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Contributors

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PUBLIC HEALTH

in

South East Essex

1969

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 1969

Telephone:
Rayleigh 6101

Public Health Department,
134 High Street,
Rayleigh,
Essex.

To the Chairmen 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 1969.

Births again exceeded deaths and there was more immigration into the area than emigration from it. The population, therefore, again rose, although to a lesser extent. The estimated mid-year population was 135,900, an increase of approximately 2,470. The highest birth rates appeared to be in Canvey Island and the Hullbridge Parish of Rochford Rural District.

Influenza, bronchitis and pneumonia were particularly noticeable at the end of the year as a result of a further wave of the influenza pandemic. During December 1969, there was a considerable amount of incapacity and absence from work from this cause, as well as a sharp increase in deaths. In January 1969, a dysentery outbreak began in a Denominational school in Rayleigh and spread into Rayleigh and Rochford. The outbreak was contained but smouldered on in the Benfleet area until May.

No Smokers' Advice Clinics were held in 1969 but the British Temperance Society's 5-Day Plan Clinic was held in the area again in Rayleigh in November. An average of 75 attended on the five nights (90 on the first night) and subsequent follow-ups indicated that 26 of these succeeded in stopping smoking entirely. The ravages of smoking were emphasised in the Health Education programme carried out in the Comprehensive schools. These programmes were organised by the Health Education Officer in co-operation with the teaching staff and the help of School Medical Officers, Health Visitors, General Medical Practitioners and the County Health Education Officer was enlisted.

I would emphasise that not all the deaths from bronchitis were due to the influenza epidemic; a number were undoubtedly due, in the main, to the smoking of cigarettes. The majority of the cases of the deaths from lung cancer were, likewise, due to the smoking of cigarettes. While prohibition of smoking might be self-defeating, a sharp increase of taxation would reduce tobacco consumption without unduly diminishing the tax yield. I would suggest that the price should now be raised by taxation to the level of 5p per cigarette or 100p a packet of 20. A dangerous drug like tobacco ought to be expensive and hard to get; it is at present cheap and easily available.

The South-East Essex Home Safety Committee continued to be active during the year and four successful meetings were held. The hazards of fire, accidental poisoning and falls in the elderly were the main pre-occupations of the Committee's activities throughout the year.

A new powder method portable fire extinguisher for domestic use was demonstrated at the April meeting, when also a series of colour slides were shown depicting actual child burning and scalding casualties. In December, Christmas Home Fire Safety programme consisted of illuminated Christmas trees for display in the Branch Libraries of the four areas, suitably decorated with captions on the subject and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents' quiz-style leaflet "Have you half an hour to spare?" was distributed to all Church Youth Organisations. Additionally, large numbers of "Safely Home" games were distributed. A competition to invite designs for a new cooker safety guard was organised through the secondary schools in the Autumn but, regrettably, no entries were received. Contact was maintained with the local general hospital where there was concern over the number of children admitted on account of accidental poisoning. A set of colour slides was obtained from the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, depicting poisonous berries, fungi and plants.

A scheme to prevent accidents among the elderly through the hazards of bathing was inaugurated during the year and the first issues of bath safety equipment (bath rails, bath seats, bath boards and no-slip material for affixing to the base of the bath) were made on the 16th April. By the end of the year, 34 items had been loaned and 50 items had been sold as well as giving advice and guidance to other Home Safety Committees in Essex on this very valuable preventive measure aimed at the comparatively well elderly who are outside the scope of official provision through the Welfare Department of the County Council.

Successful Food Hygiene Courses to enable those engaged in the food trade to obtain the Certificate of the Royal Society of Health in the Hygiene of Food Retailing and Catering, were conducted jointly with the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea at the Southend College of Technology in the Spring and Autumn. The Spring Course was a day-time one running from January to March. 24 entered the examination and 23 passed. The Autumn Course was an evening one and ran from September to November, when 41 entered the examination and 28 passed. Lecturers are provided from the Health Departments of the several Authorities, including the Bacteriologist from the Public Health Laboratory. The Course Tutor was Mr. T.K. Aston, Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector of Southend-on-Sea.

In the two years since the Courses started, just over 100 candidates have been successful and the high degree of interest has been maintained by the major food retailers in the south-east corner of Essex.

The main burden of educating food handlers in hygiene must rest on the proprietors and shop and departmental managers in the food trade and on the Public Health Inspectors, through their day by day work of education enforcement. Nevertheless, these Courses appear now to be having a significant effect.

A notable event in June 1969 was the publication of the report of the Royal Commission on Local Government (Redcliffe-Maud Report). The message of this

Report can be, and has been, interpreted in different ways by successive Governments. In each case, however, it was proposed that most Local Government powers be conferred on large County type Authorities with smaller local authorities dealing with matters that were of particular local interest. Environmental health, being of more than local interest, was to be monitored and safeguarded by the large Authority. If, as seems probable, legislation on these lines is introduced in 1971, an end to the Composite Public Health Committee, in its present form, is in sight. Community health will continue to be a split level affair. The present health services, with or without school health, will be a function of area boards while environmental health will move over to the large Authorities. The suggested experiment is an interesting one and it might well be successful.

In the meantime your Health Departments will continue to carry out their useful and unobtrusive work and I look forward to another three or four healthy years in South-East Essex.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D.A. Smyth

Medical Officer of Health

February 1971.

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, D.P.H. (also Departmental Medical Officer, Essex County Council.
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:	Miss P. Mell (Resigned 27th July 1969) Mrs. P.A. Hase (Appointed 18th August 1969) Mrs. A.C. Linton (part-time) Mrs. B. Merison (part-time) Appointed 5th March 1969)
Pupil Public Health Inspector:	D. Gander (Resigned 17th August 1969).

CANVEY ISLAND U.D.

Chief Public Health Inspector:	A.P.J. Cook, M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.
Public Health Inspectors:	F. Ritson, M.A.P.H.I. D.I. Gander, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed 1st December 1969)
Technical Assistant:	D.I. Gander (18th August-30th November 1969)
Pupil Public Health Inspector:	P. Hilton (Jointly with Rayleigh Urban District Council)
Clerical Staff:	Mrs. V. Smith (Resigned 14th November 1969) Mrs. D. Rutter (Resigned 31st July 1969) Mrs. W. Edwards (Appointed 29th December 1969) Miss P. Lowe (Appointed 14th July 1969, resigned 9th November 1969) Mrs. E. Stratford (Appointed 22nd December 1969)

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
Pupil Public Health Inspector: Miss Linda Watson
Clerical Staff: V.G. Boulter

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)
Pupil Public Health Inspector: P. Hilton (Jointly with Canvey Island Urban District Council)

ROCHFORD R. D.

Chief Public Health Inspector: H. Jepson, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Public Health Inspectors: J.R. Bullock, M.A.P.H.I.
D. O'Neill (Appointed 1st January 1969,
Resigned 24th August 1969)
T. Tanswell (Appointed 15th September 1969)
Clerical Staff: Mrs. Z. Sargent

COMPOSITE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CANVEY ISLAND U.D.C.

Councillor E.B. Bones (Chairman)
Councillor R.C. Howard
Councillor F.P. Wood

BENFLEET U.D.C.

Councillor Mrs. C.J. Gallienne
Councillor Mrs. J.A. Selby
Councillor Mrs. M.E. Willis

RAYLEIGH U.D.C.

Councillor W.H. Bessant
Councillor C.B. Gowlett
Councillor H.E. Green

ROCHFORD R.D.C.

Councillor P.W. Ball
Councillor Mrs. D.M. Boothby
Councillor G.W.R. Snow

CANVEY ISLAND URBAN DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

J.W. Bowden, (Chairman)

A.G. Allen, (Vice-Chairman)

A.P. Boss,

J.E. Collison,

R.C. Howard,

W.R. MacDonell,

H.A. Tibbles, (Chairman of Council)

F.P. Wood

LOCAL

STATISTICS	Area (in acres)	4,421
	Number of habitable houses	8,948
	Number of inhabited houses	8,620
	Population (mid-year estimate 1969)	24,420
	Rateable Value) as at 31st	£817,319
	Sum represented by a Penny Rate) March, 1970	£3,325

VITAL

STATISTICS	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population	Standardised Rate
Total live births	281	257	538	22.0	25.7
Total deaths	150	127	277	11.3	9.4
				Rate per 1,000 live births	
Illegitimate births	12	11	23	42.8	
Infant deaths	2	6	8	14.9	
Neonatal deaths	2	5	7	13.0	
				Rate per 1,000 live & still- births	
Stillbirths	3	10	13	23.6	
Perinatal mortality	5	15	20	36.3	

(Includes stillbirths and deaths in first week of life)

Note:

The Area Comparability Factors, as applied for the Standardised Birth and Death Rates are - Births 1.17 and Deaths 0.83.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1969

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 year	2	6	8
1 and under 5	1	1	2
5 and under 15	2	-	2
15 and under 25	1	1	2
25 and under 35	2	1	3
35 and under 45	2	3	5
45 and under 55	6	10	16
55 and under 65	20	17	37
65 and under 75	53	25	78
75 and upwards	61	63	124
	150	127	277

DEATHS BY CAUSE

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity Etc.	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	6	12
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	3	3	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	16	1	17
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	4	-	4
Leukaemia	1	1	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms	9	8	17
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	-	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	1	1	2
Mental Disorders	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System Etc.	1	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	4	6
Hypertensive Disease	1	1	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	38	29	67
Other Forms of Heart Disease	7	4	11
Cerebrovascular Disease	21	22	43
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	5	9
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	6	7	13
Bronchitis and Emphysema	14	3	17
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	3	6
Peptic Ulcer	-	1	1

/ Continued

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	3	4
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	2	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1	1
Other Complications of Pregnancy etc.	-	1	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	2	2
Congenital Anomalies	2	-	2
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	1	-	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	4	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
All Other Accidents	5	3	8
Totals:	150	127	277

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

The birth rate is now high and in proportion to the population as shown by the standardised rate, is very high. There remains a fairly high proportion of elderly persons in the Canvey population but the population is gradually becoming younger.

The crude death rate is somewhat under average and the standardised death rate is definitely low. Despite its Winter fogs, Canvey is probably a healthy place to live. The principal causes of death, as noted, were ischaemic heart disease which killed more males than females, cerebrovascular disease (strokes and allied conditions) which seemed to affect both sexes equally, bronchitis which killed mainly men, carcinoma of the lung which killed hardly any women, pneumonia an equal hazard to both sexes and carcinoma of the stomach which likewise seemed to affect both sexes equally. It will be noted also that all other accidents, mainly home accidents, were the substantial cause of death and that deaths in this category greatly outnumbered deaths by motor vehicle accidents.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

A number of elderly people were referred to the Department during the year as being in need of care and attention, the need generally being met by the provision of the domiciliary services, e.g. Home Helps, District Nurses, and Meals-on-Wheels. Frequent liaison was necessary with the Welfare Dept in respect of accommodation in a County Council old people's home under Part III of the National Assistance Act 1948. In some cases arrangements were made with the Family Doctor for admission to hospital or through the Mental Health Department for admission to a Psychiatric Hospital. Approximately twenty old people were referred to the Department in connection with their rehousing needs on medical grounds and in a few cases additional points were awarded, details of which will be found under the Housing Section.

Action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948 as amended by the 1951 Amendment Act for the compulsory removal of a person needing care and attention was taken in two cases only. The first case involved a lady, aged 68 years, who had been under the observation of the Department for approximately 18 months, the circumstances being aggravated by possession of a number of dogs (14). Admission to hospital was necessary on account of a persistent ulcerated leg, recovery being hindered by unhygienic conditions associated with the dogs and the refusal of the lady to accept treatment. The dogs were well-fed so action for cruelty could not be taken by the R.S.P.C.A. but the lady's condition made it impossible for the dogs to receive any exercise. The dogs were finally placed in kennels and the lady was admitted to hospital under a Court Order on 11th June and returned home after treatment on 4th August. In the meantime, the bungalow was thoroughly cleaned up through the co-operation of the Public Health Inspector's Department and the Home Help Department and furniture badly soiled by the animals was replaced through the help of the W.R.V.S. The dogs, although lesser in number, finally returned home but by the end of the year the situation had again deteriorated and a difficult problem persists. The second case was a lady, aged 81, and a registered blind person who was under the observation of the Department for over a year, but she refused to leave her cottage and her dog. In the circumstances, aggravated by the old lady's incontinence, the Home Help found it impossible to keep the place clean and there was a fire danger as the old lady could not see to attend to her cooking without great risk of a fire. The situation also encouraged rats and mice. Accordingly, in consultation with the Family Doctor, a Justice's Order was obtained for the removal of this lady to an Old People's Home on 31st December 1969.

The Organiser of the Canvey Island Women's Royal Voluntary Service, Mrs. Ethel White, has provided the following information relating to the Meals-on-Wheels service operated on Canvey Island in conjunction with Canvey Island Urban District Council. The total number of meals served was 4,604 (average 60 per day) all of which were delivered to private homes except 790 which were served at the Luncheon Club throughout the year. A delivery was made on two days a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) with delivery being undertaken by private cars and a vehicle specially provided by the Council. In term-time meals are cooked at school kitchens and out of term at the W.R.V.S. Headquarters in the High Street. Old people are charged at the rate of 1/6d. per meal. In addition to the assistance provided by the delivery vehicle, the Canvey Island Council contributed the sum of £475 for the year ending December 1969. The extension of the service is

restricted by the availability of voluntary help and full credit must go to the loyal and regular stalwarts who maintain the service in fine weather and foul, even delivering to homes inaccessible by vehicle.

The one purpose-built County Council Home for old people on Canvey Island, Longview, at Little Gypps, accommodates 31 females and 13 males and the Area Welfare Officer informs me that 16 Canvey Island residents were admitted during the year with a further 15 remaining on the waiting list for admission. There is a total of 112 Canvey Island residents of pensionable age who are registered as handicapped persons, 71% of whom are females. There are a further 67 pensioners who are registered as blind or partially sighted.

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.

462 supplies were connected to the mains and 3,266 yards of new mains were laid in 1969.

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.

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.

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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.

The district is almost entirely sewered with the exception of part of the northern area of the island known as Winter Gardens and Sixty Acres. Pumping stations have been installed in part of this area and when redevelopment (which will begin shortly) takes place this area will be progressively sewered.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Domestic and trade refuse continue to increase and during 1969 approximately 60,706 cubic yards of refuse were 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 1968 (54,624 cubic yards).

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the 4,477 visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during 1969:-

Atmospheric Pollution.....	172
Aged Persons	57
Caravan Sites, etc.	65
Cleansing Services	483
Drainage and Sewerage	183
Food Premises	162
Flooding and Watercourses	54
Factories	32
Housing: Demolition Procedure	451
Repairs	620
Improvement Grants	9
Re-housing	124
Rent Act	17
Overcrowding	12
Houseboats	1
Icecream	4
Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning	386
Methane	82
Meat Inspection	27
Noise Abatement	20
Nuisances	201
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	160
Oil Pollution	1
Pest Control	176
Pet Animals	12
Petroleum	77
Rats and Mice	110
Swimming Pools	20
Unclassified	727
Water Supplies	32

4,477

ESTABLISHMENTS FOR MASSAGE OR SPECIAL TREATMENT

The premises of the following chiropodist are licensed by the Essex County Council under Part IV of the Essex County Council Act 1933:-

P.H. Owens, 82 High Street, Canvey Island.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

172 visits and inspections were made during the year, a number of these arising from complaints which concerned emissions from outside the district. Where Refineries were concerned, excellent liaison arrangements already existing continue to operate well.

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 observations:-

	Smoke in micrograms per cubic metre		SO ₂ in micrograms per cubic metre		Smoke/SO ₂
	Average	Highest Day	Average	Highest Day	Ratio
January	50*	111	N	175	N
February	53	183	130	298	0.41
March	47	79	81	148	0.58
April	21	89	73	259	0.29
May	22	49	70	139	0.31
June	13	20	37	74	0.35
July	17	39	50	143	0.34
August	N	27	N	111	N
September	21	37	45	131	0.47
October	37	62	62	173	0.60
November	36	101	99	219	0.36
December	N	357	N	462	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 75 premises registered and all use mechanical power. A total of 32 inspections were made. The number of outworkers recorded is 34. 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	Number of Written Notices
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	75	32	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.	1	1	-

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork

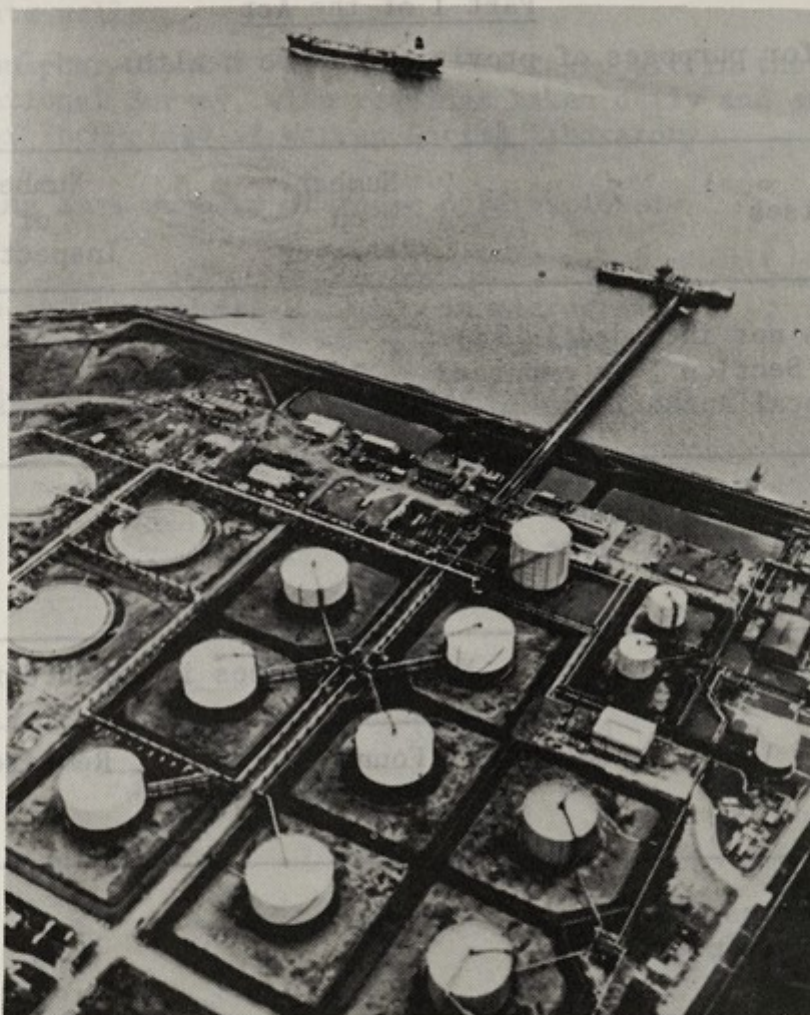
Nature of Work	Number of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (I) (C).
Wearing Apparel	32
Brush Makers	2

No contraventions of this Part of the Act were reported.

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

PETROLEUM STORAGE

Thirteen Licences to store petroleum spirit were issued during the year and 159 inspections were made. The inground storage of liquid methane project continued using advanced cryogenic engineering techniques. Tankage is shown in foreground of illustration below.



PEST CONTROL

286 Inspections were made during the course of the year - 110 being in respect of rats and mice and 176 associated with the Brown-tail Moth. Three verminous persons were dealt with, the source of which on investigation proved to lie outside the district.

The experimental work using virus for the control of Brown-tail Moth (*Euproctis Chrysorrhoea*) continued and test areas treated in 1966 were still found to be actively infected. Further virus material was developed within the district using equipment provided by the Commonwealth Forestry Commission.

Some 1,047 packets of D.D.T. were issued to the public and owners of premises where infestation of Brown-tail Moth has been heavy were quick to co-operate following service of informal notice under the Essex County Council (Canvey Island Approaches) Act 1967.

SWIMMING POOLS

Breakpoint chlorination continues to be an extremely effective method of sterilisation and 20 inspections were made during the season to the 5 swimming pools in the District as follows:-

Newlands Holiday Camp
Leigh Beck County Junior School
William Read County Junior School
St. Joseph's R.C. Primary School
Furtherwick Park School

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

A total of 178 premises were registered with the Council at the end of the year, as follows:-

	<u>Number Employed</u>		
Offices	37	147)
Retail Shops	123	443)
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	3	66	) Males 203
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	13	63	) Females 522
Fuel Storage Depots	2	6)
	<u>178</u>	<u>725</u>	

A total of 160 visits were made to registered premises during the year.

HOUSING

At the end of 1969, the Council owned and managed 1,459 units of accommodation, including 32 flats. Of this total figure, 414 properties comprise the Town Development Estate. 144 Council dwellings were completed during the year and a further 36 were in course of construction on 31st December.

In respect of private development, 400 dwellings were completed and a further 330 properties were still under construction at the end of the year. The ground work, including roads and sewers, for the Winter Gardens Suburb was well under way by the end of the year.

In respect of the Council's housing list, 560 applicants were awaiting re-housing at the end of the year and of this number, 200 might be considered urgent. During 1969, 150 applicants had been rehoused, 160 new applications had been accepted onto the housing list and 25 applicants had been removed from the list for various reasons. 83 applications on the housing list are in respect of pensioners.

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Of the total number of Council dwellings mentioned above, 200 are specially provided for old people although some of this accommodation could equally be tenanted by young couples. Included in this number are 76 units of accommodation where the service of a Warden, communal facilities and bell warning system are provided. Of this number, 19 units are provided at Little Gypps Close which were opened in 1958 and are specially converted ex-army huts. Details of the remaining special purpose-built accommodation are as follows:-

Beatrice Littlewood Development, Kitkatts Road, Canvey Island.
Warden: Mrs. L. Simms.

This development took place in 1966 in the grounds of a large detached house purchased by the Council and consists of 11 small bungalows (6 Clara James Cottages and 5 Susan Field Cottages) and 16 two-person flats in two blocks of eight (Fred Leach house and Florence Neale house), both linked to the original building. There are two one-room flats in the latter and a Warden's flat on the first floor. The ground floor consists of lounge, dining room, television room and kitchen which are used for communal purposes.

Amelia Blackwell House, New Road, Canvey Island.
Warden: Mrs. J. Jarvis.

This development was opened on 31st March 1969 by Mr. Anthony Greenwood (Minister for Housing and Local Government at that time) and consists of 28 one-person Bedroom/Sitting Room flats plus a Warden's flat. The final contract cost was £62,819.

Included in the Council developments during the year as mentioned above, were 20 one-person flatlets for old people, without Warden or communal facilities, in one purpose-built unit at Wrackhall Court, Gafzelle Drive. The cost of this development was £42,252 and the flatlets were occupied on 31st March 1969.

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

Group "A"	(7 points)	=	1
Group "B"	(4 points)	=	7
Group "C"	(2 points)	=	2
Group "D"	(0 points)	=	10

Of the total, three tenants requesting a transfer were supported on medical grounds, the remainder were in need of rehousing on social grounds only.

The following is a summary of action taken by the Public Health Inspectors during 1969 in respect of housing matters:-

Closing Orders	3
Demolition Order procedure	18
Demolition and Redevelopment	67
Improvement Grants	12
Rehousing	124
Overcrowding	12
Rent Act	17

Houseboats

There are five houseboats within the Urban District; two are sited at 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 for both residential and holiday or seasonal use. Approximately 1,900 caravans are stationed on these sites and 65 inspections were made during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE

Inspection and Supervision of Food

There are 182 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	3	2	3	3
Butchers	14	14	14	14
Cafes & Restaurants ..	32	32	32	32
Canteens:				
Industrial	10	10	10	10
School	7	7	7	7
Confectioners	14	14	14	14
Cooked Meat				
Manufacturers	5	5	5	5
Fishmongers	11	11	11	11
General Provisions ...	49	49	49	49
Licensed Premises ...	18	18	18	18
Greengrocers	18	15	18	18

Condemned Food

During the year the Public Health Inspectors condemned 2,112 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 22.

Ice Cream

There are 31 retailers and 2 manufacturers registered under the Ice Cream Regulations.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles

There were 269 cases of measles on Canvey Island in 1969. This probably represents 40-50% of the non-immune children at risk. Measles remains a distressing disease to both child and parent; it carries the risk, even to the previously healthy child, of encephalitis or pneumonia or ear disease. Immunisation against measles is now available at the County Clinics and all parents should seek it for their children. The immunised child is no risk to his brother or sister or friend but a child with measles can infect many others. There were undoubtedly too many children with measles in Canvey in 1969.

Sonne Dysentery

There were 8 confirmed cases of sonne dysentery in Canvey in 1969. There were about 94 other cases of diarrhoea for which no definite cause could be discovered.

Infective Jaundice

3 cases were notified as occurring on the Island but two other patients suffering from the effects of infective jaundice became known to us. Of the 3 notified cases, one was a young man of 26, and his fiancée who lived in the Benfleet Urban District also developed jaundice. A girl of 18 who normally lived in London developed jaundice while on Canvey Island. The third case was in a child of 5 years of age. On the other hand, a young married woman, normally resident in Canvey Island, developed jaundice while staying with her parents in Romford and was notified there. The last incident was a fatal one. A girl of 15 who had been notified as suffering from infective jaundice in September 1967, died in April 1969 from biliary cirrhosis (chronic active jaundice).

Food Poisoning

There were 19 cases in 10 families. A newly married couple were found to be suffering from Salmonella enteriditis. Others who attended their wedding reception held in Chadwell Heath, had symptoms of gastro-enteritis and were found to be infected with Salmonella enteriditis. No definite chain of events was disclosed for the other cases.

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the position for the year 1969:-

Number of cases on register at 1st January	...	126
New cases notified	...	6
Transfers into area	...	3
		<hr/>
		135
Number recovered	...	5
Number moved away	...	27
Died	...	5
		<hr/>
Number remaining on register at 31st December		98

continued...../

The newly notified cases involved three males (54, 53 and 28) and three females (aged 82, 39 and 39). The notification rate represented 2.46 per 10,000 population.

Of the persons who died the cause of death in each case was:-

Male, aged 76	...	Broncho-pneumonia and Acute Chronic Bronchitis
Male, aged 46	...	Status Asthmaticus and Chronic Bronchitis and Emphysema
Male, aged 82	...	Broncho-pneumonia
Male, aged 65	...	Ischaemic Heart Disease and Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Male, aged 66	...	Broncho-pneumonia and Oat-cell Carcinoma of Right Bronchus

It will be seen that no Tuberculous patient died from tuberculosis alone. One can assume that the patients were weakened by tuberculosis and so developed other disease from which they died, or that the other disease came first and weakened the resistance to tuberculosis. I think the first possibility is more likely.

The Mass X-ray Unit visited Canvey Island in April and 1,939 people were x-rayed at the Public and Factory sessions. The findings included one active case of tuberculosis, 4 inactive cases and one case of lung cancer.

The new cases included three below the age of 40. Pulmonary tuberculosis remains a risk to all sections of the population and in my opinion, regular screening of the population for the disease ought to continue. The time for withdrawal of Mass X-ray facilities from Essex is not yet.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following is a summary of notifiable diseases (excluding tuberculosis) occurring during the year 1969:

	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & over	Totals
Dysentery	-	4	4	-	3	6	-	-	17
Food Poisoning	-	2	1	4	3	9	-	-	19
Infective Jaundice	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	3
Measles	13	130	123	3	-	-	-	-	269
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	6	7	-	-	1	-	-	14
Whooping Cough	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
	16	143	137	7	7	17	-	-	327

BENFLEET URBAN DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

J.W. Pike, (Chairman)
 Mrs. E.D. Gallienne
 G.C. Goddard
 A.C. Partridge
 W.R. Marrison (Chairman of Council)
 Mrs. J.A. Selby
 G.S. Smith (Vice-Chairman)
 R.A. Williams

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	6,371
Number of habitable houses	16,457
Number of inhabited houses	16,222
Population (mid-year estimate 1969)	46,270
Rateable Value) as at 31st	£1,694,762
Sum represented by a Penny Rate) March, 1970 ..	£6,800

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population	Standardised Rate
Total live births	424	440	864	18.7	18.1
Total deaths	225	262	487	10.5	9.2 - very low

				Rate per 1,000 live births
Illegitimate births	16	13	29	33.6
Infant deaths	2	7	9	10.4
Neonatal deaths	2	5	7	8.1

				Rate per 1,000 live & still- births
Stillbirths	6	7	13	14.8
Perinatal mortality	8	12	20	22.8

(Includes stillbirths and deaths in first week of life)

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

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1969

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	2	7	9
1 and under 5	1	2	3
5 and under 15	2	1	3
15 and under 25	4	2	6
25 and under 35	3	1	4
35 and under 45	5	4	9
45 and under 55	12	14	26
55 and under 65	38	22	60
65 and under 75	69	63	132
75 and upwards	89	146	235
	225	262	487

DEATHS BY CAUSE

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	-	-	-
Other Tuberculosis, including late effects ..	-	1	1
Syphilis and its sequelae ...	1	-	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	1	2	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc. ...	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus ...	-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	8	3	11
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine ...	2	7	9
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx ...	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	12	7	19
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	-	10	10
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate ...	2	-	2
Leukaemia ...	2	2	4
Other Malignant Neoplasms ...	9	25	34
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms ...	1	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus ...	1	3	4
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases ...	1	1	2
Anaemias ...	1	1	2
Mental Disorders ...	2	-	2
Other Diseases of Nervous System etc. ...	3	2	5
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	1	2	3
Hypertensive Disease ...	1	4	5
Ischaemic Heart Disease ...	54	58	112
Other Forms of Heart Disease ...	10	15	25
Cerebrovascular Disease ...	39	47	86
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	6	10	16

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<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Influenza	3	6	9
Pneumonia	7	12	19
Bronchitis and Emphysema	19	7	26
Asthma	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	3	7
Peptic Ulcer	6	1	7
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1	2
Other diseases of Digestive System	4	4	8
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	4	2	6
Diseases of Musco-Skeletal System	-	3	3
Congenital Anomalies	-	3	3
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	-	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	4	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	2	4
All Other Accidents	4	5	9
Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	5	2	7
All Other External Causes	1	-	1
Totals:	225	262	487

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

The death rate and infant mortality rate was low, substantially below the national average in each case. Diseases of the heart and circulation were the most common causes of death; the most common cause in this group being ischaemic heart disease. The cancer group was the second commonest cause, with cancer of the lung leading. The third main group causing death was respiratory disease. The commonest cause being bronchitis and emphysema, the second commonest pneumonia, and the third influenza. Accidents caused more deaths than influenza, with the majority of the accidental deaths being in the home.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

Numerous enquiries were received in the Department during the year. A number simply called for referral to the appropriate organisation of facility, such as Welfare Department, Meals-on-Wheels Service or the local Old People's Organisation. Some needed assistance regarding availability of private homes and others needed help for rehousing. Others presented problems where the old person living alone refused to go into a home or hospital. Regretfully it became necessary to resort to compulsory action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948, as amended, in two instances. This involved application to the Court for a Magistrate's Order for the removal of the person as being in need of care and attention. The cases involved were:-

- (a) A lady aged 73 who had lived alone with her sister until the latter died, after which she deteriorated and was often found wandering the streets late at night in the bitter winter weather. She was removed to Grosvenor House, Westcliff-on-Sea on 21st February.
- (b) A lady of 82 living alone who needed hospital care following a street accident. She was removed to Southend General Hospital on 4th June.

There are two Old People's Welfare Committees in the Urban District - one serving Hadleigh and Thundersley and one serving South Benfleet. In addition there is the Benfleet Old People's Welfare Council which co-ordinates activities for Old People in the District and also arranges parties for the housebound. Two of these were successfully organised during the year at Runnymede Hall when about 150-200 old people participated on each occasion. A very successful Arts and Crafts Exhibition was also held in May. The Hadleigh and Thundersley Committee distributed over 450 Christmas parcels and conducted a survey of the "over-70's" in the area which necessitated over 600 personal calls to investigate need and advise. The South Benfleet Committee in conjunction with the Women's Royal Voluntary Service provided over 100 Christmas grocery parcels and also distributed 26 sacks of coal to old people. At the end of the year negotiations were in hand with the Benfleet Council to provide a site for the erection of a new Day Centre in Hadleigh to replace the private house (Bramleys) which had done good service for a number of years. The Day Centre on the Caravan site at Thundersley continued to fulfil a great need.

Meals on Wheels During the year the Meals on Wheels Service conducted by the W.R.V.S. continued to expand. 19,021 meals were delivered to private homes, an increase of 20% over 1968, delivery being on 3 days a week. 8,980 meals were served in the two clubs - Green Road, Benfleet and Bramleys, Hadleigh on 4 days a week. This figure represented just a small increase on the previous year. Assistance in transporting elderly people to these clubs is provided by the District Council, the same mini bus also assisting with deliveries of meals. A charge of 1/6d was made for each meal and the District Council contributed £1,350 towards the Service for the financial year 1969/70. The excellent activities of the W.R.V.S. Club in Green Road, Benfleet were detailed in my previous report.

The Area Welfare Officer informs me that 22 elderly people from the Urban District were admitted to County Council purpose-built homes during 1969 and by the end of the year there were 40 men and women on the waiting list. Each of these figures are in excess of the figures for 1968. 93 elderly people in Benfleet are officially registered as Handicapped by the Welfare Department and 108 pensioners are registered as blind or partially sighted. There is only 1 County Council Home in Benfleet but throughout South East Essex there are 5 modern homes providing accommodation for 173 women and 80 men.

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 2.3 ppm.

394 supplies were connected to the mains and 5,041 yards of main were laid during 1969.

There are 10 dwelling houses in the District (occupied by 22 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. 28 visits in connection with water supplies were made and 3 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 north-western section which gravitates to a pumping station in Rushbottom Lane at Great Tarpots, and south-western section which flows to the pumping station at 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.

400 new premises were connected to the foul sewer during the year. 4 miles of main foul and surface water sewers were provided by private developers and the Council. 1 mile of foul and surface water relief sewers was provided - including 380 yards of foul rising main. Work on Phase II of the Sewage Works extension commenced in July and the sixty-five weeks Contract is progressing satisfactorily. Included in the Contract are two new Pumping stations - one at Old House Farm, served by the new 15" diameter relief foul sewer, and Benfleet Marsh Pumping Station, to replace the existing inadequate station.

The treated effluent from the existing works is discharged into the Benfleet Creek to Royal Commission standard.

The Council's scheme for the separation of surface water from foul sewers continues and a further sixty-three properties were dealt with in 1969 by the provision of an additional 1,367 yards of drainage.

Continued...../

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Major flood relief schemes and improvements to surface water sewers are planned within the District, including Prittle Brook Improvement Scheme and Benfleet Playing Fields Washland and Flood Relief Scheme (a scheme to be carried out jointly by the Council and the Essex River Authority subject to Ministry approval).

Subject to the successful completion of the major Public Health engineering works envisaged in the Council's present Capital Programme, I consider that the carriage, treatment and disposal of foul sewage within the Urban District will have achieved a standard compatible with modern environmental health requirements.

There are 152 dwellings in the district without drainage systems connected to the public sewer, of these, 70 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 915 collections were made during the year.

The income from trade refuse collection and the disposal of spoil at the tip was £950.

Number of cases in which defects were found				Particulars
Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Remedied	Not remedied	
1	-	2	2	Sanitary Convenience (S.7)
-	1	-	-	Unsuitable or defective
-	1	-	-	Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)
1	1	2	2	Totals:

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The number of registered premises was 109 and in addition there were 45 building sites. 107 of the factories use mechanical power; 47 inspections were made during the year; also 13 visits to building sites and 3 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	Number of Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	107	45	1
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	45	13	-
Totals	154	60	1

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Convenience (S.7)				
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	1
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	1	-
Totals:	2	2	1	1

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork:

Nature of work	Number of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1)(c)
Wearing Apparel	30
Household Linen	3
Furniture and upholstery	5
Paper Bags	2
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	1
Total	41

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	45
Petroleum Mixture Licences issued	10
Inspection of premises and installations	149

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 (micrograms per cubic metre) during 1969 are shown below:-

	Smoke Results		SO ₂ Results		Smoke/SO ₂ Ratio
	Average	Highest Day	Average	Highest Day	
January	45	112	93	243	0.48
February	41	168	99	233	0.41
March	27	64	67	131	0.40
April	15	37	52	167	0.29
May	13	39	55	178	0.24
June	7	14	N	62	N
July	13	28	41	111	0.32
August	13	25	40	103	0.33
September	13	32	41	132	0.32
October	31	52	69	170	0.45
November	29	67	105	184	0.28
December	46	252	96	302	0.48

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

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Five Licences were issued under the Act.

PEST CONTROL

There were 270 complaints about rats and mice and 123 inspections were made by Public Health Inspectors in connection with them. 116 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 (listed below) 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:-

Kents Hill County Junior School
The King John School
Woodham Ley County Junior School

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the 6,047 visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year:-

Accumulations - Offensive	95
Animals, keeping of	33
Clean Air Act	302
Drainage - Foul Water	325
- Surface Water	496
- Ditches	140
Factories.....	59
Food Premises	271
Houseboats	5
Housing Repairs	798
Demolition procedure	58
Rent Act	17
Improvement Grants	107
Council Houses	291
Miscellaneous housing visits	7
Infectious Diseases	765
Massage or special treatment premises	1
Meat inspection - at Slaughterhouse	25
Moveable dwellings	30
Noise Abatement	161
Nuisances - General	192
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	178
Petroleum Spirit	149
Pest Control	239
Public Conveniences	4
Refuse - Collection and Disposal	609
Sampling - Water	3
Ice Cream	8
Slaughterhouse	25
Unclassified	626
Water Supply	28
	6,047

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAYS PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registrations under the Act are as follows:-

Offices	68
Retail Shops	188
Wholesale Shops	4
Catering Establishments	19
Fuel Storage Depots	1

178 inspections were made during the year.

ESTABLISHMENTS FOR MASSAGE OR 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, as follows:-

A. Nelson, 28 Shipwrights Drive, Thundersley.

D.G. Salisbury, 44 Linden Road, Benfleet.

HOUSING

At the end of 1969 the Council owned and managed 943 units of accommodation 243 of which were flats. 88 Council dwellings were completed during the year and a further 25 were in course of construction on 31st December 1969.

In respect of private development, 309 dwellings were completed, including 16 flats and a further 257 properties were still under construction at the end of the year.

In respect of the Council's housing list, 294 applicants were awaiting rehousing at the end of the year and of this number, 35 might be considered urgent. During 1969, 129 applicants had been rehoused, 63 new applications had been accepted onto the housing list and 47 applicants had been removed from the list for various reasons. 105 applicants on the housing list are in respect of pensioners.

Of the total number of Council dwellings mentioned above, 321 are specially provided for old people although some of this accommodation could equally be tenanted by young couples. Included in this number are 32 units of accommodation at Gowan Court, Gowan Close, Benfleet, where the service of a Warden, communal facilities and bell warning system are provided. This purpose-built establishment was opened in June 1964 and the warden during 1969 was Mrs. Lees-Smith.

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

Group "A" (9 points)	=	1
Group "B" (6 points)	=	9
Group "C" (3 points)	=	2
Group "D" (Nil points)	=	15

Action under the Housing Acts taken during the year was as follows:-

Demolition Orders made	16
Closing Orders made	0
Unfit Houses demolished	8
Unfit houses repaired	34
Improvements carried out under Grant Schemes	19

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 5 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 104 caravans remaining.

FOOD HYGIENE

The following are the food premises within the Urban District:-

Bakers' Shops	10
Butchers' Shops	19
Cafes	13
Canteens: Schools	15
Industrial	9
Confectioners	24
Dairies	4
Fishmongers	9
General Provisions	39
Greengrocers	23
Licensed Premises	23
Multiple Stores	7
Wholesale Stores	5

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.

Meat Inspection

The following table gives details of the 25,378 carcasses of food animals examined at Cross Farm Abattoir, Hadleigh during the year. 22 samples of tissues from diseased animals were submitted for laboratory examination.

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	3,687	161	438	7,672	13,420
Number inspected	3,687	161	438	7,672	13,420
All diseases (except tuberculosis and cysticerci):					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	2	6	-	18
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	1,070	63	5	772	1,779
Percentage affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci...	29.0%	40.4%	2.5%	10.1%	13.4%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned..	-	-	-	-	266
Percentage affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	2.0%
Cysticerci only:					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	44	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	8	2	-	-	-

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the District.

Ice Cream 14 samples were taken with the following results:-

Grade I	8
Grade II	2
Grade III	4
Grade IV	0

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

Condemned Food

During the year 626 tins, 403 lbs. and 215 packets 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

11 complaints about unsound food were made and legal proceedings were taken in respect of 5 of them.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Sonne Dysentery

This small outbreak was the main feature of infectious disease in 1969. The first case was discovered on 16th January and the last on 19th August. It appeared to be part of a more general outbreak which principally concerned a denominational school in Rayleigh. By reason of its nature, this school had pupils from outside Rayleigh and spread into the other districts was, therefore, possible, even probable. The number of cases from school children in Benfleet was 54 but the family spread was 26 infections in adults and 21 in pre-school children. 6 of the Benfleet Primary Schools were involved. The schools were disinfected and the surviving pupils were instructed in a routine of hand-rinsing in mild disinfectant after washing their hands. The routine of hand-washing after using the lavatory was, of course, strictly enforced. It is possible that these measures shortened the epidemic.

Suspected Poliomyelitis

A man aged 27 was admitted to Hospital in July as a suspected paralytic poliomyelitis case but was subsequently diagnosed as acute idiopathic polyneuritis. Precautions adopted by a neighbouring Authority where the man worked included the draining of a swimming pool and polio boosters to 1,000 staff at an Oil Refinery.

Food Poisoning

Of the eight cases of food poisoning notified, the following isolations were made by the Public Health Laboratory:-

Salmonella enteritidis	3
Salmonella indiana	3
Salmonella anatum	1

One case was a symptomless excreter working in a school kitchen and the father of another was a head waiter in an Italian Restaurant.

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the position for the year 1969:-

Number of cases on register at 1st January	188
New cases notified	8
Transfers into area	4
	<hr/>
	200
Number recovered	7
Number moved away	23
Died	5
	<hr/>
Number remaining on register at 31st December....	165

/Continued

Continued...../

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

Female, aged 71 ...	Disseminated Miliary Tuberculosis
Male, aged 62 ...	Haematemesis and Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Male, aged 94 ...	Myocardial Degeneration
Male, aged 58 ...	Pulmonary Embolism
Male, aged 69 ...	Acute Myeloid Leukaemia

The newly notified cases involved 5 females (aged 26, 31, 68, 7 and 6) and 3 males (aged 38, 81 and 8). 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>	
1966	-	2.59 (11 cases)	) 2.32	3.04	(14,606 cases)
1967	-	2.05 (9 cases)		2.73	(13,207 cases)
1968	-	3.73 (17 cases)	) 2.73	2.67	(12,984 cases)
1969	-	1.73 (8 cases)		2.51	(12,164 cases)

The number of cases notified in 1968 (17) was relatively high. If the rate per 10,000 was to keep down to an average of about 10 per year, one would have expected only 3 or 4 infections in 1969. There were about twice this number and I must, therefore, conclude that in 1968 there was an introduction of a new infection. The 8 new cases notified in 1969 represent only 6 families but the incidence is still too high. New cases notified slightly outbalance the number recovered, although 23 removals from the area may possibly have slightly drained the pool of infection.

The Mass X-ray unit visited Hadleigh, Thundersley and Great Tarpots in October, the attendances being as follows:-

London Road, Hadleigh	...	...	1,035
Hart Road, Thundersley	...	...	596
Manor Trading Estate, Gt. Tarpots			544

No active cases of tuberculosis were discovered but two cases of cancer of the lung were disclosed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following is a summary of notifiable diseases (excluding tuberculosis) occurring during the year 1969:

	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & Over	Totals
Acute Encephalitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	2	19	51	3	3	23	-	-	101
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	5	-	1	8
Infective Jaundice	-	-	1	-	3	3	2	-	9
Measles	7	35	30	2	-	2	-	-	76
Scarlet Fever	-	2	5	1	1	-	-	-	9
Whooping Cough	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	11	57	88	6	7	33	2	1	205

RAYLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

W.H. Bessant, (Chairman),
 Mrs. M.B. Blower, (Chairman of Council)
 L.K. Cope,
 W.V. Curtis, O.B.E.
 P.R. Elliott
 A.W. Green
 H.E. Green
 C.B. Gowlett
 Mrs. D.S. Hawtree
 R.W.C. Offwood
 R.W.J. Uden
 C.B. Wastell

LOCAL

STATISTICS	Area (in acres)	5,758
	Number of habitable houses	8,469
	Number of inhabited houses	8,291
	Population (mid-year estimate 1969)	25,920
	Rateable Value) as at 31st	£1,052,895
	Sum represented by a Penny Rate) March, 1970.	£4,126

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population	Standardised Rate
Total live births	197	192	389	15.0	13.5
Total deaths	120	111	231	8.9	10.9

				Rate per 1,000 live births
Illegitimate births	8	5	13	33.5
Infant deaths	3	-	3	7.7
Neonatal deaths	2	-	2	5.1

				Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths
Stillbirths	6	1	7	17.9
Perinatal mortality	8	1	9	22.7

(Includes stillbirths and deaths in first week of life)

Note: The Area Comparability Factors, as applied for the Standardised Birth and Death Rates are - Births 0.90 and Deaths 1.23.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1969

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	3	-	3
1 and under 5	-	-	-
5 and under 15	1	1	2
15 and under 25	1	1	2
25 and under 35	1	2	3
35 and under 45	5	6	11
45 and under 55	6	5	11
55 and under 65	19	16	35
65 and under 75	37	24	61
75 and upwards	47	56	103
	120	111	231

DEATHS BY CAUSE

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases ...	1	-	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	1	-	1
Other Tuberculosis, inc. late effects ...	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine ...	4	3	7
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	10	1	11
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	-	11	11
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate ...	2	-	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms ...	2	8	10
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms ...	-	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus ...	1	4	5
Other Diseases of Nervous System etc. ...	2	1	3
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	1	-	1
Hypertensive Disease ...	1	4	5
Ischaemic Heart Disease ...	49	17	66
Other Forms of Heart Disease ...	2	4	6
Cerebrovascular Disease ...	17	29	46
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	4	6	10
Influenza ...	-	2	2
Pneumonia ...	7	4	11
Bronchitis and Emphysema ...	6	-	6
Asthma ...	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	-	2	2
Peptic Ulcer ...	1	2	3

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<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	1	2
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	-	1
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	-	1	1
All Other Disease	1	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-	2
All Other Accidents	-	1	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	2	3
Totals	120	111	231

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

Again the death rate is low and the infant mortality rate is very low. The population of Rayleigh is, on the whole, somewhat younger than the average, but the standardised death rate which allows for this is below the national average. The commonest cause of death in Rayleigh was ischaemic heart disease and the proportion of male deaths to female deaths in Rayleigh was about three to one. Cerebrovascular disease was the next commonest cause and about two-thirds of these deaths were in women. As elsewhere, the cancer group was the next commonest cause of death, with cancer of the lung and bronchus joint commonest cause in this group. Almost all the lung cancer deaths were in men. The other commonest cause was cancer of the breast. The third group of diseases causing death was the respiratory group. The commonest cause in this group being pneumonia. Bronchitis and emphysema were responsible for six deaths in men but none in women. The other main causes of death were diabetes, accidents, peptic ulcer and suicide.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

A number of old people were referred to the Department during the year on account of various aspects of need and some required rehousing on medical grounds. Some were able to continue living at home with the assistance of a Home Nurse, Domestic Help or Meals on Wheels; others required supervision pending admission to either a welfare home or a hospital geriatric bed. In some cases, reluctance to accept either assistance at home or proper care in a home or hospital called for tactful handling. Whilst it was not necessary to make recourse to a compulsory removal under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, a brief note of the following difficult cases is given for record purposes:-

- 1) A Family Doctor telephoned me on a Saturday afternoon in February asking for my assistance to get a man, over 80 years of age, to hospital, who had refused to go and who was bronchitic and incontinent, living alone without food and heat and death from hypothermia was feared. With the help of the Welfare Department, admission was arranged to a welfare home in the early evening of the same day and it transpired that a Court Order was unnecessary.
- 2) For two years a lady in her late sixties, and severely crippled with arthritis, was known to the Department, and although the property in which she lived was extremely damp, she refused to go into a home. The position became more acute when a more elderly neighbour found it difficult to keep on assisting. However, in January 1968 because of her severe arthritic condition, she agreed to go into hospital and she stayed there for nearly four months but insisted on returning home instead of going into welfare accommodation. By December of that year she had again deteriorated, largely on account of the dampness of her property, but due to the efforts of my Deputy, Dr. Hodgson, she was again admitted to hospital on Christmas Eve (1968). With the assistance of the County Health Department she was transferred from hospital after one month to a convalescent home where she remained for a further month, when she returned home. Through the help of the local Old People's Welfare Association, a night storage heater was provided which appears to have been the remedy to the situation, thus enabling the lady to continue to live at home.

The Organiser for the Meals on Wheels Service, run by the W.R.V.S. informs me that a total of 10,117 meals were served during 1969. Meals were provided on 5 days a week throughout the year. Additional meals are served at the Old People's Day Centre in Castle Road. The Rayleigh Council's contribution to the service for the year was £445.

The Area Welfare Officer, Mr. R.J. Turner of 535 London Road, Thundersley, telephone South Benfleet 2757, has informed me that 14 elderly people in Rayleigh were admitted to County Welfare Homes during the year and a further 14 were on the waiting list on 31st December. He also reports that 54 Rayleigh pensioners are officially registered as handicapped persons and a further 41 are registered as blind or partially sighted. There is one County Council Old People's Home in
continued...../

Rayleigh which is Sweyne Court, opened in February 1964 and accommodates 42 females and 20 males.

Rayleigh Old People's Welfare Association

The Chairman, Cllr. W.H. Batten and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. L.V. Woodham, have provided me with the following information covering the year 1969:-

Day Centre - A local resident, Mr. Stewart, showed his gratitude for help received from both the Council and the Medical Department following an accident he sustained while on holiday in Torquay, by leaving his cottage to the Association when he died in September 1968. With the money provided from this legacy, together with an interest-free loan from private sources and a small donation from the organisation "Help the Aged," plans were developed during the year for an extension to the Day Centre, total cost of which would be in the region of £7,000. This has now been completed and full details will be provided in my 1970 Report. A full-time salaried Cook and Kitchen Assistant are provided and 68 Christmas dinners were served. A similar number of dinners were served throughout the year on four days a week.

Mini-bus - This vehicle, donated by the Rayleigh Ladies' Club in 1968, is in daily use and the voluntary Transport Officer, Mr. J. Darlison, organises a rota of drivers.

Fete - The Annual Fete held in King George's Field on Autumn Bank Holiday Monday was a great success and £340 was raised for the Association's Funds.

Good Neighbour Fortnight - This stimulated considerable interest in the work undertaken by the Association for old people in the town and practical tasks were organised to assist elderly people such as clearing gardens, arranging shopping for house-bound elderly people and in some cases undertaking domestic redecorations.

Outing - The Rayleigh Round Table provided an outing for 70 old people during the summer to Maldon and this was very much appreciated by all concerned.

Night Storage Heaters - The scheme to provide and instal night storage heaters as a safeguard against hypothermia, has continued to provide an extremely valuable service to needy old people in the town. So far, approximately 30 heaters have been purchased and installed and since the Scheme commenced in the Winter of 1966/67, approximately 60 people have benefitted from this very practical provision. During the year, the Rayleigh Youth Centre raised £216 for this specific fund which to date has spent over £1,000 on heaters and installations.

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.

177 supplies were connected to the mains and 2,151 yards of main were laid in 1969.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Rayleigh being sited on a ridge of 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 soil 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 soil 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, and it is anticipated that the first stage covering the treatment of the sludge will be out to contract early in 1970. 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 the technical enquiry in respect of this Works will be held early in 1970 and the construction work on the enlargement of both Works will be carried out during the next four years.

During 1969, 94 new properties and 5 existing properties were connected to main drainage. The length of soil sewer constructed during the year was 886 yards and 1,298 yards of surface water sewer were also constructed. It is now estimated that 96.47% 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.

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 302 tons and realised on sale £2,794. Refuse was disposed of at Leigh Marshes by arrangement with the Southend Corporation. 6,697 tons of refuse was collected during 1969.

THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

79 premises are registered and 78 use mechanical power. Three inspections were made but no defects found or reported. There were 18 outworkers in the August list and the nature of the work undertaken was wearing apparel. In all other respects there is a nil return under the prescribed table.

PETROLEUM STORAGE

Under the Petroleum Regulation Act, 29 licences to store petroleum spirit and petroleum mixture were issued. 6 inspections were made.

PET ANIMALS ACT

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

PEST CONTROL

102 premises were inspected and treated during the year for rats and mice infestation.

ESTABLISHMENTS FOR MASSAGE OR SPECIAL TREATMENT

The one chiropodist in Rayleigh licensed under Part IV of the Essex County Council Act, 1933, is Mr. L.R. Wheeler, M.Ch.S. of 98 High Street.

SWIMMING POOLS

Of the maintained schools in the Urban District, 4, as listed below, 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:-

Glebe County Junior School
Grove County Junior School
Rayleigh County Junior School
The Sweyne School (Comprehensive)

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

The following is the summary of smoke and sulphur dioxide readings (micrograms per cubic metre) from the Atmospheric Pollution Recording Unit in Rayleigh during 1969:-

	Smoke Results		SO ₂ Results		Smoke/SO ₂ Ratio
	Average	Highest Day	Average	Highest Day	
January	52*	101	97	190	0.54
February	46	137	94	250	0.49
March	33	54	68	127	0.49
April	19	59	65	163	0.29
May	17	45	62	125	0.27
June	17	75	41	90	0.41
July	15	25	52	102	0.29
August	15	22	48	97	0.31
September	19	46	37	105	0.51
October	33	55	70	140	0.47
November	34	86	92	155	0.37
December	44	192	88	229	0.50

* 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.

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.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the 2,528 visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during 1969:-

Atmospheric Pollution	85
Caravans and Camping Sites	8
Drainage and Sewerage	167
Factories and Outworkers	3
Watercourses	3
Food and Food Premises	182
Houseboats	2
Housing:	
Demolition Order Procedure	3
Repairs	131
Improvement Grants	149
Rehousing	40
Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning	951
Noise Abatement	18
Nuisances	203
Offices and Shops	55
Pest Control	70
Petroleum Storage	6
Litter	29
Refuse Collection and Disposal, including salvage	223
Swimming Pools	14
Water Supplies	16
Unclassified	170

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT - 1963.

During 1969 two offices and three retail shops were registered, and 55 inspections were made.

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

Offices	44
Retail Shops	125
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	5
Catering Establishments	13

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

Offices	227
Retail Shops	704
Wholesale Depts., Warehouses	31
Catering Establishments	
open to the public	71
Canteen	1

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

HOUSING

At the end of 1969 the Council owned and managed 615 units of accommodation, 153 of which were flats. All but 66 of these dwellings have been built since the last war. 10 Council bungalows for old people were completed during the year and a further 36 sheltered units, with communal facilities and a warden were in course of construction on 31st December.

In respect of private development, 104 dwellings were completed and a further 248 properties were still under construction at the end of the year.

In respect of the Council's housing list, there were 369 applicants awaiting rehousing at the end of the year. 33 applicants had been rehoused, 10 had been removed from the list for various reasons and 122 had been accepted onto the housing list. Of this number of applicants over 100 might be considered in need of urgent rehousing. 136 applications on the housing list are in respect of pensioners.

Of the total number of Council dwellings mentioned above, 100 are specially provided for old people although some of this accommodation could equally be tenanted by young couples. Included in this number are 32 units of accommodation where the service of a Warden, communal facilities and bell warning system are provided and a further 18 with a Warden and bell warning system but without the communal facilities. Details of special purpose-built accommodation is as follows:-

Frances Cottee Lodge, Clarence Road, Rayleigh.

Opened in September 1965 - Warden: Mrs. V.E. Cook.

Accommodation: 32 flatlets (20 single, 12 double
plus one Warden's flatlet).

Eighteen housing applicants were referred to me during the year for recommendation on medical grounds. The following recommendations were made:-

"A" - 3 (For consideration for over-riding priority)
"B" - 7 (A medical priority does exist)
"C" - 8 (No real medical indication)

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	...	...	11
Closing Orders	...	...	Nil
Improvement Grants approved	...	...	22
Improvements carried out	...	...	7

Since 1956 demolition order procedure under the slum clearance programme has resulted in 51 properties being demolished.

Caravan Sites

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

Houseboats

There is one houseboat moored within the district but this is not registered and further planning permission has been refused.

FOOD HYGIENE

Inspection and Supervision of Food

There are 123 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 ...	...	...	6
Butchers ...	...	...	12
Cafes & Restaurants	...	...	14
Canteens: Industrial	...	...	7
School	...	...	8
Confectioners ...	...	...	13
Cooked Meat Manufacturers	...	...	1
Fishmongers: Wet, Fried & Shell	...	...	6
General Provisions	...	...	29
Greengrocers ...	...	...	8
Licensed Premises and Off Licences	...	...	14
Clubs ...	...	...	4
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 13 premises registered for the manufacture of sausages and preserved foods under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Ice Cream

32 Retailers in Rayleigh are registered under the Ice Cream Regulations. There are no manufacturers.

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

2 tons, 16 cwts, 3 qrs. of food was voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption, and disposed of at the refuse tip.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Sonne Dysentery

An outbreak of Sonne Dysentery was detected in mid-January at a Denominational school in Rayleigh. Children from the Rochford Rural District and the Benfleet Urban District attend this school as well as children from the Rayleigh Urban District and there was, therefore, subsequent spread to Rochford and Benfleet schools as well as to Primary Schools in Rayleigh. Children from about 20 families at the first school became infected and developed Dysentery and 10 parents and one teacher developed symptoms. All children with symptoms were excluded from school until negative. Classrooms and lavatories were fogged with disinfectant spray. Handwashing after using the lavatory was strictly enforced and each child then rinsed his or her hands in disinfectant. After the third week in February, no further cases were reported at this school.

Since this is a Denominational school, children came to it from all over Rayleigh and three of the other Primary schools suffered the outbreak, though to a lesser extent. About 18 families with children attending 5 schools were affected and the same measures were applied to these schools. The outbreak ended about the middle of March.

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the position for the year 1969:-

Number of cases on register at 1st January ...	87
New cases notified ...	7
Transfers into area ...	8
	<hr/>
	102
Number recovered ...	1
Number moved away ...	17
Died ...	3
	<hr/>
Number remaining on register at 31st Dec.	81

The newly notified cases involved three males (aged 5, 66 and 71) and four females (aged 13 months, 7, 25 and 57 years). Four were from one family circle - grandfather and three grandchildren. The two men died during the year. Notification rate represented 2.87 per 10,000 population.

Of the persons who died, the cause of death in each case was:-

- Male, aged 66 - Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Tuberculous Enteritis.
- Male, aged 71 - Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Bronchitis and Emphysema.
- Male, aged 71 - Coronary Artery Thrombosis and Coronary Atheroma.

The number of cases notified appears to me to be a little too high. It is slightly below the national average and this in itself would not be too unsatisfactory, however, the population which is younger than average and in other respects a good deal healthier than average, ought to have an infection rate a good deal below the national mean. There appears to be a definite risk of tuberculosis in South-East Essex in general and in Rayleigh in particular and I must emphasise the importance of every older school child being immunised against tuberculosis (B.C.G. vaccination).

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following is a summary of notifiable diseases (excluding tuberculosis) occurring during the year 1969:

	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & Over	Totals
Dysentery	-	16	45	8	1	18	1	2	91
Infective Jaundice	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
Measles	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Scarlet Fever	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	6
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	-	24	50	8	1	19	1	2	104

ROCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

P.T. Popplewell, (Chairman)
 J.W. Bacon, LL.B., F.C.I.S., F.C.C.S.
 P.W. Ball,
 P.S. Belton,
 Mrs. D.M. Boothby,
 B.A. Hubble,
 J.W. King (Vice-Chairman)
 G.W. Lester,
 E.W. Mumford, B.E.M.
 S.G. Robson, J.P. (Chairman of Council)
 Miss D.M. Stow,
 R.J. Yeo

LOCAL

STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	36,220
Number of habitable houses	14,110
Number of inhabited houses	13,741
Population (mid-year estimate 1969)	39,290
Rateable Value) as at 31st	£1,502,883
Sum represented by a Penny Rate) March, 1970	£6,072

VITAL

STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population	Standardised Rate
Total live births	421	417	838	21.3	20.2
Total deaths	257	300	557	14.2	10.1

				Rate per 1,000 live births
Illegitimate births	15	12	27	32.2
Infant deaths	10	2	12	14.3
Neonatal deaths	9	1	10	11.9

				Rate per 1,000 live & still- births
Stillbirths	2	1	3	3.6
Perinatal mortality	11	2	13	15.5

(Includes stillbirths and deaths in first week of life)

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

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1969

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	10	2	12
1 and under 5	1	2	3
5 and under 15	1	-	1
15 and under 25	3	-	3
25 and under 35	4	-	4
35 and under 45	5	3	8
45 and under 55	11	9	20
55 and under 65	34	20	54
65 and under 75	82	55	137
75 and upwards	106	209	315
	257	300	557

DEATHS BY CAUSE

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Other Tuberculosis, incl. Late Effects ...	1	-	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc. ...	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus ...	-	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	5	8	13
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine ...	6	4	10
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx ...	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	27	4	31
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	-	10	10
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate ...	5	-	5
Leukaemia ...	2	2	4
Other Malignant Neoplasms ...	13	9	22
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms ...	-	2	2
Diabetes Mellitus ...	1	2	3
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases ...	1	2	3
Meningitis ...	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc. ...	4	5	9
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	3	5	8
Hypertensive Disease ...	-	10	10
Ischaemic Heart Disease ...	53	54	107
Other Forms of Heart Disease ...	4	9	13
Cerebrovascular Disease ...	61	125	186
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	10	10	20
Influenza ...	1	-	1
Pneumonia ...	15	10	25
Bronchitis and Emphysema ...	14	3	17
Asthma ...	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	5	3	8

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Peptic Ulcer	2	-	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ...	1	2	3
Other Diseases of Digestive System ...	1	3	4
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System ...	-	2	2
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ...	1	4	5
Congenital Anomalies	1	1	2
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc. ...	4	1	5
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality ...	1	-	1
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions ...	1	2	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-	2
All Other Accidents	3	1	4
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries ...	4	-	4
All Other External Causes	1	-	1
	257	300	557

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

The crude death rate is above the national average. This is partly due to the fact that Rochford Rural District population is slightly older than the national average and partly due to the population structure being slightly distorted by the presence in Rochford Town of an Old People's Home run by and for Southend County Borough. The standardised death rate is reasonably below the national average. Infant mortality is higher than in the Urban Districts but still somewhat below the national average. The leading cause of death in the Rochford Rural District was cerebrovascular disease; about two-thirds of the deaths being in women. Ischaemic heart disease came next but was as common in women as men. Cancer of the lung was most common in the cancer group with deaths predominantly in men. The commonest cause of death in the respiratory disease group was pneumonia, followed by bronchitis and emphysema. Ischaemia was not the only cause of heart disease, there being 8 deaths from rheumatic heart disease and 13 deaths from other forms of heart disease. 8 infant deaths are shown in the classified list and there are 6 deaths from accidents and 4 from suicide.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

Approximately 40 old people were formally referred to the Department during the year although assistance was often given in cases where no record is kept. Most of these referrals involved elderly people seeking rehousing on medical grounds. A considerable number of these people were finding living in a caravan difficult and trying as age advanced and physical capabilities diminished. There are almost 700 residential caravans in the Rural District on 7 sites and a considerable proportion of the residents are elderly. The referrals, other than housing, involved the very elderly who were finding it impossible to continue living at home but in most cases the difficulty lies in the old person refusing to accept help or alternative accommodation in a home or in hospital.

One unusual case involved a man over 80 who when first brought to notice was living in a three-wheeled van and subsequently in a tent and was in need of medical treatment. This man was armed to keep intruders at bay!

Of the remaining difficult cases assisted, four had to be dealt with under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948, as amended by the 1951 Amendment Act. Brief details of these cases are as follows:-

- 1) A lady aged 80 from Hockley, who had been under the observation of the Department for almost three years, was removed to hospital in early January under a Court Order. Not only was the lady arthritic and doubly incontinent, but she refused to be parted from her cherished dog. In this case I would pay tribute to the Home Help Service which maintained the lady at home for such a long period.
- 2) A lady of 81 living in Rochford was removed to a County Welfare Home in March under a Court Order, as she was bed-fast with an ulcerated leg, had refused a Home Help and Meals on Wheels and whose property had been flooded on two occasions through burst pipes. She was transferred to hospital in June and at the end of the year was still occupying a geriatric bed.
- 3) A lady aged 78 from Great Wakering was diabetic, of anti-social behaviour and who could not be contained any longer at home by domiciliary services, was removed to a County Welfare Home under a Court Order in April. This lady settled down well and was still at the home at the end of the year.
- 4) In September, a man aged 78 from Hockley was removed to hospital under a Court Order. This gentleman was partially blind, senile and in need of hospital treatment and on two occasions when the ambulance arrived at his home to take him to hospital he had refused to go. His daughter who lived with him and was on full-time night work was finding the situation impossible. He was still in hospital at the end of the year.

The organiser for the Meals on Wheels Service in the Rural District, Mr. Rupert C. Jarvis, has informed me that during 1969 12,771 meals were served to old people in their own homes and a further 612 were served at luncheon clubs. The frequency of delivery is three days a week in Hockley, Hawkwell and Hullbridge and two days a week in Ashington, Rochford, Stambridge, Great Wakering, Little Wakering and Barling. Delivery in the Hawkwell and Hockley areas is by the mini-van purchased and maintained through voluntary contributions and supplemented by voluntary private cars. In some of the other areas delivery is by voluntary

continued...../

private cars with arrangements through the W.R.V.S. and other local organisations within the framework of the Rochford Rural District Old People's Welfare Committee. During the year, the grant from the Local Authority amounted to £1,160. By special arrangement between Family Doctors, Rochford Hospital Dietician and Catering Manager, individually prepared diet meals are delivered and these are of special value to diabetic cases. The old Library building in Southend Road, Hockley, which was first rented to the Hockley and Hawkwell Old People's Welfare Council to assist the Meals on Wheels Service, is gradually coming into use (and equipped) as a Day Centre where old people can come and have a lunch and can spend one afternoon a week in happy association with other elderly and often lonely people. The Centre is maintained wholly by voluntary workers and voluntary funds.

The Area Welfare Officer has reported that 29 old people from the Rural District were admitted to County Welfare Homes during the year and a further 27 were on the waiting list at 31st December. In addition, 97 pensioners are registered with the Welfare Department as handicapped persons and a further 87 are registered as blind or partially sighted.

By the end of the year, the new purpose-built Old People's Home provided by the County Council at Rochford was nearing completion. Full details will be reported in my Report for 1970.

Rochford Old People's Welfare Committee

The Organising Secretary of this Committee, Mr. Clifford J. Wallace, has assisted me in preparing the following report on the activities of the Committee through the year. The Committee meets monthly and the Chairman for the year in question was Mr. F. Wheeler and the Vice-Chairman, Mr. C.E. Hunt. The Rural District Council's grant to the Committee for the financial year 1969/70 was £2,100. The appeal funds for the proposed Day Centre to be built in Rochford stood at approximately £2,900 at the end of the year. The existing Day Centre in Rochford in the old Essex County Council Secondary School continued to function each Monday afternoon under the organiser, Mr. W. Richardson, with a regular attendance of approximately 20. The net profit to the Committee from the Carnival held on 20th September was around £200. Christmas parcels were provided to over 300 people. At the end of the year, 81 voluntary Wardens were registered in the Street Warden Scheme and at least three issues of the new publication "The Sentinel," aimed specifically at furthering this Scheme, had been distributed. The assisted gardening scheme continued to operate, not without difficulty, during the fast growing season of the year, and further helpers were forthcoming when it was agreed to 8/- an hour to workers to help clear overgrown gardens among elderly residents who could not cope. The Rochford Old People's Housing Society Ltd, (formed under Part I of the Housing Act, 1964) under the chairmanship of Mr. D.K. Rollit, O.B.E., was negotiating with the District Council to acquire two old properties in Hockley with a view to adapting them into flats for the elderly and also had land in view for development in Rochford.

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 ppm.

332 supplies were connected to the mains and 7,439 yards of main were laid in 1969. Included in the former figure were 164 new properties.

The following table shows the houses on main supply, with estimated population for each parish of the Rural District as at 31st December, 1969:-

Parish	Acreage	Houses on main supply	Estimated population on main supply
* Ashingdon (including South Fambridge) ...	2,503	927	2,716
Barling Magna (including Little Wakering) ...	2,747	461	1,304
Canewdon ...	6,845	468	1,385
** Foulness Island ...	7,235	91	287
Great Wakering ...	3,314	1,400	4,270
Hawkwell ...	1,408	3,107	9,227
Hockley ...	1,578	2,808	8,592 + 30
Hullbridge ...	2,193	1,798	5,501 + 1,552
Paglesham ...	1,687	109	354
/ Rochford ...	2,988	2,409	8,335 + 35
Stambridge ...	2,202	205	652
Sutton ...	1,520	64	205
Totals	36,220	13,847	42,828 + 1617

* 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 include 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 in excess of 90% of the population. There are six Sewage Treatment Works in the District as follows:-

Stambridge
Havengore
Barling
Paglesham (Jubilee Cottages)
East End, Paglesham
Church End, Foulness

The largest sewage treatment works is at Stambridge and serves the parishes of Ashingdon, Canewdon, Hawkwell, Hockley, Rochford and Stambridge - a total of about 8,400 properties. The Havengore works is the next largest, serving about 1,300 properties in the parishes of Barling, Great Wakering and Little Wakering. Work on the extensions to this Works is complete and repairs to the original installation are nearing completion, the ultimate capacity calculated being 6,250 persons. The remaining four sewage treatment works serve only the villages etc., in which they are constructed.

During the year, new soil sewers were laid to serve the Seaview Estate area of Wakering and it is anticipated that the installation of the necessary pumps early in 1970 will permit the connection to the soil sewerage system of the existing 65 properties over the approximate 20 acre site, plus an additional 145 new houses in the future.

A new sewerage system to serve the Parish of Sutton including the construction of two Pumping Stations is almost complete. The sewerage from this area being pumped to Stambridge for treatment via the Rochford Pumping Station.

The Council's capital works proposals, which are with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for consideration, include the extension of the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works, a trunk foul sewer from Hockley to Stambridge, a new soil sewerage system to serve Hullbridge which includes new sewers, pumping station and rising main discharging into the trunk sewer previously referred to and new surface water sewerage systems to serve Hockley and Hullbridge. Ministry approval to part of the Hullbridge Surface Water sewer has been received and the contract has been let. Approval to part of Hockley Surface Water system is expected shortly.

Ministry approval has been received for work within 263 existing properties in the District intended to separate surface water from the soil sewerage system. This Scheme, together with other Schemes for future surface water separation, is intended to relieve the soil sewers and the Sewage Treatment Works of excessive flows.

109 properties were connected to the sewer during the year whilst no properties were built with cesspools and two with septic tanks. The lengths of sewer extensions vested in the Council during the year were, soil sewers 2,090 yards, surface water 1,520 yards.

continued...../

Investigations into the possibility of future surface water and/or soil sewerage schemes in the parishes of Ashingdon, Great Wakering, Hawkwell and Stambridge will be made.

Night soil collection is made from 97 properties twice weekly and 37 properties once weekly. Owing to the decreasing number, this service was reviewed, and as from the 1st January 1970, they are to be done once weekly by a contractor.

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 and stand system, using a four-wheel drive vehicle. In 1969, approximately 1,200 properties were served by this system.

A bin hire scheme, operated since 1960 was ceased late in 1969.

Modern rear-loading vehicles are mainly used, and 35 men and a foreman are engaged.

During the year, 63 tons of various materials, value £383, were salvaged. One man was engaged on baling.

Disposal since 1963 has been by tipping arrangement with a neighbouring Authority. The quantity collected during 1969 was 9,506 tons. Owing to the shortage of tipping space, the Council was given one year's notice, terminating July 1970, and another site is being negotiated, subject to Town Planning approval, in the Council's district.

Tipping space has become an acute problem in South-East Essex, and a Working Party has been set up comprising approximately nine Local Authorities, the Essex County Council and G.L.C. invited. It has been decided to engage the Local Government Operational Research Unit to evaluate the various means of disposal.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Eighty-four premises are registered and eighty-two use mechanical power. A total of thirteen inspections were made, and fifty-four outworkers were registered. Full particulars under the Act are shown in the following table:-

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health:

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspect- ions	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	82	12	1
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Author- ity (excluding outworkers' premises)	11	1	-

Part VIII of the Act:-

OUTWORK

Nature of work	Number of Outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c).
Wearing apparel	49
Furniture and Upholstery	1
Umbrellas, etc.	1
Feather sorting	1
Basket Making	1
Curtains, hangings, etc.	1

No contraventions of this part of the Act were reported.

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

PETROLEUM STORAGE

Under the Petroleum Regulations, fifty-eight petroleum storage licences were in force, one for carbide of calcium and nine for petroleum mixtures. A total of forty-seven inspections were carried out.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the 2,786 visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during 1969:-

Abandoned cars and disposal	8
Agricultural Regulations	1
Animal Boarding Establishments Act ..	4
Camping and Caravan Sites	84
Civic Amenities Act	39
Clean Air Act	43
Disease of Animals (Waste Foods) Order	12
Drainage and Sewerage	197
Essex County Council (Refuse Dumps)	1
Factories and Outworkers	13
Food Premises	220
Hairdressing Establishments	6
Hawkers of Food	13
Houseboats	3
Housing: Improvement Grants	39
Repairs	278
Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning	455
Licensing Act	4
Litter Act	9
Miscellaneous visits	263
Noise Abatement Act	77
Nuisances	217
Offices and Shops	83
Pet Animals Act	6
Petroleum Storage	47
Public Conveniences	91
Rats and Mice, and Other Pests	160
Refuse Collection and Disposal	137
Scrap Metal Dealers	3
Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection ...	200
Swimming Pools	7
Unsound Food Sampling	30
Verminous Premises	11
Water Supplies and Sampling	25

PEST CONTROL

There were notifications of 116 infestations of rats and mice during 1969 and 160 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	1	70	11
Retail Shops	2	142	56
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses ..	-	5	-
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens ...	-	11	4
Fuel Storage Depots ..	-	2	-

The number of employees were:-

Offices	528
Retail Shops	478
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses ..	50
Catering Establishments open to the public	27
Canteens	6
Fuel Storage depots	9

Total : 1,098

In the above total, 502 males and 596 females were employed.

There were 83 visits made to registered premises during 1969. Three 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, Mr. L.R.Wheeler, 4 Somerset Avenue, Rochford, is licensed by the Essex County Council to practise from premises in the Rural District.

SWIMMING POOLS

Nine of the Local Authority's schools in the Rural District, as listed below, 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:-

Ashingdon County Primary School, Main Road, Ashingdon.

Canewdon Endowed Primary School, Anchor Lane, Canewdon.

Doggetts County Primary School, The Boulevard, Rochford.

Holt Farm County Junior School, Ashingdon Road, Rochford.

Hullbridge County Primary School, Ferry Road, Hullbridge.

Plumberow County Primary School, Hamilton Gardens, Hockley.

Great Wakering County Primary School, High Street,
Great Wakering.

Greensward School, Greensward Lane, Hockley.

King Edmund School, Vaughan Close, Rochford.

HOUSING

At the end of 1969 the Council owned and managed 1,479 units of accommodation, 108 of which were flats. 58 Council dwellings were completed during the year and a further 38 were in course of construction on 31st December.

In respect of private development, 111 dwellings were completed including 4 flats and a further 362 properties were still under construction at the end of the year.

In respect of the Council's housing list, there were 769 applicants awaiting rehousing at the end of the year. During the year 48 applicants had been rehoused, 10 had been removed from the list for various reasons and 73 had been accepted onto the housing list. Of the total applicants 70 might be considered in need of urgent rehousing. 168 applications on the housing list are in respect of pensioners.

Of the total number of Council dwellings mentioned above, 156 are specially provided for old people although some of this accommodation could equally be tenanted by young couples. Included in this number are 18 units of accommodation where the service of a Warden, communal facilities and bell warning system are provided. Details of special purpose-built accommodation is as follows:-

Grested Court, East Street, Rochford

18 units plus one Warden's flatlet.

This accommodation was opened in 1963.

The present warden is Mrs. M. Healey.

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A further purpose-built sheltered unit was in course of construction during 1969 at Great Wakering, full details of which will appear in my 1970 Report.

49 applicants were referred to the Department for a special recommendation on medical grounds, with the following results:-

Group "A" - (priority on medical grounds)	11
Group "B" - (a medical need exists)	10
Group "C" - (a minimal medical need exists)	7
Group "D" - (no relevant medical need)	5

Transfers within Council accommodation were recommended in two instances and one elderly applicant was admitted to a County Welfare Home. In one instance I recommended that the six-year waiting period imposed by the Council when a Council tenant voluntarily surrendered tenancy and then subsequently asks to be rehoused, be waived as in this case there were three children and twins expected.

Action under the Housing Acts taken during 1969 is summarised as follows:-

Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	1
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	7
Unfit houses demolished (informal)	...	...	...	10
Unfit houses demolished (formal)	...	...	...	1
Unfit houses repaired	...	...	...	3
Improvements carried out under				
Grant Schemes	..			16

Caravan Sites

There are seven residential sites in the District, five are privately owned. The other two, one in Hockley and one in Rochford, are owned by the Council. The seven sites provide for 674 caravans.

There are also five privately owned seasonal sites, providing for 324 caravans.

FOOD HYGIENE

Meat Inspection

The following is a summary of 972 food animals killed and inspected at the Rochford slaughterhouses:-

<u>Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part</u>				
	Cattle excluding cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	190	-	231	551
All diseases (except tuberculosis and cysticerci):				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	44	-	6	22
Percentage affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	21.1	-	2.6	4.0
Tuberculosis only:				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	12
Percentage affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	2.2
Cysticercosis:				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-

Slaughterhouses

Since 1960 two private slaughterhouses have continued, and at one another user commenced. Owing to the difficulty in obtaining slaughtermen, the position was reached where all slaughtering was done out of normal office hours, due to slaughtermen from elsewhere being employed. Prior to this, since 1964 it was approximately 50%.

The worsening change in pattern was reported on by the Chief Public Health Inspector, regarding the restriction of hours in order to achieve the full inspection, per the 1966 Amendment Regulations. The Public Health Committee recommended restriction be imposed following negotiation, but the Council did not approve, and instead of letting the matter go to appeal to the Minister, it was subsequently agreed with the butchers to restrict slaughtering to:-

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday - 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Wednesday and Friday - 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

No slaughtering on Saturday or Sunday.

The result is that practically all slaughtering is done after 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and none on Wednesday and Friday. The only achievement has been to abolish the need for Saturday inspection.

continued

During June one slaughterhouse was damaged by fire, and remained out of use for the remainder of the year.

Whilst the circumstances of these butchers can be appreciated, it is not considered to be in the public interest for all slaughtering to be done outside the normal office hours.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

There are 236 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	8	8	8	8
Butchers	19	19	19	19
Cafes & Restaurants ...	15	15	15	15
Canteens: Industrial ...	10	10	10	10
School ...	17	17	17	17
Confectioners	30	30	28	28
Fishmongers	5	5	5	5
General Provisions ...	62	62	62	62
Greengrocers	15	15	15	15
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 1969, 651 lbs. of meat and other foods, excluding meat at slaughterhouses, were condemned.

Preserved Food

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

Hawkers of Food

Seventeen 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-three retailers of ice cream in the District. No samples were taken during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were fewer cases of infectious disease notified during 1969 as compared with 1968. The incidence of measles was reduced, but scarlet fever, infective jaundice and dysentery increased. The case of acute encephalitis involved a three year old child and was a complication of mumps. It is, of course, also a complication of measles. 94 cases of measles is too many when a safe vaccine is easily available.

Infective jaundice

Of the nine cases notified, one was a pre-school child, three were secondary school children, three were young adults & 2 were in middle life. 2 of the school children came from the same school. In two cases the patients' mothers were food handlers.

Suspected Smallpox

Specimens were submitted to the Virus Reference Laboratory of the Central Public Health Laboratory in London from a hospital doctor of Asian origin, who was mildly ill with suspicious symptoms. Fortunately, the Laboratory diagnosed varicella (chicken pox).

Food Poisoning

Although 12 cases are shown on the summary, 18 in fact were notified, 6 of these were not confirmed.

Of the confirmed cases, the Public Health Laboratory reported as follows:-

Salmonella typhimurium	.. 5	(two of these had just returned from Tunisia)
Salmonella enteritidis	.. 1	
Salmonella haifa	.. 2	(these had just returned from Yugoslavia)

Of foods suspected, but not confirmed, were pork sausages, cockles and watercress.

Sonne Dysentery

Of the 75 cases of sonne dysentery, 73 were formally confirmed by bacteriological examination. In addition a small number of contacts were found to be carrying infection.

The outbreak of dysentery affected Rayleigh and Benfleet as well as the Rochford Rural District, being at a Rayleigh Denominational School in January. 32 of the cases in the Rural District, from Hockley and Hullbridge areas, were connected with this school. The remaining cases in May and June in the Rochford area, were mainly pre-school children and adults.

continued...../

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the position for the year 1969:-

Number of cases on register at 1st January	...	157
New cases notified	...	7
Transfers into area	...	5
		<hr/> 169
Number recovered	...	4
Number moved away	...	19
Died	...	2
		<hr/>
Number on register at 31st December	...	144

Of the 7 newly notified cases, three were males (aged 50, 59 and 60) and four were females (aged 30, 47, 58 and 81). Only three of these cases were respiratory. Notification rate represented 1.78 per 10,000 population.

The cause of death in respect of those who died was as follows:-

Male, aged 44	...	Cerebral Tumour (Glioma)
Male, aged 84	...	Oat-cell Carcinoma of Bronchus

In early October, a Dentist practising in Westcliff, Hockley and Corringham, died from tuberculosis, the disease only being found after death. The post-mortem examination revealed large numbers of tubercle bacilli in the lungs and it was assumed that he had been infectious for at least the preceeding 12 months, during which period he attended many hundreds of patients. Special arrangements were made for all staff and adult patients who had received dental treatment within the infective period, to be X-rayed. Child patients were Heaf tested. Over 3,000 people were X-rayed in December, including 655 from the South-East Essex area attending the Hockley surgery. Four active cases of tuberculosis were found and six others were kept under observation, including a young woman from Rochford who worked as a Receptionist at the Westcliff surgery. All the other findings referred to residents outside South-East Essex.

PORT HEALTH

Sixty-six Maritime Declarations of Health were received during 1969 from the Masters of Ships arriving at Baltic Wharf, Wallasea Island. The ships are summarised as follows:-

Under 250 tons	-	20	501 - 1,000 tons	-	4
251 - 500 tons	-	38	Over 1,000 tons	-	4
Total tonnage using port - 23,957					

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

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following is a summary of notifiable diseases (except tuberculosis) occurring during the year 1969:-

	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & Over	Totals
Acute Encephalitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Meningitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	5	23	19	5	-	22	1	-	75
Food Poisoning	-	4	2	1	1	3	1	-	12
Infective Jaundice	-	1	-	2	2	2	2	-	9
Measles	5	44	40	3	1	1	-	-	94
Scarlet Fever	2	15	34	1	2	4	-	-	58
Whooping Cough	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
	12	89	96	12	7	32	4	-	252

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