

[Report 1957] / 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

1957

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/spsrx5vt>

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>

Library

Essex County Councils

HEALTH
A110JAN59
CR. 43

URBAN DISTRICTS



of

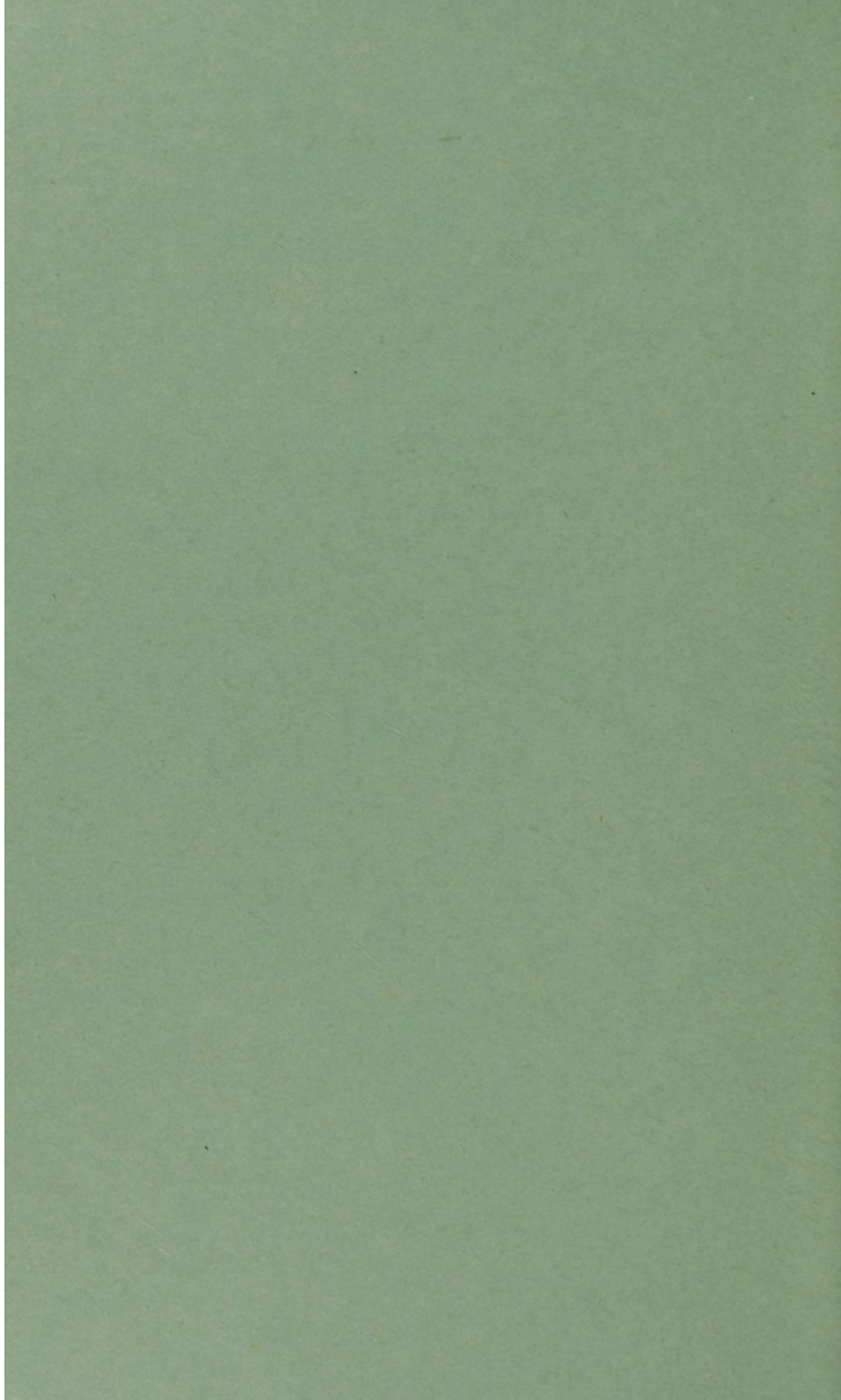
BENFLEET, CANVEY ISLAND

and RAYLEIGH

HEALTH REPORT

for the year

1957



Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1957

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
49, 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 esteemed honour to present, for your consideration my last Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of each of your Urban Districts for the year ending 31st December, 1957, prepared in accordance with the requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 1/58 dated 13th January, 1958. This issue represents my 30th Report for the Canvey Island Urban District and my 28th Report for each of the Benfleet and Rayleigh Urban Districts.

During my long term of Office, I have been privileged to witness great improvements in the provision of necessary measures to aid the Public Health. Much has been achieved, but much still remains undone, although the great advance in sanitation and hygiene has doubtless played a large part in the suppression, and in some cases, the elimination, of many infectious diseases. However, every generation creates its own Public Health problems, and some of those which attract the attention of the Medical Officer of Health today are listed as follows—

Bronchitis	Accidents—Home and Highway
Cancer, particularly respiratory	Atmospheric Pollution
Coronary Heart Disease	Care of the aged.
Mental Health	Health Education
Poliomyelitis	Nutrition
Rheumatic & Arthritis diseases	Radiation Hazards.
Tuberculosis	

Added to these are the problems associated with a rapidly developing area, and at this point it is worth recording that Rayleigh, which for years has been a haven for the aged, now has a population in which the productive ages are predominant—births are above, and deaths are below, the national average.

Over the past year I have again been indebted to my colleagues in other branches of medicine—General Practitioner, Hospital Laboratory—for their continued assistance and co-operation. The various

departments of the Health Service, although separately administered, are intimately dependent upon each other, and everything should be done to foster the spirit of unity. I am deeply grateful for the co-operation and goodwill enjoyed for so long from colleagues and other professional Officers working both within and without the Health Service, for the benefit of the Public Health.

My staff have continued their loyal and devoted service throughout the year and I am most grateful.

Finally, as expressed elsewhere and in person, I am deeply indebted to the Members and Chief Officers of the three Local Authorities for all their help and guidance over many years.

“The hard road makes for better travelling and Public Health has no gimmicks.”

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.

August, 1958.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES

Benfleet Urban District—

Councillor C. E. Adams
Councillor E. P. J. Barber
Councillor H. R. Bridge
Councillor L. A. G. Cunnington
Councillor W. Dellow
Councillor G. H. FitzGerald
Councillor Mrs. M. Goodfellow
Councillor A. H. Hall, J.P. (Chairman of Council)
Councillor S. J. Kinnaird
Councillor T. C. Rigden (Vice-Chairman of Council)
Councillor I. J. Smith (Chairman)

Canvey Island Urban District—

Councillor A. T. F. Bishop, J.P.
Councillor G. W. Blackwell
Councillor L. G. Cook
Councillor Mrs. E. C. Johnstone
Councillor Mrs. B. V. Littlewood
Councillor E. E. Norman (Vice-Chairman of Council)
Councillor G. H. Prince
Councillor A. C. Mason, J.P., C.C., (Chairman of Council)
Councillor H. C. Whitcomb (Chairman)

Rayleigh Urban District—

Councillor Mrs. M. B. Blower
Councillor E. G. Collins
Councillor Mrs. F. M. Cottee, J.P.,
Councillor A. W. Green
Councillor Mrs. M. B. D. Green, J.P., (Chairman of Council)
Councillor A. W. Hardwick
Councillor E. H. Lane (Chairman)
Councillor C. R. Lawrence (Vice-Chairman of Council)
Councillor E. Trippier, C.C.
Councillor E. A. Wilding

COMPOSITE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Representatives for Benfleet Urban District—

Councillors L. A. G. Cunnington, G. H. FitzGerald, I. J. Smith.

Representatives for Canvey Island Urban District—

Councillors Mrs. E. C. Johnstone, Mrs. B. V. Littlewood.

Representatives for Rayleigh Urban District—

Councillors Mrs. M. B. Blower, Mrs. F. M. Cottee, J.P., E. H. Lane

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i> ..	Norman Lorraine, F.R.S.E., M.D., D.P.H., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.S.H.
<i>Locum to Medical Officer of Health</i>	P. George C. Jones, J.P., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
<i>Secretary to Medical Officer of Health</i>	R. F. Stripp
<i>Public Health Inspectors</i>	J. E. Gilbert, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Senior Public Health Inspector, Benfleet U.D.C. P. Sanders, M.A.P.H.I., Additional Public Health Inspector, Benfleet U.D.C. Donald J. Legg, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Senior Public Health Inspector, Canvey Island U.D.C. A. P. J. Cook, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Deputy Public Health Inspector, Canvey Island U.D.C. E. H. Lloyd, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Senior Public Health Inspector, Rayleigh U.D.C. D. Cotgrove, M.A.P.H.I., Additional Public Health Inspector, Rayleigh U.D.C. (Commenced 22nd July, 1957).
<i>Clerical Assistants</i> ..	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, 1957 (according to Rate Book)	9,716	4,951	5,117
Population (1951 Census)	19,881	11,255	9,388
Population (Registrar-General's esti- mate for mid 1957)	24,970	12,330	14,830
Rateable Value	£293,221	£133,760	£163,347
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ..	£1,172	£537	£645
Rateable Value per head of the esti- mated population	£11.7	£10.8	£11.0

* Includes Foreshore and Saltings.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Benfleet			Canvey Island			Rayleigh		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
<i>Live Births</i> :	220	203	423	89	99	188	124	132	256
Legitimate	210	197	407	85	93	178	120	129	249
Illegitimate	10	6	16	4	6	10	4	3	7
<i>Stillbirths</i> :	2	5	7	—	—	—	7	—	7
Legitimate	2	5	7	—	—	—	7	—	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Deaths</i> :	144	153	297	81	54	135	99	77	176
<i>Birth Rate</i> per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..	16.9			15.3			17.3		
<i>Stillbirth Rate</i> per 1,000 total (live and still) births	16.3			—			26.6		
<i>Death Rate</i> per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..	11.9			10.9			11.9		
<i>Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :</i>									
Total number of infant deaths ..	7			2			3		
All infants per 1,000 live births ..	16.6			10.6			11.7		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	17.2			11.2			12.0		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	—			—			—		
Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	7			1			2		

BIRTH RATE

Benfleet U.D. 16.9 *Caney Island U.D.* 15.3 *Rayleigh U.D.* 17.3

During the year there was a total of 867 live births in the three areas—423 in Benfleet, 188 in Canvey Island and 256 in Rayleigh. This was an increase of 154 or 21.6% over the birth figures for 1956—almost three times the increase of that year over the previous year. The average birth rate for 1957 was 16.5 as compared with 14.7 for 1956. Of the 1957 total, 433 were males and 434 were females—an equal balance of sexes compared with last year's predominance of males (55.7%). The birth rate for England and Wales during 1957 was

16.1, representing an increase of 24,957 live births over the previous year. Of the total of 723,274 throughout the Country, 51.4% were males.

DEATH RATE

Benfleet U.D. 11.9 *Canvey Island U.D.* 10.9 *Rayleigh U.D.* 11.9

During the year there was a total of 608 deaths in the three areas—297 in Benfleet, 135 in Canvey Island, and 176 in Rayleigh. Of this total 324 were males (53.3%) and 284 females (46.7%). There was an overall fall of 5% in the number of male deaths for the three Districts but this was balanced by an equal increase of female deaths. In Benfleet there was a small majority of female deaths, but Canvey Island had the highest number of male deaths, e.g. 60%. The death rate for England and Wales during 1957 was 11.5—just a little lower than the previous year—and the total deaths numbered 514,862.

From the table on page 9 it will be noticed that 220 deaths in Benfleet U.D., 110 in Canvey Island U.D., and 136 in Rayleigh U.D. were over 65 years of age, giving a combined percentage of 76.7. For deaths among residents who were either 75 years of age or over Canvey Island had the highest rate with 54%, Benfleet came next with 48.5% and Rayleigh the lowest at 44%. Causes of death show that 86% of all deaths during the year were attributed to either Cancer (117), Heart Disease (90), Coronary Disease (119), Cerebral Haemorrhage (96), Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Respiratory Causes (69), or Other Circulatory Diseases (32).

The very small increase in the total number of deaths during the year was not in any sense proportionate with the continual rapid rise in population, and in this connection it should be noted that the combined death rate for the three Districts fell from 12.1 to 11.6.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Last year the fluctuating nature of the infant mortality rate was stressed, and by comparison this year we see this trend continuing. Happily, however, there has been a considerable drop in the right direction, with Canvey and Rayleigh being only a third of the 1956 rate and Benfleet a half.

Throughout the Country, and locally, the downward trend continues year by year and during my many years as Medical Officer of Health to the three Authorities the number of infants surviving the first year of life increases continually.

The following simple table shows (a) the average rate over the past 28 years (from 1930 as the most convenient year for the three Districts) and (b) the rate for 1957. As one is an average and the other is a specific annual figure, the remarkable improvement will be appreciated.

	(a)	(b)
England & Wales	44.9	23.1
Benfleet U.D.	35.5	16.6
Canvey Island U.D.	44.9	10.6
Rayleigh U.D.	34.9	11.7

The 12 infants who died in these Districts were classified as follows : Prematurity, 6 ; congenital conditions, 2 ; cerebral injury at birth, 1 ; suffocation in cot, 1 ; other conditions, 2. Eleven of the infants died within the first four weeks of life.

Stillbirths during the year throughout England and Wales totalled 16,632—an increase on 1956 of 238, although doubtless associated with the increased number of births (almost 25,000 more). The stillbirth rate was 2.25% for all live and still births—just a little below the 1956 rate of 2.3%. There were 14 local stillbirths (7 in Benfleet and 7 in Rayleigh) and represented only 1.6% of all live and still births in the three areas.

COMPARABILITY FACTOR

District	Factor	Number	Rate	Adjusted Number	Adjusted Rate
BIRTHS					
Benfleet U.D.	1.00	423	16.9	423	16.9
Canvey Island U.D.	1.07	188	15.3	201	16.3
Rayleigh U.D.	0.92	256	17.3	236	15.9
DEATHS					
Benfleet U.D.	0.92	297	11.9	273	10.9
Canvey Island U.D.	0.93	135	10.9	126	10.2
Rayleigh U.D.	1.08	176	11.9	190	12.8

Until the year 1955, the Comparability Factor remained fairly steady, but since then, with the rapid development of the area, there has been a marked change. The influx of population has been mainly younger stock of reproductive age, and as far as Rayleigh is concerned, the electrification of the railway, reducing travelling time to London to only 45 minutes, has been a material factor in drawing workers from the Greater London area. Consequently, the proportion of elderly residents has fallen considerably and the birth rate has increased, with a corresponding reduction in mortality.

In Rayleigh, where in 1955 the upper age grouping of the population was 25% *above* the normal, it is now 8% *below* normal. Similarly, the reproductive section of the community which was 10% *below* normal, is now 8% *above* normal.

In Benfleet, in the same period, the upper age section of the population has fallen from 27% *above* to only 8% *above* the normal, and the younger section has risen from 14% *below* normal to normal.

At Canvey Island, changes have been slower, largely through the effects of the Flood Disaster in 1953, but the older element has fallen from 19% *above* to 7% *above* average and the younger proportion of the community has risen from 14% *below* to 7% *below* average.

POPULATION

Benfleet U.D. 24,970 Canvey Island U.D 12,330 Rayleigh U.D. 14,830

The estimated total population for England and Wales for 1957 was 44,907,000, representing an increase of 240,000 or 0.54% over the previous year. The natural increase (excess of births over deaths) was 208,412. In view of the continued exodus of large numbers of the population to Commonwealth and other countries abroad, the extent of immigration must be considerable. During the year over 100 visits were paid to the M.O.H. Office by persons proceeding abroad, and many of these visits involved families of four or more. It would seem that Canada continues to offer the greatest attraction to those attempting to start life anew.

The total increase of population for the Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh Urban Districts during 1957 was 3,470 or 7.13% on the 1956 figures. Although this increase was less than the previous year, it was almost 14 times greater than the rate of increase for the Country as a whole. Of this increase, the excess of births over deaths accounted for 259 and immigration for the remainder. For the fourth year running Rayleigh claimed the greatest increase with 12.2%. The increases at Benfleet and Canvey Island were 7.4% and 1.15% respectively.

Some population figures since 1930 are listed as follows—

Year	Benfleet U.D.	Canvey Island 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
1955	21,490	12,040	11,490
1956	23,250	12,190	13,220
1957	24,970	12,330	14,830

Population changes over the past 10 years are listed as follows—

Year	Benfleet U.D.	Canvey Island U.D.	Rayleigh U.D.
1948 ..	120 —	470 +	546 +
1949 ..	Nil	50 +	143 +
1950 ..	120 +	250 +	94 +
1951 ..	40 +	250 +	154 —
1952 ..	120 —	590 +	95 +
1953 ..	130 +	110 +	124 +
1954 ..	500 +	240 +	511 +
1955 ..	1,270 +	50 +	1,440 +
1956 ..	1,760 +	150 +	1,730 +
1957 ..	1,720 +	140 +	1,610 +

Total increase			
over period ..	5,300 or 26.9%	2,300 or 22.9%	6,139 or 70.6%

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1957

Age	Number in District	Outward Transfers	Inward Transfers	Number of deaths which apply to District
<i>Benfleet U.D.</i>				
Under 1 year ..	1	—	6	7
1 and under 2	—	—	1	1
2 " " 5	3	—	—	3
5 " " 15	—	—	3	3
15 " " 25	—	—	3	3
25 " " 35	—	—	2	2
35 " " 45	1	—	2	3
45 " " 55	6	—	7	13
55 " " 65	19	—	23	42
65 " " 75	45	1	32	76
75 and upwards	86	4	62	144
Totals for Benfleet	161	5	141	297
<i>Canvey Island U.D.</i>				
Under 1 year ..	1	—	1	2
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—
2 " " 5	—	—	1	1
5 " " 15	2	1	—	1
15 " " 25	—	—	—	—
25 " " 35	—	—	—	—
35 " " 45	1	—	1	2
45 " " 55	1	1	5	5
55 " " 65	10	1	6	15
65 " " 75	27	3	25	49
75 and upwards	34	—	26	60
Totals for Canvey Is.	76	6	65	135
<i>Rayleigh U.D.</i>				
Under 1 year	1	—	2	3
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—
2 " " 5	—	—	—	—
5 " " 15	—	—	—	—
15 " " 25	1	—	—	1
25 " " 35	—	—	1	1
35 " " 45	3	—	—	3
45 " " 55	3	—	5	8
55 " " 65	12	—	13	25
65 " " 75	23	—	18	41
75 and upwards	63	—	31	94
Totals for Rayleigh	106	—	70	176

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1957.

	Benfleet U.D.		Canvey Island U.D.		Rayleigh U.D.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
All causes	144	153	81	54	99	77
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	2	—	1	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	1	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	1	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	3	5	2	2	—
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	3	4	1	4	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3	—	4	—	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	—	—	—	1
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	17	17	9	5	8	9
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1	1	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	1	—	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	24	27	10	8	12	15
18. Coronary disease, angina	33	20	23	15	21	7
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	3	1	1	1	2
20. Other heart disease	16	20	8	5	17	15
21. Other circulatory disease	7	8	4	2	5	6
22. Influenza	—	3	2	1	—	—
23. Pneumonia	4	11	2	5	—	—
24. Bronchitis	7	7	2	—	6	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	3	1	1	3	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	1	—	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	—	1	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	1	—	—	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	15	4	1	7	6
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—
34. All other accidents	—	2	3	—	1	—
35. Suicide	1	1	1	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	2	—	—	—	—	—
Total	297	297	135	135	176	176

LABORATORY SERVICE

The three Districts are served in this respect by the Southend Public Health Laboratory at Balmoral Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, and I am indebted to Dr. Margaret Wilson and her staff for very helpful co-operation during the year.

I am advised that during 1957 65 samples were examined on behalf of the three Authorities and included milk, ice cream, water, shellfish and other foods. Portions of slaughtered animals from the Hadleigh Slaughterhouse were also included.

Through arrangements made by the Essex County Council certain specimens can be sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. and examined free of charge to the Local Authorities. During the year four specimens of sewage effluent were submitted to this Laboratory from the Rayleigh Urban District.

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 Station		Canvey Island Station
Stretcher cases	..	..	2,742	..	858
Sitting cases	..	..	10,911	..	970
Emergency	..	..	1,194	..	410
Non-Emergency	..	..	12,459	..	1,418
Mileage covered	..	..	112,143	..	26,747
Miles per patient	..	..	8.2	..	14.6

Maternity and Accident cases are included in the figures against Emergency above. There were 253 Maternity cases dealt with at Thundersley and 59 at Canvey Island. Of Accident cases, there were 287 removed by the Thundersley Station and 119 by the Canvey Island Station.

The Thundersley Station is manned by 17 men, including the Station Officer and Assistant Station Officer, and is provided with two stretcher case vehicles and two sitting case vehicles. Additionally a number of Hospital Car Service vehicles are operated by the British Red Cross in conjunction with the Essex County Council.

At the Canvey Island Station there are 5 personnel including the Head Driver, and one stretcher case vehicle is provided.

The procedure for calling an ambulance in an emergency is as follows. In areas served by the Hadleigh and South Benfleet Exchanges dial 999. In areas covered by the Rayleigh and Canvey Island Exchange dial the Operator. Requests for an ambulance in non-emergency cases should be made by a responsible person to the County Ambulance Officer (Tel.: Chelmsford 4801), although in practice medical practitioners generally arrange most of their cases direct with the local Ambulance Station. Requests for the removal of cases of infectious disease are normally made through the Medical Officer of Health.

The telephone numbers of the two local Ambulance Stations are as follows : Thundersley—Sth. Benfleet 2323 ; Canvey Island—Canvey 161.

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

These include Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting, Domestic Helps, and regular clinic sessions are held for ante-natal and post-natal care, baby welfare, dental treatment (for expectant and nursing mothers and school children), eyes (school children), minor ailments (school children), speech therapy, immunisation against Diphtheria and vaccination against Smallpox and Poliomyelitis. Administration locally is carried out by the Area Medical Officer (Dr. W. J. Moffat) on behalf of the Essex County Council, with Area Health Offices at 153, High Street, Rayleigh (Tel.: Rayleigh 831-2).

Modern well appointed Health Service Clinics are situated at London Road, Hadleigh ; Kenneth Road, Thundersley ; High Road, South Benfleet ; Furtherwick Road, Canvey Island ; and Eastwood Road, Rayleigh.

Handicapped children and persons suffering from Tuberculosis get special care through the services of the County Council.

The County Council's Mental Health Service is administered from County Hall Chelmsford, but two Duly Authorised Officers function locally and cover the whole South-East Essex Area. Their office is at Central Chambers, High Street, Rayleigh (Tel.: Rayleigh 240). These Officers are listed as follows—

W. G. Collis, 7, Waltham Road, Rayleigh (Tel.: Rayleigh 1042)

J. T. Leafe, 3, Grange Gardens, Rayleigh (Tel.: Rayleigh 21042)

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

All matters relating to the General Medical, Dental, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services should be referred to the Clerk of the Executive Council for the County of Essex (National Health Service) (E. Bergdahl), 131/3, Fillebrook Road, Leytonstone, E.11 (Tel. Leytonstone 1061).

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Under the provisions of the National Health Service these are administered by the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board (Secretary—C. E. Nichol, O.B.E., 11a, Portland Place, W.1.) which embraces an area of 1,658 square miles or practically the whole of the County of Essex, and parts of London, Middlesex and Hertfordshire. The population of this area at June 1956 was 3,102,800 and the total complement of beds is 32,973 located in 129 Hospitals throughout the area.

The Region is divided into Groups and these Districts are located in Group 15 which is administered by the Southend-on-Sea Hospital Management Committee with Offices at the General Hospital, Rochford. The Group Secretary is Mr. J. C. Field, F.H.A. There are two representatives from these Districts serving on the Hospital Management Committee, e.g. Dr. W. L. James, O.B.E., of Hadleigh and Councillor A. C. Mason, J.P., of Canvey Island.

The following details of Hospital Services have been taken from the Handbook of the Regional Hospital Board published in August, 1957, and are listed for information and guidance of all who read this Report.

Acute Sick. Admission to hospital is made by the General Practitioner direct with the appropriate Hospital.

Chronic Sick. As the demand for this type of bed exceeds the supply, priority for admission depends on the degree of medical and social urgency. The Medical Officer of Health is often requested to assist where an assessment of social need is required.

Infectious Diseases. Uncomplicated cases of Measles, Chicken Pox, Scarlet Fever, German Measles and Mumps are normally nursed at home but where special circumstances warrant, admission is made through the Medical Officer of Health.

Poliomyelitis. Cases from these areas are normally sent to the Westcliff Hospital, but where respiratory complications are evident, cases are sent or transferred to the special Poliomyelitis Unit at Rush Green Hospital, Romford.

Smallpox. In the event of a suspected case of Smallpox arising, a panel of Consultants is provided to aid diagnosis. Special isolation for suspected cases is provided at Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford.

Tuberculosis. A special Chest Unit with 72 beds is provided at the Rochford General Hospital for in-patient treatment of persons suffering from Respiratory Disease, including Tuberculosis. Out-patient treatment for chest cases is provided by Lancaster House Chest Clinic, Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, under the direction of Dr. E. G. Sita-Lumsden.

Mass Radiography. The unit covering this area is based at Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford (Medical Director—Dr. W. L. Yell). The Unit visited Canvey Island and Hadleigh in May, 1957 and Rayleigh in July, 1957. Details will be found on Page 36.

Emergency Obstetric Units. One of these is based at the General Hospital, Rochford and requests should be made direct in appropriate circumstances.

Convalescent Treatment. This is provided free by the Regional Hospital Board at approved Establishments, where considered necessary.

Rheumatism Unit. This is provided at the Black Notley Hospital, Braintree (Mr. M. C. Wilkinson, F.R.C.S.) for selected urgent cases of rheumatic and arthritic disease.

Hearing Aids. These are provided and serviced free of charge. Assessment by an Otologist is necessary to determine the type of Aid required. Persons needing treatment or assessment for an Aid should be referred by their General Practitioner to the Southend General Hospital.

Surgical Appliances. These are provided by the Hospital Service and not through the General Medical Service. Persons requiring surgical footwear, surgical corsets, invalid chairs and wigs should be referred by the General Practitioner to the appropriate Specialist at the Southend General Hospital.

Blood Transfusion Service. This area is served by the Blood Transfusion Centre at Crescent Drive, Brentwood (Director—Dr. W. J. Jenkins, Tel.: Brentwood 3545).

Venereal Diseases. Consultation and treatment is provided at the Westcliff Hospital (Dr. H. D. Crosswell, Tel.: Southend 44415).

Mental Health. Non-emergency cases should be referred by the General Practitioner to the Psychiatric Out-Patient Department of the Southend General Hospital. Application for admission to hospital of urgent cases should be made to the Duly Authorised Officer for Mental Welfare (see page 12). Cases from these Districts are normally sent to Severalls Hospital, Mile End, Colchester.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supply

The water supply to this area is provided by the Southend Waterworks Company whose principal office is at 13, Cambridge Road, Southend-on-Sea (Tel. Southend 44424).

Approximately 80% of water supplied to the Southend Water Area, which includes these three Districts, comes from the Rivers

Chelmer, Ter and Blackwater and is treated at the Company's main works at Langford, near Maldon, or at the new works at Hanningfield. Such treated water is tested daily by resident chemists and bacteriologists before being pumped into supply. The remaining 20% of main water is derived from the Company's 20 wells and boreholes in the South-East Essex area, and is subject to analysis every fortnight.

Underground water, which is pure and reasonably soft, receives no treatment other than precautionary sterilisation with chlorine. The raw river water, however, is hard, coloured and—like all river waters—subject to pollution. It is therefore stored at Langford in open sedimentation reservoirs, softened by the excess lime process and filtered through rapid gravity filters, to produce a satisfactory water with a total hardness not exceeding 150 parts per million. The working capacity of the treatment plant at Langford is eight million gallons daily.

The chief distribution problem in the supply area of the Southend Waterworks Company is the heavy incidence of external corrosion to iron pipes, caused by electrolytic action and sulphate-reducing bacteria in the clays in which the pipes are laid. This corrosion is so heavy that it has been causing an average of two bursts every three days in the Company's area of supply.

All reports on laboratory tests during the year have shown that the water from the Company's mains is of normal chemical character and good bacteriological quality, and consequently, pure and wholesome and suitable for public supply purposes. During 1957 the supply was satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity, and no lead contamination of the water supplies was encountered.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District 99.82% of all dwelling houses are connected to the main water supply. The supply is direct to the houses, there being no stand-pipes. Those premises not connected to the mains rely on supplies from rain-water tanks or shallow wells.

At **Canvey Island** only 370 of the 4,951 inhabited houses at the 31st December, 1957 were not connected to the main water supply, although 139 of these 370 properties are served by stand-pipes. 2,251 yards of new water mains were laid, resulting in 129 properties being freshly connected to the main supply. The remaining 231 properties without a main water supply are chiefly in outlying areas and in seasonal use only.

In the **Rayleigh** Urban District 99.15% of all dwelling-houses were supplied with main water at the 31st December, 1957. Of this figure, 0.23% were supplied by means of stand-pipes. 441 new houses and one existing house were connected to the main supply during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District it is estimated that 95% of all properties are connected to the main drainage system. During the year 48 existing premises and 548 new properties were connected to the main

sewer. Three of the connections to existing properties were undertaken by the Council on behalf of owners. Extensions or improvements were carried out to the drainage of 12 others.

At **Canvey Island** the extension of the main sewer continues to receive the urgent attention of the Local Authority and during 1957 a total of 3,319 yards of new sewer was laid involving 16 roads. 266 properties were connected to the main sewer during the year. During the past 10 years 10 miles of new sewers have been laid at Canvey Island, providing main drainage for 1,911 properties.

The main sewers in **Rayleigh** serve 91% of the properties. During 1957, 441 new properties and 16 existing houses were connected to the main sewer. About 257 properties are served by cesspools and a further 191 are provided with earth closets. Considerable progress has been made during the year in the preparation of schemes for the sewerage of private streets within the Development Area, and it is hoped that these will be put into operation during 1958.

Public Cleansing.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District the expansion of the Service with the growth of the District has continued. A new vehicle was brought into use in January. Three vehicles, each with a driver and four loaders are now in full-time use, and one vehicle with a driver and one loader is in part-time use. Continued house building on inmade roads still gives rise to difficulties. Efforts to salvage all materials of value continued, and the sum of £933 9 2d. was received from the sale of such materials.

At **Canvey Island** regular fortnightly collections of refuse have been maintained throughout the year, but with the continued building development, it will be necessary to increase the personal and vehicle strength of the Service in the near future. Trade refuse is collected free, but charges are made if more than one collection is required each fortnight. Some visitors in the holiday season are troublesome by irresponsible disposal of refuse in some of the outlying unmade roads, but the problem is largely overcome by the co-operation of permanent residents. As explained in last year's Report, disposal is by the Bradford System in excavated "Borrow Pits" following removal of clay for the rebuilding of the sea walls pursuant to the Flood Disaster of 1953. This arrangement is working extremely satisfactory and one pit has been completely filled in and provided with earth coverage.

The **Rayleigh** Urban District Council generally maintained a regular weekly collection of house refuse from houses on made roads and a fortnightly collection on unmade roads. Collection was made by two side loading vehicles of 13 and 10 cubic yards capacity. The refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping. 196 tons of material was salvaged and provided an income of £1,581. Night soil was collected at weekly intervals from 91 premises.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

In the area covered by the **Benfleet** Urban District there is a total of 82 factories on the register of the Local Authority. 78 of these employ mechanical power. Inspections were made on 79 occasions during the year and three Notices were served regarding defects. No legal proceedings were taken. Also, five workplaces were inspected and 22 inspections were made at sites of building operations, and four Notices were served.

There are 25 factories at **Canvey Island** registered with the Local Authority and all of these employ mechanical power. Routine inspections were carried out throughout the year. A number of premises with self-employed operatives continue to operate as factory premises, in addition to those registered as factories. Three cases of defects at factories involved action being taken in respect of sanitary accommodation at a garage, clothing factory and engineering works. There were 13 Outworkers registered for the manufacture of clothing, textiles, card boxes and lace.

The **Rayleigh** Urban District has 54 premises registered as factories and 51 of these employ mechanical power. 30 inspections were made and one defect was found and subsequently remedied.

Moveable Dwellings

(a) CARAVANS.

The **Benfleet** Urban District Council own and operate the Caravan Park at Hart Road, Thundersley. This is some 10 acres in extent and accommodates 204 caravans. The Park was full all the year, and there was a considerable waiting list for pitches at the end of the year.

Four licences were issued during the year relating to the stationing of 10 other caravans.

There are six licensed sites at **Canvey Island** two of which are fully occupied permanently. The largest site accommodates 1,500 moveable dwellings which are mainly occupied for seasonal use between April and September. Apart from one exception, all the sites are provided with main drainage, the exception being provided with a water carriage system to a septic tank. No action was found necessary against site operators during the year.

Reference here might be appropriate respecting the Camping Site which was established by the Canvey Island Council at Newlands early in 1957, designed particularly for tents. Main water, chemical closet sanitation and a small shop is provided. Main drainage will be provided as soon as available. The camp is well situated with a hard approach road and is only 15 minutes walk from the High Street.

There are no caravan or camping sites within the **Rayleigh** Urban District.

(b) HOUSEBOATS.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District 15 consents to moor houseboats in Benfleet Creek were issued by the Council under the provisions of the Essex County Council Act, 1952. Two houseboats were removed or demolished as a result of Notices served on the owners. Two Appeals to the Magistrates Court against refusal of consent to moor were made, and both were dismissed.

At **Canvey Island** only one houseboat, in Tewkes Creek, is permanently occupied. The few remaining houseboats in Small Gains Creek are either derelict or used occasionally at week-ends, and appropriate action is being taken by the Council for their removal. Two houseboats were demolished. Voluntary action by owners has achieved the removal of other craft after the intentions of the Council have been made known.

There are three houseboats within the **Rayleigh** Urban District. One of these is licensed and steps are being taken to ensure the removal of the other two. None are permanently occupied. Two houseboats were removed from the District during the year.

Atmospheric Pollution.

(a) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

27 Smoke observations were made in the **Benfleet** Urban District but no Notices were served.

17 Smoke observations were made in the **Rayleigh** Urban District and two Informal Notices were served. Both Notices were complied with.

There were no cases of industrial smoke nuisance at **Canvey Island**.

(b) SMELL FROM OIL REFINERIES.

The "Smell" nuisance which has affected the Benfleet and Canvey Island Districts in particular since the Oil Refineries first began to operate in 1953, continued on and off throughout the year.

Following a complaint from a South Benfleet resident to the local Member of Parliament in July, respecting the "Smell" nuisance and the possible association with lung cancer, the following information and table was forwarded to Westminster—

" Many factors must be taken into consideration when attempting to assess the incidence of malignant respiratory disease. For instance, population changes, age composition of the population, and the great improvement in infant and child mortality, resulting in more people living longer and surviving to the period of life which is most susceptible to the disease. Also, the advance of medical science is an aid to more accurate diagnosis and therefore

gives a more enlightened picture. In respect of atmospheric pollution, there are many offending constituents, and it is likely that fumes from motor vehicles may become an increasing detrimental factor."

Lung Cancer Mortality

	England and Wales	Essex	Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh
1951	13,233	503	16
Rate per 1,000 living..	0.3019	0.3144	0.3950
1956	18,184	755	15
Rate per 1,000 living..	0.4071	0.4369	0.3086
Population increase			
1951-1956	1.9%	8.0%	20.07%

It will be noticed that despite the population increase of these districts of approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ times that of the Essex County and $10\frac{1}{2}$ times that of the whole of England and Wales, lung cancer in Benfleet Canvey Island and Rayleigh showed a decline over the period under consideration.

Following a visit of the District Alkali etc. Works Inspector of the Ministry of Housing & Local Government to my Office on 27th August, 1957, the following letter was sent to me by the Inspector concerned, Mr. Geo. Tiplady, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.—

"In confirmation of my visit to you on the 27th August, although no further major improvements in odour suppression are practicable, the problem of securing further reduction in smell emission is receiving the continued and serious attention of both this Department and the Companies concerned and any means for securing betterment will be adopted as soon as established.

The main problem would now seem to be one of supervision and maintenance in order to keep emissions to the minimum and the speedy supply of information regarding time, type and intensity of odour to the oil refineries concerned may help considerably in elucidating the problem."

The suggestion of making speedy contact with the Oil Refineries when the nuisance is detected locally has been the practice of the Public Health Inspectors in Benfleet and Canvey Island for some considerable while.

Pest Control.

(a) Rats and Mice.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District, 70 complaints about rats or mice were received and a total of 346 visits was made.

At **Canvey Island** 57 inspections were necessary in respect of rodent control, and apart from one instance which was satisfactorily dealt with, all infestations were of a minor character.

In the **Rayleigh** Urban District 169 premises were treated for minor infestations of rats and mice.

(b) **Brown-tail Moth.**

The seasonal control of this pest is important if a recurrence of the extensive nuisance of 1948 is to be prevented, and routine treatment of all minor known infestations of the caterpillar was carried out during the year under review. Control measures necessitated 226 visits and inspections by the Public Health Inspectors.

(c) **General.**

47 visits were made in the **Benfleet** Urban District and 18 at **Canvey Island**, in connection with infestations by wasps, woodworm, flies and other insect pests.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

The **Benfleet** Council issued 4 licences in respect of the keeping of tortoises, chickens up to the age of one month, birds and fish. Three visits were made to pet shops during the year and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

There are no premises at **Canvey Island** registered for this purpose.

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

Storage of Petroleum.

Routine inspections in each of the three Districts were made in respect of applications to store petroleum spirit. The number of licences issued during 1957 was as follows— **Benfleet** 45, **Canvey Island** 13, and **Rayleigh** 22.

In addition, the **Benfleet U.D.C.** issued one licence for the storage of carbide of calcium and 8 for the storage of cellulose lacquer. **Rayleigh Council** issued one licence for the storage of cellulose lacquer.

Included in the petroleum storage licences issued by the **Canvey Island Council** are two licences for bulk storage, one being for 120,000 tons and the other for 18,128,000 gallons. Many inspections were necessary in connection with the siting and erection of additional overground storage tanks at these installations, and also the provision of fire fighting equipment. Close liaison has been necessary between the Home Office, Fire Service and the Local Authority in this matter.

Methane Gas Storage—Canvey Island.

The planning of the site for this project, by the North Thames Gas Board, was completed during 1956 and preliminary works were put in hand during 1957. This is the first installation of its kind in the United Kingdom.

Public Conveniences.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District there are four public conveniences owned and maintained by the Local Authority. One is situated at Rushbottom Lane, Great Tarpots; one at Rectory Road, Hadleigh (where a useful 'bus shelter is also provided); one at Victoria House Corner, Hadleigh; and one at School Lane, South Benfleet. There are also toilet facilities at the Council's Cemetery at South Benfleet.

At **Canvey Island** there are five public conveniences provided and maintained by the Local Authority. These are suitably situated as follows— Long Road; High Street; Seaview Road (Promenade East); Labworth (Promenade Central) and Thorney Bay (Promenade West). The three conveniences in the promenade area are provided with washing facilities.

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

Markets.

The only market in the three Districts is situated 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 Public Health Inspectors made 18 visits to premises following the notification of infectious diseases. 66 visits in connection with contacts of infectious diseases and disinfection were also made.

At **Canvey Island** the seasonal incidence of Poliomyelitis was responsible for the increased number of visits necessary, namely 307. Many visits were necessary to holiday-makers on the Island who were subsequently notified as contacts of infectious disease.

The Public Health Inspector for the **Rayleigh** Urban District made 16 visits for the purpose of investigating the circumstances associated with the occurrence of infectious disease and of contacts of cases occurring in other areas.

General.

The Public Health Inspectors of the **Benfleet** Urban District made a total of 3,638 visits during the year. These are classified as follows—

General Sanitation	..	..	..	1,750
Food and Food Premises	..	..	..	1,405
Housing	..	..	..	399
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	84

51 Informal Notices and 18 Statutory Notices were served. There were 19 Notices outstanding at the commencement of the year. 56 Notices were complied with, leaving 14 not complied with at 31st December, 1957. Legal proceedings were taken on one occasion and the nuisance was abated. A total of 89 complaints was received.

The Public Health Inspectors of the **Canvey Island** Urban District made 5,590 visits and inspections during the year. With the staff strength unchanged for a number of years, and the ever increasing amount of inspection work made necessary by development and legislation, less and less time became available for necessary administrative work. The following is a summary of the visits made—

General sanitation	..	..	..	2,447
Housing and repairs	..	..	..	501
Public cleansing	..	..	..	672
Water supplies	..	..	..	407
Pest and rodent control	..	..	..	301
Nuisances	..	..	..	133
Houseboats	..	..	..	94
Atmospheric pollution	..	..	..	96
Infectious disease	..	..	..	310
Petroleum and methane storage	..	..	..	173
Moveable dwellings and camp sites	..	..	..	86
Food inspection	..	..	..	98
Dyke pollution, land drainage, flooding	..	..	..	159
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	113

A total of 147 complaints was received in respect of house defects, water supplies, public health nuisances, rodent and pest control, Brown-tail moth infestation and atmospheric pollution. 25 Informal Notices were served of which 17 were complied with at 31st December, 1957. A further 6 Notices, outstanding from 1956, were complied with. One instance of Statutory action was necessary in respect of demolition and closing procedure under the Housing Acts.

In the **Rayleigh** Urban District 2,006 visits and inspections were made by the Public Health Inspectors, as follows—

General sanitation	..	..	..	661
Housing	..	..	..	303
Public cleansing	..	..	..	406
Water supplies	..	..	..	13
Food and food premises	..	..	..	316
Infectious disease	..	..	..	16
Factories and shops	..	..	..	54
Petroleum storage	..	..	..	21
Rodent Control	..	..	..	24
Atmospheric pollution	..	..	..	17
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	175

A total of 230 complaints was received during the year. 84 Notices were served and 36 remained outstanding from the previous year. 54 Notices were complied with and the number outstanding at 31st December, 1957 amounted to 66.

The following is a summary of the completed works referred to—

Houses demolished	..	..	..	1
Houses repaired	..	..	..	18
Houses connected to the sewer			..	12
Houses connected to main water supply				4
Cesspools emptied	..	..	..	10
Food premises improved	..	..		3
Houseboats removed	..	..	..	2
Smoke nuisances abated	..	..		2
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	2

School Lavatories.

The work of improving the lavatory accommodation at Rayleigh Primary School commenced in December, 1957.

HOUSING

Benfleet U.D.

During the year 41 complaints regarding housing defects were received and 35 Notices were served. 37 houses were repaired.

Demolition Order procedure under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 was taken in respect of 9 houses. 6 Demolition Orders and one Closing Order were made and two Undertakings accepted. One Closing Order made in 1956 was determined.

There were 356 applications for Council Houses on the waiting list at the end of the year, including 133 applicants for Old People's Bungalows. During the year 47 Council Houses and 7 Old People's Bungalows were completed. A further 494 dwellings were erected by private builders.

No Improvement Grants were made.

22 applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act, 1956 were received. 14 Certificates were issued, one refused and 7 Undertakings were accepted from landlords.

Canvey Island U.D.

During the year a total of 501 inspections and visits were necessary in respect of housing defects. 327 visits were made under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936; 154 under the Housing Acts 1936 to 1957; and 20 under the Rent Act, 1957.

15 complaints of housing defects were received and action was necessary in 13 of these. In all these cases work was in progress at the end of the year.

Five Demolition Orders were served and complied with. One Closing Order was made.

30 Council Houses and 62 private houses were erected during the year.

At the 31st December, 1957 there were 167 applications on the Housing List.

The one remaining ex-Army Camp at Furtherwick was in process of conversion for accommodation for aged persons and at the 31st December 10 one bedroom units were completed and occupied and a further 10 in course of erection.

Rayleigh U.D.C.

18 houses were repaired or improved during the year following the service of Notices. One house was demolished as a result of a Demolition Order.

No Council Houses were built in 1957 but 441 houses and bungalows were erected by private enterprise.

No Improvement Grants were made.

There were 294 applicants on the Council's Housing List at 31st December, including 137 applicants for Old People's Bungalows.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

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

	Pasteurised	Sterilized	Tuberculin Tested
Dealers' Licences ..	17	47	4
Supplementary Licences	4	5	4

In the Benfleet District there were 52 registrations at 31st December, 1957 under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 of persons carrying on the trade of distributor. 30 of these registrations relate to grocers' shops in which occasional sales of sterilized milk in sealed bottles are made.

During the year 38 visits were made to milk shops and the following samples were taken—

Pasteurised Milk	7
Sterilized Milk	4
Tuberculin Tested Milk	3
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk	3

16 samples proved to be satisfactory on examination. So far as the unsatisfactory sample was concerned, the milk was produced outside the area. The Public Health Inspector of the area concerned was informed and subsequent samples taken proved satisfactory.

8 bottles from a milk sterilizing plant were sent for bacteriological examination, and all proved satisfactory.

During 1957 the **Canvey Island** Council issued the following licences for the sale of designated milk under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949—

	Pasteurised		Sterilized		Tuberculin Tested
Dealers' Licences ..	19	..	27	..	3
Supplementary Licences	2	..	3	..	2

The following licences were issued in the **Rayleigh** Urban District during 1957 under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949—

	Pasteurised		Sterilized		Tuberculin Tested
Dealers' Licences ..	5	..	15	..	1
Supplementary Licences	1	..	1	..	1

No samples were taken during the year.

Meat Inspection.

The Public Health Inspectors of the **Benfleet** Urban District Council made 702 visits to the Slaughterhouse at Cross Farm, Hadleigh during the course of the year, and the carcasses and organs of 13,625 food animals were examined, as follows—

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle, excluding Cows		Cows		Calves		Sheep and Lambs		Pigs
Number killed ..	1,786	..	345	..	1,488	..	5,817	..	4,189
Number inspected	1,786	..	345	..	1,488	..	5,817	..	4,189

*All diseases except
Tuberculosis and
Cysticerci :*

Whole carcasses condemned ..	9	..	27	..	5	..	7	..	10
---------------------------------	---	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----

Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	280	..	79	..	1	..	111	..	52
--	-----	----	----	----	---	----	-----	----	----

Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ..	16.18	..	30.75	..	0.40	..	2.03	..	1.48
---	-------	----	-------	----	------	----	------	----	------

Tuberculosis only :

Whole carcasses condemned ..	2 ..	7 ..	— ..	— ..	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	52 ..	21 ..	— ..	— ..	80
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	3.03 ..	8.12 ..	— ..	— ..	1.90

Cysticercosis :

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	53 ..	6 ..	— ..	— ..	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	53 ..	6 ..	— ..	— ..	—
Generalised and totally condemned	2 ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—

No horse slaughtering took place during the year.

Specimens from 10 animals were submitted to the Southend Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. Also 4 specimens were submitted to the Veterinary Investigation Centre, Cambridge. The Inspectors wish to express their appreciation for the ready assistance they received in these matters.

The boning out of carcass meat is being carried out and a separate room is being constructed for this purpose, by the slaughterhouse Company.

All slaughtering took place at the Slaughterhouse, Cross Farm, Benfleet Road, Hadleigh, which is owned by a private company.

Six slaughtermen's licences were issued during the year.

There are no slaughterhouses at **Canvey Island** but careful attention is paid to the distribution of meat and the vehicles used for this special purpose. Routine inspections of butchers' premises are frequently made and extra vigilance is ensured during the busy holiday periods. There are twelve retail butchers' shops on the Island.

There is one private slaughterhouse within the **Rayleigh** Urban District situate at Webster's, High Street, Rayleigh. Assistance in meat inspection is given by Inspectors from the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea as that area absorbs the majority of the meat distributed. During the year 9,613 food animals were slaughtered and examined at the Rayleigh Slaughterhouse, as summarised on next page.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN
WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ..	359 ..	80 ..	589 ..	2,314 ..	6,271 ..
Number inspected	359 ..	80 ..	589 ..	2,314 ..	6,271 ..
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	— ..	1 ..	— ..	4 ..	5 ..
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	88 ..	6 ..	2 ..	15 ..	172 ..
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ..	24.5 ..	8.75 ..	0.34 ..	0.82 ..	2.8 ..
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	2 ..
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	4 ..	17 ..	— ..	— ..	99 ..
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	1.11 ..	21.25 ..	— ..	— ..	1.61 ..
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	4 ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	4 ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..
Generalised and totally condemned ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..

There are no horse slaughtering premises within the Rayleigh Urban District.

Food Inspection

In the **Benfleet** Urban District 687 visits were made to the various food premises in connection with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and the byelaws made under Section 15 of that Act. There were 226 food premises in the District at 31st December, 1957, summarised as follows—

Bakers	3
Butchers	17
Cafés and Canteens	32
Fishmongers	10
General Provisions	85
Greengrocers	18
Public houses and Licensed premises ..	20
Wholesale food stores	8
Others, including Confectioners and Stalls	33

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

Milk 315 tins ; cream 5 tins ; canned meat 121 tins ; canned fish 9 tins ; vegetable foods 291 tins ; fruit and preserves 216 tins ; meat 203 lbs.; liver 50 lbs.; bacon 36 lbs.; ground almonds 2 lbs.; mussels 11½ galls.; whelks 5 cwt.; other foods 11 tins.

All unsound meat from Cross Farm Slaughterhouse at Hadleigh is dyed before disposal. The Local Authorities of the areas to which meat is taken are notified. Other unsound foods are buried in the Council's refuse tip.

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

During the year two applications were received for exemption from Articles 15 and/or 16 of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and one certificate of exemption from the provisions of Article 16 was granted. 19 Informal Notices were served. No legal proceedings were taken.

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. 24 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 24 butchers' and grocers' premises and one factory in the Benfleet Urban District which were registered under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the manufacture of preserved foods, etc. 62 visits were made to such premises.

ICE CREAM. There were 98 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream at 31st December, 1957 in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, summarised as follows—

Cafés	23
Confectioners shops	26
General Provisions shops	47
Miscellaneous shops	2

There were also two Depots registered for the storage only of ice cream. All the premises registered receive their supplies in bulk, pre-packed, from outside the District.

11 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, and the results obtained showed that 10 were placed in Grade I and one in Grade IV. Results showing Grades I and II are considered to be satisfactory. Also, 5 milk lollies were submitted for examination and one proved to be unsatisfactory. Copies of the Laboratory Reports were sent in all cases to the Local Authorities in whose area the ice cream was manufactured.

At **Canvey Island** 98 visits and inspections were carried out under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 made thereunder. Visits are made at irregular intervals and traders are not advised beforehand of the intended visit.

It was necessary to serve informal notices in respect of 5 food premises requiring the provision of hot and cold water, heating and drainage facilities, and the installation of sink units. Enforcement by statutory action did not become necessary.

The 121 food premises on Canvey Island are summarised as follows :

Cafés	42
Butchers	12
Fishmongers	5
Greengrocers	14
Grocers and Bakers	33
Canteens	10
Public houses	5

A total of 71 food premises are registered under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, as follows—

Manufacturers of ice cream	1
Vendors of ice cream	52
Manufacturers of prepared, pressed, pickled and preserved meats, including sausages	18

UN SOUND FOOD. The amount of food found unfit for human consumption at Canvey Island during the year was very small and reflects greater care and efficiency in packing, storage and handling. In respect of meat and offal only 16 lbs. of New Zealand sheeps liver was condemned. Of all other foods 175 tins of various foods were found unfit on examination and were surrendered.

SCHOOL CANTEENS. The four modern school canteens at Canvey Island adequately cover the needs of the children attending the three Primary and two Secondary Modern schools.

SHELLFISH. There are no approved shellfish beds in waters surrounding Canvey Island, and supplies, already sterilized and cooked, are obtained in the main from Leigh and Southend. Strict vigilance was maintained on retailers owing to the precarious nature of this type of food.

ICE CREAM. There were 52 premises registered for the sale of ice cream at Canvey Island by the end of 1957. Also, one manufacturer was registered on the Island. Three samples of ice cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination and of the results obtained, two were Grade I and one Grade II. Both these grades are considered to be satisfactory.

In the **Rayleigh** Urban District 316 visits were made to food premises by the Public Health Inspectors. Progress was made during the year towards implementing the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

During visits to premises where food is prepared or sold 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 111 premises in the district where food is prepared or sold for human consumption, summarised as follows—

Bakers	3
Butchers	13
Cafés and Restaurants	16
Fishmongers	3
Cooked Meat manufacturers	2
Confectioners	20
Clubs	2
Greengrocers	9
Grocers	28
Halls where catering is carried on as a business	1
Public Houses and Off Licences	10
School canteens	4

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

The following foodstuffs weighing approximately 1,841 lbs. were voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers and condemned as being unfit for human consumption—

Canned meat 1,075 lbs.; miscellaneous canned goods 284 lbs.; sausages 67 lbs.; fresh meat 261 lbs.; bacon 24 lbs.; fish 84 lbs.; cakes 30 lbs.; other goods 16 lbs.

All condemned food is disposed of by burial.

SCHOOL CANTEENS. There are three canteens where food is prepared and one canteen where prepared food is received in the Rayleigh area.

Two canteens where food is prepared are grossly inadequate for the number of meals served, although steps have been taken to improve the existing facilities. The Education Authority is aware of the position and have plans for re-building, but financial limitation has so far prevented this.

ICE CREAM. There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the Rayleigh Urban District, but 36 premises, are registered for the sale thereof. Ice cream is also sold in five cafés and the Cinema, but these are exempt from registration.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There were no serious outbreaks of notifiable infectious disease in the Benfleet, Canvey Island or Rayleigh Urban Districts during 1957, although a nation wide epidemic of Influenza-like illness, commonly known as "Asian 'Flu" affected the area in the last three months of the year, causing two premature deaths and doubtless hastening the decease of the aged sick who succumbed to the infection. A total of 591 infectious disease notifications were received as compared with 625 in the previous year. Food Poisoning was a contributory factor in one death but the man concerned was in poor health from a variety of natural causes.

Measles and Whooping Cough. Throughout England and Wales there were 633,596 notified cases of Measles in 1957 as compared with approximately 160,000 in 1956. This was only just a little below the 1955 incidence and followed the usual biennial cycle. However, in Benfleet and Canvey Island the biennial cycle fell partly in 1956 and partly in 1957, almost equally distributed. In Benfleet the incidence ran from November to February and at Canvey Island from November to January. The incidence at Rayleigh was chiefly confined to February and March, 1957. 82% of all local notifications were in respect of Measles.

Whooping Cough incidence throughout the Country was about average for recent years, there being 85,000 notified cases. The highest

annual incidence since the War was in 1951 when 169,343 cases were notified. Locally, 96 cases were notified—a considerable improvement on the previous year's total of 143.

Poliomyelitis. The statistics provided by the Registrar General show that 4,841 cases of confirmed Poliomyelitis were notified in England and Wales during 1957, 3,175 of these being affected with paralysis. This total is 50% above the 1956 incidence and was the fifth highest annual incidence since 1946. The number of deaths registered during 1957 in which Poliomyelitis was responsible, was 225.

Locally there were 10 notified cases, and additionally, a "missed" case was brought to notice about 10 weeks after onset, when recovery was almost complete.

Two of the 10 cases were affected by paralysis, and one of these, a woman aged 34 years from Canvey Island, was a serious case. The other concerned a child aged 15 months who made a good recovery. There were no untoward involvements with the Non-paralytic cases. No cases were reported from the Rayleigh Urban District.

A number of contacts associated with various cases occurring in other areas were brought to the notice of the Department, which, together with contacts of local cases, were kept under supervision. Fortunately, no secondary cases occurred.

Scarlet Fever. The few cases of Scarlet Fever occurring during the year presented no administrative problems.

Food Poisoning. Only one case of Food Poisoning was officially notified from the three Districts during the year. This concerned a man aged 58 years, who was admitted to hospital at noon on the 26th June and died the following day. The onset was nine days previously. The cause of death as reported by the Hospital Pathologist was "Extra Renal Uraemia due to Salmonella Enteriditis and other significant conditions, e.g. Acute Suppurative Bronchitis, associated with Chronic Bronchitis and Emphysema. Also Hypertensive Heart Disease." The only possible food involvement was a joint of imported lamb purchased on the 14th June, eaten hot on the 16th June and again cold on the 17th June. The man's wife and adult daughter shared the same food, eaten in the home, including the meat. The wife was unaffected, but the daughter was admitted to hospital on 28th June and subsequently recovered. Salmonella Enteriditis was also isolated by the Public Health Laboratory in this case. If the imported lamb joint was the infecting agent, it is possible that infection may have been caused by flies.

In respect of persons suffering from possible food infection, but not officially notified, the Public Health Laboratory reported that Salmonella Typhimurium had been isolated from the stools of a 6½ year old boy from the Benfleet District and also from an infant boy living on Canvey Island. However, as a result of thorough investigation, no specific food involvement could be ascertained.

Influenza. Outbreaks of Influenza were reported from April of 1957 onwards, in the Far East, involving Japan, Formosa, Hong Kong, Phillipines, Indonesia, Indo-China and India. The illness was alleged to be short, but explosive in character, although the fatality rate was low. Reports indicated that the epidemic passed quickly. Virus strains from Singapore were investigated at the World Influenza Centre in London and proved to be a varied strain of Group "A". By September a similar condition, commonly known as "Asian 'Flu" had reached this Country and South East Essex and these three Urban Districts in particular, were no exception.

Influenza, unless accompanied with Pneumonia, is not a notifiable disease. Consequently the Medical Officer of Health has to look to alternative sources for his information as regards local incidence. In assessing the epidemic under review recourse was chiefly made to statistics provided by the local offices of the Ministry of National Insurance and to School Absence Reports, although co-operation was readily forthcoming from General Medical Practitioners giving figures of surgery attendances for Influenza-like conditions and from the larger industrial concerns on absences from work.

The difficulty associated with the figures supplied by the Ministry of Insurance offices was that their areas were not co-terminous with these Local Authority areas. The Southend office dealt largely with the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea, but included Canvey Island and most of the Rochford Rural District. The Basildon office catered for the Basildon Urban District, except Wickford, Billericay and part of Laindon, but included South Benfleet. However the Rayleigh office concentrated more on these areas, and included the whole of the Rayleigh Urban District, the parishes of Thundersley and Hadleigh of the Benfleet Urban District, the towns of Wickford within the Basildon Urban District and Hockley, within the Rochford Rural District.

The following table shows the incidence of *NEW* sickness claims over a period of six weeks and are shown as a "percentage above the normal" sickness rate. It should be appreciated that the figures exclude children and those not insured in their own right, such as non-employed women and pensioners. All the sickness incidence cannot be attributed to Influenza-like illness, but possibly 80% of it can. The sickness rate did not return to normal until well into the New Year.

Week-ended (Tuesday)	Basildon Office	Rayleigh Office	Southend Office
1.10.57 ..	226%	300%	255%
8.10.57 ..	316%	444%	449%
15.10.57 ..	366%	535%	550%
22.10.57 ..	324%	482%	441%
29.10.57 ..	303%	442%	350%
5.11.57 ..	221%	327%	255%
Average increase =	293%	422%	383%

It will be noticed that the Rayleigh Office showed the highest increase. It was also the area which continued to show an "above average" sickness rate for a longer period than the other two.

Unfortunately two premature deaths were reported during the epidemic. The first was a girl of 12 years from South Benfleet who died after only 24 hours in hospital. The second was a woman aged 46 years from Canvey Island who died at home. In addition, Influenza was also shown as a contributing cause of death in respect of persons aged 57, 73, 79 and 82—two females from Benfleet U.D. and two males from Canvey Island U.D. During the months September to December Broncho-pneumonia was shown as a contributing cause of death to a further 55 aged persons, but it is not possible to associate Influenza as being in any way responsible.

Other Non-Notifiable Infectious Disease. Chicken Pox was prevalent in the Benfleet Urban District during the months of April and May and over 140 cases were brought to notice on Absence Reports from Head Teachers.

About 20 cases of Mumps were reported during the year, chiefly from the Benfleet Urban District.

Cancer.

Analysis of available statistics in respect of the 93,988 deaths from Cancer throughout England and Wales during 1957 reveals that Lung Cancer increased by 5%, Leukaemia (Cancer of the blood) by 3.7% and all other sites by 1%. Most sites showed practically no change, such as Breast, Uterus and Stomach, with the Rectum and Intestines showing a decrease of 1.5%. It is obvious, therefore, that the chief cause of the continued rise in cancer deaths is Lung Cancer, from which there were 19,120 deaths during the year. 86% of this total were males. Unfortunately these Districts experienced the highest recorded number of deaths from Cancer in all its forms, the total being 117 and 15.8% above the 1956 figure. Expressed in another way, 19 people in every 100 deaths during 1957 in these districts succumbed to Cancer. The ratio the previous year was 17 in every 100.

CANCER DEATHS—1948 to 1957

Year	England & Wales	Benfleet U.D.	Canvey Is. U.D.	Rayleigh U.D.
1948	81,655	48	21	16
1949	83,204	46	17	16
1950	85,270	34	33	22
1951	86,080	44	30	20
1952	87,642	39	27	19
1953	87,924	42	24	29
1954	90,095	46	26	23
1955	91,340	44	35	26
1956	92,710	47	25	29
1957	93,988	57	32	28

SUMMARY OF CANCER DEATHS DURING 1957

BENFLEET, CANVEY ISLAND AND RAYLEIGH URBAN DISTRICTS

Site of Disease	Age Group						Totals
	0—20 yrs.	21—40 yrs.	41—50 yrs.	51—60 yrs.	61—70 yrs.	Over 70 yrs.	
Bladder	—	—	—	—	2	3	5
Blood (Leukaemia) ..	—	1	—	—	1	1	3
Bowel	—	—	2	—	7	11	20
Breast	—	—	1	4	3	3	11
Gall Bladder	—	—	—	—	3	2	5
Lung and Bronchus ..	—	—	3	6	8	5	22
Mouth, Larynx Pharynx	—	—	—	—	1	6	7
Pancreas	—	—	1	2	1	4	8
Prostate	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Stomach	—	1	—	1	7	5	14
Uterus, Ovaries	1	—	—	—	3	2	6
Unclassified	1	2	1	—	4	5	13
Totals	2	4	8	13	40	50	117

TUBERCULOSIS

Mortality from Tuberculosis throughout England and Wales continued to decline during 1957, the 4,784 deaths being almost 600 below the 1956 figure. Respiratory Tuberculosis more than accounted for this decline in overall mortality as Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis showed a very slight increase in respect of Tuberculous Meningitis. The national rate revealed that 9 out of every 1,000 deaths could be attributed to Tuberculosis. There were five deaths from Tuberculosis in these Districts and represented 8 per 1,000 of all causes.

Confirmed notifications of Tuberculosis in England and Wales during 1957 fell by approximately 2,400 to a total of 33,117. Notifications in these Districts remained the same as the previous year (28), but transfers into the Districts from other areas increased by 11 to 47. Benfleet and Rayleigh were the Districts chiefly affected, being naturally linked with the rapid building development which has taken place in the past few years.

The total number of persons shown on the Tuberculosis Registers of Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh was 330 at 31st December, 1957, and represented an increase of 13 during the year. This figure represents 0.63% of the total population of the three Districts. Of the 62 names deleted from the registers during the year, 41 were shown as recovered, 15 left the area, and five died.

The Mobile Mass X-ray Unit from Chelmsford visited Hadleigh and Canvey Island in May and Rayleigh in July, and the following attendances were reported—

Hadleigh	..	1,585 including 333 workers and 318 school children.
Canvey Island	..	1,465 including 444 workers and 115 school children.
Rayleigh	..	2,184 including 599 workers and 642 school children.

As against the 1953 attendances, the Rayleigh figures showed an increase of over 200% and Hadleigh well over 50%. Attendance at Canvey Island increased by about 15% over that of the previous visit in 1954.

Nine cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were detected and notified as a result of the 5,234 miniature X-ray photographs taken. This represented 0.17% of the total affected with Tuberculosis, which is about the average. There were five men and four women and four were each allocated to Benfleet and Canvey Island Urban Districts and one to Rayleigh.

SUMMARY OF CASES APPEARING ON TUBERCULOSIS REGISTERS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1957

Classification	Under 15 years		16—25 years		26—35 years		36—45 years		46—55 years		56 years & over		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
<i>Benfleet U.D.</i>														
Pulmonary ..	5	3	10	14	22	25	12	8	7	9	13	3	69	62
Non-Pulmonary ..	1	5	1	3	2	1	—	2	1	—	2	2	7	13
Totals ..	6	8	11	17	24	26	12	10	8	9	15	5	76	75
<i>Canvey Island U.D.</i>														
Pulmonary ..	1	1	7	7	6	13	8	6	7	3	11	6	40	36
Non-Pulmonary ..	—	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	—	1	—	7	5
Totals ..	1	2	8	9	8	14	10	7	8	3	12	6	47	41
<i>Rayleigh U.D.</i>														
Pulmonary ..	1	1	4	8	15	18	5	9	8	1	10	3	43	40
Non-Pulmonary ..	2	—	1	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	4	4
Totals ..	3	1	5	9	15	20	6	10	8	1	10	3	47	44

SUMMARY OF NEW CASES ADDED TO TUBERCULOSIS
REGISTERS DURING 1957

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
<i>Benfleet U.D.</i>					
Notifications ..	4	7	1	2	14
Transfers ..	10	12	—	—	22
<i>Canvey Island U.D.</i>					
Notifications ..	3	4	1	—	8
Transfers ..	7	3	—	—	10
<i>Rayleigh U.D.</i>					
Notifications ..	2	4	—	—	6
Transfers ..	6	7	2	—	15
Totals ..	32	37	4	2	75

ACCIDENTS

Throughout the whole County Police District of Essex there were 6,630 road casualties during 1957, including 107 killed and 2,305 seriously injured. These figures represent an over-all increase of 1.25% over the figures for 1956. The peak period for all accidents was 5-6 p.m. and the peak day was Saturday. The peak time for children in particular was 4-5 p.m. 11.5% of all accidents throughout the County were attributed to motor cyclists.

In these Districts the total casualties fell by 33, representing a reduction of 8.3% over the 1956 figures. Deaths were fewer by one and the seriously injured by seven.

The following statistics have been kindly provided by the Chief Constable of Essex.

Group of Road User	Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured
<i>Benfleet U.D.</i>			
Pedestrians under 15 years ..	—	7	4
Pedal cyclists under 15 years ..	—	6	7
Passengers under 15 years ..	1	6	5
Pedestrians 15 years and over	—	7	10
Pedal cyclists 15 years and over	—	8	12
Passengers, 15 years and over	—	7	29
Motor cyclists, up to 60cc. ..	—	1	—
Motor cyclists, over 60cc. ..	1	12	17
Drivers of motor and horse drawn vehicles	—	4	11
Total	2	58	95

Group of Road User	Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured
<i>Canvey Island U.D.</i>			
Pedestrians under 15 years ..	—	1	3
Pedal cyclists under 15 years ..	—	—	5
Passengers under 15 years ..	—	—	3
Pedestrians 15 years and over	1	3	1
Pedal cyclists 15 years and over	—	3	13
Passengers 15 years and over ..	—	3	14
Motor cyclists, up to 60cc. ..	—	—	1
Motor cyclists, over 60cc. ..	—	7	5
Drivers of motor and horse drawn vehicles	—	1	3
Total	1	18	48
<i>Rayleigh U.D.</i>			
Pedestrians under 15 years ..	—	5	5
Pedal cyclists under 15 years ..	—	1	7
Passengers under 15 years ..	—	1	7
Pedestrians 15 years and over	—	5	7
Pedal cyclists 15 years and over	—	8	7
Passengers 15 years and over ..	—	11	26
Motor cyclists, up to 60cc. ..	—	—	2
Motor cyclists, over 60cc. ..	—	15	25
Drivers of motor and horse drawn vehicles	—	3	7
Total	—	49	93
Totals for three Districts	3	125	236

SUMMARY OF ROAD ACCIDENTS DURING 1957

	Fatal	Injury	Non-Injury	Total
Benfleet U.D. ..	2	113	215	330
Canvey Island U.D. ..	1	56	79	136
Rayleigh U.D. ..	—	114	141	255
Totals ..	3	283	435	721

RAINFALL

Details of the rainfall during the year have been provided as follows—

Thundersley. The Southend Waterworks Company report that the records maintained at their Oakwood Reservoir at Daws Heath totalled 21.72 inches during the year. This is over 2½ inches more than the previous year. The wettest months recorded were September (3.16) and July (2.99). The driest months were April (0.13) and March (0.93).

Canvey Island. The Engineer and Surveyor to the Canvey Island Council reports that 16.54 inches of rain fell at Canvey Island during the year. This is an inch less than the previous year and over 5 inches less than the Thundersley reading for 1957. The wettest months recorded were September (2.54) and February and July with 2.02 each. The driest months were April (0.08) and March (0.73).

WELFARE OF THE AGED

The County Welfare Officer has kindly informed me that at the end of 1957 there were 54 former residents of these Districts who were occupying welfare accommodation provided by the Essex County Council under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948. In addition, a further 21 persons were accommodated in voluntary establishments which are subsidised by the County Council under the provisions of the same Act.

I am glad to say that it was unnecessary to implement the provisions of Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948 in respect of the compulsory removal to suitable premises of aged persons in need of care and attention. However, a number of problems arose during the year in respect of the welfare of aged persons where the assessment of need was difficult to define and accept by the appropriate authority.

It was necessary for the local authorities to arrange burial of six former residents under the provisions of Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. These included one from Benfleet, four from Canvey Island and one from Rayleigh.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious Disease	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
<i>Benfleet U.D.</i>					
Acute Pneumonia ..	10	26	23	9	3
Food Poisoning ..	—	4	1	4	1
Infectious Hepatitis ..	—	2	1	1	—
Measles ..	222	61	109	154	208
Poliomyelitis ..	10	—	7	—	5
Scarlet Fever ..	25	24	9	14	13
Tuberculosis ..	13	16	16	17	15
Whooping Cough ..	71	13	6	96	61

Canvey Island U.D.

Acute Pneumonia ..	3	14	52	14	17
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	1	—	—
Measles ..	227	8	159	235	73
Poliomyelitis ..	—	3	9	—	5
Scarlet Fever ..	8	8	1	7	8
Tuberculosis ..	4	12	13	9	8
Whooping Cough ..	21	30	22	42	26

Rayleigh U.D.

Acute Pneumonia ..	4	14	4	1	9
Food Poisoning ..	1	1	1	—	—
Infectious Hepatitis ..	6	6	—	—	1
Measles ..	84	4	135	2	106
Poliomyelitis ..	1	—	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	—	18	—	3	5
Tuberculosis ..	7	8	5	2	6
Whooping Cough ..	17	5	33	5	9

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

Disease or Cause	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Accidents :					
Motor vehicles ..	4,375	4,588	4,922	5,031	4,897
Other transport ..	959	895	847	813	846
Falls	4,598	5,353	5,329	5,560	5,297
Poisoning	932	1,032	1,173	1,168	1,182
Burns and Scalds ..	703	781	817	822	737
All others	3,265	2,895	3,083	2,883	2,944
Bronchitis	30,392	25,543	28,793	29,670	26,930
Cancer : Lung & Bronchus	15,133	16,332	17,271	18,184	19,120
All other sites	70,672	71,616	71,844	74,497	74,868
Coronary Heart Disease	61,751	66,601	70,596	74,783	76,321
Diphtheria	23	9	13	8	6
Dysentery, all forms ..	36	38	40	33	22
Encephalitis, infectious	134	88	87	108	111
Influenza	6,465	1,811	2,983	2,625	6,715
Measles	244	50	176	30	95
Meningococcal Infections	291	259	205	190	184
Pneumonia (except of Newborn)	20,759	18,079	20,994	22,371	22,804
Poliomyelitis	320	112	241	114	225
Pregnancy & Childbirth, complications	527	480	439	399	349
Streptococcal Infections	61	52	45	43	26
Tuberculosis :					
Respiratory System ..	7,913	7,069	5,837	4,853	4,249
Meninges & Central Nervous System ..	345	191	132	91	110
Other Forms	644	637	523	431	424
Venereal Diseases ..	1,445	1,420	1,385	1,372	1,293
Whooping Cough ..	243	139	88	95	88

SUMMARY OF ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES (INCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1957

CANVEY ISLAND URBAN DISTRICT

Notifiable Disease	Cases included in Weekly Returns														Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	Sex	
	At Ages																	
	At all ages	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over				
Acute Pneumonia	17	1	—	—	—	1	2	3	1	3	3	2	1	—	—	—	10	7
Measles	73	3	6	17	22	4	20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	39
Poliomyelitis	5	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	5	—	—	3	2
Scarlet Fever	8	—	—	—	1	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3
Tuberculosis	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	2	—	—	4	4
Whooping Cough	26	2	1	7	4	—	11	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	11	15

SUMMARY OF ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES (INCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1957

RAYLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT

Notifiable Disease	Cases included in Weekly Returns														Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	Sex		
	At Ages																M.	F.	
	At all ages	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over						
Acute Pneumonia	9	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	3	6	
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	4	
Infectious Hepatitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	106	2	12	16	11	13	50	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46	60
Scarlet Fever	5	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Tuberculosis	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	2	—	4	—	—	—	2	4
Whooping Cough	9	1	—	2	1	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	5

INDEX

	Page		Page
Accidents	38-39, 42	Markets	21
Acreage	4	Mass X-ray	36
Ambulance Service	11	Measles	31, 42
Atmospheric Pollution	18	Meat Inspection	25-27
		Methane Gas Storage	20
Births and Birth Rates	5, 7	Milk	24
Brown-tail Moth	20	Moveable Dwellings	17
		Mumps	34
Cancer	34, 35, 42	Oil Refineries	18, 19
Caravans	17		
Chicken Pox	34	Pest Control	19
Committees	3	Pet Animals	20
Comparability factor	7	Petroleum Storage	20
Condemned food	30	Poliomyelitis	32, 42
Coronary disease	42	Population	4, 8
		Public Cleansing	16
Deaths and Death Rates	5, 6, 7, 9, 10	Public Conveniences	21
Drainage and Sewerage	15		
		Rainfall	39
Factories	17	Rateable Value	4
Food Inspection	28-31	Rats and Mice	19
Food Poisoning	32		
		Scarlet Fever	32
General Medical Services	12	School Canteens	28, 30, 31
		School Lavatories	23
Hospital Services	13, 14	Shell Fish	30
Houseboats	18	Smoke Abatement	18
Housing	23, 24	Staff	4
		Stillbirths	5
Ice Cream	29-31	Street Trading	28
Infant Mortality	5, 6		
Infectious Diseases	21, 31-38, 41-45	Tuberculosis	36-38, 42
Influenza	33, 42		
Inhabited Houses	4	Vital Statistics	5
Inspections and Visits	21, 22		
		Water Supply	14
Laboratory Service	11	Welfare of the Aged	40
Local Health Authority Services	12	Whooping Cough	31, 42
Lung Cancer	19, 34, 42		

