

[Report 1951] / Medical Officer of Health, Bishop's Stortford U.D.C.

Contributors

Bishop's Stortford (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1951

Persistent URL

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

License and attribution

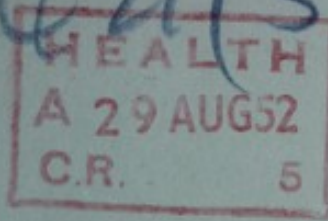
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

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

Bishop's Stortford Urban District
Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1951



Bishop's Stortford Urban District
Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1951

Members of the Council, 1951-1952

Chairman :

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

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor MRS. E. M. SMITH, J.P.

Councillor F. F. ASHWELL

„ E. BARRETT
„ R. P. GAMMIE, M.D.
(Chairman of Public Health Committee)
„ J. E. HAMPTON
„ G. HURST-GREAVES
„ P. G. KING
„ MRS. B. M. LEWIS
„ MRS. A. D. LLOYD
„ S. C. C. OSBORNE
„ H. F. ROWLES, C.C.
(Chairman of Finance and General Purposes
Committee)
„ L. SCUTTS
„ W. A. STEWART, O.B.E., J.P.
„ LADY TURNER
„ P. L. T. WALKER, B.A.
„ 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.
Chief Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer
Inspector of Meat and other Foods

B. DAY
Additional Sanitary Inspector (commenced
duties 1. 5. 51)

H. F. B. NICKOLDS

A. TURNER

Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council

Health Department,
The Council House,
Bishop's Stortford,

August, 1952

*To the Chairman and Members,
Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to submit the following Report on the health of the Bishop's Stortford Urban District which has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Circular issued by the Ministry of Health.

The Registrar General's population estimate of 13,270 shows an increase of 230 over the previous year.

The total number of births and the total number of deaths are the same as those for the year 1950. The birth and death rates are lower than those of the previous year by virtue of the fact that the population figure is higher.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is again low and is the same as for last year.

For Bishop's Stortford, 1951 can rightly be regarded as a year of good health and, although there were 271 notified cases of Measles, this figure is very low compared with the last biennial outbreak of 1949 when 449 cases were notified.

Acute Poliomyelitis was conspicuous by its absence and no cases were notified.

Details of the Health Services available in Bishop's Stortford are again included in this Report and form a convenient record and guide.

We desire to acknowledge the support and assistance we have received from the Chairman and Members of the Council during the year.

We are,

Your obedient Servants,

EIRWEN M. JONES,
Medical Officer of Health

A. L. GOOD,
*Chief Sanitary Inspector
and Housing Officer*

SECTION A

Statistics

(1) General

Area (acres)	3,826
Population	13,270
Rateable Value at 31/12/51 ...	£107,866
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£438
Number of inhabited houses ...	3,912
Density of persons per acre ...	3.46
„ houses „ ...	1.02
Average number of occupants per house	3.39

(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 ...	15.5	12.5	29.6
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	17.3	13.4	33.9
148 Smaller Towns (1931 census 25,000 to 50,000) ...	16.7	12.5	27.6
London	17.8	13.1	26.4
Bishop's Stortford ...	13.7	12.05	10.9

Births

Number of Legitimate Births	172
„ Illegitimate Births	10
Percentage of Illegitimate Births ...	5.8
Total Number of Births	Males 98
	Females 84
	182

Deaths

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

(3) Mortality Table

Causes of Death				Males	Females	Total
	All Causes			92	68	160
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...			2	—	2
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	2
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach...			5	3	8
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus			2	—	2
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...			—	1	1
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...			—	1	1
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms			5	6	11
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia			—	—	—
16	Diabetes			1	2	3
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System			13	10	23
18	Coronary Disease, Angina			7	8	15
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease			5	4	9
20	Other Heart Disease			14	8	22
21	Other Circulatory Disease ...			2	1	3
22	Influenza			2	3	5
23	Pneumonia			5	5	10
24	Bronchitis			9	4	13
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System			1	1	2
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum			2	1	3
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea ...			—	—	—
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis			2	—	2
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate			—	—	—
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion			—	—	—
31	Congenital Malformations			—	—	—
32	Other defined and ill defined Diseases			5	6	11
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents			3	—	3
34	All other Accidents			4	2	6
35	Suicide			2	—	2
36	Homicide and Operations of War			—	—	—
	Still Births			1	—	1
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (one 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 ...	18	—	1	2	10	3	1	1	—	2	—
Enteric Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	3	7	—	10	—
Pneumonia ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	271	3	57	73	132	2	3	1	—	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	83	4	22	28	28	1	—	—	—	—	—
Infectious Hepatitis ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever ...	3	3	1	2	2	3	3	—	—	—	—	1
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	4	—
Pneumonia ...	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	24	45	148	45	6	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	8	2	9	19	10	6	17	3	9	—	—	—
Infectious Hepatitis ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

(2) Tuberculosis

	MALES		FEMALES	
	Pul.	Non.-P.	Pul.	Non.-P.
Cases on Register at 31.12.50 ...	31	3	22	10
Number of cases notified during year ...	2	—	4	—
Number of cases restored during year ...	—	—	—	—
Inward transfer ...	5	—	1	—
Cases removed ...	1	—	—	1
Cases on Register at 31.12.51 ...	37	3	27	9

(3) Food Poisoning

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year, in a child aged one year. No other cases occurred in the household. The organism responsible was *Salmonella* Thompson and the source of the infection was not traced. The fact that the child's mother was a trained nurse probably accounted for the fact that the infection was limited to the child.

(4) Measles

As was expected the bi-annual increase in the incidence of measles was again evident. The number however, fell 178 below the 1949 figure. Gamma Globulin and Immune Serum was made available to practitioners in the town, the former being used in a number of cases.

(5) 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).

(6) Research on Poliomyelitis—Virological Investigation

In collaboration with the Medical Research Council, Bishop's Stortford assisted in the above investigation which was carried out in 1951.

It had been shown that poliomyelitis virus could be isolated from sewage swabs, when the sewage itself was negative. The basis of the investigation was to endeavour to

determine the distribution of virus in epidemic and non-epidemic periods in 50 towns and villages in England and Wales, during 1951.

The sewer swab consisted of a pad of sterile gauze 18" x 6" folded into small bulk and tied with string. The string was attached to the manhole and the swabs were directed into the sewage flow, and left for 72 hours. Thirty manholes were selected at random covering the whole of the district, and swabbing was carried out in April and June, the normal times when epidemics are non-existent or are becoming prevalent. Extracts from the swabs were injected into monkeys.

The virus was not isolated from any of the extracts, and owing to the fact that no cases of poliomyelitis occurred in the town during the year, Bishop's Stortford was not included in the further investigation.

(7) 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.

(8) Swimming Pool

Ten 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.

(9) 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.

(10) 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. By appointment. 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 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 St., 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 Rd.	„	„
Dr. E. Leigh	11, Church St.	„	„

2. **Dental Practitioners.**

Mr. J. Dickson	}	The Folly, Hadham Rd.	
Mr. C. Bullpitt			
Mr. O. N. Catchpole	6a, North St.	„	„
Mr. H. Davies	14, Bridge St.	„	„
Mr. G. E. Dodd	}	9, Hadham Rd.	
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	...	...	...	1,962
Dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	...			51
Revisits to dwelling houses including works in progress	...	...	...	144
Premises inspected on complaint for nuisance other than housing defects	...			181
Revisits to premises where a nuisance was found to exist	...	...	...	138
Special and miscellaneous visits	...			81
Interviews with owners, etc. at properties	...			38
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis	...			117
Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	17
Visits to Dairies, Cowsheds, etc.	...			35
Visits to Bakehouses...	...	...	...	4
Visits to Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	49
Visits to Fish Shops	...	...	...	11
Visits to Cafes and Restaurants	...			18
Visits to Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	25
Visits to other Food Shops, Stores, etc.	...			108
Visits to Markets	...	...	...	4
Visits to Factories	...	...	...	38
Visits to Workplaces, Offices and Shops	...			5
Visits to Schools	...	...	...	3
Visits <i>re</i> Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	67
Visits <i>re</i> Building Byelaws	...	...	...	361
Visits to Stables and Piggeries	...			1
Visits to Outworkers' Premises	...			4
Visits to Council Houses	...	...	...	199
Visits to Property requisitioned for housing purposes	...	...	...	15
Visits <i>re</i> Applications for Housing Accommodation				227
Visits to Rat infested premises	...			21

(2) Complaints and Matters Referred

Complaints received	...	...	...	207
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	193
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	...	...	72
Drains tested with other means	...	...	18

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

(a) Preliminary Notices

	No. Served	No. com- plied with
(i) Dwelling Houses for housing defects...	123	134
(ii) Premises for other than housing defects	3	3
(iii) Special Premises (shops, factories, etc.)	7	—

(b) Statutory Notices—Public Health Act, 1936

	No. Served	No. com- plied with
Section 75 to provide a dustbin	9	8

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

(5) Summary of Sanitary Improvements Effectuated

	At Dwelling Houses	At Special Premises	At various premises for other than hous- ing defects
Drainage systems repaired, un- stopped, etc.	14	1	—
Water closets repaired, screened, etc.	21	5	—
Water closets reconstructed or new provided	4	3	—
Dampness remedied (roofs, gutters, etc. repaired)	28	10	—
Floors repaired	7	3	—
Sinks and waste pipes renewed or repaired	7	11	—
Windows and doors repaired	2	1	—
Ranges, grates, etc., repaired or renewed	10	1	—
Rooms cleansed	1	2	4
Accumulations removed	1	2	1
Dustbins provided	61	2	—
Means of escape in case of fire provided	—	1	—
Washing facilities provided (hot water, etc.)	2	4	—
Miscellaneous	10	1	3

(6) Disinfection and Disinfestation

		Rooms disinfected with Formaldehyde Lamps	Parcels of Bedding passed through Steam Disinfector	Houses disinfested 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	...	6	—	—	—	—	—
Following other Diseases	...	1	1	—	—	—	—
Following Vermin Infestation at							
(a) Council Houses	...	—	—	—	2	—	—
(b) Other Houses	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	... ..	7	1	—	2	—	—

(7) Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supplies

There are five producers of milk in the Urban District and three retailers of milk. Three of the producers are licensed for "Tuberculin Tested" milk, one for "Accredited" milk and the fifth 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.

153 samples of bottled milk were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory and all were found to be satisfactory.

This is a record which must surely be unique, and is an indication of the great stride forward which the dairying industry has made.

It is worth repeating that all these samples were taken in bottle at random, mostly from the milk roundsmen, in course of delivery to the consumer, and proves as conclusively as possible that the milk supply in Bishop's Stortford is both clean and safe. Further comment is quite unnecessary.

Designation	No. of Samples Taken	No. Satis- factory	No. Unsatis- factory
Pasteurised	55	55	—
Tuberculin Tested	3	3	—
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised ...	95	95	—

146 of these samples were obtained by the Department and the remaining 7 by officers of other authorities.

In addition to sampling of the finished product, a close watch is kept upon the cleanliness of the milk received at the Hallingbury Road Dairy from the surrounding milk producing farms. In all, 97 samples were taken from churns on arrival at the dairy, and of this number 15 were of raw Tuberculin Tested milk, and 82 of raw ungraded milk. One sample of tuberculin tested, and eleven samples of raw ungraded milk were found by the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory to be unsatisfactory. Although this milk is pasteurised at the dairy before delivery to the consumer, sampling at this stage affords a timely check upon the methods of milk production at the farm. Where failures are recorded, the appropriate officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is notified and follow-up samples are taken.

(b) *Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream*

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

(i) *Bacteriological Examination*

38 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.

	PROVISIONAL GRADING			
	1	2	3	4
Total number of samples ...	19	7	3	9
Number pre-packed	11	5	3	6
Number not pre-packed ...	8	2	—	3

(ii) *Chemical Examination*

In accordance with the request by the Ministry of Food contained in Circular MF3/49, four samples of ice cream were submitted to the Analyst. All were found to be satisfactory, having fat contents of 9.76%, 9.44%, 7.42% and 6.5% respectively.

(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 1951 was as follows :—

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

A start was made on the comprehensive survey of all food premises during the year. Sample inspections were made of different types of premises such as butchers' shops, grocers' shops, licensed premises and restaurants, the purpose of which was to devise a simple composite inspection form. These sample surveys proved invaluable and a single inspection form is now in use for all types of food premises.

So far, the survey has revealed a number of interesting features, not the least of which is the apparent desire of the food traders to implement the provisions of the new food byelaws. The increasing use of perspex and glass covers to food displayed on counters is encouraging, and will do much to eliminate a potential risk of contamination.

With regard to the premises themselves they were found generally to be in a sound structural condition, and a high standard of cleanliness was noticeable.

The handling of food, although revealing a more intelligent regard for hygiene leaves much to be desired. One is tempted to pose the question "Do we pay sufficient attention to our hands?" There is no doubt where the answer to this question lies, and how brighter would be the outlook if more pride were shown in the care and cleanliness of the hands. Food for thought and research abounds in this simple but much neglected duty.

The question of the open shop front, particularly the fish shop, is presenting some difficulty and arguments for and against are both convincing. Suggestions and co-operation

from the trade have been received and it is to be hoped that a satisfactory solution will ensue.

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

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number Inspected ...	3	1	21	1
All Diseases except Tuberculosis :				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only :				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	2	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	—	9.52	— 4

DETAILS OF FOODSTUFFS FOUND UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Description	Weight or number	Description	Weight or number
Baby Food ...	1 tin	Milk ...	232 tins
Beef ...	51½ lbs.	Paste ...	1 jar
Beef Loaf ...	6 tins	Pickles ...	64 jars
Brawn ...	12½ lbs.	Preserves ...	87 „
Cheese ...	259 pkts.	Puddings ...	3 tins
Chicken ...	1 tin	Rabbit ...	1 lb.
Corned Beef ...	73 lbs.	Rice ...	77 lbs.
Eggs ...	720	Salad Cream ...	1673 jars
Figs ...	16 lbs.	Sauces ...	11 botts.
Fish ...	124 tins	Sausage ...	1 tin
Fruit ...	730 „	Soups ...	41 tins
Ham (Imported) ...	1550 lbs.	Soya Flour ...	56 lbs.
Ice Cream ...	10 fl. ozs.	Spaghetti ...	13 tins
Icing ...	26 tubes	Steak ...	4 „
Jellies ...	37	Sugar ...	34 lbs.
Juices ...	162 tins	Tomatoes ...	37 tins
Luncheon Meat ...	210 lbs.	Tomato Puree ...	212 jars
Kippers ...	28 „	Veal Loaf ...	108 lbs.
Marshmallows ...	39	Vegetables ...	366 tins
Meat and Gravy ...	2 tins		

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.

(8) Rodent Control

The work of rodent control again proceeded smoothly and efficiently during 1951.

The Council are indeed fortunate in having the services of an operator who enjoys his work, and responds cheerfully to all the demands made upon him. The rodent control service in Bishop's Stortford might be regarded as a somewhat thriving infant.

A study of the figures quoted below shows a year of increased activity, one rat and one mouse at least, being destroyed almost every day.

(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

Number of Dwelling Houses treated	...	...	111
" Business Premises treated	...	...	135
" Council Premises treated	...	...	17
" Pre-baits laid	...	...	7638
" " partly taken	...	...	1397
" " completely taken	...	...	1980
" Poison Baits laid	...	...	1013
" " partly taken	...	...	539
" " completely taken	...	...	116
" Bodies recovered (a) rats	...	...	322
" " (b) mice	...	...	331
Total number of visits made by the operator	...	...	2495

(9) The Storage of Petroleum-Spirit

63 premises are licensed for the storage of petroleum-spirit and were on the register at the end of 1951, an increase of 6 over the previous year.

An Abel Petroleum Testing Apparatus was purchased by the Council during the year. Two samples of petroleum mixture were purchased and tested during the year in accordance with the prescribed procedure. Both samples were found to give off inflammable vapour at a temperature higher than 73 degrees Fahrenheit and licenses to store were therefore not required.

Sampling and testing will be pursued, and premises will be brought under stricter control by licence, where this is found to be obligatory.

(10) Factories Act, 1937

Fifty five visits were made to the premises on the Register and it was found necessary in three instances to serve Informal Notices where contraventions existed.

It was ascertained from the lists submitted by the factory occupiers that there were twenty one 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	7	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	86	31	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	17	—	—
TOTAL ...	111	55	3	—

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	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s 1) ...	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (s 2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (s 3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (s 4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (s 6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (s 7) :					
(a) insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	6	6	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	1	1	—	1	—
TOTAL ...	11	11	—	1	—

(11) Moveable Dwellings

One of the moveable dwellings stationed at The Chase, Parsonage Lane, remained on the site and proceedings under the appropriate provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, were taken against the owners of the land, and the occupier of the moveable dwelling.

The case came before the local magistrates at Bishop's Stortford. The defendants, who pleaded guilty, were each fined five pounds and an Order was made for the moveable dwelling to be removed from the site. The Order was complied with immediately.

It will be recalled that eleven caravans were stationed on this site at one period.

(12) Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) By the Local Authority...	...	...	—
(b) By Private Enterprise ...	...	...	11
Number of houses made available by conversion or adaptation of existing buildings	...	...	4

Although the Council is not credited with any completed houses during 1951, this is not to say that Local Authority housing was at a standstill. On the contrary, the completion of the existing Havers Lane Estate was brought about much earlier, by virtue of the building of non-traditional houses. Constructional work on the very fine traditional houses, including a further sixteen aged persons bungalows on the Apton Road Estate was well under way at the end of the year, and some of the bungalows were in fact nearing completion.

An undertaking under Section 11 (3) Housing Act 1936, previously given by the owner of 37, Hockerill Street was cancelled by the Council, the house having been rendered fit. The major part of the re-construction work in this instance was carried out to the rear addition ; a main wall being rebuilt, the roof stripped and retiled, the ceiling height of one room increased and a new bath and internal water closet provided.

Re-construction work in respect of the properties 11, 13 and 15, Church Street had reached an advanced stage at the end of the year. It will be recalled that the Council had accepted an undertaking from the owner of these houses.

This is indeed satisfying work, particularly in these days of acute housing shortage, and one can only hope that the day is not far distant when these events will not be singled out for special mention, but will in fact, be commonplace.

The total number of applications on the file at 31st December 1951 including 66 applications for aged persons bungalows was 476, and of this number 234 families were without separate homes. The Council always seem to be so near to solving the housing problem, and yet so far away. The erection of 250 to 300 houses within the next two years would provide every family with a separate home and also enable the Council to re-house a large proportion of those families at present occupying Category 4 houses (*i.e.* houses incapable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost). This is surely within the realm of possibility, particularly is this so if building costs can be reduced considerably.

	Position at 31.10.45	Position at 30.6.51	Position at 31.12.51
Number of Applicants who live and work in Bishop's Stortford ...	128	268	250
Number of Applicants who live in Bishop's Stortford but work else- where	70	63	75
Number of Applicants who work in Bishop's Stortford but live else- where	46	101	105
Number of Applicants who do not live or work in Bishop's Stortford	9	53	46
Number of Applications received since 1st January, 1945	309	1798	1879
Number of Applications withdrawn or removed from the Register for various reasons	50	698	777
Number of Families re-housed ...	6	615	626
Number of Families found Emer- gency Housing Accommodation ...	—	—	—
Number of Council tenants transferred to other Council property during the year ... ..	...	...	12

SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS FOR HOUSING ACCOMMODATION AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1951

1 Composition of Applicants' Families	2 No. of Families with bedroom deficiency			3 No. of Families with- out 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 ...	—	6	6	30	114	144	1	8	9	31	128	159
(b) Married with 1 child ...	2	22	24	31	24	55	8	4	12	41	50	91
(c) Married with 2 children ...	8	7	15	46	11	57	4	—	4	58	18	76
(d) Other family units ...	2	3	5	18	11	29	3	—	3	23	14	37
	12	38	50	125	160	285	16	12	28	153	210	363
GROUP B												
(e) Married with 3 children ...	10	5	15	9	—	9	3	1	4	22	6	28
(f) Married with 4 children ...	4	—	4	6	—	6	—	—	—	10	—	10
(g) Other family units ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	14	5	19	15	—	15	3	1	4	32	6	38
GROUP C												
(h) Married with 5 children ...	6	—	6	—	—	—	1	—	1	7	—	7
(i) Married with 6 children ...	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
(j) Other family units ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	8	—	8	—	—	—	1	—	1	9	—	9
Applications for Houses ...	34	43	77	140	160	300	20	13	33	194	216	410
Applications for Bungalows ...	—	—	—	48	18	66	—	—	—	48	18	66
Totals at 31/12/51 ...	34	43	77	188	178	366	20	13	33	242	234	476
Totals at 31/6/51 ...	41	39	80	184	188	372	18	15	33	243	242	485

27.11.1910
 1910-11

Year	Month	Day	Particulars	Debit	Credit	Balance
1910	Jan	1	Balance b/d			100.00
1910	Jan	2	By Cash		50.00	150.00
1910	Jan	3	To Cash	20.00		130.00
1910	Jan	4	By Cash		30.00	160.00
1910	Jan	5	To Cash	10.00		150.00
1910	Jan	6	By Cash		40.00	190.00
1910	Jan	7	To Cash	30.00		160.00
1910	Jan	8	By Cash		20.00	180.00
1910	Jan	9	To Cash	10.00		170.00
1910	Jan	10	By Cash		30.00	200.00
1910	Jan	11	To Cash	20.00		180.00
1910	Jan	12	By Cash		40.00	220.00
1910	Jan	13	To Cash	30.00		190.00
1910	Jan	14	By Cash		20.00	210.00
1910	Jan	15	To Cash	10.00		200.00
1910	Jan	16	By Cash		30.00	230.00
1910	Jan	17	To Cash	20.00		210.00
1910	Jan	18	By Cash		40.00	250.00
1910	Jan	19	To Cash	30.00		220.00
1910	Jan	20	By Cash		20.00	240.00
1910	Jan	21	To Cash	10.00		230.00
1910	Jan	22	By Cash		30.00	260.00
1910	Jan	23	To Cash	20.00		240.00
1910	Jan	24	By Cash		40.00	280.00
1910	Jan	25	To Cash	30.00		250.00
1910	Jan	26	By Cash		20.00	270.00
1910	Jan	27	To Cash	10.00		260.00
1910	Jan	28	By Cash		30.00	290.00
1910	Jan	29	To Cash	20.00		270.00
1910	Jan	30	By Cash		40.00	310.00
1910	Feb	1	To Cash	30.00		280.00
1910	Feb	2	By Cash		20.00	300.00
1910	Feb	3	To Cash	10.00		290.00
1910	Feb	4	By Cash		30.00	320.00
1910	Feb	5	To Cash	20.00		300.00
1910	Feb	6	By Cash		40.00	340.00
1910	Feb	7	To Cash	30.00		310.00
1910	Feb	8	By Cash		20.00	330.00
1910	Feb	9	To Cash	10.00		320.00
1910	Feb	10	By Cash		30.00	350.00
1910	Feb	11	To Cash	20.00		330.00
1910	Feb	12	By Cash		40.00	370.00
1910	Feb	13	To Cash	30.00		340.00
1910	Feb	14	By Cash		20.00	360.00
1910	Feb	15	To Cash	10.00		350.00
1910	Feb	16	By Cash		30.00	380.00
1910	Feb	17	To Cash	20.00		360.00
1910	Feb	18	By Cash		40.00	400.00
1910	Feb	19	To Cash	30.00		370.00
1910	Feb	20	By Cash		20.00	390.00
1910	Feb	21	To Cash	10.00		380.00
1910	Feb	22	By Cash		30.00	410.00
1910	Feb	23	To Cash	20.00		390.00
1910	Feb	24	By Cash		40.00	430.00
1910	Feb	25	To Cash	30.00		400.00
1910	Feb	26	By Cash		20.00	420.00
1910	Feb	27	To Cash	10.00		410.00
1910	Feb	28	By Cash		30.00	440.00
1910	Feb	29	To Cash	20.00		420.00
1910	Feb	30	By Cash		40.00	460.00
1910	Mar	1	To Cash	30.00		430.00
1910	Mar	2	By Cash		20.00	450.00
1910	Mar	3	To Cash	10.00		440.00
1910	Mar	4	By Cash		30.00	470.00
1910	Mar	5	To Cash	20.00		450.00
1910	Mar	6	By Cash		40.00	490.00
1910	Mar	7	To Cash	30.00		460.00
1910	Mar	8	By Cash		20.00	480.00
1910	Mar	9	To Cash	10.00		470.00
1910	Mar	10	By Cash		30.00	500.00
1910	Mar	11	To Cash	20.00		480.00
1910	Mar	12	By Cash		40.00	520.00
1910	Mar	13	To Cash	30.00		490.00
1910	Mar	14	By Cash		20.00	510.00
1910	Mar	15	To Cash	10.00		500.00
1910	Mar	16	By Cash		30.00	530.00
1910	Mar	17	To Cash	20.00		510.00
1910	Mar	18	By Cash		40.00	550.00
1910	Mar	19	To Cash	30.00		520.00
1910	Mar	20	By Cash		20.00	540.00
1910	Mar	21	To Cash	10.00		530.00
1910	Mar	22	By Cash		30.00	560.00
1910	Mar	23	To Cash	20.00		540.00
1910	Mar	24	By Cash		40.00	580.00
1910	Mar	25	To Cash	30.00		550.00
1910	Mar	26	By Cash		20.00	570.00
1910	Mar	27	To Cash	10.00		560.00
1910	Mar	28	By Cash		30.00	590.00
1910	Mar	29	To Cash	20.00		570.00
1910	Mar	30	By Cash		40.00	610.00
1910	Apr	1	To Cash	30.00		580.00
1910	Apr	2	By Cash		20.00	600.00
1910	Apr	3	To Cash	10.00		590.00
1910	Apr	4	By Cash		30.00	620.00
1910	Apr	5	To Cash	20.00		600.00
1910	Apr	6	By Cash		40.00	640.00
1910	Apr	7	To Cash	30.00		610.00
1910	Apr	8	By Cash		20.00	630.00
1910	Apr	9	To Cash	10.00		620.00
1910	Apr	10	By Cash		30.00	650.00
1910	Apr	11	To Cash	20.00		630.00
1910	Apr	12	By Cash		40.00	670.00
1910	Apr	13	To Cash	30.00		640.00
1910	Apr	14	By Cash		20.00	660.00
1910	Apr	15	To Cash	10.00		650.00
1910	Apr	16	By Cash		30.00	680.00
1910	Apr	17	To Cash	20.00		660.00
1910	Apr	18	By Cash		40.00	700.00
1910	Apr	19	To Cash	30.00		670.00
1910	Apr	20	By Cash		20.00	690.00
1910	Apr	21	To Cash	10.00		680.00
1910	Apr	22	By Cash		30.00	710.00
1910	Apr	23	To Cash	20.00		690.00
1910	Apr	24	By Cash		40.00	730.00
1910	Apr	25	To Cash	30.00		700.00
1910	Apr	26	By Cash		20.00	720.00
1910	Apr	27	To Cash	10.00		710.00
1910	Apr	28	By Cash		30.00	740.00
1910	Apr	29	To Cash	20.00		720.00
1910	Apr	30	By Cash		40.00	760.00
1910	May	1	To Cash	30.00		730.00
1910	May	2	By Cash		20.00	750.00
1910	May	3	To Cash	10.00		740.00
1910	May	4	By Cash		30.00	770.00
1910	May	5	To Cash	20.00		750.00
1910	May	6	By Cash		40.00	790.00
1910	May	7	To Cash	30.00		760.00
1910	May	8	By Cash		20.00	780.00
1910	May	9	To Cash	10.00		770.00
1910	May	10	By Cash		30.00	800.00
1910	May	11	To Cash	20.00		780.00
1910	May	12	By Cash		40.00	820.00
1910	May	13	To Cash	30.00		790.00
1910	May	14	By Cash		20.00	810.00
1910	May	15	To Cash	10.00		800.00
1910	May	16	By Cash		30.00	830.00
1910	May	17	To Cash	20.00		810.00
1910	May	18	By Cash		40.00	850.00
1910	May	19	To Cash	30.00		820.00
1910	May	20	By Cash		20.00	840.00
1910	May	21	To Cash	10.00		830.00
1910	May	22	By Cash		30.00	860.00
1910	May	23	To Cash	20.00		840.00
1910	May	24	By Cash		40.00	880.00
1910	May	25	To Cash	30.00		850.00
1910	May	26	By Cash		20.00	870.00
1910	May	27	To Cash	10.00		860.00
1910	May	28	By Cash		30.00	890.00
1910	May	29	To Cash	20.00		870.00
1910	May	30	By Cash		40.00	910.00
1910	Jun	1	To Cash	30.00		880.00
1910	Jun	2	By Cash		20.00	900.00
1910	Jun	3	To Cash	10.00		890.00
1910	Jun	4	By Cash		30.00	920.00
1910	Jun	5	To Cash	20.00		900.00
1910	Jun	6	By Cash		40.00	940.00
1910	Jun	7	To Cash	30.00		910.00
1910	Jun	8	By Cash		20.00	930.00
1910	Jun	9	To Cash	10.00		920.00
1910	Jun	10	By Cash		30.00	950.00
1910	Jun	11	To Cash	20.00		930.00
1910	Jun	12	By Cash		40.00	970.00
1910	Jun	13	To Cash	30.00		940.00
1910	Jun	14	By Cash		20.00	960.00
1910	Jun	15	To Cash	10.00		950.00
1910	Jun	16	By Cash		30.00	980.00
1910	Jun	17	To Cash	20.00		960.00
1910	Jun	18	By Cash		40.00	1000.00
1910	Jun	19	To Cash	30.00		970.00
1910	Jun	20	By Cash		20.00	990.00
1910	Jun	21	To Cash	10.00		980.00
1910	Jun	22	By Cash		30.00	1010.00
1910	Jun	23	To Cash	20.00		990.00
1910	Jun	24	By Cash		40.00	1030.00
1910	Jun	25	To Cash	30.00		1000.00
1910	Jun	26	By Cash		20.00	1020.00
1910	Jun	27	To Cash	10.00		1010.00
1910	Jun	28	By Cash		30.00	1040.00
1910	Jun	29	To Cash	20.00		1020.00
1910	Jun	30	By Cash		40.00	1060.00
1910	Jul	1	To Cash	30.00		1030.00
1910	Jul	2	By Cash		20.00	1050.00
1910	Jul	3	To Cash	10.00		1040.00
1910	Jul	4	By Cash		30.00	1070.00
1910	Jul	5	To Cash	20.00		1050.00
1910	Jul	6	By Cash		40.00	1090.00
1910	Jul	7	To Cash	30.00		1060.00
1910	Jul	8	By Cash		20.00	1080.00
1910	Jul	9	To Cash	10.00		1070.00
1910	Jul	10	By Cash		30.00	1100.00
1910	Jul	11	To Cash	20.00		1080.00
1910	Jul	12	By Cash		40.00	1120.00
1910	Jul	13	To Cash	30.00		1090.00
1910	Jul	14	By Cash		20.00	1110.00
1910	Jul	15	To Cash	10.00		1100.00
1910	Jul	16	By Cash		30.00	1130.00
1910	Jul	17	To Cash	20.00		1110.00
1910	Jul	18	By Cash		40.00	1150.00
1910	Jul	19	To Cash	30.00		1120.00
1910	Jul	20	By Cash		20.00	1140.00
1910	Jul	21	To Cash	10.00		1130.00
1910	Jul	22	By Cash		30.00	1160.00
1910	Jul	23	To Cash	20.00		1140.00
1910	Jul	24	By Cash		40.00	1180.00
1910	Jul	25	To Cash	30.00		1150.00
1910	Jul	26	By Cash		20.00	1170.00
1910	Jul</					