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Contributors

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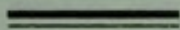
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URBAN DISTRICTS
of
BENFLEET, CANVEY ISLAND
and RAYLEIGH



HEALTH REPORT

for the year

1952



28

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1952

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
LONDON ROAD,
HADLEIGH, ESSEX.

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present, for your consideration, my consolidated Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of each of your Urban Districts for the year 1952, prepared in accordance with the requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 2/53 dated 22nd January, 1953. This issue completes a quarter of a century of reporting on my activities as Medical Officer of Health for the Canvey Island Urban District, and in respect of the Benfleet and Rayleigh Districts, this is my 23rd Annual Report.

In the course of the introductory remarks to my Report last year, I laid emphasis on the importance of the Public Health Service and the particular value of Preventive Medicine in modern society. Whilst not wishing to weary with undue repetition, it is my professional duty to lay before you my further remarks in emphasis of that section of the medical profession which claims my whole energy and interest.

The National Health Service, whilst being excellent in principle and fulfilling a definite national need has, regrettably, undermined the Preventive side of Medicine. With an overbalance of legislation and expenditure on the Curative side—Specialist, Hospital and General Practitioner Services—together with the isolation and segregation of the clinical aspects of Tuberculosis and Infectious Diseases generally, damaging neglect to the Public Health Service has been obvious to all those engaged in that important section of the Health Service. This adverse trend of events was most unfortunate because the Public Health Service has done magnificent work over the last 100 years in the battle to overcome sickness and disease, and this evident success is honoured by all who study the health of the people. However unintentional, the practical administration of the Act of 1946 soon revealed the weakness of the new comprehensive Service to the detriment of the Preventive side, and during the months that followed its introduction in July 1948 the Public Health Service went through a difficult time. Happily, the position has now somewhat improved and the nation and individuals are re-educating themselves to the realisation that prevention is better and cheaper than cure. The essential administrative weakness of the present National Health Service is the

sharp division between the Local Health Authority Service, the Hospital Service and the General Practitioner Service, and it is hoped that remedial measures will soon be introduced whereby these three principal sections of the Service will be able to work in closer unity in day to day functions. Indeed, an ideal Health Service should be comprehensive, unified and integrated.

In 1926 Sir George Newman wrote that the first duty of medicine is not to cure disease, but to prevent it, and it has recently been stated that few would deny that it is far better to prevent a person becoming a patient than to cure him afterwards. Furthermore it is an important factor in the national economy. A sick person is not merely a non-producer, but he is an expensive charge on national finance. From the strictly materialistic point of view, therefore, it can be argued that it is a good investment to spend money on preventive medicine, for then less will be needed for expensive hospital beds and more people will be kept in production. Members will be interested to learn that at the 31st March, 1952, the net cost per hospital bed per week at the Rochford General Hospital was £12-12-11d. and at the Southend General Hospital £15-16-7d. There are various factors which account for these differing figures, but I understand that they are fairly representative of hospital costs throughout the Country under National Health Service arrangements.

Adequate housing must again be stressed. The millions being spent on our hospitals and sanatoria throughout the Country will be wasted if patients are to return to complete their convalescence under bad housing conditions. Bad housing causes disease and indifferent health—moral and mental, as well as physical—and it is impossible to assess the number of patients undergoing treatment in mental hospitals whose condition may have been associated with difficult living conditions.

Preventive Medicine—with its widening sphere of activity in relation to food hygiene, prevention of atmospheric pollution ("Smog," etc.), welfare of the aged, adequate housing, and epidemiological enquiries into the cause and incidence of lung cancer, coronary thrombosis and other diseases—is as necessary today as it was 100 years ago when the average expectation of life was between twenty and thirty years less than it is today. All these new spheres are additional to the many routine issues affecting the Department of the Medical Officer of Health, particularly the suppression of certain infectious diseases which at one time were the scourge of Britain. Whilst the dreaded killers of past years are rarely seen today, e.g. smallpox, typhus and diphtheria, it must be seriously remembered that as diseases they are not eliminated, but suppressed, and will again appear in unwelcome force if given the conditions which favour their spread. Other infectious diseases which confront us today, such as tuberculosis, meningitis, measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever and dysentery have a very low mortality rate as compared with the death roll a century ago. Nevertheless, all the time there are many dying each year from these preventable diseases, including many young children and adults of wage earning capacity, every effort must be made by the Public Health Service to minimise the cause of this unnecessary

wastage of human life. Broadly speaking, as a result of the accumulated efforts of the Public Health Service, infectious diseases have been kept well under control for a number of years, and during the last decade the mortality rate has dwindled in a noticeable manner year after year. We all hope this position will continue. However, there is usually an exception to any rule, and in respect of infectious diseases, the present exception is Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis). Energetic measures are being taken to bring this unhappy disease under control, and such measures provide a very wide field for investigation. Similarly, Food Poisoning is a condition which has claimed much attention from those engaged in preventive medicine in recent years.

As in previous years the goodwill and co-operation of general practitioners throughout the three areas have continued, and in this I am indeed grateful. Their co-operation in giving early notification of suspected cases of Poliomyelitis has been a great help to me in arranging for the necessary investigations to be carried out in connection with the Ministry of Health Survey.

I would like to pay tribute to the inspectorial staff of the three Districts for their energetic co-operation throughout the year and for their contribution to the substance of this report. Similar appreciation is readily expressed to all members of the Public Health staff for their loyal support during the year.

Finally, I desire to express my sincere thanks to the Members of each District Council for their helpful consideration of many problems during the year.

“Teach us to be masters of ourselves,
That we may be the servants of others.”

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

NORMAN LORRAINE,

F.R.S.E., M.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S. (Edin.) & R.F.P.S. (Glas.), M.R.San.I.

August, 1953.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES

Benfleet Urban District—

Councillor L. A. G. Cunningham (Chairman).
Councillor H. R. Bridge
Councillor S. Corbett
Councillor J. E. Daniels
Councillor R. E. Lewis
Councillor P. C. Palmer
Councillor T. C. Rigden
Councillor I. J. Smith
Councillor S. R. Smith, J.P. (Chairman of Council).

Canvey Island Urban District—

Councillor Mrs. D. G. Elkington (Chairman).
Councillor Lt.-Col. H. P. Fielder, T.D.
Councillor Mrs. E. M. Fisk, J.P.
Councillor A. S. Fuller
Councillor S. J. Girling
Councillor F. J. Leach, J.P. (Chairman of Council).
Councillor S. C. Marsom
Councillor H. C. Whitcomb

Rayleigh Urban District—

Councillor A. V. Cullington (Chairman).
Councillor F. Alexander
Councillor E. G. Collins
Councillor Mrs. F. M. Cottee, J.P.
Councillor W. V. Curtis (Vice-Chairman of Council).
Councillor M. Freund
Councillor Mrs. M. B. D. Green
Councillor E. E. Osborne, J.P. (Chairman of Council).
Councillor E. Trippier
Councillor E. D. O. Van Lennep

COMPOSITE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Representatives for Benfleet Urban District—

Councillors H. R. Bridge, L. A. G. Cunningham, J. E. Daniels

Representatives for Canvey Island Urban District—

Councillors Mrs. D. G. Elkington, Mrs. E. M. Fisk, J.P., S. J. Girling

Representatives for Rayleigh Urban District—

Councillors A. V. Cullington, Mrs. M. B. D. Green, E. Trippier

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health Norman Lorraine, F.R.S.E., M.D., M.B.,
Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.San.I.

Locum to Medical Officer .. of Health P. G. C. Jones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Secretary to Medical Officer of Health R. F. Stripp

Sanitary Inspectors .. J. E. Gilbert, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Senior
Sanitary Inspector, Benfleet U.D.C.

P. Sanders, M.S.I.A., Additional Sanitary
Inspector, Benfleet U.D.C.

Donald J. Legg, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
Senior Sanitary Inspector, Canvey
Island, U.D.C.

A. P. J. Cook, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
Deputy Sanitary Inspector, Canvey
Island U.D.C.

E. H. Lloyd, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., San-
itary Inspector, Rayleigh U.D.C.

Clerical Assistants .. A. J. Hart, A.C.C.S., Benfleet U.D.C.

Miss D. J. Kentfield, Canvey Island U.D.C.

E. S. Lander, Rayleigh U.D.C. (part-time
only to Sanitary Inspector's Depart-
ment).

SECTION " A "

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

	Benfleet	Canvey Island	Rayleigh
Area (in acres)	6,360	6,350	5,732
Inhabited houses at 31st December, 1952 (according to Rate Book) ..	6,968	4,402	3,165
Population (1951 Census)	19,881	11,255	9,388
Population (Registrar-General's esti- mate for mid 1952)	19,640	11,640	9,415
Rateable Value	£123,316	£53,462	£62,776
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ..	£500	£209	£258
Rateable Value per head of the esti- mated population	£6.28	£4.59	£6.67

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Last year under this heading I emphasised the geographical advantages of these districts and also referred to the major industries, building development, the prospects of the future under the County Council's new Development Plan, and to the ever increasing problem of the welfare of the aged. This year my comments are confined to the subject of education in its three-fold aspect—mental, physical and spiritual.

Generally speaking, the routine education of our children in these Districts is in the hands of the Essex Education Committee, the administration being delegated to the local Divisional Executive with offices at " Brooklands," Hockley Road, Rayleigh, the Divisional Education Officer being Mr. F. G. E. Manns, M.Sc. At the end of December, 1952 there were 5,451 children on the registers of the maintained schools in the three Districts, the distribution being shown in the following table—

Benfleet Urban District—

	<i>School places</i>	<i>No. on Register</i>
Benfleet Secondary School ..	*900	729
Hadleigh Junior School	400	412
Hadleigh Infants School	200	257
South Benfleet Junior School ..	320	294
South Benfleet Infants School ..	160	201
Thundersley Primary School ..	360	324
New Thundersley Primary School	200 + 40†	220

Canvey Island Urban District—

Long Road Junior School ..	640	805
Long Road Secondary School ..	*300	464
Leigh Beck Primary School ..	240	286

Rayleigh Urban District—

Rayleigh Junior School	410 + 40†	444
Rayleigh Infants School	320	326
Rayleigh Secondary & Technical School	*600	628
Rawreth Church of England School	64 + 40†	61

*Secondary Schools are on a 30 class basis. Others have 40 places per class.

†The additional figure represents temporary accommodation.

The above mentioned figures are not comprehensive of the school population of these Districts. 47 children from the South Benfleet area attend the Church of England School at Bowers Gifford in the Billericay Urban District and a considerable number attend Grammar Schools outside the area, e.g. Southend High School, Westcliff High School, St. Bernard's Convent High School for Girls and Palmers School at Grays. There are also a number who attend private schools in the Southend area.

In regard to other establishments maintained by the Essex Education Committee in these Districts, there are two Youth Centres and one Evening Institute. The membership last autumn was as follows—

	<i>Adolescents</i>	<i>Adults</i>
Canvey Island Youth Centre ..	108	5
Rayleigh Youth Centre ..	197	108
Benfleet Evening Institute ..	—	605†

†This figure may include a few under 21 years of age.

The Canvey Island Youth Centre is chiefly recreational whilst the one at Rayleigh is both recreational and instructional, hence the considerable number of adults. The Benfleet Evening Institute is purely educational and instructional and a large number of practical subjects are covered.

There are a number of Youth Clubs attached to various Churches in the area, such as Boy Scouts, Boys Brigade and Sea Scouts for boys and Girl Guides, Girls Life Brigade and Sea Rangers for girls. Undoubtedly these and other activities among the young are doing noble service to our rising generation.

It would appear that there is ample provision for sporting activity throughout the three Districts. The Benfleet Council maintain a cricket pitch and a football pitch at Hadleigh and a cricket pitch, a football pitch, a bowling green and three tennis courts at South Benfleet. Furthermore, there are four football pitches for emergency use in various parts provided by the Council. The Canvey Island Council have cricket and football pitches at the Paddocks Recreation Ground and another football pitch at Labworth Park. Also, there is under construction at the Furtherwick Sports Centre, three football pitches, a cricket pitch, a hockey pitch and six tennis courts. At the Fairview Playing Field in the Hockley Road the Rayleigh Urban District Council provide two cricket pitches, three football pitches, four tennis

courts and one hockey pitch. A football pitch and a cricket pitch are also provided on the newly established King George's Field in Eastwood Road. Playground equipment is provided for the children by each District Council. Throughout the area there are a number of sporting clubs catering for cricket, football, hockey, tennis, golf, swimming, yachting, canoeing and athletics in general. There are cinemas at Hadleigh, Canvey Island and Rayleigh and the Stadium situate on the Arterial Road at Rayleigh provides for the speedway and dog racing enthusiasts.

Whilst the question of spiritual education has been placed last under this heading, it is by no means of least importance. The octopus of materialism finds man an easy prey since by nature he is materialistic minded, and often fails to realise his spiritual need. However, from the Public Health point of view, spiritual education is vitally necessary. A man who sees to the need of his soul will certainly take great care of the body entrusted to him. Much sickness is caused through indifferent and careless living, usually associated with a complete disregard of spiritual health. Therefore the prevention of disease and ill-health will surely become a more definite aim if the citizens of our communities can, generally speaking, be awakened from their spiritual apathy. Those engaged in maintaining the spiritual life of our Districts are doing a real worthwhile job, and I would like to pay tribute to the many labouring behind the scenes and in insignificant capacities, often at great personal sacrifice, who, with their professional pillars, are defending the very foundation of our national life.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Benfleet			Canvey Island			Rayleigh		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
<i>Live Births :</i> ..	140	129	269	77	93	170	69	66	135
Legitimate ..	136	126	262	74	85	159	67	64	131
Illegitimate ..	4	3	7	3	8	11	2	2	4
<i>Still Births :</i> ..	1	2	3	1	1	2	—	—	—
Legitimate ..	—	2	2	1	1	2	—	—	—
Illegitimate ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Deaths :</i> ..	145	155	300	83	64	147	56	78	134
<i>Birth Rate</i> per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..	13.7			14.6			14.3		
<i>Stillbirth Rate</i> per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..	11.0			11.6			—		
<i>Death Rate</i> per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..	15.3			12.6			14.2		

There was one death from puerperal causes, associated with complications, in the Benfleet Urban District during 1952.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

Total number of infant deaths ..	8	8	3
All infants per 1,000 live births ..	29.7	47.0	22.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	30.5	44.0	22.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	—	91.0	—
Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	6	4	2

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES DURING THE YEAR 1952

	Rate per 1,000 resident population			Deaths under one year per 1,000 registered live births
	Live Births	Deaths from all causes		
England and Wales ..	15.3	11.3	..	28
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	16.9	12.1	..	31
160 Smaller Towns. Resident population 25,000—50,000 at 1951 Census ..	15.5	11.2	..	26
London Administrative County	17.6	12.6	..	24
BENFLEET U.D. ..	13.7	15.3	..	30
CANVEY ISLAND U.D.	14.6	12.6	..	47
RAYLEIGH U.D. ..	14.3	14.2	..	22

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEARS 1948-1952

Year			Birth Rate			Death Rate			Infant Mortality Rate
<i>Benfleet U.D.</i>									
1948	..	..	16.1	..	..	14.3	..	..	41.3
1949	..	..	15.4	..	..	14.3	..	..	36.5
1950	..	..	12.9	..	..	14.1	..	..	35.4
1951	..	..	12.1	..	..	15.3	..	..	29.3
1952	..	..	13.7	..	..	15.3	..	..	29.7
<i>Canvey Island U.D.</i>									
1948	..	..	18.1	..	..	14.7	..	..	42.1
1949	..	..	17.8	..	..	12.2	..	..	10.6
1950	..	..	16.5	..	..	14.1	..	..	39.3
1951	..	..	18.6	..	..	14.2	..	..	14.6
1952	..	..	14.6	..	..	12.6	..	..	47.0
<i>Rayleigh U.D.</i>									
1948	..	..	17.3	..	..	9.5	..	..	12.5
1949	..	..	15.9	..	..	16.2	..	..	47.0
1950	..	..	13.1	..	..	11.9	..	..	16.1
1951	..	..	13.8	..	..	14.1	..	..	—
1952	..	..	14.3	..	..	14.2	..	..	22.2
<i>Averages for last five years :</i>									
England & Wales			16.2	..	..	10.6	..	..	30.6
Benfleet U.D.	..	..	14.0	..	..	14.7	..	..	34.4
Canvey Island U.D.			17.1	..	..	13.6	..	..	30.7
Rayleigh U.D.	..	..	14.9	..	..	13.2	..	..	19.6

POPULATION STATISTICS

Year			Benfleet U.D.			Canvey Island U.D.			Rayleigh U.D.
1930	..	..	11,900	..	..	3,530	..	..	6,256
1935	..	..	14,160	..	..	5,584	..	..	7,232
1940	..	..	15,140	..	..	5,240	..	..	7,810
1945	..	..	17,350	..	..	7,960	..	..	7,539
1950	..	..	19,720	..	..	10,800	..	..	9,474
1951 (Census)	..	..	19,881	..	..	11,255	..	..	9,388
1952	..	..	19,640	..	..	11,640	..	..	9,415

Note : The 1951 Census revealed that Canvey Island showed the highest increase in population for the County of Essex since the previous Census in 1931. That increase was 218.0 per cent.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1952

Age	Number in District		Deaths.		Inward Transfers		Number of deaths which apply to District
			Outward Transfers				
<i>Benfleet U.D.</i>							
Under 1 year ..	2	..	—	..	6	..	8
1 and under 2	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
2 " " 5	1	..	1	..	—	..	—
5 " " 15	—	..	—	..	2	..	2
15 " " 25	2	..	—	..	1	..	3
25 " " 35	3	..	—	..	2	..	5
35 " " 45	2	..	—	..	5	..	7
45 " " 55	6	..	—	..	9	..	15
55 " " 65	20	..	2	..	10	..	28
65 " " 75	51	..	3	..	30	..	78
75 and upwards	119	..	11	..	46	..	154
Totals for Benfleet	206	..	17	..	111	..	300
<i>Canvey Island U.D.</i>							
Under 1 year ..	2	..	—	..	6	..	8
1 and under 2	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
2 " " 5	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
5 " " 15	1	..	1	..	—	..	—
15 " " 25	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
25 " " 35	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
35 " " 45	2	..	1	..	3	..	4
45 " " 55	2	..	—	..	3	..	5
55 " " 65	15	..	1	..	8	..	22
65 " " 75	28	..	1	..	20	..	47
75 and upwards	39	..	1	..	23	..	61
Totals for Canvey Is.	89	..	5	..	63	..	147
<i>Rayleigh U.D.</i>							
Under 1 year ..	—	..	—	..	3	..	3
1 and under 2	1	..	1	..	1	..	1
2 " " 5	—	..	—	..	1	..	1
5 " " 15	—	..	—	..	1	..	1
15 " " 25	—	..	—	..	2	..	2
25 " " 35	—	..	—	..	1	..	1
35 " " 45	—	..	—	..	2	..	2
45 " " 55	2	..	—	..	4	..	6
55 " " 65	11	..	1	..	7	..	17
65 " " 75	25	..	—	..	9	..	34
75 and upwards	38	..	—	..	28	..	66
Totals for Rayleigh	77	..	2	..	59	..	134

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

Birth Rate.

Benfleet and Rayleigh showed a little improvement in the Birth Rate, e.g. 13.7 and 14.3 or respective increases of 30 and 6 births during the year. Canvey Island, which usually maintains a higher rate than the other two Districts, whilst still having the highest, dropped from 18.6 to 14.6, there being 36 fewer births during the year. This rate was the lowest since 1940. The average rate for the three Districts together was 14.2 as compared with 14.5 for the Administrative County of Essex and 15.3 for England and Wales.

Death Rate.

The Death Rate varied little during the year 1952 as far as these Districts were concerned. Benfleet remained the same as the previous year, and Rayleigh increased by only 0.1%, although Canvey Island fell from 14.2 to 12.6 with ten fewer deaths. Benfleet continued to carry the highest rate for the three areas, namely 15.3. This was over 50% higher than the average rate of 10.0 for the County of Essex. The combined rate for the three Districts of 14.0 was still very much higher than the national figure of 11.3 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality Rate.

This continued to decline throughout the Country and it is encouraging to notice that the infant death rate for the year was the lowest ever recorded, namely, 28 infant deaths per 1,000 registered live births. The local position usually fluctuates from year to year and 1952 was no exception. The Canvey Island rate trebled to 47.0 and Rayleigh went up from last year's record " Nil " to 22.2, although the rate for Benfleet was practically unchanged. The combined average for the three Districts therefore rose to 33.0 which was well above last year's unusually low figure of 14.6, but not far removed from the national rate.

Of the 19 infants under one year of age who died during the year, seven died from either prematurity or other conditions associated with the newborn, seven from respiratory conditions, three from congenital conditions, one from gastritis and one from accidental suffocation.

Comparability Factor.

This calculation is intended to relate the Birth and Death Rates to the level of a normal average composition of population. This adjustment, to show the true picture, is necessitated by the existence of a high proportion of elderly retired folk in these Districts which is responsible for the Birth and Death Rates appearing unfavourable.

District		Compara- bility Factor		Actual Number		Actual Rate		Amended Number		Amended Rate
BIRTHS										
Benfleet U.D.	..	1.12	..	269	..	13.7	..	301	..	15.3
Canvey Island U.D.		1.10	..	170	..	14.6	..	187	..	16.0
Rayleigh U.D.	..	1.11	..	135	..	14.3	..	150	..	15.9

DEATHS										
Benfleet U.D.	..	0.73	..	300	..	15.3	..	219	..	11.2
Canvey Island U.D.		0.80	..	147	..	12.6	..	118	..	10.1
Rayleigh U.D.	..	0.76	..	134	..	14.2	..	102	..	10.8

These adjusted figures display a fairer comparison with the rest of the Country. The Birth Rate is now shown to be above that for England and Wales and the number of births being 638 for the three Districts as compared with the factual figure of 574. The revised Death Rate of 10.7 for the three areas is very favourable and well below the Country's figure of 11.3. This shows that if there had been an even distribution of population these Districts would have had 142 fewer deaths.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1952.

	Benfleet U.D.			Canvey Island U.D.			Rayleigh U.D.		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1. All causes	145	155	300	83	64	147	56	78	134
2. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	—	2	1	1	2	—	1	1
3. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Syphilitic disease	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	—	2	2	5	1	6	1	—	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	—	4	3	2	5	2	—	2
13. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	4	4	—	2	2	—	1	1
14. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	1	1
15. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	11	24	7	7	14	3	8	11
16. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	2	2	—	—	—	2	1	3
17. Diabetes	—	1	1	1	1	2	—	1	1
18. Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	26	41	11	12	23	7	13	20
19. Coronary disease, angina	27	16	43	10	8	18	12	9	21
20. Hypertension with heart disease	4	1	5	3	1	4	1	3	4
21. Other heart disease	37	43	80	13	12	25	7	12	19
22. Other circulatory disease	6	8	14	5	1	6	2	9	11
23. Influenza	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
24. Pneumonia	8	8	16	8	6	14	7	5	12
25. Bronchitis	5	4	9	2	3	5	—	2	2
26. Other diseases of respiratory system	3	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	2
27. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2	3	3	—	3	1	—	1
28. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2
29. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	2
30. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Congenital malformations	2	2	4	1	1	2	—	—	—
33. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	15	21	5	3	8	3	6	9
34. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2	—	1	1	—	2	2
35. All other accidents	5	2	7	—	1	1	2	2	4
36. Suicide	1	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
37. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—

SECTION " B "

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Service.

The three Districts continued to be well served by the Public Health Laboratory, Balmoral Road, Westcliff-on-Sea for the routine bacteriological examination of samples of food, milk, ice cream, water and sewage. The helpful co-operation of Dr. R. Pilsworth, M.D., (Lond) the Director in Charge, is readily acknowledged, and I understand that during the year 116 samples involving Ice Cream, Milk, Water, Shellfish and Other Foods, etc. were examined on behalf of the three Districts.

Arrangements are in force for the examination of specimens by the Counties Public Health Laboratories of Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. but it was not necessary to utilise this facility during the year.

Ambulance Service.

The Essex County Council's Ambulance Service continued to operate very successfully throughout the year and the following summary of work carried out by the two ambulance stations in the area will give an idea of the immense value that this essential Service has proved to the community as a whole.

	Thundersley Ambulance Station	Canvey Island Ambulance Station
Maternity	77	54
Accident	326	159
Other Emergency	1,126	350
Non-Emergency	4,770	879
Mileage covered	92,481	26,238

At the Thundersley Station there are two stretcher case vehicles and one sitting case vehicle with a personnel strength of 14. At Canvey Island there is one stretcher case ambulance and five personnel.

Call arrangements remain unchanged. Areas with an automatic telephone should dial 999 in case of an emergency. This includes areas covered by the Hadleigh and South Benfleet Exchanges. Where there is no dialling system the caller should ask the Operator for an ambulance for emergency purposes. This system prevails for the areas covered by the Rayleigh and Canvey Island Exchanges. Non-emergency calls should be made by a responsible person to the County Ambulance Officer (telephone Chelmsford 4801) when it is necessary to state (1) if a trained nurse is required, (2) if a sitting case car is

required, and (3) in respect of a case of Infectious Disease an indication of the nature of the disease as pronounced by the Medical Attendant.

Requests for the removal of cases of infectious disease are usually made by the private doctor to the Medical Officer of Health or his staff when arrangements are made accordingly. With the exception of serious infectious conditions, such as Smallpox, cases of infectious disease are carried in the ordinary ambulances of the County Ambulance Service, the vehicles being thoroughly disinfected immediately after each case has been removed.

The telephone number of the Thundersley Ambulance Station is South Benfleet 2323 and of the Canvey Island Station, Canvey 161.

Local Health Authority Services.

These are administered by the Area Medical Officer (Dr. W. J. Moffat) on behalf of the Essex County Council, the Area Health Office being located at 153, High Street, Rayleigh (telephone Rayleigh 831-2).

Those services coming within this category include Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Domestic Helps, and regular clinics are held at Hadleigh, Thundersley, South Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh Health Services Clinics for Ante-natal mothers and Child Welfare, the latter including sessions for immunisation against Diphtheria.

Under the School Health Service, clinics are also held for teeth, eyes, speech and minor ailments.

The following is a list of Midwives serving these Districts and the particular area for which they are responsible—

Rawreth and part of Rayleigh—Miss L. M. Baines, Stanway, Woodlands Road, Hockley. Telephone Hockley 432.

Rayleigh (main part)—Miss M. Millard, 21, Daws Heath Road, Rayleigh. Telephone Rayleigh 147.

Thundersley, including Daws Heath—Miss J. Groombridge, 39, Fowles Avenue, Thundersley. Telephone Hadleigh 58956.

Hadleigh—Mrs. M. E. Watts, Glencairn, Homestead Gardens, Hadleigh. Telephone Hadleigh 58485.

Great Tarpots—Mrs. K. Hexter, Nurses Flats, Corner Kents Hill Road, Thundersley. Telephone South Benfleet 3304.

South Benfleet—Miss J. G. Gledsdale, Nurses Flats, Corner Kents Hill Road, Thundersley. Telephone South Benfleet 3303.

Canvey Island—Miss V. Dinnage and Miss D. Cartwright, 10, Thameside Crescent, Canvey Island. Telephone Canvey 388.

Miss M. Morgan, Flat 5B, Long Road, Canvey Island. Telephone Canvey 469.

Hospitals.

Patients requiring general hospital treatment are normally admitted by the General Practitioner to either the Southend or Rochford General Hospitals, but when no beds are available locally, the Emergency Bed Service takes on the responsibility of finding a bed as near as possible to the patient's home at the request of the private doctor. Cases of infectious disease are normally sent to the Westcliff Hospital, but the Isolation Hospitals at Thurrock, Rush Green and Chelmsford are available if necessary.

The Hospital Authority for the area, the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, is also responsible for the following Clinics which serve the Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh Urban Districts—

TUBERCULOSIS—Lancaster House Chest Clinic, Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea. Chest Physician—Dr. E. G. Sita-Lumsden, M.D., M.R.C.P.

VENEREAL DISEASE—Southend V. D. Clinic, Westcliff Hospital, Balmoral Road, Westcliff-on-Sea.

OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY—At the Health Services Clinics, London Road, Hadleigh and Furtherwick Road, Canvey Island.

OPHTHALMOLOGY—At the Health Services Clinics, London Road, Hadleigh, Furtherwick Road, Canvey Island and Eastwood Road, Rayleigh.

PHYSIOTHERAPY—At the Health Services Clinics, Furtherwick Road, Canvey Island and Eastwood Road, Rayleigh.

SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

The Water Undertaking for these Districts is the Southend Waterworks Company with Head Offices at 13, Cambridge Road, Southend-on-Sea. The Supply for Canvey Island is mainly derived from boreholes at Leigh Beck and Hole Haven, which are operated by electrically submersible pumps. In the Benfleet and Rayleigh Districts approximately 80% of the supply is derived from river sources, and is pumped from the Company's main works at Langford, near Maldon. The balance of supply is obtained from deep wells, in which are installed electrically operated submersible pumps, sunk in various parts of the Company's area of supply.

To ensure purity, the Waterworks Company's Resident Chemist makes daily tests of the treated water going into the supply from river sources and fortnightly analyses of the water from the local deep wells. In addition, half-yearly samples are examined by the Counties Public Health Laboratories. The results obtained show waters of

normal chemical character and good bacteriological quality. The water is pure and wholesome and suitable for public supply purposes. During 1952, the supply was satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity. No lead contamination of the water supplies was encountered during the year.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District, 98.8% of all the dwelling-houses are supplied with main water. The supply is direct to the houses in all but seven properties which are served by standpipes. The remaining 1.2% of dwelling-houses rely on supplies from rain water tanks or shallow wells. During the year, 4,500 yards of water main were laid by the Southend Waterworks Company, toward the cost of which the Urban District Council contributed £3,662. This extension, which was carried out in the New Thundersley area, will result in a great improvement in the sanitary circumstances there. All the dwellings in the area had not been connected to the main by the end of the year, but the Council, by carrying out the work on behalf of the owners and accepting repayment of the costs by instalments, is being as helpful as possible. Notices under the provisions of the Water Act, 1945 were served upon the owners of three properties requiring connections to the water main. The drier months of the year are generally difficult for families living in properties which are not supplied with main water, but on no occasion in 1952 was it necessary for drinking water to be delivered by the Local Authority.

At **Canvey Island** 93.5% of all dwelling-houses are provided with a main water supply. During 1952, 108 properties were connected to the water main, thus making a total of 3,827 properties supplied directly by the Southend Waterworks Company. A further 290 properties are supplied with main water by means of stand-pipes. It is estimated that the population enjoying this amenity is close on 11,000. Also, during 1952, 1,933 yards of new mains were laid. Of this, 1,003 was to Council and Private Housing Sites, 799 yards provided by Non-returnable contributions made by the Council, and 131 yards where non-returnable contributions were made by private individuals. Some trouble was experienced in connection with brown water from domestic hot water systems. Investigations pointed to rusting of back boilers. Samples were taken and it appears that there is no public health aspect to this trouble.

Rayleigh has for long enjoyed the benefit of a main water supply and it is recorded that on the 31st December, 1952 there were 98.38% of all dwelling-houses provided with a supply by the Southend Waterworks Company. Of this figure, 0.66 per cent of properties were supplied by means of stand-pipes. Fifty new houses and three existing houses were connected to the main supply during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The **Benfleet** Urban District is divided roughly into eastern and western areas for the purpose of sewage disposal. The eastern area is further divided into north-eastern, draining by gravity to the Rayleigh Urban District; eastern, by gravity to the Rochford Rural District; and south-eastern, by gravity to the County Borough of Southend-on-

Sea. The western portion of the District is also sub-divided into north-western, which is dealt with by the Pumping Station in Rushbottom Lane, Great Tarpots, and the south-western, which is dealt with by the Pumping Station in South Benfleet. This latter, also deals with sewerage which is pumped from the north-western area. The pumps are driven by electric motors and are automatic in action. The frequency of pumping depends upon the flow to the Pumping Stations.

Sewage is pumped from the South Benfleet Pumping Station to the Disposal Works in the extreme south-west corner of the District, where it undergoes bacteriological treatment in the following order—

One balancing tank to equalise the quality of the sewage received.

Two continuous flow settlement tanks.

Two percolating filters.

One storm overflow tank to deal with over six times Dry Weather Flow.

The resulting sewage is dealt with on sludge drying beds. The effluent after treatment flows into the Benfleet Creek. Samples are taken from time to time by the Port of London Health Authority to ensure that the requisite standard of purity is maintained.

It is estimated that 92% of all the properties in the Benfleet District are connected to the main drainage system, although 135 dwellings are still served by cesspools and a further 370 houses and bungalows are provided with earth closets. These are largely confined to the New Thundersley area.

During the year 17 existing premises were connected to the main sewer and four to cesspools, whilst extensions or improvements were carried out to the drainage of twelve existing buildings. Advantage was also taken of powers contained in the Public Health Act to construct a drainage system on behalf of one property owner, the cost to the Council being repaid by instalments.

At **Canvey Island** sewage disposal is by means of a gravity system with pumping stations at strategic points to raise sewage and produce the necessary head. On reaching the main pumping station at Southwick Farm, the sewage is pumped direct into the Thames by means of an 18 inch cast iron pumping main and 24 inch outfall on the river bed. The outfall pipe which is supported by timber piles, is marked by a lighted buoy hired from Trinity House. This pumping main joins the outfall pipe at the sea wall where a valve prevents any back-flow of river water. In design, provision was made for the addition of a second 18 inch pumping main from Southwick Farm to link up with the outfall pipe at the sea wall. The pumps at the main station and intermediate stations are centrifugal pumps electrically operated, two pumps being installed in each station and provision made for a third to be installed at a later date.

The main trunk sewers running westward from The Point to Southwick Pumping Station and eastward from The Village to the same station have various sizes increasing from 9 inch to 24 inch and

18 inch respectively at the main Pumping Station. The subsidiary main sewers are 9 inch or 12 inch and in the roads in the various areas 6 inch or 9 inch, all these being constructed in salt glazed pipes except a small section in the Rainbow Road area where iron pipes were used due to the sewers being in running sand.

The pumping stations are situated (1) at the junction of High Street and Point Road which takes the area from The Point to Seaview Road, and (2) the High Street, opposite May Avenue, which takes the whole of Leigh Beck area from Seaview Road to May Avenue on the south side and Rainbow Road, Mornington Road and Wittem Road area in the north. The third station is at Furtherwick Road and takes in the Maisonwyck Estate, Labworth Estate and the area south of these Estates and sewage from this area links with the main flow at the junction of Furtherwick and Long Roads.

During 1952 sewers have been extended in Waalwyck Drive and Weel Road involving a total length of 2,000 feet. In addition, 3,540 feet of new sewers have been provided for new Council Houses and a further 1,760 feet of sewers have been constructed by private action. During the year plans were formulated for extending the sewers to serve an estate known as The Dutch Village. This work, when completed, will provide main drainage for 48 properties. New sewer connections during 1952 totalled 168, and of this number 66 concerned new Council Houses.

The **Rayleigh** Urban District is served by two Sewage Disposal Works, one situated to the north of Connaught Road which drains the areas east of the High Street, and the other at Watery Lane which drains the area west of the High Street. Both these areas drain by gravitation to the respective Disposal Works with the exception of a small area in the vicinity of Hullbridge Road which drains by gravitation to the Pumping Station in Watery Lane, from which it is pumped by means of an electrically operated pump and pumping main to the Western Sewage Disposal Works.

A small part of the District in the vicinity of Rayleigh Avenue and Eastwood Rise drains into the sewers of the Southend Corporation, and sewage from a small area of the Benfleet Urban District on the south side of the Arterial Road drains into the Rayleigh Sewers and is conveyed to the Eastern Sewage Disposal Works for treatment.

The Eastern Sewage Disposal Works consists of two detritus chambers, two vertical flow sedimentation tanks, two storm water tanks, two circular percolating filters, one humus tank and twelve sludge beds, together with an engine house, in which is housed a Diesel Engine and Pump for pumping sludge from the various tanks to the sludge beds.

The Western Sewage Disposal Works consists of two detritus chambers, two vertical flow sedimentation tanks, two storm water tanks, two circular percolating filters, one humus tank and six sludge beds together with an engine house in which is housed a Petrol Engine and Pump for pumping sludge from the various tanks to the sludge beds.

It is estimated that the main sewers serve 87% of the properties in the Rayleigh Urban District and during 1952 fifty new houses and fifteen existing houses were connected to the main drainage system. Work was in progress during the year in the sewerage of an estate where the absence of sewers has for many years given rise to nuisances. On 25 occasions it was found necessary to deal with nuisances associated with drainage systems.

About 311 houses and bungalows in the District are provided with cesspools and a further 197 with earth closets.

Public Cleansing.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District house refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on the Benfleet Marshes. In this system, refuse is tipped in orderly layers and covered with suitable innocuous material. At the completion of the tipping the land will have been raised to such a level that it can be used for recreation purposes.

During the year refuse was collected weekly from all accessible parts of the District and the service functioned satisfactorily. Efforts to salvage all materials of value continued, and £2,482 was received from the sale of such materials.

At **Canvey Island** there is a collection of domestic refuse once every fortnight and in addition, trade refuse is collected as required.

Disposal is by means of controlled tipping. In the past, during winter months, this has been carried out in an unsightly depression at the foot of the sea wall. This has greatly improved a section of the area near the seafront from Labworth to Thorney Bay. In past years this long depression, in which deposits of paper and rubbish collected, was most unpleasant and unsightly. Now the grass has grown on the earth covering of the refuse and the amenity value of the land has been much enhanced. In the summer period refuse is deposited at a private Disposal Dump which receives industrial waste.

The Rayleigh Urban District Council undertakes a regular house-to-house collection of refuse and salvage throughout the District, the collection being at weekly intervals on made up roads and at fortnightly intervals elsewhere. Collection is made by two side loading vehicles, with respective capacities of 13 and 7 cubic yards, for the refuse, and two trailers for the salvage. Disposal is by the controlled method of tipping.

Night soil was collected at weekly intervals from 91 premises during the year.

The sale of salvaged material produced an income of £1,381 representing a decrease of £1,211 compared with the previous year. The total weight of salvage collected amounted to 150 tons, representing a decrease of 5 tons on the 1951 collection. Of this, 143 tons were of paper, 6 tons of rags and one ton of miscellaneous scrap.

Factories Act, 1937.

In the area covered by the **Benfleet** Urban District there is a total of 69 factories on the register of the Local Authority, and 64 of these premises employ mechanical power. Inspections were made on 84 occasions during the year and 10 defects found. By the end of the year, 8 of these defects had been remedied by the occupiers. No legal proceedings were taken. Also, 16 workplaces were inspected and one defect found, which was remedied.

At **Canvey Island** there are 39 factories and all but two employ mechanical power. 51 inspections were made.

A large petroleum storage installation is at present being erected with a capacity of 62,140 tons or 17,816,000 gallons. This tremendous enterprise is absorbing a large volume of labour.

There are 45 premises in the **Rayleigh** Urban District which are registered as factories under the Act. Forty of these premises employ mechanical power. During the year 39 inspections were made and the four defects found were remedied.

Moveable Dwellings.

Caravans—The Benfleet Urban District Council has established a permanent Caravan Site at Hart Road, Thundersley. Main drainage and water supply have been provided together with suitable hard roads and paths. No Public Health problems arose during the year. All the caravans on the site are genuinely mobile trailer caravans of good appearance. Many of them are providing separate homes for small families who would otherwise be without separate accommodation.

Canvey Island, being a holiday centre, has an obvious need for permanent sites for trailer caravans and the like, and in this matter provision has been made for three privately run camping sites where there is a total accommodation for 1,665 moveable dwellings.

Houseboats—For many years the Benfleet Urban District Council has been concerned with the dilapidated condition of some of the houseboats in Benfleet and Church Creeks, and with the pollution of the river water by the discharge of waste matters. Powers to control houseboats have now been given by the Essex County Council Act, 1952. As from April 1953 no houseboat may be moored without the consent of the Council. Such consents may be conditional.

Similar concern has been felt by the Canvey Island Urban District Council regarding the existence of houseboats in Island waters. The matter has received careful consideration from time to time, and with the powers included in the new Essex County Council Act, it is hoped that definite action will soon be possible to effectively deal with this question which has for long been an embarrassment to the Local Authority. Over 40 houseboats will be involved by this new legislation. Whilst encroaching into the activity of 1953, it might be stated here that following the Flood Disaster of February, 1953 the Essex Rivers Board have, as a remedial and anti-flood measure, dammed two creeks

within the Island area. This action has sealed 32 houseboats from the sea.

There are only six houseboats in the Rayleigh Urban District, all of which are on the River Crouch. Only one is permanently occupied.

Smoke Abatement.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District eleven smoke observations were made during the year, and advice was given in connection with a serious nuisance arising from the emission of grit from a factory chimney, and ultimately the nuisance was abated. 25 visits in connection with this grit nuisance were made.

Rayleigh.—A smoke nuisance from the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse which had occurred from time to time over a period of years, was finally overcome during the year by the building of a taller stack.

Rats and Mice.

In **Benfleet** 317 visits were made during the year in connection with inspections for, or treatment of, rats and mice.

Vermin.

In **Benfleet** two dwellings were disinfested after complaints of the presence of fleas and at **Rayleigh**, one case of verminous premises or persons was dealt with during the year.

Storage of Petroleum.

Routine inspections were carried out in the Benfleet Urban District during the year and 41 licences were issued.

Similar action was taken on Canvey Island involving 16 inspections with ten licences being issued.

In the Rayleigh area 21 licences were issued during 1952.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

This Act came into force on the 1st April, 1952 and under its provisions the Benfleet Council issued four licences during the remainder of the year in respect of the keeping of tortoises, chickens up to the age of one month, and birds. Seven visits were made to pet shops during the year and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

The Rayleigh and Canvey Island Councils only issued one licence each for the keeping for sale of pets under the provisions of the Act.

Public Conveniences.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District there are two Public Conveniences which are owned and maintained by the Local Authority. One is situate at Rushbottom Lane, Great Tarpots and the other at Rectory

Road, Hadleigh. This latter also provides a useful bus shelter and it was officially opened in September 1952. This Convenience was largely made possible by the gift of a property to the Council some few years ago. A third Public Convenience at School Lane, South Benfleet was under construction during the year. In respect of privately owned Public Conveniences there were seven inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year and on each occasion they were found to be in a clean and satisfactory condition.

At **Canvey Island** there are five Public Conveniences which are owned and maintained by the Local Authority. One is in the Long Road near Furtherwick Corner, one in the High Street, one in Seaview Road, and two on the sea front—one at Labworth and one at Thorney Bay.

The **Rayleigh** Urban District Council provides a modern Public Convenience in the centre of the town.

Markets.

The only market in the three Districts is situate in Rayleigh and is privately owned. Business is held every Wednesday morning and the goods sold include foodstuffs, livestock (chiefly poultry and rabbits) and general items, including a second-hand furniture auction sale.

Infectious Diseases.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District the Sanitary Inspectors made 75 visits to premises following the notification of infectious diseases. Also, 95 visits were made to the contacts of such diseases. Disinfection was carried out at 14 dwellings.

On **Canvey Island** the Sanitary Inspectors made 136 visits in connection with the incidence of infectious diseases and the contacts thereof, and the disinfection of premises was carried out where necessary.

The Sanitary Inspector for the **Rayleigh** Urban District made 72 visits during the year for the purpose of investigating the circumstances associated with the occurrence of infectious diseases in the District and of contacts living locally of cases occurring in other areas. Disinfection was carried out at 15 of the premises so affected.

General.

The Sanitary Inspector's Department of the **Benfleet** Urban District Council made a total of 3,158 visits during the year. These can be classified as follows—

General sanitation	..	..	..	964
Meat and Food Inspections	..	..	..	1,134
Housing	..	..	..	648
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	170
Others	..	..	..	242
Total	..	..	..	3,158

117 Informal Notices and 38 Statutory Notices were served. There were 38 Notices outstanding at the commencement of the year. During the year 112 Notices were complied with, leaving 43 not complied with at 31st December, 1952. Legal proceedings to enforce compliance with Notices were taken on three occasions and were successful. A total of 147 complaints were received during the year, 30 of which related to matters which were not within the scope of the Public Health Department.

The following is a summary of the visits made by the Sanitary Inspectors to the **Canvey Island** Council during 1952—

General Sanitation	..	..	..	1,360
Housing Repairs	..	..	..	386
New drainage works	..	..	..	900
Housing Inspections	..	..	..	83
Food Inspections	..	..	..	42
Factory Inspections	..	..	..	51
Water Supplies	..	..	..	143

The number of complaints received during the year was 300 and included 137 complaints regarding caterpillar infestations—a nuisance which is not a true Public Health problem. During the year 69 Informal Notices were served, of which 54 were complied with by the 31st December, 1952. Also, an additional 11 Notices served in previous years were complied with during 1952. One Statutory Notice was served and the requirements were carried out.

In the **Rayleigh** Urban District the Sanitary Inspector's Department received 171 complaints during 1952 and in connection with these and general routine work, 1,515 visits and inspections were made. Such visits were associated with the detection and abatement of nuisances, the repair and improvement of dwelling houses, the abatement of overcrowding, the rehousing of persons inadequately housed, the storage of petroleum, the keeping of animals, the eradication of rats and mice, the administration of the Factories Act, Shops Act, Milk and Dairies Regulations, the inspection of food and food premises, enquiries into cases of infectious disease and food poisoning, water supply surveys, moveable dwellings, refuse collection and the collection of salvage, etc.

During the year it was found necessary to serve 30 Informal Notices and in two instances these were succeeded by Statutory Notices. 31 Notices, including a number from the previous year, were complied with during 1952. At the end of the year, 13 Notices were yet to be complied with. Works were completed during the year in respect of 48 instances where the service of Notices was found not to be necessary. The following is a summary of all the completed works referred to—

Houses repaired	..	..	..	31
Houses connected to the main sewer				15
Drainage systems improved	..	..		1
Houses connected to water mains	..			3
Houses demolished	..	..	..	2
Abatement of nuisances other than those included in the above			..	27

SECTION " D "

HOUSING

Benfleet U.D.

During the year 75 complaints regarding housing defects were received and 75 Notices were served. At the 31st December, 1952, 37 Notices were outstanding.

There were 526 applications for Council Houses on the waiting list at the end of the year, including 81 applicants for Old People's Bungalows. During the year 56 Council Houses and two Old People's Bungalows were completed. A further 44 dwellings were erected by private builders.

23 dwellings were still under requisition at the end of the year.

During 1952, 59 licences were issued in respect of repairs or extensions to dwelling houses, the value of such licences being £19,969. Also, three licences were issued in respect of conversions or adaptations which involved a further combined value of £2,200. Three additional units of accommodation were provided by these conversions and adaptations.

One Demolition Order was made during the year in respect of a dilapidated timber structure in the New Thundersley area.

Proceedings under the provisions of Section 268 of the Public Health Act, 1936 were taken in respect of a shed used for sleeping purposes. Fines totalling more than £30 were ultimately imposed.

At the 31st December, 1952 there was a total of 110 caravans on the Council's Caravan Site at Hart Road, Thundersley.

Canvey Island U.D.

During the year 37 complaints were received concerning housing defects and action was taken in 34 cases to remedy defects and unsatisfactory conditions.

66 families were re-housed in new Council properties which were completed during the year. A further 24 new houses were privately built during 1952.

The Council's Housing List is substantially in the same situation as last year when there were over 600 families awaiting re-housing. However, very good progress is being made with the Council's housing programme.

Every effort is being made by the Council to release requisitioned property, but the size of the Housing List is severely limiting progress in this matter.

Rayleigh U.D.

Thirty-one houses were repaired or improved during the year, and two properties were demolished as the result of action taken by the Sanitary Inspector's Department.

The number of families on the Council's Housing List at the 31st December, 1952 was 483 as compared with 377 at the end of 1951.

Of the 50 new houses erected during the year, 20 were Council Houses, and 30 were privately built. Since May, 1945, a total of 362 houses have been erected within the Rayleigh Urban District. Of these, 202 were Council Houses, 147 privately built and 13 were war damage re-builds.

SECTION " E "

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District the following licences were issued during the year under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949—

	Pasteurised	Sterilised	Tuberculin Tested
Dealer's Licences ..	13	31	4
Supplementary Licences	5	6	5

The Benfleet District also had the following registrations at 31st December, 1952 under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949—

Number of persons carrying on the trade of distributor	31
Number of premises used as dairies	1

During the year 33 visits were made to dairies and milk shops in the Benfleet Urban District, and the following samples were taken—Pasteurised Milk (8), Sterilised Milk (7), Tuberculin Tested Milk (6), and Raw Milk (2). All 23 samples proved to be satisfactory upon examination.

In the **Canvey Island** Urban District the following licences were issued during the year under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949—

	Pasteurised	Sterilised	Tuberculin Tested
Dealer's Licences ..	13	25	1
Supplementary Licences	2	3	2

In the **Rayleigh** Urban District the following licences were issued during the year under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949—

	Pasteurised	Sterilised	Tuberculin Tested
Dealer's Licences ..	2	8	1
Supplementary Licences	1	1	1

During the year 29 samples of milk were taken in the Rayleigh area. These consisted of nine Tuberculin Tested, eight Pasteurised, seven Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised, one Sterilised and four Ungraded. All were reported satisfactory. The 15 samples of Pasteurised milk were also subjected to a Phosphatase Test, and all were reported as having been satisfactorily heat treated.

Meat Inspection.

The Sanitary Inspectors of the **Benfleet** Urban District Council paid 483 visits to the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse at Cross Farm, Hadleigh during the course of the year, and the carcasses and organs of 12,322 food animals were examined, as set out below—

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ..	2,395 ..	1,230 ..	1,925 ..	5,363 ..	1,409
Number inspected	2,395 ..	1,230 ..	1,925 ..	5,363 ..	1,409

All diseases except

Tuberculosis :

Whole carcass condemned ..	3 ..	7 ..	23 ..	8 ..	22
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	515 ..	377 ..	5 ..	81 ..	62
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	21.7 ..	31.3 ..	1.5 ..	1.7 ..	5.96

Tuberculosis only :

Whole carcasses condemned ..	10 ..	19 ..	3 ..	Nil ..	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	247 ..	303 ..	Nil ..	Nil ..	54
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	10.73 ..	26.19 ..	0.16 ..	Nil ..	4.1

During the year 72 carcasses of beef (2.0%) were found to be affected with *Cysticercus Bovis*. In one carcass the condition was generalised.

All slaughtering took place at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, Cross Farm, Benfleet Road, Hadleigh.

There are no slaughterhouses on **Canvey Island** but routine inspections were maintained during the year among the nine Butchers' Shops in the area. These are maintained in a cleanly condition.

Criticism of the method of handling and the condition of the vehicles in use in transporting home killed meat from slaughterhouses to retail Butcher's Shops has been heard in the area. There is room for improvement in this matter.

In the Rayleigh Urban District it is estimated that the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse situate at the premises of Messrs. Websters, Family Butchers, High Street, Rayleigh, serves a population of approximately 120,000, chiefly from the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea. Consequently, Inspectors from that Authority share the work of Meat Inspection with the Rayleigh Council's Sanitary Inspector.

During the year 11,960 animals were examined and the details are as follows—

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ..	2,570 ..	831 ..	897 ..	3,633 ..	4,029 ..
Number inspected	2,570 ..	831 ..	897 ..	3,633 ..	4,029 ..

*All diseases except
Tuberculosis :*

Whole carcasses condemned ..	11 ..	11 ..	— ..	24 ..	17 ..
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	702 ..	274 ..	2 ..	68 ..	115 ..
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	27.74 ..	34.29 ..	.22 ..	2.53 ..	3.28 ..

Tuberculosis only :

Whole carcasses condemned ..	14 ..	19 ..	3 ..	— ..	5 ..
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	247 ..	197 ..	— ..	— ..	89 ..
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	10.16 ..	25.99 ..	.33 ..	— ..	2.33 ..

Food Inspection

In the **Benfleet** Urban District 427 visits were made to various food premises during the year in connection with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Byelaws made under Section 15 of that Act. The following foods were surrendered by food traders as being unfit for human consumption—

Eggs, 83 doz.; milk, 142 tins; canned meat, 146 tins; canned fish, 20 tins; vegetable foods, 91 tins; fruit and preserves, 728 tins and jars; soup, 10 tins; cooked ham, 5 lbs. and 57

tins ; turkeys, 3 ; chocolate, 14 bars ; sponge mixture, 4 pkts.; meat, 1782 lbs., sausages, 6 lbs., other foods, 10 tins.

In connection with the Clean Food Campaign, routine visits are carried out at all food premises thrice yearly. The visits are not made at regular intervals, nor are the occupiers advised as to the date of visits. Reliance is placed upon personal contact to advise and encourage food handlers in matters of food hygiene. At present, unsuitable premises and the lack of working area in kitchens are the greatest obstacles to be overcome by the personnel of food preparing establishments.

Notices under the provisions of Section 89 of the Public Health Act, 1936 were served in relation to two cafes requiring the provision of sanitary accommodation. Proceedings in the local Court of Summary Jurisdiction were taken for non-compliance with one Notice and the decision of the Council was upheld, a small fine being imposed.

SCHOOL CANTEENS. The three School Canteens within the Benfleet Urban District were maintained in a very clean and satisfactory condition during the year.

SHELLFISH. There is only one permanent stall used for the sale of shellfish within the Urban District of Benfleet. One sample of cockles submitted to the Public Health Laboratory was described as satisfactory.

STREET TRADING. There is very little street trading carried on in the Urban District of Benfleet other than the house-to-house sale of greengrocery. Registration of food hawkers and their storage premises is required under the provisions of the Essex County Council Act, 1952. This provision, together with the Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 should result in an improvement in food handling in the open air.

MANUFACTURED MEAT PRODUCTS. There were twelve premises in the Benfleet Urban District which were registered at the end of the year under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for the manufacture of preserved foods, etc.

At **Canvey Island** 107 visits were made in connection with food premises. This important work is showing results in the improved conditions in food shops in general, and the public are helping by demanding improved conditions in the handling of foodstuffs.

The following is a list of unsound food which was surrendered to the Canvey Island Council as being unfit for human consumption :—

Canned meat, 68 tins ; canned fish, 11 tins ; canned milk, 18 tins ; canned fruit, 239 tins ; canned vegetables, 48 tins, fresh fish, 4 stones ; cheese, 6½ lbs.; home killed pork, 330 lbs.; home killed beef, 42 lbs.

In the **Rayleigh** Urban District 204 visits were made to food premises during the year by the Sanitary Inspector in connection with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The standard

of food shops, restaurants and cafes within the District is generally high and there is a general desire among proprietors to make their premises more wholesome and attractive.

The following foodstuffs weighing approximately 16 cwts. were voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers during the year and condemned as being unfit for human consumption :—

Canned meat, 10 cwts.; fresh meat, one cwt.; bacon, 13 lbs.; rabbits, 60 lbs.; miscellaneous canned goods, 3 cwts.

SCHOOL CANTEENS There are two canteens at schools in the Rayleigh area and neither are of an adequate size nor of suitable design, taking into consideration the number of meals prepared. Improvements have been held up by the restrictions placed upon building operations, but the whole of the canteen services are at present under review by the Education Authority.

Ice Cream.

At the end of 1952 there was a total of 83 premises in the **Benfleet** Urban District registered for the storage and sale of ice cream in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. All such premises received their supplies of ice cream in bulk from outside the District.

The Benfleet Council's Sanitary Inspectors submitted 26 samples of ice cream for bacteriological examination during the year, and the results obtained showed that 13 were placed in Grade I, eight in Grade II, four in Grade III and one in Grade IV. Results showing Grades I and II, are considered to be satisfactory, whilst those in Grades III and IV are unsatisfactory. Copies of the laboratory reports were sent in all cases to the Local Authorities in whose areas the ice cream was manufactured.

Canvey Island. Although ice cream is still a popular commodity, it would appear that the removal of ration restrictions on sweets has brought about a small reduction in demand, and the sale of "Iced Lollies"—a frozen sweetened and flavoured cordial—has increased. This is preferred by many children to ice cream.

There are 45 premises registered as vendors of ice cream at Canvey Island and ice cream is manufactured at two premises. The majority of ice cream consumed in the area is made by large firms with factories outside the area. During the year 25 samples were taken and submitted to the Southend Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The results obtained showed that 15 were placed in Grade I, five in Grade II, two in Grade III and three in Grade IV. Appropriate action was taken in respect of those samples falling in categories III and IV.

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the **Rayleigh** Urban District, but 25 premises are registered for the retail sale thereof. Ice cream is also sold in three cafes and a cinema, but these are exempt from registration.

During the year 36 samples of ice cream were taken from retailers' premises for bacteriological examination, and the analyst reported as follows :—

19 samples	Grade I	} Satisfactory.
5 samples	Grade II	
10 samples	Grade III	} Unsatisfactory.
2 samples	Grade IV	

Suitable action was taken in respect of the unsatisfactory samples.

SECTION " F "

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There was a minimal incidence of Infectious Disease in these Districts during 1952, and precise details can be found in the tables on pages 40-42.

It is gratifying to mention that there was a complete absence of Diphtheria, Smallpox, Meningitis and Typhoid Fever throughout the three Districts. The incidence of Scarlet Fever was unusually high, although the disease was in most cases mild and out of a total of 110 cases in the three areas, only 35 were admitted to hospital, and usually that was only necessary because of difficulties of isolation at home and the presence of other young children in the house.

Measles kept true to pattern as far as incidence was concerned, the year being a " low " one in the biennial epidemicity of this disease. Rayleigh had the lowest number of cases, e.g. 7 only. Whooping Cough notifications were only two thirds of the previous year's total for the three areas, with the most noticeable reduction in Benfleet (35 cases as against 77 last year). Canvey Island, however, showed a slight increase in its minimal incidence.

The six cases of Infectious Hepatitis (Jaundice) which were notified in Rayleigh during the year were the first to occur in that area since 1946. The incidence in the Benfleet Urban District dropped back to normal (six cases) following the unusual rise in the Hadleigh area during 1951.

Poliomyelitis continued to occur during the usual seasonal period, e.g. late summer and autumn. Of the seven confirmed cases occurring in the three areas, one unfortunately, proved fatal, and two others proved serious. In regard to the fatal case, the patient was a man aged 31 years from South Benfleet and the diagnosis was not established until after death, following a post-mortem examination. The onset of the disease was very rapid and the medical attendant did not see the man until after death. One of the serious cases occurred in Hadleigh and the child concerned suffered from Bulbar paralysis. At one time his life remained in the balance, but eventually recovered completely without any after effects or muscular paralysis. Three of the cases suffered from some measure of semi-permanent paralysis

and one is still undergoing treatment. In addition to these confirmed cases, at least six suspected cases occurred during the year.

The involvements of Poliomyelitis were considerable. The husband of the case at Canvey Island was engaged as a Railway Booking Clerk in one of the Districts. One case from Hadleigh involved many contacts among a religious youth organisation, and in connection with one of the Rayleigh cases, the child who sat next to her in school had been a contact of a case occurring in Southend. Among contacts associated with cases occurring outside the area, three adults were in contact with a lady doctor from Southend who sickened with Poliomyelitis, the father of one Southend case was engaged at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in Hadleigh, and the father of another Southend case was engaged as a teacher at a Canvey Island school. Furthermore, there were numerous other child and adult contacts of Poliomyelitis in the three Districts, and in all the circumstances associated with the foregoing aspects, very careful precautions had to be observed so as to prevent the spread of infection.

A conference dealing with Poliomyelitis was held at County Hall, Chelmsford on 28th February, 1952 when a representative body of Public Health Medical Officers was addressed by Dr. W. H. Bradley of the Epidemiological Section of the Ministry of Health. Revised measures were discussed for the launching of an intensive Poliomyelitis Survey during 1952. This entailed the submission to the Ministry of Health of a detailed analysis of movements, contacts and symptoms of each confirmed case reported. This Survey was put into operation later in the year as cases of Poliomyelitis occurred in these areas. Early in 1953, a full report was submitted to the Ministry of Health on the incidence of Poliomyelitis in these Districts during 1952.

In November, 1952 the s.s. "STRATHNAVER" docked at Tilbury when it was reported that four cases of Chickenpox had occurred on board during the voyage. Owing to certain circumstances it was considered that there was a possibility that the condition might prove to be Smallpox. Happily, subsequent laboratory investigations proved otherwise. As a precaution, all passengers disembarking were reported to the respective Medical Officers of Health for their home towns, and two such passengers proceeded to Hadleigh.

A patient in the Rochford General Hospital was found to be a Typhoid "Carrier" in February, 1952 and seven in-patients from these areas were notified to me as contacts. On discharge home they were kept under observation, but I am glad to say there were no developments.

In February, 1952 a resident from Great Tarpots undergoing general medical treatment in the Rochford General Hospital was found to be suffering from Sonné Dysentery and subsequently transferred to the Thurrock Isolation Hospital. Five patients from these areas were discharged home as contacts and were kept under routine observation. There were no developments.

Altogether there were 49 cases admitted to hospital during the year and these are summarised as follows :—

	Benfleet U.D.	Canvey Is. U.D.	Rayleigh U.D.
Suspected Diphtheria ..	†1	—	—
Measles	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	†3	†2	2
Scarlet Fever	8	9	17
Whooping Cough	3	—	—
Gastro-enteritis	—	—	1
Salmonella Enteriditis ..	—	1	—

† In each instance, one case was unconfirmed.

With regard to Non-notifiable infectious diseases the returns rendered by Head Teachers of local maintained schools indicated the following incidence :

	Chicken Pox	German Measles	Mumps
Benfleet Urban District ..	59	10	1
Canvey Island Urban District	18	—	—
Rayleigh Urban District ..	9	29	—

FOOD POISONING

Of the eleven cases of Food Poisoning notified in these Districts during 1952, eight were associated with an outbreak at the Rayleigh Secondary School in September when about 80 children were affected following the consumption of the mid-day meal. The outbreak was fully investigated and certain recommendations were made to the Essex Education Authority. All cases were mild and recovery was uneventful.

TUBERCULOSIS

The death rate for Tuberculosis in England and Wales during 1952 fell by 23.3 %, there being 10,585 deaths from Tuberculosis of all forms in 1952 as compared with 13,800 in 1951 and 21,953 in 1948—a fall of over 100 % in the four years. In Essex, deaths from Tuberculosis numbered 280 in 1952 as compared with 393 in 1951 and 615 in 1948. As far as these Districts are concerned, the total of only five deaths from Tuberculosis for the year was the lowest on record. In 1951 there were 14, and in 1948, 23. Notifications were also fewer in 1952, the total of new cases appearing on the Tuberculosis Registers numbered 48 as compared with 67 for 1951.

SUMMARY OF NEW CASES ADDED TO TUBERCULOSIS REGISTERS DURING 1952

				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
				Male	Female	Male	Female	
<i>Benfleet U. D.</i>								
Notifications	..			6	5	..	—	11
Inward Transfers	..			5	2	..	—	7
<i>Canvey Island U.D.</i>								
Notifications	..			4	1	..	1	7
Inward Transfers	..			5	4	..	—	9
<i>Rayleigh U.D.</i>								
Notifications	..			4	5	..	1	10
Inward Transfers	..			1	1	..	2	4

SUMMARY OF DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
				Male	Female	Male	Female	
<i>Benfleet U.D.</i>								
1948	..	..	..	8	7	..	1	16
1949	..	..	..	8	3	..	—	11
1950	..	..	..	1	4	..	—	5
1951	..	..	..	7	1	..	—	8
1952	..	..	..	2	—	..	—	2
<i>Canvey Island U.D.</i>								
1948	..	..	..	5	1	..	1	8
1949	..	..	..	—	3	..	1	4
1950	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	3
1951	..	..	..	1	3	..	—	4
1952	..	..	..	1	1	..	—	2
<i>Rayleigh U.D.</i>								
1948	..	..	..	—	2	..	—	2
1949	..	..	..	3	1	..	1	5
1950	..	..	..	3	2	..	—	5
1951	..	..	..	2	—	..	—	2
1952	..	..	..	—	1	..	—	1

CANCER

The following revised summary shows the number of deaths from Cancer in England and Wales over the last five years with fatalities from Lung Cancer shown separately :

				Lungs & Bronchus		All Other Sites		Totals
				M	F	M	F	
1948	..	M	8,620	..	M	31,510	..	M 40,130
	..	F	1,867	..	F	37,540	..	F 39,407
1949	..	M	9,350	..	M	31,496	..	M 40,846
	..	F	1,942	..	F	37,944	..	F 39,886
1950	..	M	10,254	..	M	32,322	..	M 42,576
	..	F	1,987	..	F	38,875	..	F 40,862
1951	..	M	11,166	..	M	32,482	..	M 43,648
	..	F	2,081	..	F	38,424	..	F 40,505
1952	..	M	11,981	..	M	32,347	..	M 44,328
	..	F	2,237	..	F	39,035	..	F 41,272

Although it is noticeable that the total number of Cancer deaths each year continues to rise, particularly male deaths from Lung Cancer, I am pleased to say that there was a fall in the number of people dying from Cancer in these Districts during 1952, there being a total of 80 deaths as compared with 90 during 1951. These are classified as follows:

	Benfleet	Canvey Is.	Rayleigh
Stomach	2	6	1
Lungs and Bronchus	4	5	2
Breast	4	2	1
Uterus	3	—	1
All Other Sites ..	24	14	11

The following deaths from Cancer, included in the above figures, occurred in these Districts during the year in persons under 50 years of age—

Benfleet	Canvey Island	Rayleigh
Pouch of Douglas & Cervix (Female 40 yrs.)	Breast (Female 48 yrs.)	Liver & Colon (Female 44 yrs.)
	Abdomen & Breast (Female 43 yrs.)	
	Liver & Lung (Male 49 yrs.)	

RAINFALL

Details of the rainfall during the year have been provided by the Southend Waterworks Company in respect of their Thundersley Reservoir and by the Engineer and Surveyor of the Canvey Island Urban District Council in respect of that area.

The Thundersley record shows that a total of 25.34 inches of rain fell during the year, the wettest months being November with 4.42 inches and September with 3.92 inches. The driest months were July with 0.77 inches, April with 0.86 inches and February with 0.90 inches.

At Canvey Island, the wettest months were November with 4.73 inches and September with 3.66 inches. The driest were May with 0.41 inches and July with 0.49 inches. April and February were also remarkably dry months. A total of 23.05 inches of rain fell during the year on a total of 167 days.

ACCIDENTS

The Registrar General records that during 1952 there was a total of 14,162 deaths from all kinds of accidents in England and Wales. The total included deaths from accidental poisoning, accidents caused

by fire and hot substances and road accidents. This figure was 812 fewer than that for the previous year, and it is interesting to observe that practically every category showed a decrease in the number of deaths, except that for "Other transport accidents," which was up by 120. Very possibly the large death roll of the Harrow and Wealdstone Rail Disaster accounted for this particular increase.

The report of the Chief Constable of Essex on road accidents throughout the Administrative County during 1952 shows that there was a total of 4,840 people either killed or injured in Essex during the year. This figure was very little different to the 4,820 for 1951. However, the number killed on roads in Essex fell from 123 in 1951 to 80 in 1952—a very appreciable improvement. Road deaths in Essex during 1952 were more than twice as heavy in non-built-up areas as in built-up areas (55 as against 25) thus indicating that speed was the chief factor in road fatalities.

In the Country generally, the highest number of road deaths was among pedestrians (43.8%). Motor Cyclists with their pillion and sidecar passengers came next (24.2%) and pedal cyclists third (15.8%). The highest casualty rate in Essex was among pedal cyclists (27.4%).

During 1952 the road accident figures for these Districts showed a little improvement. In Benfleet, the total number of persons either killed or injured was 130 as against 123 in 1951, but deaths fell from three to one. The position at Canvey Island remained unchanged, whereas at Rayleigh, although the deaths rose from one to two, the total number of people either killed or injured fell from 102 to 80. As will be seen from the tables, the accident rate in Canvey Island and Rayleigh showed a good improvement for 1952, although the position was not so favourable for Benfleet.

SUMMARY OF PERSONS KILLED OR INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS DURING 1952

Group of Road User	Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured
<i>Benfleet U.D.</i>			
Pedestrians under 15 years ..	—	3	2
Pedestrians 15 years and over	—	5	16
Drivers	—	3	11
Motor Cyclists	1	13	13
Pillion Passengers	—	5	6
Pedal Cyclists under 15 years	—	2	5
Pedal Cyclists 15 years and over	—	6	15
Other persons under 15 years	—	—	4
Other persons 15 years and over	—	2	18
Totals	1	39	90

Group of Road User	Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured
<i>Canvey Island U.D.</i>			
Pedestrians under 15 years ..	—	1	3
Pedestrians 15 years and over ..	—	1	5
Drivers	—	—	2
Motor Cyclists	—	3	9
Pillion Passengers	—	—	3
Pedal Cyclists under 15 years	—	—	6
Pedal Cyclists 15 years and over	—	4	7
Other persons under 15 years ..	—	—	—
Other persons 15 years and over	1	1	3
Totals	1	10	38

<i>Rayleigh U.D.</i>			
Pedestrians under 15 years ..	—	—	5
Pedestrians 15 years and over	2	4	4
Drivers	—	1	4
Motor Cyclists	—	8	8
Pillion Passengers	—	3	2
Pedal Cyclists under 15 years	—	1	8
Pedal Cyclists 15 years and over	—	8	13
Other persons under 15 years	—	—	—
Other persons 15 years and over	—	2	7
Totals	2	27	51

Totals for three Districts, 1952	4	76	179
Totals for three Districts, 1951	5	82	187
Totals for three Districts, 1950	4	83	147

NUMBER OF ROAD ACCIDENTS OCCURRING DURING 1952

Class of Accident	Benfleet	Canvey Is.	Rayleigh
Fatal	1	1	2
Injury	102	41	69
Non-Injury	169	59	85
Totals	272	101	156

Totals for 1951	243	117	188
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COMPARATIVE TABLE OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious Disease	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
<i>Benfleet U.D.</i>					
Acute Pneumonia ..	7 ..	12 ..	7 ..	4 ..	5
Diphtheria ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
Erysipelas ..	6 ..	5 ..	6 ..	4 ..	5
Infectious Hepatitis ..	3 ..	3 ..	2 ..	30 ..	6
Measles ..	38 ..	266 ..	22 ..	578 ..	67
Meningococcal Infection	— ..	— ..	1 ..	— ..	—
Poliomyelitis ..	— ..	1 ..	1 ..	1 ..	3
Scarlet Fever ..	18 ..	52 ..	15 ..	7 ..	53
Whooping Cough ..	69 ..	49 ..	90 ..	77 ..	35
<i>Canvey Island U.D.</i>					
Acute Pneumonia ..	3 ..	2 ..	1 ..	1 ..	—
Diphtheria ..	1 ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
Erysipelas ..	— ..	1 ..	— ..	— ..	—
Infectious Hepatitis ..	2 ..	7 ..	6 ..	— ..	—
Measles ..	137 ..	61 ..	18 ..	97 ..	32
Meningococcal Infection	1 ..	— ..	1 ..	— ..	—
Poliomyelitis ..	— ..	2 ..	3 ..	1 ..	1
Scarlet Fever ..	— ..	1 ..	1 ..	2 ..	36
Whooping Cough ..	1 ..	2 ..	17 ..	13 ..	19
<i>Rayleigh U.D.</i>					
Acute Pneumonia ..	3 ..	3 ..	15 ..	7 ..	—
Diphtheria ..	1 ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
Erysipelas ..	6 ..	6 ..	11 ..	5 ..	9
Infectious Hepatitis ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	6
Measles ..	68 ..	60 ..	14 ..	251 ..	7
Meningococcal Infection	— ..	— ..	— ..	1 ..	—
Poliomyelitis ..	1 ..	2 ..	— ..	— ..	2
Scarlet Fever ..	11 ..	5 ..	10 ..	1 ..	21
Whooping Cough ..	25 ..	7 ..	56 ..	35 ..	25

CERTAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN ENGLAND AND WALES DURING LAST FIVE YEARS

Disease or Cause	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Cancer (Lung & Bronchus)	10,487	11,292	12,241	13,247	14,218
† Cancer (all other Sites)	69,050	69,440	71,197	70,906	71,382
Diphtheria ..	156	85	49	34	32
Dysentery (all forms)	62	40	66	74	36
Infectious Encephalitis	*	*	115	118	105
Influenza ..	1,240	5,664	3,896	16,123	1,750
Measles ..	327	308	221	317	141
Meningococcal Infection	300	288	279	299	290
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3,638	3,892	4,230	4,510	4,117
Poliomyelitis ..	241	657	755	215	275
Streptococcal Infections	37	20	93	65	64
Tuberculosis (all forms)	21,983	19,833	15,968	13,800	10,585
Venereal Diseases ..	2,083	2,060	1,729	1,771	1,619
Whooping Cough ..	748	527	393	457	184

* Figures not available.

† Revised classification.

CLASSIFIED SUMMARY OF ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1952

BENFLEET URBAN DISTRICT

Notifiable Disease	Cases included in Weekly Returns																	Distribution				Sex		
	At ages																	Deaths	Hadleigh	S. Benfleet	Th'sley		M.	F.
	At all ages	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Admitted to Hospital										
Acute Pneumonia	..	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	4	3	2	(1)			
Diphtheria	..	(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1)	—	—	—	—	(1)	—	—	—	(1)	—	—	—			
Erysipelas	..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	3	1	1	2	3	—			
Food Poisoning	..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—			
Infectious Hepatitis	..	6	—	1	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	2	4	—			
Measles	..	67	4	6	7	6	7	35	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	50	12	29	38	—			
Poliomyelitis	..	5	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	3	—	2	4	1	—			
		(2)					(2)							(2)		(1)		(1)	(2)		—			
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—			
Scarlet Fever	..	53	—	—	1	7	8	32	3	1	—	—	—	9	—	28	8	17	32	21	—			
Whooping Cough	..	35	3	5	2	3	5	17	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	12	12	11	14	21	—			

N.B.—The figures in parenthesis indicate those cases where the diagnosis was corrected.

CLASSIFIED SUMMARY OF ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1952

CANVEY ISLAND URBAN DISTRICT

Notifiable Disease	Cases included in Weekly Returns														Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	Sex	
	At Ages																	
	At all ages	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over					
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Measles	32	—	2	2	7	6	13	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	15
Poliomyelitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1)	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
	(1)													(1)			(1)	
Scarlet Fever	36	—	—	3	4	5	22	2	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	17	19
Whooping Cough	19	1	2	1	2	2	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	3

N.B.—The figures in parenthesis indicate those cases where the diagnosis was corrected.

CLASSIFIED SUMMARY OF ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1952

RAYLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT

Notifiable Disease	Cases included in Weekly Returns														Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	M. F.		Sex
	At Ages																		
	At all ages	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over						
Diphtheria	
Erysipelas	1	..	..	3	5	..	..	..	3	6	
Food Poisoning	1	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	3	
Infective Hepatitis	1	..	2	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	
Measles	1	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	
Poliomyelitis	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	1	
Scarlet Fever	1	1	3	13	2	1	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	13	8	
Whooping Cough	3	6	6	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	14	

INDEX

	PAGE
Accidents	36-38
Ambulance Service	15, 16
Area	6
Births	8-10, 12, 13
Cancer (Malignant Neoplasms)	14, 15, 36
Caravans	22, 26
Chickenpox	34
Clinics	16, 17
Committees	4
Comparability Factor	12, 13
Condemned Food	28-31
Deaths	8-14
Diphtheria	2, 14, 32, 34, 39-42
Domestic Helps	16
Drainage and Sewerage	18-21
Dysentery	2, 33, 39
Education	6, 7
Erysipelas	39, 40-42
Factories	22
Food Inspection	29-31
Food Poisoning	3, 34, 40-42
German Measles	34
Health Visiting	16
Home Nursing	16
Hospitals	2, 17
Houseboats	22
Housing	2, 26, 27
Ice Cream	31
Infant Mortality	9, 10, 12
Infectious Diseases	2, 14, 24, 32-35, 39-42
Infectious Hepatitis.. .. .	32, 39, 40, 42
Influenza	14, 39
Inhabited Houses	6
Inspections and Visits	24, 25
Laboratory Service	15
Markets	24
Measles	2, 14, 32, 34, 39-42
Meat Inspection	28, 29
Meningococcal Infections	2, 14, 32, 39
Midwives	16
Milk	27
Moveable Dwellings	22
Mumps	34
Pet Animals	23
Petroleum Storage	23
Pneumonia	14, 39, 40
Poliomyelitis	3, 14, 32-34, 39-42
Population	6, 10
Public Cleansing	21
Puerperal Pyrexia	40

	PAGE
Rainfall	36
Rateable Value	6
Rats & Mice	23
Recreational Facilities	7
Road Accidents	37-39
Salvage	21
Scarlet Fever	2, 14, 32, 34, 39-42
School Canteens	30, 31
Schools	6, 7
Shellfish	30
Slaughterhouses	28, 29
Smallpox	2, 33
Smoke Abatement	23
Social Conditions	6-8
Staff	5
Stillbirths	8
Street Trading	30
Tuberculosis	2, 14, 17, 28, 29, 34, 35, 39
Typhoid Fever	33
Typhus Fever	2
Venereal Disease	17, 39
Vermin	23
Vital Statistics	8-13
Water Supply	17, 18
Whooping Cough	2, 14, 32, 34, 39-42
Youth Centres	7

