

[Report 1954] / Medical Officer of Health, Benfleet U.D.C., Canvey Island U.D.C., Rayleigh U.D.C.

Contributors

Benfleet (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1954

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/a4k7czku>

License and attribution

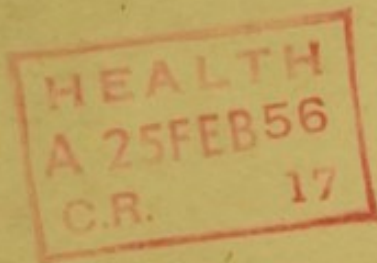
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

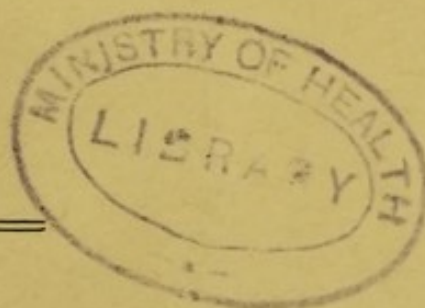


URBAN DISTRICTS

of

BENFLEET, CANVEY ISLAND

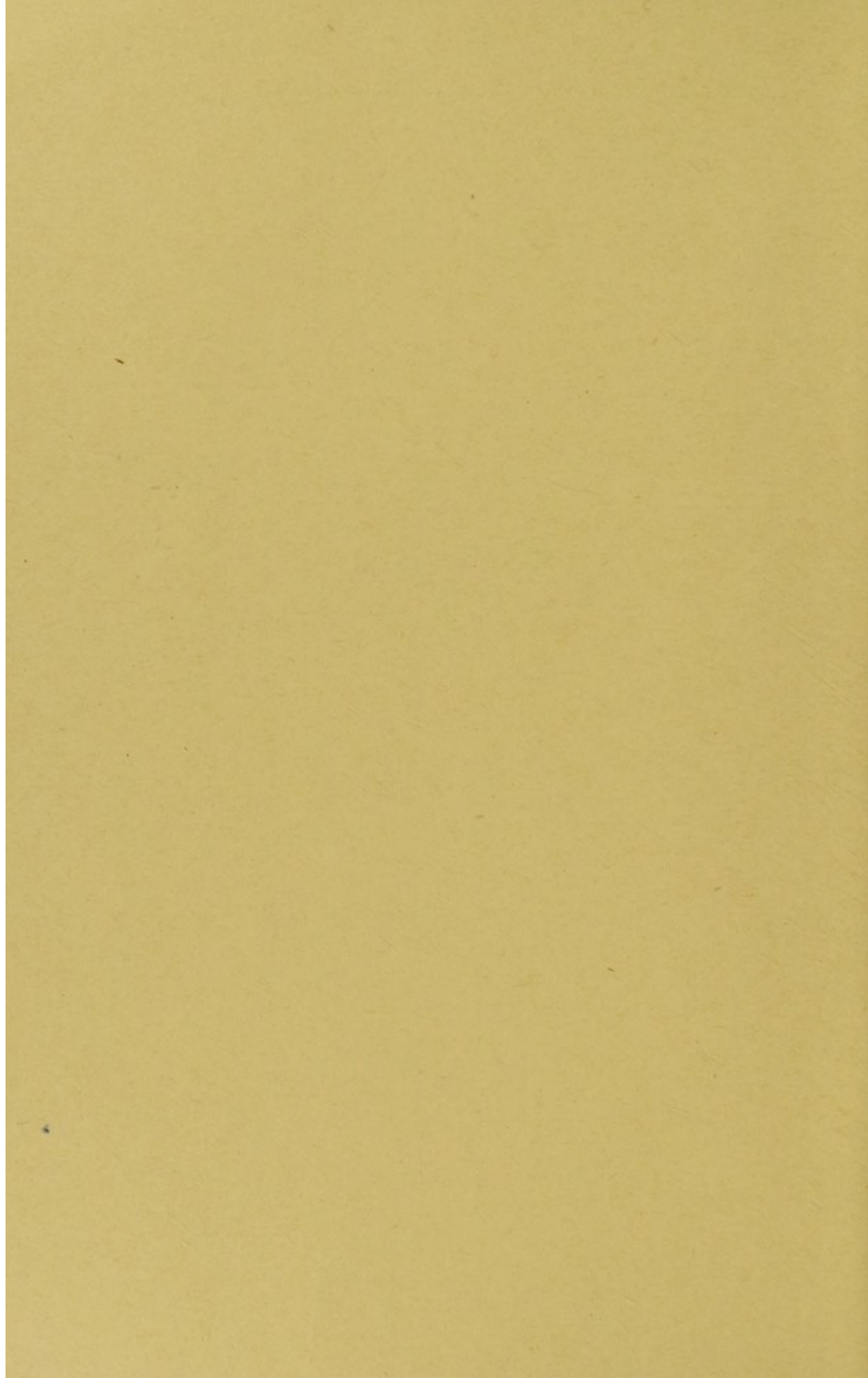
and RAYLEIGH



HEALTH REPORT

for the year

1954



Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1954

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 Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of each of your Urban Districts for the year ending 31st December, 1954, prepared in accordance with the requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 28/54 dated 15th December, 1954. This issue is my twenty-fifth Annual Report in respect of the Benfleet and Rayleigh Districts, whilst for the Canvey Island Urban District, it represents my twenty-seventh Report. Thus, for over a quarter of a century it has been my privilege to report annually on the public health of each of your Urban Districts, and I am pleased to say that for the year under review the general health of the area has been of a high standard and reflects, in no small measure, the benefits of public health administration and constant vigilance throughout the period.

The faithfulness and loyalty of all members of the Public Health staff, the assistance readily given by Chief Officers in each of the Councils, and above all, the sympathetic consideration of all Members to the many public health problems which arose during the year, is sincerely appreciated, and to all concerned, I offer my grateful thanks.

The co-operation of doctors in General Medical Practice in the three areas has been vital to the smooth running of the Department and has been much appreciated. Similarly I have been indebted to the Hospital and Laboratory medical and technical staff for their valuable assistance during the year, and to them all, I am most grateful.

In conclusion, I should like to express my grateful appreciation to my Locum, Dr. P. George C. Jones, for his very valuable assistance during the year.

Health matters are common ground and transcend all boundaries.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

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

December, 1955.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES

Benfleet Urban District —

Councillor H. R. Bridge (Chairman)
Councillor S. Corbett (Chairman of Council) J.P.
Councillor L. A. G. Cunnington (Vice-Chairman of Council)
Councillor J. E. Daniels
Councillor Mrs. L. F. A. Everett
Councillor G. H. FitzGerald
Councillor E. E. J. Jeanes
Councillor R. E. Lewis
Councillor F. J. Palmer
Councillor T. C. Rigden
Councillor I. J. Smith

Canvey Island Urban District —

Councillor H. C. Whitcomb (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs. D. G. Elkington, J.P. (Chairman of Council)
Councillor H. T. George (Vice-Chairman of Council)
Councillor S. J. Girling
Councillor Mrs. B. V. Littlewood
Councillor A. C. Mason, C.C.
Councillor E. G. Nightingale
Councillor G. E. Smerdon
Councillor Mrs. E. A. White

Rayleigh Urban District —

Councillor Mrs. M. B. D. Green (Chairman)
Councillor F. Alexander
Councillor Mrs. M. B. Blower
Councillor E. G. Collins, J.P. (Chairman of Council)
Councillor Mrs. F. M. Cottee, J.P.
Councillor M. Freund
Councillor A. W. Hardwick (Vice-Chairman of Council)
Councillor E. H. Lane
Councillor D. V. Wilson
Councillor E. Trippier

COMPOSITE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Representatives for Benfleet Urban District —

Councillors H. R. Bridge, J. E. Daniels, G. H. FitzGerald.

Representatives for Canvey Island Urban District —

Councillors Mrs. B. V. Littlewood, Mrs. E. A. White.

Representatives for Rayleigh Urban District —

Councillors Mrs. M. B. Blower, Mrs. F. M. Cottee, J.P., Mrs. M. B. D. Green.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

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

Locum to Medical Officer of Health P. George 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.S.H., 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.S.H., M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector, Canvey Island U.D.C.

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

E. H. Lloyd, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector, Rayleigh U.D.C.

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

Miss P. G. Solomons, Canvey Island U.D.C.

Miss G. Ward, Rayleigh U.D.C. (part-time).

LOCAL STATISTICS

	Benfleet	Canvey Is.	Rayleigh
Area (in acres)	6,360	*6,350	5,732
Inhabited Houses at 31st December, 1954 (according to Rate Book) . .	7,620	4,681	3,794
Population (1951 Census)	19,881	11,255	9,388
Population (Registrar General's esti- mate for Mid 1954)	20,270	11,990	10,050
Rateable Value	£134,625	£56,514	£72,367
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£533	£226	£284
Rateable Value per head of the esti- mated population	£6.65	£4.71	£7.2

* Includes Foreshore and Saltings.

BIRTH RATE

Benfleet U.D. 12.5 *Canvey Island U.D.* 16.7 *Rayleigh U.D.* 15.9

During the year there was a total of 613 live births in the three areas — 253 in Benfleet, 200 in Canvey Island and 160 in Rayleigh. This was an increase of 68 or 10.6% over the birth figures for 1953. Of the 1954 total, 302 were males (49.3%) and 311 females (50.7%). There were slightly more males than females in Benfleet and Canvey Island but Rayleigh had an excess of 22 females. Throughout England and Wales 51.4% of all live births were males.

With only three or four exceptions, Canvey Island has taken the lead in Birth Rate figures for the past 25 years. Rayleigh has come next and Benfleet a close third. In many ways, this difference cannot be explained, other than to say that Canvey is a migration area and its population is continually being reinforced with young married couples from the Greater London area who seek the more peaceful and healthier life on the estuary banks of Old Father Thames, despite the travelling involvements. Canvey's Birth Rate for 1954 was an improvement on the two previous years, and if the calculation of the Comparability Factor is applied, the rate is further increased to 19.14 with an additional 28 births.

In the Benfleet and Rayleigh areas the Birth Rate showed opposite extremes. Benfleet, the largest of the three areas had an average rate over the past five years (12.8) which was lower than any comparable period since 1930, and the rate for 1954, with one exception, was the lowest since 1940 when it was 12.2. This persistent low Birth Rate is undoubtedly associated with the high percentage of elderly and retired people living in the area, and has the effect of highering the Death Rate and lowering the Birth Rate. For this reason, the Comparability Factor is supplied by the Registrar General, and by applying this, a simple calculation shows that Benfleet would have had a further 35 births with a rate of 14.25 if there had been a more even age balance in the population.

The remarkable increase in the Birth Rate for Rayleigh during the year (12.2 to 15.9) showed the greatest fluctuation in the rate figures for that area since the peak post-war years of 1947 and 1948 when the rate fell from 22.0 to 17.3. It is thought that the rapid development of Rayleigh as a result of the building boom with the consequent migration of young families may be associated with this sudden rise of the Birth Rate. The application of the Comparability Factor has the effect of raising the rate to 17.5 with a further 16 births.

It is somewhat unusual to have two out of our three Districts showing a higher Birth Rate than that for England and Wales as a whole, but with the continued building programme, particularly in the Benfleet and Rayleigh areas, there is every likelihood of this improvement continuing.

DEATH RATE

Benfleet U.D. 11.9 *Canvey Island U.D.* 11.3 *Rayleigh U.D.* 11.5

During the year there was a total of 492 deaths in the three areas — 241 in Benfleet, 135 in Canvey Island and 116 in Rayleigh. Of this total, 249 were males (50.6%) and 243 females (49.4%). Male deaths exceeded females in both Canvey and Rayleigh, particularly the former, but female deaths were up in Benfleet. Throughout England and Wales 51.6% of all deaths were males.

In my Report for the year 1950 I mentioned that in a period of twenty years the Death Rate had exceeded the Birth Rate some seven times in Benfleet, four times at Canvey Island and six times at Rayleigh. Since 1950 the same trend has been evident apart from the year under review. During 1954 the tables have turned and there was an excess of 121 births over deaths. Owing to the effect of the older age element being a distinguished factor of these areas, it has become customary to expect a higher than average Death Rate. In the circumstances, therefore, there is cause for optimism and satisfaction in the fact that the Death Rates for the three areas are practically the same as the whole Country, and of necessity reflect the healthy state of the population.

The low Death Rate of 1954 is evidenced by a reduction of 178 deaths for the three areas as compared with 1953, although it should be recalled that there were 58 deaths resulting from the disastrous Flooding of Canvey Island in February, 1953 which, of course, materially increased the Death Rate for that year. It is worthy of emphasis that during 1954 the Death Rate for Benfleet U.D. was the lowest since

1931, for Canvey Island, apart from one instance, since 1936, and for Rayleigh U.D., also apart from one instance, since 1934. The application of the Comparability Factor has the effect of making the local Death Rates even more favourable. The adjusted rate for Benfleet is 8.7, for Canvey Island 9.2, and for Rayleigh 8.6, with a reduction of 120 in the number of deaths.

From the tables on page 10 it will be noticed that 184 deaths in Benfleet, 92 in Canvey Island and 89 in Rayleigh were over 65 years of age, giving a combined percentage of 74.2%. Of those dying at 75 years of age or over the percentage was 46.7. Thus we see that three-quarters of the population are living until they are over 65 years of age and almost half are living until they are over 75 years. Causes of death show that 82.7% of all deaths during the year were attributed to either Cancer (94), Heart Disease (80), Coronary Disease (78), Cerebral Haemorrhage (78), Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Respiratory Causes (47) and Other Circulatory Diseases (30).

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Benfleet U.D. 27.7 *Canvey Island U.D.* 25.0 *Rayleigh U.D.* Nil

Year by year the Infant Mortality Rate for the Country gets lower and the year 1954 recorded an all-time lowest of 25.5 per 1,000 live births or a total of 17,098 infant deaths under one year of age. Although this wastage of infant life is regrettable, one is thankful to realise that the number is reducing with the passage of time and during 1954 there were 1,200 fewer infant deaths than the previous year.

The rate in Benfleet and Canvey Island followed close to the Country's average, but Rayleigh produced a "Nil" rate for the second time (previously in 1951) in the past five years. Since 1950 Rayleigh's highest infant death rate was 22.2 and the average rate for the past five years has reached the low figure of 11.1. As the Infant Mortality Rate is reputed to be the clearest index on the health and well-being of a community, Rayleigh should be proud of its record.

The 12 infant deaths occurring in the Benfleet and Canvey Island areas was not excessive and the respective causes of death were as follows — prematurity and other conditions associated with the newborn (4), respiratory conditions (2), accidental asphyxia (2), heart conditions (one congenital) (2), operation (1) and toxæmia following mastoiditis (1). Seven of the infants died within four weeks of birth.

Stillbirths during the year throughout England and Wales totalled 16,130, the highest number since 1950, and representing 2.3% of all births (live and still). The 12 local stillbirths were below average and represented 1.9% of the total number of live and still births in the three areas.

POPULATION

Benfleet U.D. 20,270 *Canvey Island U.D.* 11,990 *Rayleigh U.D.* 10,050

The estimated total population for England and Wales for 1954 was 44,480,000, representing an increase of 190,000 over the population

for 1953. Of this increase, 171,334 was accounted for by the natural increase of births over deaths. The balance, presumably, from emmigration. This increase was 0.43%.

The total increase of population for the Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh Urban Districts during 1954 was 1,231 or 3% on the 1953 figures — 7 times greater than the increase for the County as a whole. Of this increase, 121 was accounted for by the excess of births over deaths and the balance of 1,110 by migration. The greatest increase occurred in Rayleigh with 5.4%, and the increases in Benfleet and Canvey Island were 2.5% and 2.0% respectively. Local private building development is undoubtedly associated with these increases.

During the past five years deaths have exceeded births in these Districts, there being 2,877 deaths and 2,862 births, whereas during that period, the combined population has increased by 2,780. Migration into the area is therefore almost equal to the number of births and is wholly responsible for the increase of population. But for the setback caused by the Flood Disaster, Canvey Island's contribution to the increased population would have been undoubtedly much greater.

The 1951 Census Report on the County of Essex became available in September 1954 and many interesting figures are revealed.

Dealing with population figures, the number of persons per acre are 3.1 for Benfleet, 2.6 for Canvey Island and 1.6 for Rayleigh. The figure for the County with associated County Boroughs was 2.1 and for the Administrative County (without County Boroughs) was 1.7. The Canvey Island acreage shown was 4,351 and does not include the foreshore and saltings.

Of private households and dwellings, the number of persons per room was — Benfleet 0.74, Canvey Island 0.78 and Rayleigh 0.71. The figures for the Administrative County is 0.74.

The social classes of the occupied and retired male population of 15 years of age and over were classified as follows — I = Professional Occupations, II = Intermediate Occupations, III = Skilled Occupations, IV = Partly Skilled Occupations and V = Unskilled Occupations. These are summarised as follows —

	Total	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V
Benfleet U.D. . .	6,663	192	1,224	3,792	613	842
Canvey Is. U.D.	3,769	59	514	2,177	417	602
Rayleigh U.D. . .	3,219	108	626	1,721	372	392

The distribution of the population of the three Districts by age was shown in the Census Report as follows —

	Benfleet U.D.	Canvey Is. U.D.	Rayleigh U.D.
0 - 4 years . .	1,531 (7.7)	1,024 (9.1)	789 (8.4)
5 - 14 years . .	2,644 (13.3)	1,587 (14.1)	1,174 (12.5)
15 - 44 years . .	7,515 (37.8)	4,209 (37.4)	3,614 (38.5)
45 - 64 years . .	4,970 (25.0)	2,724 (24.2)	2,356 (25.1)
Over 65 years . .	3,221 (16.2)	1,711 (15.2)	1,455 (15.5)

Comparable percentages for the Administrative County were —

0 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 - 44 years	45 - 64 years	over 65 years
8.7	13.9	42.7	24.2	10.5

The greatest differences in the above mentioned groups between these Districts and the County at large are in the 15 - 44 group and the over 65's. In the former there is a deficiency of around 5% and the latter an excess of about the same amount, whereas in England and Wales the percentage for those over 65 years of age is 10.9. Thus in these Districts the most productive age group is deficient to the extent of 5% and the numbers of people over 65 years of age are up by nearly 50% as compared with the rest of the Country.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The natural charm and geographical setting of the area covered by the Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh Urban Districts continues to attract immigrants from the industrial areas surrounding the great Metropolis and as already shown the population in each District continues to rise, almost solely from immigration.

Canvey Island has a natural provision for seaside activities and is increasingly becoming a popular holiday centre and the summer population is increased by the thousands who occupy holiday bungalows, chalets and caravans. The Benfleet Creek (in the south), separating Canvey Island from the mainland, and the River Crouch (in the north) provide excellent boating facilities. Hadleigh and Thundersley, picturesque parishes of the Benfleet Urban District, whilst being a little inland, have easy access to the water at Leigh-on-Sea or South Benfleet and Canvey Island. The woodlands, commons and downs — the latter containing the ruins of the one time famous Hadleigh Castle which is now under the care of the Ministry of Works as an Ancient Monument — provide many pleasant walks. Rayleigh, furthest away from the Estuary, enjoys a very healthy position and the highest point is 255 feet above sea level. Grand views over the surrounding countryside are a most pleasing factor. The River Crouch, which forms the northerly boundary of that District, provides water access to the North Sea. Rayleigh has played a prominent part in British History and Rayleigh Mount — the site of Rayleigh Castle and now under the care of the National Trust — the Dutch Cottage in Crown Hill and the Martyr's Memorial in the High Street, are reminders of the past.

Many residents travel each day to their employment in London or Southend, although there is an increasing development of light industry locally. In each area there are new industrial estates apart from the more old-standing factories in various parts of the three Districts. The principle industries are building — house-building is proceeding at a rate hitherto unknown — clothing, shoe-making, wireless assembly, plastic moulding, furniture, dry cleaning, motor invalid chairs, motor cycles, cooked meats, oil storage, ship-building and agriculture.

Sporting and recreational facilities are well provided for throughout the three Districts. The Benfleet Council maintain the John H. Burrows Recreation Ground at Rectory Road, Hadleigh where provision is made for cricket and football, the War Memorial Ground at Hadleigh,

King George's Field, Thundersley and the Playing Fields at South Benfleet, the latter providing for cricket, football, bowling, and tennis. The privately owned Boyce Hill Golf Course at South Benfleet provides first class golfing facilities and there are privately owned tennis courts and a bowling green at Hadleigh. There are clubs covering Cricket, Football, Tennis, Baseball, Yachting and Athletics. The British Legion have their own Hall in Hadleigh and there are Youth Clubs attached to most of the Churches. There is an ABC Cinema in Hadleigh and at the northern end of the District there is a Stadium at Rayleigh Weir which caters for speedway and dog racing.

The Canvey Island Council maintain the Paddocks Recreation Ground in Long Road where provision is made for football and cricket, the Recreation Ground at Labworth Beach with a football pitch, the Recreation Ground at Leigh Beck and King George's Field off Furtherwick Road where provision is made for football, cricket, tennis and hockey. A large Paddling Pool is being constructed at Thorney Bay and the Kinsmens Club of Canada has provided a Children's Playground as a tribute to the children of Canvey Island who suffered during the Flood Disaster. A large modern War Memorial Hall was opened in January 1953 and although damaged the next day by the Flood, has now been restored. This building was provided by locally subscribed funds. The Civil Defence Corps have a Social Club at their Headquarters in Sydervelt Road.

The Rayleigh Council maintains the Fairview Playing Fields in Hockley Road where for a number of years provision has been made for cricket, football, tennis and hockey. The King George's Field in Eastwood Road, formerly Webster's Meadow, now provides for football and cricket. There are a number of private sporting clubs and boating is popular on the River Crouch at Hullbridge on the northern boundary of the District. The British Legion have their own Hall, as also the Women's Institute, and there are Youth Clubs attached to most of the Churches.

The Essex County Council provide a very efficient Educational Service in the area and there are 14 maintained schools in the three Districts with 5,996 children on the registers at 31st December, 1954. The total school population (Primary and Secondary Schools only) for Essex in January 1954 was 244,704. Recent figures published by the Ministry of Education show that since 1946 the school population in England and Wales has increased by 28.62% whereas in Essex it has increased by 43.99%. This compares with the national increase in population over the period of 9.06% as against 16.43% for Essex. The office of the Divisional Education Officer (Mr. F. G. E. Manns, M.Sc.) is situate at "Brooklands", Hockley Road, Rayleigh. In addition, there are a number of children attending private and religious schools both inside and outside the area. There are also a number attending Grammar Schools at Southend, Westcliff and Grays. A new County Grammar School is planned to be built at Rayleigh.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1954

			Deaths				Number of deaths which apply to District	
			Number in District		Outward Transfers		Inward Transfers	
<i>Benfleet U.D.</i>								
Under 1 year	..	2	..	—	..	5	..	7
1 and under 2	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
2 " " 5	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
5 " " 15	..	—	..	—	..	1	..	1
15 " " 25	..	2	..	1	..	1	..	2
25 " " 35	..	1	..	—	..	2	..	3
35 " " 45	..	3	..	—	..	1	..	4
45 " " 55	..	7	..	—	..	4	..	11
55 " " 65	..	18	..	1	..	12	..	29
65 " " 75	..	37	..	2	..	26	..	61
75 and upwards	..	84	..	7	..	46	..	123
Totals for Benfleet			154	..	11	..	98	.. 241
<i>Canvey Island U.D.</i>								
Under 1 year	..	2	..	—	..	4	..	6
1 and under 2	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
2 " " 5	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
5 " " 15	..	—	..	—	..	1	..	1
15 " " 25	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
25 " " 35	..	2	..	1	..	2	..	3
35 " " 45	..	1	..	—	..	4	..	5
45 " " 55	..	2	..	—	..	5	..	7
55 " " 65	..	6	..	—	..	15	..	21
65 " " 75	..	20	..	1	..	23	..	42
75 and upwards	..	30	..	1	..	21	..	50
Totals for Canvey Is.			63	..	3	..	75	.. 135
<i>Rayleigh U.D.</i>								
Under 1 year	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
1 and under 2	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
2 " " 5	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
5 " " 15	..	—	..	—	..	1	..	1
15 " " 25	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
25 " " 35	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
35 " " 45	..	—	..	—	..	1	..	1
45 " " 55	..	6	..	—	..	4	..	10
55 " " 65	..	4	..	—	..	11	..	15
65 " " 75	..	17	..	—	..	15	..	32
75 and upwards	..	33	..	1	..	25	..	57
Totals for Rayleigh			60	..	1	..	57	.. 116

VITAL STATISTICS

				Benfleet			Canvey Is.			Rayleigh		
				M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
<i>Live Births :</i>	..	..	..	128	125	253	105	95	200	69	91	160
Legitimate	..	..	..	124	118	242	100	92	192	66	89	155
Illegitimate	..	..	..	4	7	11	5	3	8	3	2	5
<i>Stillbirths :</i>	..	..	..	3	2	5	1	1	2	4	1	5
Legitimate	..	..	..	3	2	5	1	1	2	4	1	5
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Deaths :</i>	..	..	..	114	127	241	75	60	135	60	56	116
<i>Birth Rate</i> per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	..	..	..	12.5			16.7			15.9		
<i>Stillbirth Rate</i> per 1,000 total (live and still births)	..	..	..	19.4			9.9			30.3		
<i>Death Rate</i> per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	..	..	..	11.9			11.3			11.5		
<i>Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :</i>												
Total number of infant deaths	..	..	..	7			5			—		
All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	27.7			25.0			—		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	28.9			26.0			—		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	—			—			—		
Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	..	..	..	5			2			—		

COMPARABLE TABLE OF BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES DURING THE YEAR 1954

	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 ..	15.2	11.3	..	25.5
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	16.8	12.0	..	29.1
160 Smaller Towns. Resident population 25,000 — 50,000 at 1951 Census	15.4	11.3	..	23.8
BENFLEET U.D. ..	12.5	11.9	..	27.7
CANVEY ISLAND U.D.	16.7	11.3	..	25.0
RAYLEIGH U.D. ..	15.9	11.5	..	Nil

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEARS 1950 - 1954

Year			Birth Rate			Death Rate			Infant Mortality Rate
<i>Benfleet U.D.</i>									
1950	..	..	12.9	..		14.1	..	35.4	
1951	..	..	12.1	..		15.3	..	29.3	
1952	..	..	13.7	..		15.3	..	29.7	
1953	..	..	13.0	..		14.5	..	35.0	
1954	..	..	12.5	..		11.9	..	27.7	
<i>Canvey Island U.D.</i>									
1950	..	..	16.5	..		14.1	..	39.3	
1951	..	..	18.6	..		14.2	..	14.6	
1952	..	..	14.6	..		12.6	..	47.0	
1953	..	..	14.6	..		*20.5	..	23.3	
1954	..	..	16.7	..		11.3	..	25.0	
<i>Rayleigh U.D.</i>									
1950	..	..	13.1	..		11.9	..	16.1	
1951	..	..	13.8	..		14.1	..	—	
1952	..	..	14.3	..		14.2	..	22.2	
1953	..	..	12.2	..		14.9	..	17.2	
1954	..	..	15.9	..		11.5	..	—	
<i>Averages for last five years :</i>									
England & Wales			15.4	..		11.6	..	28.2	
Benfleet U.D.			12.8	..		14.2	..	31.4	
Canvey Island U.D.			16.2	..		14.5	..	29.8	
Rayleigh U.D.			13.9	..		13.3	..	11.1	

POPULATION STATISTICS

Year	Benfleet U.D.		Canvey Is. U.D.		Rayleigh U.D.	
1930	..	11,900	..	3,530	..	6,256
1940	..	15,140	..	5,240	..	7,810
1950	..	19,720	..	10,800	..	9,474
1951 (Census)	..	19,881	..	11,255	..	9,388
1952	..	19,640	..	11,640	..	9,415
1953	..	19,770	..	11,750	..	9,539
1954	..	20,270	..	11,990	..	10,050

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.

* High on account of Flood Disaster.

COMPARABILITY FACTOR BIRTHS

District	Compara- bility Factor	Actual Number	Actual Rate	Amended Number	Amended Rate
Benfleet U.D.	1.14	253	12.5	288	14.25
Canvey Island U.D.	1.14	200	16.7	228	19.14
Rayleigh U.D.	1.10	160	15.9	176	17.5

DEATHS

Benfleet U.D.	0.73	241	11.9	176	8.7
Canvey Island U.D.	0.81	135	11.3	109	9.2
Rayleigh U.D.	0.75	116	11.5	87	8.6

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1954

		Benfleet U.D.			Canvey Island U.D.			Rayleigh U.D.		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1.	All causes ..	114	127	241	75	60	135	60	56	116
2.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	..	2	2	1	..	1	1	..	1
3.	Tuberculosis, other ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
4.	Syphilitic disease ..	1	..	1	..	1	1	1	..	1
5.	Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6.	Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7.	Meningococcal Infections ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8.	Acute Poliomyelitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9.	Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ..	5	1	6	4	1	5	1	1	2
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	10	1	11	8	..	8	6	..	6
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast ..	..	5	5	..	2	2	4	..	4
14.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus ..	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..
15.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms ..	15	8	23	7	3	10	8	2	10
16.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17.	Diabetes ..	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	1	3
18.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	16	20	36	10	12	22	7	13	20
19.	Coronary disease, angina ..	16	18	34	18	8	26	10	8	18
20.	Hypertension with heart disease ..	2	1	3	3	2	5	1	1	2
21.	Other heart disease ..	16	27	43	6	5	11	5	10	15
22.	Other circulatory disease ..	3	12	15	1	7	8	1	6	7
23.	Influenza ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
24.	Pneumonia ..	4	7	11	5	..	5	4	5	9
25.	Bronchitis ..	7	4	11	2	1	3	2	..	2
26.	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1	1	2	2	1	3	1	..	1
27.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	..	3
28.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
29.	Nephritis and nephrosis ..	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	1	1
30.	Hyperplasia of prostate ..	3	..	3	2	..	2	1	..	1
31.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
32.	Congenital malformations ..	2	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..
33.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	6	13	19	4	9	13	5	3	8
34.	Motor vehicle accidents ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
35.	All other accidents ..	3	1	4	..	3	3	..	..	..
36.	Suicide ..	2	2	4	..	1	1	..	..	..
37.	Homicide and operations of war ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

LABORATORY SERVICE

The three Districts continued to be well served by the Public Health Laboratory at Balmoral Road, Westcliff-on-Sea for the routine bacteriological examination of samples of food, milk, ice cream, water and sewage and I am indebted to Dr. R. Pilsworth, M.D., the Director in Charge, and his staff, for very helpful co-operation during the year. I am advised that during the course of the year under review, 115 samples involving milk, ice cream, water, cockles and other foods were examined on behalf of the three Authorities. A number of these examinations included portions of slaughtered animals from the Hadleigh Slaughterhouse.

Arrangements undertaken by the Essex County Council have continued during the year for the examination of specimens by the Counties Public Health Laboratories of Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, and during the year six chemical and bacteriological examinations were carried out on behalf of the Canvey Island Council.

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.

					Thundersley Ambulance Station		Canvey Island Ambulance Station
Maternity	..	..	..	..	213	..	61
Accident	..	..	..	..	243	..	45
Other Emergency	..	..	..	..	507	..	105
Non-Emergency	..	..	..	..	12,323	..	3,428
Mileage covered	..	..	..	..	130,877	..	31,427
Miles per patient	..	..	..	..	9.9	..	8.6

At the Thundersley Station there are two stretcher case vehicles and three sitting case vehicles with a personnel strength of 17, including the Station Officer and Assistant Station Officer. This represents an increase of one sitting case vehicle and one driver/attendant during the year. At Canvey Island the position remained unchanged, *e.g.*, one stretcher case vehicle and five personnel.

Call arrangements continue as hitherto. Areas with an automatic telephone should dial 999 in case of 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 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 vehicle 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 diseases 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 and the vehicle used is thoroughly disinfected immediately afterwards.

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

HOME NURSING SERVICE, DOMICILARY MIDWIFERY,
HEALTH VISITING, CHILD WELFARE CLINICS,
DOMESTIC HELPS, ANTE-NATAL CARE,
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

These Services are administered by the Area Medical Officer (Dr. W. J. Moffat) on behalf of the Essex County Council as Local Health Authority, the Area Health Office being situate at 153 High Street, Rayleigh (telephone Rayleigh 831-2). During the latter part of the year, a commencement was made to extend the office accommodation so as to make room for the increased staff since Decentralisation of control of the Local Health Authority Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946 took place in 1948. Regular sessions are held for ante-natal mothers, mothers and babies, dental treatment for expectant mothers and school children, minor ailments for school children, eyes, speech therapy among young children, and immunisation against diphtheria at the Health Service Clinics situate at Furtherwick Road, Canvey Island; High Road, South Benfleet; Kenneth Road, Thundersley; London Road, Hadleigh and Eastwood Road, Rayleigh.

For general information, I list below the midwives serving the three Districts —

BENFLEET URBAN DISTRICT :

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

Thundersley (including Daws Heath) — Miss J. Groombridge, 39 Queensmere, Thundersley: Telephone Hadleigh 58956.

Great Tarpots (including Thundersley west of White Hart Hotel) — Mrs. K. Hexter, Nurses Flats, Kents Hill Road, Thundersley. Telephone South Benfleet 3303.

South Benfleet (covering area south of Tarpots Corner) — Mrs. W. H. A. Judge, Nurses Flats, Kents Hill Road North, Thundersley. Telephone South Benfleet 3304.

CANVEY ISLAND URBAN DISTRICT :

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

Mrs. E. A. Woolf, 1 Point Bungalow, Point Road, Canvey Island. Telephone Canvey 527. As from February 1955.

Miss P. A. Holyoake and Miss V. L. Gwatkin, 10 Thameside Crescent, Canvey Island. Telephone Canvey 388.

RAYLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT :

Rayleigh (town area and east of High Street) — Miss M. Millard, 21 Daws Heath Road, Rayleigh. Telephone Rayleigh 147.

Rayleigh (lower area between High Street and Carpenters Arms) — Mrs. C. Foster, 128 London Road, Rayleigh. Telephone Rayleigh 1021.

Rawreth (including parts of Hullbridge and Battlesbridge) — Miss L. M. Baines, Stanway, Woodlands Road, Hockley. Telephone Hockley 432.

HOSPITAL SERVICE

Patients requiring hospital treatment are normally admitted to either the Southend or Rochford General Hospitals by direct arrangement between General Practitioners and the Hospital concerned. However, 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. In certain circumstances the Medical Officer of Health is requested to support applications for urgent priority. Cases of infectious disease are usually 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 is the Southend-on-Sea Hospital Management Committee of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, and in addition to the facilities of the Rochford General, Southend General, Victoria and Westcliff Hospitals, the following Clinics are provided for the benefit of residents in 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. Telephone Southend 66851.

Venereal Disease — Southend V. D. Clinic, Westcliff Hospital, Balmoral Road, Westcliff-on-Sea. Telephone Southend 44415.

Obstetric and Gynaecology — At the Health Services Clinics — London Road, Hadleigh (telephone Hadleigh 57108), Furtherwick Road, Canvey Island (telephone Canvey 80), and Eastwood Road, Rayleigh (telephone Rayleigh 288).

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.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supply

The Water Undertaking for these Districts is the Southend Waterworks Company with Head Office at 13 Cambridge Road, Southend-on-Sea. The supply for Canvey Island is mainly derived from bore-holes 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 1954, 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 99% of all dwelling-houses are connected to the main water supply. The supply is direct to the houses with the exception of one dwelling which is served by a stand-pipe. Those dwellings not connected to the mains rely on supplies from rainwater tanks or shallow wells. A notice under the provisions of the Water Act, 1945 was served upon the owner of one dwelling requiring a connection to the water main, and this was complied with. During 1954 an extension to the main of some 252 yards was carried out to serve four dwellings.

At **Canvey Island** 93.7% of all dwelling-houses are provided with a main water supply. During 1954 113 properties were connected to the main supply, making a total of 4,221 properties connected to the mains of the waterworks company. A further 166 properties are supplied by means of stand-pipes. The total population served with a main water supply is now estimated to be 11,839. During the year a total of 1,627 yards of new mains or extensions to existing mains were laid. Of this, 1,001 yards were laid under guarantee by the Local Authority, 92 yards by non-returnable contributions by private individuals, 158 yards on private housing sites and 376 yards on Council Housing sites. During the past seven years nearly $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles of water mains have been laid and over 1,100 properties have been connected to the main supply.

In the **Rayleigh** Urban District 98.66% of all dwelling-houses were supplied with main water at the 31st December, 1954. Of this figure, 0.033% were supplied by means of stand-pipes. 384 new houses and four 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 purposes 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 south-western, which is dealt with by the Pumping Station in South Benfleet. This latter also deals with sewage 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.

In the Benfleet Urban District it is estimated that 93% of all properties are connected to the main drainage system. 124 dwellings are served by cesspools and a further 359 houses and bungalows are provided with earth closets. These are largely confined to the New Thundersley area. During the year 27 existing premises were connected to the main sewer and three to cesspools, whilst extensions or improvements were carried out to the drainage of seven existing buildings. The number of connections to the main sewer was also increased by the 473 new properties which were erected during the year.

At **Canvey Island** sewage 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.

In spite of pressure of other work, including re-construction works following the 1953 Flood Disaster, 735 yards of new sewers were laid during the year, 306 yards being to private streets and 429 yards to Council Housing Sites at Point Road and Waarden Road. With reference to the new sewer laid in the Dutch Village area during 1953, all but three of the properties had been connected thereto by the end of the year. A short extension to this new sewer is required to serve two properties at the extreme northern end of the Estate and negotiations were in hand for this to be completed during 1955. The total number of sewer connections during 1954 was 106 and of this number 28 concerned new Council Houses erected during the year. During the past seven years nearly $6\frac{1}{4}$ miles of new sewers have been provided at Canvey Island and 1,368 properties drained thereto.

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 description of the Western Sewage Disposal Works is the same except that the number of sludge beds there is six and the engine for pumping the sludge is petrol driven.

It is estimated that the main sewers serve 89% of the properties in the Rayleigh Urban District. During 1954, 384 new houses and one existing house were connected to the main drainage system.

About 288 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 the sum of £960-11s. was received from the sale of such materials.

At **Canvey Island**, a regular fortnightly house-to-house refuse collection service was maintained throughout the District during the year. The large "borrow pits" left after removal of tons of soil by the Essex River Board are being filled by controlled tipping and the area used during 1954 adjoins the main sea wall situated on private agricultural land. No expenditure in utilising this private tipping site is now incurred and the area of land being purchased by the Council, part of which is to be used as a permanent controlled tipping site, has not yet been utilised.

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 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.

141 tons of material was salvaged and produced an income of £1,033.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

In the area covered by the **Benfleet** Urban District there is a total of 70 factories on the register of the Local Authority. 65 of these premises employ mechanical power. Inspections were made on

54 occasions during the year and seven defects found. By the end of the year five of these defects had been remedied by the occupiers. No legal proceedings were taken. Also, 11 work-places were inspected and 20 inspections were made at sites of building operations. Four contraventions were found, three of which were remedied by the end of the year.

The **Canvey Island** Urban District Council has 31 factories on its register and mechanical power is used at all these premises. There are a number of small premises where factory processes are carried out but where the operators are self-employed ; these premises are not technically "factories" under the Statute. No action was necessary in respect of factories insofar as the Public Health Department was concerned.

The **Rayleigh** Urban District has 54 premises registered as factories under the above acts and 51 of these employ mechanical power. During the year 41 inspections were made and no defects were found.

Moveable Dwellings

CARAVANS — In the **Benfleet** Urban District the Hart Road Caravan Park continues to meet a need, and there were 201 caravans stationed there at the end of the year. There is also a private site in the District licensed for five caravans. There were no contraventions of the conditions attaching to the licence during the year.

There are three licensed Camping Sites in the **Canvey Island** Urban District and these were well maintained during the year. These are kept under constant observation, particularly during the peak seasonal periods so as to ensure that the required public health standards are maintained. There are also a number of moveable dwellings in permanent use both on licensed sites and on private land.

There are no licensed Caravan Sites in the **Rayleigh** Urban District.

HOUSEBOATS — In the **Benfleet** Urban District 39 consents to moor were issued by the Council during the year under the provisions of the Essex County Council Act, 1952. Notices requiring the removal or demolition of 34 houseboats were served and eight appeals to the Court of Summary Jurisdiction were pending at 31st December. 29 houseboats were removed or demolished during the course of the year.

In May, 1954 Church Creek, South Benfleet was dammed by the Essex River Board, and notices have been served requiring the removal or demolition of all houseboats remaining in Church Creek.

Of the seven houseboats within the **Rayleigh** Urban District, only one is occupied as a permanent residence. It was agreed to licence only this one houseboat and steps are being taken to secure the removal of the other boats.

Atmospheric Pollution

SMOKE ABATEMENT — In the **Benfleet** Urban District 13 smoke observations were made during the year but no proceedings were taken. In the **Rayleigh** Urban District trouble was experienced during the year from the burning of industrial waste, but as no installation or chimney was involved, it was not found possible to take statutory action. This appears to be an omission in the nuisance provisions of the Public Health Acts which needs rectifying. It is hoped that, with the co-operation of the parties concerned, means will be found to overcome this nuisance.

THE "SMELL" NUISANCE — This continued throughout the year although progressive steps were taken to minimise and, it is hoped, eventually to eliminate the trouble. In March the Sanitary Inspectors and myself visited the Coryton Refinery of the Vacuum Oil Co. Ltd. at the invitation of the Company, and it was evident, from what we saw and learned, that everything possible was being done at a technical level to remedy the cause for complaint. The Inspector of Alkali, etc., Works, of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Mr. George Tiplady, M.Sc., F.R.I.C., paid two visits to my office during the year and the following is the substance of a letter dated 4th December, 1954 received from Mr. Tiplady —

"I wish to state that at two of the Thames-side oil refineries mechanical difficulties have occurred on plants during commissioning. Intensive work has been carried out to rectify the faults and it is believed that, as these "teething troubles" are overcome, conditions will continue to improve.

All three petroleum companies send representatives to a Joint Works Atmospheric Pollution Committee, which was set up on the recommendation of my Chief Inspector. Also, at the present time, one refinery is carrying out an investigation into the chemical treatment of odours, another proposes to improve its method of burning surplus gas at the flare and the third submits quarterly reports of progress made in suppressing odours to my Chief Inspector."

The Report of the Committee on Air Pollution set up in July, 1953 by the Minister of Housing and Local Government under the Chairmanship of Sir Hugh Beaver, was published in November, 1954 and received in December of that year. In this report comprehensive recommendations were made for dealing with Atmospheric Pollution on a national scale.

Rats and Mice

In the **Benfleet** Urban District a total of 196 visits were made during the year in connection with inspections for, or treatment of rat and mice infestations.

In the **Rayleigh** Urban District 93 premises were treated during the year. No major infestations were found within the District but minor infestations occur and re-occur from time to time. A contributing factor for this is the farming activities carried on in the rural parts of the District.

Vermín

One case of a verminous dwelling was encountered and successfully dealt with in the **Rayleigh** Urban District during the year.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

During the year the **Benfleet** Urban District Council issued three licences in respect of the keeping of tortoises, chickens up to the age of one month, and birds. Three visits were made to pet shops and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

At **Rayleigh**, two licences were issued during the year for the keeping of pets for sale.

Storage of Petroleum

Routine inspections in each of the three Districts were made during the year in respect of applications to store petroleum spirit. The number of licences issued during 1954 was as follows — Benfleet 42, Canvey Island 10, and Rayleigh 21.

With regard to Canvey Island one licence is for bulk storage. The petroleum and products to the establishments concerned are sea-borne and tankers unload at special jetties built in deep water at Holehaven. Special inspections were made in conjunction with Home Office officials at the two large installations.

Public Conveniences

In the **Benfleet** Urban District there were four public conveniences owned and maintained by the Local Authority. One of these, situate at Victoria House Corner, Hadleigh was newly opened in July 1954. The remaining three are situate at Rushbottom Lane, Great Tarpots, School Lane, South Benfleet and Rectory Road, Hadleigh (the latter incorporating a useful 'bus shelter also). Two inspections were made during the year of privately-owned public conveniences in the area and on each occasion they were found to be in a clean and satisfactory condition.

At **Canvey Island** there are five public conveniences, with provision for both sexes, provided by the Local Authority. These are strategically situated as follows—Long Road, High Street, Seaview Road (Promenade East), Labworth (Promenade Central), and Thorney Bay (Promenade West).

The **Rayleigh** Urban District Council provides a modern public convenience in the centre of the main shopping and business area.

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 and general items.

Infectious Diseases

In the **Benfleet** Urban District the Sanitary Inspectors made 30 visits to premises following the notification of infectious diseases. Also, 48 visits were made to the contacts of such diseases. Disinfection was carried out at two dwellings.

At **Canvey Island** a total of 209 visits were made in connection with cases of infectious disease and contacts associated therewith. Fumigation and disinfection was carried out as necessary.

The Sanitary Inspector for the **Rayleigh** Urban District made 57 visits during the year for the purpose of investigating the circumstances associated with the occurrence of infectious diseases and of contacts living locally of cases occurring in other areas. Disinfection was carried out at six of the premises so affected.

General

The Sanitary Inspector's Department of the **Benfleet** Urban District Council made a total of 3,017 visits during the year. These can be classified as follows —

General Sanitation	1,209
Meat and Food Inspections	1,232
Housing	498
Infectious Diseases	78

79 Informal Notices and 16 Statutory Notices were served. There were 30 Notices outstanding at the commencement of the year. During the year, 74 Notices were complied with, leaving 35 not complied with at 31st December, 1954. No legal proceedings were taken during the year. A total of 102 complaints were received, 23 of which related to matters which were not within the scope of the Public Health Department.

At **Canvey Island** the Council's Sanitary Inspectors carried out a total of 3,533 inspections, as follows —

New drainage works	1,246
Housing — Public Health Act	466
Housing Acts	71
Infectious Diseases	209
Water Supplies	184
Nuisances	177
Brown-tail Moth	231
Refuse Collection and Disposal ..	256
Food Inspection	89
Rodent Control	82
Moveable Dwellings	30
Aged Persons	83
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts ..	65
Dyke Pollution	37
Factory Inspection	48
Mosquito Control	49
Atmospheric Pollution	15
Miscellaneous	195

Repercussions from the flooding of the District in 1953 continued to take up a considerable amount of office and inspection time, particularly in regard to salt impregnated damp dwellings. Special internal wall plaster finishes, to isolate these linings from the brick structures, have had to be resorted to in some cases.

During the year 45 Notices were served, 32 of which were complied with, and additionally 15 Notices outstanding from 1953, making a total of 47 Notices complied with. Complaints received during 1954 numbered 289, including over 100 in respect of the brown-tail moth caterpillar, on which careful observation was kept, and action taken as necessary.

In the **Rayleigh** Urban District the Sanitary Inspector's Department received 154 complaints during 1954 and in connection with these and general routine work, 1,492 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 re-housing 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 diseases 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 20 Informal Notices and in two instances these were succeeded by Statutory Notices. At the end of the year, 16 Notices were yet to be complied with. Works were completed during the year in respect of 20 instances where the service of Notices was found not to be necessary. 14 Notices were complied with during 1954. The following is a summary of all the completed works referred to —

Houses repaired	14
Drains cleared after blockage	13
Ditch cleared	1
Drains repaired	2
Nuisances abated other than above ..	4

HOUSING

Benfleet U.D.

During the year 45 complaints regarding housing defects were received and 42 of these necessitated action being taken. 64 Council Houses and 16 Old People's Bungalows were completed during the year and a further 393 dwellings were erected by private builders. Three dwellings were still under requisition at the end of the year. Three licences were issued involving a total sum of £18,450 for extension of roads and services.

The following table is provided at the request of the Ministry of Health —

1.	Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year —	
(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	99
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	241
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932. ..	3
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	3
(3)	Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation ..	54
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices —	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	40
3.	Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to —	
(1)	The serving of notices requiring the execution of works	8
(2)	The making of Demolition or Closing Orders ..	12
4.	Demolition and Closing Orders made during the year —	7
(1)	Housing Act, 1936 —	
	(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11 ..	Nil
	(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force	Nil
	(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) ..	1
(2)	Housing Act, 1949 —	
	(a) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1) ..	Nil
	(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2) ..	Nil

- (3) Local Government (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953 —
Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1) .. Nil
5. Action under statutory powers —
- (1) Public Health Acts : Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices —
- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) By owners | 8 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |
- (2) Housing Act, 1936 : Number of houses made fit after service of Formal Notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) —
- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) By owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |

One Clearance Order was made and confirmed. This involved four houses and the displacement of 11 persons. The area concerned was known as The Common Lane Clearance Area.

Canvey Island U.D.

During the year 537 inspections and re-visits were necessary in respect of housing defects, particularly in regard to dampness following flooding by sea water. In all cases of defects in all categories, except two, work was well in hand at the close of the year. The sea water impregnation is anticipated to continue to give trouble of dampness in brick constructed properties for some long time to come, but the special treatment of wall linings is expected to give the answer to the problem where the guidance given is carried out.

At the end of the year there were 372 applicants on the Council's Housing Register. Of this number, 225 had qualified for consideration on a Points Scheme and 147 were awaiting qualification as respect length of residence, period on list, housing circumstances, etc.

During the year 28 new Council Houses were constructed and tenanted from the Council's Housing Register. 21 houses were under construction at the end of the year. Two ex-military camps are still under requisition by the Council, but the tenants in these are being re-housed in traditional houses as quickly as possible.

One Demolition Order was served during the year and demolition was proceeding at December, 1954. A further Demolition Order was considered but an undertaking was accepted that the property will not be used pending being made fit. One Closing Order was also made. In his report the Senior Sanitary Inspector of the Canvey Island U.D.C. points out that a considerable amount of informal action is taken in respect of houses not in a fit state and in many instances property is temporarily closed pending reconstruction or repair. In some instances voluntary demolition has taken place. Only where informal undertakings have not been possible or not honoured has formal action been resorted to.

The following table is provided at the request of the Ministry of Health —

1.	Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year —	
(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	107
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	537
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	Nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3)	Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation ..	20
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices —	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	40
3.	Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to —	
(1)	The serving of notices requiring the execution of works	1
(2)	The making of Demolition or Closing Orders	3
4.	Demolition and Closing Orders made during the year —	4
(1)	Housing Act, 1936 —	
	(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	2
	(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force	2
	(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) ..	1
(2)	Housing Act, 1949 —	
	(a) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1)	Nil
	(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2) ..	Nil
(3)	Local Government (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953 — Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1) ..	Nil
5.	Action under statutory powers —	
(1)	Public Health Acts : Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices —	
	(a) By owners	2
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

- (2) Housing Act 1936 : Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) —
- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) By owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |

Rayleigh U.D.

14 houses were repaired or improved during the year. Two houses were demolished and a Closing Order made on part of a building used as a dwelling, subsequent to proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936.

Of the 384 new houses erected during the year, 65 were Council Houses and 319 privately built. Since May, 1945, a total of 910 houses have been erected within the Urban District. Of these, 307 are Council Houses and 603 privately built.

The following table is provided at the request of the Ministry of Health —

- Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year —
 - Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 49
 - Number of inspections made for the purpose 129
 - Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932. .. Nil
 - Number of inspections made for the purpose Nil
 - Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation .. 14
- Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices —
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 13
- Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to —
 - The serving of notices requiring the execution of works 3
 - The making of Demolition or Closing Orders 1
- Demolition and Closing Orders made during the year — 4
 - Housing Act, 1936 —
 - Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11 2
 - Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force Nil
 - Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) .. 1

- (2) Housing Act, 1949 —
- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1) | Nil |
| (b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2) .. | Nil |
- (3) Local Government (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953 —
- | | |
|---|-----|
| Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1) .. | Nil |
|---|-----|
5. Action under statutory powers —
- (1) Public Health Acts : Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices —
- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) By owners | 2 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |
- (2) Housing Act, 1936 : Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) —
- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) By owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |

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	Sterilized	Tuberculin Tested
Dealer's Licences ..	14	38	4
Supplementary Licences	5	5	4

The Benfleet District also had 38 registrations at 31st December, 1954 under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 of persons carrying on the trade of distributor.

During the year 42 visits were made to milk shops in the Benfleet Urban District and the following samples were taken —

Pasteurised Milk	7
Sterilized Milk	5
Tuberculin Tested Milk	7

Of these samples, 17 proved to be satisfactory upon examination. One sample of Tuberculin Tested Milk was unsatisfactory. The County Milk Production Officer visited the farm concerned and gave advice on clean milk production. Subsequent samples were satisfactory. Also one sample of Pasteurised Milk was unsatisfactory. The Sanitary Inspector of the Local Authority in whose area the milk was processed investigated the matter and further samples were satisfactory.

In the **Canvey Island** Urban District the following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 —

	Pasteurised		Sterilized		Tuberculin Tested
Dealer's Licences ..	17	..	25	..	1
Supplementary Licences	2	..	3	..	2

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

	Pasteurised		Sterilized		Tuberculin Tested
Dealer's Licences ..	3	..	12	..	1
Supplementary Licences	1	..	1	..	1

During the year five samples of milk were taken in the Rayleigh area and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. These consisted of three Tuberculin Tested and two Pasteurised, and all proved to be satisfactory upon examination.

On the 2nd December, 1953 the Urban Districts of Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh were included in a specified area under the provisions of the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950. This had the effect of prohibiting the sale of milk within the area unless it was designated "Pasteurised", "Sterilized", "Accredited" or "Tuberculin Tested". On the 30th September, 1954, "Accredited" milk was also included in the prohibition and thus, after that date, the only milk, other than heat treated milk, allowed to be sold within the three Districts is that from a Tuberculin Tested herd of cows and licensed for distribution as Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Meat Inspection

The Sanitary Inspectors of the **Benfleet** Urban District Council paid 566 visits to the Slaughterhouse at Cross Farm, Hadleigh during the course of the year, and the carcasses and organs of 11,894 food animals were examined, as set out overleaf —

	Cattle, excluding Cows		Cows		Calves		Sheep and Lambs		Pigs
Number killed ..	1,914	..	984	..	1,358	..	5,885	..	1,755
Number inspected	1,914	..	984	..	1,356	..	5,885	..	1,755
Since decontrol (included in above)	838	..	354	..	703	..	1,511	..	1,576

*All diseases except
Tuberculosis :*

Whole carcase condemned ..	—	..	10	..	9	..	8	..	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	347	..	272	..	6	..	207	..	43
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tu- berculosis ..	18.1	..	28.7	..	1.1	..	3.07	..	2.7

Tuberculosis only :

Whole carcase condemned ..	15	..	19	..	2	..	—	..	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	202	..	223	..	—	..	—	..	53
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuberculo- sis	11.3	..	24.5	..	0.15	..	—	..	3.1

50 carcasses of beef (1.7%) were found to be affected with *Cysticercus Bovis*.

During the year, specimens from six food animals were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Westcliff-on-Sea. Also, one specimen was submitted to the Pathologist, Southend General Hospital. The Inspectors wish to express their appreciation for the ready assistance they received in this respect.

It is pleasing to report that during the year a marked improvement took place in the hygienic handling and transport of meat from the Slaughterhouse. The bulk of the meat consigned from the premises is now conveyed in vehicles in which the meat is suspended and not stacked on the floor. A large cold room was constructed during the year. This should result in a reduction in meat spoilage in hot weather.

All slaughtering took place at the Slaughterhouse at Cross Farm, Benfleet Road, Hadleigh, which, until 30th June, 1954, was operated by the Ministry of Food. Since that date the Slaughterhouse has been operated by a private company.

There are no slaughterhouses on **Canvey Island** but routine inspections were maintained during the year among butchers' shops in the area. These were found to be maintained in a cleanly condition.

In July, 1954, the slaughtering of animals intended for human food passed from the control of the Ministry of Food to private enterprise and the only slaughterhouse operating in the **Rayleigh** U.D.C. passed to the control of a private slaughtering contractor. However, arrangements for the inspection of meat for human food continued as hitherto, with assistance from Inspectors of the Southend County Borough, which area absorbs the majority of the meat distributed.

During the year 11,703 food animals were slaughtered and examined at the Rayleigh slaughterhouse, as detailed below —

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ..	1,260 ..	661 ..	737 ..	2,895 ..	6,150
Number inspected..	1,260 ..	661 ..	737 ..	2,895 ..	6,150
Since decontrol (in- cluded in above)	533 ..	497 ..	730 ..	1,064 ..	2,737

*All diseases except
Tuberculosis :*

Whole carcase condemned ..	— ..	4 ..	6 ..	3 ..	23
-------------------------------	------	------	------	------	----

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned..	369 ..	100 ..	— ..	76 ..	179
--	--------	--------	------	-------	-----

Percentage of the number inspected affected with di- sease other than Tuberculosis ..	29.3 ..	15.7 ..	0.8 ..	2.7 ..	2.9
---	---------	---------	--------	--------	-----

Tuberculosis only :

Whole carcasses condemned ..	— ..	4 ..	— ..	— ..	8
---------------------------------	------	------	------	------	---

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned..	88 ..	182 ..	— ..	— ..	85
--	-------	--------	------	------	----

Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	7.0 ..	27.5 ..	— ..	— ..	1.5
---	--------	---------	------	------	-----

Seven case of *Cysticercus Bovis* were diagnosed and the carcasses were dealt with in accordance with approved policy.

Food Inspection

In the **Benfleet** Urban District 505 visits were made to the 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. There were 185 food shops in the District at 31st December, 1954, made up as follows —

Cafés ..	30
Fishmongers ..	10

Butchers	16
Bakers	4
General Provisions	75
Greengrocers	14
Others, including Confectioners and Stalls	36

36 of the General Provisions shops and two other shops were registered for the sale of milk.

During the year the following foods were surrendered by food traders as being unfit for human consumption —

Milk 187 tins ; canned meat 62 tins ; canned fish 19 tins ; vegetable goods 34 tins ; fruit and preserves 90 tins and jars ; soup 19 tins ; cooked ham 1 tin ; mustard 4 tins ; meat 290 lbs. ; boneless rabbit 56 lbs. ; liver 28 lbs. ; other foods 1 tin.

Five samples of foods were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, all of which were satisfactory, no pathogens being isolated.

Routine inspections are carried out at all food premises twice yearly. The visits are not made at regular intervals, nor are the occupiers notified as to the date of them. Food handlers are advised during these visits in matters of food hygiene. At present the greatest obstacles to be overcome by the personnel of food preparing establishments are unsuitable premises and the lack of working area in kitchens.

Up to the 30th June, 1954, unsound meat from Cross Farm Slaughterhouse was disposed of by the Ministry of Food for animal feeding, and the same arrangements have been continued since by the private company now operating the Slaughterhouse. Local Authorities of the areas to which such meat is taken are notified. Other unsound foods are buried in the Council's refuse tip.

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

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. 15 food hawkers and/or their storage premises were registered under the provisions of the Essex County Council Act, 1952.

MANUFACTURED MEAT PRODUCTS. At the end of the year there were 20 butchers' and grocers' premises and one factory in the Benfleet Urban District which were registered under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture of sausages, preserved foods, etc. 36 visits were made to such premises during the year.

At **Canvey Island** 89 routine visits were made to food premises, apart from spot check visits paid during the season to cafés, ice cream vendors, shell fish retailers, etc., catering for visitors and holiday-makers. The following foods were examined and surrendered as being unfit for human consumption —

534 lbs. fresh meat ; 7 stone fresh fish ; 190 tins of preserved foods including fish, meat, pastes and vegetables.

There are 114 food premises on the Island, summarised as follows —

Cafés	..	..	..	..	..	41
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	..	4
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	10
Grocers and Bakers	..	..	..	..	..	33
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	11
Others	..	..	..	..	..	15

A total of 55 premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, as follows — Manufacturers of Ice Cream 2, Sale of Ice Cream 47, Manufacturers of Sausages, etc., 6.

In the **Rayleigh** Urban District 255 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 cafés within the District is generally high and there is a general desire among proprietors to make their premises more wholesome and attractive.

During the visits to premises where food is prepared it is the practice of the inspectorial staff to discuss the processes with the proprietors and the employees, and it is thought that in these discussions much is learned by all concerned to further the progress of the clean food campaign.

There are 76 premises in the District where food is prepared or sold for human consumption, summarised as follows —

Cafés and Restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	10
Fish shops (wet and fried)	..	..	..	..	..	3
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	9
Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	23
Bakers	..	..	..	..	..	3
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	7
Cooked Meat Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	2
Others, including Confectioners..	..	..	..	..	..	19

There are seven premises registered for the manufacture of meat products and two for fish frying.

The following foodstuffs weighing approximately 1,998 lbs. were voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers during the year and condemned as being unfit for human consumption —

Canned meat 925 lbs. ; bacon 195 lbs. ; fresh meat 214 lbs. ; fresh fish 70 lbs. ; miscellaneous tinned foods 594 lbs.

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. Various improvements have, however, been carried out to facilitate working within the restricted area. The whole of the canteen services are understood to be under review by the Education Authority.

Ice Cream

At the end of 1954 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 Food and Drugs Act, 1938, as follows —

General Provision Shops	..	..	28
Confectioners Shops	..	..	23
Cafés	..	..	22
Miscellaneous	..	..	10

A total of 117 visits were made to such premises during the year. All the premises receive their supplies of ice cream in bulk from outside the District.

The Sanitary Inspectors submitted 19 samples of ice cream for bacteriological examination during the year, and the results obtained showed that 11 were placed in Grade I and 8 in Grade II. Results showing Grades I and II are considered to be satisfactory, whilst those in Grades III and IV are unsatisfactory. Also, 11 samples of water or cream "lollies" were submitted for examination and seven proved to be satisfactory. Of the four unsatisfactory samples, two were repeat samples taken during investigation at a manufacturer's premises. Suggested improvements during processing were carried out and subsequent samples proved to be satisfactory. Copies of the Laboratory reports were sent in all cases to the Local Authorities in whose areas the ice cream was manufactured.

At **Canvey Island** there are 47 premises registered for the sale of ice cream and ice cream is manufactured at two premises. During the year 14 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. All reports were satisfactory, 10 being placed in Grade I and four in Grade II.

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the **Rayleigh** Urban District but 31 premises are registered for the sale thereof. Ice cream is also sold in five cafés and a cinema, but these are exempt from registration. During the year three samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination and the reports obtained were satisfactory in each case.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Since the inception of these Districts (Canvey Island 1st April, 1926 and Benfleet and Rayleigh 1st October, 1929), there has been remarkable progress in regard to the incidence of infectious and other allied diseases with the consequent mortality therefrom, and I am very glad to report that 1954 was a year of exceptionally low incidence and mortality.

Diphtheria. For the sixth year running, no cases of Diphtheria have been reported in the Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh Districts, whereas in 1930 there were 30 notified cases and five deaths. 100 years ago about 10,000 deaths occurred annually throughout the Country and even 25 years ago there were almost 3,500 Diphtheria deaths during the course of twelve months. Happily, things are different today and there were only nine deaths from Diphtheria in 1954 and 182 notified cases for the whole of England and Wales. The explanation for this tremendous improvement can be given in one word — immunisation, and up to June 1954 over 11,000,000 children had been immunised against the disease. However, as the Ministry of Health point out, the suppression of Diphtheria is conditional upon an adequate level of immunisation being maintained. The aim is to have 75% of babies immunised before their first birthday, but during 1954 only 35% of children in the category were so protected.

The Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health gave details in his Report for 1953 of the occurrence of 38 cases of Diphtheria in a Midlands Urban District, and emphasised that none of the three fatal cases had been immunised. In the District concerned the percentage of school children immunised had been raised to 78.5 whereas the under school age proportion was only 40%. It was found that parents of the unimmunised young children had no objection to the procedure. They were merely indolent and quite apathetic concerning the matter, even when the disease was present in the vicinity. Later, when the children could be immunised at school without any inconvenience, they readily consented.

Scarlet Fever. A total of 50 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in the three Districts during 1954 and represented a great improvement on the figure of 110 for 1953. In 1930 there were 63 notified cases. Whilst there is little difference in the incidence during the comparative periods, there is a remarkable difference in the pattern of the disease. Today, Scarlet Fever cases only go to hospital where home isolation is impossible or impracticable. Years ago, practically all cases went to hospital, the period of illness was twice as long, as the patients were really ill. Today, with the majority of cases, confinement to bed is only necessary for a short while. Throughout the Country there were 111,077 cases and 741 deaths in 1930. In 1954 the respective figures were 43,023 and 52. The great reduction in mortality during the 25 year period is an obvious pointer to the present mildness of the disease. In the 1860's it is recorded that at Liverpool 27 in every 1,000 children died of Scarlet Fever by their fifth birthday.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever occurring in 1954 had involvements which called for special attention and consideration in relation to the prevention of the spread of the disease. The first case occurred at Rayleigh (Rawreth) in May and involved the father of the patient. This man was employed as a Cowman, and with the co-operation of the farmer he was transferred to alternative employment disassociated with the production, distribution and storage of milk for the requisite period. The second case occurred in August at Thundersley and again the father of the patient was involved. This man was employed as a Maintenance Engineer on machinery which processed margarine and the firm concerned manufactured very large quantities. In the national interest I had to make certain recommendations and the co-operation of the manufacturer was forthcoming.

Poliomyelitis. As has been mentioned in my Reports of previous years, Poliomyelitis has been officially notifiable since 1912, but it is only since the recent War that the disease has become more prevalent with consequent publicity. In 1930 in England and Wales there were 506 cases and 108 deaths—an average incidence at that time. In 1954 there were 1955 confirmed cases and 112 deaths, but this was minimal for a post-war year.

Locally, we were fortunate in 1954 and only three Non-paralytic cases occurred at Canvey Island and all three made excellent recoveries. However, during the months of July to October the Public Health Departments of the three Authorities were constantly dealing with numerous contacts of confirmed cases from various parts, on whom careful vigilance and supervision had to be exercised.

Smallpox. There were neither any deaths nor confirmed cases of Smallpox in England and Wales during 1954, but a local medical practitioner requested me to give a second opinion on a suspected case. I am glad to say that my diagnosis of mild Chickenpox was upheld by the sequence of events.

Enteric Fever. There were only 4 deaths from Typhoid Fever and 4 deaths of Paratyphoid Fever in England and Wales during 1954. A number of Paratyphoid contacts and one Typhoid contact were brought to the notice of the Department during the year, but I am glad to say there were no developments.

Meningitis. A number of types of Meningitis are not notifiable. Two such cases were brought to the notice of the Department during the year—a boy aged 8 years staying at Thundersley with Streptococcal Meningitis, and a boy aged 14 with Benign Lymphatic Meningitis from Canvey Island.

One case of Tuberculosis Meningitis from Canvey Island (female aged 9 years) was officially notified and this is included under Tuberculosis Statistics.

Dysentery. Three cases of Sonne Dysentery were notified during the year, two being in Hadleigh and one at Rayleigh. This latter was a female, aged 16 who worked at a Nursery in Stepney where there had been an outbreak among the resident infants.

Two further separate cases moved into the area (Benfleet and Rayleigh) whilst still showing positive stools and sampling and supervision had to be carried out until they were free from infection. An outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred at one of the local hospitals and numerous ward contacts were notified to the Department following their discharge from hospital.

A chronic carrier of Amoebic Dysentery (the most severe form of this disease) was brought to my notice from Canvey Island. He contracted the disease during war service in the Far East and had been in and out of hospital since. Constant vigilance was necessary and I am glad to say there were no developments in this case.

Gastro Enteritis. This condition, often associated with Acute Diarrhoea, is not statutorily notifiable as such but draws considerable attention from Health Departments because of the serious outcome, particularly among babies and young children. A number of cases were brought to my notice during the year, chiefly in the summer months, affecting babies on holiday. The majority received hospital treatment. Unfortunately one young visitor of 7 months from London died.

Measles and Whooping Cough. The national incidence of Measles and Whooping Cough during 1954 was very low, especially the former. Official figures for England and Wales are 146,970 Measles and 105,901 Whooping Cough. Measles was exceptionally low in incidence during the first nine months of the year but increased more than two-fold in the December Quarter. Whooping Cough does not seem to fluctuate so much as Measles and the number of cases kept at a fairly even rate throughout the year.

Locally, it was an exceptionally minimal year for Measles with only 73 cases in the three areas, as compared with 533 cases in 1953. Proportionately, Whooping Cough was also well down on the previous year with only a total of 48 cases, although Canvey's incidence was slightly greater than 1953.

Non-Notifiable Diseases — 1954

These are those mainly brought to notice on School Returns and were as follows —

	Benfleet	Canvey Island	Rayleigh
Mumps	115	101	8
Chicken Pox	103	—	1
German Measles	4	2	—

Of the incidence of Mumps, the cases at Benfleet and Canvey occurred chiefly at the end of the year and the few at Rayleigh occurred at the beginning. As far as Benfleet was concerned, half the cases occurred among children attending the Hadleigh Primary School. Over 30 cases occurred at New Thundersley and the remainder at South Benfleet. The prevalence of Mumps continued well into January 1955.

With regard to Chicken Pox, the cases in the Benfleet area occurred at the beginning of the year and Hadleigh was the parish chiefly affected.

Food Poisoning

Over 6,000 incidents causing food poisoning occurred in England and Wales during 1954, representing an increase of 14% on the figures for 1953. 68% of outbreaks were associated with made up dishes.

In these Districts only 5 cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year and four of these (from the Benfleet U.D.) were de-notified after investigation. The remaining confirmed case, from the Rayleigh area, involved a young woman who had just returned from a holiday at Hastings, where her fiancé, a Hadleigh resident, had been admitted to hospital where bacteriological examination of specimens showed that he was suffering from a condition normally attributable to food poisoning. The food at the holiday address was reported to be most unsatisfactory, and it was likely that infection contracted by the case from Rayleigh originated from the holiday area. Recovery was uneventful.

A case of suspected food poisoning, although not officially notified, was brought to my notice in October from Canvey Island. The patient, a man aged 52 years, was admitted to hospital after eating mushrooms, but I am glad to say that he recovered without complications.

Tuberculosis

The death rate for Tuberculosis in England and Wales during 1954 fell by 11.3%, there being 7,897 deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis in 1954 as compared with 8,902 in 1953 and 21,953 in 1948. In Essex, deaths from Tuberculosis numbered 200 in 1954 as compared with 292 in 1953. In 1948 there were 615 deaths from Tuberculosis in the Administrative County of Essex.

In these three Districts there was a total of five deaths from Tuberculosis during the year. This was a low fatality rate and compares favourably with 23 in 1948. The number of new cases of Tuberculosis appearing on the Registers, including transfers into the area, was 67 as compared with 46 in 1953. The number of names removed from the Registers during the year was 71. Reasons for the removal of names from the Tuberculosis Registers include cases recovered, cases no longer living in the area, cases lost sight of and deaths. Local figures are summarised as follows —

SUMMARY OF NEW CASES REGISTERED DURING 1954

			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals		
			Male	Female	Male	Female			
<i>Benfleet U.D.</i>									
Notifications	..	..	8	6	..	—	2	..	16
Inward transfers		..	6	5	..	—	1	..	12
<i>Canvey Island U.D.</i>									
Notifications	..	..	2	6	..	—	4	..	12
Inward transfers		..	8	6	..	—	—	..	14
<i>Rayleigh U.D.</i>									
Notifications	..	..	6	—	..	1	1	..	8
Inward transfers		..	3	2	..	—	—	..	5

SUMMARY OF DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals		
				Male	Female	Male	Female			
<i>Benfleet U.D.</i>										
1950	..	..	..	1	4	..	—	—	..	5
1951	..	..	..	7	1	..	—	—	..	8
1952	..	..	..	2	—	..	—	—	..	2
1953	..	..	..	1	4	..	—	—	..	5
1954	..	..	..	—	2	..	—	1	..	3
<i>Canvey Island U.D.</i>										
1950	..	..	..	1	1	..	—	1	..	3
1951	..	..	..	1	3	..	—	—	..	4
1952	..	..	..	1	1	..	—	—	..	2
1953	..	..	..	4	—	..	—	—	..	4
1954	..	..	..	1	—	..	—	—	..	1
<i>Rayleigh U.D.</i>										
1950	..	..	..	3	2	..	—	—	..	5
1951	..	..	..	2	—	..	—	—	..	2
1952	..	..	..	—	1	..	—	—	..	1
1953	..	..	..	3	—	..	—	—	..	3
1954	..	..	..	1	—	..	—	—	..	1

Cancer

There were 94 deaths in the three Districts during the year which were attributable to Cancer, in one form or another, and these are summarised below. The details show that lung cancer in the area increased from a total of 14 to 25 fatal cases, cancer from unnamed sites decreased from 55 to 43 fatal cases and the only District showing a drop in Cancer deaths during the year was Rayleigh. In 1953 there was a total of 95 cancer deaths in the three Districts.

As will be observed from the figures, deaths from lung cancer continue to rise and the increase during the past five years has been 33.4%. Throughout England and Wales deaths from Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus represented 18.5% of all cancer deaths and in

these Districts the corresponding figure was 26.6%. No doubt the remarkable rise in male lung cancer deaths in 1954 in the Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh Districts (24 as against 10 in 1953), bears some relationship to the increased proportion of male cancer deaths generally. It is quite unusual to record that for every three cancer deaths, two were men.

CANCER DEATHS ACCORDING TO SITE OF DISEASE

	Benfleet	Canvey Island	Rayleigh
Stomach	6	5	2
Lungs and Bronchus ..	11	8	6
Breast	5	2	4
Uterus	1	1	—
All other sites	23	10	10
Totals	46	26	22

CANCER DEATHS UNDER 50 YEARS OF AGE

Benfleet	Canvey Island	Rayleigh
Female (48 years) Left Ovary	Male (45 years) Bronchus	Female (42 years) Breast
Male (49 years) Lung	Male (37 years) Brain	Female (46 years) Lungs and Breast

The following summary shows the number of deaths from Cancer in England and Wales during the past five years. The figures in brackets represent the combined cancer mortality under the respective headings, for the Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh Urban Districts —

		Lungs & Bronchus		All other sites		Totals
1950	.. M	10,254 (12)	.. M	32,322 (32)	.. M	42,576 (44)
	F	1,987 (6)	.. F	38,875 (38)	.. F	40,862 (44)
1951	.. M	11,166 (13)	.. M	32,482 (34)	.. M	43,648 (47)
	F	2,081 (3)	.. F	38,424 (40)	.. F	40,505 (43)
1952	.. M	11,981 (9)	.. M	32,347 (29)	.. M	44,328 (38)
	F	2,237 (2)	.. F	39,035 (40)	.. F	41,272 (42)
1953	.. M	12,881 (10)	.. M	31,938 (42)	.. M	44,814 (52)
	F	2,251 (4)	.. F	38,734 (39)	.. F	40,991 (43)
1954	.. M	13,996 (24)	.. M	32,186 (40)	.. M	46,182 (64)
	F	2,336 (1)	.. F	39,430 (29)	.. F	41,766 (30)

WELFARE OF THE AGED

At the 31st December, 1954 a total of 53 persons (35 females and 18 males) were accommodated in Part III Accommodation by the Essex County Council, in respect of former residents of the Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh Urban Districts. In addition, it is understood that 27 old persons were accommodated in voluntary homes and maintained at the County Council's expense.

Whilst there are still no Old People's Hostels in these Districts provided by the Essex County Council, the acquisition of a large property at Westcliff-on-Sea by the County Council will greatly help the accommodation problem for aged persons in South East Essex when the extensive adaptations have been completed.

A number of problem cases were dealt with by the Department during the year, but I am glad to say that no action was necessary under Section 47 (as amended) of the National Assistance Act, 1948 with regard to the compulsory removal of persons in need of care and attention.

EXHUMATION

By order of the Home Secretary, an exhumation was carried out at Benfleet Cemetery in December, 1954 when the remains of a South Benfleet man who died in January, 1953 were removed to the Kent County Crematorium for cremation. Certain precautions, as recommended by me in the interests of Public Health, were complied with.

ACCIDENTS

Road accidents in Essex during 1954 caused the death of 101 persons, and a further 2,023 were seriously injured and 3,482 slightly injured. These figures showed respective increases of 16%, 7.9% and 4.5% over the figures for 1953. Eleven of the 14 additional deaths occurred in built-up areas. The Chief Constable of Essex reports that the peak times for accidents were 5 - 6 p.m., 4 - 5 p.m. and 12 - 1 p.m. in that order. The blackest day for accidents was Saturday and August was the blackest month. The majority of accidents among children occurred between 3 - 5 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays.

Of the 11,796 accidents occurring in the County, 6,965 were attributed to drivers, 1,283 to pedal cyclists, 1,225 to motor cyclists, 792 to pedestrians and 1,531 to animals (mostly dogs).

Causes of accidents were attributed by the Chief Constable to improper overtaking, inattention to driving, turning right without proper care, and speed. The highest fatality rate among pedestrians was among people crossing roads under cover of stationary vehicles.

Home accidents continue to take a heavy toll of life and figures provided by the Registrar General show that in England and Wales during 1954 there were 5,353 deaths from accidental falls, 1,032 from accidental poisoning and 781 from accidents caused by fire and hot substances, making a total of 7,166 accidental deaths. This represents an increase of 932 or 15% on the figures for 1953.

Speaking of accidents generally, it has been stated that accidents are responsible for 17% of deaths in children between 1 and 5 years and 25% of child deaths between 5 and 15 years.

In these districts, 8 deaths attributable to accidents were recorded during the year.

The following figures have also been supplied by the Chief Constable of Essex.

SUMMARY OF PERSONS KILLED OR INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS DURING 1954

District			Killed	Serious	Slight	Totals
Benfleet	..	..	—	44	64	108
Canvey Island	..	..	—	4	33	37
Rayleigh	..	..	2	34	66	102

NUMBER OF ROAD ACCIDENTS DURING 1954

District			Fatal	Injury	Non-Injury	Totals
Benfleet	..	..	—	95	210	305
Canvey Island	..	..	—	37	86	123
Rayleigh	..	..	2	78	133	213

RAINFALL

Details of the rainfall during the year have been provided by the Southend Waterworks Company in respect of the 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 22.53 inches of rain fell during the year. The wettest months were August with 3.07 and November with 3.25 inches. The driest months were April with 0.30 and December with 1.04 inches.

At Canvey Island the total rainfall was 22.47 inches for the year. Again August and November were the wettest months with 3.12 and 3.44 inches respectively. April remained the driest month with 0.19 inches, but the second driest month here was September with 0.93 inches whilst December had 1.02 inches of rain.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectedious Disease	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
<i>Benfleet U.D.</i>					
Acute Pneumonia ..	7	4	5	10	26
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	6	4	5	3	2
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	2	—	4
Infectious Hepatitis ..	2	30	6	—	2
Measles	22	578	67	222	61
Meningococcal Infection ..	1	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1	3	10	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	2	2	2
Scarlet Fever	15	7	53	25	24
Sonne Dysentery	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough ..	90	77	35	71	13
<i>Canvey Island U.D.</i>					
Acute Pneumonia ..	1	1	—	3	14
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	2
Infectious Hepatitis ..	6	—	—	—	—
Measles	18	97	32	227	8
Meningococcal Infection ..	1	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	3	1	1	—	3
Scarlet Fever	1	2	36	8	8
Whooping Cough ..	17	13	19	21	30
<i>Rayleigh U.D.</i>					
Acute Pneumonia ..	15	7	—	4	14
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	11	5	9	6	7
Food Poisoning ..	2	—	8	1	1
Infectious Hepatitis ..	—	—	6	6	6
Measles	14	251	7	84	4
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	1	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	2	1	—
Scarlet Fever	10	1	21	—	18
Sonne Dysentery	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ..	56	35	25	17	5

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

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Cancer (Lung & Bronchus)	12,241	13,247	14,218	15,133	16,332
Cancer (all other Sites) ..	71,197	70,906	71,382	70,672	71,616
Diphtheria	49	34	32	23	9
Dysentery (all forms) ..	66	74	36	36	38
Infectious Encephalitis ..	115	118	105	134	88
Influenza	3,896	16,123	1,750	6,465	1,811
Measles	221	317	141	244	50
Meningococcal Infection ..	279	299	290	291	259
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4,230	4,510	4,117	4,375	4,588
Poliomyelitis	755	215	275	320	112
Streptococcal Infections ..	93	65	64	61	52
Tuberculosis (all forms) ..	15,968	13,800	10,585	8,902	7,898
Venereal Diseases	1,729	1,771	1,619	1,445	1,420
Whooping Cough	393	457	184	243	139

CLASSIFIED SUMMARY OF ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1954

BENFLEET URBAN DISTRICT

Notifiable Disease	Cases included in Weekly Returns													Distribution					Sex			
	At ages													Deaths	Admitted to Hospital	Hadleigh	S. Benfleet	Thundersley		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 to and over									
Acute Pneumonia	26	—	—	—	1	—	11	3	2	—	3	3	3	1	—	7	15	4	14	12	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—
Food Poisoning	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	3	—	—
Infectious Hepatitis	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—
Measles	61	2	3	8	3	6	38	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	37	18	32	29	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—
Scarlet Fever	24	—	—	2	4	4	10	3	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	10	4	10	16	8	—	—
Sonne Dysentery	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	13	—	—	3	2	1	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	9	7	6	—	—

CLASSIFIED SUMMARY OF ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1954

CANVEY ISLAND URBAN DISTRICT

Notifiable Disease	Cases included in Weekly Returns														Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	M.	F.
	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 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over				
Acute Pneumonia	14	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	2	1	1	2	4	—	—	8	6	
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	
Measles	8	—	2	2	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	
Poliomyelitis	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	
Scarlet Fever	8	—	—	—	1	—	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	3	5	
Whooping Cough	30	5	—	9	3	3	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	15	

CLASSIFIED SUMMARY OF ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1954

RAYLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT

Notifiable Disease	Cases included in Weekly Returns														Deaths	Admitted to Hospital	M.	F.
	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					
Acute Pneumonia	14	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	3	1	6	1	—	8	6	
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	1	—	—	1	6	
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Infectious Hepatitis	6	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	
Measles	4	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	
Scarlet Fever	18	—	—	—	5	10	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	10	8	
Sonne Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Whooping Cough	5	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	

INDEX

	PAGE
Accidents	43
Ambulance Service	14
Area	4
Atmospheric Pollution	22
Births and Birth Rates	4, 11, 12
Cancer	41
Caravans	21
Census Information	7
Clinics	15
Committees	2
Comparability Factor	12
Condemned Food	34, 35
Deaths and Death Rates	5, 10, 11, 12, 13
Diphtheria	37
Domestic Helps	15
Drainage and Sewerage	18
Dysentery	39
Education	9
Enteric Fever	38
Exhumation	43
Factories	20
Food Inspection	33-35
Food Poisoning	40
Gastro-enteritis	39
Health Visiting	15
Home Nursing	15
Hospitals	16
Houseboats	21
Housing	26-30
Ice Cream	36
Infant Mortality	6, 11, 12
Infectious Diseases	24, 37-41, 45-49
Inhabited Houses	4
Inspections and Visits	24
Laboratory Service	14
Local Health Authority Services	15
Markets	23
Measles	39
Meat Inspection	31-33
Meningitis	38
Midwives	15
Milk	30
Moveable Dwellings	21
National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47)	43
Non-notifiable Diseases	39
Oil Refineries — "Smell" nuisance	22

							PAGE
Pet Animals ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Petroleum Storage ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Poliomyelitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Population ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 4, 6,	12
Public Cleansing ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Public Conveniences ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Rainfall ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Rateable Value ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Rats and Mice ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Road Accidents ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43-44
Salvage ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
School Canteens ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 34,	35
Smallpox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Smoke Abatement ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Social Conditions ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Staff ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Statistics ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 4,	11
Stillbirths ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Street Trading ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40-41
Vermin ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Vital Statistics ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Water Supply ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Welfare of the Aged ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39

1871
1872
1873



