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BISHOP'S STORTFORD  
C4421(3) BISHOP'S STORTFORD  
Bishop's Stortford Urban District  
Council

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1952

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**Bishop's Stortford Urban District  
Council**

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**Medical Officer of Health**

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**Sanitary Inspector**

for the Year 1952



## Members of the Council, 1952-1953

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### *Chairman :*

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

### *Vice-Chairman :*

Councillor H. F. ROWLES, C.C.  
(Chairman of Finance and General Purposes  
Committee)

Councillor E. J. ARMOND

„ F. F. ASHWELL

„ E. BARRETT

„ R. P. GAMMIE, M.D.  
(Chairman of the Public Health Committee)

„ J. E. HAMPTON

„ G. HURST-GREAVES

„ P. G. KING

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„ G. H. WILLIAMS

A. G. WISBEY, G.M., J.P.

## Public Health Department

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EIRWEN M. JONES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health

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A. L. GOOD, F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E.,  
Chief Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer  
Inspector of Meat and other Foods

---

B. DAY  
Additional Sanitary Inspector  
(Commenced 1.5.51. Resigned 26.4.52)

---

D. L. EVANS, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,  
Additional Sanitary Inspector  
(Commenced 1.7.52)

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H. F. B. NICKOLDS

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A. TURNER

# Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council

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Health Department,  
The Council House,  
Bishop's Stortford,  
*September, 1953*

*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 for the year 1952, 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 is the same as that for 1951.

The death rate is the lowest recorded since 1938 and the birth rate is the highest since 1948. Whilst these factors give cause for much satisfaction, an increase in the Infant Mortality rate must be noted, four deaths under one year of age occurring as against two for the previous year. Three of these deaths were of infants under four weeks of age; this shows that in this district as in others the hard core of the Infant Mortality rate lies in this age group.

Two cases of Poliomyelitis were notified during 1952 and one of these was paralytic.

1951 was regarded as a year of good health for Bishop's Stortford but 1952 has proved to be an even better year. Credit for this achievement must be given to the work of the health services, both preventive and curative and the citizens of the town may rest assured that their general health and welfare is under constant supervision.

We desire, once again, 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	...	...	£108,801
Sum represented by a Penny Rate			£439
Number of inhabited houses	...		3,946
Density of persons per acre	...		3.46
"    houses	"	...	1.03
Average number of occupants per house	...	...	3.36

#### **(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 ...	15.3	11.3	27.6
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London ...	16.9	12.1	31.2
160 Smaller Towns (1951 census 25,000 to 50,000) ...	15.5	11.2	25.8
London Administrative County ...	17.6	12.6	23.8
Bishop's Stortford ...	14.6	9.5	20.6

#### **BIRTHS**

Number of Legitimate Births	...	...	189
"    Illegitimate Births	...	...	5
Percentage of Illegitimate Births		...	2.6
Total number of Births	Males	104	
	Females	90	194

#### **DEATHS**

Total Number of Deaths	...	...	127
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### (3) Mortality Table

Causes of Death					Males	Females	Total
	All Causes	...	...	...	56	71	127
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	1	—	1
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	...	...	...	4	—	4
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	—	4	4
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	—	—	—
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	4	3	7
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	—	—
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	—	—
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	10	19	29
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	7	8	15
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	—	3	3
20	Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	7	11	18
21	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	3	5	8
22	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	—
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	3	1	4
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	3	1	4
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	—	1	1
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	—	—	—
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	1	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	—	2	2
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	2	—	2
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	2	—	2
32	Other defined and ill defined Diseases	...	...	...	7	6	13
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	—	2	2
34	All other Accidents	...	...	...	1	2	3
35	Suicide	...	...	...	—	—	—
36	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	—	—	—
	Still Births	...	...	...	—	4	4
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (three under 4 weeks of age)	...	...	...	3	1	4

## 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 ...	4	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	39	—	—	—	—	—	21	18	—	39	—
Pneumonia ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	9	1	1	1	—	1	1	4	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—
Measles ...	49	1	12	16	18	—	—	2	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	53	3	10	17	20	—	—	3	—	—	—
Infectious Hepatitis ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	6	6	4	6	3	3	5	2	2	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	5	4	7	3	—	29
Whooping Cough ...	—	2	1	24	14	3	—	4	2	2	—	1
Infectious Hepatitis ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



It is interesting to note that 1952 was an extremely light year from the infectious disease angle. The Puerperal Pyrexia figures appear high but this is accounted for by the presence of two hospitals in the town ; and notifications from the larger obstetric department are very conscientiously made. When it is considered that "Puerperal Pyrexia" means any febrile condition occurring in a woman in whom a temperature of 100.4°F or more has occurred within fourteen days after childbirth or miscarriage, these figures are less serious than they would appear.

It is understood that 16 of these cases were due to causes entirely outside the genital tract, 22 could be regarded as complications of obstetrical delivery, while 1 was known to have Pulmonary T.B. with miliary dissemination.

All the cases were of an extremely mild character and the temperature never occurred more than once. This points to the fact that infective conditions following pregnancy are no longer regarded as a major danger to the life of the mother.

In one obstetric department alone 118 labours out of 577 were complicated labours, and even if these figures were considered alone in relation to the numbers and to the mild character of the infections they are not in any way alarming.

Scarlet fever was again rare, but it would appear that there is a strong case for notification of streptococcal sore throat in addition to scarlet fever, which is by some regarded as a streptococcal sore throat with a superimposed rash.

Dysentery caused by the "Sonne" group of organisms appeared in the town in one household and as would be expected, re-infection appeared in two members under five years of age ; all known cases became bacteriologically clear after a few weeks.

It was gratifying that Whooping Cough accounted for 53 notifications only but of these 27 occurred in children under five years of age. It will be interesting to compare the rates for recent years with those which follow Whooping Cough Immunisation.

As was expected, Measles notifications were low. This followed the usual biennial increase in the preceding year. Diphtheria was again conspicuous by its absence.

It is felt that information on the actual incidence of infectious diseases is of little interest without some comment on preventive measures and a very small section has been devoted to Immunisation and vaccination, although these are no longer under the control of Urban Authorities.



## (2) Tuberculosis

	MALES		FEMALES	
	Pul.	Non.-P.	Pul.	Non.-P.
Cases on Register at 31.12.51 ...	37	3	27	9
Number of cases notified during year ...	2	1	2	2
Number of cases restored during year ...	—	—	—	—
Inward transfer ...	5	—	4	—
Cases removed ...	4	—	4	3
Cases on Register at 31.12.52 ...	40	4	29	8

## (3) Food Poisoning

Food Poisoning as a disease affecting the community was again noticeable by its absence. One case only was notified during the year. The source of infection was not traced but probably occurred outside the district. There was an excellent response to chemotherapy and the patient was completely free of organisms within a period of 10 days. No contacts were affected.

## (4) Poliomyelitis

Two cases were notified during the year ; one was a teen-age pupil at a boarding school, and this was unfortunately a paralytic case. No contact cases occurred although there had been close contact with members of the staff and senior girls in the early stages.

The second notification concerned a boy of teen age ; there was no paralysis and he made an uninterrupted recovery.

Attempts were made in both cases to persuade all contacts to follow simple preventive principles and it was felt that the public co-operated well in these measures. There was no connection between the two notified cases.

## (5) Prophylaxis against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Smallpox

Since 1948 these have become the responsibility of the County Council and are carried out by General Practitioners and at the Welfare Centre. It is felt that the level of Diphtheria Prophylaxis in the town is safe. Most school entrants have already been immunised and are "Boosted" again on

entering school. Approximately half the parents who have not had their children immunised in infancy agree to have them done at the age of 5 years, but a small percentage remain adamant in their refusal. The need for vaccination against smallpox still requires to be pressed, firstly as a front line guard against imported smallpox and secondly to avoid the greater discomfort of a primary vaccination in adult life.

#### **(6) National Assistance Act, 1948 and Amendment Act, 1951**

No action was taken under these Acts although one person living in insanitary conditions was kept under observation during the whole year. It would appear that elderly people who are unable to care for themselves and are ill present much the same problem in this town as in most other areas. An Old Peoples' Home would help to provide for those who are not ill, but the problem of the elderly sick would still remain.

#### **(7) Mass Radiography**

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Bishop's Stortford in September. Assistance in publicity before and during the visit was given by the Health Department and the Urban District Council co-operated in making accommodation available at the Council Offices.

It was arranged that the Unit should visit on this occasion when the schools and colleges were in residence and the response from these establishments was excellent. The total number of attendances was 2,730, as compared with 1,295 when the Unit last visited in 1949, and from the comparative tables it will be seen that 1,268 of the general public attended, against 470 in the previous survey.

Of the total of 2,730, 1,833 (787 males and 1,046 females) were actual residents in the Urban District.

It is gratifying to note the increase in attendances at the Public Sessions, where the ordinary public attended because they felt the service had something to offer. It will be seen that the figures in the Schools and Organised Groups also increased.

Disappointment was felt that some establishments with Welfare Departments of their own failed to co-operate in making it possible for their employees to attend in groups.



Group	1949			1952		
	Male	Fmle.	Total	Male	Fmle.	Total
SCHOOLS (excluding Primary) (including staff) ...	243	69	312	255	466	721
Large Films ...	5	1	6	16	10	26
PUBLIC SESSIONS ...	223	247	470	561	707	1268
Large Films ...	18	13	31	28	27	55
ORGANISED GROUPS AND FACTORIES ...	288	225	513	330	411	741
Large Films ...	18	10	28	11	9	20
TOTAL MINIATURES...	754	541	1295	1146	1584	2730
TOTAL LARGE FILMS...	41	24	65	55	46	101

Of the 101 cases recalled for large films, 35 had Tuberculous conditions of the chest, but 3 only were found to be suffering from Active Tuberculosis ; whereas 18 were found to have some cardiac or chest condition other than tuberculosis.

	1949			1952		
	F'mle	Male	Total	F'mle	Male	Total
INACTIVE PRIMARY ...	7	8	15	7	11	18
INACTIVE POST PRIMARY ...	7	8	15	7	7	14
ACTIVE POSTPRIMARY	—	3	3	1	2	3

Reports from the Mass Radiography Unit indicated that the number of active cases was comparable to those of neighbouring Urban areas ; but that the rate was less than half the 1949 rate.

### (8) Water Supply

The Water Supply is obtained from a borehole and deep wells at the Water Works. Chlorination is satisfactorily carried out. Monthly bacteriological and quarterly chemical and bacteriological tests prove that the water is entirely satisfactory.

In view of the growing population it was decided to augment the original water supply by boring at lower levels. A new borehole of 33 inches diameter, 230 feet deep and



lined to a depth of 150 feet was sunk into the chalk strata. It is permitted to extract up to 1,000,000 gallons daily. Bacteriological and chemical samples of the new supply have proved satisfactory.

#### **(9) 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.

#### **(10) Drainage and Sewerage**

During the year a preliminary investigation on Sewerage and Sewage Disposal in the District was undertaken by Consultants on behalf of the Authority. It had been realised by the Authority that the disposal system was becoming out of date and uneconomic. Although this was so, all the effluent samples had been up to the standard laid down by the Royal Commission on Sewage Effluent, though the standard does not necessarily equal the standard demanded by the River Authority.

#### **(11) Public Cleansing**

Refuse is disposed of by tipping on land adjoining the Castle grounds. Efforts were made during the latter part of the year to achieve a more frequent collection of refuse, the ultimate target being a weekly collection.

## **SECTION C**

### **Health Services available in Bishop's Stortford**

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#### NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT

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#### **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 Gynaecology, Orthopaedics, Paediatrics, 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 Gynaecology, Orthopaedics, Paediatrics, 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.—2nd, 4th Thursday, 10 a.m.—12 noon and every 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. Sharpe		
Dr. I. D. Paterson		
Dr. P. H. Hewitt		
Dr. R. A. Wallace, 40, Hadham Rd., Bishop's Stortford		
Dr. E. Leigh, 11, Church Street, Bishop's Stortford		

2. Dental Practitioners :—

Mr. J. Dickson	}	The Folly, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford
Mr. C. Bullpitt		
Mr. O. N. Catchpole, 6a, North St., Bishop's Stortford		
Mr. H. Davies, 14, Bridge Street, Bishop's Stortford		
Mr. G. E. Dodd	}	9, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford
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., Haymeads Hospital.



## **SECTION D**

### **Sanitary Administration**

#### **(1) Inspection of the District**

Total number of visits	...	...	...	1,885
Dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	...	...	...	92
Revisits to dwelling houses including works in progress	...	...	...	98
Premises inspected on complaint for nuisance other than housing defects	...	...	...	135
Revisits to premises where a nuisance was found to exist	...	...	...	148
Special and miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	108
Interviews with owners, etc. at properties	...	...	...	20
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis	...	...	...	74
Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	6
„ Dairies, Cowsheds, etc.	...	...	...	33
„ Bakehouses	...	...	...	7
„ Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	23
„ Fish Shops	...	...	...	11
„ Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	28
„ Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	20
„ Other Food Shops, Stores, etc.	...	...	...	110
„ Markets	...	...	...	12
„ Factories	...	...	...	56
„ Workplaces, Offices and Shops	...	...	...	2
„ Schools	...	...	...	3
Visits <i>re</i> Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	10
„ Building Byelaws	...	...	...	403
Visits to Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	3
„ Outworkers' Premises	...	...	...	1
„ Council Houses	...	...	...	104
„ Property requisitioned for housing purposes	...	...	...	16
Visits <i>re</i> Applications for Housing Accommodation	...	...	...	297
Visits to Rat infested premises	...	...	...	42
„ Places of Public Entertainment	...	...	...	17
„ Licensed Premises	...	...	...	6

#### **(2) Complaints and Matters Referred**

Complaints received	...	...	...	179
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	164
Complaints referred to other Departments and Authorities	...	...	...	15
Other matters referred to other Departments and Authorities	...	...	...	4

### (3) Testing of Drains and Sanitary Fittings

Drains tested with water	...	...	103
Drains tested with other means	...	...	8

### (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	...	127	126
(ii) Premises for other than housing defects	...	9	8
(iii) Special Premises (shops, factories, etc.)	...	7	4
(b) Statutory Notices—Public Health Act, 1936		No. Served	No. com- plied with
Section 24 to repair a defective public sewer	...	1	1
Section 75 to provide a dustbin	...	1	1
(c) Housing Act, 1936		No. Served	No. com- plied with
Section 11 Individual unfit houses	...	1	3

*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 hous- ing defects
Drainage systems repaired, un- stopped, etc. ... ..	4	2	—
Water closets repaired, screened, etc. ... ..	40	5	—
Water closets reconstructed or new provided ... ..	4	2	—
Dampness remedied (roofs, gutters, etc. repaired) ... ..	27	4	—
Floors repaired ... ..	5	2	—
Sinks and waste pipes renewed or repaired ... ..	7	2	—
Windows and doors repaired ...	7	—	—
Ranges, grates, etc., repaired or renewed ... ..	7	—	—
Rooms cleansed ... ..	4	4	2
Accumulations removed ... ..	1	1	2
Dustbins provided ... ..	45	3	—
Means of escape in case of fire provided ... ..	—	—	—
Washing facilities provided (hot water, etc.) ... ..	1	2	—
Miscellaneous ... ..	8	1	2

### (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 ...	4	—	—	—	—	—
Following other Diseases ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Following Vermin Infestation at						
(a) Council Houses ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	—
(b) Other Houses ... ..	—	—	—	4	1	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	4	—	—	5	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 "Tuberculin Tested," "Pasteurised" and "Sterilised" 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.

120 samples of bottled milk were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory and of this number, three were found to be unsatisfactory. These results were not as good as those for 1951 when 153 samples were taken, all of which were satisfactory.

Designation	No. of Samples Taken	No. Satis- factory	No. Unsatis- factory
Pasteurised ... ..	42	41	1
Tuberculin Tested ... ..	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised ... ..	76	74	2
Sterilised ... ..	2	2	—

117 of these samples were obtained by the Department and the remaining 3 by officers of other authorities.

65 samples of raw milk were taken from churns on arrival at the Hallingbury Road Dairy and submitted for examination at the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory. 48 of these samples were of raw ungraded milk, 10 being unsatisfactory, and 17 were of raw tuberculin tested milk, one of which was unsatisfactory.

This raw milk is pasteurised at the dairy before delivery to the consumer, but sampling in this way enables a watch to be kept on milk production at the farm, failures being reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

### **(b) MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE CREAM**

Three premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream and 43 for the storage and sale only.

### *Bacteriological Examination*

5 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	...	3	1	1	—
Number pre-packed	...	2	—	1	—
Number not pre-packed	...	1	1	—	—

### (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 1952 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

The survey of all food premises continued during the year and it appears quite likely that it will be completed before the end of 1953, when a full report will be presented to the Council.

Arising out of the survey a number of structural improvements have been carried out and the traders themselves have shown a willingness to co-operate with the Local Authority. Structural improvements are a great help, but the real crux of food hygiene lies in the cleaner handling of food. This has been said many times before and, as a result, no doubt, an improvement is quite noticeable. Much however, still remains to be done.

The quantity of food found unfit for human consumption is tabulated below and is considerably less than for the previous year.



# CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number Inspected ...	—	—	10	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis :				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only :				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—

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.

## DETAILS OF FOODSTUFFS FOUND UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Description	Weight or number	Description	Weight or number
Bacon (Imported) ...	44½ lbs.	Meat and Gravy ...	1 tin
Beef ...	941 lbs.	Paste ...	8 jars
Cake Mixture ...	14 pkts.	Peanut Butter ...	18 jars
Cheese ...	50 pkts.	Pickles ...	9 jars
Cheese ...	4½ lbs.	Prunes ...	46½ lbs.
Chicken ...	1 tin	Rabbit ...	8 tins
Corned Beef ...	46 lbs.	Salad Cream ...	4 jars
Custard Powder ...	13 pkts.	Soups ...	31 tins
Dates ...	9½ lbs.	Spaghetti ...	9 tins
Fish (Smoked) ...	140 lbs.	Steak ...	19 tins
Fish (Tinned) ...	91 tins	Sugar ...	50 lbs.
Fruit ...	854 tins	Synthetic Cream ...	1 gall.
Fru Bars ...	77	Soya Nut Meat ...	26 tins
Ham (Imported) ...	364 lbs.	Tomato Puree ...	14 tins
Jams ...	108 tins	Vegetables ...	337 tins
Kidneys ...	9 tins	Veal (Jellied) ...	52½ lbs.
Luncheon Meat ...	216½ lbs.	Veal and Ham Loaf ...	56 lbs.
Milk... ..	140 tins	Winkles ...	3 galls.
Morfat Whipping ...	8 tins	Miscellaneous ...	7 jars,
Mutton ...	8 lbs.		pkts. etc.

## **(8) Rodent Control**

The efficiency and smooth running of the rodent control service continued throughout the year and this is a very satisfactory feature of the work of the Department. Infestation was not nearly so pronounced as in 1951 but this does not mean that we can afford to be less vigilant; on the contrary, the effort must be sustained and if necessary intensified.

### *(i) Disinfestation of Sewers*

The foul water sewers were tested and two treatments were carried out during the year. The sewers were not in any way seriously infested, indeed out of 49 manholes in which test baits were laid, "takes" were recorded in only four instances.

Here again perhaps, it is unwise to become complacent and a careful watch must be maintained.

### *(ii) Disinfestation of Surface Properties*

Number of Dwelling Houses treated	...	112
„ Business Premises treated	...	132
„ Council Premises treated	...	10
„ Pre-baits laid	...	5,957
„ „ partly taken	...	1,053
„ „ completely taken	...	1,551
„ Poison Baits laid	...	1,433
„ „ „ partly taken	...	581
„ „ „ completely taken	...	153
„ Bodies recovered (a) rats	...	174
„ „ „ (b) mice	...	235
Total number of visits made by the operator		2,150

## **(9) The Storage of Petroleum-Spirit**

60 premises are licensed for the storage of petroleum-spirit and were on the register at the end of 1952, a decrease of 3.

Further samples of petroleum were tested on the Abel Petroleum Testing Apparatus and one sample was found to give off inflammable vapour at a temperature of less than 73 degrees Fahrenheit. The manufacturer's attention was drawn to this matter and an application for a licence to store petroleum-spirit was subsequently submitted to the Council, by the occupiers of the factory in question.



## (10) Factories Act, 1937

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

It was ascertained from the lists submitted by the factory occupiers that there were 17 factory outworkers resident in the district, four fewer than for the previous year.

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	8	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	86	32	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	16	—	—
TOTAL ...	115	56	4	—

## 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) ...	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (s 2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (s 3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (s 4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (s 6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (s 7) :					
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	5	5	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

## (11) Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) By the Local Authority ...	32
(b) By Private Enterprise ...	9

Number of houses made available by conversion or adaptation of existing buildings 1

The Apton Road Estate was completed during 1952 and provided the Council with a further 32 traditional houses, made up as follows :—

Aged Persons' Bungalows ...	16
Three Bedroom Houses ...	10
Four Bedroom Houses ...	6

The Council also embarked upon an ambitious house building programme in a determined effort to break the back of the housing problem.

Constructional work on 18 three bedroom houses and 156 non-traditional houses was commenced. It was anticipated that the majority of these houses would be ready for



occupation before the end of 1953, a fine target judged by any standard. — The non-traditional houses would be as follows :—

Three Bedroom Houses ...	...	102
One Bedroom Bungalows ...	...	22
Two Bedroom Flats (two 4-storey Blocks) ...	...	32

The total number of council houses at 31st December 1952 was 862 and details of the various units of accommodation are shown in the table below.

#### COUNCIL HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

Description	Location	Number	Total
Aged Persons Bungalows (One Bedroom)	Vicarage Close ...	8	24
	Chestnut Close ...	16	
Two Bedroom Bungalows (Temporary)	Dimsdale Crescent ...	45	85
	Firlands ...	40	
Two Bedroom Bungalows (Permanent)	Northolt Avenue ...	57	95
	Gatwick Green ...	14	
	Heath Row ...	24	
Two Bedroom Houses	Beldams Lane ...	12	86
	Dimsdale Crescent ...	12	
	Urban Road ...	8	
	London Road ...	8	
	Burley Road ...	18	
	Scott Road ...	28	
Three Bedroom Houses	Beldams Lane ...	10	530
	Dimsdale Crescent ...	20	
	Dunmow Road ...	22	
	Council Road ...	28	
	Urban Road ...	28	
	Chestnut Close ...	10	
	London Road ...	16	
	Burley Road ...	14	
	Benhooks Avenue ...	58	
	Link Way ...	8	
	Piggotts Way ...	60	
	Queens Crescent ...	54	
	Waytemore Road ...	70	
	Elizabeth Road ...	16	
	Ward Crescent ...	26	
	Scott Road ...	70	
	West Road ...	18	
	Thorley ...	2	
Four Bedroom Houses	Dimsdale Crescent ...	18	42
	Chestnut Close ...	2	
	Apton Road ...	4	
	London Road ...	4	
	Burley Road ...	6	
	Scott Road ...	8	

It will be apparent that with an additional 174 houses under construction the one-thousandth Council house will be completed, probably towards the end of 1953 or early in 1954.

This achievement will no doubt be marked by a suitable opening ceremony.

The total number of applications for housing accommodation on the File at 31st December, 1952 was 421, and, in addition there were 52 applications for aged persons bungalows, making a total of 473. 256 families were still without a home of their own.

In an effort to allay the anxiety on the part of housing applicants, the House-letting Sub-committee recommended the adoption of a Revised Points Scheme and, most important, the publication of the Housing List, from which allocations would be made in strict order. The Committee also recommend that the Housing List remain static for six-monthly periods and be reviewed in January and July each year. The Council adopted these recommendations and, although somewhat bold and revolutionary, they have perhaps exceeded even the hopes of the members of the Committee.

The Points Scheme is probably the fairest that could be devised and although it does not differ very materially from the scheme recommended by the Central Housing Advisory Sub-Committee, much time and careful thought was given to its formulation by the House Letting Sub-committee.

Seven unfit houses were demolished during the year. These were situated in the Causeway and were in fact, already in the ownership of the Urban District Council. The removal of these houses has paved the way for a much needed extension to the Council's Car Park and has opened up a delightful new vista.

A further six houses in respect of which demolition orders were operative would probably be demolished in 1953, as soon as the remaining tenants had been rehoused. Three of the six houses were already vacant.

The re-conditioning of the properties Nos. 11, 13 and 15, Church Street was completed during the year and the undertaking given by the owner under the Housing Act, 1936 was therefore cancelled. The work, which was supervised by the Department at all stages, was carried out in a satisfactory manner and was of a high standard.

A notice under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, was served upon the owner of the dwelling house, 9, King Street, this being one of a number of individual unfit houses, proposed to be dealt with in this manner.



