

[Report 1957] / Medical Officer of Health, Bishop's Stortford U.D.C.

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

Publication/Creation

1957

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Review

Bishop's Stortford Urban District
Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

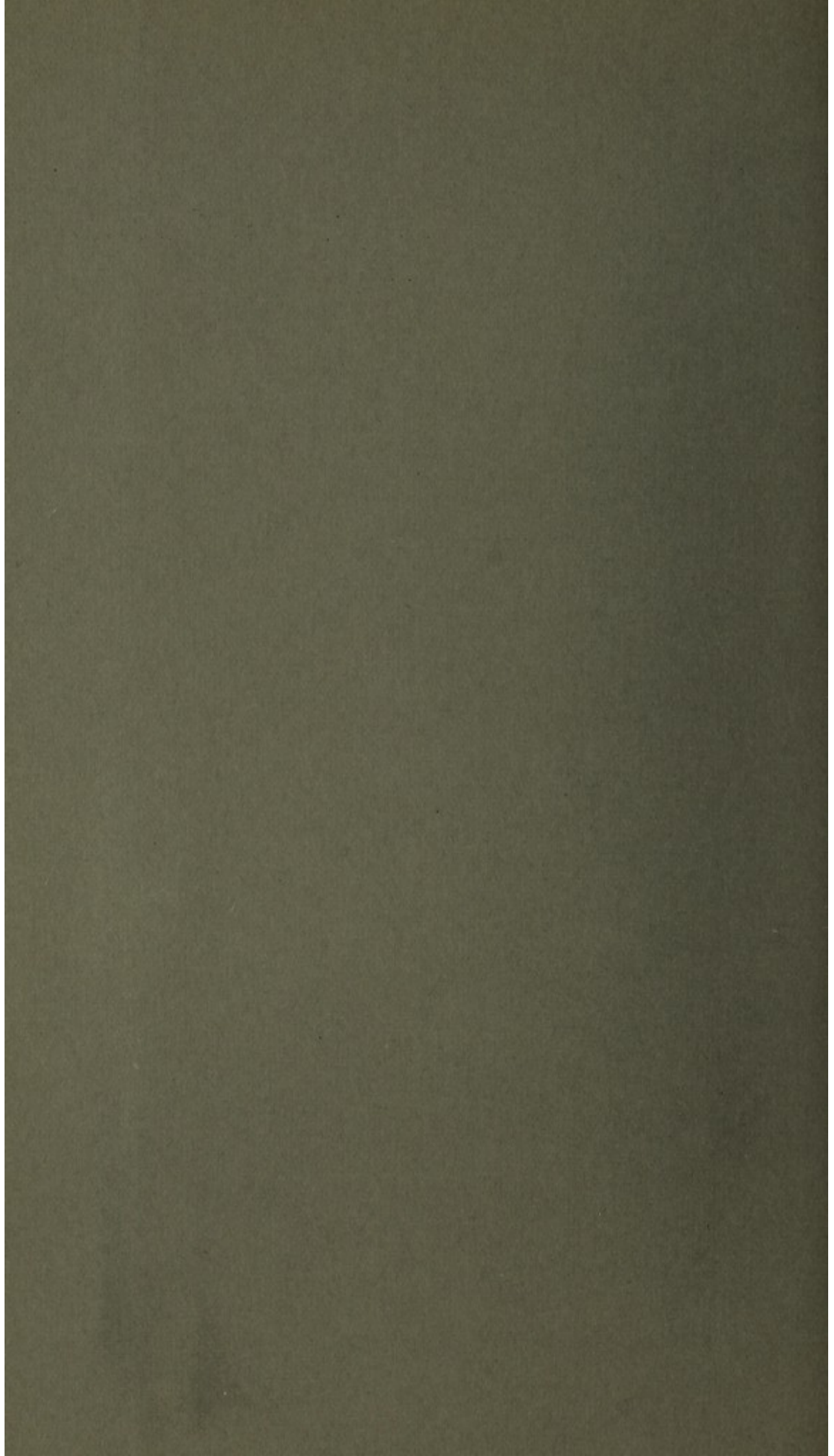
Medical Officer of Health

and the

Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1957





**Bishop's Stortford Urban District
Council**

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1957

Members of the Council, 1957-1958

Chairman:

Councillor P. G. KING, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor P. L. T. WALKER, B.A.

Councillor J. E. BARRY

- „ Mrs. I. N. BIRD
- „ R. P. GAMMIE, M.D.
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- „ H. J. WALTERS
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Committee)
- „ T. G. WOOLLEY
(Chairman of Finance and General Purposes
Committee)

Public Health Department

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

Medical Officer of Health

A. L. GOOD, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., A.I.Hsg.,

Chief Public Health Inspector

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

H. W. CHILDS, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,

Additional Public Health Inspector

(from 4.3.57)

Miss J. RODGERS,

Clerk/Shorthand Typist

A. TURNER,

Rodent Operator

Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council

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

June, 1958

*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 1957, 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 estimated mid-year population of 15,340 shows an increase of 790 over last year. This compares with an increase of 750 during 1956.

The birth rate took an upward trend for the fourth year in succession and, in so doing, reached its highest peak for forty-eight years. The Infantile Mortality Rate showed an increase over the previous year, but nevertheless, it was still below the figure for England and Wales as a whole. The death rate was again lower than 1956 and represents a decline for the third successive year.

The biennial measles epidemic occurred during the year, more than half of the cases being notified during December. Four cases of Poliomyelitis were reported but only three of these were actually confirmed. Thirteen cases of suspected food poisoning arose in the Maternity Ward of one of the local hospitals and special comment of this outbreak is made later in this report.

1957 proved to be another year of good health for Bishop's Stortford, and it may well be, that life in a typical English mar-

ket town has much to offer and is something near to the ideal. Encompassed on all sides by unspoiled countryside and within fairly easy reach of the east coast and its "champagne" air, which it is claimed, one can actually "taste", tempts us to say "All this and London too" but thirty miles away. We are indeed fortunate to live in such salubrious surroundings.

However the contribution which has been made towards maintaining good healthy standards should not be overlooked and, in this connection, we desire to express our thanks for the help and support we have received during the year from the Chairman and Members of the Council and from our colleagues in all Departments.

We are,

Your obedient Servants,

EIRWEN M. JONES,
Medical Officer of Health

A. L. GOOD,
Chief Public Health Inspector

SECTION A

Statistics

(1) General

Area (acres)	3,826
Population	15,340
Rateable Value	£201,296
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	£843
Number of Inhabited Houses ...	4,933
Density of Persons per Acre	4.009
„ Houses „	1.28
Average Number of Occupants per House	3.109

(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 ...	16.1	11.5	23.0
Bishop's Stortford ...	20.01	10.30	22.8

BIRTHS

Number of Legitimate Births ...	293
„ Illegitimate Births ...	14
Percentage of Illegitimate Births to Total Births	4.56
Total Number of Births, <i>Males</i> 155	
<i>Females</i> 152	307

DEATHS

Total Number of Deaths	158
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(3) Mortality Table

Causes of Death		Males	Females	Total
	All Causes	76	82	158
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	—	2	2
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections ...	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8	Measles	—	—	—
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	2	—	2
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	3	2	5
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	3	—	3
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	—	3	3
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	—	1	1
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	11	17
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—	1
16	Diabetes	—	1	1
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	11	8	19
18	Coronary Disease, Angina ...	19	18	37
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	2	2
20	Other Heart Disease	10	6	16
21	Other Circulatory Disease ...	4	6	10
22	Influenza	—	—	—
23	Pneumonia	2	9	11
24	Bronchitis	2	—	2
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	1	1	2
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	—
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	1	1
31	Congenital Malformations ...	—	1	1
32	Other defined and ill defined Diseases	6	6	12
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	1	1
34	All other Accidents	2	1	3
35	Suicide	2	1	3
36	Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—
	Still Births	2	1	3
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (SIX under 4 weeks of age)	3	4	7

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 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 60	Over Sixty
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning ...	13	10	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Infectious Hepatitis ...	4	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—
Measles ...	416	8	44	87	256	15	2	4	—
Pneumonia ...	6	—	2	—	—	—	2	2	—
Poliomyelitis ...	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—
Tuberculosis ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	—
Whooping Cough...	52	3	6	13	27	1	—	2	—

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	1	—	—
Infectious Hepatitis ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Measles ...	4	—	2	10	11	20	58	13	5	6	32	255
Pneumonia ...	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis ...	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	2	—
Whooping Cough ...	12	5	7	2	1	10	3	6	2	1	3	—

As was expected the measles epidemic proved to be the heaviest of all infectious diseases during the year. It did not follow the true biennial pattern of earlier years where the outbreak has commenced in the early months and has passed its peak by August. A minor wave of notifications developed from March to September with a maximum number of fifty-eight

notifications in July, but a very steep rise occurred during December with 255 notifications. This high incidence continued into the New Year, which meant that the major outbreak followed three years after the previous epidemic.

The late onset meant that the outbreak was heavier owing to a more vulnerable child population and the increased incidence may have been partly due to the influx of a young population into the new housing estates. There were few complications.

Fifty-two cases of whooping cough were notified and this number compared favourably with the previous year. Twenty-seven cases occurred in the five to nine year age group where immunity from previous immunisations was probably on the wane if not entirely absent. Thirty three of the total number notified had not been immunised and ten of these had severe attacks. Sixteen children had been immunised, two of which had severe attacks but of these two, one only could have been regarded as protected, the second having not received any prophylactic injections in the preceding five years. Three parents failed to provide the information requested.

Towards the end of the year the town became involved in the Influenza epidemic but on the whole the illness was not of a severe nature. One adult died following an acute attack of Influenzal encephalitis.

(2) Tuberculosis

	MALES		FEMALES	
	Pul.	Non.-P.	Pul.	Non.-P.
Cases on Register at 31.12.56 ...	34	5	35	9
Number of cases notified during year ...	4	—	2	1
Number of cases restored during year ...	—	—	—	—
Inward transfer ...	3	—	4	—
Cases removed ...	2	—	2	—
Cases on Register at 31.12.57 ...	39	5	39	10

During the year the County Health Authorities offered protection in the form of B.C.G. Immunisation for thirteen year old children in their own schools and in Non-state aided schools, the aim being eventually to produce an immune young adult population.

(3) Food Poisoning

During September a small, though potentially serious, outbreak of *Salmonella Typhi-murium* infection occurred among three mothers and ten infants at a local hospital. The infection was undoubtedly introduced by a patient who had minimal symptoms before admission into the obstetric unit. Her infant became ill within two hours of birth. Bacteriological investigation showed that the mother and infant were infected with *Salmonella Typhi-murium*.

Routine investigation revealed that two more mothers and nine more infants were involved. Two infants succumbed, one having a severe congenital defect which perhaps may have increased its susceptibility.

Following consultations between the Hospital Staff, the Public Health Laboratory Service, the Regional Hospital Board and the County and Local Health Authorities, the Obstetric Unit was closed for a period of three weeks for admissions. Once the diagnosis was made the staff succeeded in avoiding further spread.

It was of interest to find that the infant of the original case showed signs of the infection within two hours of birth and this infant continued to excrete organisms in its stools for a period of several months after discharge from Hospital.

(4) Poliomyelitis

Four notifications were received during the year but only three of these were confirmed. All occurred before the "peak" season and were isolated cases. All three cases were paralytic but they recovered well. One patient did however suffer from considerable residual muscle weakness without true paralysis and had fatigue for a prolonged period.

(5) Prophylactic Measures

(a) Diphtheria, Pertussis and Smallpox Vaccination

This work, as in previous years, was carried out at the Infant Welfare Centre and by General Practitioners. Following the presentation of a report by the Medical Research Council on the higher incidence of Poliomyelitis subsequent to the use of Combined Vaccines the County Medical Officer decided to withdraw all combined vaccines from the Welfare Centre. The practice therefore reverted to giving five separate injections at monthly intervals. Smallpox vaccinations continued as in previous years.

(b) Poliomyelitis Immunisation

This work was also the responsibility of the County Council and the campaign proceeded as rapidly as the supply of vaccine would allow.

(6) National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

No legal action had to be taken under the above mentioned Act during the year but a few elderly people living alone, who may have been in need of care and attention were brought to this department's notice.

The work consisted mainly of finding relatives and statutory or voluntary organisations to give practical help. The aged often prove difficult to help, as they are frequently unwilling to accept any assistance either in the form of services or monetary aid. The tendency to withdraw from society and even from their own families becomes an almost insurmountable barrier.

It appears that it is essential to marshal the domiciliary services to assist wherever possible before the elderly reach the stage of refusing to co-operate.

(7) Housing Applicants—Medical Investigations

A considerable amount of time was spent during the year investigating the circumstances of housing applicants who had produced Medical Certificates or had made representations on their own initiative. It was decided to discontinue the Medical Priority Scheme, it being felt that possibly anomalies had arisen. Medical Points were again allocated and added to points already awarded in the usual way and this scheme was considered to be more satisfactory.

Three main categories had a housing need. Firstly, young couples without capital, who had been living for some time in crowded conditions with parents. They suffered the usual frustrations ensuing from sharing a kitchen and cooking facilities and of being unable to bring up their children according to their own wishes. Secondly, families who were fairly satisfied with the standard of their accommodation but found that their families had outgrown the available bedroom accommodation, and thirdly, families who were living in rather old and outdated accommodation, the latter group being very much in the minority.

(8) Refuse Disposal

Refuse is disposed of by means of tipping on land adjoining the castle grounds and a close watch is maintained in order to ensure that rodent and insect infestation is reduced to a minimum.

(9) Drainage and Sewerage

It was not possible for a start to be made in connection with the relaying of the South Street sewer during the year, but

the whole question of sewerage and sewage disposal has been under constant and considered review by the Council. Delays are perhaps justified when local authorities are faced with unusual expenditure of such magnitude, more so when interest rates have remained at a rather high level.

Samples of sewage effluent taken during the year were reported upon as satisfactory and in accordance with the required standard.

One house formerly draining to a cesspool was connected to the Council's public sewer during the year and a pail closet was abolished in respect of a cottage in Thorley village, septic tank drainage being provided.

(10) Water Supply

The Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council's own water undertaking supplies the whole of the district with water, with the exception of some sixteen houses situated on the outskirts of the town. In the latter cases the supply is derived from five deep wells and one shallow well.

Thirteen samples of water were submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory for examination and all were reported to be satisfactory.

Water supplies were laid on inside four houses when sinks had been provided, the former supply being by means of a stand-pipe in the yard in each case.

(11) Swimming Pool

Thirty-seven samples of water were taken from the swimming pool during the summer and submitted for bacteriological examination. Two of the samples were reported upon as unsatisfactory and the attention of the Surveyor was called to this matter. The remaining thirty-five samples were found to be satisfactory.

SECTION C

Public Health Administration

(1) Inspection of the District

1957 was a year of progress so far as the work of the Department was concerned, the total number of visits being 4,080. This is by far the highest figure ever recorded, despite the fact that the services of an Additional Public Health Inspector were not available during the first two months of the year.

It will be recalled that the re-organisation of the office recording systems was completed during 1956, the effect of which was to simplify the work of the office and thus making for greater efficiency.

This, in turn, has allowed more time to be spent on the district and therefore to accomplish the real satisfying work of public health administration.

549 complaints were received, and, here again, this is a record and compares with 440 received during 1956. It may well be, however, that this higher figure is due in part to the more accurate recording of messages and complaints and a fairer comparison will be possible in the 1958 Report.

Total number of Visits	4,080
Dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	1,112
Revisits to houses for housing defects	671
Premises inspected on Complaint or Nuisance	87
Drainage and Drain Tests	134
Stables and Piggeries	17
Markets	116
Factories (Power and Non-Power)	55
Outworkers	1
Workplaces, Offices and Shops	23
Schools	16
Moveable Dwellings	15
Water Supply and Sampling	27
Swimming Pool and Sampling	35
Public Conveniences	2
Places of Entertainment	2
Infectious Diseases and Disinfection	32
Refuse Disposal	7
Rodent Control	31
Atmospheric Pollution	1
Vermin and Insect Pests	54
Petroleum	41

Interviews with Owners, Builders, etc. ...	137
Meat and Food Inspection—Slaughterhouses ...	586
Shops and Stalls ...	51
Wholesalers, Canteens, etc. ...	55
Butchers ...	56
Dairies and Milk Distributors ...	20
Fish Shops ...	16
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens ...	71
Bakers ...	17
Grocers ...	103
Ice Cream Premises ...	16
Greengrocers ...	2
Licensed Premises ...	7
Street Markets ...	238
Other Food Premises ...	63
Milk Sampling ...	42
Ice Cream Sampling ...	14
Other Foods Sampling ...	12
Miscellaneous ...	95

(2) Special Premises

Particulars of the number and type of all the special premises on the register at the end of 1957 are given below.

Factories

(a) With Mechanical Power ...	101
(b) Without Mechanical Power ...	8

Food Premises

Bakers ...	7
Butchers ...	13
Canteens	
(a) Schools ...	18
(b) Factories ...	3
(c) Hospitals ...	2

Clubs

(a) Non-Licensed ...	9
(b) Licensed ...	12

Dairymen and Dairies ...	3
--------------------------	---

Fishmongers

(a) Wet and Fried Fish ...	2
(b) Wet Fish ...	2
(c) Fried Fish ...	3

Greengrocers ...	12
------------------	----

Grocers

(a) Non-Licensed ...	41
(b) Licensed ...	3

Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	37
Restaurants						
(a) Non-Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	16
(b) Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	7
Sugar Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	11
<i>Non Food Shops</i>						
Boots and Shoes	...	...	...	...	...	7
Chemists	...	...	...	...	...	5
Clothiers	...	...	...	...	...	19
Electrical Goods	...	...	...	...	...	4
Furnishers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	...	11
Ironmongers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Jewellers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Leather Goods	...	...	...	...	...	2
Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	3
Newsagents	...	...	...	...	...	3
Opticians	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pet Shops and Seed Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	4
Radio and Television	...	...	...	...	...	8
Stationers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Toys	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wall Paper	...	...	...	...	...	3
<i>Workplaces</i>	...	...	...	...	...	31
(3) Complaints and Matters Referred						
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	549
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	...	524
Complaints referred to other Departments and Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	18
Other matters referred to other Departments and Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	9
(4) Testing of Drains and Sanitary Fittings						
Drains tested with water	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains tested with other means	...	...	...	...	...	9
(5) Notices Served and the Results of the Service of such Notices						
(a) <i>Preliminary Notices</i>		No. Served		No. complied with		
(i) Dwelling Houses for Housing Defects	...	58		127		
(ii) Special Premises (shops, factories, etc.)	...	10		32		
(b) <i>Statutory Notices</i>						
See Housing Section for Details.						

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

(6) Summary of Improvements Effected

	At Dwelling Houses	At Food Premises	At Shops, Offices, Hotels, etc.
Accumulations removed	3	—	7
Ceilings repaired	33	4	—
Chimney stacks repaired or renewed	13	—	—
Dampness remedied	29	—	—
Doorsteps provided or improved ...	3	—	—
Doors repaired or renewed	20	2	—
Drains cleared or repaired	12	—	—
Drain inspection chambers provided, renewed or improved	10	1	—
Drains laid or drains relaid	7	—	—
Drain ventilation provided or im- proved	2	—	—
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed...	39	1	—
Fireplaces repaired or renewed ...	10	—	—
Floors repaired or renewed	33	4	—
Food stores provided or improved ...	1	1	—
Garden walls or fences provided or improved	1	—	—
Handrails provided to stairs	11	—	—
Outbuildings or other structures de- molished	1	—	—
Roofs repaired	81	3	1
Rooms redecorated and cleansed ...	10	18	4
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	31	1	—
Staircases repaired or renewed ...	2	—	—
Sub-floor ventilation improved	2	—	—
Ventilation improved (air brick) ...	—	2	—
Wall plaster repaired	64	—	—
Walls repaired or renewed (internal)	5	4	—
Walls repaired or renewed (Ex- ternal)	31	2	1
Washing coppers provided or im- proved	1	—	—
WATER CLOSETS			
Cisterns repaired	7	1	—
Compartments provided/rebuilt ...	6	3	1
Flushpipe joints repaired	3	—	—
Improved	18	12	—
Pedestals provided	14	—	—
Seats repaired or renewed	4	—	—
WATER SUPPLY			
Gulleys provided	8	3	—
Hot water supply provided or im- proved	1	21	—
Internal water supply provided ...	2	—	—
Sinks, baths or basins provided ...	8	23	—
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	15	1	—
Water butts provided	2	—	—
Water supply pipes repaired or renewed	7	—	—
Windows provided or improved ...	63	1	—
Yard Paving provided or improved	12	2	—
Miscellaneous	1	5	—
FOOD PREMISES			
Clothing lockers provided	—	3	—
Equipment provided or improved	—	12	—
First Aid kit provided	—	5	—
Food display improved	—	4	—
Food handling improved	—	4	—
Refrigerator provided	—	2	—
Soap, towels, etc. provided	—	7	—
Smoking—cautions given	—	5	—
W.C. notices posted	—	6	—

(7) Disinfection and Disinfestation

Disinfection was carried out at four premises during the year following cases of infectious disease. 143 properties were disinfested and in this connection 108 wasps nests were destroyed.

(8) Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) FOOD HYGIENE

Real progress was made during the year in connection with the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations, as will be readily seen by reference to the improvements effected at food premises, in the appropriate table. There is little doubt at all that the general public have, in the main, become food hygiene conscious during the past few years but, it ought to be stated that the food traders themselves have co-operated with the Council to a very high degree. There are healthy signs that this co-operation and resultant progress will continue. Those of us who are privileged to serve in the sphere of public health must, however, not lose sight of the fact that money and resources are not limitless and, providing one can see steady improvements being attained, we must exercise some restraint and tolerance. This is not to say that serious malpractices or structural dilapidations will, in any way be countenanced.

(b) MILK SUPPLIES

There are four producers and four retailers of milk in Bishop's Stortford and only heat treated or tuberculin tested milk may be sold as the district is included in a "Specified Area".

94 samples of bottled milk were taken in course of delivery to the consumer during the year and submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory for examination. All samples were reported upon as satisfactory, and credit is due to the dairies responsible for this achievement.

46 samples of raw milk were taken from the churns on arrival at the Hallingbury Road dairy and submitted for bacteriological examination. Although all this milk is pasteurised at the dairy, sampling at this stage affords a timely check upon the production methods at the farms.

Designation	No. of Samples Taken	No. Satis- factory	No. Unsatis- factory
Pasteurised	31	31	—
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised ...	40	40	—
Sterilised	23	23	—

(c) MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE-CREAM

Fifty-one premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream and this represents a decrease of one over last year.

Bacteriological Examination

Fifteen samples of ice-cream and eleven ice-lollies were submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and all were reported upon as satisfactory.

(d) MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION

Eleven premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the preparation and manufacture of preserved food as follows:—

Sausages	5
Sausages and Brawn	2
Sausages and Cooked Meats	1
Meat Pickling	1
Canned Foods	1
Cooked Hams	1

2,551 animals were killed at the private slaughterhouse, 4, South Street and all were inspected. Details of the meat condemned are given in the tables below. It will be noted that six cases of *cysticercus bovis* were detected during the year, compared with four in 1956. In each case the infection was localised, the infected parts being condemned and the carcasses placed in cold storage for a period of twenty-one days at a temperature not exceeding 16 degrees Fahrenheit.

(e) DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

Meat condemned at the slaughterhouse is collected regularly by a reputable firm for processing and manufacture into animal foods, fertilisers, glue and soap. All other condemned food is collected and disposed of, under supervision, on the Council's controlled tip.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed ...	338	65	831	1317
Number Inspected ...	338	65	831	1317
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:				
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	3	13
Weight in lb. condemned	322	214	127	1331
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	81	2	14	254
Weight in lb. condemned	1102	6	21	1019
Percentage affected ...	24.26	6.15	2.04	20.27
Tuberculosis only:				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	16	—	—	36
Weight in lb. condemned	383	—	—	353
Percentage affected ...	4.73	—	—	2.73
Cysticercosis only:				
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	6	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned	149	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	6	—	—	—
Generalised and totally Condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected ...	1.77	—	—	—

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CONDEMNED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS ...

Meat ...	5,027 lb. or 2.24 tons
Other Foods ...	22,880 lb. or 10.21 tons
Total ...	27,907 lb. or 12.45 tons

DETAILS OF MEAT CONDEMNED

	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Totals
Heads & Tongues	295 lbs.	17 lbs.	6 lbs.	333 lbs.	651 lbs.
Lungs ...	215 lbs.	2 lbs.	14½ lbs.	298 lbs.	529½ lbs.
Hearts ...	23 lbs.	2 lbs.	2½ lbs.	63½ lbs.	91 lbs.
Livers ...	719 lbs.	11 lbs.	17 lbs.	386½ lbs.	1133½ lbs.
Kidneys ...	6 lbs.	3 lbs.	1 lb.	16½ lbs.	26½ lbs.
Spleens ...	2 lbs.	—	1 lb.	9 lbs.	12 lbs.
Mesenterys ...	24 lbs.	—	1 lb.	25½ lbs.	50½ lbs.
Udders ...	—	—	—	372 lbs.	372 lbs.
Legs ...	—	—	—	93 lbs.	93 lbs.
Carcase Meat ...	672 lbs.	185 lbs.	105 lbs.	1106 lbs.	2068 lbs.
Totals ...	1956 lbs.	220 lbs.	148 lbs.	2703 lbs.	5027 lbs.

DETAILS OF FOODSTUFFS FOUND UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Description	Weight		No. of Tins	Description	Weight		No. of Tins
	lb.	oz.			lb.	oz.	
Anchovies ...	2	14	23	Marmite ...	6	—	—
Apples ...	12	2½	2	(48 Jars)	3	12	5
Apricots, Tin'd	2641	12	252	Meat Loaf ...	62	15	63
Apricots, Dried	20	—	—	Lunch'n Meat	—	15½	—
Asparagus ...	1	—	1	Meat Paste & Jelly (4 Jars)	64	2	81
Bacon ...	15	—	—	Milk ...	3	8	—
Bacon (Tinned)	12	—	2	Meat Pies (7).	48	2	57
Bananas ...	945	—	—	Oranges ...	54	6	—
Beans ...	60	6	83	Pan cake Mixt-ure (145 pkts.)	12137	1	1380
Beetroot ...	7	11	2	Peaches ...	3015	13	188
Blackcurrants	3	—	4	Pears ...	165	15½	131
Carrots ...	3	5½	5	Pineapple ...	551	8	147
Cherries ...	77	1½	18	Plums ...	230	2	135
Cheese ...	42	—	—	Pork ...	10	14	6
Chocolates ...	71	—	—	Raisins ...	32	—	—
Sweet Corn ...	5	—	5	Salmon ...	12	7¾	—
Corned Beef ...	68	4	19	Sausages ...	21	—	2
Cream ...	1	—	3	Soup ...	14	7	17
Fish (Wet)	53	—	—	Spaghetti ...	5	2	7
Fish (Tinned)...	31	4	30	Steak ...	1717	7½	1713
Mixed Fruits...	89	12	63	Syrup ...	6	—	3
Gooseberries ...	12	14½	2	Tomatoes ...	144	14½	153
Grapes ...	1	12	1	Ox Tongue ...	7	—	1
Grapefruit ...	2	—	2	Jellied Veal ...	12	—	2
Ham ...	252	3	20	Vegetables ...	92	13	93
Jam ...	7	—	1	Totals	22880	11½	4723
Lamb Livers ...	20	—	—				
Marmalade ...	2	—	1				

(9) Rodent Control

(i) Disinfestation of Sewers

The maintenance treatment for rats in sewers was undertaken during the month of June, twenty-one manholes on the foul sewerage system being baited. The baits were completely eaten in six of the manholes and partly eaten in one and, as the baiting was carried out in the regions where rats were known to be harbouring, the infestation cannot be regarded as serious.

(ii) Disinfestation of Surface Properties

Number of Dwelling Houses treated...	...	209
„ Business Premises treated	...	80
„ Council Premises treated	...	21
„ Pre-baits laid	... ..	1,988
„ „ partly taken	... ..	549
„ „ completely taken	... ..	823
„ Poison Baits laid...	... ..	1,786
„ „ „ partly taken	... ..	1,032
„ „ „ completely taken	... ..	330
„ Bodies recovered (a) rats	...	302
„ „ „ (b) mice	...	197
Total number of visits made by the operator		1,892

(10) The Storage of Petroleum Spirit

Sixty-two premises were licensed for the storage of Petroleum Spirit and Fees received by the Council in respect of these licences amounted to £43 0s. 0d.

(11) The Provision of Dustbins

778 dustbins were provided during the year in connection with the scheme operated by the Council. This compares with 803 issued during 1956, making a total supplied since the inception of the scheme in July, 1954, of 2,349. This means that nearly half the dustbins in use are owned by the Council and that standardisation of these receptacles is gradually being accomplished.

(12) Pet Animals Act, 1951

Three licences were granted by the Council during the year in respect of the keeping of pet shops.

(13) Factories Act, 1937

Fifty-five visits were made to the factories on the register and it was found necessary in five instances to serve informal notices where contraventions existed.

Twenty-four outworkers were employed during the year by the various factories in the district.

Four certificates of adequate means of escape in case of fire were issued by the local authority, two of these being amended certificates.

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 ...	8	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	101	52	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	12	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	121	55	5	—

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) ...	—	—	—	—	—
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 ...	6	6	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	6	6	—	—	—

(14) Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year: —

(a) By the local Authority...	...	...	22
(b) By Private Enterprise	...	...	261

Number of Houses made available by conversion or adaptation of existing buildings ... —

HOUSES RENDERED FIT—CANCELLATION OF UNDERTAKINGS

Undertakings were cancelled by the Council in respect of 50, Oak Street, 87, Hadham Road and 2, Rumballs Farm Cottages, Thorley, the houses having been brought up to the required standard of fitness by the owners.

HOUSES CLOSED

58, 60, 62, London Road and 68, Hadham Road were closed during the year pending ultimate demolition.

HOUSES DEMOLISHED

94, 96, 98 and 100, London Road, Alma Cottage, Station Road and 32, 34 and 36, Castle Street were demolished during the year.

HOUSES INCAPABLE OF REPAIR AT REASONABLE EXPENSE

A notice under Section 16, Housing Act, 1957, was served at the end of December upon the owner of Wharf Cottage, 3, Dell Lane.

HOUSING SURVEY

A detailed survey of all the older houses in the town was commenced during the year and 351 houses were inspected, 150 of which were owner/occupied. It was found that 33 houses had been fully improved and that 288 were suitable for improvement. The number of houses estimated to be embraced by this survey was between 1,500 and 1,600 and the work is expected to be completed by the end of 1958, when a full report would be submitted to the Council.

An encouraging feature of the survey so far has been the ready response of property owners to the requests by informal notices for repairs to be carried out. 127 houses were rendered fit during the year and this compares with 64 during 1956.

There is little doubt of the need for the systematic inspection of houses and a great deal of useful public health work can be achieved in this way. Property owners are more willing for repairs to be attended to when houses are dealt with in groups and also when they know that other adjoining property owners are receiving the same treatment.

It is a source of encouragement for the efforts made in this respect when it is noted that no less than 626 items of repair or improvement to dwelling houses ranging from roof repairs to the provision of handrails to staircases were attended to during the year. The provision of handrails to staircases is of more importance than would appear and should make a small contribution towards the reduction of accidents in the home, the number of which is somewhat alarming.