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Contributors

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PUBLIC HEALTH

in

South East Essex

1968

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 1968

Telephone:
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 1968.

1968 was on balance a healthy year for South-East Essex. During the first three winter months of the year there was a moderately severe epidemic of influenza and few of the population escaped some time away from work. Later there was a moderate epidemic of measles in the Rochford area.

There was further progress in the Health Education field. In co-operation with the Southend Health Department a 11-week course for Food Handlers for the Certificate of Food Hygiene and Retailing was arranged at the Southend College of Technology beginning in January. 40 people attended the Course and 35 sat the examination. 29 obtained the Certificate. A further candidate, unsuccessful at the first attempt, sat the examination again in June and was successful. This was a daytime Course. An evening Course was held at the College from 16th September to 25th November. 26 food handlers attended and sat the examination, and 20 obtained their Certificates.

The campaign against the cigarette continued. Smokers' Clinics were held on Canvey Island at the Civil Defence Centre in February, March and October, and at the South Benfleet Clinic in November and at Rayleigh Council Offices in December. The early Clinics at Canvey had a good attendance, though not a regular one, and we were only able to identify at the end of two Clinics 7 non-smokers and 5 reduced from heavy smoking, although 55 attended these Clinics at one time or another. The October Clinic was more successful although the aggregate attendance was less - 8 out of 29 attended being successfully weaned from smoking. At the Benfleet Clinic 18 attended and 5 became non-smokers, and at the Rayleigh Clinic 26 attended and 8 became non-smokers.

A survey by post of the 218 known attenders at Smokers' Advice Clinics in South-East Essex in 1966, 1967 and 1968 produced only a sample reply, and out of 218 postally questioned, 81 replied. 24 of the 81 are now non-smokers, 57 are smokers.

In addition to this the Department arranged facilities for the British Temperance Association to hold their 5-day plan "Stop Smoking Course" at Runnymede Hall, during 6th-10th May. The maximum attendance was 59 on the 6th May, but 35 attended all five nights and 44 people four nights. The "hard core" of 35 reported on the Friday night that they had all been successful in giving up smoking.

A number of school children competed for the National Society of Non-Smokers poster and slogan contest. Three obtained first prizes for posters and two first prizes for slogans. Fifteen children obtained other prizes.

In co-operation with the South-East Essex Home Safety Committee, 4,600 leaflets were distributed to the Housing Departments of the four District Councils and were then issued to all Council tenants with their new rent books. 10,000 paper bags were issued to Chemists in the area overprinted with slogans on the safe care of medicines. For those interested in giving talks on Home Safety, Miss Clarke, Health Education Officer, arranged a Training Seminar on 11th and 12th September. The Home Safety Committee meets quarterly, and following the April meeting a circular was issued by the Secretary to the appropriate Organisations on the necessity of the electrical rewiring of premises 35 years and over.

You will see that the fluoride level of the piped water supply continues to vary a little according to the district and the time of year. The Southend Waterworks Company have asked me to correct my comments made in the 1967 Report. The Company do not consider that the well water supplies present any problem. The Company will, at the expense of the Local Health Authorities, raise the fluoride level of the river water supplies to one part per million as soon as requests have been received from both the Local Health Authorities. It is, therefore, not possible for the Essex County Council to insist on this addition to the water fluoride until Southend County Borough is willing to bear its share of the cost.

The Chelmsford Mass X-Ray Unit visited Rochford and Rayleigh but found no cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. Three cases of lung cancer and four cases of heart disease were found. A total of 3,518 persons were screened.

In mid-September the area was deluged by rain. Canvey suffered the worst floods, but there was fairly serious flooding in Benfleet and some flooding in Rochford and Rayleigh. Whether by coincidence or not, the Canvey floods were followed by a moderate epidemic of sonne dysentery, mainly in school children.

At national level there was considerable discussion throughout the year on Health, Health Services and allied problems. The report of the Seebohm Committee recommending a partial concentration and co-ordination of Local Authority social services and social servants was hotly debated. A Green Paper on "National Health Service; the administrative structure of medical and related services in England and Wales," suggested that not only personal health services (Mental Welfare, Maternity and Child Welfare, Health Visiting, Home Nursing, etc.), should be taken over by Area Health Boards of the National Health Service, but also that Port Health, Epidemiology and Environmental Health should be administered by these Boards. The debate continues into 1969 and now a Red Paper from the Royal Commission on Local Government firmly advocates conferment of most Local Government powers and duties on Shire Councils ("Unitary Authorities"). Existing Borough and District Councils and also Parish Councils would continue mainly as watchdogs, and some degree and co-ordination of the work of the Shire Councils would be provided by provincial Councils.

The present Local Government Health Service would fit suitably into such an administrative framework, and if it were possible, to fit in also the present National Health Service of Hospitals, Family Doctors, Dentists, Chemists, Opticians, etc., an excellent Health Service could develop, both locally and nationally.

Sweden has such a system and it works well. I fear, however, that Family Doctors and Hospital Consultants will cling to "the devil they know," and it may be, therefore that Local Government will lose its Health Servants before many years are out.

The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968 made by the Minister of Health under the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968, the Public Health Act 1936 and the Local Government Act 1933, came into force on the 1st October 1968. The list of diseases which under these and other regulations are now to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health of the Local Sanitary Authority are as follows:-

Acute Encephalitis	Leptospirosis	Scarlet Fever
Acute Meningitis	Leprosy	Smallpox
Acute Poliomyelitis	Malaria	Staphylococcus Infection
Amoebic Dysentery	Measles	Tetanus
Anthrax	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Tuberculosis
Bacillary Dysentery	Paratyphoid Fever	Typhoid Fever
Cholera	Plague	Typhus
Diphtheria	Relapsing Fever	Whooping Cough
Food Poisoning	Salmonellosis	Yellow Fever
Infective Jaundice		

Plague, cholera, yellow fever, smallpox, typhus and relapsing fever are quarantinable diseases which have to be immediately reported by the Medical Officer of Health to the Ministry of Health (now the Department of Health and Social Security). Pneumonia and puerperal pyrexia are no longer notifiable diseases. Under these Regulations the Medical Officer of Health of sanitary districts can immunise contacts of persons suffering from infectious disease, but I would not expect this power to be necessary except for contacts of diphtheria, poliomyelitis, smallpox, whooping cough and measles.

The health record for 1968 is again good. Respiratory deaths including tuberculosis could be further reduced and most deaths from accidents are preventable. As knowledge increases we should also be able to reduce deaths from ischaemic heart disease, peptic ulcer and nephritis.

I look forward to a steady, if slight, improvement in the health statistics.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. A. SMYTH

Medical Officer of Health.

August 1969

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)
Deputy Medical Officer of Health:	E. Eileen Hodgson, M.B., Ch.B. (also Departmental Medical Officer, Essex County Council (appointed 28th April, 1968))
Health Education Officer:	Miss Jean D. Clarke, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.M.R.S.H., Technical Teachers' Diploma
Secretary to Medical Officer of Health:	R.F. Stripp
Clerical Staff:	Mrs. S.D.Bull (Resigned 15th March 1968) Miss P.Mell (Appointed 6th May 1968) Mrs. A.Linton (part-time)
Pupil Public Health Inspectors:	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:	J. Griffin, M.A.P.H.I. A.F. Knuckey, M.A.P.H.I.
Authorised Meat Inspector:	R. Spellman
Clerical Staff:	V.G. Boulter

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 (Retired 2nd June 1968) Mrs. D. Rutter

/Continued

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.

Clerical Staff: Mrs. M. Furness
Mrs. C. Pedgrift (Part-time)

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.

Clerical Staff: Mrs. Z. Sargent

COMPOSITE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

BENFLEET U.D.C

Councillor R. Hall
Councillor Mrs. J.A. Selby
Councillor Mrs. M.E. Willis

CANVEY ISLAND U.D.C.

Councillor E.B. Bones (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor C.A. Morgan
Councillor G.G. Wall

RAYLEIGH U.D.C.

Councillor W.H. Bessant
Councillor G.A. Denton
Councillor H.E. Green

ROCHFORD R.D.C.

Councillor P.W. Ball (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs. D.M. Boothby
Councillor B.A. Hubble

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BENFLEET URBAN DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

J.W. Pike, J.P., (Chairman of Council)
 J.W. Colverson
 R. Hall (Chairman)
 C.L.J. Hickey
 Mrs. M.E. Hutchinson
 A.C. Partridge
 Mrs. J.A. Selby
 R.A. Williams
 R.M. Williams (Vice-Chairman of Council)

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	6,371
Number of habitable houses	16,376
Number of inhabited houses	16,026
Population (1961 Census)	32,372
Population (mid-year estimate 1968)	45,540
Rateable Value	as at £1,619,773
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	31st March 1969 £6,557

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	Rate per 1,000 population	<u>Corrected Rate</u>
Total live births	462	416	878	19.3	18.7
Total deaths	202	244	446	9.8	8.6
				Rate per 1,000 births	
Illegitimate births	15	19	34	38.7	
Infant mortality	3	-	3	3.4	
Neonatal mortality	2	-	2	2.3	
				Rate per 1,000 live & still births	
Stillbirths	4	2	6	6.8	
Perinatal mortality	6	2	8	9.0	
(Includes stillbirths and deaths in first week of life)					

Note: The Area Comparability Factors, as applied for the Corrected Birth and Death Rates are - Births 0.97 and Deaths 0.88.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1968

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	3	-	3
1 and under 5	5	-	5
5 " " 15	-	-	-
15 " " 25	4	1	5
25 " " 35	-	1	1
35 " " 45	2	4	6
45 " " 55	13	11	24
55 " " 65	36	22	58
65 " " 75	61	63	124
75 and upwards	78	142	220
	202	244	446

DEATHS BY CAUSE

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	1	-	1
Other Tuberculosis (including late effects)	1	-	1
Meningococcal infection ...	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm - stomach ...	5	10	15
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus ..	18	5	23
Malignant neoplasm - breast ...	-	12	12
Malignant neoplasm - uterus ...	-	4	4
Leukaemia ...	-	2	2
Other Malignant neoplasms, etc. ...	19	13	32
Diabetes mellitus ..	2	2	4
Avitaminoses, etc. ...	-	1	1
Anaemias ...	2	1	3
Mental disorders ...	-	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system, etc. ...	-	1	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease ...	-	2	2
Hypertensive disease ...	2	7	9
Ischaemic heart disease ...	67	53	120
Other forms of heart disease ...	5	18	23
Cerebrovascular disease ..	25	58	83
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	5	13	18
Influenza ...	1	5	6
Pneumonia ...	9	14	23
Bronchitis and emphysema ...	21	2	23
Asthma ...	-	2	2
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	-	1	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia ...	-	2	2
Cirrhosis of liver ...	-	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system ...	1	3	4
Nephritis and nephrosis ..	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate ..	3	-	3
Other diseases, genito-urinary system ...	1	4	5
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue ...	-	1	1

Benfleet 1968 - Deaths by cause continued

				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system ...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Congenital anomalies ...	...	...	...	4	-	4
Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...	...	2	2	4
All other accidents ...	...	...	...	4	3	7
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ...	...	...	...	2	-	2
				202	244	446

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

During 1968 Benfleet again had a relatively healthy year. The crude death rate was well below the national rate, and the infant mortality less than a quarter of the national rate. There was a sharp decrease in the perinatal mortality. The lung cancer death rate is now near the national rate, but this is because the national rate has increased, not because the Benfleet rate has decreased.

There is a sharp increase in deaths from ischaemic heart disease, but I know of no specific environmental factor which would account for this.

WELFARE OF AGED

41 elderly people were referred to the Department during the year. In addition, there were numerous enquiries unrecorded where the services of other agencies were required. A number of requests were received for lists of old peoples' homes by those seeking to make provision for their elderly relatives, often living alone. Referrals for rehousing on medical grounds accounted for 23 of the total and seven of these, involving five applications, were given Group A for urgent rehousing (full details under the Housing Section).

Of the 18 people otherwise referred, 4 were men and 14 were women. The action taken on these cases is summarised as follows:-

Admitted to Hospital ...	...	...	...	7
Admitted to Mental Hospital ..	...	...	...	1
Admitted to Welfare Home ...	...	...	...	1
Admitted to private home ...	...	...	...	1
Home Help ...	...	...	...	3
Died at home ...	...	...	...	1
Remain under supervision ...	...	...	...	3

Recourse to compulsory removal under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948 was not found necessary during the year.

Cases of interest were:

(a) A lady aged 92 who lived alone in her own semi-detached, pre-war bungalow, was obstinate and kept an aggressive dog. She refused all official help. There was a real fire danger here and the fire brigade was called early one morning when a passer-by saw smoke coming from the front door. A few weeks later she fell in her

home and sustained a fractured femur. She was admitted to hospital filthy and in poor condition. However she recovered and is still in hospital at the date of preparing this report.

(b) A man aged 93 lived alone with his cat and refused to go into a home. A crisis arose at Christmas when the Home Help and a kind neighbour would be away and unable to attend to his needs over the four-day holiday period. With difficulty he was persuaded to go into a Welfare Home temporarily for Christmas. He so appreciated the care and attention given him that he asked if he could stay and the Superintendent reports favourably that he was a very good "find!"

The two Old Peoples' Welfare Committees within the Urban District report on their activities during the year as follows:-

Hadleigh & Thundersley Old Peoples' Welfare Committee

Over 350 Christmas parcels were distributed as well as individual wrapped gifts for every resident at the new County Council Old Peoples' Home, "Tyrells," in Seamore Avenue. 30 pensioners were served with a cooked lunch on Monday and Friday each week at the Day Centre at the Hart Road Caravan Park, involving 1,137 meals in the year.

In September, a survey was commenced of people at risk (those over 75 years of age). In November, at the request of the Committee, improved facilities were arranged for the registration of deaths at Rochford. Over 100 problems affecting the elderly were dealt with and referred during the year. The chief difficulty experienced was the lack of volunteers to assist old people with large and overgrown gardens.

South Benfleet Old Peoples' Welfare Committee

Activities were largely associated with fund raising and supporting the Old Peoples' Club in Green Road run by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and the twice yearly parties sponsored by the Benfleet Old Peoples' Welfare Council. The Committee contributed over £100 to the running of the Club during the year.

The activities of these two Committees is co-ordinated by the Benfleet Old Peoples' Welfare Council which consists of representatives from the District Council and elected volunteers within the District, who aid the elderly. The principal functions have been, (a) publication of a booklet showing the services available to the elderly, (b) the organisation of a Street Warden Scheme which, whilst being limited by lack of suitable volunteers, has been a great help in areas where volunteers have been forthcoming, and (c) the arranging of a party in January and July for the District's housebound old people at Runnymede Hall. These parties are attended by 150-200 people, all brought in volunteer private cars.

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service Centre Organiser at Benfleet reports that a total of 15,768 meals were served by the Meals on Wheels Service during 1968. 8,820 were served at the two Club Houses (one at Hadleigh and one at Benfleet), making a total of 24,588, an increase of over 3,500 on the 1967 figures. Meals are delivered to the elderly in their homes on three days a week and are served at the Club House on 4 days a week. Delivery is by the Council's mini van and private cars. The Benfleet Council contributed £1,240 during the financial year 1968/69.

The W.R.V.S. Club in Green Road is open on six days a week from 8.0 a.m. to 7.0 p.m. and contains a Billiard Room, a Television Lounge and a Library. Social activities are usually held on two occasions each week and a Christmas Party is always organised. The Benfleet Council's mini van, which was provided originally on the recommendation of the South Benfleet Old Peoples' Welfare Committee, collects housebound old people at 11 a.m. and returns them home at 4.0 p.m. each day.

Six one-room flatlets for old people with two kitchens and two toilets are provided by the W.R.V.S. next to the Club. Tenants have to be long-standing Benfleet residents to qualify for a tenancy, and have the facilities of the Club.

The Area Welfare Officer informs me that 17 elderly people from the District were admitted to County Homes in 1968, and on 31st December 36 men and women were on the waiting list. 82 elderly people in Benfleet are officially registered as Handicapped by the Welfare Department and 110 pensioners are registered as blind or partially sighted. There is one County Welfare Home in Benfleet which accommodates 28 ladies and 12 gentlemen.

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 waters 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 plumbo solvent action. The fluoride content of the river water is around 0.25 ppm and that from the deep well at South Benfleet 2.3ppm.

458 supplies were connected to the mains and 2,200 yards of main were laid during 1968.

There are 11 dwelling houses in the District (occupied by 24 persons) without a piped supply of water. These are situated in the 'Green Belt' parts of the District and rely upon shallow wells and rain water storage. No houses are served by stand-pipes. 25 visits in connection with water supplies were made during the year and 12 samples were taken. They were satisfactory.

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 sub-divided into a N. W. Section, which gravitates to a pumping station in Rushbottom Lane at Great Tarpots, and 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.

Work commenced in June 1966 on Phase I of the new sewage treatment works, and was completed in 1968. This was to replace the existing out-dated and overloaded works. The new works consists of the inlet installation of screens, grit channels and flow recorder, storm sewage retention tanks, settlement tanks, biological filters, humus tank, a re-circulation system and a sludge digester and drying beds. Work on Phase II of the scheme, including new sewage pumping stations at Old House Farm and Benfleet Marsh, was also put in hand during the year. Provision has been made for future extensions to keep pace with the increase in population. The treated effluent is discharged into Benfleet Creek and samples are regularly analysed to ensure a suitable standard is maintained.

During the year 1968 a further $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of main, foul and surface water sewers were provided by private developers and by the Council. 365 new properties were connected to the main sewers in addition to 50 dwellings previously draining to cesspools. There are 170 dwellings in the District without drainage systems connected to the public sewer. Of these, 80 have cesspools and the remainder earth or chemical closets.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Seven 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. 38 men are engaged in the work. A weekly collection is made throughout the district.

Disposal is by means of controlled tipping on Benfleet marshes. 4 men are employed there. One bulldozer, a crawler shovel and a dumper are provided.

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 920 collections were made during the year.

The income from trade refuse collection and the disposal of spoil at the tip was £850.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The number of registered premises was 258 including 150 building sites. 106 of the factories use mechanical power, 69 inspections were made during the year; also 7 visits to building sites and 5 to workplaces. Particulars relevant to the prescribed table are shown as follows:-

Part I of the Act:

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health:

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	5
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	102	69
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	372	7
Total	477	81

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Referred	
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary conveniences (Sec.7)					
(b) Unsuitable or defective:	1	1	-	1	
<u>Part VIII of the Act</u>					
<u>Outwork:</u>					
Number of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)					
Nature of work					
Wearing apparel			15		
Cosaques, Christmas stockings, etc.			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

The following is a summary of action taken under the Petroleum Regulations Act:-

Petroleum Spirit Licences issued ...	52
Petroleum Mixture Licences issued ...	4
Inspection of premises and installations ..	159

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Equipment for the measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere was set up at John Burrows Recreation Ground, Hadleigh in January, 1967 and readings during 1968 are shown below:

	Smoke Results		SO ₂ Results		Smoke/SO ₂
	<u>Average</u>	<u>Highest Day</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Highest Day</u>	<u>Ratio</u>
January	55	121	100	173	0.55
February	40	85	78	229	0.51
March	17	28	N	93	N
April	25	56	60	133	0.42
May	17	26	50	109	0.34
June	10	18	45	101	0.22
July	11	23	33	78	0.33
August	9	18	31	67	0.29
September	14	43	44	108	0.32
October	24	61	67	126	0.36
November	33	81	56	124	0.59
December	N	108	N	155	N

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Five Licences were issued under the Act.

PEST CONTROL

There were 126 complaints about rats and mice and 153 inspections were made by Public Health Inspectors in connection with them. 109 visits regarding other pests were made. The work of disinfection is carried out by the Council's rodent operative.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are 3 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 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 5,270 visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year:

Accumulations - Offensive	..	..	..	41
Animals, keeping of	..	..	..	12
Clean Air Act	..	..	..	301
Drainage - Foul water	..	..	..	394
- Surface water	..	..	..	382
- Ditches	..	..	..	164
Factories	..	..	..	81
Food Premises	..	..	..	286
Health Education	..	..	..	14
Houseboats	..	..	..	3
Housing repairs:	..	..	..	422
Demolition procedure	..	..	..	22
Rent Act	..	..	..	18
Improvement Grants	..	..	..	131
Council Houses	..	..	..	288
Miscellaneous housing visits	..	..	..	38
Infectious diseases	..	..	..	108
Massage & special treatment premises	..	..	..	2
Meat inspection - at Slaughterhouse	..	..	..	271
Moveable dwellings	..	..	..	44
Noise Abatement	..	..	..	163
Nuisances - General	..	..	..	31
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	..	..	..	131
Petroleum Spirit	..	..	..	159
Pest Control	..	..	..	262
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	4
Refuse - Collection and Disposal	..	..	..	623
Sampling - Water	..	..	..	12
- Ice Cream	4
Slaughterhouse	11
Unclassified	823
Water Supply	25

Total	5,270
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OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAYS PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registrations under the Act are as follows:-

Offices	70
Retail Shops	197
Wholesale Shops	4
Catering Establishments	20
Fuel Storage Depots	1

131 Inspections were made during the year.

ESTABLISHMENTS FOR MASSAGE AND SPECIAL TREATMENT

There are two premises in the District which are licensed by the Essex County Council under Part IV of the Essex County Council Act, 1933. One of these is at Thundersley and the other at South Benfleet.

FLOODING

About six inches of rain fell in Benfleet during the 14th and 15th of September and about 233 properties were flooded.

The areas chiefly affected were in the lower part of Benfleet adjacent to Benfleet Marsh, Rushbottom Lane, New Thundersley and the lower parts of Hadleigh and Thundersley near the Prittle Brook. The major part of the flooding receded rapidly, but some properties were flooded from Saturday night until Monday night. The sea wall was breached at 7.30 p.m. on Monday evening to drain off this residual flood.

The occupants of the still flooded houses (43 persons and 2 dogs) evacuated their houses in co-operation with the Police and the Local Authority late on Sunday afternoon and were lodged and fed at Runnymede Hall, which had been opened as a reception centre. On Monday morning, all 233 properties known to have been flooded were visited and advice given. Pumps were brought in where required to get houses dry.

The under-pass under the Southend/Fenchurch Street railway line was flooded during the week-end, and both the under-pass pumping station and the Benfleet Marsh Pumping Station were at hazard. The Sewage Works Manager on Saturday evening swam out to Benfleet Marsh Pumping Station to replace blown electrical fuses, and on Sunday and Monday returned by boat to carry out further electrical and mechanical repairs.

Runnymede Hall operated as a rest centre until the morning of the 23rd September.

HOUSING

At the end of 1968 the Council owned and managed 847 houses, bungalows and flats. 365 private dwellings were built during 1968 and a further 325 were under construction at the end of the year.

On the 31st December there were 430 applicants on the Council's Housing List and 184 of these were new applications during 1968.

The number of units of accommodation specially provided for old people total 270. Of these 31 are provided with the services of a Warden - the purpose-built establishment "Gowan Court." 68 of the Housing Applicants are Pensioners.

33 housing applicants were referred for medical classification during the year, with the following results:-

Group "A"	(9 points)	=	10
Group "B"	(6 points)	=	7
Group "C"	(3 points)	=	11

In one instance, I recommended the case be taken outside the points scheme because of the urgency, but the applicant died before rehousing could take effect. In four cases, no medical recommendation was made. Two cases graded in 1967 (one "A" and one "B") were again brought up for consideration. I urged utmost priority for the "A" case and confirmed the other grading as correct. Five families who had been the subject of a previous medical recommendation were rehoused during 1968.

The following action was taken during the year:-

Demolition orders made	7
Closing orders made	0
Unfit houses demolished	8
Unfit houses repaired	26
Improvements carried out under Grant Schemes	27

No re-development schemes were carried out during the year.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in this district.

Houseboats

There are 15 houseboats moored in Benfleet Creek. One is used for permanent occupation, the others for holiday purposes only.

Caravan Sites

The only site in the District is owned and managed by the Council and is situated in Hart Road, Thundersley. The present policy of the Council is to run down the site with a view to redevelopment with permanent housing, and by the end of the year there were 138 caravans remaining.

FOOD HYGIENE

The following are the food premises within the Urban District:

Bakers' Shops	17
Butchers'	22
Cafes	19
Canteens: Schools'	15
Industrial	9
Confectioners	35
Dairies	4
Fishmongers	14
General Provisions	55
Greengrocers	31
Licensed Premises	24
Multiple Stores	6
Wholesale Stores	8

Nineteen 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 Abattoir in a room specially fitted for this purpose. No birds are dressed there.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in this district.

Housesboats

There are 15 housesboats moored in Henflaet Creek. One is used for permanent occupation, the others for holiday purposes only.

Meat Inspection

The following table gives details of the 22,303 carcasses of food animals examined at Cross Farm Abattoir, Hadleigh during the year. Four samples of tissues from diseased animals were submitted for laboratory examination.

	Cattle (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	3,721	307	271	7,080	10,923
Number inspected	3,721	307	271	7,080	10,923
All diseases (except tuberculosis and cysticerci):					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	6	1	11	6	17
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	1,165	132	15	419	1,632
Percentage affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	29.8%	43.4%	9.07%	6.02%	16.05%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	1	-	-	-	261
Percentage affected with tuberculosis ... ..	.02%	-%	-%	-%	2.3%
Cysticerci only:					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	56	5	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	1	-	-	-

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963:

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the District.

Ice Cream

Four samples were taken with the following results.

Grade I	1
Grade II	1
Grade III	nil
Grade IV	2

At the close of the year, 102 premises were registered for the retail sale of ice cream.

Condemned Food

During the year 1,197 tins, 297lbs and 375 pkts of various foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption and were disposed of at the refuse tip on Benfleet Marshes.

Food & Drugs Act 1955: 16 complaints about unsound food were made and legal proceedings were taken in respect of one of them.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Whilst 1968 would normally have been a year of low measles incidence in the biennial cycle of this disease, the drop from 769 cases in 1967 to 27 cases in 1968 cannot be regarded as pure coincidence. The benefit of measles vaccination, which did not commence until June 1968 must be reflected.

Investigations were made into three suspected cases of smallpox, diphtheria and acute poliomyelitis, but all proved negative.

Meningococcal Infection

The two cases shown in the table involved a one-year old boy from South Benfleet at the beginning of the year, who was admitted to hospital and made a good recovery. The other case was a boy aged four years from Hadleigh, who unfortunately died the same day as admission to hospital in January, the cause being meningococcal septicaemia. In June, a boy aged 5 years was admitted to hospital from Thundersley and was found to be suffering from As septic Meningitis, but this condition is not notifiable.

Infective Hepatitis

Ten of the sixteen cases were under 25 years of age. One patient was a slaughterman, one was a student at a teacher training college, one became ill after a visit to a swimming pool in another area. Another did regular sailing in a local Creek, another was a member of a 'pop' group and was a second case in one family; another may have contracted the infection at a holiday camp where the sanitary facilities were poor, and two had family contacts working in retail food shops.

Food Poisoning

Although four cases were notified, only one case was confirmed, the organism being *Clostridium welchii*, and crab meat was suspected.

One lady was referred to the department who had suffered from repeated attacks of diarrhoea after periods of heavy rain. Because of the geography of the area, infection through the drainage system was suspected. However, all investigations proved negative. The hospital concerned subsequently advised me that the organism isolated was *Salmonella montevideo*, and it would appear that the patient was a "carrier" of this food-borne infection.

Psittacosis

In March I was informed that budgerigars supplied to a school in Oxfordshire through the Animal News Service were found to be suffering from psittacosis, and that a further 88 schools had been supplied from the same source.

Budgerigars from the same supplier were kept at a large secondary school in the District, and on investigation it was found that one of these had just died. The carcase was sent to the Central Public Health Laboratory in Colindale, London, and the subsequent report showed that the psittacosis virus had been isolated.

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With the assistance of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, all the birds were destroyed and disposed of by burning, and the cages disinfected. Whilst the disease can be transmitted to humans, no pupils or staff who had contact with the birds were affected.

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the position for the year 1968:-

Number of cases on register at 1st January	181
New cases notified during year	17
Transfers into area during year	10
	<hr/>
	208
Number recovered during year	8
Number moved away in year	7
Died	5
	<hr/>
Number remaining on 31st December	188

Of the five deaths, only two were associated with tuberculosis, and the age, sex and cause are summarised below:

Male, aged 73	Pulmonary tuberculosis
Female, aged 55	Lobar Pneumonia, associated with lung resection for old tuberculosis
Male, aged 68	Pyonephrosis
Male, aged 53	Cardiomyopathy
Male, aged 93	Old age

The incidence of new cases of tuberculosis in the Benfleet Urban District over the past four years, per 10,000 of the population, with the comparison for England and Wales as a whole, is shown below.

<u>Benfleet</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
1965 = 4.13 (17 cases)	3.37 (16,105 cases)
1966 = 2.59 (11 cases)	3.04 (14,606 cases)
1967 = 2.05 (9 cases)	2.73 (13,207 cases)
1968 = 3.73 (17 cases)	2.67 (12,984 cases)

The increase in pulmonary tuberculosis in 1968, after a moderate reduction in 1966-7, is disappointing. However, the 1968 figures may relate to the end of the epidemic, as very few cases have so far been notified during 1969.

Note:

The Area Comparability Factors,
Rates are - Births 1.17 and Deaths

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

BENFLEET

	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	22-44	45-64	65 & Over	Totals
* Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	6
Dysentery ...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
* Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Food Poisoning ...	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	4
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	1	9	6	-	-	16
Measles ...	3	17	6	-	1	-	-	-	27
Meningococcal Infection	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Scarlet Fever ...	-	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	7
Whooping Cough ...	-	5	9	2	-	-	-	-	16
	3	29	20	4	11	9	2	2	80

* Ceased to be notifiable on 1st October, 1968.

CANVEY ISLAND URBAN DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

C.A. Morgan (Chairman)
 R.H. Jones, J.P. (Chairman of Council)
 A.G. Allen
 A.P. Boss
 E.B. Bones
 J.W. Bowden
 H.T. George
 G.G. Wall (Vice-Chairman)

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	4,421
Number of habitable houses	8,567
Number of inhabited houses	8,400
Population (1961 Census)	15,599
Population (mid-year estimate 1968)	23,370
Rateable Value) as at	£776,268
Sum represented by a Penny Rate) 31st March 1969	£3,140

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 population	Corrected Rate
Total live births	238	269	507	21.7	25.4
Total deaths	124	111	235	10.1	8.2
				Rate per 1,000 births	
Illegitimate births	14	17	31	61.1	
Infant mortality	5	4	9	17.8	
Neonatal mortality	3	2	5	9.9	
				Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths	
Stillbirths	2	7	9	17.4	
Perinatal mortality	5	9	14	27.1	
(Includes stillbirths and deaths in first week of life)					

Note:

The Area Comparability Factors, as applied for the Corrected Birth and Death Rates are - Births 1.17 and Deaths 0.82.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1968

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	5	4	9
1 and under 5	2	2	4
5 " " 15	1	-	1
15 " " 25	2	-	2
25 " " 35	2	-	2
35 " " 45	2	2	4
45 " " 55	9	2	11
55 " " 65	19	11	30
65 " " 75	43	31	74
75 and upwards	39	59	98
	124	111	235

DEATHS BY CAUSE

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	7	1	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	9	1	10
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	-	4	4
Leukaemia ...	1	-	1
Other Malignant neoplasms etc. ...	15	8	23
Benign and unspecified neoplasms ...	2	-	2
Diabetes mellitus ...	-	3	3
Anaemias ...	-	2	2
Other diseases of nervous system, etc. ...	2	3	5
Chronic rheumatic heart disease ..	-	1	1
Ischaemic heart disease ...	33	31	64
Other forms of heart disease ...	4	3	7
Cerebrovascular disease ...	11	14	25
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	3	2	5
Influenza ...	-	2	2
Pneumonia ...	8	12	20
Bronchitis and emphysema ..	9	7	16
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	3	-	3
Peptic Ulcer ...	2	1	3
Intestinal obstruction and hernia ...	-	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system ...	1	3	4
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	-	1	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system ...	-	2	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system ...	1	3	4
Congenital anomalies ...	4	-	4
Other causes of perinatal mortality ...	1	2	3
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions ...	1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents ...	4	1	5
All other accidents ...	-	3	3
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ...	2	-	2
Totals	124	111	235

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

The birth rate remains high, the crude and corrected rates being well above the national level. The death rate is a little higher than last year and since this is true also of the corrected death rate, Canvey on this score was a little less healthy during 1968. There is an improvement, however, in the infant mortality. There is a rise in the perinatal rate and the stillbirth rate. Deaths from lung cancer decreased sharply, but there is an increase in deaths from pneumonia.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

Forty elderly people were referred to the Medical Department during the year. Most of these were in respect of rehousing on medical grounds. Also, a number, first brought to notice of the Department in previous years, remained under observation and supervision. The domiciliary services of the County Council (District Nursing and Home Helps) were a great help in a number of cases, and I am indebted to the help and co-operation of the Public Health Inspectors and County Council Health Visitors from time to time.

Of the 31 old people involved in the 25 applications from pensioners for assistance in their housing needs, 18 were awarded additional points on medical grounds, six of whom were given priority. Brief details of two interesting cases of elderly people in need are given for record purposes -

A widow whose age at the time was believed to be 86, first came to the notice of the Department in December 1963. She was reasonably well physically for her age, but was mentally confused. At one time she was referred to the Mental Welfare Department but there were insufficient grounds for action under the Mental Treatment Acts. This was confirmed by a Consultant Psychiatrist. The family doctor, too, did not feel he could support her compulsory removal to a Welfare Home. The chief problem was that she was continually accusing her benefactors (home helps, rent collectors and others) of robbing her of cash or valuables. These all proved unfounded and not only caused embarrassment but made it difficult to provide the help she required. However, for some little while, up to her death in February 1968, a Home Help had been attending. This was a case which required considerable patience by all concerned.

The other case also involved a widow aged 87. When first brought to notice in August, 1964, she was stone deaf, aggressive and unable to read or write. The situation was aggravated by her tribe of cats. The Consultant Psychiatrist saw her in 1967, but there was no action he could properly take. Two Home Helps had to go in together for the sake of self-protection and these could not always be maintained. Animal food attracted vermin and the situation was a continual problem with neighbours, a fire risk being a very real concern to them. She persistently refused all offers of accommodation in a Welfare Home, but on sustaining a fall in

early February 1968 she was admitted to hospital where she remained for six months on account of a fractured thigh. In August she was sufficiently recovered and was willing to go into a Welfare Home, and she is now extremely happy in Long View! Success is worth while and especially so in such a case!

No action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948 for compulsory removal was necessary during the year.

The Welfare Department has informed me that 15 elderly people were admitted to their establishments from Canvey Island during 1968, and a further 26 were on the waiting list. Also 118 Canvey Pensioners are registered as Handicapped and a further 64 elderly people are registered as blind or partially sighted. There is one County Welfare Home in Canvey which accommodates 31 ladies and 13 gentlemen. Meals on Wheels are provided by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service on two days a week, and a total of 4,059 meals were served to elderly residents during the year. Meals are also served on two days a week at the W.R.V.S. Headquarters in the High Street and a total of 755 meals were served here. The amount of the District Council's grant for this important service amounted to £28. 10s. 0d. during the year.

The Honorary Secretary of the Canvey Island Senior Citizens Association informs me that the building of a new Day Centre in the Paddocks Recreation Ground was commenced during the year, the total cost of which is expected to be around £12,000. A tear-off postcard was sent out at the beginning of the year to all known pensioners drawing their attention to the facilities available to them and inviting replies where further information was desired. Arising from this, the Visiting Officer, assisted by a team of volunteers, visited a number of pensioners and offered appropriate advice. Such help as conveyance to hospital, garden maintenance and advice re holidays was given.

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 bacteriologists. 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.

375 supplies were connected to the mains and 2,846 yards of new mains were laid in 1968.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Canvey Island is divided into a number of drainage areas. Within each area there is a gravity system with the sewers discharging at a Pumping Station where the sewage is pumped into a trunk sewer system which discharges at the Southwick Pumping station.

cont

Drainage and Sewerage - continued

From this main Pumping station the sewage is pumped to the Treatment Plant some 1,000 yards to the South. After progressing through the plant, the effluent is discharged by gravity into the River Thames. The Treatment Plant came into operation in 1966 and the required standard of 100 ppm suspended solids and 100 Biological Oxygen Demand set by the Port of London Authority is regularly obtained. Although the surface water system for the District is separate, surface water infiltration into the foul drainage system does occur and arrangements are made at the Works for the excess flow over three times dry weather flow to receive partial treatment.

The most recent development undertaken has been the construction of a new pumping main from the High Street Pumping Station to provide a direct link to the main Pumping Station, to relieve surcharging which was resulting from increased development in the Eastern part of the District. A new pumping station has been constructed at the Winter Gardens to deal with that area and new development to the South. Within the District there are seven Pumping Stations and a further one yet to be built.

Except for the Harvest Road area, Winter Gardens and Sixty Acres, the District is almost completely sewered and all but a very few properties are connected to the system. The three areas mentioned above will be largely redeveloped and the new development resulting, together with those existing properties which will remain, will be progressively connected to the system. No extensions to the main sewer have been carried out during the year except to deal with new development.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Domestic and trade refuse continues to increase and during 1968 approximately 54,624 cubic yards 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, this being illustrated in the tonnage produced this year in comparison with 1967 (52,600 cubic yards).

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the 4,571 visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during 1968:

Aged Persons	29
Atmospheric pollution	108
Caravan and camping sites	62
Drainage and sewerage	91
Factories	59
Flooding and watercourses	48
Food premises	226
Houseboats	2

Cont

Public Health Inspections - continued

Housing:

Demolition Order procedure	609
Repairs	503
Rehousing	168
Overcrowding	19
Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning ...	410
Noise abatement	48
Nuisances	124
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act ...	385
Oil pollution	2
Pest control	194
Petroleum and methane storage	256
Rats and mice	71
Refuse collection and disposal	442
Slaughterhouses and meat inspection ...	37
Swimming pools	28
Unclassified	620
Water supply	30

4,571

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.

PETROLEUM STORAGE

Thirteen licences to store petroleum spirit were issued during the year, and 256 inspections were made. A large number of these were to the Methane Terminal, where the installation continues to expand and works to underground storage units continued, using advanced cryogenic engineering techniques.

PEST CONTROL

Seventy-one inspections and visits were made in respect of rats and mice, complaints were mainly due to rodents being disturbed by works to dykes and waterways.

As regards the Brown-tail Moth (*Euproctis Crysorrhoea*), 194 visits were made, in addition to the Council-maintained service of spraying heavily infested and less accessible areas. Also, 1,198 packets of DDT (8 ozs each) were issued to the public for spraying private gardens. The Essex County Council (Canvey Island Approaches) Act 1967 enables notices to be served on those premises where Brown-tail Moth infestations were found to be excessive. The experimental work with the use of Polyhedral viruses continued and field investigations show that the virus is now spreading by natural means.

SWIMMING POOLS

Breakpoint chlorination continues to be an extremely effective method of sterilisation and 28 inspections were made to the 4 swimming pools during the season. Three of these are at schools of the Local Education Authority and one at a Holiday Camp.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAYS PREMISES ACT 1963

A total of 177 premises were registered with the Council at the end of the year, as follows:-

		<u>Numbers employed</u>
Offices	37	185
Retail Shops	122	588
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	3	50
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	13	72
Fuel Storage Depots	2	8
	<u>177</u>	<u>903</u>

A total of 385 visits were made to registered premises during the year.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

78 complaints of atmospheric pollution were dealt with. Of these, 8 complaints concerned emissions from outside the district.

Smoke and sulphur-dioxide recordings are taken within the Urban District as part of the National Survey, with readings taken daily and submitted monthly to the Ministry of Technology at Warren Spring Laboratory.

The following is a summary of these readings:-

	<u>Smoke Results</u>		<u>SO₂ Results</u>		<u>Smoke/SO₂</u>
	<u>Average</u>	<u>Highest Day</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Highest Day</u>	<u>Ratio</u>
January	66*	129	121	267	.55
February	53*	118*	82	214	.65
March	39	80	93	160	.42
April	N	98	N	313	N
May	20	42	48	130	.42
June	13	31	42	84	.31
July	14	26	38	111	.37
August	14	23	42	132	.33
September	N	60	N	126	N
October	37	87	84	174	.44
November	42	94	67	139	.63
December	N	119	N	186	N

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

* indicates that at least one daily figure covered by the average, or the highest daily figure itself, has been estimated from a reflectometer reading of less than 40.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

There are 70 premises registered and all use mechanical power. A total of 59 inspections were made. The number of outworkers recorded is 26. Particulars relevant to the prescribed table are shown as follows:-

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health:

Premises	Number of Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	70	59	1

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found		
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H. M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	2

PART VIII of the Act

Outwork

Nature of Work	Number of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(I) (c)
Wearing apparel	22
Handbag making	22
Brush makers	2

No contraventions of this Part of the Act were reported.

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

FLOODING

Over the 48 hours of Saturday the 14th and Sunday the 15th September 1968, over six inches of rain fell in Canvey Island. The whole of the sewerage system was completely surcharged, but the Sewage Works and Pumping Stations were not seriously affected and continued to operate. 40% of the roads on the Island were flooded to a depth of 6" to 3' and 10% of ground floors in residential properties were flooded to 6" of water. Some 1,000 properties were affected to some extent.

The Essex Fire Brigade helped with the removal of the flood water supplying six major pumps and five small hoses. Two more were supplied by the Local Authority and additional pumps by the River Authority. This remedial action started on Saturday and continued through to Sunday, but on Sunday it appeared there was little improvement and the water was drained into the lower sections of the Island. However, on Monday, the rain diminishing, the operation of pumping and tidal sluices, coupled with the cutting through of banks, helped in the recession of water. By 9 p.m. there was some improvement in the worst flooded areas, and during the night on Monday and Tuesday there was rapid improvement. Pumping continued throughout Tuesday and Wednesday to Thursday morning.

The Southend Waterworks Company closed the Leigh Beck and Hole Haven bore holes. The Civil Defence Centre at Sydervelt Road was opened on Monday as a rest centre for the accommodation of 150 people, and the Women's Royal Voluntary Service sent out hot meals to people in their homes and helped with the people in the rest centre.

Advice was given to the public in dealing with suspect water supplies, drying out flooded homes and the use of disinfectants and general hygiene matters.

There was subsequently a dysentery outbreak on the Island, which I refer to later, but this was not obviously connected with the flooding. Though the flooding caused considerable hardship and distress, it does not appear that it had any serious effect on the health of the Island.

10	...	...	...	...	Closing Orders
29	...	...	...	...	Demolition Order procedure
78	...	...	...	...	Demolition and redevelopment
19	...	...	...	...	Overcrowding

Preserved Foods

Housesboats

There are four licensed sites in the District, both residential and holiday or seasonal. The site was also used during the year in accordance with a Discontinuance Order. This site has received planning approval for the development of residential properties. Approximately 1,000 caravans are stationed on these sites and 62 inspections were made during the year.

HOUSING

During 1968 the Council erected and brought into use 127 new dwellings, bringing the total of houses, bungalows and flats managed by the Council to 1309 at the end of the year. A further 70 units of accommodation were under construction on the 31st December 1968; 311 private dwellings were completed during the year.

There was a total of 530 families on the Housing Waiting list at the end of the year. 260 of these were new applications during 1968.

In connection with the housing of old people, 62 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.

Development to cater for the needs of the elderly include 20 one-bedroomed dwellings in Gafzelle Drive and a Sheltered Establishment providing 29 units of accommodation with resident warden, laundry and communal rooms and a warning bell system. These were in course of construction during the year.

Fifty-eight housing applicants were referred for medical classification during the year with the following results:-

Group "A"	(7 points)	=	15
Group "B"	(4 points)	=	14
Group "C"	(2 points)	=	13
Group "D"	(no points)	=	8

A further eight cases were not classified. These were families which had either rehoused themselves, moved away, or decided they would remain in their present accommodation. Nine families, the subject of a medical recommendation, either during 1968 or previously, were rehoused during the year, and four applications were cancelled.

The following is a summary of action taken by the Public Health Inspectors during 1968 in respect of housing matters:-

Closing Orders	10
Demolition Order procedure	29
Demolition and redevelopment	78
Improvement Grants	18
Rehousing	39
Overcrowding	19

Houseboats

There are eight houseboats within the Urban District; five are sited in the tidal area of Small Gains Creek, one of which is permanently occupied. The remaining three houseboats are on the south side of Benfleet Creek, of which one is occupied.

Caravan Sites There are four licensed sites in the District, both residential and holiday or seasonal. One site was run down during the year in accordance with a Discontinuance Order. This site has received planning approval for the development of residential properties. Approximately 1,900 caravans are stationed on these sites and 62 inspections were made during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE

Inspection and Supervision of Food

There are 178 food establishments at Canvey Island and these are summarised below in connection with the requirements of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960:-

<u>Trades</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960</u>		
		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	13	17
Cafes & Restaurants	33	29	33	33
Canteens:				
Industrial ...	10	10	10	10
School ...	7	7	7	7
Confectioners ...	16	14	16	16
Cooked Meat Manufacturers..	8	8	8	8
Fishmongers ...	13	13	13	13
General Provisions	36	36	36	36
Licensed Premises ..	19	19	19	19
Greengrocers ...	17	14	17	16

Condemned Food

During the year the Public Health Inspectors condemned 961 lbs. of various foods, all of which were disposed of at the Council's refuse tip at Newlands.

Preserved Foods

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the manufacture of sausages and preserved foods is 32.

Ice Cream

There are 30 retailers and two manufacturers registered under the Ice Cream Regulations.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year 97 cases of measles were notified. This compared favourably with the previous year, when an all-time record of 801 cases occurred. Whooping cough too, was down to 13 cases from 71, with only one case occurring in a baby under 12 months of age. Only four cases of infective hepatitis were notified. These included a young housewife aged 22, a woman of 54 whose contact, daughter and family, were about to emigrate to Australia, a young man aged 18 whose mother was admitted to hospital for an unrelated condition a few days after onset of symptoms, and a boy aged 6 years. 13 contacts of these cases were given gamma globulin.

A case of typhoid fever was reported from Croydon, Surrey in a woman who had returned from a holiday in Tunisia. One of the contacts of the case was traced to Canvey Island but I am glad to say both clinical and bacteriological investigations proved negative.

Dysentery and Diarrhoeal Disease

A sharp rise in the number of cases of dysentery reported occurred largely in the autumn, when over 60 cases of gastro-enteritis were investigated, mostly affecting the Infant and Junior Schools. Altogether, 93 cases of gastro-enteritis came to notice during the year, some by formal notification as dysentery, and others by informal reporting by schools and family doctors.

Of the 31 cases of dysentery shown in the table, 19 were confirmed by bacteriological investigation at the Public Health Laboratory as shigella sonnei. Most of these came to light through school incidence. The autumn outbreak commenced in a large family, who also had a number of lodgers, where the standard of hygiene left much to be desired. All necessary precautions in the schools were taken, including the rigid exclusion of all children with symptoms, strict control over food handlers in the school meals service, and hand washing in a solution of Roccal disinfectant in Infant and Junior schools after use of the toilet. Altogether, nearly 350 faecal specimens were collected and delivered to the Public Health Laboratory during the year on account of this disease.

Food Poisoning

Only two cases of food poisoning were notified. These came to light through the gastro-enteritis outbreak in the autumn and involved school children who were carriers of infection. No direct food was found to be responsible. One case involved a 6-year old child where the parents were slow to co-operate in the essential investigations. The organism isolated in this case was Salmonella schwarzengrund (4.12.d.1.7.). The other case involved a 9-year old girl from a large family. Salmonella typhimurium (U.129) was isolated in this instance. Another case came to notice but was not notified. Here two young children were alleged to have suffered abdominal pain after eating a meat pasty purchased from a local butcher, but all investigations proved negative.

Infectious Diseases - continued

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the position for the year 1968:

Number of cases on register at 1st January	-	121
New cases notified during year	-	7
Transfers into area during year	-	6
		<u>134</u>
Number recovered during year	-	4
Number moved away in year	-	1
Died	-	3
Number remaining on register at 31st December		<u>126</u>

Notification rate represented 3.0 per 10,000 population.

Of the persons who died the cause of death in each case was (a) tuberculosis (male aged 77), (b) chronic bronchitis (male aged 69) and (c) chronic bronchitis and emphysema (male aged 56).

	Male	Female	Total	Population	Corrected Rate
Total live births	227	219	446	17.4	15.7
Total deaths	108	120	228	9.1	11.5
				Rate per 1,000	
Illegitimate births	7	6	13	29.1	
Infant mortality	2	2	4	9.0	
Neonatal mortality	2	2	4	9.0	
				Rate per 1,000 live	
Stillbirths	1	1	2	4.5	
Fetal mortality	4	3	7	15.6	
(Includes stillbirths and deaths in first week of life)					

Note:

The Area Comparability Factors, as applied for the Corrected Birth and Death Rates are - Births 0.40 and Deaths 1.27.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

CANVEY ISLAND

	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & Over	Totals
Dysentery ...	1	10	8	-	2	9	1	-	31
* Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	4
Food Poisoning ...	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	4
Measles ...	3	61	30	3	-	-	-	-	97
* Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever ...	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	7
Whooping Cough ...	1	8	4	-	-	-	-	-	13
	5	83	48	3	5	10	4	1	159

* Ceased to be notified on 1st October, 1968.

RAYLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

W.H. Bessant (Chairman)
Mrs. M.B. Blower (Vice-Chairman of Council)
Mrs. C.M. Dawkins
G.H. Denton (Vice-Chairman)
R.G.J. Foley
L.H. Fudge
A.W. Green
H.E. Green
C.B. Gowlett
A.W. Hardwick, J.P. (Chairman of Council)
Mrs. D.S. Hawtree
C.B. Wastell

LOCAL Statistics

Area in acres ...	5,758
Number of habitable houses ...	8,359
Number of inhabited houses ...	8,201
Population (1961 Census) ...	19,032
Population (mid-year estimate 1968) ...	25,610
Rateable Value ... as at..	£1,019,793
Sum represented by a Penny Rate) 31st March 1969	£4,250

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 population	Corrected Rate
Total live births	227	219	446	17.4	15.7
Total deaths	108	124	232	9.1	11.5
				Rate per 1,000 births	
Illegitimate births	7	6	13	29.1	
Infant mortality	2	2	4	9.0	
Neonatal mortality	2	2	4	9.0	
				Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths:	
Stillbirths	2	1	3	6.7	
Perinatal mortality	4	3	7	15.6	

(Includes stillbirths and deaths in first week of life)

Note:

The Area Comparability Factors, as applied for the Corrected Birth and Death Rates are - Births 0.90 and Deaths 1.27.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1968

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	2	2	4
1 and under 5	-	-	-
5 " " 15	1	-	1
15 " " 25	2	-	2
25 " " 35	1	1	2
35 " " 45	4	3	7
45 " " 55	10	5	15
55 " " 65	21	12	33
65 " " 75	27	33	60
75 and upwards	40	68	108
	108	124	232

DEATHS BY CAUSE

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	-	1
Syphilis and its sequelae	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	3	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	5	12
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Leukaemia	1	1	2
Other Malignant neoplasms etc.,	10	14	24
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	-	1	1
Diabetes mellitus	-	1	1
Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	1	1
Anaemias	-	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system etc.	1	1	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	4	4
Hypertensive disease	1	-	1
Ischaemic heart disease	33	17	50
Other forms of heart disease	8	7	15
Cerebrovascular disease	12	30	42
Other diseases of circulatory system	6	3	9
Influenza	2	3	5
Pneumonia	8	9	17
Bronchitis and emphysema	7	3	10
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	-	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	6	6
Congenital anomalies	1	-	1
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	1	1	2
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	-	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	4	-	4
All other accidents	1	2	3
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	1	2
Totals	108	124	232

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

The Rayleigh birth rate during 1968 was well above the national level, but the corrected birth rate was well below. The crude death rate and the corrected death rate are both below the national level.

There was a noticeable reduction in the perinatal mortality and in the infant mortality. Both these rates are below the national level.

Deaths from lung cancer remain at the same level, and there is a slight increase in deaths from ischaemic heart disease.

Notifications of tuberculosis in 1967 were relatively high. This has been balanced by a sharp reduction of notifications in 1968. There is likely to be a slightly upward swing in 1969, but the figures so far available, and the results of the Mass X-ray survey, indicate that tuberculosis is ceasing to be a serious problem in Rayleigh.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

The problems of 38 elderly people were dealt with by the Department during the year. Included in the number were some from previous years. Details are as follows:-

Rehousing on medical grounds	15
Admitted to Welfare and Private Homes	7
Maintained by assistance of Home Helps	7
Admitted to Hospital	7
Other assistance	2

Four of the applicants recommended for rehousing on medical grounds were classed as urgent. A number of the cases dealt with were assisted by the Meals on Wheels Service.

Action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948 as amended by the 1951 Act was taken in respect of one lady who suffered from a chronic condition of her legs. Earlier in the year she had agreed to go to hospital for in-patient treatment, but as the condition grew worse she refused hospital treatment and also would not accept a vacancy in a welfare home. Compulsory removal under a Justice's Order was finally implemented, and I am pleased to say she settled down well in the County Council's Home. With the aid of the County Council's District Nurse her condition has been controlled, and she is very happy in her new environment.

Two other interesting cases which were dealt with are shown as follows:-

A widow of 78 years who had been known to the Department for some time became increasingly difficult. After prolonged difficulty she was persuaded to go into hospital for a hernia repair operation. After discharge she became more determined not to go to an Old People's Home and she rapidly became filthy dirty and in need of care and attention. Finally, the Deputy Medical Officer of Health persuaded her to go into a Welfare Home. She went quite willingly on 22nd May, 1968, and Dr. Hodgson made sure she had settled in. She is still there at the time of writing this report.

The other case involved a widow whose mind had deteriorated since losing her husband. She lived alone in Council property and for some two years or more was

maintained with the assistance of a very understanding Home Help. The situation became further complicated by a local delinquent finding the old lady's pension money and savings an easy prey, resulting in special precautions being necessary. The Law finally caught up with the offender. Admission to a welfare home became possible in September and she is still being cared for in this way.

The Organiser for the Women's Royal Voluntary Service informs me that a total of 9,047 meals were served during 1968. Recipients received these on four days per week up to the 11th March and five days a week thereafter. The Council's contribution to the Service for 1968 was £823.

The Area Welfare Officer reports that 20 elderly people in Rayleigh were admitted to County Homes during the year and a further 18 were on the waiting list at the end of the year. I understand that 57 Rayleigh Pensioners are officially registered as handicapped persons and another 49 are registered as blind or partially sighted. There is one County Welfare Home in Rayleigh which accommodates 41 ladies and 21 gentlemen.

Rayleigh Old People's Welfare Association

The Chairman, Councillor W.H.Bessant, and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. L.V.Woodham, have provided me with the following information for the year 1968.

Day Centre: This Centre, situated in Castle Road, and which was opened in December 1962, has accommodation consisting of a large lounge, a well-fitted kitchen and two smaller rooms. Plans have been laid for an extension to provide a Dining Room which, in due course, could be used as a Workshop when suitable staff and equipment become available.

Approximately 70 dinners are served each week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) with tea, coffee and snacks. There are between 50 and 60 voluntary lady helpers working on a fortnightly rota in addition to a paid cook.

Mini Bus: This was kindly donated by the Rayleigh Ladies' Club during the year and is used to bring incapacitated elderly people to the Day Centre. It has also been used for short outings and is a great asset to the Association.

Night Storage Heaters: These are installed in approved cases where there is likely to be a risk of hypothermia and according to funds available. By the end of 1968, however, 20-30 heaters had been installed and were in use. Installation is free but the heaters remain the property of the Association. Assistance in running costs is given in cases of hardship.

Good Neighbour Week: This has been a great success and was held in June. Among other functions arranged to foster interest, was a Handicraft Exhibition which was staged in the Parish Rooms and attracted considerable public support. All entries were from pensioners and the standard and variety of work displayed was very commendable.

Finances: These all came from voluntary sources, although the backing of the Rayleigh Urban District Council is available if called upon.

WATER SUPPLY

No wells from which a public supply is drawn are located in the Rayleigh District, but it is probable that water from wells in adjoining areas may find its 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 the 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 the river water is generally about 0.25 parts per million.

287 supplies were connected to the mains, and 514 yards of main were laid in 1968.

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. In conjunction with the expansion of development that has taken place in the town since 1955 a comprehensive programme of work in respect of the renewal and enlargement of all 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.

Further consideration has been given to the flows passing to the two Sewage Disposal Works and a scheme for the enlargement of the Eastern Works has been approved and the acquisition of the necessary land to accommodate this project is proceeding. Further design work on the scheme for the enlargement of the Western Sewage Disposal Works has been held over pending a decision on the flows that the new works will have to finally accept. It is hoped that construction work on enlargement of both the Sewage Works will be carried out during the next four years. Work on the provision of a soil sewerage scheme for Battlesbridge was completed during the year, bringing a further 47 properties on to main drainage. The design of a scheme for the sewerage of Rawreth Village has been completed and it is anticipated tenders will be invited for this work early in 1969.

During 1968, 94 new properties and 42 existing properties, were connected to main drainage and approximately 3,042 lin. yards of main sewer were constructed. It is now estimated that 96.36% of all premises in the Urban District are served by the main drainage system. Cesspool drainage is provided to 212 properties and a further 87 properties have earth or chemical closets. 27 of the latter have a night soil collection.

Swimming Pools
Water Supplies
Unclassified

274
49
31
210

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Rayleigh Urban District is served with a regular weekly collection of house refuse with the exception of premises on unmade roads, where the collection is fortnightly. Three vehicles and 16 men are used for this purpose. Materials salvaged during the year amounted to some 324 tons and realised on sale £2,840. Refuse was disposed of at Leigh Marshes by arrangement with the Southend Corporation. 6,380 tons of refuse was collected during 1968.

THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

Seventy-one premises are registered and 70 use mechanical power. Three inspections were made but no defects found or reported. There were 4 outworkers in the August list and the nature of the work undertaken wearing apparel. In all other respects there is a nil return under the prescribed table.

PETROLEUM STORAGE

Under the Petroleum Regulation Act, 28 licences to store petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures were issued. Fourteen inspections were made.

PET ANIMALS ACT

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

PEST CONTROL

Ninety-one premises were inspected and treated during the year 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.

SWIMMING POOLS

Of the maintained schools in the Urban District, 4 now have their own swimming pools, and a suitable outfit for chlorinating purposes is provided by the Education Authority. One master in each school carries out the necessary tests whilst the pools are in use.

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. 176 visits were made during the year regarding bonfires, smoke from factories and domestic chimneys and the installation of new industrial furnaces.

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The following is the summary of smoke and sulphur dioxide readings from the Atmospheric Pollution Recording Unit in Rayleigh during 1968:-

	Smoke Results		SO ₂ Results		Smoke / SO ₂ Ratio
	Average	Highest Day	Average	Highest Day	
January	52*	102	114	226	.46
February	46*	115*	95	162	.48
March	26	56	70	112	.37
April	28	63	72	122	.39
May	18	37	52	128	.35
June	11	34	47	135	.23
July	12	23	38	66	.32
August	N	19	32	122	N
September	16	40	39	73	.41
October	30	64	67	109	.45
November	44*	104*	62	127	.71
December	52	109	78	162	.67

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

* Indicates that at least one daily figure covered by the average, or the highest daily figure itself, has been estimated from a reflectometer reading of less than 40.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the 2,276 visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during 1968:

Atmospheric Pollution	176
Caravans and Camping Sites	22
Drainage and Sewerage	166
Factories and Outworkers	3
Watercourses	19
Food & Food Premises	313
Houseboats	9
Housing:	
Demolition Order Procedure	3
Repairs	131
Improvement Grants	140
Rehousing	83
Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning	51
Noise Abatement	84
Nuisances	223
Offices and Shops	83
Pest Control	144
Petroleum Storage	14
Litter	48
Refuse Collection & Disposal, including Salvage	274
Swimming Pools	49
Water Supplies	31
Unclassified	210

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963:

During 1968 three offices, ten retail shops and two catering establishments were registered, and 83 inspections were made.

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

Offices	44
Retail Shops	124
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	5
Catering Establishments	13

The following is a summary of persons employed at registered premises:-

Offices	235
Retail Shops	665
Wholesale Depts., Warehouses	31
Catering Establishments open to the Public	71
Canteens	1

The number of Inspectors appointed under Section 52 of the Act is two.

NOISE

Most of the contractors working on roads have continued to fit mufflers to their road machines and where in a few instances these were found not to be fitted, a warning had the desired result.

FLOODING

The deluge of 14th and 15th September had its effect in Rayleigh. Because much of the district is relatively high, there was less direct flooding than in Canvey and Benfleet. About 50 properties in the lower parts of the area were affected and both the Sewage Works were submerged.

There was flooding also at Church Road, Rawreth, and at Battlesbridge Wharf on the River Crouch. Most of the flooding had been pumped away by Tuesday the 17th September.

HOUSING

The number of Council-owned dwellings in Rayleigh now totals 569, 66 of which are pre-war. Although no new properties were completed by the Council in 1968, a new project in Daws Heath Road, providing for 47 units, was commenced. By the end of December the 10 bungalows were nearing completion, but the block of 36 'sheltered' units for the elderly, plus wardens' quarters, is not likely to be completed until the end of 1969.

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Housing - continued

The restriction on private building development because of drainage problems continued. Only 96 properties for private occupation were completed, with a further 199 under construction at the end of the year.

The Housing Waiting List contained 308 applications, 119 of which were newly made in 1968. Over half of the applications involved elderly people.

Apart from the new 'sheltered' establishment referred to above, there are 49 units of accommodation for the elderly provided with warden service and a further 32 without warden services. 20 flats for the elderly are being built by the Hanover Housing Association with the assistance of the Council.

Nineteen families were referred to me during the year for recommendation on medical grounds. The following recommendations were made:-

- "A" - 4 (For consideration for over-riding priority)
- "B" - 9 (A medical priority does exist)
- "C" - 4 (No real medical indication)

Two elderly people were not formally categorised, but their applications for old peoples' accommodation were supported. Three people who had been subject to medical recommendations moved out of the District before being rehoused.

Housing Improvements and Slum Clearance

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

Unfit houses demolished	2
Unfit houses repaired or improved	42
Closing Orders	nil
Improvement Grants approved	14
Improvements carried out	11

Since 1956 demolition order procedure under the slum clearance programme has resulted in 49 properties being demolished.

Caravan Sites

There are no licensed caravan sites in the Rayleigh Urban District.

Houseboats

There is one registered houseboat moored within the district.

FOOD HYGIENE

Inspection and Supervision of Food:

There are 118 food establishments in the Rayleigh Urban District, all of which are fitted with wash hand basins, hot and cold water etc., to comply with Regulation 16 of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1960. All to some extent sell open food and have sinks etc., for the washing of equipment to comply with Section 19 of the Regulations.

The premises are summarised as follows:-

Bakers	5
Butchers	12
Cafes and Restaurants	11
Canteens: Industrial	8
School	8
Confectioners	14
Cooked Meat Manufacturers	1
Fishmongers:	
Wet, Fried and Shell	6
General Provisions	30
Greengrocers	8
Licensed Premises and	
Off licences	12
Clubs	2
Potato Washing Factory	1

N.B. A number of Supermarkets and other shops operate a variety of food trades. Such premises are only shown once in the above Table.

Preserved Foods

There are 11 premises registered for the manufacture of sausages and preserved foods under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Ice Cream

33 Retailers and one manufacturer in Rayleigh are registered under the Ice Cream Regulations.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963:

There are no pasteurisation 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.

Unsound Food

5,378 lbs. of food was voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption, and disposed of at the refuse tip.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of infectious disease in Rayleigh during 1968 was extremely low. Only one case of measles occurred for every 16 in 1967. The complete absence of dysentery proved only to be a lull before the storm as my next report will reveal. I was called in to give a second opinion on a man thought to be suffering from chickenpox. To be on the safe side, specimens of vesicular fluid were sent to the Virus Reference Laboratory at Colindale, and these proved negative to smallpox. A previous victim of typhoid fever some 5 years previously moved into the District, but a specimen submitted to the Laboratory indicated he was not still carrying the infection.

Food Poisoning

Only one case came to notice during the year. This involved a woman who had been on holiday in Spain. Immediately on return she developed symptoms of diarrhoea and abdominal pain. The Public Health Laboratory isolated *Salmonella typhimurium* from a faecal specimen submitted. The patient continued to carry the infection until being cleared nearly four months after onset.

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the position for the year 1968:

Number of cases on register at 1st January	96
New cases notified during year	1
Transfers into Area during year	1
	<hr/> 98
Number recovered during year	6
Number moved away in year	1
Died	4
	<hr/> 87
Number remaining on register at 31st Dec.	

Notification rate represented 0.39 per 10,000 of the population.

Notifications of tuberculosis in 1967 were relatively high. This has been balanced by a sharp reduction of notifications in 1968. There is likely to be a slightly upward swing in 1969, but the figures so far available, and the results of the Mass X-ray survey, indicate that tuberculosis is ceasing to be a serious problem in Rayleigh.

Of the 4 persons who died, only one died from tuberculosis. The cause of death in the other three were: lung cancer, broncho pneumonia and atheroma.

The Mass X-ray unit visited Rayleigh in November, when 1,939 people were screened at the public sessions and a further 751 from the factories in the Brook Road Industrial Estate. No cases of tuberculosis were found, but three cases of lung cancer and three cases of heart disease were discovered.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

RAYLEIGH

	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & Over	Totals
* Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	2	3	-	-	7	7	16	35
Food Poisoning ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Infective Hepatitis ..	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Measles ...	3	17	7	-	-	-	-	-	27
Scarlet Fever ...	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	8
Whooping Cough ...	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	6
	3	25	18	1	-	9	7	16	79

* Ceased to be notifiable on 1st October, 1968.

ROCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

P.W. Ball (Chairman)
P.S. Belton
Mrs. D.M. Boothby
B.A. Hubble
G.W. Lester
E.W. Mumford, B.E.M. (Vice-Chairman)
C.E. O'Leary
S.G. Robson, J.P. (Chairman of Council)
G.W.R. Snow
D.J. Twomey
J. Viney
R.J. Yeo (Vice-Chairman of Council)

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	36,220
Number of habitable houses	...	...	...	...	13,760
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	13,436
Population (1961 Census)	...	...	...	...	30,258
Population (mid-year estimate 1968)	...	...	...	...	38,910
Rateable Value	...	...	as at	£1,472,805	
Sum represented by a Penny Rate			31st March 1969	£5,574	

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population	Corrected Rate
Total live births	435	382	817	21.0	19.9
Total deaths	255	296	551	14.2	10.1
				Rate per 1,000 births	
Illegitimate births	26	12	38	49.0	
Infant mortality	7	9	16	19.6	
Neonatal mortality	4	8	12	14.7	
				Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	
Stillbirths	6	4	10	12.1	
Perinatal mortality	10	12	22	26.8	
(Includes stillbirths and deaths in first week of life)					

Note: The Area Comparability Factors, as applied for the Corrected Birth and Death Rates are - Births 0.95 and Deaths 0.71.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1968

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	7	9	16
1 and under 5	1	-	1
5 " " 15	-	1	1
15 " " 25	1	1	2
25 " " 35	3	1	4
35 " " 45	6	-	6
45 " " 55	16	11	27
55 " " 65	37	19	56
65 " " 75	74	61	135
75 and upwards	110	193	303
	255	296	551

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	1	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	7	5	12
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	22	3	25
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	-	14	14
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	-	2	2
Other malignant neoplasms, etc. ...	24	16	40
Benign and unspecified neoplasms ...	-	3	3
Diabetes mellitus ...	2	2	4
Other endocrine etc. diseases ...	1	-	1
Anaemias ...	-	3	3
Mental disorders ...	-	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system, etc. ...	2	6	8
Chronic Rheumatic heart disease ...	2	7	9
Hypertensive disease ...	2	5	7
Ischaemic disease ...	59	53	112
Other forms of heart disease ...	5	7	12
Cerebrovascular disease ...	54	109	163
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	7	4	11
Influenza ...	2	3	5
Pneumonia ...	10	14	24
Bronchitis and emphysema ...	31	6	37
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	3	4	7
Peptic Ulcer ...	2	2	4
Intestinal obstruction and hernia ...	1	2	3
Other diseases of digestive system ...	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1	1	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system ...	1	1	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system ...	1	4	5
Congenital anomalies ...	2	1	3
Birth injury, difficult labour etc. ...	1	1	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality ...	3	6	9
Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	1	2
All other accidents ...	5	7	12
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ...	1	2	3
-50- Totals	255	296	551

WELFARE OF THE AGED

At least 34 elderly people were referred to the Department during the year and a further six from previous years remained under the supervision of the Department. 25 of the new cases were associated with their housing needs, consisting of 16 applications, including 9 married couples. Eleven of the applicants were awarded points for rehousing on medical grounds. The outcome of the other cases dealt with were as follows:-

Admitted to Welfare Home	1
On waiting list for welfare home	1
Rehoused by Council	1
Gone to live with relatives	2
Admitted to hospital	3
Assisted by Home Help	4
Assisted by District Nurse	2
Remain under observation	3

One very elderly lady in Great Wakering in urgent need of hospital treatment and refusing to go was removed to Hospital in January under the provisions of Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948 as amended. She returned home some two months later following convalescence. Whilst with very adequate means, this lady refused a home help and gradually wore out her relatives by her demanding and domineering attitude. This attitude was maintained almost to the end, which came at the end of December following a 'stroke.'

For the year ending 31st March 1969, 12,164 meals were provided - 7,607 in Hockley, 2,888 in Rochford, 1,272 in Great Wakering and 397 in Hullbridge.

The frequency was two days a week in Ashingdon, Barling, Great Wakering, Little Wakering and Rochford, and three days a week in Hockley, Hawkwell and Hullbridge. Delivery is by private volunteer cars except in Hockley, Hawkwell and Hullbridge area, where this is augmented by an Austin mini-van which was purchased by voluntary contributions. A further 137 meals were served at the Hockley Day Centre on three days a week. A grant of £1,030 was received from the District Council for the maintenance of this service. Meals are also provided for diabetics and old people on special diets by arrangement with the family doctor and the Dietitian and Catering Officer at the Hospital, the value of which in a Rural District cannot be over estimated.

The Area Welfare Officer has informed me that 21 elderly people from the Rural District were admitted to County Homes during the year and a further 34 were on the waiting list at the end of 1968. He also reports that 84 pensioners were on his Department's register as being physically handicapped. A further 68 pensioners were listed blind or partially sighted. The erection of the first County Council Welfare Home in the Rural District was commenced during the year and when completed will provide accommodation for 46 aged residents.

Hockley and Hawkwell Old People's Welfare Council

The Chairman, Mr. Rupert C. Jarvis, who also organises the Meals on Wheels Service throughout the Rural District, reports that the old Library premises at Hockley, following the opening of the new Library, have been rented from the County

Council. It has been fitted out as a Day Centre for Old People and is also used as a base for the Meals on Wheels Service. The mini van referred to in the delivery arrangements was purchased by voluntary contributions for the Old People's Welfare Council. Morning coffee and afternoon teas are served at the Day Centre on two days a week and evening social functions are arranged.

Rochford Old People's Welfare Committee

The Secretary, Mr. C.J. Wallace, has briefly informed me on the Committee's activities during 1968, as follows:

Fifty-eight old people were assisted in a variety of problems, some of which were helped with their overgrown gardens. Electric storage heaters, as a pilot scheme, have been installed, one in each of the parishes of Hullbridge, Hockley, Rochford and Great Wakering. A 99-year lease was signed and sealed with the trustees of the Rochford Alms Houses for the use of land behind West Street for the erection of a Day Centre. The Rochford Carnival was organised by the Committee for the purpose of raising funds for the Day Centre. The Committee rent accommodation in the former secondary school in Rocheway for the use of a Day Centre and the Rochford Old Age Pensioners' Organisation run a Luncheon Club here every Friday. A Street Warden's scheme is in operation in all Parishes except Sutton and there are 76 Street Wardens. 300 Christmas parcels were distributed to elderly housebound persons. Assisted holidays are provided after careful investigation of the circumstances of each applicant. The District Council made a grant of £2,000 towards the activities of the Committee for the year.

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

The birth rate remains high in Rochford, following the immigration of relatively young families. The crude death rate remains high, mainly because of the situation in Rochford Town of a large Old People's Home, maintained by the Southend Corporation for Southend Residents. The corrected death rate is below the national level.

The perinatal mortality remains somewhat high, and the infant mortality is a little higher than last year, and still above the national level.

The lung cancer death rate continues to be high, and there is a slight increase in deaths from ischaemic heart disease. Deaths from respiratory diseases are markedly up on 1967.

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 water is not likely to have any plumbo-solvent action. The fluoride content of the river water is about 0.25 ppm, and of the well water, between 2.0 and 4.0 p.p.m.

372 supplies were connected to the mains and 778 yards of main were laid in 1968.

The following table shows the houses on main supply, with estimated population for each parish of the Rural District as at 31st December, 1968:-

Parish	Acreage	Houses on main supply	Estimated population on main supply
* Ashingdon (including South Fambridge)	2,503	908	2,605
Barling Magna (including Little Wakering)	2,747	449	1,216
Canewdon	6,845	401	1,150
** Foulness Island	7,235	97	290
Great Wakering	3,314	1,328	3,976
Hawkwell	1,408	3,107	9,049
Hockley	1,578	2,729	8,191 + 47
Hullbridge	2,193	1,811	5,123 + 945
Paglesham	1,687	109	326
Rochford	2,988	2,409	* 8,260 + 67
Stambridge	2,202	205	637
Sutton	1,520	65	202
Total:	36,220	13,618	41,025 + 1,059

* One premises, involving three persons, is served by a standpipe provided by the Council.

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

* This figure includes residents of Hospital and Welfare Institutions.

The added (+) figures against Hockley, Hullbridge and Rochford are in respect of residential caravan dwellers.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Main drainage in the Rochford Rural District now serves just over 90 per cent of the population. During the year two new sewage treatment works were completed and brought into operation; one at Churchend Village, Foulness and the other at East End, Paglesham. This brings the total number of sewage treatment works in the Rural District up to six, the other four works being at Stambridge, Havengore, Barling and Paglesham (Jubilee Cottages). Associated with these sewage works are thirteen pumping stations for lifting sewage. The largest sewage treatment works is at Stambridge and serves the parishes of Ashingdon, Canewdon, Hawkwell, Rochford and Stambridge - a total of about 8,320 properties. The Havengore works is the next largest, serving 1,270 properties in the parishes of Barling, and Great and Little Wakering. In September, 1968, work commenced on extensions to the Havengore Works to increase the capacity to an ultimate figure of 6,250 population. It is expected that these extensions will be completed by the end of 1969.

The Parish of Hullbridge consisting of some 1,300 properties and 300 caravans all drain by agreement to the Rayleigh Urban District Council's sewer for treatment at their Western Works.

The Rural District's programme of capital works includes for extending the sewerage systems to cope with the population increase in the district and their consulting engineers have assisted in preparing the necessary schemes. The extension of the Stambridge Sewage treatment works, trunk foul sewers, new pumping stations, are being designed and will be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government by the end of 1968 or early 1969. A new sewer extension in Sutton parish was commenced in September, 1968, and the Council's consultants are also preparing a scheme of surface water sewers for Hullbridge. The Council's Engineering staff are preparing two surface water schemes for the parish of Hockley, and will investigate the possibility of future surface water schemes in the parishes of Ashingdon, Great Wakering and Hawkwell.

Further relief is expected for the foul sewers by the investigation of, and separation of connections of surface water from dwelling-houses connected to the foul sewer.

215 properties were connected to the sewer during the year, whilst 11 properties were built with cesspools and two with septic tanks. The lengths of sewer extensions vested in the Council during the year was 303 yards.

Night soil collection is made from 113 properties twice weekly and 42 once weekly.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of house refuse is maintained throughout the Rural District. Since January 1964, properties on unmade roads have been served by a paper sack system, using a four-wheel drive vehicle. In 1968, approximately 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, 66 tons of various materials, value £502 were salvaged. One man was engaged on baling. Disposal is by tipping arrangement with a neighbouring Authority. The quantity collected during 1968 was 9,634 tons.

Factories Act, 1961

Seventy-nine premises are registered and seventy-seven use mechanical power. A total of eighteen inspections were made, and sixty outworkers were registered. Full particulars under the Act are shown in the following tables:-

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health:

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written notices
(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	77	16	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	14	2	-

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

Nature of work	Number of Outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)
Wearing apparel	52
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	11
Furniture and upholstery	2
Umbrellas etc	1
Artificial Flowers	4
Feather Sorting	1
Basket making	1
Cosaques, Christmas stockings etc.	2

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, 55 petrol licences were in force, one for carbide of calcium, and 9 for petroleum mixtures. A total of 54 inspections were carried out.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

The following is a summary of the 2,218 visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during 1968:-

Animal Boarding Establishments Act	...	...	...	4
Camping and Caravan Sites	...	...	...	89
Clean Air Act	...	...	...	4
Disease of Animals (Waste Foods) Order	...	...	...	17
Drainage and Sewerage	...	...	...	221
Factories and Outworkers	...	...	...	21
Food Premises	...	...	...	108
Hairdressing Establishments	...	...	...	3
Hawkers of Food	...	...	...	10
Houseboats	...	...	...	1
Housing:				
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	2
Repairs	...	...	...	279
Imported Food Regulations	...	...	...	2
Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning	...	...	...	57
Litter Act	...	...	...	30
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	251
Noise Abatement Act	...	...	...	26
Nuisances	...	...	...	134
Offices and Shops	...	...	...	76
Other Pests	...	...	...	18
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	5
Petroleum Storage	...	...	...	54
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	125
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	132
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	196
Scrap Metal Dealers	...	...	...	10
Shellfish Samples	...	...	...	11
Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection	...	...	...	273
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	5
Unsound Food Sampling	...	...	...	21
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	12
Water Samples	...	...	...	16
Water Supplies	...	...	...	5

PEST CONTROL

There were notifications of 105 infestations of rats and mice during 1968, and 246 inspections were made.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following is an abstract from the annual report sent to the Ministry of Labour by the Chief Public Health Inspector:-

Class of Premises	Registered during year	Registered end of year	Inspected
Offices	-	69	3
Retail Shops	3	140	31
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	-	5	-
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	-	11	1
Fuel Storage Depots	-	2	-

The number of employees were:-

Offices	524
Retail Shops	473
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	50
Catering Establishments open to the public	27
Canteens	6
Fuel Storage Depots	9

Total: 1,089

In the above total, 494 males and 595 females were employed.

There were 73 visits made to registered premises during 1968. Two accidents were reported.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

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

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

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

ESTABLISHMENT FOR MASSAGE OR SPECIAL TREATMENT

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

SWIMMING POOLS

Five of the Local Authority's schools in the Rural District have their own swimming pools, and a suitable outfit for chlorination purposes is provided by the Education Authority. Regular tests are carried out by a master at each school whilst the pools are in seasonal use.

FLOODING

Heavy rain on the 14th and 15th of September, 1968, caused flooding in the Hullbridge, Hockley, Hawkwell, Ashingdon and Rochford Areas. In the Sutton Road Estate area of Rochford flooding was caused by the breakdown of the river bank and this was the worst affected area. 100 - 200 houses are estimated to have had water inside, but in only about a dozen did it rise to more than one foot above floor level. No re-housing was necessary except for a few people from the almshouses for one night.

By the 16th the water was receding and the Engineer sent out assistants and squads of men to (1) assess damage etc., (2) to assist people in need, and (3) to clean up. Sewers, and private drains in many cases, were pumped clear. By the 17th all the water had gone down.

Two drying centres (for carpets etc.) were set up at Hullbridge and Rochford, using calor gas fan assisted heaters. Drying out of old people's homes and the odd houses where water was deep was carried out.

Some sewers were surcharged. Water company boreholes in the District were closed down, but water supplies remained unaffected and there appear to have been no purely public health problems.

HOUSING

On the 31st December, 1968, a total of 1,341 houses, bungalows and flats were owned and managed by the Council. The building of an estate of forty dwellings was commenced at Canewdon at the latter end of the year. Private developers completed 228 dwellings during the year and a further 51 were still under construction at the end of the year.

The number of applicants on the Council's Housing Waiting List was 614, and 115 of these were new applications during the year. 240 applications on the list were in respect of pensioners. 150 units of accommodation are provided specially for elderly people - 18 of these have warden services.

Fifty-five applicants were referred to the Department for a special recommendation on medical grounds, with the following result:-

/Cont

Housing - continued

Group "A" (priority on medical grounds)	16
Group "B" (a medical need exists)	21
Group "C" (a medical need exists)	3
Group "D" (no medical need)	8

No grading was made in seven instances. Eight families who had been the subject of a medical recommendation were housed during the year.

In November the Council adopted my recommendation for a revision of the points scheme relating to applicants requiring consideration on medical grounds, the revised scale being:-

Group "A" -	50 points
Group "B" -	25 points
Group "C" -	10 points
Group "D" -	nil points

Action taken under the Housing Acts during 1968 is summarised as follows:

Demolition Orders made	2
Closing Orders made	1
Unfit houses demolished (informal) ...	7
(formal) ...	7
Unfit houses repaired	9
Improvements carried out under grant Schemes	21

Caravan Sites

There are six residential sites in the District, four are privately owned; the other two, one in Hockley and one in Rochford, are owned by the Council. The six sites provide for 594 caravans.

There are also four privately-owned seasonal sites, providing for 284 caravans. During the year, Town Planning consent was granted by the Minister on appeal, for a new site at Hullbridge. Licence for 40 caravans was granted.

FOOD HYGIENE

Meat Inspection A summary of 1,523 food animals killed and inspected at the Rochford slaughterhouses:

CARCASES & OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows:	Calves:	Sheep and Lambs:	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	313	-	522	688
All diseases /except tuberculosis and cysticerci)				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	41	-	7	5
Percentage affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci ..	13.1	-	13.2	0.73
Tuberculosis only:				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	7
Percentage affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	0.98
Cysticercosis:				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960:

There are 239 food establishments in the Rural District, and these are summarised below in connection with the requirements of the above Regulations:-

Trades	No.	No. of premises complying with Reg. 16	No. of premises to which Reg.19 applies	No. of premises complying with Reg. 19
Bakers	9	9	9	9
Butchers	20	20	20	20
Cafes & Restaurants...	12	12	12	12
Canteens: Industrial..	9	9	9	9
School ...	17	17	17	17
Confectioners	34	34	27	27
Fishmongers	6	6	6	6
General Provisions ...	63	63	63	63
Greengrocers	14	14	14	14
Licensed Premises/Clubs	49	49	49	49
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 of animal food. Local authorities in areas where such firms operate, are advised.

During 1968, 250 lbs. of meat and other foods, excluding meat at slaughterhouses, 50 tins and 2,549 packets of various foodstuffs were condemned.

Preserved Food

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

Hawkers of Food

Fourteen 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 ninety-one retailers of ice cream in the District. No samples were taken during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There was again an outbreak of measles in the area, despite the availability during the second half of the year, of measles vaccine. The main incidence was in the under-five age group, and this may reflect the emphasis on vaccination of young school children at the beginning of the measles vaccination campaign. Though the vast majority of children were protected against whooping cough to some extent by injection of triple vaccine, either at the Child Health Clinic or by the Family Doctor, a number of children still contracted whooping cough. The cases did not appear to be severe, and no complications were reported.

Dysentery

Only two cases of dysentery were notified and both were confirmed. One was a little boy aged 20 months from Hullbridge, *Shigella sonnei* being isolated. The other was found in a young woman who had just been confined in the Rochford General Hospital. In this instance *Shigella boydii* was isolated. The mother lived in another area.

Food Poisoning

Although 14 cases were notified an organism was only isolated in three instances. In one a nurse from a local hospital whose home was in another area became ill after eating chicken in a London restaurant and the Public Health Laboratory isolated salmonella enteritidis from her stool. Another case involved an elderly gentleman who ate a pork sandwich whilst travelling back from London. *Salmonella derby* was isolated in this case. The third was a police officer who had to be reported to his Superior Officer in order to secure his co-operation for routine investigation. He was ill after eating brawn and *staphylococcal aureus* was isolated from both food and patient.

Three other cases involved a cornish pasty, a meat pie and cooked meat, but no organism was found on laboratory investigation.

Infective Hepatitis

Only two cases were notified, one being a female aged 10 and the other a male aged 19. Both made an uneventful recovery. However, an interesting case of leptospirosis (Weil's Disease) came to notice during the year. This disease resembles infective jaundice but is more severe and is carried by rats. It is commonly known as an occupational hazard of sewer, abattoir and fish workers. The man concerned had been cleaning out fish ponds and evidence of a small rat infestation was observed and treated. (The source of infection is normally from urine of infected animals or contaminated water). Diagnosis was confirmed by the Virus Reference Laboratory at Colindale. Although the patient was very ill at the time, he made a complete recovery.

Tuberculosis

..... page 63.

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the position for the year 1968:-

Number of cases on register at 1st January	168
New cases notified during year	2
Transfers into area during year	2
	<hr/>
	172
Number recovered during year	12
Number moved away in year	1
Died	2
	<hr/>
Number remaining on register at 31st December	157

Of the two persons who died, the cause in one case was tuberculosis. The other died of heart disease.

Notification rate represented 0.514 per 10,000 of the population.

PORT HEALTH

Seventy-one Maritime Declarations of Health were received during 1968 from the Masters of Ships arriving at Creeksea (i.e. Wallasea Island). The ships are summarised as follows:-

Under 250 tons	- 24	501 - 1000 tons	- 6
251 - 500 tons	- 40	Over 1000 tons	- 1

No health or quarantine problems arose from any of these ships.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

ROCHFORD

	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & Over	Totals
* Acute Primary Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4
Dysentery ...	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
* Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	1	-	-	5	5	2	1	14
Infective Hepatitis ...	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Measles ...	9	124	58	2	-	-	-	-	193
* Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	29	31	-	-	60
Scarlet Fever	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	6
Whooping Cough	2	19	9	-	1	-	-	-	31
	12	145	71	5	37	36	4	3	313

* Ceased to be notified on 1st October 1968.

Hockley Printing Co.
5 Greensward Lane, Hockley, Essex
