

[Report 1950] / Medical Officer of Health, Bishop's Stortford U.D.C.

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Bishop's Stortford Urban District
Council

ANNUAL REPORT

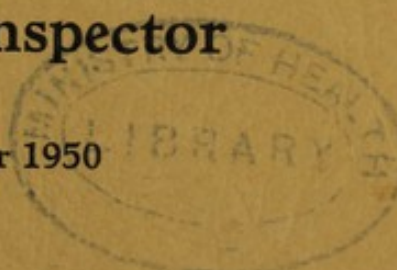
of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1950



67332



**Bishop's Stortford Urban District
Council**

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1950

Members of the Council, 1950-1951

Chairman :

Councillor R. P. GAMMIE, M.D., J.P.
(Chairman of Public Health Committee)

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor H. R. DARNELL
(Chairman of Housing and Open Spaces
Committee)

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„ LADY TURNER

„ G. H. WILLIAMS

„ A. G. WISBEY, G.M., J.P.

Public Health Department

EIRWEN M. JONES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

A. L. GOOD, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.

Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer

Inspector of Meat and other Foods

Mr. H. F. B. NICKOLDS

Mr. M. G. WYPER

Mr. A. TURNER

SECTION A

Statistics

(1) General

Area (acres)	3,826
Population	13,040
Rateable Value at 31/12/50 ...	£106,740
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£433
Number of inhabited houses ...	3,897
Density of persons per acre ...	3.4
" houses " 	1.02
Average number of occupants per house	3.3

(2) Vital

	Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Infantile Mortality Rate Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births
England and Wales ...	15.8	11.6	29.8
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	17.6	12.3	33.8
148 Smaller Towns (1931 census 25,000 to 50,000) ...	16.7	11.6	29.4
London	17.8	11.8	26.3
Bishop's Stortford ...	13.9	12.2	10.9

Births

Number of Legitimate Births	171
" Illegitimate Births	11
Percentage of Illegitimate Births ...	6.4
Total Number of Births	
Males	94
Females	88
	182

Deaths

Total Number of Deaths	160
-------------------------------	-----

(3) Mortality Table

Causes of Death		Males	Females	Total
	All Causes	79	81	160
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	2	3	5
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic Disease	—	1	1
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections ...	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8	Measles	—	—	—
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	1	1
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	2	—	2
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	3	1	4
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	1	2	3
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	—	—	—
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	11	7	18
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	—	2
16	Diabetes	—	—	—
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	9	19	28
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	9	8	17
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	1	3	4
20	Other Heart Disease	10	16	26
21	Other Circulatory Disease	2	2	4
22	Influenza	—	—	—
23	Pneumonia	3	2	5
24	Bronchitis	6	3	9
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—	—
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	—	1
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea ...	1	1	2
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	5	—	5
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—
31	Congenital Malformations	—	1	1
32	Other defined and ill defined Diseases	7	10	17
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	—	2
34	All other Accidents	—	1	1
35	Suicide	2	—	2
36	Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—	—
	Still Births	1	2	3
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (both under 4 weeks of age)	1	1	2

SECTION B

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

(1) Notifiable Diseases

Notifications of the following infectious diseases were received during the year

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 65	Over 65	Rem. to Hosp.	Deaths
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	12	—	3	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	5	—	1	—	2	1	—	1	—	4	—
Measles ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	95	7	16	34	36	2	—	—	—	—	—
Infectious Hepatitis ...	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	12	—	1

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever ...	7	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ...	31	5	5	4	12	6	3	1	3	8	10	7
Infectious Hepatitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—

(2) Tuberculosis

	MALES		FEMALES	
	Pul.	Non.-P.	Pul.	Non.-P.
Cases on Register at 31.12.49 ...	28	1	22	10
Number of cases notified during year	4	1	4	—
Number of cases restored during year	—	—	—	—
Inward transfer	2	1	—	—
Cases removed	3	—	4	—
Cases on Register at 31.12.50 ...	31	3	22	10

(3) Food Poisoning

An outbreak of food poisoning was notified on the 8th of August, 1950. The symptoms of patients were of moderate severity and short duration. Fourteen persons were affected, and one of these died through misadventure. This outbreak was limited to some of the chronic sick female patients in one Ward at a local Hospital and did not affect other patients or the nursing and domestic staff. Prompt investigations were made with the full co-operation of the Hospital administration. Faecal specimens were obtained from a number of patients and examined in the Hospital Pathological Laboratory. A post-mortem examination was performed in the fatal case. From none of the specimens obtained in these ways was any organism discovered which could be identified as the probable cause of the outbreak.

No food samples remained, and pathological examination of the kitchen staff was not attempted because

- (a) no causal organism was isolated, and
- (b) the same kitchen supplied food on that day throughout the Hospital.

Probably bacterial contamination took place either of a minced meat dish, or of the pasteurised milk after its placement in a container for the use of the Ward concerned. The food containers were, however, thoroughly cleaned out and returned to the main kitchen the same day, so that they could not be identified and thus no useful investigation was possible. Every facility was given to inspect the kitchen, which proved to be modern and well maintained.

The frequency of serious illness throughout the country attributable to contamination of food during handling or

preparation, is rightly the subject of public interest and concern. The Council has made local Bye-Laws under the Food and Drugs Act 1938 for the purpose of securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air. A copy of the Bye-Laws, as soon as published, was distributed to all known commercial food handlers in the Urban District. The Sanitary Inspector also addressed meetings of interested Bodies in the town on the subject of these Bye-Laws and food handling generally.

(4) Diphtheria Prophylaxis

With the advent of the National Health Service Act, 1946, Diphtheria Prophylaxis became the responsibility of the County Council as the local health authority as from 5th July, 1948 (the appointed day).

(5) Water Supply

The supply from the Pumping Station augmented by that from the Pumping Plant at the Council Depot was satisfactory in quantity and quality. The water is chlorinated and the quarterly chemical and bacteriological tests carried out revealed that the water was wholesome and entirely satisfactory.

There are twenty houses not connected to the Council main. Of this number, five houses are connected to the main supply of the Dunmow Rural District Council.

(6) Swimming Pool

Eight samples of water were taken from the swimming pool during the Summer and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. All were reported upon as satisfactory.

(7) Drainage and Sewerage

The separate system of drainage is in operation and the sewage is treated by means of settling tanks, broad irrigation and filtration.

(8) Public Cleansing

Refuse is disposed of by tipping on land adjoining the Castle grounds.

SECTION C

Health Services available in Bishop's Stortford

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT

Part II Hospital and Specialist Services

Bishop's Stortford and District Hospital

Staff General Practitioners, Consultants and a Resident Medical Officer.

Facilities are available for Medicine, Surgery, Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases, Obstetrics and Gynæcology, Orthopædics, Pædiatrics, Physical Medicine and Radiology.

Haymeads Hospital

Staff Consultants, Registrars and Resident House Officers. Specialist Departments in the following:—Medicine, Surgery, Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases, Obstetrics and Gynæcology, Orthopædics, Pædiatrics, Physical Medicine, Psychiatry, Radiotherapy, Ophthalmology, and Dentistry.

A Pathological Laboratory provides an excellent service at this Hospital.

Part III Services of the Local Health Authority

Hertfordshire

1. Home Nursing.
2. School Health Services consisting of :—
 - School Medical Inspections.
 - Clinics.
 - Speech Clinic.—Wednesday all day, Portland Road Clinic.
 - Orthodontic Clinic.—Two half days monthly. By appointment.
 - Eye Clinic.—Monday 2—3 p.m., Haymeads Hospital. (In conjunction with Hospital Service).
 - Minor Ailments.—Every morning 9—10 a.m. Portland Road Clinic.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

Health Visiting.

Clinics.

Infant Welfare Clinic.—Thursday, 2 p.m. Water Lane Institute. (Facilities are provided for Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination).

Ante-Natal Clinic.—1st and 3rd Friday each month. Portland Road Clinic.

4. Home Help Organisation.

Organiser in Attendance. Tuesday 10—11 a.m., Thursday 10—11 a.m., Friday 2—3 p.m., Portland Road Clinic.

Essex

Infant Welfare Weighing Centre.—2nd Monday each month. The Hut, Beldams Lane.

Part IV General Medical Services

1. General Practitioners.

Dr. R. P. Gammie	}	20, North Street, Bishop's Stortford	
Dr. G. G. Holmes			
Dr. G. A. Sharp			
Dr. I. D. Patterson			
Dr. P. H. Hewitt			
Dr. V. M. Morris	6, Windhill	"	"
Dr. R. A. Wallace	}	40, Hadham Road	
Dr. J. Epsom			
Dr. E. Leigh	75, South Street	"	"

2. Dental Practitioners.

Mr. H. P. Parkes	}	The Folly,	
Mr. C. Bullpitt		Hadham Road	
Mr. O. N. Catchpole,	6a, North Street	"	"
Mr. H. Davies	14, Bridge Street	"	"
Mr. G. E. Dodd	}	7, North Street	
Mr. W. E. Dodd			
Miss Joan Dodd			

Adequate provisions are made in the town for pharmaceutical services.

Voluntary Organisations

Family Planning Association.

Clinics.—1st Thursday each month, 2.30 p.m., 3rd Thursday each month, 6.30 p.m. Portland Road Clinic.

SECTION D

Sanitary Administration

(1) Inspection of the District

Total number of visits	1,466
Dwelling houses inspected for housing defects ...	50
Revisits to dwelling houses including works in progress	249
Premises inspected on complaint for nuisance other than housing defects	111
Revisits to premises where a nuisance was found to exist	11
Special and miscellaneous visits	76
Interviews with owners, etc. at properties ...	115
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis ...	75
Visits to Slaughterhouses	21
Visits to Dairies, Cowsheds, etc.	4
Visits to Bakehouses... ..	4
Visits to Butchers' Shops	11
Visits to Fish Shops	2
Visits to Cafes and Restaurants	8
Visits to Ice-cream Premises	9
Visits to other Food Shops, Stores, etc....	71
Visits to Markets	4
Visits to Factories	26
Visits to Workplaces, Offices and Shops ...	6
Visits to Schools	4
Visits <i>re</i> Petroleum Acts	67
Visits <i>re</i> Building Byelaws	303
Visits to Stables and Piggeries	2
Visits to Outworkers' Premises	3
Visits to Council Houses	84
Visits to Property requisitioned for housing purposes	11
Visits <i>re</i> Applications for Housing Accommodation	125
Visits to Rat infested premises	14

(2) Complaints and Matters Referred

Complaints received	189
Complaints investigated	181
Complaints referred to other Departments and Authorities	14
Other matters referred to other Departments and Authorities	3

(3) Testing of Drains and Sanitary Fittings

Drains tested with water	97
Drains tested with other means	18

(4) Notices Served and the Results of the Service of such Notices

(a) Preliminary Notices

	No. Served	No. complied with
(i) Dwelling houses for housing defects...	54	52
(ii) Premises for other than housing defects	4	—
(iii) Special premises (shops, factories, etc.)	4	6

(b) Statutory Notices—Public Health Act, 1936

	No. Served	No. complied with
Section 93, to abate a statutory nuisance ...	4	4

N.B.—The number of notices complied with may include notices outstanding from the previous year.

(5) Summary of Sanitary Improvements Effected

	At Dwelling Houses	At Special Premises	At various premises for other than housing defects
Drainage systems repaired, un-stopped, etc.	20	12	—
Water closets repaired, screened, etc.	18	5	—
Water closets reconstructed or new provided	9	8	—
Dampness remedied (roofs, gutters, etc. repaired)	23	2	—
Floors repaired	2	3	—
Sinks and waste pipes renewed or repaired	8	3	—
Windows and doors repaired ..	5	—	—
Ranges, grates, etc., repaired or renewed	5	—	—
Rooms cleansed... ..	5	3	6
Accumulations removed... ..	1	1	2
Dustbins provided	24	—	—
Means of escape in case of fire provided	—	2	—
Washing facilities provided (hot water, etc.)	18	17	—
Miscellaneous	18	6	5

(6) Disinfection and Disinfestation

		Rooms disinfected with Formaldehyde Lamps	Parcels of Bedding passed through Steam Disinfector	Houses disinfected with Hydrogen Cyanide	Houses disinfested by other means	4-oz. Tins of Izal issued	1-pint Bottles of D.D.T. Insecticide issued
Following Infectious Diseases	...	9	—	—	—	—	—
Following other Diseases	...	5	1	—	—	—	—
Following Vermin Infestation at							
(a) Council Houses	...	—	—	—	2	—	—
(b) Other Houses	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	... ..	14	1	—	2	—	—

(7) Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supplies

There are four producers of milk in the Urban District and three retailers of milk. Two of the producers are licensed for "Tuberculin Tested" milk, one for "Accredited" milk and the fourth is producing "Non-Designated" milk.

Two of the retailers are licensed to sell both "Tuberculin Tested" and "Pasteurised" milk.

The control of milk production on the farm passed from the Local Authority to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on the 1st October 1949 when the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act 1944 came into operation.

127 samples of bottled milk were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory and of this number only two were reported upon as unsatisfactory.

These samples, taken in course of delivery to the consumer, give a clear indication of the cleanliness of the milk supply and reflect great credit upon those responsible for this achievement.

It is estimated that about 1,237 gallons of milk are consumed daily in Bishop's Stortford representing approximately three quarters of a pint per head of population. Of this

amount 1,215 gallons or 98.2% is pasteurised, and the day cannot be far distant when the ultimate target of 100% pasteurisation will be reached.

Approximately 4 gallons or 0.3% is raw Tuberculin Tested milk and only about 18 gallons or 1.5% is raw ungraded milk.

This is really a very satisfactory picture, although one would like to see the consumption of milk increased to a level of at least one pint per head of population per day.

Designation	No. of Samples Taken	No. Satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	53	52	1
Tuberculin Tested	4	4	—
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised ...	70	69	1

122 of these samples were obtained by the Department and the remaining 5 by officers of other authorities.

(b) Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream

Three premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream and thirty-six for the storage and sale only.

(i) Bacteriological Examination

19 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The provisional grading of these samples is shown in the table below.

These figures show a distinct improvement in the bacteriological purity of ice cream samples over the previous year.

	PROVISIONAL GRADING			
	1	2	3	4
Total number of samples ...	9	7	1	2
Number pre-packed	7	6	1	2
Number not pre-packed	2	1	—	—

(ii) Chemical Examination

In accordance with the request by the Ministry of Food contained in Circular MF3/49, nine samples of ice cream

were submitted to the Analyst. One sample, manufactured in Bishop's Stortford, was found to be low in fat content. The attention of the manufacturer was drawn to the Analyst's Report and a follow-up sample revealed that the fat content had been increased in this particular case from 4.6% to 6.84%.

(c) *Meat and other Food Inspection*

The number of premises subject to inspection under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, at the end of 1950 was as follows :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	8
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	13
Fish Shops	...	...	...	7
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	59
Cafes and Canteens...	...	...	...	33
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	59
Miscellaneous Food Premises	...	...	...	14

The subject of hygiene in food premises has been well to the forefront during the year, although it might be stated that there has been too much talk and too little positive action.

Clean Food Guilds and Clean Food Campaigns have been inaugurated by a number of local authorities throughout the Country. Whilst schemes of this nature are excellent from a propaganda point of view, and are admirable in themselves, they must not be regarded as alternatives to the regular routine inspection of food premises by the Sanitary Inspector. It must also be remembered that the setting-up of Clean Food Guilds and Campaigns absorbs a great deal of time and a certain amount of expense. Such schemes are not, therefore, being contemplated for the present in Bishop's Stortford. However, it is hoped that a start will be made in 1951 on a comprehensive survey of all food premises within the Urban District, at the completion of which a full report will be prepared for submission to the Council.

The quantity of food found unfit for human consumption is tabulated below and is under the average for recent years.

The practice of examining all animals slaughtered in the district, whether for home consumption or by reason of injury or illness, was continued throughout the year and represents a decrease in the number dealt with over the previous year.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number Inspected	3	—	39	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	2	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	—	—	5.1	—
Tuberculosis only:				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—

DETAILS OF FOODSTUFFS FOUND UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Description	Weight or number	Description	Weight or number
Bacon	51 lbs.	Meat	66 lbs.
Brawn	25 "	Meat and Gravy ...	26 "
Beef	842 "	Milk	546 tins
Beef Loaf	4 "	Mince-meat	1 lb.
Beef Roll	2 "	Mutton	12 ozs.
Barley	1 cwt.	Offal	68 lbs.
Biscuits	30 lbs.	Paste	12 "
Coffee	4 ozs.	Pork	151 "
Custard	58 lbs.	Preserves	230 "
Corn	2 "	Puddings	4 "
Corned Beef	228 "	Pickles	3 "
Ducks	36 "	Rabbit	34 "
Eggs	540 "	Salad Cream	1,866 jars
Fish	147 lbs.	Soup	31 lbs.
Fruit	338 "	Sugar	89 "
Ham	77 "	Tomatoes	47 "
Ice Cream	84 "	Veal Loaf	15 "
Juices	62 "	Vegetables	560 "

(8) Rodent Control

The work of rodent control proceeded smoothly and efficiently during 1950. The operator has worked conscientiously and a perusal of the figures given below evinces clear proof that he has had few idle moments.

The destruction of rats and mice is not usually spectacular, but it is nevertheless a vital service which has to be maintained with unrelenting vigour.

The damage done to the nation's food supplies by these rodents is not perhaps fully appreciated. It is not so much a question of how much food they eat, but of how much is contaminated by them, thus rendering large quantities of food unfit for human consumption.

1950 was the first full year of operation of the rodent control service by the Urban District Council and one wonders whether there is any significance between this and the fact that considerably less food was found to be unfit for human consumption during 1950, than during 1949.

(i) Disinfestation of Sewers

A 10% test of the sewers was carried out by pre-baiting selected manholes on the foul water system.

Following the test, all the manholes in the area where rats were found to be in evidence were pre-baited with damp sausage rusk. Poison baits in the form of damp sausage rusk and zinc phosphide were then laid in the manholes where pre-bait "takes" were recorded.

(ii) Disinfestation of Surface Properties

No. of Dwelling Houses treated	...	...	83
„ Business Premises treated	...	...	134
„ Council Premises treated	...	...	37
„ Pre-baits laid	...	...	5,541
„ „ partly taken	...	...	1,063
„ „ completely taken	...	...	1,617
„ Poison Baits laid	...	...	915
„ „ „ partly taken	...	...	567
„ „ „ completely taken	...	...	51
„ Bodies recovered (a) rats	...	...	291
„ „ „ (b) mice	...	...	256
Total number of visits made by the operator	...	...	2,361

(9) The Storage of Petroleum-Spirit

Revised conditions for the storage of petroleum-spirit, based on the suggestions contained in the Home Office Draft Memorandum, were approved by the Council during the year.

A special form of licence was brought into use, upon which the licence conditions were printed, provision being made for three annual renewals and for the transfer of the licence under the Petroleum (Transfer of Licences) Act 1936.

The renewal date for all licences is December 31st.

At the end of the year there were 57 premises licensed for the storage of petroleum-spirit in the Urban District.

(10) Factories Act, 1937

Twenty six visits were made to the factories on the Register and it was found necessary in two instances to serve Informal Notices where contraventions existed.

It was ascertained from the lists submitted by the factory occupiers that there were twenty four factory outworkers resident in the district.

Fuller details of visits carried out and defects found and remedied are given in the tables below.

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of	
			Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	22	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	86	23	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	108	26	2	—

2. CASES in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s 1) ...	5	5	—	—	—
Overcrowding (s 2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (s 3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (s 4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (s 6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (s 7) :					
(a) insufficient ...	2	2	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	2	2	1	1	—
TOTAL ...	12	12	1	1	—

(11) Moveable Dwellings

A site known as The Chase, Parsonage Lane, caused the Council and the Department much anxiety during the year as a result of moveable dwellings being stationed thereon.

At one period there were eleven moveable dwellings on the site but constant vigilance, perseverance and persuasion resulted in the removal of ten of these dwellings, although it became necessary in two instances to serve Statutory Notices under Section 93, Public Health Act 1936, for the abatement of nuisances. Action under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 was being taken in respect of the remaining moveable dwelling.

It is worth recording that twenty five visits were made to this site during the year, including two visits late at night.

(12) Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year :			
(a)	By the Local Authority ...	...	60
(b)	By Private Enterprise ...	...	9
Number of houses made available by conversion or			
	adaptation of existing buildings	...	5

During the year nine houses were represented as unfit for human habitation.

Comprehensive schedules of works necessary to render the houses in all respects fit for human habitation, together with estimated costs of the works, were submitted to the Council and as a result Notices were served under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

An undertaking in respect of three houses was accepted by the Council and Demolition Orders were made in respect of the remaining six houses.

It would indeed be a progressive step if the Council could embark more boldly in this field but, unfortunately, such progress is related to the housing programme generally and the ability to re-house the occupants. For the present, therefore, so far as sub-standard houses are concerned, it is very largely a question of "make do and mend."

The total number of applications for housing accommodation on the file at 31st December, 1950 was 426, including 50 applications for aged persons' bungalows. This shows an increase over the previous year of 88. 215 applicants were still without separate homes.

Looking on the brighter side, an outstanding event during the year was the completion of the 500th post war Council house, the occasion being marked by a very pleasant ceremony. Sir William Douglas, K.C.B., Principal Permanent Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Health performed the opening ceremony, which for purposes of record took place at No. 7, Vicarage Close, one of eight aged persons' bungalows built by the Council during 1950.

It will be seen from the table below that 36 Council tenants were transferred to other Council property during the year. The transfers were all carried out on a voluntary basis and they represent a sincere effort on the part of the Council to make the best use of available houses.

	Position at 31.10.45	Position at 30.9.50	Position at 31.12.50
Number of Applicants who live and work in Bishop's Stortford ...	128	220	224
Number of Applicants who live in Bishop's Stortford but work elsewhere	70	43	48
Number of Applicants who work in Bishop's Stortford but live elsewhere	46	119	104
Number of Applicants who do not live or work in Bishop's Stortford	9	49	50
Number of Applications received since 1st January, 1945	309	1673	1715
Number of Applications withdrawn or removed from the Register for various reasons	50	649	683
Number of Families re-housed ...	6	593	606
Number of Families found Emergency Housing Accommodation ...	—	—	—
Number of Council tenants transferred to other Council property during the year ... ..	...	...	36

SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS FOR HOUSING ACCOMMODATION AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1950

1 Composition of Applicants' Families	2 No. of Families with bedroom deficiency			3 No. of Families without bedroom deficiency			4 No. requiring Special Consideration			5 Totals of 2, 3 and 4		
	House-holders	Lodgers	Total	House-holders	Lodgers	Total	House-holders	Lodgers	Total	House-holders	Lodgers	Total
GROUP A												
(a) Married Couples ...	—	4	4	31	87	118	2	7	9	33	98	131
(b) Married with 1 child ...	6	17	23	35	36	71	3	3	6	44	56	100
(c) Married with 2 children ...	8	2	10	41	16	57	3	1	4	52	19	71
(d) Other family units ...	4	2	6	14	17	31	3	1	4	21	20	41
	18	25	43	121	156	277	11	12	23	150	193	343
GROUP B												
(e) Married with 3 children ...	12	4	16	7	—	7	—	—	—	19	4	23
(f) Married with 4 children ...	2	—	2	3	—	3	—	—	—	5	—	5
(g) Other family units ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	14	4	18	10	—	10	—	—	—	24	4	28
GROUP C												
(h) Married with 5 children ...	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
(i) Married with 6 children ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
(j) Other family units ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
Applications for Houses ...	37	29	66	131	156	287	11	12	23	179	197	376
Applications for Bungalows ...	—	—	—	32	18	50	—	—	—	32	18	50
Totals at 31/12/50 ...	37	29	66	163	174	337	11	12	23	211	215	426
Totals at 31/9/50 ...	39	26	65	174	172	346	7	13	20	220	211	431