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Brintree Rural District.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. HATTON,

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

FOR THE YEAR

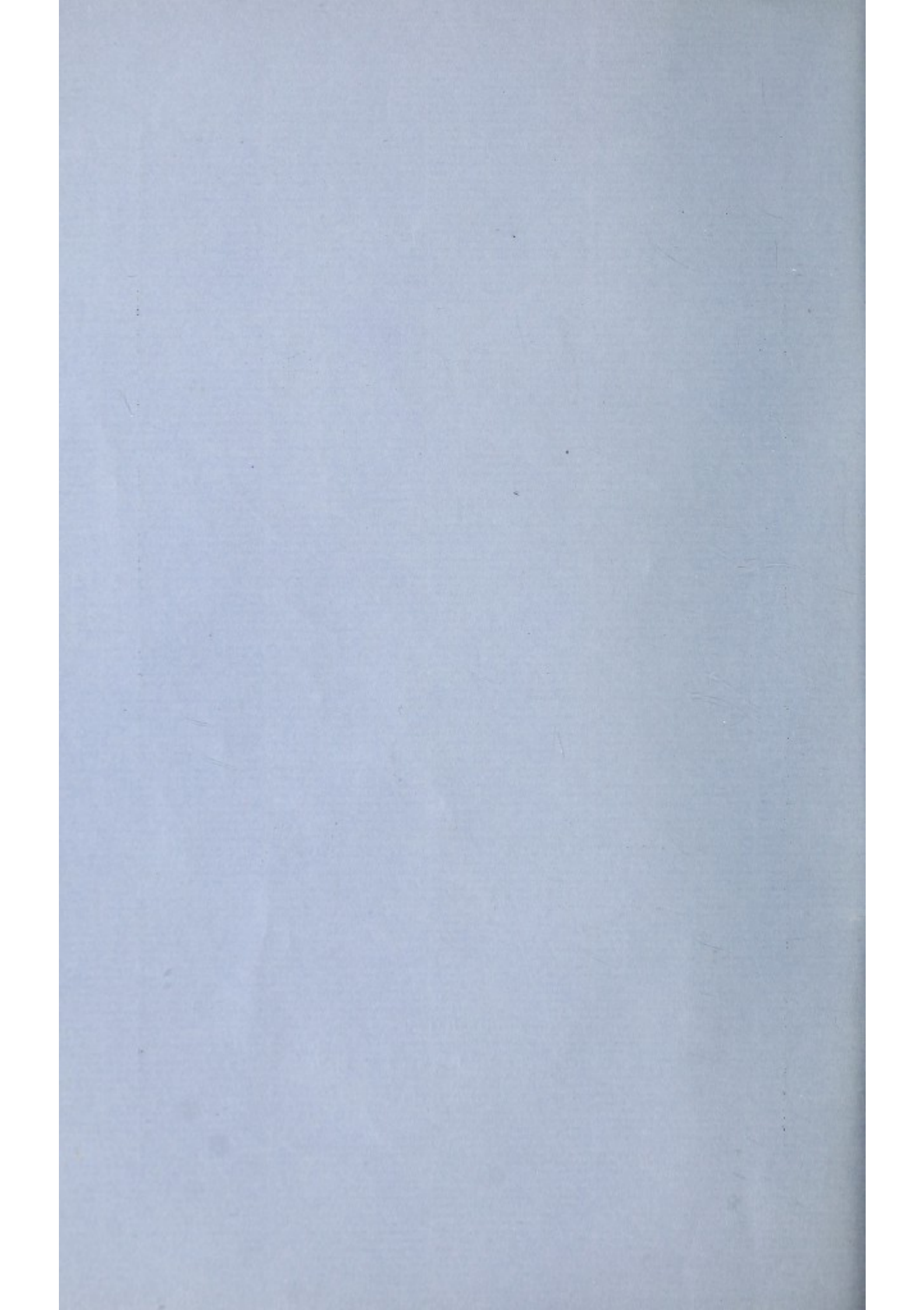
1938,

Including the Report of the
Sanitary Inspector.

COGGESHALL :

PRINTED BY H. J. SMITH & SON,

MARKET END.



BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT

Public Health Committee.

LT. COL. W. F. PARSONS, D.S.O., *Chairman*,

MR. V. B. GOODWIN, *Vice-Chairman*,

MRS. M. M. PARKER,

THE MISSES T. M. HOPE,

O. M. B. TRITTON,

THE REV. E. STALLAN,

MAJOR A. M. TABOR, J.P.,

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G. CROWE,

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T. S. SMITH, J.P.,

G. M. STRUTT, D.L.

Public Health Officers.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

J. HATTON, M.D., D.P.H.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

F. W. FAIREY, M.S.I.A., Certificate R.S.I. Meat and Other Foods

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.

C. ORGAN, M.S.I.A., Certificate R.S.I. Meat and Other Foods.

CLERK.

W. R. GAGE.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,

ST. PETER'S CLOSE,

BRAINTREE,

ESSEX,

June, 1939.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Braintree Rural District for the year 1938.

The health of the District has been good and the death rate low.

The inspection of working class dwellings under the Housing Acts has made progress during the year but further efforts are needed to ensure a satisfactory standard throughout the District.

Work on the comprehensive water schemes which will serve the northern and south eastern portions of the District was continued during 1938 and it is expected that the south eastern scheme will be completed about the middle of 1939.

The construction of the new sewerage scheme for the Parish of Feering was commenced and work on the new sewerage and sewage disposal system for Cressing, White Notley and Black Notley was continued during the year.

I wish to express my thanks to the Council for their help and support and to the Council's Officers for their valued co-operation during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. HATTON.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1938 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated mid-year.	Births.			Deaths.												Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths).
		Nett.			Total Number Registered in District.	TRANSFER-ABLE.		Nett.				At all ages.					
		Number.	Rate.	Rate England & Wales.		of Non-Residents registered in District	of residents not registered in District.	Under 1 year of age.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 net Births.	Rate England & Wales.	Number.	Rate.	Standard-ised rate for comparison with E & W.	Rate England & Wales.		
1928	20150	328	16.2	16.7	234	36	36	11	33	65	234	11.6	9.1	11.7	94		
1929	20760	309	14.5	16.3	284	51	35	16	51	74	268	12.9	10.1	13.4	41		
1930	20760	341	16.4	16.3	247	51	41	25	73	60	237	11.4	9.0	11.4	104		
1931	21620	311	14.3	15.8	280	67	46	19	61	66	259	11.9	9.4	12.3	52		
1932	21580 19490 }	345	15.9	15.3	314	84	45	13	37	65	275	12.7	10.0	12.0	70		
1933	+ 21290 15888 }	284	13.3	14.4	254	50	40	16	56	64	250	11.7	9.2	12.3	34		
1934	+ 16786 }	243	14.4	14.8	187	17	69	7	28	59	239	14.2	10.9	11.8	4		
1935	15790	208	13.1	14.7	152	9	66	9	43	57	209	13.2	10.1	11.7	1		
1936	15710	188	11.9	14.8	158	5	68	9	47	59	221	14.0	10.7	12.1	33		
1937†	15660	232	14.8	14.9	160	14	76	12	51	58	222	14.1	10.8	12.4	10		
1938	15580	168	10.8	15.1*	155	11	91	7	41	53*	235	15.1	11.6	11.6*	67		

† Adjusted on boundary alterations for calculating rates for 1933 and 1934

Area of District in acres land and inland water 59,569

*Provisional

BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) (estimated)	59,569
Population (estimated resident) mid-1938	15,580
Number of inhabited Houses according to Rate Books ...	5,302
Rateable Value	£53,318
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£206

SOCIAL CONDITIONS. The main industry of the Rural District is agriculture. There is a clothing factory at Coggeshall and an iron works at Rayne. Unemployment figures have remained low during 1938.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births {	Legitimate 159	86	73	{ Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10·8
	Illegitimate 9	7	2	
Stillbirths	8	3	5	{ Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 45·5
Deaths	235	120	115	{ Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 15·1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	0	0
Other puerperal causes	0	0
Total	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	41·7
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	37·7
Illegitimate " " " illegitimate " " ...	111·1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	38
" " Measles (all ages)	0
Death from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

AGES AT DEATH DURING 1938.

Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.

All ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and up- wards.
235	7	1	1	6	4	11	51	154

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The subjoined table gives details of the cause of death throughout the year. Diseases of the circulatory system again took heavy toll.

Cause of Death.					Males.	Females
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	3	—
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	1	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—
General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	22	16
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	3
Cerebral hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	13	10
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	35	31
Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	10	10
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	3	5
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1
Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	—	—
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other diseases of liver, &c.	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	4	3
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	2	4
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	—	—
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, &c.	...	...	...	...	2	2
Senility	...	...	...	...	5	12
Suicide	...	...	...	...	4	—
Other violence	...	...	...	...	3	—
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	9	9
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	—	—
Totals					120	115

INFANT MORTALITY.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total Deaths Under 1 Year.
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth ...	4	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	1	..	...	1	2
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	1
Totals ..	4	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	7

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers.

For list see Page 1.

The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban Districts of Braintree and Witham and the Rural District of Dunmow and Assistant Medical Officer to the Essex County Council.

Laboratory Facilities.

The laboratory service is provided by the County Council and is carried out by the Counties' Public Health Laboratories, London. The following figures indicate the use made of this service by the medical practitioners of the District.

Specimen.	Number Examined.
Diphtheria ...	442
Sputa ...	2,009
Typhoid ...	1
Ringworm ...	3
Miscellaneous ...	358
Total	2,813

Ambulance Facilities.

A motor ambulance is provided at the Courtauld General Hospital for non-infectious cases and there is also a motor ambulance, at the Braintree Isolation Hospital for infectious cases. The existing ambulance services are adequate for the needs of the area and co-ordination of ambulance services in this part of the County has been secured by a reciprocal arrangement between the various ambulance authorities in Braintree and the surrounding Districts.

Nursing in the Home

This service is undertaken by the Essex County Nursing Association and is very satisfactory.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

These are provided by the County Council. The following list gives details of present arrangements.

Child Welfare.		Each Month.	
BRAINTREE.	Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road.	1st & 4th Monday. Tuesday (except 5th)	2 p.m. 2 p.m.
BOCKING.	Village Hall.	2nd & 4th Thursday.	2.30 p.m.
WITHAM.	Legion Hut, Mill Lane.	2nd & 4th Wednesday.	2.30 p.m.
SILVER END.	Village Hall.	1st & 3rd Thursday.	2.30 p.m.
KELVEDON.	Parish Hall.	2nd & 4th Friday.	2.30 p.m.
HATFIELD PEVEREL.	Village Hall.	2nd & 4th Thursday.	2.30 p.m.
COGGESHALL.	Congregational Schoolroom, Queen Street.	1st & 3rd Tuesday.	2.30 p.m.
TERLING.	Red Triangle Hut.	1st Wednesday.	2 p.m.
WETHERSFIELD.	Village Hall.	3rd Monday.	2 p.m.
GT. BARDFIELD.	Town Hall.	1st Monday.	2.30 p.m.
Ante-Natal.			
BRAINTREE.	Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road.	1st & 3rd Wednesday.	2 p.m.
WITHAM.	Legion Hut, Mill Lane.	1st Monday.	2 p.m.
SILVER END.	Village Hall.	3rd Wednesday.	2 p.m.
Women's Welfare.			
BRAINTREE.	Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road.	1st & 3rd Wednesday.	10 a.m.
Minor Ailments.			
BRAINTREE.	Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road.	Tuesday.	10 a.m.
Eye Clinic.			
BRAINTREE.	Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road.	Monday.	10 a.m.
Dental Clinic.			
BRAINTREE.	Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road.	2nd & 4th Thursday.	10 a.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic.			
BRAINTREE.	Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road.	Wednesday.	2 p.m.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.			
BRAINTREE.	Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road.	Wednesday.	11.30 a.m.

Mental Treatment.

CHELMSFORD.	General Hospital, London Road.	Wednesday.	2.30 p.m.
COLCHESTER.	General Hospital, Lexden Road.	Monday.	3 p.m.

Venereal Diseases.

CHELMSFORD.	General Hospital, London Road.	Friday.	11 p.m.
COLCHESTER.	General Hospital, Lexden Road.	Monday (males)	6 p.m.
		Wednesday (females)	4 p.m.
		(males)	5.30 p.m.
		Friday (females)	2 p.m.
		(males)	4 p.m.

HOSPITALS**Voluntary.**

General—The William Julien Courtauld Hospital, Braintree is a modern hospital of 25 beds.

Maternity—The new maternity ward at the William Julien Courtauld Hospital, Braintree, has been completed. The new ward will accommodate 10 patients.

Public**Isolation Hospital**

The Braintree Isolation Hospital provides accommodation for 26 patients. A scheme prepared by the Essex County Council under Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, is still under consideration. The object of this scheme is to centralise the work of existing Isolation Hospitals in larger and more up-to-date institutions. It is proposed to provide a modern isolation hospital at Braintree to serve the Braintree, Dunmow, Halstead and Saffron Walden Districts. At present the Medical Officer of Health has no official status at the Braintree Isolation Hospital although he is responsible for the admission of patients there. This is an anomaly which should be corrected as it is important that the Medical Officer of Health should be in direct control of the Isolation Hospital.

Small Pox Hospital.

The Essex County Council and the Borough of Colchester have provided a new Small Pox Hospital at Mile End, Colchester. Cases of small pox from the Braintree Rural District will be removed to this Hospital for treatment.

P.A.C. Hospital

The Hospital wards of the Public Assistance Institution, Braintree have been enlarged. They now provide accommodation for 120 patients. This institution is under the control of the Essex County Council.

Maternity.

The maternity block attached to the Chelmsford Institution is available for cases from Braintree.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE

No new byelaws or Acts were adopted during 1938.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

Coggeshall Waterworks. During the year ending 31st December, 1938, the volume of water pumped at these works was approximately 51 million gallons. These figures show a decrease of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million over the previous year. During the peak demand in Midsummer it was necessary to draw on the South Essex mains to relieve these works and approximately 5 million gallons of water were taken, making a total consumption of 56 million gallons for the year. This is an increased consumption over that of the previous year and was due to the unfavourable weather and also to the increased growth of the district. The daily consumption was equivalent to 33 gallons per head.

There have been no renewals or serious repairs to these works during the year, the electric plant continues to give satisfaction and low pumping costs have been maintained. There were no extensions to the mains but twenty new connections supplying 61 houses were made during the year.

The supply from these works is controlled by chemical and bacteriological analysis and samples are submitted for examination at least three times each year. A sample sent to the County Bacteriologist on 8/12/38 was examined and reported on as follows:—

“This sample is clear and bright, of normal colour, neutral in reaction, and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron.

The water is not unduly hard in character, and has a high but not excessive content of salinity. It is of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity, and is considered wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

Stisted Waterworks. The supply at Stisted has been maintained and the consumption of water there was the same as that of the previous year, being $1\frac{3}{4}$ million gallons for the year which is equivalent to 21 gallons per head per day.

The whole of the pumping at these works is now done by a petrol engine and this method has proved to be very costly.

It is expected that in the early part of the New Year these works will be linked up with the South Eastern Area Water Scheme now under construction and the present plant and well at the works will be reserved for emergency use only.

There were no extensions to the mains in Stisted during 1938.

The supply from these works is controlled by chemical and bacteriological analysis and samples are submitted for examination at least three times each year.

A sample sent to the County Bacteriologist on 7/12/38 was examined and reported on as follows :—

“This sample is reasonably clear and bright and of normal colour. The water is neutral in reaction, of moderate hardness, has a high, but not excessive content of salinity, contains no metals apart from a negligible trace of iron and is of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

It is, therefore, considered wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

Terling and Hatfield Peverel Waterworks. During 1938 the pumping hours at these works were 2,102 ; the volume of water pumped was $16\frac{3}{4}$ million gallons, an approximate daily consumption of 45,000 gallons. These figures shew an increase in consumption of approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons for the year. The increase in consumption is more than that recorded during the preceding year and is accounted for by the prolonged spell of dry weather during the year and the normal growth of the district.

The supply has been maintained despite the dry weather and the whole of the plant and machinery has worked satisfactorily.

No extension of the mains was carried out but fifteen new connections, supplying 37 houses were made during the year.

The supply from this waterworks is controlled by chemical and bacteriological examination and during 1938, 15 samples were submitted for analysis. In 12 cases the report was satisfactory but in three instances it was not so.

A report submitted on 19/12/38 was examined by the County Bacteriologist and reported on as follows :—

“This sample is reasonably clear and bright. The water contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution but is very hard in character. It is of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity and is considered wholesome in character, and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

The Springs at Terling are shallow and owing to their position and to the fact that there is no definite knowledge regarding their course underground, these springs are difficult to protect with certainty. The water yielded by them is, therefore, liable to variation in quality. The Council have, therefore, decided to instal an apparatus for the continuous chlorination of all water supplied from these springs.

Cressing. Part of the village of Cressing is supplied with water from the Bradwell Spring which is privately owned.

This supply is controlled by chemical and bacteriological analysis and at least two samples are submitted for examination each year.

A sample sent to the County Bacteriologist on 19/12/38, was examined and reported on as follows:—

“ This sample is clear and bright, of normal colour, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character although not to an excessive degree, contains no excess of salinity, and is of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

It is, therefore, considered wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

SHALLOW WELLS.

The public shallow wells and water supplies under the control of the District Council number 47. With one exception these supplies have been maintained and there has been a recovery from the conditions which obtained during the drought of recent years. Water was, however, carted to the Howe Street area of Finchingfield where the supply was again in abeyance, during part of the year. The shallow water supplies of the District are unreliable both in quantity and in the quality of the water, which they yield. These supplies are always liable to contamination and will remain a serious potential danger to the Public Health until they are replaced by public piped supplies.

As mentioned in my report for 1937 two comprehensive water schemes have been approved for the northern and southern parts of the District respectively.

The source of supply in the northern area will be deep wells at Wethersfield and the scheme will supply the following parishes:—

Bardfield Saling,	Panfield,
Finchingfield,	Rayne,
Gt. Bardfield,	Shalford,
Gt. Saling,	Wethersfield.

Supplies in the case of the southern area scheme will be obtained from the South Essex Water Company's main at Tiptree. The scheme will supply the following parishes and the new supply will augment that now in use at Kelvedon and Coggeshall Waterworks and Stisted Waterworks:—

Black Notley,	Kelvedon,
Bradwell,	Lt. Coggeshall,
Cressing,	Pattiswick,
Feering,	Stisted,
Gt. Coggeshall,	White Notley.

Work on these schemes is now proceeding.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewage disposal works in the district continue to give general satisfaction. Samples of effluent taken prove from analysis to be satisfactory and well nitrated.

The Hatfield Peverel works, however, failed on two occasions to yield an effluent of satisfactory standard but it is thought that this was only a temporary lapse.

The weather during most of the year has been favourable and the works have not been unduly extended, except for short periods at the beginning and end of the year when abnormal flows were dealt with.

There have been no serious renewals required at these works, and no difficulty experienced in the disposal of the sludge, most of which has been carted away for manurial purposes.

No accurate method of recording the amount of sewage pumped exists, but there is definite proof that all the works dealt with more sewage than in the preceding year.

Work on the new sewerage system and sewage disposal works for the parishes of Cressing, White Notley and Black Notley is now in progress.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

There is pollution of rivers and streams in or near the following villages :—

Cressing,
Terling,
Feering,
Great Bardfield,
Wethersfield,
Finchingfield.

A sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the parish of Feering is now in course of construction.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

See Report of Sanitary Inspector. Pages 30—31.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

There is a weekly collection of house refuse by motor vehicle in the parishes of Great and Little Coggeshall, Kelvedon and Feering. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping. A system of partial collection is in operation in Hatfield Peverel and Rayne and dumps for bottles, tins, &c., have been provided in the following parishes :—

PARISH.	NUMBER OF DUMPS.
Great Bardfield	4
Finchingfield	4
White Notley	1
Great Saling	2
Shalford	3
Wethersfield	2

These dumps are emptied periodically by contractors. Night soil is collected by contractors in the following parishes :—

Black Notley,
Finchingfield,
Gt. Bardfield,
Wethersfield,
Stisted.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

See Report of Sanitary Inspector. Pages 28—31.

SHOPS

See Report of Sanitary Inspector. Page 36.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

See Report of Sanitary Inspector. Page 36.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

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

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Houses which are infested with bed bugs are freed from these pests by fumigation with hydrogen cyanide gas.

Before removal to Council Houses the belongings of tenants are freed from vermin by fumigation with hydrogen cyanide in the infested houses or in special vans during the course of removal.

The work is carried out by contractors under the supervision of the Council's Sanitary Officers.

On completion of the work independent tests are applied by the Council's Sanitary Officers to ensure that the houses or effects are free from dangerous concentrations of the gas. The houses and belongings of tenants of Council Houses who have moved from infested houses are inspected at intervals for evidence of reinfestation.

The following table gives particulars of the work during the year :—

		Council Houses.	Other Houses.
Number of houses found to be infested	...	0	4
Number of houses or belongings disinfested		0	4
		—	—
Total		0	4
		—	—

SCHOOLS

The general conditions, sanitation and water supply of the public elementary schools of the district are satisfactory.

The School Medical Service is provided by the County Council and is carried out in the Braintree Rural District by a full time Medical Officer working in co-operation with the Medical Officer of Health.

See also page 25.

REPORT on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories (with Mechanical Power)	2	—	—
Factories (without Mechanical Power)	2	1	—
Other Premises under the Act (Including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises).	—	—	—
Total	4	1	—

2— Defects found.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prose- cutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences { insufficient ..	1	1	—	—
{ unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
{ not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences (Not including offences relating to homework & offences under the Sections mentioned in the Sched- ule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Trans- fer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Sched- ule to the Factories Act, 1937).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	1	1	—	—

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Sec. 108 ... Nil.

HOUSING.

The inspection of working class dwellings under the Housing Acts was completed during the year and details of the inspections are given in the table below.

At the close of 1938 Official Representations had been made to the District Council in respect of a total of 1,116 houses. Further particulars regarding these representations and the Demolition Orders and Clearance Orders which have followed are given below.

	1935.	1936.	1937	1938.
No. of houses represented under Section 11 ...	80	209	272	110
No. of houses represented under Section 25 ...	0	305	34	106
No. of Demolition Orders made ...	42	38	80	93
No. of Clearance Orders made ...	0	7	2	0
(No. of houses therein) ...	0	46	11	0
No. of Clearance Orders confirmed ...	0	7	1	0
(No. of houses in the Area confirmed) ...	0	42	6	0
No. of houses excluded from Clearance Areas	0	4	2	0

It has been the policy of the District Council to encourage reconditioning as far as possible. There is no objection to reconditioning in suitable cases providing the work is carried out thoroughly, but it is obviously a mistake to permit an owner to attempt to recondition property which suffers from inherent defects such as external bad arrangement.

Most of the properties have been dealt with informally and this procedure often results in serious delays. A considerable amount of reconditioning has, however, been carried out in this District but it is still my opinion that the results would have been obtained in less time if the procedure under the Housing Acts had been followed more closely.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	320
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	346
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	320
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	346
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	213
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	30

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	151
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.	
A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 AND 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
C. PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	93
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	30
D. PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
HOUSING ACT, 1935—OVERCROWDING :—	
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	13
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	13
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	97
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	4
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	10
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	77

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding 1

NEW HOUSES ERECTED :—

By Council	128
Private enterprise	53
Total —	181

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply. The premises concerned in the production and sale of milk are inspected regularly and samples are taken for bacteriological and biological examination.

See also Report of Sanitary Inspector Page 32.

Meat and Other Foods. Routine inspection of meat, slaughter houses, shops and places where food is prepared is carried out by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors. Details of this work are given in the Sanitary Inspectors Report on pages 31, and 32.

There are 18 private slaughterhouses in the Rural District, most of which are small. During 1938 78·2% of the animals slaughtered for human food were inspected. This figure is a high one in the circumstances. This work makes heavy demands on the time of the Sanitary Inspectors and it is estimated that this service costs £200 annually.

The provision of a central abattoir under the Council's control and the closing of private slaughter-houses in the District would simplify the work of meat inspection. Supervision of the work in a number of private slaughter houses is never as satisfactory as it is in a central abattoir and there are few civilised countries in which this system of private slaughterhouses is still allowed.

Some modification of the existing law on this subject appears, however, to be necessary before the abolition of private slaughterhouses can be general. The cost, including the cost of compensation which is involved at present, is heavy.

Adulteration, &c. Action taken under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, the Artificial Cream Act, 1929, the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, and the Public Health (Preservatives, &c, in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927. This work is undertaken by the Essex County Council

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food. This work is carried out by the Essex County Council and the samples submitted are examined by Dr. Dyer, the County Analyst.

Nutrition. Information on this subject is given at the schools, clinics and welfare centres throughout the District.

Shellfish. There are no shellfish beds or layings in the Rural District.

Shellfish which are marketed in the District are obtained mainly from layings on the Essex Coast.

NATIONAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN.

The National Health Campaign was continued during the first half of 1938. Posters were exhibited, cards and bills were displayed in schools, halls, clinics and places of public resort. Pamphlets and other literature were distributed and a successful Health Week was held in Braintree in January. A considerable amount of public interest has been aroused and useful results are expected from the campaign.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

The Medical Officer of Health is responsible for the organisation of all branches of Casualty Services with the exception of Hospitals. He is also responsible for the instruction of all A.R.P. workers in First Aid.

The Essex County Council is the Scheme Making Authority under the Air Raid Precautions Act, 1937 and any provisions which might be made or suggested in this district are subject to the approval of the County Council. Considerable progress has been made in organising the Casualty Services during the year.

Casualty Services.

A number of Schemes for the provision of First Aid Posts, First Aid Points, Stretcher Parties and Ambulance Services have been prepared during the past two years and have been amended from time to time to meet the requirements of the County Council.

The allocations and establishment of the above which the County Council are prepared to approve at the time of writing are as follows :—

First Aid Posts.

No First Aid Post is to be provided in the Braintree Rural District and the District will, therefore, be served by the First Aid Posts which are to be established at the Public Assistance Hospital, Braintree, the Courtau'd Hospital, Braintree and the Bridge Home, Witham. In addition two Mobile Units which are to be stationed at Braintree and Witham will be available for service in the Rural District.

First Aid Points.

A First Aid Point is defined as "convenient and known accommodation at which a supply of simple First Aid requisites can be maintained in charge of someone trained in First Aid."

Fourteen First Aid Points have been allocated to the District. A list of the parishes where it is proposed that the points shall be established, together with premises which have been provisionally earmarked is given below :—

Parish.	Premises.
Gt. Bardfield	House and Butcher's Premises, High Street, Mr. A. T. Smith.
Gt. Coggeshall	Bungalow, "The Mount," Colchester Road, Mrs. O. Perry.
Cressing	The Rectory, Rev. D. F. Barrett-Lennard.
Feering	The Vicarage, Rev. C. W. Gibbons.
Finchingfield	Prospect House, The Green, Mr. C. J. Camp
Hatfield Peverel	The Vicarage, Maldon Road, Rev. D. T. Taffinder.
Kelvedon	Constitutional Club, High Street, Mr. C. Barnard.
Black Notley	The Rectory, Rev. J. R. Southern.
White Notley	The Vicarage, Rev. H. L. Pike.
Rayne	Rayne Place, The Street, Miss M. Carrington-Brewster.
Shalford	Hill House, The Village, Mr. E. Tanner.
Stisted	Montifiore Institute, The Street, D. Herbert.
Terling	Old Forge and Outbuildings, The Village.
Wethersfield	The Mill House, The Village, Mrs. B. Simmons.

Stretcher Parties.

Four Stretcher Parties will be stationed as follows :—

Finchingfield	Prospect House, The Green	2 Stretcher Parties.
Coggeshall	The Mount, Colchester Road	2 Stretcher Parties.

Stretcher Parties consist of five men who are fully trained in First Aid and Anti-Gas. The parties will accompany the auxiliary ambulances when ever they may be required.

Ambulances.

Ambulances will consist of converted commercial vehicles, fitted to take four stretchers and private cars will also be used for the removal of sitting cases.

The Ambulance Depots are as follows :—

Finchingfield	Garage, Sunnyside	3 ambulances and 2 cars
Coggeshall	The Mount, Colchester Road	3 ambulances and 2 cars

The personnel required to man the above services are as follows :—

Finchingfield	MEN	WOMEN	RESERVES	
			M.	W.
3 Ambulances (Drivers & Attendants)		12		3
2 cars for Sitting Casualties		3		1
2 Stretcher Parties	8			4
2 cars for Stretcher Parties	2			1
Total Personnel	10	15	5	4

Gt. Coggeshall	MEN	WOMEN	RESERVES	
			M.	W.
3 Ambulances (Drivers & Attendants)		12		3
2 cars for Sitting Casualties		3		1
2 Stretcher Parties	8			4
2 cars for Stretcher Parties	2			1
Total Personnel	10	15	5	4

In addition a personnel of 105 women will be required to man the fourteen First Aid Points throughout the District.

TRAINING

Courses of instruction in First Aid, based on the syllabuses of the St. John Ambulance Association and British Red Cross Society, have been given to personnel of the Casualty Services in the following parishes :—

Gt. Bardfield, Blackmore End (Wethersfield), Bradwell, Coggeshall, Cressing, Faulkbourne, Finchingfield, Hatfield Peverel, Kelvedon, Black Notley, White Notley, Panfield, Pattiswick, Rayne, Gt. Saling, Shalford, Stisted, Terling and Wethersfield.

Arrangements have also been made for short courses of instruction in First Aid for Air Raid Wardens, Auxiliary Firemen and others. First Aid instruction is followed by a course in Anti-Gas which is arranged by the Air Raid Precautions Officer and post instructional training for those who are fully trained in First Aid and Anti-Gas has been commenced in Coggeshall.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

88 cases of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) were notified during the year. Details of these are given in the adjoining table. There was one case of meningococcal meningitis. 15 cases of diphtheria were notified, 13 of which were promptly removed to the Isolation Hospital and all were treated with diphtheria antitoxin. These cases of diphtheria were of the mild or intermediate type and there were two deaths. No cases of diphtheria gravis were seen during 1938. The incidence of scarlet fever was higher than it was in 1937. The disease generally was mild in type and serious complications were rare. While the present mild form of the disease is prevalent "missed" cases, that is cases where the infection is unrecognised, inevitably arise and these patients acting as intermediaries or carriers may spread the disease, possibly in more severe form, to others. For this reason removal of all notified cases of scarlet fever to the Isolation Hospital proves to be less effective than might be expected in checking the spread of scarlet fever infection.

As far as possible cases of scarlet fever should be isolated at home and the admission of cases to the Isolation Hospital should be limited to those which would generally fall into the following categories:—

Insufficient or unsuitable accommodation at home for isolation and treatment.

Severe type of illness or complications necessitating hospital treatment

Lack of nursing facilities at home owing to illness of parents or other causes.

Occurrence of a case in a house adjoining business or public premises and particularly those where milk is produced or handled.

Cases where the head of the home would lose wages if nursing at home were insisted on.

No cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified in 1938. The County Council is the supervising authority for maternity and child welfare and carries out any investigation which the circumstances call for in such cases.

Six cases of dysentery occurred in the Rural District during the year. 12 cases of pneumonia were notified, none of which presented any unusual features. There were no cases of malaria.

Eighteen cases of Infantile Paralysis were notified during the year and a report on the outbreak of this disease in Braintree and the adjoining Districts is given below.

**Braintree Urban District, Braintree Rural District,
Dunmow Rural District and Witham Urban District.**

Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the Outbreak of Infantile Paralysis, 1938.

The first cases of Infantile Paralysis in this area occurred at Felsted where four boys of the Felsted School were taken ill on Friday, 15th July. The patients were segregated in the School Sanatorium and there were no further cases amongst the pupils or staff of the school afterwards, although as is mentioned later in the report, certain families in Felsted connected with the domestic staff of the school were seriously affected by the disease.

The date of onset of the first case to be reported in the Braintree and Bocking Urban District was 20th July. During the week which followed three further cases were notified and the notifications reached the peak figure of the outbreak in the Urban District during the following week.

On 8th August the first patient in the Braintree Rural District was taken ill at Black Notley and this case was followed by a number of others which were scattered in all parts of the Rural District.

On 27th August two further cases were reported at Felsted and on the same day one case was reported at Great Dunmow, this being the only case which occurred in that town. On 9th September one case was notified at Witham which was also an isolated case.

A complete list of cases shewing the date of onset is given below :—

Locality.	Cases.	Date of Onset.
Braintree	2	20/7/38
Braintree	1	21/7/38
Braintree	1	22/7/38
Braintree	1	23/7/38
Braintree	1	26/7/38
Braintree	1	27/7/38
Braintree (2) Bocking (1)	3	29/7/38
Braintree	2	30/7/38
Braintree	2	1/8/38
Braintree	3	2/8/38
Braintree	1	3/8/38
Braintree (1) Bocking (1)	2	6/8/38
Braintree	1	7/8/38
Braintree	1	8/8/38
Braintree	1	12/8/38
Braintree	1	16/8/38
Braintree (1) High Garrett (1)	2	19/8/38
Braintree Green	1	27/8/38
Braintree	1	28/8/38
Braintree	1	29/8/38
Braintree	2	2/9/38
Braintree	1	8/9/38
Braintree	1	12/9/38
Bocking	1	15/10/38
Bocking	1	23/10/38
Wethersfield	1	29/7/38
Cressing	1	31/7/38
Wethersfield	1	2/8/38
Black Notley	1	5/8/38
Finchingfield	1	6/8/38
Bradwell	1	7/8/38
Great Saling	1	8/8/38
Wethersfield	1	10/8/38

Locality.	Cases.	Date of Onset.
Bardfield Saling	1	13/8/38
Terling	1	18/8/38
Wethersfield	1	21/8/38
Fairstead	1	28/8/38
Wethersfield	1	4/9/38
Cressing	1	6/9/38
Great Bardfield	1	12/9/38
Shalford	1	15/9/38
Pattiswick	1	25/9/38
Shalford	1	22/10/38
 Felsted	 4	 15/7/38
Great Dunmow	1	4/8/38
Felsted	1	5/8/38
Felsted	1	6/8/38
Felsted	1	11/8/38
Felsted	1	12/8/38
Felsted	1	1/9/38
Felsted	1	18/9/38
Stebbing	1	24/9/38
 Witham	 1	 30/8/38

Early in the outbreak it was apparent that the disease was present in the epidemic form and steps were taken at once to put into effect those preventive measures which in the light of present knowledge were considered likely to be useful in controlling the spread of the disease.

A summary of these is given below :—

1. Cases were isolated in Hospital, contacts were isolated for 14 days.
2. Public and private schools, clinics and welfare centres were closed.
3. Cinemas and swimming pools were closed.
4. Functions involving the gathering of numbers of people, such as socials, dances, whist drives, flower shows, outings, &c., were suspended.
5. Posters were printed and displayed all over the area giving the salient features of the disease with recommendations regarding early diagnosis and treatment and urging the public to seek early medical advice in any suspicious illness.
6. Information was supplied to private medical practitioners who co-operated by notifying any cases or suspected cases promptly.

It is extremely difficult to assess the value of these measures in controlling the infection. There is no doubt, however, that prompt diagnosis, with the aid of lumbar puncture where necessary, and early isolation of all cases proved of definite value.

On 3rd October following the crisis, the schools were re-opened and the other precautions relaxed and it is perhaps worthy of note that this did not influence the downward trend of the incidence of the disease, although the notification figures for England and Wales were shewing a tendency to rise again.

All the notified cases from this district were removed to hospital. Early and acute cases were admitted to Braintree Isolation Hospital in the first instance and later were transferred to Halstead Isolation Hospital for orthopaedic treatment. Dunmow Isolation Hospital which had been closed was re-opened for the reception of patients as they reached the convalescent stage. Arrangements for orthopaedic treatment were made by the County Medical Officer and the Essex County Council assumed financial responsibility for treatment after six weeks from the date of onset. The County Council have continued to give treatment where required through the Orthopaedic Clinics after patients have been discharged from hospital.

Mechanical respirator apparatus was used for the treatment of six cases but in each instance the patient died.

The total number of cases notified in these districts was sixty-six. There were eight deaths, including the two cases mentioned below which were notified following tonsillectomy and of the remaining patients at the present time forty-two have made a complete recovery, nine are expected to make a complete recovery and in the remaining seven cases complete recovery is considered doubtful or unlikely. In addition two patients subsequently received orthopaedic treatment for conditions which were probably due to unrecognised attacks of Infantile Paralysis. Both are expected to make a complete recovery.

Certain groups of cases present special features. In Felsted after the initial four cases at the school, those which followed were confined to three families of relatives amongst whom there were six cases and two deaths. Two of these families each had a daughter who worked as a maid at the School House where the four boys were taken ill at the beginning of the outbreak. Both these girls remained healthy and though they were segregated as possible carriers and monkey inoculation tests were carried out no definite evidence confirming this came to light.

Definite contact with clinically recognisable cases was traced in 12 per cent. of cases only and as in previous outbreaks the infection appears to have been maintained by healthy carriers and by unattended or abortive cases.

The cases which occurred at Wethersfield were all connected with a patient who was a direct contact of a case at Finchingfield.

The degree of infectivity of the disease appears to have varied widely throughout the outbreak. The two isolated cases at Great Dunmow and Witham are of interest in that the number of contacts in both instances was a large one but no further cases followed them. It is also interesting to note that though the population at risk at Felsted School was a large one (approximately four hundred boys in addition to staff) the four cases there were not followed by any secondary ones.

The incubation period in the majority of cases could not be determined but where direct contact was established it varied between two to ten days which has been the experience in previous outbreaks. The length of the infectivity of clinical cases was not worked out but in all cases six weeks isolation was enforced and no return cases associated with the patients discharged at the end of that period were reported.

The condition of nourishment of individuals does not appear to have influenced susceptibility to the disease. Two cases of pregnancy were attacked with severe initial paralysis and both died subsequently. Two cases following tonsillectomy with sudden death were reported although the post mortem findings in these were not altogether conclusive.

A remission of symptoms was noted in approximately 40 per cent. of the cases and the importance of complete rest during this period was emphasised by the severe paralysis or fatal results which followed where patients have carried out strenuous work during the remission.

The Braintree Isolation Hospital Authorities are unable to admit cases of measles and whooping cough as a routine, owing to limited accommodation. Shortening the period of stay in hospital of uncomplicated cases of scarlet fever and careful selection of the cases admitted might, however, even at present improve the position in favour of measles and whooping cough cases. It is important therefore that the new isolation hospital which is planned under Section 63 of the Local Government Act shall include adequate provision for the treatment of cases of measles and whooping cough when this is necessary. The mortality from these diseases and their complications is more serious than is generally recognised.

Intimations of illness and infectious disease are received from the schools and acting on this information the exclusion of individual children or the closure of schools or school departments is arranged by the Medical Officer of Health when necessary.

Influenza and chicken pox were prevalent during the year. No closure of schools or school departments was however necessary on this account, but all the schools in the district were closed during the month of September on account of the outbreak of infantile paralysis.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936 for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes. This work is undertaken in the District by the Essex County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been taken during 1938 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade or under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936 relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis. Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1938, will be found below.

Age Periods (years)	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
1 „ 5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5 „ 10	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
10 „ 15	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...
15 „ 20	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...
20 „ 25	...	1	5	2	...	..	...	...
25 „ 35	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
35 „ 45	...	1	1	...	...	1	..	...
45 „ 55	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 „ 65	1	...	..	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...
TOTALS.	4	8	4	3	1	1	0	0
	19				2			

The percentage of deaths of un-notified cases is nil.

REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF

THE BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my report of the work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department for 1938.

A reduction in the number of Inspectors has taken place, Mr. E. H. Rosser leaving for an appointment with Bullingdon R.D.C. The housing survey of the District being completed, he has not been replaced.

Normal duties were suspended during the period of crisis in September for work in connection with the Government Evacuation Scheme.

NATURE AND NUMBER OF VISITS, INSPECTIONS, &c.

Complaints received and Investigated	...	...	88
No. visits to investigate complaints received	...	...	116
Housing Visits	...	...	320
Re-visits and inspections of work in progress	...	...	2,515
Interviews with owners, builders and architects	...	...	478
To obtain information as to "Permitted Numbers"	...	...	21
Inspection of houses prior to tenants removing to Council Houses	...	...	125
To supervise removal of furniture, for HCN fumigation	...	...	4
Tests carried out for presence of HCN after fumigation	...	...	4
Infectious disease enquiries	...	...	72
Disinfections carried out	...	...	57
Inspection of cowsheds and dairies	...	...	270
Visits to slaughterhouses and butchers' shops	...	...	1,590
Inspections of Knacker's Yard	...	...	4
" " Bakehouses	...	...	15
" " Fish friers' premises	...	...	8
" " Ice-cream premises	...	...	20
" " Factories and Workshops	...	...	3
" " Public House Conveniences	...	...	2
" " Camping Sites	...	...	3
Water samples taken	...	...	29
Milk " "	...	...	2
Drains tested	...	...	23
Schools inspected	...	...	4
Visits in connection with A.R.P. (Casualty Services)	...	...	82
Miscellaneous visits and inspections	...	...	276

CONTROLLED PREMISES.

DETAILS OF INSPECTION.

REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &C.	No. IN DISTRICT	No. INSPECTED	TOTAL No. OF INSPECTIONS	NOTICES SERVED	NOTICES COMPLIED WITH	LEGAL PROCEEDINGS
Common Lodging Houses	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses ...	34	15	15	3	3	—
Cowsheds ...	83	83	250	24	26	—
Other Dairies & Milkshops	8	8	20	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses ...	18	18	1,590	3	3	—
Knackers' Yards ..	1	1	4	—	—	—
Offensive Trades ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

LETTERS AND NOTICES SENT OUT.

Letters (other than informal notices)	...	...	468
Informal Notices	...	102	} 325
(Written)	...	...	
Informal Notices	...	29	
(Verbal)	...	...	
Formal Notices	..	...	1
Outstanding Notices (1st January, 1938	193		
Notices complied with during 1938	...	73	} 199
Notices served in 1934/5/6 & 7 (Not complied with) now cancelled owing to other subsequent action	...	126	
Notices outstanding on 31st December, 1938	...	126	

DETAILS OF WORK CARRIED OUT AS A RESULT OF ACTION TAKEN.

The principal work resulting from action taken is included under HOUSING, and indicated by the 167 houses thoroughly reconditioned. In addition, the following work has been carried out after the service of notices :—

Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	6
Defected floors repaired	...	...	...	2
Cooking facilities provided	...	...	...	2
Drains repaired	...	...	...	1
Premises re-drained	...	...	...	11
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	1
New ventshafts fixed	...	...	...	1
Manhole covers renewed	...	...	...	2
New water closets provided	...	...	...	7
Pail closets provided	...	...	...	5
„ „ abolished	...	...	...	7
Insanitary privies abolished	...	...	...	4
Defective water closet pans replaced	...	...	...	2
Water closet flush cisterns repaired	...	...	...	1
Pail closet receptacles provided	...	...	...	2
Defective cesspool covers replaced	...	...	...	1
Cesspool overflows disconnected from ditch	...	...	...	5
Foul ditches piped and filled in	...	...	...	1
Foul ditches cleansed	...	...	...	4
New sinks provided	...	...	...	1
Insanitary sinks removed and new provided	...	...	...	1
Defective sink waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	1
Unsatisfactory interior arrangement improved	...	...	...	1
Room lighting improved	...	...	...	5
Room ventilation improved	...	...	...	5
Dirty premises cleansed	...	...	...	6

Verminous premises cleansed	...	...	...	2
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	6
Leaky roofs repaired	...	...	...	1
Nuisances from keeping animals abated	...	...	...	4
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	1
Dangerous brick walls rebuilt	...	...	...	1
Coppers provided	...	...	...	1
Foodstores provided	...	...	...	1
External wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	1
Ice cream premises cleansed	...	...	...	1
Knacker's yard limewashed	...	...	...	1
Sanitary accommodation and washing facilities provided in workplace	...	...	...	1

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

Approximate figures at the end of 1938 :—

Privies	...	...	...	50
Pail Closets	...	...	...	3,150
Water Closets	...	...	...	2,050
Water Closets (Hand flushed)	...	...	...	10

MEAT INSPECTION

I am pleased to report a higher percentage of animals inspected during 1938. One Butcher who slaughters extensively for a wholesale trade has moved to premises nearer to Braintree, and is consequently more easily accessible. Regular inspection has been possible, but only by visiting the premises at least two nights in every week, and every Sunday.

I give the following table for your information :—

	BEASTS	PIGS	SHEEP	CALVES
Notified ...	1,083	6,579	4,538	875
No. Inspected ...	926	5,263	3,453	569
% ...	85.5	80.0	76.1	65.2

MEAT CONDEMNED :— 7,884 lbs.

All meat condemned has been voluntarily surrendered, and the diagnoses and decisions of your Inspectors have not been questioned in any instance,

	Cattle, ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs	Calves
No. Killed. ...	1,003	80	6,597	4,538	875
No. Inspected. ...	861	65	5,263	3,453	569
ALL DISEASES except Tuberculosis Whole carcasses condemned.	—	—	5	5	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	23	6	67	4	1
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	2.7	9.2	1.4	0.3	0.2
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY Whole carcasses condemned.	1	—	14	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	48	15	157	—	1
per cent. of the num- ber inspected affec- ted with tuberculosis.	5.7	23.1	3.24	—	0.2

COWSHEDS and DAIRIES.

Premises registered for Production and Wholesale	...	53
" " " " " Retail	...	30
" " " Retail only	...	8
Persons registered as Producers only	...	36
" " " Producer-retailers	...	30
" " " Retailers only	...	7
Premises licenced for production of Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	15
" " " " " Accredited Milk	...	34
" " to Pasteurise	...	1

WORK CARRIED OUT.

GT. BARDFIELD.	Unsatisfactory shed abandoned and ad- joining buildings converted to cowshed.
BRADWELL	1. New cowshed and dairy built for 30 cows, 2. Cowshed limewashed.

GT. COGGESHALL

1. Accumulation of manure removed.
Cowshed cleansed and limewashed.
2. Cowshed cleansed and limewashed.
Cows cleaned before milking.
3. Lighting in cowshed improved.
Dairy floor reconstructed.
Proper covers fitted on water tanks.
Cesspool cover repaired.
Cowshed cleansed and limewashed.
Feeding stuff removed.
4. Dirty milking stools cleansed daily.
5. New dairy built.
Cowshed equipped with new drainage,
mangers, stalls, windows, paved access
and impervious washable walls.
6. Cows regularly groomed before milking.
Washable caps and overalls provided for
milking.
Semi-covered milking pails provided.
Milking stools cleansed daily.

CRESSING.

FAIRSTEAD.

1. Additional lighting provided in cowshed.
General repairs carried out.
Overalls and caps provided for milkers.
Milking stools cleansed daily.
Cowshed limewashed.
Additional light and ventilation provided
in cowshed.
2. Section of drain re-laid
3. Drainage repaired.
4. Manure removed from proximity of cow-
shed.
Cowshed cleansed and limewashed.
Additional light and ventilation provided
in cowshed.
Defective drains re-laid.
Defective milking pails replaced by new.
Covered carrying pail provided.
Milking stools cleansed daily.

FINCHINFIELD.

1. Additional lighting provided in cowshed.
Stable converted into shed for six cows.
2. Floor paved with concrete.
Standings and channels reconstructed.
Milking stools cleansed daily.
Dairy floor repaired.
Drainage altered.
Cover provided for water storage tank.
Dairy limewashed.

HATFIELD PEVEREL Cowshed wall rendered impervious and washable.
 Additional light and ventilation provided.
 Paved access provided.
 Milking stools cleansed daily.
 Washing facilities provided.
 Overalls and caps provided for milkers.

BLACK NOTLEY. New floor and channels constructed.
 New stalls fixed and mangers improved.

WHITE NOTLEY. Additional light and ventilation provided in cowshed.
 Walls made impervious and washable.
 Concrete paving at entrance to cowshed.
 Partition wall repaired.
 New drainage.
 Additional access to dairy.
 General repairs carried out.

RAYNE

1. Additional lighting provided in cowshed.
 Cowshed floor paved with concrete.
 Drainage repaired.
 Caps and overalls provided for milkers.
 Covered carrying pail provided.
2. Milking stools cleansed daily.
 Overalls and caps provided for milkers.
 Covered carrying pail provided.
3. New concrete floor laid.
 New roof constructed.
 Defective stalls repaired.
 Walls rendered impervious and washable.
 Additional lighting provided in cowshed.
 Cowshed and dairy cleansed and lime-washed.
 Wall plaster in dairy repaired.

BARDFIELD SALING. Dirty cowshed cleansed and lime-washed.

WETHERSFIELD Cowshed extended and equipped for twelve additional cows.

BAKEHOUSES.

- 3 Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

1. Floor re-laid with concrete.
 2. Manure pit removed and galvanised bins provided, and emptied daily.
 3. Manure pit removed and galvanised bins provided, and emptied daily.
- Floors cleansed.
Premises limewashed.
Accumulation of refuse removed.
Utensils and equipment cleansed.

HOUSING.

The survey of the working-class houses commenced in 1935, has been completed during the year. A record now exists in the Department's filing system of every working-class house in the District. Owing to the large number of unfit houses found, housing activities have been chiefly concentratee on the thorough reconditioning of this type, rather than the repair of those which are not in such bad condition. The results of this work are indicated by the number 167 in the table below.

No. houses recorded in detail	...	...	320
" " reported to M.O.H. for action			
under Sec. 25 or Sec. 11	...	...	216
" " demolished	...	...	42
" " reconditioned	...	...	167
" of plans and/or Specifications submitted			
by owners	...	...	165

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Prior to successful applicants for Council Houses moving to their new dwellings, an inspection of the house they are leaving is carried out. In four instances the presence of bed bugs was discovered. The household effects were fumigated, in course of removal, by HCN. This was carried out by a firm specialising in the work, at an average cost of £2 15s. 0d. per household. The bedding was disinfected by steam at Dunmow Isolation Hospital.

The vacated house in one case, has been demolished, and in the remaining three, disinfection will be carried out by the owner when carrying out an extensive reconditioning scheme.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

No action has been taken under this Act during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been taken during the year.

ICE CREAM PREMISES.

The manufacture of Ice Cream by small retailers continues to decrease, as it is found more convenient and economical for these traders to obtain their supplies from the large wholesale manufacturers.

RATS & MICE (Destruction) ACT, 1919.

No action has been taken under this Act during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. W. FAIREY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

