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**URBAN DISTRICT OF
BENFLEET**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH**

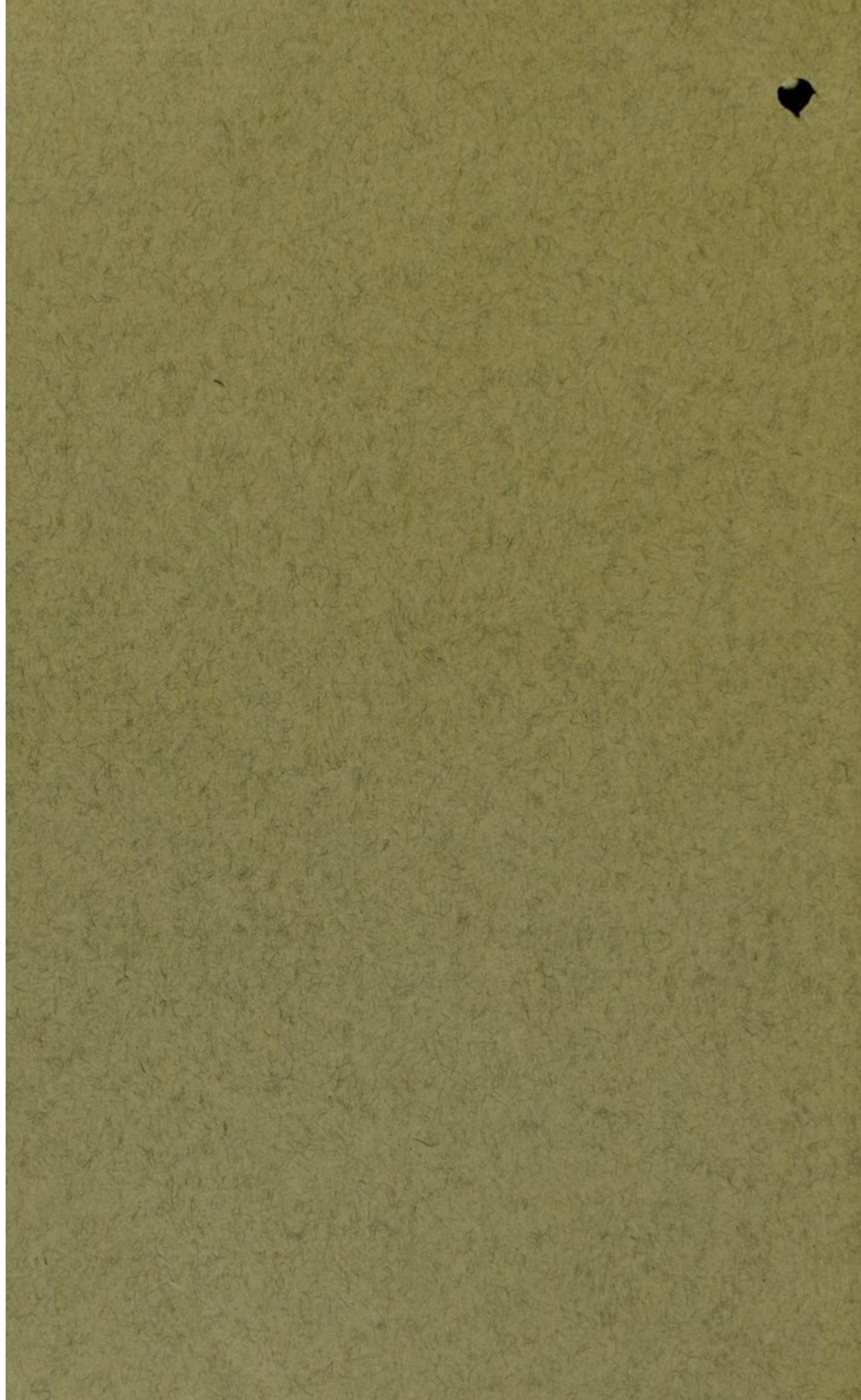
(Norman Lorraine, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.E.)

including **THE REPORT** of the
Senior Sanitary Inspector

(W. E. Colston, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.)

for 1938





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BENFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMITTEES, 1938-39.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Councillor C. E. BELL.

Councillors :

A. E. CRUSE, J. ELCOCK, R. O. C. HURST, J. JOPLING, C. J. LEGGETT, J.P., E. A. MUNDY, S. L. NOAKES, L. J. SIMSON, T. W. SMITH, C. W. TAYLOR.

Meeting : 2nd Monday each month, 7.15 p.m.

COMPOSITE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Councillor H. PRICE-POWELL (Canvey Island).

Benfleet U.D.C. ...	...	Councillors C. E. BELL. P. LANDGRAF. H. R. TUTT, J.P.
Canvey Island U.D.C. ...	...	Councillors G. A. PICKETT. O. TOGNI.
Rayleigh U.D.C. ...	...	Councillors R. COOKE. J. HART. A. H. POOLE.

Meeting : By arrangement.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health**—

Norman S. R. Lorraine, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S. Edin. and R.F.P.S. Glas.

Also Medical Officer of Health for Canvey Island and
Rayleigh Urban District Councils and Assistant County
Medical Officer, Essex County Council.

Assistant Medical Officers—Essex County Council—

J. H. Crosby, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (From October, 1938.)

A. R. Graham, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned October, 1938.)

Esther P. Jones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Jemima B. Ratcliffe, M.B., Ch.B., J.P.†

Orthopaedic Surgeon (part-time)—

B. Whitchurch Howell, F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmologist—

J. Horton Young, M.B., B.S., D.O.M.S.

District Dental Surgeon—

D. W. Hurley, L.D.S., R.F.P.S.

Specialist, Ears, Nose and Throat (Southend General Hospital—part-time)—

C. Hamblen Thomas, F.R.C.S.

Health Visitor—

Miss P. M. Richardson, General Training, London Hospital;
Central Midwives' Board Certificate, Clapham; Queen's
Jubilee Nurse; Health Visitor's Certificate (old and new).

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health—

Miss D. Grudgings.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector**—

W. E. Colston, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

*Additional Sanitary Inspector**—

P. W. Edwards, M.S.I.A.

Both these officers are qualified in accordance with the
Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Order, 1935, and, in
addition, hold other certificates.

Clerk to the Sanitary Inspectors—

R. D. Prichard.

* One half of the salary attached to these offices is paid by the County Council
from Exchequer Contribution Account.

† Part-time. Also in general practice.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1938

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
LONDON ROAD,
HADLEIGH, ESSEX.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BENFLEET.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Ninth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1938.

I desire again to express my gratitude to all members of the staff of the Department for their loyal co-operation and also to officers of other Departments for information and assistance readily given from time to time.

For the sympathetic consideration and assistance received during the year, I should like to express my thanks to the Council.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

NORMAN LORRAINE,

M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S. Edin., and R.F.P.S. Glas.

June, 1939.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	6,370
Population :—	
Census, 1921	6,136
Census, 1931	12,091
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1937	15,710
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1938	16,300
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	5,338
Rateable value	£100,048
Sum represented by a penny rate	£375

The Urban District is mainly a residential area. There are no large industrial works and many of the residents are engaged in business in London, travelling daily from this District.

The clothing factory, which was opened in 1937 near Tarpots employs a number of local people, mostly girls.

Many of the inhabitants of the parish of Thundersley are engaged in various agricultural pursuits of which poultry farming forms an important part.

The District continues to attract a number of elderly retired persons, many of whom are in receipt of a small pension. It is believed that this group, a number of whom are invalids, forms a not inconsiderable percentage of the total population.

There has been no undue prevalence of unemployment in this area.

There are no unhealthy areas in the District.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births ...	...	199	113	86	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the
Legitimate	...	187	109	78	estimated resident popula-
Illegitimate	...	12	4	8	tion 12.2
Stillbirths ...	...	9	5	4	Rate per 1,000 total (live
Legitimate	...	8	4	4	and still) births ... 43.3
Illegitimate	...	1	1	—	
Deaths ...	...	212	113	99	Death Rate per 1,000 of the
					estimated resident popula-
					tion *13.0
Deaths from puerperal causes :—					Rate per 1,000 total (live
			Deaths		and still) births
Puerperal sepsis ...	...		0		—
Other puerperal causes ...	...		0		—
Total ...	...	...	0		—
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—					(8)
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	...	...	...	...	40.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	...	...	...	...	42.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	39
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	1

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which requires comment.

There were no noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity in this District during the year. There was no evidence that the occupations or environment of the inhabitants of this area had a prejudicial effect on their health.

No statistical or other evidence is available of the effects of unemployment on the health or physique of children or adults.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES
DURING THE YEAR 1938.

	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 ...	15.1	11.6	53
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (in- cluding London) ...	15.0	11.7	57
148 Smaller Towns with estimated resident population of from 25,000 to 50,000 at the 1931 Census	15.4	11.0	51
London Administrative County	13.4	11.4	57
Benfleet U.D.C. ...	12.2	13.0*	40

* This figure, to render it comparable with the death rate for the country as a whole, has to be multiplied by the "Comparability Factor," 0.83, which has been supplied by the Registrar General as requisite to redress the abnormal constitution of the local population from the point of view of sex and age components. Applying this factor, the corrected death rate is 10.8 as compared with 11.6 for the country as a whole.

TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

Year	Popula- tion Estimated mid-year Registrar- General	Births	Rate per 1,000	Deaths	Rate per 1,000	Infant Mortality Annual Report County M.O.H. 1934-37	
						Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
1934	13,900	178	12.8	172	12.3	9	51
1935	14,160	165	11.6	170	12.0	5	30
1936	14,560	213	14.6	185	12.7	11	52
1937	15,710	191	12.2	189	12.0	13	68
1938	16,300	199	12.2	212	13.0*	8	40 Local calculation for 1938

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BENFLEET.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN, 1938.

	Male	Female	Total
All causes	113	99	212
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—
2. Measles	—	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	1	1
6. Influenza	—	—	—
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	1	2	3
8. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	8	4	12
10. Other tuberculosis	1	—	1
11. Syphilis	—	—	—
12. General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	1	—	1
13. Cancer, malignant disease	24	15	39
14. Diabetes	—	1	1
15. Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	10	12	22
16. Heart disease	26	28	54
17. Aneurysm	4	—	4
18. Other circulatory diseases	5	5	10
19. Bronchitis	—	3	3
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	4	2	6
21. Other respiratory diseases	—	1	1
22. Peptic ulcer	2	1	3
23. Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1	—	1
24. Appendicitis	—	2	2
25. Cirrhosis of liver	—	—	—
26. Other diseases of liver, etc.	—	1	1
27. Other digestive diseases	2	5	7
28. Acute and chronic nephritis	—	4	4
29. Puerperal sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other puerperal causes	—	—	—
31. Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	4	1	5
32. Senility	2	4	6
33. Suicide	4	1	5
34. Other violence	4	3	7
35. Other defined causes	10	3	13
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	—	—	—

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1938.

<i>Age</i>			<i>No. of Deaths</i>
Under 1 year ...	...	...	8
1 and under 2	...	...	1
2 and under 5	...	...	2
5 and under 15	...	...	3
15 and under 25	...	...	8
25 and under 35	...	...	8
35 and under 45	...	...	9
45 and under 55	...	...	12
55 and under 65	...	...	30
65 and under 75	...	...	69
75 and upwards	...	...	62
TOTAL DEATHS			212

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (i) PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

A list of these will be found at the beginning of this Report.

(ii) (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological specimens are sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 91, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4, and every advantage is taken of these facilities, particularly for the examination of throat swabs in cases of suspected Diphtheria.

The Bacteriologist for Essex examined the following specimens from the Benfleet Urban District during 1938 :—

Diphtheria	...	...	150
Sputa	...	...	27
Typhoid	...	...	—
Ringworm	...	...	—
General	...	...	11
Milk	...	...	44
Ice Cream	...	...	18
Water	...	...	5
Sewage	...	...	—
TOTAL			255

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There have been no changes in the ambulance facilities for the area during the year under review.

The following cases were conveyed by the Benfleet Council Ambulance during the period 1st January, 1938, to 31st December, 1938 :—

Within the Area (P.A.C. and Private cases)	322
Accident cases within the Area	35
Private cases outside the Area	92
Accident cases outside the Area	56
TOTAL	505

CHARGES.

The charges for removal of patients are as follows :—

- (1) From any address within the Area to any other address within the Area 7s. 6d.
- (2) From any address within the Area to certain hospitals and institutions 15s. 0d.
- (3) From any address within the Area to any other address outside the Area except to places covered by (2) 1s. 0d. per mile
minimum charge, 7s. 6d.

This Ambulance is maintained by the Benfleet Urban District Council and is garaged at the Council Offices, Thundersley, and it would appear to meet the needs of the District for accident and transport cases.

This Ambulance is not used for the removal of cases of infectious disease. These are removed by the ambulance kept at the Isolation Hospital, Sutton Ford, Rochford.

If the necessity should arise, facilities exist for the utilisation of the Ambulance from the Canvey Island Urban District and also the one which is provided and maintained by voluntary subscription in Rayleigh. These reciprocal arrangements have proved to be satisfactory.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

In this District, there are three local nursing associations, Hadleigh, South Benfleet and Thundersley. All the nurses are State Certificated Midwives and undertake nursing at home in certain circumstances.

There are four District Nurse Midwives practising in the Urban District.

In many cases, if the sanitary conditions of the home are satisfactory and isolation is possible, subject to skilled nursing facilities and general care, cases may be treated at home with advantage; however, in other circumstances, removal to hospital is clearly indicated.

In regard to cases of Tuberculosis, domiciliary medical service is not publicly provided but is in the hands of private medical attendants who may consult the Tuberculosis Officer for the area, who is also your Medical Officer of Health (see under Tuberculosis Dispensary). Health Visitors visit the homes of patients, chiefly for educational and preventive purposes; in most rural districts the Health Visitors are assisted by District Nurses who carry out for the County Council any remedial or curative treatment which may be recommended by the Tuberculosis Officer or local medical attendant. In order to promote isolation and improve home treatment, an open air shelter is provided and maintained free of charge if recommended by the District Tuberculosis Officer.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS—UNDER ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

Department	Address	Hours of attendance	Dr. attending session
Maternity and Child Welfare	Health Centre, Hadleigh.	1st and 3rd Tues., 2.30 p.m.	Dr. J. H. Crosby.
Ante Natal	Do.	1st and 3rd Wed., 10 a.m.	Dr. Esther Jones.
School Clinic	Do.	Every Fri., 10 a.m.	Dr. J. H. Crosby. 1st and 3rd only.
Toddlers' Clinic	Do.	2nd Thurs., Feb., May, Aug. & Nov., 2.30 p.m.	Dr. J. H. Crosby.
Refraction Clinic	Do.	3rd Thurs., 2 p.m.	Dr. H. J. Young.
Maternity and Child Welfare	Health Centre, Thundersley.	1st and 3rd Fri., 2.30 p.m.	Dr. J. B. Ratcliffe, J.P.
School Clinic	Do.	Every Thurs., 10 a.m.	Dr. J. B. Ratcliffe, J.P. 4th only.
Maternity and Child Welfare	Health Centre, South Benfleet.	1st and 3rd Mon., 2.30 p.m.	Dr. Esther Jones.
Ante Natal	Do.	2nd and 4th Mon., 10 a.m.	Dr. Esther Jones.
School Clinic	Do.	Every Thurs., 10 a.m.	Dr. J. H. Crosby. 1st and 3rd only.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY—UNDER ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

Address	Hours of attendance	Dr. attending session
Municipal Health Centre, Warrior Square, Southend-on-Sea.	Wednesday afternoons and by arrangement.	Dr. N. S. R. Lorraine.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

A Clinic is available for Essex patients at Southend-on-Sea Borough Sanatorium under the London and Home Counties Venereal Diseases scheme. Patients from the administrative County of Essex may attend for advice and treatment at most of the large London Hospitals.

(e) HOSPITALS: PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.

There have been no changes in the provision of hospitals, public or voluntary.

TUBERCULOSIS—*Under Essex County Council Tuberculosis Scheme.*

Beds at Sanatoria and Hospitals are provided for suitable patients on the recommendation of the District Tuberculosis Officer. Any person in need of institutional treatment should apply, preferably through his local medical attendant, to the Tuberculosis Dispensary nearest to his home. Travelling expenses of necessitous cases and ex-service men to and from Institutions are defrayed by the County Council.

Various Institutions in the County of Essex and elsewhere receive suitable patients by arrangement with and on the recommendation of the Chief Tuberculosis Officer.

MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

There is no Maternity Hospital in the District, but under the Essex County Council, arrangements are made for cases to be admitted to Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

There is no Children's Hospital in the area.

FEVER HOSPITAL.

Patients from this Urban District are admitted to the Sutton Ford Isolation Hospital, Rochford. This hospital is administered by a Joint Hospital Committee with three members from the Benfleet U.D.C.

There are 24 beds for patients suffering from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever. When no further accommodation is available, arrangements are made for such cases to be admitted to the Billericay Isolation Hospital.

As mentioned in my Annual Report for 1937, the South-East Essex Joint Hospital Order, 1937, provides for the Urban Districts of Benfleet, Billericay, Brentwood, Canvey Island and Rayleigh and the Rural District of Rochford to be formed into one united district for the purposes of the provision, maintenance and management for the use of the inhabitants of the constituent districts of hospitals for the reception of cases of infectious disease.

It is hoped that the Sutton Ford Isolation Hospital will be transferred to this Board as and from 1st April, 1939.

SMALLPOX HOSPITAL.

Accommodation is provided by the Essex County Council for patients from this District to be admitted to the Smallpox Hospital adjacent to the Isolation Hospital, situated in Mill Road, Mile End, Colchester.

GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The nearest available is outside the District and is the Southend-on-Sea General Hospital. Local residents may subscribe.

By arrangement with the Essex County Council and this Hospital, operative treatment of tonsils and adenoids in children is carried out by Mr. C. Hamblen Thomas, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

The following excerpt from the County Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1937 is of interest:—

“It is estimated that by the time the present arrangement with the Southend-on-Sea County Borough Council expires in 1951, at least 200 hospital beds will be required for the area of the old Rochford Hundred (which includes the Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh Urban Districts and Rochford Rural District) and that this number will increase to 250 over a period of years.

In October, 1937, the Borough Council intimated that they had found it necessary to modify their views so far as the provision of accommodation in perpetuity for the Rochford Hundred was concerned, but that they were willing that their hospital should be regarded as serving for all time the Rochford Rural District in addition to the County Borough.

As a result of a Conference between representatives of the County Council and the Borough Council, discussions are now in progress with a view to the formulation of definite alternative proposals in accordance with suggestions made at that Conference.”

BLIND, DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTIONS.

Arrangements are made under the Essex County Council for admission of these cases to suitable institutions.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children in this district.

There are two registered Nursing Homes in the area.

I am indebted to the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. E. Colston, for the bulk of particulars supplied under Sections C, D and E.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER SUPPLY.

Five thousand four hundred and eighty-eight houses in the Area were connected with the mains of the Southend Waterworks Company at 25th December, 1938, as follows :—

South Benfleet	...	...	...	2,325
Hadleigh	...	...	...	1,638
Thundersley	...	...	...	1,525
				<hr/> 5,488 <hr/>

A sample of water from the public mains taken on 7.12.38 was reported to be clear, bright, of normal colour and of neutral re-action. It was moderately hard, contained no excess of salinity or metals and to be of satisfactory organic and bacteriological purity. It was considered wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Reports received in March, June, October and December, 1938, on reports of samples examined by the Bacteriologists to the Southend Waterworks Company show that the samples were drawn from a supply of pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Twenty-one samples from private supplies involving nine premises were submitted for chemical and part bacteriological examination. The result of such examinations are as follows :—

(a) Wholesome	...	...	...	6
(b) Unwholesome	...	...	...	13
(c) Doubtful	...	...	...	2

Nine premises are concerned with figures under heading (b) and (c) and the following table shows the result of action taken :—

(a) Premises connected to the main supply	...	3
(b) Premises at which wells or storage tanks, repaired, cleansed or Keiselghur filters provided and satisfactory samples subsequently obtained	...	3
(c) Premises at which storage tanks repaired and cleansed but from which subsequent samples returned as doubtful	...	2
(d) Action not completed	...	1

In connection with (c) the occupiers were advised to boil all water to be used for drinking purposes and with (d) an appeal has been made by the owner to the Ministry of Health under Section 139, Public Health Act, 1936, the result of which is awaited.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Drainage of existing buildings is carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors and a code of Byelaws covering such work is in operation.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There are no important rivers in the Area. On the Southern Boundary is the Benfleet Creek which empties into the Thames. There are a number of watercourses in the Area. Nuisances from house drainage gaining access to watercourses or ditches have been referred to in previous annual reports but owing to the marked extension in recent years of the sewerage system this type of nuisance is practically non-existent.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

During the year 44 premises were connected to the sewer as follows :—

Hadleigh ...	...	...	...	4
South Benfleet ...	...	...	...	10
Thundersley ...	...	...	...	30

Of this total 28 pail closets were converted to water closets as follows :—

Hadleigh ...	...	...	...	2
South Benfleet ...	...	...	...	7
Thundersley ...	...	...	...	19

The following figures show the number of existing buildings connected to sewers since the inception of the Urban District (1929) :—

Hadleigh ...	...	...	...	935
South Benfleet ...	...	...	...	885
Thundersley ...	...	...	...	821
				<hr/>
				2,641
				<hr/>

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector is responsible to the Council for this Service. Collection is by a nine cubic-yard Fordson vehicle and the team of labour comprises seven loaders including foreman-driver. During the year the Service was extended to 359 houses. About 90% of the houses in the District are dealt with and a once-weekly collection is in operation. Disposal is by controlled tipping and four men are employed whole-time on the tip. Rags, bottles, tins, etc., are recovered and sold. During the year these realised £146 1s. 0d.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

CLASSIFICATION OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Houses inspected and recorded under Housing (Consolidated)					
Regulations 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	123
Houses inspected on complaint	...	...	...	...	212
Inspections of drainage work in progress	...	...	...	...	127
Visits on notification of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	98
Revisits re infectious disease	...	...	...	...	47
Infectious disease contacts	...	...	...	...	17
Investigation of complaints of nuisances	...	...	...	...	116
General re-inspections	...	...	...	...	924
Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and Factories' Act, 1937—					
(i) Inspections at factories with mechanical power	...	...	...	...	24
(ii) " " " without mechanical power	...	...	...	...	26
(iii) " " other premises	...	...	...	...	1
(iv) " " outworkers' premises	...	...	...	...	9
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	18
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	44
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	157
Butchers' Premises	...	...	...	...	48
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	483
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	38
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	73
Dining Rooms	...	...	...	...	47
General Food Shops and Stores	...	...	...	...	146
Shops Act, 1934 (Section 10)	...	...	...	...	17
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	123
Petroleum (Regulations) Acts, 1928 and 1936	...	...	...	...	43
Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	12
Inspections on deposit of drainage plans	...	...	...	...	37
Surveys re pail closet conversions	...	...	...	...	32
Public Cleansing Visits	...	...	...	...	207
Water Samples taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	29
Milk samples taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	45
Ice Cream samples taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	17
Celluloid and Cinematograph Act, 1922	...	...	...	...	2
Hairdressers' Premises	...	...	...	...	15
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919	...	...	...	...	64
Housing Act, 1936 (Part iv)	...	...	...	...	229
Visits re Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	24
Piggeries, Stables, etc.	...	...	...	...	5
Interviews with agents, owners, contractors, etc.	...	...	...	...	59
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	83
Total					3,821

GENERAL.

Number of Complaints of nuisances received	...	...	178
„ „ Statutory Notices served	...	...	16
„ „ „ „ complied with	...	...	18
„ „ „ „ outstanding 31.12.38	...	...	1
„ „ informal notices served	...	...	243
„ „ „ „ complied with	...	...	207
„ „ „ „ outstanding 31.12.38	...	...	66
„ „ notices served under Section 39 Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	—
„ „ notices served under Section 23 Public Health Act, 1875, complied with	...	...	2
„ „ dwelling houses in respect of which the Local Authority executed the work in default of owners	...	...	1

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Legal proceedings during the year were taken as follows:—

<i>Date and Reference</i>	<i>Reason for Prosecution</i>	<i>Result of Prosecution</i>
29.6.38. Section 94, Public Health Act, 1936.	Non-compliance with Abatement Notice to execute works to cess- pool.	Dismissed as Abatement Notices complied with at date of hearing. Costs of £3 3s. 0d. allowed to Council.
Do.	Do.	do.
21.12.38. Section 10, Housing Act, 1936.	Obstruction.	Fined £5 and costs of £3 3s. 0d. allowed to Council.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES, DEFECTS, ETC., REMEDIED
AFTER NOTICE.

HOUSING.

Defective roofs repaired	...	...	51
Defective gutters or rainwater pipes cleansed, repaired, etc.	...	...	32
Dirty walls cleansed and repapered, etc. (number of rooms)	...	...	25
Defective wall plaster repaired (number of rooms)	...	...	39
Ceilings cleansed or whitewashed	...	...	16
Ceilings repaired	...	...	14
Window sashcords renewed (number of windows)	...	...	18
Defective windows repaired	...	...	76
Defective firegrates or ovens repaired, etc.	...	...	18
Hot Water systems repaired	...	...	2
Defective floors or skirting boards repaired or renewed	...	...	24
Underfloor ventilation provided or improved	...	...	4

Defective doors, fittings or cills repaired, etc.	...	...	23
Windows made to open	...	...	8
Ventilated food storage cupboards provided	...	...	1
Yards or passages paved or drained	...	...	18
Verminous rooms purified	...	...	8
New chimney pots provided	...	...	1
Defective stairs repaired	...	...	3
Handrails for staircases provided or repaired	...	...	6
Walls underpinned (number of houses)	...	...	2
Defective walls repaired or rebuilt (number of houses)	...	...	7
Defective external rendering of walls repaired (number of houses)	...	...	8
Walls repointed (number of houses)	...	...	14
Damp-proof course inserted under floors	...	...	1
Defective weatherboarded walls repaired (number of houses)	...	...	1
New dustbins provided	...	...	83
Chimney stacks repaired (number of houses)	...	...	5
Defective doorsteps repaired	...	...	3
Defective domestic coppers repaired, etc.	...	...	8
Overcrowding abated (number of houses)	...	...	2
Premises repainted	...	...	1
Private water supplies improved	...	...	5
Disused wells sealed	...	...	1

DRAINAGE.

New sinks provided	...	...	1
Choked drains cleared	...	...	8
Cesspools repaired or cleansed	...	...	9
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	5
Inspection chambers repaired	...	...	2
Defective W.C. pans renewed	...	...	1
„ „ flushing apparatus repaired	...	...	7
Miscellaneous nuisances from drainage abated	...	...	20

GENERAL.

Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	4
Nuisances from wet dustbins abated	...	...	21
Nuisances from rats abated or diminished	...	...	12
Fish sheds cleansed	...	...	2
Nuisances from keeping animals abated	...	...	2
Statements of permitted number inserted in rent books...	...	...	29

NEW DRAINAGE FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS.

Number of existing houses or premises connected to sewers	...	...	44
Length of new drains laid (including old drains renewed) (miles)	...	...	.84
Number of inspection chambers constructed	...	...	100
„ „ pail closets converted to water closets	...	...	28
„ „ new water closet buildings constructed	...	...	8
„ „ new sinks fitted	...	...	—

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT,
1901, AND THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (WHICH SUPERSEDED THE
ACT OF 1901 ON 1ST JULY, 1938).

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO
HEALTH.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power ...	24	4	—
Factories without mechanical power	26	22	—
Other Premises under the Act ...	1	—	—
Total ...	51	26	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	5	3	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) {	Insufficient ...	3	2	—
	Unsuitable or defective ...	4	5	—
	Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—
Other Offences ...	—	—	1	—
Total ...	12	10	1	—

PRIVATE STREET WORKS.

During the year .9 mile of private streets was made up.

MORTUARIES.

A mortuary is provided at South Benfleet.

The mortuary consists of a small building suitably situated in the cemetery and is provided with water, electric light and facilities for the conduct of post mortem examinations from time to time.

CONTROL BY BYE-LAWS.

Bye-laws concerning the following are in operation in the Urban District :—

Slaughterhouses.
 Drainage of Existing Buildings.
 Cleanliness of Premises used by Hairdressers and Barbers.
 Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings.
 Removal of House Refuse.

ACTS, SECTIONS, BYE-LAWS, ETC., ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL DURING 1938.

Nil.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector has been designated by the Council to administer the above Act. Inspections have been made upon complaint and advice given or action taken. The service of formal notice was unnecessary. In regard to the observance of National Rat Week a number of posters were obtained and distributed throughout the District. Local traders co-operated willingly and the propaganda resulted in the co-operation of the Department being sought to exterminate rodents in a number of instances.

Literature on the extermination of rodents is available for free distribution to the public.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfections on notification of infectious disease are carried out by the Council's disinfecting employee. Ninety-one houses were visited for this purpose and 114 rooms were disinfected.

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS, 1928 AND 1936.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector acts as Petroleum Inspector for the Urban District. Forty-three inspections of premises were made during the year and 31 licences were issued for the storage of petroleum and one for the storage of carbide of calcium.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

(a) INSPECTION OF SHOPS—*Shops Act, 1934, Section 10.*

Number of inspections during 1938 ... 17

Two informal notices concerning the provision of sanitary conveniences were complied with during the year.

(b) INSPECTION OF OFFICES—*Public Health Act, 1936.*

Routine inspection was carried out during the year of all offices in the Urban District and only in one case was action found necessary. Informal action in this case preliminary to procedure under Section 46 of the Act was taken toward the end of the year under review.

(v) CAMPING SITES.

(1) No. of sites used for camping purposes during 1938	1
(2) No. of sites licensed under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936	—
(3) Estimated maximum number of campers resident at one time during the summer season	52

Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, is not applicable to the Urban District as control is secured by Sections 105—117, Essex County Council Act, 1933, and by Bye-laws made under Section 111.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Informal action in one case was necessary during the year to secure abatement of smoke nuisance.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public in this District.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

1. Number of houses found to be infested :—

Council Houses	...	...	—
Other Houses	...	...	4

2. *Method of Disinfestation* :—

(a) *Council Houses*.—Removal of wood fixtures, application of blow lamp to wall cracks and exposed surfaces, use of liquid vermicide and application of disinfectant to wood fixtures before replacement. Tenant takes own measures, on advice, with beds, furniture, etc.

(b) *Other Houses*.—Owners and tenants advised and work carried out under supervision by owner or tenant on lines indicated under heading (2)(a).

3. Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses :—Premises of applicants for Council houses are inspected and if found to be unsatisfactory, applicants are not accepted as Council house tenants.

4. The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority in the case of Council houses, and by the owner or tenant in the case of other houses.

4. SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions and the water supplies of the schools remain satisfactory.

The children in the schools in the District are subject to regular inspection by the School Medical Inspectors, Dr. Esther Jones, Dr. Jemima B. Ratcliffe, J.P., and Dr. J. H. Crosby. Dental Clinics are held from time to time, including the provision of fillings.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

FITNESS OF HOUSES.

No special difficulty has been found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Act, 1936.

Every house in the Urban District is provided with a water or pail closet, all water closets are provided with flushing cisterns and no dwelling has been discovered without separate sanitary accommodation.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) By the Local Authority	...	...	Nil
(b) By other Local Authorities	...	...	Nil
(c) By other bodies or persons	...	...	332

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)	...	...	...	...	...	...	483
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose							1287
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	123
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose							521
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	185

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	129
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	1

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	1

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part iv. Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	2
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	2
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	19
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	12
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

SECTION E.
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.
(a) MILK SUPPLY.

REGISTERED PREMISES AND PERSONS.

The following is a statement of the number of persons and premises registered by the Council at 31st December, 1938 :—

Number of registered farms and other premises used as dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Number of registered retail purveyors of milk :—							
From registered farms or other premises used as dairies	...	...	...	...	...	9	
From shops—milk in sealed bottles only	...					52	67
By rounds from premises outside the District						6	

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES.

Under the scheme of the Essex County Council for bacteriological service which has been operative since 1st April, 1936, forty-five samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination. The following are the results of the examinations :—

		No. of samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
JANUARY.				
Ungraded	...	—	...	—
Graded	...	—	...	—
FEBRUARY.				
Ungraded	...	—	...	—
Graded	...	4	4	—
MARCH.				
Ungraded	...	4	2	2
Graded	...	—	—	—
APRIL.				
Ungraded	...	3	3	—
Graded	...	1	1	—
MAY.				
Ungraded	...	2	1	1
Graded	...	2	2	—
JUNE.				
Ungraded	...	8	3	5
Graded	...	—	—	—
JULY.				
Ungraded	...	2	1	1
Graded	...	3	3	—
AUGUST.				
Ungraded	...	2	1	1
Graded	...	2	2	—
SEPTEMBER.				
Ungraded	...	—	—	—
Graded	...	—	—	—
OCTOBER.				
Ungraded	...	3	2	1
Graded	...	1	1	—

NOVEMBER.

Ungraded	...	4	...	1	...	3
Graded	...	—	...	—	...	—

DECEMBER.

Ungraded	...	1	...	1	...	—
Graded	...	3	...	3	...	—

45

31

14

Eight retail purveyors were concerned with the unsatisfactory samples one of whom was interviewed by a Committee of the Council and the action, although informal, resulted in a marked improvement in subsequent samples. Two other retailers subsequently discontinued business and repeat samples following advice and close supervision from the remaining five vendors were reported to be satisfactory.

ICE CREAM VENDORS.

Under Essex County Council Act, 1933, the Urban District Council have power to require registration of manufacturers, vendors, or dealers of ice cream and of premises used for manufacture, storage or sale of ice cream.

The following is a statement of the persons and premises so registered on 31st December, 1938, and of the class of trade concerned :—

Number of persons registered as manufacturers, vendors or dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Number of premises registered for manufacture, storage or sale	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Number of vendors dealing in products of multiple firms							39
Number of vendors dealing in commodity manufactured on own premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

Seven registered vendors did not deal in ice cream during the season.

Samples of ice cream were taken as follows :—

No. taken		Satisfactory		Reported to be Unsatisfactory
17	...	16	...	1

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936 & 1938.

The following licences were issued during the year :—

	Description	Number
TUBERCULIN TESTED.		
Dealers' licences to sell milk already bottled...		12
Supplementary	...	3
ACCREDITED	...	Nil
PASTEURISED.		
Dealers' licenses to sell milk already bottled...		15
Supplementary	...	2

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Food premises are regularly visited and during the year the following unsound food was surrendered to Sanitary Inspectors in addition to meat surrendered at slaughterhouses :—

Six boxes kippers.
One tub herrings.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are two registered slaughterhouses and one licensed slaughterhouse in use in the District. The carcasses of all animals slaughtered in the District for sale for human consumption are inspected and the result of such inspections is shown in the following table :—

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	65	6	35	629	829
Number inspected ...	65	6	35	629	829
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis :—</i>					
Whole Carcasses condemned ...	1	—	—	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5	—	1	—	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	9.23%	—	2.86%	—	1.45%
<i>Tuberculosis only :—</i>					
Whole Carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	11	—	—	—	31
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	16.92%	—	—	—	4.22%

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Mechanically operated instruments are in use at the slaughter-houses and all animals are instantaneously slaughtered or stunned.

No. of slaughtermen licensed on 31.12.38 ... 7

(c) FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

The Essex County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority for the Area and the following information has been supplied by the Sampling Officer under the Act concerning samples taken in this Area :—

Article	No. of samples taken	No. genuine	No. adulterated or below Standard
Milk	34	33	1*

* The sample was deficient in milk fat to the extent of at least 18% of the normal quantity proper to natural milk. Three samples were obtained from milk in course of delivery to the vendor of this sample, and each was found to be well above the standard laid down by the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1901.

A summons was issued and the case determined by the Southend Magistrates who imposed a fine of £5 0s. 0d. with £2 6s. 0d. costs.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

See under Adulteration.

(e) NUTRITION.

No special action has been taken during the year under review regarding special investigations on the subject of nutrition.

The question of adequate nourishment, especially for children, is carefully watched in this District and Medical Officers in charge of Child Welfare Centres and those responsible for School Medical Inspection have every facility under the Essex County Council Schemes for obviating the presence of sub-nutrition occurring in this District.

No difficulties should arise in respect of recommendations by those relevant Officers, of milk, etc., and the list of articles which may be recommended is an extensive one.

In this reference, in schools the "free meal" (mid-day dinner) should ensure that school children are not likely to suffer from lack of nutrition owing to economic causes. Further advantage is being taken of this Scheme and in certain instances it has proved to be a boon.

(f) SHELL-FISH. (MOLLUSCAN.)

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in this District.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

GENERAL.

SCARLET FEVER.

During the year 1938, there was a distinct increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified in this Urban District when compared with cases notified in other years. Fifty-seven cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, of which number forty-six were admitted to Hospital for treatment, the remaining eleven cases being treated at home under the care of local medical attendants. I am pleased to be able to report that most of these cases were of a mild nature and all cases made satisfactory recoveries.

One girl, aged ten years, was notified as suffering from Scarlet Fever in this District although her home was in London but she was staying in this area at the time of notification. Another girl, aged eight years, was notified as a case of Scarlet Fever, admitted to Hospital for treatment and was discharged in due course but after two days had to be re-admitted to Hospital suffering from a relapse.

Most of the cases of Scarlet Fever occurred among children of school age, and the distribution was fairly even among the three parishes. Cases occurred throughout the year, the peak periods being in March and April.

DIPHTHERIA.

An increase in the number of notified cases of Diphtheria also occurred, when compared with numbers notified in previous years. Twenty-eight cases were notified of which number two were later de-notified as the diagnosis was not confirmed. Twenty-seven cases were admitted to hospital and the remaining case was treated at home under the care of the local medical attendant. I regret that two of the notified cases died at hospital within a day or two after admission. Only one of these deaths is shown in this year's figures as although both were notified during 1938, the death of one case occurred early in 1939 and will therefore be shown in the deaths for that year. The majority of the notified cases of Diphtheria occurred among children of school age and over half of the notified cases occurred in the parish of South Benfleet.

An adequate supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept in stock for the use by practitioners for the poorer inhabitants of the District.

In regard to Immunisation against Diphtheria, a local Scheme has been prepared and received consideration by my Local Authorities of Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh. When this has received the approval of the Ministry of Health, it is hoped that the scheme will be put into operation during the year 1939, and when the scheme has received the approval of the Local Authorities, the local Branch of the British Medical Association and the Ministry of Health full details will be given in my Annual Reports.

SMALLPOX AND ENTERIC FEVER.

I am very glad to be able to report that once again no cases of these diseases were notified in this District during 1938.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

One case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified, admitted to Hospital for treatment and made satisfactory recovery.

PNEUMONIA (Acute Primary or Influenzal).

Six cases of Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia were notified in this District during the year, four cases were admitted to Hospital for treatment and the remaining two cases were notified and treated at home under the care of the local medical attendants. I regret that one case, a male, aged 78 years, died at home.

ERYSIPELAS.

Five cases of Erysipelas were notified and four were treated at home. One was admitted to Hospital and I am pleased to report that all made satisfactory recoveries.

SONNE DYSENTERY.

One case of Sonne Dysentery, a female, aged 35 years, was notified and admitted to Hospital but after investigation at the Hospital the diagnosis was not confirmed and the case was later de-notified.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

From notifications received from Head Teachers of the Schools in the District, it appeared that Measles and Chicken Pox were prevalent in all schools during the months January to April. Chicken Pox was also prevalent in many schools during the Christmas Term.

Arrangements which were made during 1936 by the Local Authority for patients from this District suffering from complications of Measles to be admitted to the Borough Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases, Balmoral Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, for treatment, with my approval, on request from a local medical practitioner, at a cost of two guineas per week, are still in force. No guarantee can be given that an application for admission of a patient can be acceded to, as

necessarily the Medical Superintendent must have primary regard to the needs of the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea and, at times, may have no suitable accommodation available. During 1938, no cases from the District were admitted to the Borough Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases suffering from complications of measles.

No local action has been taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation but from time to time I have advised local medical practitioners as to how this measles serum can be obtained.

JOSEPH BROWN MEMORIAL HOME, SOUTH BENFLEET.

The above Home was permanently closed during the year 1938 and during my period of office as Medical Officer of Health for this District this Home has been a continual source of concern to myself in respect of the occurrence of infectious disease, particularly Diphtheria, generally associated with carriers who came from London for varying periods of time. These children were chiefly of the poorer classes and from their social conditions in London they appeared to be a ready source of infection.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE THE WIDER USE OF THE HEALTH SERVICES.

During the year, wide publicity was given to the various Health Services under the auspices of the County Council, etc., by distribution of posters in conspicuous places in the District and by other means. I think that this has resulted in more of the general public knowing of the many Health Services which are available to them with consequent improved use of these Services.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Notifiable Disease	Cases included in Weekly Returns													Total Deaths	Distribution			Sex		
	At Ages														Hadleigh	South Benfleet	Thundersley	M.	F.	
	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	Cases admitted to Hospital						
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Scarlet Fever ...	57	—	—	1	4	4	32	9	4	2	—	1	—	46	—	22	21	14	33	24
Diphtheria ...	28 (2)	—	—	—	1	1	16 (2)	3	—	5	—	2	—	27	1	7	15	6	18	10
Enteric Fever ... (Including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia (Acute Primary or Influenzal) ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	—	1	4	1	3	2	1	5	1
Erysipelas ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	4	—	1	2	3
Sonne Dysentery ...	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1

The figures in parentheses indicate the number of cases in which diagnosis was not confirmed.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Year	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid)	Puerperal Fever (To. 30.9.37)	Puerperal Pyrexia	Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)	Erysipelas	Encephalitis Lethargica	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Sonne Dysentery	Tuberculosis	
												Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary
1934	—	42	21	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	18	3
1935	—	22	6	—	1	—	—	3	—	1	—	12	2
1936	—	31	12	—	—	3	3	2	—	1	—	15	6
1937	—	32	15	—	1	1	5	3	1 (1)	—	5 (5)	23	4
1938	—	57	28 (2)	—	—	1	6	5	—	—	1 (1)	5	5

The figures in parentheses indicate the number of cases in which the diagnosis was not confirmed

4. (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken during the year under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade.

No action was taken during 1938 under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

During the year 1938 ten cases of tuberculosis were notified in this District, five respiratory and five non-respiratory. Many of these cases had been notified in previous Districts and were re-notified on removing to this area. All the cases of respiratory tuberculosis which were notified occurred among males. In regard to the non-respiratory cases of tuberculosis which were notified in this District during the year, one boy aged 13 years was notified as suffering from cervical glands, one girl aged five years, also suffering from cervical glands as one female, aged 23 years. Another girl, aged six years, was notified as suffering from a tuberculous knee and the remaining non-respiratory notified case was a male, aged 51 years, suffering from lupus of the face.

It is with regret that I have to report that thirteen cases of tuberculosis died during the year, twelve respiratory and one non-respiratory. The fatal non-respiratory case was a boy, aged 17 years, who was not notified in this district and was not living in this area at the time of death although his home address was in the District. He died from tuberculous meningitis.

In regard to the other deaths from tuberculosis, of which eight were males and four females, three of these were unnotified at the time of death, two had only recently removed in this District and the third died in Hospital and in all probability had had no local medical attendant as he had never been notified as suffering from tuberculosis. The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths was 4 : 13.

Particulars regarding the date of notification in this district in relation to the date of death will be found under the table showing age groups in regard to new cases and mortality.

The standard of notification was satisfactory in this District during the year and any unnotified cases are generally the result of recent transfers into the district, the population of which is constantly changing.

There was no evidence of any cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify and there was no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the District.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				MORTALITY			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— ...	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	—
15— ...	1	—	—	1	—	2	1	—
25— ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
35— ...	1	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
45— ...	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
55— ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	—	2	3	8	4	1	—

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1938 AND PARTICULARS REGARDING NOTIFICATION.

WHEN NOTIFIED.

No. of Deaths	After death	Within 3 months of death	Within 3—6 months of death	Within 6—12 months of death	Within 1—2 years of death	Within 2—4 years of death	More than 4 years before death	Un-notified
13	—	1	—	4	2	2	—	4

METEOROLOGY.

It might be a matter of interest to add a few remarks in respect of the question of the relationship between the weather and health during the year 1938.

I understand that the year broke all records for warmth in March and November and also gave us a very mild January and February. Apart from its climatic freakishness, 1938 will be remembered as an exceptionally healthy year. The Registrar General's returns show that, compared with 1937, the number of deaths in urban districts of England and Wales had diminished by 5 per cent. and it is probable that the exceptionally frequent and severe gales have helped to secure this clean bill of health: the country has been better ventilated than usual, with atmospheric stagnation—which favours the spread of epidemic diseases—at a minimum.

In the autumn medical experts found that coughs and colds were fewer than usual at that time of the year and the unseasonably mild weather was excellent for reducing the number of cases of pneumonia and relieving sufferers from bronchial trouble. There have been no extreme temperatures to cause strain but towards the latter part of December it will be recalled that the climatic conditions worsened and snow and ice were responsible for corresponding reduction of temperature and aggravation of any disabilities, particularly relating to chest trouble.

It is interesting to compare the average annual death-rate per 1,000 for 1938 for England and Wales (11.6), with the rate for 1929 (13.4), in which year it will be remembered we endured the greatest frost since 1895. Next worst for mortality came 1937 (12.4) with its bitter March and December.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS ACT, 1937.

I feel that this Report would be incomplete without mentioning the responsibilities which have devolved upon Medical Officers of Health in respect of the Casualty Services, Air Raid Precautions.

Since the crisis of September, 1938, the duties involved for A.R.P. work have increased without abatement, and at the end of the year encroachment on my time amounted to 33½% in respect of these A.R.P. duties.

Under the terms of my Combined Medical Services appointment, on a salary basis, I was permitted to devote to all my Medical Officer of Health duties three days per week.

In respect of my public health duties, this introduces a serious aspect which I felt bound to bring to the notice of my Local Authorities and the Essex County Council. At the time of writing this comment (May 1939), on the representations of my Local Authorities, my duties were re-allocated as and from 1st April, 1939, but still encroachment, after re-adjustment of A.R.P. work amounts to about 25 per cent. of this time, still without assistance, single-handed and with no deputy.

It would appear to me that this matter should have an early remedy as if it is decided that all A.R.P. duties must receive prompt attention and public health duties must receive due consideration at the same time, assistance is obviously essential. At the time of going to press, I understand that this will be provided at an early date.

My thanks are due to Dr. W. A. Bullough, County Medical Officer of Health, and to Dr. C. Grant Pugh, Medical Officer of Health of the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea for their advice and help which has been much appreciated.

Close co-operation between this Department and general practitioners renders all duties pleasant and productive.

My thanks are due to Miss Grudgings for the assistance she has rendered in the compilation of this Report.







