4.2.66).

Mrs. N. M. Reed (31.1.66 to 27.8.66)

Mrs. B. M. Hillier (appointed 5.9.66).

Mrs. A. Linton (part-time) (appointed
17.5.66).

*Pupil Public Health
Inspectors:*

P. Hodges.

D. Gander.

Benfleet U.D.

*Chief Public Health
Inspector:*

J. E. Gilbert, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

*Deputy-Chief Public
Health Inspector:*

P. Sanders, M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors:

D. F. Edge, M.A.P.H.I. (resigned 9.9.66).

J. Griffin, M.A.P.H.I. (resigned 28.2.66).

A. F. Knuckey, M.A.P.H.I. (appointed
8.8.66).

Clerical Staff:

V. G. Boulter (commenced 4.4.66).

A. J. Hart, A.C.C.S. (resigned 1.4.66).

Miss L. Bannister.

Canvey Island U.D.

*Chief Public Health
Inspector:*

A. P. J. Cook, M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.

Public Health Inspector:

F. Ritson, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Staff:

Mrs. D. H. Terry.

Miss D. Lock.

Rayleigh U.D.

*Senior Public Health
Inspector:*

E. H. Lloyd, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Public Health Inspector:

E. D. Long, M.A.P.H.I. (appointed 6.1.66).

Clerical Staff:

Mrs. V. Lee.

Rochford R.D.

*Chief Public Health
Inspector:*

H. Jepson, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Public Health Inspector:

J. R. Bullock, M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant:

D. Britt.

Clerical Staff:

Mrs. Z. Sargent.

COMPOSITE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Benfleet U.D.C.

Councillor J. W. Colverson
Councillor Mrs. M. E. Hutchinson
Councillor I. J. Smith (Chairman)

Canvey Island U.D.C.

Councillor Mrs. A. R. Blackwell
Councillor Mrs. C. M. Davis
Councillor Mrs. E. A. White

Rayleigh U.D.C.

Councillor L. V. Bacon (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor W. H. Bessant
Councillor A. St. J. Higgins

Rochford R.D.C.

Councillor Mrs. R. L. P. Fox
Councillor Miss E. M. Leggatt
Councillor P. W. Ball

CANVEY ISLAND URBAN DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mrs. E. A. White (Chairman)
Mrs. A. R. Blackwell
Mrs. C. M. Davis
C. G. FitzPatrick
R. H. Jones
C. A. Morgan
G. A. Pickett, J.P. (Chairman of Council)
H. C. Whitcomb

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,421
Number of Habitable Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,626
Number of Inhabited Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,469
Population (1961 Census)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15,599
Population (mid-year estimate 1966)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,320
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£669,896
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£2,750

VITAL STATISTICS

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>	<i>Corrected Rate</i>
Total Live Births ..	233	218	451	21.2	23.1
Illegitimate Births ..	8	6	14	31.0	
Total Deaths	130	116	246	11.5	11.2
Deaths of Infants:					
Under 1 year	3	2	5	11.1	
Under 4 weeks	2	2	4	8.9	
Under 1 week	2	2	4	8.9	
Stillbirths	4	—	4	8.8	
Perinatal Mortality	6	2	8	17.6	

(Deaths under 1 week and stillbirths)

Note: The comparability factor, as applied for the Corrected Birth and Death Rates are—Births 1.09 and Deaths 0.98.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1966

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	3	2	5
1 and under 5	2	—	2
5 " " 15	1	1	2
15 " " 25	4	—	4
25 " " 35	3	—	3
35 " " 45	3	—	3
45 " " 55	5	4	9
55 " " 65	17	14	31
65 " " 75	43	31	74
75 and upwards	49	64	113
Totals	130	116	246

DEATHS BY CAUSE

<i>Cause</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	14	3	17
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	10	24
Diabetes	4	2	6
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	18	21	39
Coronary disease, angina	25	28	53
Hypertension with heart disease ..	3	2	5
Other heart disease	3	8	11
Other circulatory disease	12	6	18
Pneumonia	4	8	12
Bronchitis	12	6	18
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	—	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	2	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Congenital malformations	1	1	2

Deaths by Cause (continued)

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	8	9	17
Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	5
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	2	—	2
Totals	130	116	246

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

The above vital statistics are those of a relatively healthy population. Both the crude and the corrected death rates are below the national level and there is a high birth rate. There is, however, still room for improvement. In both men and women deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus are about a third above the national rates. In men, the deaths from bronchitis are also about a third above the national rate, and in women, deaths from bronchitis and from heart diseases are about twice the national rates. A reduction in cigarette smoking would undoubtedly reduce the incidence of lung cancer and bronchitis and might well also reduce deaths from heart disease.

Despite the high birth rate, the stillbirth rate and the perinatal mortality are relatively low. This, I think, is due in part to improvement in the basic health of mothers, in part to the care and advice given by the hospital service and the midwives and health visitors of the County Council, and in part to the good sense of the mothers of Canvey themselves. The infant deaths and stillbirths which did occur were, in the main, due to congenital abnormality or prematurity.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

Six elderly people (5 women and one man) were referred to the Department during the year. Of these, two remained at home, one with the assistance of a home help and the other by the supervision of a health visitor, one was admitted to an old people's home, one was referred to the District Council for "sheltered" accommodation, one had to be referred to the Mental Health Department, and one died at home. A further 13 people over 65 years of age were involved in applications for rehousing on medical grounds.

Meals on Wheels. These are provided at Canvey Island on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week, by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service. About 50 meals are served each day, amounting to 2,776 during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

The main water supply is derived from river sources and the water is treated and softened and purified from the plants at Langford and Hanningfield. The supply is supplemented when necessary from water pumped from the two bore holes on the Island situated at Hole Haven and Leigh Beck. Samples of the treated water going into supply are tested daily by the Southend Waterworks Company's resident chemists and bacteri-

ologists. Their reports show the water to be of normal chemical character and good bacteriological quality. The water has no plumbo solvent action.

The fluoride content of the river water is 0.25 ppm and the waters from Hole Haven and Leigh Beck bore holes are 2.1 and 1.7 ppm respectively.

319 supplies were connected to the mains and 1,550 yards of new mains were laid in 1966.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage is disposed of at Canvey Island by means of a gravity system with pumping stations sited at appropriate points to raise the sewage and produce the necessary head. On reaching the main pumping station at Southwick Farm sewage is pumped direct into tidal waters via two pumping mains, the original 18 in. main and the new 24 in. main which was installed in 1962, together with new storm pumps. This new work, representing the first phase of the Council's new sewage disposal works proposal, has been designed by their Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Sandford, Fawcett & Partners. Construction work on the new sewage works commenced in 1963 and came into operation early in 1966. At the main pumping station two variable speed pumps have been installed to pump sewage at the required velocity to the sewage works.

The Council have instructed their Consulting Engineers to prepare a scheme involving a relief sewer from the High Street pumping station (which deals with the eastern part of the District) linking to the main pumping station at Southwick Farm. This scheme will include provision for the future sewerage of Harvest Road area, the Winter Gardens and Sixty Acres areas, and the vacant land to the south which is likely to be incorporated for residential use at the forthcoming Town Planning Review. The scheme will include the provision of three pumping stations to deal with some parts of the area referred to which fall in the first phase of the Development Schemes or provision of the Private Street Works Code.

All but a very few of the properties in the area are connected to the main sewer. Outstanding properties are mostly old and likely to be demolished for minor redevelopment in the near future. No extensions to the main sewer have been carried out during the year except by developers to deal with new properties of which 370 were connected to the main sewer during the year. The percentage of premises served by main drainage increased by 0.75% over the previous year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Domestic and trade refuse continues to increase and during 1966 approximately 9,000 tons of refuse was collected. Additional tipping space was provided by mechanical means and low-lying areas were reclaimed by controlled infilling. Drastic changes are taking place in the character of refuse; bulk is growing and weight is decreasing.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the 3,274 visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during 1966:

Aged persons	8
Atmospheric pollution	77
Caravan and camping sites	60
Drainage and sewerage	57
Factories	31
Flooding and watercourses	24
Food premises	217
Houseboats	11
Housing:	
Demolition Order procedure	83
Repairs	726
Rehousing	16
Overcrowding	2
Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning	358
Noise abatement	11
Nuisances	80
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	169
Oil pollution	1
Pest control	204
Petroleum and methane storage	102
Rats and mice	39
Refuse collection and disposal	384
Slaughterhouses and meat inspection	56
Swimming pools	18
Unclassified	508
Water supply	32
	3,274

ESTABLISHMENTS FOR MASSAGE OR SPECIAL TREATMENT

The premises of one chiropodist at Canvey Island are licensed by the Essex County Council under Part IV of the Essex County Council Act 1933.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

There are 50 premises registered and all use mechanical power. A total of 31 inspections were made, but no defects found. The number of outworkers recorded is 20. Of the prescribed table under the Act, the above information answers Question 1 (ii). Outworkers registered under Section 133 (i) (c) of the Act were engaged in the following occupations:

Wearing Apparel	19
Brushmaking	1

PETROLEUM STORAGE

Fifteen licences to store petroleum spirit were issued during the year and 38 inspections were made. Two of these licences provide for bulk storage.

A further 64 visits were made under the Methane Order to the liquid Methane installation of the North Thames Gas Board. This installation continues to expand and works to underground storage units were commenced during the year, using advanced cryogenic engineering technique.

The conversion of town gas to natural gas at Canvey Island was undertaken during the year. This was the first project of its kind in the Country.

PEST CONTROL

Thirty-nine inspections and visits were made in respect of rats and mice.

As regards the Browntail Moth (*Euproctis Crysorrhoea*), 204 visits were made in addition to the Council-maintained service of spraying heavily infested and less accessible areas. Also 1,078 packets of DDT (8 ozs. each) were issued to the Public for spraying private gardens. Experimental work carried out using specific polyhedral virus in the control of this pest has shown reasonable results and test areas are to be extended in the forthcoming year.

Mosquitoes, inland watercourses including marshy fleets, were treated during the year to assist in the age-old problem in this type of coastal area.

SWIMMING POOLS

Breakpoint chlorination continues to be an extremely effective method of sterilisation and 18 inspections were made to the 2 swimming pools during the season.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

A total of 162 premises were registered with the Council at the end of the year, as follow:

		<i>Numbers employed</i>	
Offices	39	184	} Males 278 Females 477
Retail shops	107	463	
Wholesale shops, warehouses	3	36	
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	11	66	
Fuel Storage Depots	2	6	

A total of 166 visits were made to registered premises, general inspections representing 37% of this number.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

During the last quarter of the year a smoke and sulphur-dioxide recorder was sited within the Urban District as part of the National Survey with readings being taken daily and submitted monthly to the Ministry of Technology at Warren Spring Laboratory.

Sixteen complaints of atmospheric pollution were dealt with and were in the main concerned with emissions from sources outside the District.

HOUSING

At the end of the year, the Council owned and managed 1,075 houses and bungalows. A further 56 units of accommodation were erected during 1966 and 102 were under construction at the end of the year. One flat at the Beatrice Littlewood House (sheltered accommodation) was converted to a communal room.

There was a total of 478 families on the Housing Waiting List at the end of the year. Of this total, 230 were on the Active List, 98 on the Supplementary List, 70 were new applicants and 80 had less than 5 years' residence on Canvey Island.

In connection with the housing of old people, 74 of the applicants on the waiting list were pensioners. There are 150 units of accommodation specially provided for old people—53 of these have Warden services. It is estimated that the number of pensioners accommodated as tenants in Council dwellings, is 210.

Mention should be made of the Beatrice Littlewood Development Scheme (named after Councillor Mrs. Beatrice Littlewood) which was completed during 1966. This scheme comprises 11 single-person bungalows, 10 single-person flats, and 8 double-person flats. There is Warden accommodation, recreational rooms for television and reading, and laundry facilities. At the end of the year, a scheme was in hand for the erection of 100 properties at the New Road Housing Site.

Twenty-seven housing applicants were referred for medical classification during the year with the following results:—

Group "A" (7 points)	=	2
Group "B" (4 points)	=	11
Group "C" (2 points)	=	4
Group "D" (no points)	=	6

Of the remaining four, two were withdrawn and therefore not graded, and two, whilst not graded, were rehoused during the year. Altogether a total of 18 families, the subject of a medical recommendation, either during 1966 or previously, were rehoused during the year.

The following is a summary of action taken by the Public Health Inspectors during 1966 in respect of housing matters:—

Closing Orders	..	..	..	..	4
Demolition Order procedure	..	..	..	..	4
Demolition and redevelopment	..	..	..	..	27
Improvement Grants	..	..	..	..	20
Rehousing	..	..	..	..	38
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	2

Houseboats

The position at Canvey Island at the end of the year was one houseboat in the Benfleet Creek within the Urban District and seven in the tidal area of Small Gains Creek, of which two were permanently occupied. All four craft in the non-tidal section of this creek were demolished during 1966. Two of these had been owner-occupied.

Caravan Sites

During the year a new residential caravan site was licensed, bringing the number of sites, both seasonal and residential, to five, and catering for approximately 1,887 caravans. Sixty inspections and visits were made during the year. One site is being run down in accordance with a Discontinuance Order.

FOOD HYGIENE

Inspection and Supervision of Food

There are 166 food establishments at Canvey Island and these are summarised below in connection with the requirements of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960:—

Trades	No.	Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960		
		Number of Premises complying with Regulation 16	Number of Premises to which Regulation 19 applies	Number of Premises complying with Regulation 19
Bakers	2	2	2	2
Butchers	17	14	17	17
Cafes and Restaurants ..	31	27	31	31
Canteens:				
Industrial	10	10	10	10
School	5	5	5	5
Confectioners	15	13	15	15
Cooked Meat Manufacturers	6	5	6	6
Fishmongers	12	12	12	12
General Provisions	34	32	34	34
Greengrocers	17	14	17	15
Licensed Premises:	17	17	17	17

Condemned Food

During the year the Public Health Inspectors condemned the following foodstuffs, all of which were disposed of at the Council's refuse tip at Newlands:—

Tinned meats	146½ lbs.
Tinned fish	6 lbs.
Miscellaneous tinned foods	2½ lbs.
Butchers' beef	64 lbs.
Offal (kidney)	42 lbs.
Oven-ready chickens	31½ lbs.
Potatoes	10 cwt.
Split peas	14 lbs.
Pickled gherkins	18 litres (approx. 32 pints).

Preserved Foods

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1966 for the manufacture of sausages and preserved foods is 26.

Ice Cream

There are 25 retailers and one manufacturer registered under the Ice Cream Regulations.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles

Only 24 cases were notified during 1966—a sharp contrast to the epidemic of 1965 when there were 579 cases.

Whooping Cough

The 63 cases at Canvey Island totalled almost twice the number of cases in Benfleet, Rayleigh and Rochford together.

Infectious Hepatitis

The relatively high number of cases over the two previous years (26 and 27) were more than halved in 1966, (10). The long incubation period of this disease makes it difficult to break the chain of infection.

Dysentery

Of the 17 cases notified during the year only two were confirmed by bacteriological examination. However, as antibiotics are usually commenced before specimen procedure can be started, the diagnosis is accepted on clinical grounds only.

Diarrhoea

Thirty cases of diarrhoea and vomiting in children and staff at Canvey primary schools were investigated. The main incidence was during the autumn term. There are about 2,700 children in primary schools in Canvey and I am satisfied that exclusion and investigation of these adults and children kept the incidence of infection to a reasonable minimum.

Meningococcal Meningitis

Three cases of cerebro-spinal fever were notified in February and all were admitted to hospital. I am pleased to say that they all made an uneventful recovery and there were no further cases. This disease normally has a fatality rate of 20-25%.

Food Poisoning

Of the 14 cases of food poisoning reported during the year, the following organisms were isolated:—

- Salmonella (brandenberg)
- Salmonella (london)
- Salmonella (stanley)
- Salmonella (typhimurium).

One family outbreak for which a bacterial agent could not be identified, is of interest. This family had roast chicken for lunch and about four hours later, they were all taken ill with abdominal pain, followed by a headache, vomiting and diarrhoea. The family consisted of a boy, aged 1, a girl, aged 2 and the father and mother, and the adults were rather more ill than the children. The fact that the specimens examined showed no bacteria suggests that poisoning was caused by a toxin which had survived the cooking process. The most likely bacterium to produce such a toxin is *Clostridium welchii* which is sometimes found in chickens and produces heat resistant spores. Moderate heat ripens the spores and the toxin produced by the Clostridia is itself heat resistant.

Tuberculosis

At the end of 1965 the register showed that 130 persons on Canvey Island were notified cases of tuberculosis, 116 of these affecting the lungs.

During the year, only two new cases were notified, although eight previously notified cases moved into the area and these were added to the register. Of persons removed from the register, six moved away, six recovered and one died, leaving 127 names on the register at the end of the year. This compares very favourably with five notifications during 1965 and gives a rate of 0.94 per 10,000.

The Mass X-ray Unit screened 1,321 persons at public sessions at Health Services Clinic, Furtherwick Road and 488 on the Industrial Estate at Charfleets.

The following is a summary of notifiable diseases (excluding tuberculosis) occurring during the year:—

	AGES								Totals
	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	
Acute Primary Pneumonia	—	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	10
Dysentery	4	5	2	1	—	5	—	—	17
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	5
Food Poisoning ..	2	4	1	—	1	6	—	—	14
Infective Hepatitis ..	—	1	3	1	2	3	—	—	10
Measles	1	14	9	—	—	—	—	—	24
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever .. .	1	8	25	4	2	—	—	—	40
Whooping Cough ..	7	37	17	—	—	1	1	—	63
	15	73	58	8	7	21	5	1	188

BENFLEET URBAN DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

J. W. Colverson
 C. L. J. Hickey
 Mrs. M. E. Hutchinson
 F. Leigh
 A. C. Partridge (Vice-Chairman of Council)
 J. W. Pike (Chairman)
 I. J. Smith
 R. A. Williams
 R. M. Williams
 Mrs. M. E. Willis, J.P. (Chairman of Council).

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,371
Number of Habitable Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15,129
Number of Inhabited Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,979
Population (1961 Census)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32,372
Population (mid-year estimate 1966)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42,390
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,502,116
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£5,994

VITAL STATISTICS

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate per</i> 1,000	<i>Corrected</i> <i>Rate</i>
Total Live Births	..	504	433	937	22.1	21.0
Illegitimate Births		22	19	41	43.8	
Total Deaths	..	225	213	438	10.3	10.0
Deaths of Infants:						
Under 1 year	..	4	2	6	6.4	
Under 4 weeks	..	1	1	2	2.1	
Under 1 week	..	1	1	2	2.1	
Stillbirths	..	3	5	8	8.5	
Perinatal Mortality		4	6	10	10.6	
(Includes deaths under one week and stillbirths)						

Note: The comparability factor, as applied for the Corrected Birth and Death Rates are—Births 0.95 and Deaths 0.97.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1966

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	4	2	6
1 and under 5	1	—	1
5 " " 15	—	—	—
15 " " 25	1	3	4
25 " " 35	3	1	4
35 " " 45	8	6	14
45 " " 55	19	7	26
55 " " 65	44	16	60
65 " " 75	82	50	132
75 and upwards	63	128	191
Totals	225	213	438

DEATHS BY CAUSE

<i>Cause</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	3	10
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	23	3	26
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	12	12
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	23	19	42
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1	3
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	28	45	73
Coronary disease, angina	64	41	105
Hypertension with heart disease	3	—	3
Other heart disease	19	28	47
Other circulatory disease	6	12	18
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	9	4	13
Bronchitis	14	7	21
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	4	1	5
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
Congenital malformations	2	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	7	20	27
Motor vehicle accidents	3	—	3
All other accidents	2	7	9
Suicide	2	1	3
Totals ..	225	213	438

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

The picture presented by the vital statistics is a healthy one. The birth rate remains high and the death rate low. Deaths from heart disease both in men and women are somewhat above the national rate, the male rate being about 2% above the national level and the female rate about 80% above the national rate. The lung cancer rate approximates to the national rate, being a little higher in men and a little lower in women. The bronchitis death rate is about 90% of the national level for Benfleet men and about 45% of the national level for Benfleet women.

The birth rate remained high and there was a substantial number of illegitimate births, but nevertheless, the stillbirth rate and the perinatal mortality were low. Infant deaths were due to congenital abnormalities, infection and prematurity. Stillbirths to haemorrhage, asphyxia, congenital abnormality and post-maturity.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

Many enquiries were received from elderly residents during the year and generally, these were referred to the appropriate authorities or departments without difficulty. Of the old people under the supervision of the Department during the year, two were admitted to hospital, one to a welfare home, and three died.

Among the housing cases referred on medical grounds were 13 persons of pensionable age. Most of these came from residents on the Council's Caravan Park at Hart Road, Thundersley.

Meals on Wheels. During the year 10,127 meals were served by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service. This amounted to approximately 100 a day on two days a week. Additionally, meals are served at the WRVS Club premises at Green Road, Benfleet on four days a week. These averaged 50 a day and totalled 8,362 during 1966. The Council provide a minibus which enables housebound elderly people to be taken to the Club so that they can share the company of others and thus relieve loneliness.

WATER SUPPLY

The bulk of the main water supply to the Urban District is drawn from river sources and the water is treated at Langford and Hanningfield. Samples of the treated water are examined daily by resident chemists and bacteriologists of the Southend Waterworks Company. All reports during the year have shown that the water is of normal chemical character and good bacteriological quality. The waters are not liable to have any plumbosolvent action. The fluoride content of the river water is around 0.25 ppm and that from the deep well at South Benfleet 2.3 ppm.

648 supplies were connected to the mains and 2,610 yards of main were laid during 1966.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Benfleet Urban District is divided roughly into eastern and western areas for the purposes of sewage disposal. The eastern area is further divided into a smaller north-eastern section draining by gravity to the Rayleigh Urban District, and a south-eastern section by gravity to the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea. The western area is also subdivided into a north-western section which gravitates to a pumping station in Rushbottom Lane at Great Tarpots, and a south-western section which flows to the pumping station in South Benfleet. This latter pumping station also receives the sewage which is pumped from the Rushbottom Lane pumping station. Sewage is pumped from the South Benfleet pumping station to the Sewage Disposal Works in the extreme south-west corner of the District where it undergoes treatment.

The Sewage Works at South Benfleet comprise a balancing tank, three continuous flow settlement tanks, two of which discharge to percolating filters, and the third, the old storm tank, is treated on a gravel bed and thence grass plots. During 1966 the storm overflow tank dealt with over three times the Dry Weather Flow. The effluent, after treatment, flows into the Benfleet Creek. Samples are taken by the Port of London Health Authority from time to time to ensure that the requisite standard of effluent is maintained.

During the year four miles of main foul and surface water sewers were provided by private developers and the Council, and $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles of foul relief sewer in the north-eastern area of the District. 98.4% of properties in the District are now connected to the main sewer, and during 1966, 586 properties were connected. There are 80 cesspools in the District and 160 properties are served by chemical closets.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Six modern refuse collecting vehicles and one four-wheel drive vehicle are in service, the latter being used in connection with the collection of refuse sacks from dwellings on unmade roads. 37 men are engaged in the work. A weekly collection is made throughout the District. Disposal is by means of controlled tipping on Benfleet Marshes. Five men are employed there. One bulldozer, a crawler shovel and a dumper are provided. The sale of materials salvaged resulted in an income of £818.

A free collection is made from dwellings within the District of all unwanted household rubbish and motor cars. One vehicle is used part-time for this purpose, and 499 collections were made during the year.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

There are 123 registered premises, and 119 of these use mechanical power. Eighty inspections of factories were made during the year and 10 visits to building sites. Three visits were made to workplaces and one to outworkers' premises. Full particulars under the Act are shown in the following Table:—

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health:

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of Inspections</i>	<i>Number of Written Notices</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities:	4	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority:	123	80	4
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises):	150	10	—
Total	277	93	4

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases</i>			
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred</i>	
			<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>
Sanitary conveniences: (Sec. 7)				
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	3	—	2
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	6	5	—	—

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork

<i>Nature of work</i>	<i>Number of Out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)</i>
Wearing apparel	35
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper:	6
Artificial Flowers	3
Electrical Goods	1

No contraventions of this Part of the Act were reported.

Headings that would normally show a Nil return have been omitted from the table.

PETROLEUM STORAGE

The following action was taken by the Department under the Petroleum Regulations Act:

Licences issued:

Petroleum Spirit	51
Petroleum Mixture	7
Inspections carried out	70

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

Four licences were issued to traders in the district under this Act.

PEST CONTROL

There were 177 complaints about rats and mice, and 312 inspections were made in connection with them. One hundred and twenty-three visits regarding other pests were made.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are two school swimming pools in the District and suitable water testing apparatus for residual and combined chlorine is provided at each school. One master carries out the necessary and routine tests whilst the pools are in use. Tests carried out by the Public Health Inspectors gave satisfactory results.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the 4,577 visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year:—

Accumulations—Offensive	..	..	96
Animals, keeping of	..	..	31
Clean Air Act	..	..	83
Drainage: Foul water	..	..	468
Surface water	..	..	354
Ditches	..	..	175
Factories	..	..	94
Food Premises	..	..	519
Health Education	..	..	29
Houseboats	..	..	9
Housing Repairs	..	..	353
Demolition Procedure	..	..	10
Rent Act	..	..	3
Improvement Grants	..	..	152
Council Houses	..	..	43
Miscellaneous Housing visits	..	..	72
Infectious Diseases	..	..	223
Massage and Special Treatment Premises			2
Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouse	..	..	894
Miscellaneous Visits	..	..	172
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	6
Noise Abatement	..	..	36
Nuisances—General	..	..	8
Petroleum Spirit	..	..	70
Pest Control	..	..	435
Public Conveniences	..	..	1
Refuse Collection and Disposal	..	..	187
Samplings:			
Water	..	..	1
Ice Cream	..	..	6
Slaughterhouse	..	..	30
Water Supply	..	..	15
			4,577

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registrations under the Act are as follows:

Offices	..	..	..	..	68
Retail Shops	..	..	..	..	190
Wholesale Shops	..	..	..	..	4
Catering Establishments	..	..	..	..	20
Fuel Storage Depots	..	..	..	..	1

HOUSING

At the end of the year the Council owned and managed 784 dwellings. During 1966, 32 one-bedroomed flats were completed and 65 premises were under construction at 31st December.

Approximately 1,000 families were on the Council's Housing List, and almost a quarter of these were elderly people.

A total of 187 pensioners are housed by the Council as tenants, with 145 of these in accommodation specially provided for the elderly. A further 32 are in purpose-built accommodation with a Warden provided. The remainder are in ordinary Council dwellings.

Eighteen housing applications were referred for medical classification during the year. Following investigation and assessment, three were placed in Group "A", four in Group "B", seven in Group "C" and four in Group "D". One further case was brought to notice where demolition order procedure was being considered and the tenant's health was adversely affected. Seven housing applicants, the subject of a previous medical recommendation, were rehoused during the year.

Housing Improvements and Slum Clearance

Action under the Housing Acts undertaken by the Public Health Inspectors was as follows:

Demolition Orders made	..	..	..	7
Unfit houses demolished	..	..	..	17
Unfit houses repaired	..	..	..	12
Improvements carried out under Grant schemes	21			

No redevelopment schemes were carried out during the year.

Houseboats

There are 18 houseboats moored in Benfleet Creek. One is used for permanent occupation, the others for holiday purposes only.

Caravan Sites

The only caravan site in the Benfleet Urban District is owned and managed by the Council. This is in Hart Road, Thundersley, and accommodates approximately 200 residential caravans, with all necessary amenities, roadways and community hall.

FOOD HYGIENE

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Twenty-nine premises used for the preparation of meat and preserved foods are registered. "Open" food is sold to some extent at all these premises and suitable sinks and wash hand basins with hot and cold

water are provided. The requirements of the Regulations regarding towels, soap and nail brushes are complied with.

There are no poultry processing premises within the District, but a number of chickens are slaughtered by arrangement with the owners of the Cross Farm Abattoir in a room especially fitted out for this purpose. No birds are dressed there.

The following is a summary of the food premises within the Urban District:—

Bakers	..	..	..	13
Butchers	..	..	..	22
Cafes	..	..	..	16
Canteens:				
Schools	..	..	..	12
Industrial	..	..	..	9
Confectioners	..	..	..	37
Dairies	..	..	..	4
Fishmongers	..	..	..	13
General Provisions	..	..	..	67
Greengrocers	..	..	..	29
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	24
Multiple Stores	..	..	..	4
Wholesale Stores	..	..	..	8

Meat Inspection

The following table gives details of the 26,457 food animals killed and inspected at the Cross Farm Abattoir, Hadleigh, during the year. Twenty-nine samples of tissues from diseased animals were submitted for laboratory examination.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle</i> <i>(excluding</i> <i>cows)</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i> <i>and</i> <i>Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	3,523	235	427	11,116	11,156
Number inspected	3,523	235	427	11,096	11,156
All diseases (except tuberculosis and cysticerci):					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	11	7	19	8	29
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,441	106	2	1,209	1,875
Percentage affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	39.8%	48%	5%	10.9%	
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	209
Percentage affected with tuberculosis	0.03%	—	—	—	1.9%
Cysticercosis					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	31	2	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	—	—	—	—

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the District.

Condemned Food

During the year 2,697 tins, 508 lbs and 767 packets of various food-stuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption and were disposed of at the refuse tip on Benfleet Marshes. Details are as follows:

Fish—Tinned	104 tins
Fish—Fresh	84 lbs.
Frozen Foods	767 packets
Fruit—Tinned	393 tins
Meat—Fresh	424 lbs.
Meat—Tinned	374 tins
Milk—Milk products	321 tins
Soups—Tinned	389 tins
Vegetables—Tinned	970 tins
Miscellaneous	97 tins

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Eleven complaints about extraneous matter being found in food were made, and legal proceedings were taken in respect of three of them. The firms concerned pleaded guilty in all cases. Fines were imposed.

Ice Cream

At the close of the year 102 premises were registered for the retail sale of ice cream. Nine samples were taken with the following results:

Grade I	..	5	} Satisfactory
II	..	3	
III	..	1	Unsatisfactory

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Dysentery

About 40 children in the Primary Schools were reported as suffering from diarrhoea during the year. Three children in one family were found to harbour shigella sonnei. In the other cases, infection, if present, had gone before specimens were taken. One child of four years was also found to be infected with shigella sonnei, and one adult was found to be infected.

Food Poisoning

Five cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. Three cases involved one family. Staphylococcus aureus was isolated from the remains of a meal of cooked meat and from the stool of a five month old child in this family. The other two cases were a seven months old patient in the Southend General Hospital and a 39-year-old woman who had contracted her illness whilst on holiday in Spain. Salmonella typhimurium was isolated in both these cases.

Three other cases came to light among local residents. Salmonella typhimurium was isolated in two cases and Salmonella brandenburg in the other. The first involved a Police Training Instructor stationed in Oxfordshire. The offending food appeared to be a pork pie of reputable

manufacture, but which was kept in a small car with the heater on for some hours before eaten! The other infections were in two patients who were in hospital on account of other conditions. No suspected food was discovered.

Tuberculosis

The 1965 notifications of tuberculosis was disquieting, 12 males and 5 females being notified, a total of 17 in a population of 41,000. I felt therefore that the Mass X-ray Unit should visit South East Essex as soon as possible and should concentrate particularly on Benfleet. The Medical Directors and Organising Secretary of the Unit agreed to this and the programme was eventually agreed as follows:—

Canvey Island (Health Services Clinic Furtherwick Road)	7-9 June
South Benfleet (High Road)	14 June
Thundersley (Hart Road)	15 June
Benfleet (Tarpots Hotel)	16 June
Hadleigh (Crown Hotel)	21 and 22 June
Rochford (Market Square)	28 and 29 June
Rayleigh (High Street)	6-8 July.

These were the public sessions. Visits to factories in Benfleet and Canvey Island were also arranged. The visit of the Unit was publicised on buses and in railway stations, and posters and handbills were distributed to general practitioners, factories, public houses and voluntary organisations. Posters were displayed on refuse vehicles and book marks distributed through the libraries and post offices.

The cost of advertising the Unit in Benfleet was borne by the Benfleet Council and the publicity proved well worth while. 3,330 people were X-rayed at the public sessions over a period of five days. This meant that the Unit was working pretty well to capacity on each of these five days. The pace was a little slower on Canvey Island where the rate was about 440 a day, but there were about 550 at each session in Rochford and at Rayleigh High Street an average of 694 a day were X-rayed. It is possible that some of those X-rayed in Rayleigh were Benfleet residents who had missed their first opportunity of X-ray. The Unit will return in 1968 and 1969 when we hope, once again, for a vigorous response.

The following is a summary of notifiable diseases (excluding tuberculosis) occurring during the year.

	<i>Ages</i>								<i>Totals</i>
	<i>Under</i>							<i>65 and over</i>	
	1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64		
Acute Primary Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Dysentery	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Food Poisoning ..	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	5
Infective Hepatitis ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	3
Measles	11	153	112	1	2	2	—	—	281
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	4
Scarlet Fever .. .	—	4	12	—	1	2	—	—	19
Whooping Cough ..	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
	13	159	128	1	8	9	1	3	322

RAYLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

L. V. Bacon (Chairman)
 W. H. Bessant (Vice-Chairman)
 Mrs. M. B. Blower, J.P. (Chairman of Council)
 G. H. Denton
 F. A. Grant
 A. W. Green (Vice-Chairman of Council)
 H. E. Green
 G. St. J. Higgins
 L. E. Streak
 C. B. Wastell

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,758
Number of Habitable Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,736
Number of Inhabited Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,579
Population (1961 Census)	..	..	..	..	..	..	19,032
Population (mid-year estimate 1966)	..	..	..	..	..	..	24,190
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£905,720
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£3,870

VITAL STATISTICS

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate per</i> <i>1,000</i>	<i>Corrected</i> <i>Rate</i>
Total Live Births	..	250	200	450	18.4	16.5
Illegitimate Births		11	7	18	40.0	
Total Deaths	..	101	109	210	8.7	10.09
Deaths of Infants:						
Under 1 year	..	4	3	7	15.6	
Under 4 weeks	..	3	1	4	8.9	
Under 1 week	..	3	1	4	8.9	
Stillbirths	..	4	4	8	17.5	
Perinatal Mortality		7	5	12	26.2	
(Deaths under 1 week and stillbirths)						

Note: The comparability factor, as applied for the Corrected Birth and Death Rates are—Births 0.90 and Deaths 1.16.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1966

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	4	3	7
1 and under 5	—	—	—
5 „ „ 15	—	1	1
15 „ „ 25	1	—	1
25 „ „ 35	1	—	1
35 „ „ 45	5	1	6
45 „ „ 55	8	2	10
55 „ „ 65	14	8	22
65 „ „ 75	30	30	60
75 and upwards	38	64	102
	101	109	210

DEATHS BY CAUSE

<i>Cause</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
Meningococcal Infections	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	6	1	7
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	5	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	18	8	26
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	12	23	35
Coronary disease, angina	29	22	51
Hypertension with heart disease	2	3	5
Other heart disease	7	19	26
Other circulatory disease	3	—	3
Pneumonia	2	3	5
Bronchitis	4	7	11
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	3	—	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	2	2
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	7	8	15
Motor vehicle accidents	—	1	1
All other accidents	—	2	2
Suicide	2	1	3
	101	109	210

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

The death rate in Rayleigh is relatively low. It is partly due to a rather larger than average 20 to 45 year old group but only partly so. When

the Registrar General's correction factor to allow for this is applied to the crude rate, the corrected rate is only about 10.09. This is significantly below the crude national death rate 11.7. It appears to be the men of Rayleigh on the whole who are more healthy than average. The bronchitis death rate for men is just over a third of the national rate and the lung cancer death rate for men just over half the national rate. The lung cancer death rate for women is also about half the national female death rate, but the bronchitis death rate is about twice the national figure. Male deaths from heart disease run at a rate a little below the national level but the female death rate is about twice the national rate. This does not mean that women are at a great disadvantage in Rayleigh, but that men are at less of a disadvantage than elsewhere. The overall death rate for the two sexes in Rayleigh is about the same.

The birth rate is a little above the national rate but not quite so great as would be expected from the number of women under 45 in Rayleigh. When the Registrar General's correction factor is applied, the birth rate is brought down to a little below the national rate. The stillbirth rate is a little above the national level but the perinatal mortality is very close to the national level and the infant mortality is appreciably below the average national rate. Stillbirths were in the main, due to poor maternal health or congenital abnormality, infant deaths to congenital abnormality, asphyxia or infection.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

Eleven old people in the Rayleigh area were referred to the Department during the year. Action taken is summarised as follows:—

Admitted to Hospital	..	..	..	2
Died	..	..	..	3
Maintained with Home Help	..	..		1
Section 47 procedure pending	..	..		1
Home Nursing Assistance	..	..		1
Referred to Welfare Department	..	..		2

Of those referred to the Department in previous years: two died and one moved away. A further seven old people were referred to the Department for rehousing on medical grounds.

Meals on Wheels

The W.R.V.S. Centre Organiser for Rayleigh has reported that 6,331 meals were served during the year, the frequency being 4 days each week.

WATER SUPPLY

No wells from which a public supply is drawn are located in the Rayleigh Urban District, but it is probable that water from wells in adjoining areas may find their way into the district. The main source of supply is derived from rivers and the water is purified and softened at the Southend Waterworks Company's treatment plant at Langford and from the jointly owned plant at Hanningfield.

Samples of the water going into supply are examined daily by resident chemists and bacteriologists, and all reports show the water is of normal

chemical character and of good bacteriological quality. The water is not likely to have any plumbo-solvent action.

The fluoride content of river water is generally about 0.25 parts per million, and the average for the well water is approximately 2.7 ppm.

388 supplies were connected to the mains, and 1,840 yards of main were laid in 1966.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Rayleigh being sited on a ridge of high ground (which generally follows the line of the High Street) is divided into two areas, namely the Eastern and Western areas for sewage disposal purposes. The original drainage system, first brought into use in 1932, with the continued development of the District, proved incapable of coping with the flows in recent years, and since 1960 a comprehensive programme of work in respect of the renewal and enlargement of all the main sewers and the modernisation and enlargement of the two Sewage Disposal Works has been proceeding. By 1963 the extension and modernisation of both the Western and Eastern Sewage Disposal Works were substantially complete and the new works were in operation. The provision of new trunk sewers to serve both drainage areas has progressed satisfactorily so that the whole of the District is now drained by trunk sewers, the last of the sewers 1,600 lin. yards having been relaid along the London Road, Station Road and Crown Hill during this year.

Further consideration must now be given to the flows passing to the Western Sewage Disposal Works from the Watery Lane pumping station and schemes in respect of this will be prepared in the near future. These schemes are dependent upon negotiations with Rochford Rural District Council as this particular pumping station accepts the soil drainage from the village of Hullbridge.

The Rawreth sewerage schemes have been designed and tenders will be invited early in 1967. Having regard to the continuous growth of the town, the Council have taken further steps to prepare schemes for the enlargement of both the Eastern and Western Sewage Disposal Works and it is hoped that this work will be carried out during the next four years.

It is estimated that 95.6% of all premises in the Urban District are served by the main sewer. During 1966, 311 new properties were connected to main drainage and approximately 1,078 lin. yards of new sewer were constructed. Of premises not connected to the main drainage system 234 have cesspools and 114 have earth or chemical closets. Fifty of these premises have a night soil collection.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Urban District is served with a regular weekly collection of house refuse with the exception of premises on unmade roads when the collection is fortnightly. Three vehicles are used and 16 men employed for this purpose.

Materials salvaged during the year amounted to some 252 tons and realised on sale £2,277. Refuse was disposed of at the tip in Hambro Hill, Rayleigh until 31st March, 1966 but on the 1st April 1966 tipping was transferred to the Southend Corporation Tip on Leigh Marshes.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Seventy-two premises are registered under the Act and 71 use mechanical power. Five inspections were made during the year, and no defects were found or reported. There are 32 Outworkers listed and the following trades are involved: Wearing Apparel (20); Prepacking of Screws (1); Electrical Goods (11). In all other respects there is a Nil Return under the prescribed table.

PETROLEUM STORAGE

Under the Petroleum Regulation Act 23 licences to store petroleum were issued and a further six for petroleum mixtures. Three inspections were made.

PET ANIMALS ACT

Two licences for the keeping of pets for sale were issued during the year.

PEST CONTROL

One hundred and sixty-three premises were inspected and treated during the year, mostly for rats and mice infestation.

ESTABLISHMENTS FOR MASSAGE OR SPECIAL TREATMENT

Only one chiropodist in Rayleigh is licensed under Part IV of the Essex County Council Act, 1933.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Daily readings of air pollution are taken both as regards smoke and the presence of sulphur dioxide and these indicate that the degree of pollution is low. 128 visits were made during the year regarding bonfires, smoke from factories and domestic chimneys and the installation of new industrial furnaces.

The following is the summary of smoke and sulphur dioxide readings from the Atmospheric Pollution Recording Unit in Rayleigh during 1966:

	<i>Smoke Results</i>		<i>SO₂</i>		<i>Smoke/SO₂ Ratio</i>
	<i>Average</i>	<i>Highest Day</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Highest Day</i>	
January	N	135	N	181	N
February	22	54	53	95	.42
March	41	111	74	237	.56
April	91	184	69	173	1.32
May	N	156	N	97	N
June	44	92	51	101	.86
July	13	31	50	103	.26
August	14	32	50	117	.28
September	25	39	60	133	.42
October	37	157	54	111	.69
November	58	200	94	482	.62
December	54	221	107	327	.51

N Indicates that the absence of a figure is accounted for by insufficient readings associated with technical difficulties with the apparatus.

SWIMMING POOLS

Four of the maintained schools in the Urban District now have their own swimming pool, one of which is an indoor pool and is extensively used. A suitable outfit for chlorinating purposes is provided by the Education Authority and appropriate tests are carried out whilst the pools are in use.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the 2,287 visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during 1966:

Atmospheric Pollution	128
Caravans and Camping Sites	16
Drainage and Sewerage	45
Factories and Outworkers	5
Flooding and Watercourses	12
Food Premises	216
Houseboats	7
Housing:	
Demolition Order Procedure	3
Repairs	20
Improvement Grants	116
Rehousing	178
Ice Cream	3
Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning	500
Noise Abatement	93
Nuisances	79
Offices and Shops	25
Pest Control	72
Petroleum Storage	3
Rats and Mice	91
Refuse Collection and Disposal	256
Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection	24
Swimming Pools	59
Water Supplies	11
Unclassified	325
	2,287

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

During 1966, five retail shops and one catering establishment were registered and general inspections were carried out at two offices and 20 shops, the total inspections being 25.

At 31st December, 1966, the following premises were registered:

Offices	41
Retail Shops	118
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	5
Catering Establishments	11
Fuel Storage Depot	1

The following is a summary of persons employed at registered premises, by workplace:

Offices	..	..	..	..	..	253
Retail Shops	..	..	..	..	..	604
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	..					31
Catering establishments open to the public						63
Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	1
Fuel Storage Depot	..	..	..	..	..	4
Males:	378					
Females:	578					

The number of inspectors appointed under Section 52 (1) or (5) of the Act is two.

NOISE

Efforts have been made with considerable success during the year to persuade contractors and utility undertakings to use mufflers on pneumatic drills to reduce the output of noise when working in the built-up areas of the district.

A considerable noise nuisance occurred at a local flour mill arising from the exhausts of newly-installed machines. Silencers were subsequently fitted to the exhausts with surprisingly good results and a nuisance no longer exists.

HOUSING

A total of 485 units of residential accommodation are either owned or managed by the Council. At the end of the year, 62 dwellings were under construction for the Council, and four schemes were in course of preparation providing for a further 90 dwellings.

Of private dwellings, 304 were completed during the year and 298 were under construction on 31st December, 1966. Restriction on development and the economic situation is reflected in these lower figures.

There were 364 applicants on the Council's Housing Waiting List at the end of the year.

Rehousing on Medical Grounds

Eight cases were referred to me for suitable recommendation on medical grounds. These were classified as follows:—

- “A” = 1 (For consideration for over-riding priority)
- “B” = 5 (A medical priority does exist)
- “C” = 1 (No real medical indication).

In one further instance I recommended that rehousing was desirable, but no specific grading was suggested. One family previously referred on medical grounds was rehoused during the year.

Housing for the Aged

There are 82 units of accommodation provided specially for old people and 32 of these have a warden and ancillary services. A further purpose-built establishment to accommodate 36 units was contemplated at the end of the year. There were 189 pensioners on the waiting list at 31st December.

Housing Improvements and Slum Clearance

The following is a summary of action taken during 1966 under the Housing Act.

Demolition Orders made	2
Unfit houses demolished	1
Unfit houses repaired	6
Undertakings accepted	3
Improvement Grants approved	9
Improvements carried out	9

Since 1956 a total of 43 properties have been demolished as a result of the slum clearance programme.

Caravan Sites

There are no licensed caravan sites in the District but two licences were granted for individual caravans in 1966.

Houseboats

Only one houseboat is stationed within the District.

FOOD HYGIENE

Meat Inspection

The following is a summary of the 2,407 food animals killed and inspected at the Rayleigh Slaughterhouse: *

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle (excluding cows)</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed and inspected	257	150	15	608	1,397
All diseases (except tuberculosis and cysticerci):					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	40	12	—	7	72
Percentage affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	15.6	9.2	—	1.1	5.15
Tuberculosis only:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	0.93
Percentage affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	13

* The Rayleigh Slaughterhouses closed in September, 1966 and there are now no slaughterhouses within the District.

Food Hygiene Regulations 1960

There are 116 premises in the District, to which Regulations 16 or 19 apply, all being supplied with wash basins, sinks and a hot water supply. Supermarkets have been counted as one premises even though a number of trades are carried on therein.

Preserved Foods

Under Section 16(c) of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, there are 10 premises registered for the manufacture of sausages and preserved foods.

Ice Cream

There are 31 retailers and one manufacturer registered in Rayleigh under the Ice Cream Regulations. No sampling was carried out during the year.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963

There are no pasteurising plants in the District and no instances of unpasteurised liquid egg being used came to the notice of the Department.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry dressing stations within the District.

Condemned Food

The following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption during the year and were suitably disposed of:—

Fish (fresh)	56 lbs.
Meat (fresh)	1,158 lbs.
Meat (canned)	979 lbs.
Frozen Foods	3,030 packets
Miscellaneous	77 lbs.

Food Establishments

The following is a list of the 116 food establishments in the Rayleigh area (Supermarkets, of which there are 6 are included as one establishment although they cater for a number of trades):

Bakers	.. .. .	2
Butchers	.. .. .	12
Cafés and Restaurants	.. .. .	13
Canteens:		
School and Industrial	.. .. .	14
Confectioners	.. .. .	14
Cooked Meat Manufacturer	.. .. .	1
Fishmongers	.. .. .	5
General Provisions	.. .. .	33
Greengrocers	.. .. .	10
Licensed houses	.. .. .	12

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Dysentery and Diarrhoeal Disease

Of the nine cases of sonne dysentery notified, eight were confirmed and seven of these came from two connected families. Here a 12-year-old child from Surrey visited her aunt in Rayleigh, and was admitted to hospital with dysentery on returning home. The other cases were dis-

covered during the subsequent investigation. The eighth confirmed case was a pupil of a Junior Training Centre outside the area where a number of cases had occurred.

A number of other children, 110 in all, had minor bouts of diarrhoea and were excluded from school till infection was excluded (as a result of examination of specimens of faeces in the laboratory). Two infections with *Shigella Sonnei* were detected, but no other pathogenic bacteria. Examination of other contacts, i.e. teachers and food handlers, was also negative.

Food Poisoning

Of ten food poisoning notifications, *Salmonella typhimurium* (Phage type 29) was isolated in four cases. All four were children, three coming from the same school. Two were admitted to hospital, and two treated at home. One of the four took four months to clear.

Other salmonella infections were found in a dysenteric family.

A teacher at one of the Rayleigh schools was admitted to hospital while on holiday with his parents in Oxford, with diarrhoea and abdominal pain. *Salmonella enteritidis* was isolated from his stool. Another teacher at the school had similar symptoms.

Tuberculosis

Rayleigh chests are still vulnerable to the tuberculosis bacillus. Eight new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year (one coming to notice by the Mass X-ray Unit). About six cases would have occurred, had the incidence kept step with the national rate. Four persons already suffering from the disease moved into the District. Deletions from the register included three who moved away, one who recovered and one who died. At the end of the year there were 99 names on the register (56 male and 43 female), an increase of seven over the previous year.

The Mass X-ray Unit screened 2,082 persons at public sessions in Rayleigh High Street and a further 647 at the factories on the Arterial Road, and 29 at an old people's home.

The following is a summary of notifiable diseases (excluding tuberculosis) occurring during the year.

	<i>Under</i>	<i>Ages</i>							<i>65 and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
		1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64		
Acute Primary Pneumonia	8	12	13	1	3	8	10	26	81	
Dysentery	—	3	3	—	—	3	—	—	9	
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	
Food Poisoning ..	—	2	4	4	—	—	—	—	10	
Infective Hepatitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	
Measles	2	136	103	2	—	1	—	—	244	
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Scarlet Fever	—	11	33	2	—	1	—	—	47	
Whooping Cough ..	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	
	10	168	157	8	3	16	12	27	402	

ROCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Miss E. M. Leggatt (Chairman)
 P. W. Ball
 P. Belton
 C. A. H. Blundell
 Mrs. M. Chaplin
 Mrs. R. L. P. Fox (Vice-Chairman)
 A. G. Gardner
 E. W. Mumford, B.E.M.
 C. E. O'Leary
 S. G. Robson, J.P. (Chairman of Council)
 W. J. Rodwell
 H. E. Smith
 Miss D. M. Stow
 W. J. Tracey
 D. J. Twomey
 R. M. Warren, F.E.A.A., A.I.A.C.
 D. C. Wood
 R. J. Yeo (Vice-Chairman of Council)

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36,220
Number of Habitable Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,690
Number of Inhabited Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,434
Population (1961 Census)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30,258
Population (mid-year estimate 1966)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37,250
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,315,510
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£5,366

VITAL STATISTICS

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>	<i>Corrected Rate</i>
Total Live Births	..	472	430	902	24.2	22.0
Illegitimate Births		14	10	24	26.6	
Total Deaths	..	251	229	480	12.9	10.0
Deaths of Infants:						
Under 1 year	..	10	1	11	12.2	
Under 4 weeks	..	7	1	8	9.0	
Under 1 week	..	7	1	8	9.0	
Stillbirths	..	6	3	9	9.9	
Perinatal Mortality		13	4	17	18.7	
(Includes deaths under one week and stillbirths)						

Note: The comparability factor, as applied for the Corrected Birth and Death Rates are—Births 0.91 and Deaths 0.78.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1966

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	10	1	11
1 and under 5	2	1	3
5 " " 15	—	1	1
15 " " 25	3	—	3
25 " " 35	5	1	6
35 " " 45	4	1	5
45 " " 55	16	8	24
55 " " 65	42	15	57
65 " " 75	61	48	109
75 and upwards	108	153	261
	251	229	480

DEATHS BY CAUSE

<i>Cause</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	4	10
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	19	4	23
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	8	8
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	19	14	33
Diabetes	1	4	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	57	78	135
Coronary disease, angina	64	39	103
Hypertension with heart disease	4	3	7
Other heart disease	11	18	29
Other circulatory disease	4	10	14
Pneumonia	10	20	30
Bronchitis	15	6	21
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	6	2	8
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	19	11	30
Motor vehicle accidents	4	—	4
All other accidents	3	5	8
Suicide	1	—	1
Totals	251	229	480

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

The health of Rochford continues to be good. The death rate is inflated by the deaths from time to time of former Southend residents in Roche Close. Application of the comparability factor to the crude death rate to allow for this and other matters gives a corrected rate of 10.0, well below the national figure of 11.7. The death rate from lung cancer in men is comparable with the national rate. The female rate is, as usual, substantially below the male rate and is also somewhat below the national female rate. Male deaths from heart disease are about 25% above the national level and female deaths are about 80% above the national level. Male deaths from bronchitis, however, are about 10% below the United Kingdom figure, though female deaths are a little above the national female death rate from this disease.

The birth rate continues to be high and has run at about 24 per 1,000 for the past three years. Application of the comparability factor still shows a somewhat higher rate than might have been expected. The perinatal mortality is low, the infant mortality very low. The stillbirth rate is under two thirds of the national rate. One infant death was due to an accident at home, two to injury during labour, three to prematurity, two to infection and one to asphyxia.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

During 1966, 23 old people were referred to the Department, including 12 who required rehousing on medical grounds. These latter are dealt with under the Housing Section. Also seven elderly people referred from previous years continued to require supervision.

Action taken included admission to hospital, either for geriatric care or mental health care, admission to Welfare Homes of the County Council, and the provision of the domiciliary services (Home Nurses and Home Helps) in those cases not requiring continued supervision or treatment.

One man aged 77 from Great Wakering, living alone, was moved to Rochford General Hospital in December under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948 as amended by the 1951 Act, as being in urgent need of medical and surgical attention.

Meals on Wheels

The Chairman of the Meals on Wheels Committee of the Rochford Old People's Welfare Committee reports that 3,104 meals were served in the Hockley area on three days of the week, 1,825 in the Rochford area on two days a week, and 1,105 in the Wakering area on two days a week.

WATER SUPPLY

The bulk of the main water supply to the Rural District is derived from river sources and the water is treated and softened at the Southend Waterworks Company's plant at Langford and at the jointly owned plant at Hanningfield. Water is drawn during certain seasons of the year from wells at Wakering Wick, Great Wakering, Barling and South Fambridge. Samples of treated water are examined daily by resident chemists and bacteriologists, and these showed the water to be of normal chemical

character and good bacteriological quality. The fluoride content of the river water is about 0.25 ppm, and of the well water, between 2.0 and 4.0 ppm.

593 supplies were connected to the mains and 2,890 yards of main were laid in 1966.

The following table shows the houses on main supply with estimated population for each Parish of the Rural District as at 31st December, 1966:—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Houses on main supply</i>	<i>Estimated population on main supply</i>
*Ashingdon (including South Fambridge)	2,503	896	2,572
Barling Magna (including Little Wakering)	2,747	421	1,137
Canewdon	6,845	337	960
Foulness Island**	7,235	98	294
Great Wakering	3,314	1,229	3,685
Hawkwell	1,408	2,940	8,589
Hockley	1,558	2,515	7,534 +47
Hullbridge	2,193	1,533	4,553 +945
Paglesham	1,687	106	317
*Rochford	2,988	2,381	¶8,127 +67
Stambridge	2,202	186	578
Sutton	1,520	64	199
Totals	36,200	12,706	38,545 +1,059

* Three premises are served by stand-pipes involving ten persons.

** Water mains on Foulness Island are owned by the War Department although water is supplied by the Southend Waterworks Company.

¶ This figure includes 491 residents of Hospital and Welfare Institution. The added figures against Hockley, Hullbridge and Rochford are in respect of residential caravan dwellers.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Approximately 90 per cent of the population of the Rochford Rural District is served with main drainage. Four sewage treatment works are provided at Stambridge, Havengore, Barling and Paglesham. The Stambridge works serves the parishes of Ashingdon, Canewdon, Hawkwell, Hockley, Rochford and Stambridge. This is the largest of the four works and serves about 8,200 properties. The Havengore sewage disposal works serves about 1,200 properties in the parishes of Barling and Great and Little Wakering. Associated with these works are 11 pumping stations for lifting sewage.

Main drainage facilities are provided for approximately 1,250 properties and 300 caravans in the parish of Hullbridge all of which drain by agreement to the Rayleigh Urban District Council's sewer for treatment at their Western Works. Two sewer extensions were completed during the year, one at Barling serving 17 properties and one at Stambridge for 10 properties.

The Council has an extensive programme for extending their sewerage system to cope with the increase of population in the District. Within the next few years, a new sewage treatment works is to be constructed at Rochford, and the works at Havengore is to be extended. Relief sewers are to be provided for Hockley, Hawkwell and Ashingdon. Sewer exten-

sions to serve Sutton, Mill Lane, Stambridge, Ashingdon Park Estate, Seaview Estate, Great Wakering, and new sewage treatment works with gravity sewers are to be provided in the villages of East End, Paglesham and Churchend, Foulness Island. The Council have proposals to provide main drainage to the Kingsman Farm area of Hullbridge.

The number of properties connected to the main drainage system during the year is 468. The length of extensions to the main sewers during the year was 1,750 yards. No relief sewers were added.

Night soil collection is made from 160 properties twice weekly and 58 once weekly.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of house refuse is maintained throughout the Rural District. Since January 1964, properties on unmade streets have been served by a paper sack system, using a four-wheel drive vehicle. In 1966, 1,200 properties were served by this system.

Modern rear loading vehicles are mainly used, and 35 men and a foreman are engaged. During the year, 79 tons of various materials, value £678, were salvaged. One man is engaged on baling. Disposal is by tipping arrangements with a neighbouring Authority. The quantity collected during the year was 8,543 tons.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Seventy-six premises are registered and 74 use mechanical power. A total of 31 inspections were made and one defect was found. 127 outworkers were registered. Full particulars under the Act are shown in the following table:—

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health:

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of Inspections</i>	<i>Number of Written Notices</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	74	24	1
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	19	6	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases</i>			
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred</i>	
			<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>
Sanitary conveniences: (Sec. 7)				
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	—	1	—	1

Part VIII of the Act
Outwork

<i>Nature of work</i>	<i>Number of Out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)</i>
Wearing apparel	95
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper ..	12
Carding of Buttons	14
Basket Making	1
Artificial Flowers	5

No contraventions of this part of the Act were reported.

Headings that would normally show a Nil return have been omitted from the table.

PETROLEUM STORAGE

Under the Petroleum Regulations 54 petrol licences were issued, one for Carbide of Calcium and four for petroleum mixtures. A total of 117 inspections were carried out.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The following is the summary of the 2,639 visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during 1966:—

Atmospheric Pollution	3
Animal Boarding Establishment Act ..	4
Camping and Caravan Sites	117
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods Order)	10
Drainage and Sewerage	248
Factories and Outworkers	31
Flooding and Watercourses	10
Food Premises	67
Houseboats	2
Housing:	
Demolition Order Procedure	2
Repairs	213
Overcrowding	1
Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning	530
Improvement Grants	10
Noise Abatement Act	6
Nuisances	144
Offices and Shops	106
Rats and Mice	169
Pet Animals Act	6
Petroleum Storage	117
Public Conveniences	169
Refuse Collection and Disposal	178
Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection ..	263
Swimming Pools	5
Verminous Premises	5
Water Supplies	6
Unclassified	217
	2,639

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following is an extract from the annual report sent to the Ministry of Labour by the Chief Public Health Inspector.

	<i>Registered during year</i>	<i>Registered at end of year</i>	<i>Inspected</i>
Offices	4	67	3
Retail Shops	9	135	5
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses ..	—	5	—
Catering Establishments open to public, Canteens	—	10	—
Fuel Storage Depots	—	2	—

The number of employees were:

Offices	515
Retail Shops	459
Catering Establishments open to public..	50
Canteens	6
Fuel Storage Depots	9

In the above total, 484 males and 579 females were employed.

There were 106 visits made to registered premises during 1966. Only one accident was reported and investigated.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Three licences were issued for the keeping of pets for sale under the above Act.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

Five licences were issued under this Act, for the boarding of animals.

PEST CONTROL

There were notifications of 169 infestations of rats and mice during the year, and 334 inspections were made.

SWIMMING POOLS

Five of the Local Authority schools in the Rural District now have swimming pools and suitable outfits for chlorinating purposes are provided by the Education Authority. A master at each school carries out regular tests whilst the pools are in seasonal use.

ESTABLISHMENT FOR MASSAGE OR SPECIAL TREATMENT

One chiropodist is licensed by the Essex County Council to practise from premises in the Rural District.

HOUSING

At the end of the year there were 1,401 dwellings owned and managed by the Council. No new properties were erected by the Council during the year. There were 580 applicants on the Housing Waiting List of whom 121 were pensioners. 143 units of accommodation are provided specially for old age pensioners without warden services, and a further 18 with warden services.

Twenty-three cases were referred to the Department for medical classification in relation to their housing need, with the following result:—

Group "A" (priority on medical grounds)	5
Group "B" (a medical need exists)	13
Group "C" (no relevant medical need)	3
Unclassified	2

Two cases placed in Group "B" in 1965 were re-assessed during the year and were regraded "A". Three families medically classified during 1966 were rehoused and two cases graded Group "A" in 1965 were also rehoused.

Action under the Housing Acts taken during the year is summarised as follows:—

Demolition Orders made	2
Closing Orders made	1
Unfit houses demolished (informal) ..	17
Unfit houses demolished (formal) ..	2
Unfit houses repaired (formal)	29
Improvements carried out under Grant Schemes	29

Caravan Sites

There are 10 licensed sites in the Rural District. One in Hockley was purchased by the Council some time ago for future development and during 1966 a further one was purchased in Rochford in connection with the new Rochford By-Pass and future redevelopment. Six of these are residential and provide for approximately 598 caravans. The other four are seasonal and provide for approximately 284 caravans.

FOOD HYGIENE

Meat Inspection

The following is a summary of the 947 food animals killed and inspected at the Rochford slaughterhouses:

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle (excluding cows)	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected ..	199	—	187	561
All diseases (except tuberculosis and cysticerci):				
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	30	—	—	40
Percentage affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	15.07	—	—	7.13
Tuberculosis only:				
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	11
Percentage affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	1.9
Cysticercosis:				
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	—	—

Food Hygiene Regulations 1960

There are 217 food establishments in the Rural District and these are summarised below in connection with the requirements of the above Regulations:

Trades	No.	Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960		
		Number of Premises complying with Regulation 16	Number of Premises to which Regulation 19 applies	Number of Premises complying with Regulation 19
Bakers	10	10	10	10
Butchers	19	19	19	19
Cafés and Restaurants ..	13	13	13	13
Canteens:				
Industrial	8	8	8	8
School	17	17	17	17
Confectioners	33	33	27	27
Fishmongers	7	7	7	7
General Provisions	65	65	65	65
Greengrocers	15	15	15	15
Licensed Premises	48	48	48	48
Pickle Factories	2	2	2	2
Unclassified	4	4	1	1

Condemned Food

All unsound food officially reported is disposed of at the Council's refuse tip, except condemned meat and offal from the slaughterhouses, which is dyed for disposal to processors for animal food. Local authorities in areas where such firms operate, are advised. During the year, 1,468 lbs. of meat, excluding meat at slaughterhouses, 48 tins and 620 packets of various foodstuffs were condemned.

Preserved Food

Thirty-one premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, for the manufacture of sausages and preserved foods.

Hawkers of Food

Thirteen persons are registered under the Essex County Council Act, 1952, Section 103, for the sale of food from a vehicle in the Rural District.

Ice Cream

There are 83 retailers of ice cream in the District. Six samples were taken during the year, and all were Grade 1, which is the highest bacteriological standard.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Enteric Fever

One case of Paratyphoid Fever involved a 17-year-old schoolboy, who had just returned from a hitch-hiking holiday in France. He had had diarrhoea towards the end of his holiday. He spent a month in hospital and was fully recovered on discharge in early September, although he continued to excrete the organism in his stool for some time. He was finally pronounced clear from infection in December.

Dysentery

In 1966 there were 82 notified cases, and 76 of these were confirmed as shigella sonnei by bacteriological examination. A further 15 children were excluded from school on account of diarrhoea, although no disease was discovered by the Public Health Laboratory. During this epidemic, over 450 specimens were collected by the Public Health Inspectors and examined by the Public Health Laboratory.

Food Poisoning

Of the five cases notified, three in one family were found to be infected by Salmonellae enteriditis, and one other, a farm worker, was infected by Salmonellae typhimurium. No specific bacteria were isolated in the fifth case. The farm worker had to be diverted to alternative employment, and as he remained positive for some considerable time, compensation through the Council's insurance arrangements became necessary.

Tuberculosis

During the year 13 cases were added to the register, four of whom were new cases. Deletions from the register were also 13 (six recovered, five moved to other areas and two died), although only one actually died of tuberculosis). Accordingly, the number remaining on the register at the end of the year was unchanged at 165 (103 males and 62 females).

With four cases notified, the Rochford tuberculosis rate is now below the national level. At the national rate 9-10 cases would have occurred, and there were, in fact nine notifications in 1965.

The Mass X-ray Unit screened 1,107 persons at public sessions at Rochford Square, and a further 106 at a residential institution.

The following is a summary of notifiable diseases (excluding tuberculosis) occurring during the year.

	<i>Ages</i>								<i>Totals</i>
	<i>Under</i> 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	<i>65 and</i> <i>over</i>	
Acute Primary Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	4
Dysentery	1	12	34	11	2	21	1	—	82
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Food Poisoning ..	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	5
Infective Hepatitis ..	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	—	5
Measles	8	111	111	6	1	—	—	—	237
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	50	41	—	—	91
Scarlet Fever ..	1	13	27	3	—	1	—	—	45
Whooping Cough ..	—	13	12	1	—	—	—	—	26
	12	151	184	23	58	65	4	2	499

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