

[Report 1937] / Medical Officer of Health, Brentwood U.D.C.

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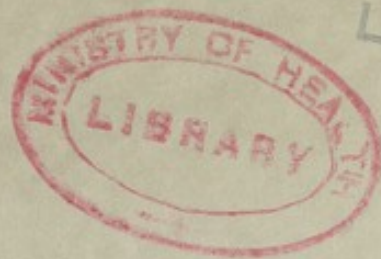
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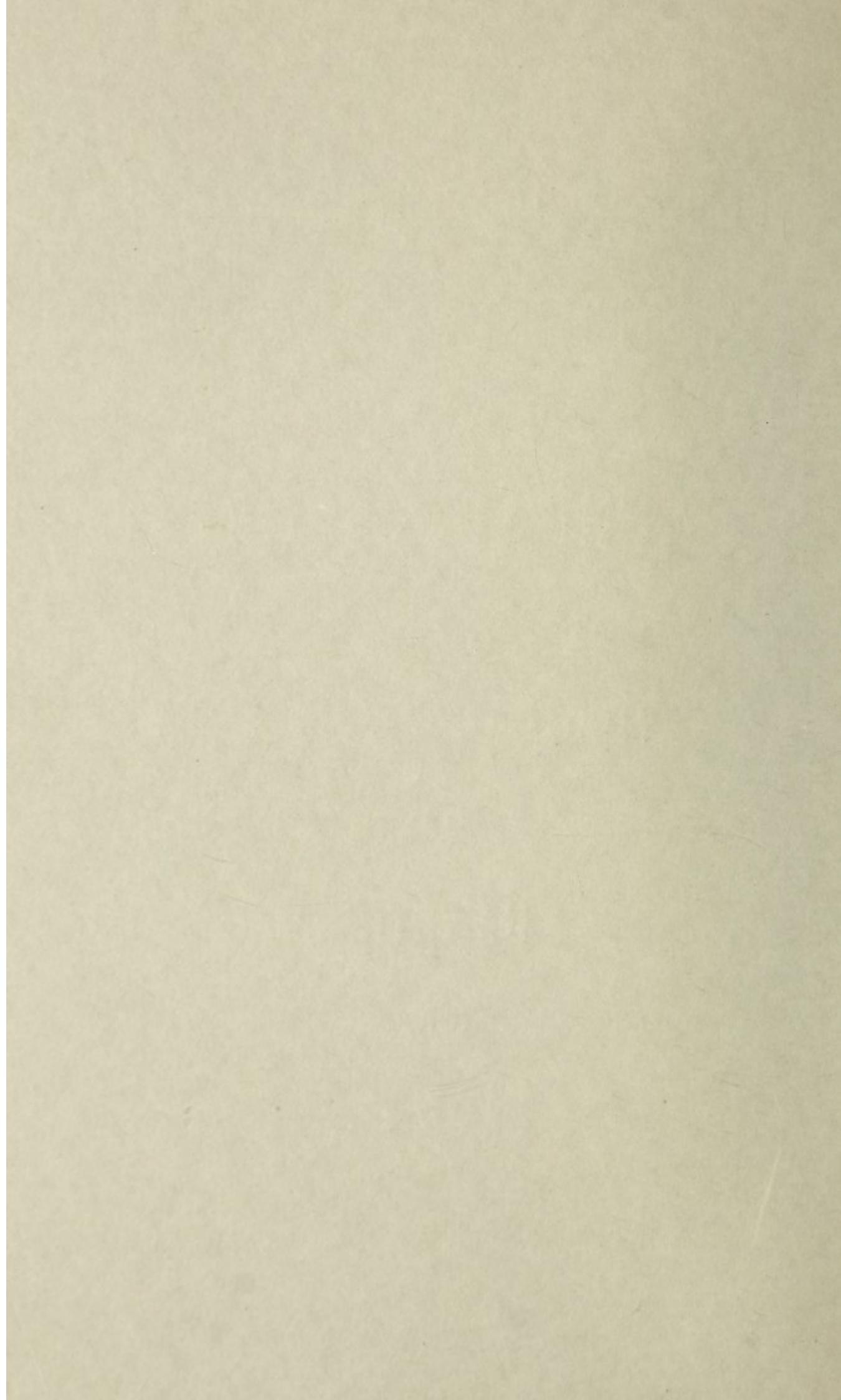
MEDICAL OFFICER

OF

HEALTH

for

1937



Brentwood Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

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BRENTWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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*MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (Part Time).

B. Fraser Beatson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. and H.
(late Indian Medical Service).

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Smoke Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

E. Badcock, M.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector,
Royal Sanitary Institute.

CLERKS

R. J. Sparrow

N. F. Webber

*25 per cent. of the time of the Medical Officer of Health was occupied
as an Assistant County Medical Officer,

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BRENTWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*Annual Report of the Medical Officer of
Health for the Year 1937.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present herewith my Annual Report for the year 1937, which has been drawn up in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

I desire to draw attention to the good and loyal services rendered by the staff of the Public Health Department and to record my appreciation of the great amount of excellent work which the two Sanitary Inspectors have carried out.

To the Senior Sanitary Inspector I am indebted as in past years for his most valuable collaboration in compiling this Report.

I also wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Council for its courtesy and sympathetic consideration and my colleagues in other Departments for their constant co-operation.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

B. FRASER BEATSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	18,166
Estimated Resident Population (Mid 1937)	...	...	...	...	...	27,300
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	8,000
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£231,057
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£883

While the District remains partly urban and partly rural in character the progressive urbanisation continues.

There are a number of Institutions for the treatment of tuberculosis, delicate children and mentally afflicted persons.

There is one large factory in the District, where photographic materials are produced.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	281	154	127
Illegitimate	16	5	11

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Resident Population was 11.20.

A comparison with previous years is as follows:—

1936	—	12.11
1935	—	10.66
1934	—	11.75
1933	—	10.40
1932	—	11.54

Table showing comparisons with England and Wales and with Smaller Towns having a population from 25,000 to 50,000

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population for 1937.

England and Wales.	Smaller Towns.	Brentwood U.D.
14.9	15.3	10.87

Stillbirths.

Total	M.	F.
9	5	4

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Total Births — 29.41.

Deaths.

Total	M.	F.
249	123	126

The crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population was 9.12.

A comparison with previous years is as follows:—

1936	—	8.86
1935	—	9.58
1934	—	9.19
1933	—	8.90
1932	—	10.60

The Registrar's-General's Areal Comparability Factor for 1937 was 0.93. By multiplying the Crude Death Rate by this figure a corrected rate which may be compared with the corrected rates of other districts is obtained.

The corrected rate for Brentwood Urban District is 8.48.

Table showing comparisons with England and Wales and with Smaller Towns having a population from 25,000 to 50,000.

Death Rate per 1,000 population for 1937.

England and Wales	Smaller Towns	Brentwood U.D.
12.4	11.9	8.48
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	...	1
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—		
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	37.03
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	...	35.58
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	...	62.50
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	3
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	1
Deaths from Cancer and other Malignant Disease	...	37
Death Rate from Cancer and other Malignant Disease per 1,000 of the Estimated Population	...	1.35

Deaths at various ages:—

Age Groups.	No. of Deaths.		
	M.	F.	Total
Under 1 year	7	4	11
1 and under 2	3	2	5
2 and under 5	5	—	5
5 and under 15	6	4	10
15 and under 25	3	6	9
25 and under 35	5	3	8
35 and under 45	3	5	8
45 and under 55	21	6	27
55 and under 65	15	16	31
65 and under 75	19	28	47
75 and upwards	36	52	88
Totals	123	126	249

CAUSES OF DEATHS:—

Cause of Death.	No. of Deaths.		
	M.	F.	Total
Measles	2	—	2
Whooping Cough	1	2	3
Diphtheria	6	—	6
Influenza	3	6	9
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	2	5
Other Tuberculosis	3	2	5
Syphilis	1	—	1
General Paralysis of the Insane	2	—	2
Heart Disease	32	33	65
Aneurysm	—	1	1
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	6	9
Cancer	18	19	37
Diabetes	4	4	8
Cerebral Haemorrhage	3	6	9
Bronchitis	4	3	7
Pneumonia	7	3	10
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—	1
Peptic Ulcer	—	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—	1
Appendicitis	2	—	2
Liver Diseases	1	2	3
Other Digestive Diseases	—	4	4
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	7	10
Puerperal Diseases (other than Sepsis)	—	1	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	5	3	8
Senility	6	15	21
Suicide	2	—	2
Other Violence	7	3	10
Other Defined Diseases	3	3	6
Total	123	126	249

It is satisfactory to note the low death rate,

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities were, as in previous years, provided by the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

The following specimens were examined:—

Diphtheria	—	307
Sputa	—	1,359
Typhoid	—	9
General	—	80
		1,755

MIDWIVES.

There are eight midwives practising in the District, the control of whom remains in the hands of the County Council.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There was no change in the previous arrangements.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There have been no changes in the arrangements previously in force.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These continued to be administered by the County Council.

HOSPITALS.

There was no alteration during the year.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

There are two Companies giving main water supplies in the District, namely the South Essex Waterworks Company and the Southend Waterworks Company.

Analyses of samples taken from these waters obtained from taps in the District are appended:—

Report on a sample of water taken on 14th December, 1937.
South Essex Waterworks Company's water.

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000

Appearance	...	...	...	Clear and Bright.
Colour	...	...	...	Normal. Odour: Nil.
Reaction pH.	...	...	...	Neutral: 7.8; Free Carbonic Acid —
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	...	...	...	675.
Total Solids, 180° C.	...	...	...	45.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	3.4
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	0.56 Nitrites: Absent.
Hardness: Permanent	...	...	...	11.0
Temporary	...	...	...	23.0
Total	...	...	...	34.0
Metals	...	...	...	Absent.
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0032. Ammoniacal Nitrogen —
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0160. Albuminoid Nitrogen —
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80° F.	...	...	...	0.185

Bacteriological Results.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.	
On Agar in 3 days at 20° C.	—
1 day at 37° C.	7
2 days at 37° C.	13
<i>Bacillus Coli</i> ...	Present in —; Absent in —.
<i>Bacillus Welchii</i> ...	Present in —; Absent in —.
<i>(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes)</i>	

Report: This is a clear and bright water, of normal colour and of neutral reaction. The water contains no excess of saline matter, is hard in character, free from metals and of a satisfactory degree of organic quality.

Bacteriologically it is of the highest standard of purity.

It is a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Report on a sample of water taken on 19th August, 1937.
Southend Waterworks Company's water.

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000

Appearance	...	...	Bright; very few siliceous particles.
Colour	...	...	Normal. Odour: Nil.
Reaction pH.	...	...	On the alkaline side of neutrality 8.5. Free Carbonic Acid —.
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	...	...	1115
Total Solids, 180° C.	...	...	74.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	13.6
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	Nil. Nitrites: Absent.
Hardness Permanent	...	...	0.0
Temporary	...	...	1.5
Total	...	...	1.5
Metals	...	...	Absent.
Free Ammonia	...	...	0.0004. Ammoniacal Nitrogen —
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.0018. Albuminoid Nitrogen —
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80° F.	...	...	0.040

Bacteriological Results.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.	
On Agar in 3 days at 20° C.	—
1 day at 37° C.	2
2 days at 37° C.	4
<i>Bacillus Coli</i>	Present in —; Absent in—.
<i>Bacillus Welchii</i>	Present in —; Absent in—.
<i>(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes)</i>	

Report: This is a bright water containing an occasional particle of siliceous matter in suspension. It is of normal colour, faint alkaline reaction, and very soft. The water contains no excess of saline matter, is free from metals, and of a high degree of organic and bacterial purity.

It is a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

It will be noted that the South Essex Waterworks Company's water is extremely hard, to an extent which cannot be regarded as satisfactory. So hard a water is not suitable for many people to drink and causes domestic waste and trouble. The activities in this District of the Agents for various manufacturers of Water Softeners make it clear that the householder is often compelled to carry out some process of softening which might be thought to be the duty of the Waterworks Company. It is a question whether a Company is really giving good service to the public in delivering a water of 34° of hardness.

The large number of wells in the rural areas has required the taking of many samples of water. The wells supply one, or at most a few, cottages or houses in each case and in no sense is there a general public supply of water drawn from wells in the District. Consequently there is little reason to fear a widespread water-borne epidemic of infectious disease from local wells. There is, however, the constant risk of a sporadic outbreak from the possible contamination of a shallow well and this is a very real danger when it is remembered that there are numerous cesspools of inadequate size in proximity to wells.

As was pointed out in my Report for 1936 the good and ample water supply which it is desirable to provide for every dwelling requires proper means for its subsequent disposal. Otherwise the already serious nuisance from overflowing cesspools will become overwhelming.

From this it becomes evident the Council cannot proceed too fast in providing sewerage throughout the District.

The following particulars show the action taken in respect of unsatisfactory water supplies outstanding at the end of 1936:—

Premises.	Action Taken.
Parish Pump, Ingrave.	Well Closed.
Bakery, Herongate.	Main supply provided.
Six Cottages, Ingrave.	Tenants advised to boil all drinking water pro tem.
House, Mill Hill, Herongate.	Main supply provided.
Cottages, Wash Lane, Hutton.	Well emptied and cleansed, top rendered in cement, and pump fixed to well, area about well rendered impervious. Several further samples were taken each of which was unsatisfactory. Reported to Public Health Committee; main supply to be provided.
Cottages, Doddinghurst Road, Brentwood.	Main supply provided.
Cottages, South Weald.	Main supply provided.
Dairy Farm, Shenfield.	Alternative satisfactory well supply in use.
Dairy Farm, Shenfield.	Main supply provided.
Crow Green Supplies (generally).	Ministry of Health informed, no further action to be taken for time being owing to cost and absence of sewerage system.
Hunters Chase Supplies (generally).	Reported to Public Health Committee, no action taken.

During the year 55 samples of water have been taken and in 27 the Analysts have reported the water to be unfit for drinking and domestic purposes. 3 samples were reported upon as being of doubtful bacterial purity.

The action taken is tabulated below,

Premises.	Supply.	Action Taken.
Bungalow, Hunters Chase, Hutton.	Shallow Well.	Reported to Public Health Committee.
Bungalow, Foxes Grove, Hutton.	Shallow Well.	Reported to Public Health Committee.
Bungalow, Foxes Grove, Hutton.	Shallow Well.	Reported to Public Health Committee.
Bungalow, Hunters Chase, Hutton.	Shallow Well.	Reported to Public Health Committee.
Cottage, Crow Green.	Shallow Well.	Ministry of Health informed; no further action taken for time being owing to cost and absence of sewerage system.
Cottages, Bentley.	Shallow Well.	New well constructed. Satisfactory sample obtained.
Bungalow, Hunters Chase, Hutton.	Shallow Well.	Reported to Public Health Committee.
Bungalow, Hall Lane, Little Warley.	Shallow Well.	This was a new bungalow. The habitation certificate was withheld and several further samples were taken after works had been carried out to the well and a satisfactory sample was obtained.
Dairy Farm, Herongate.	Well in Park.	Agents informed. Main supply to be provided.
Houses, Woodman Road, Warley.	Shallow Well.	Owner notified. Main supply to be provided.
Cottages, Canterbury Tye, Shenfield.	Shallow Well.	Owner notified. Main water carted to cottages pro. tem.
House, Arterial Road, Dunton.	Shallow Well.	Owner notified. Filter to be provided.
Tea Rooms, Arterial Road, Dunton.	Shallow Well.	Owner notified. Filter provided. Supply then satisfactory.
House, Arterial Road, Dunton.	Shallow Well.	Owner notified. Filter to be provided.
New Bungalow, Hall Lane, Little Warley.	Shallow Well.	Habitation certificate withheld. Further works carried out to well and satisfactory sample obtained.
Chelmsford Road, Mountnessing. (serving 7 properties).	Shallow Well.	Owner notified. Main water supply provided.

Premises.	Supply.	Action Taken.
Cottages, Brentwood Rd., Ingrave. (serving 10 properties).	Shallow Well.	Owners notified. Main supply to be provided.
Cottages, Middle Road, Ingrave.	Shallow Well.	Owner notified. Main supply to be provided.
Cottage, Herongate.	Pump from Shallow Well.	Owner notified.
Billericay Road, Herongate.	Pump from Shallow Well.	Sample found to be of doubtful standard of bacterial purity. Further sample to be taken.
House, Chelmsford Road, Mountnessing.	Shallow Well.	Sample found to be of doubtful standard of bacterial purity. Further sample to be taken.
Bungalow, Chelmsford Road, Mountnessing.	Shallow Well.	Sample found to be of doubtful standard of bacterial purity. Further sample to be taken.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year the proposed scheme to abandon the Hartswood Sewage Disposal Works and to direct the flow to the Nags Head Lane Works was completed.

Beyond this nothing further was done to improve or increase the sewerage of the District.

As pointed out under a previous paragraph the importance of substituting sewers for cesspools cannot be too strongly stressed.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No serious pollution of rivers and streams occurred during the year.

SEWAGE WORKS EFFLUENTS.

The analyses of effluents from Nags Head Lane have been consistently good.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following is a summary of the various types of sanitary conveniences existing in the Urban District at the end of the year:—

Water Closets	...	...	...	...	6,188
Pail and Chemical Closets	...	...	...	...	1,667
Conversions to water closets during the year	...	...	...	...	9
Hand flushed closets provided with cisterns	...	...	...	...	42

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of refuse continues to be carried out partly by direct labour and partly by contract.

The Council's tip at Wynbarns where controlled tipping is carried out gives good results.

Refuse from the area collected by contract is tipped on a site in Warley, though the methods are not so satisfactory as at Wynbarns.

STREET SCAVENGING.

The Council has now taken over control of County and Trunk Roads with the result that the mileage of streets cleansed amounts to 76.24.

Of this figure 37.19 miles are cleansed once daily, 28.10 twice weekly and 10.95 less than once weekly.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.**DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT, YEAR 1937.**

Total number of inspections and re-inspections made:—

Details	Primary		Re-inspec- tions
	Day	Evening	
Housing Consolidated Regs.	32	—	115
Housing Overcrowding Act	43	—	104
Re Sanitary Defects	267	—	691
Infectious Diseases	83	—	67
Verminous and Dirty Houses	26	—	31
Re Water Supply	35	—	154
Overcrowding	2	—	2
Common Lodging Houses	60	—	—
Factories	9	—	4
Workshops	17	—	—
Workplaces	14	—	—
Bakehouses	37	—	—
Shops Act	338	—	19
Demolition, Slum Clearance	7	—	—
Drains Inspected	157	—	91
Drains Tested	23	—	2
Cesspools	26	—	7
Smoke Observations	51	—	—
Factories (Smoke Nuisance)	3	—	—
Stables	12	—	—
Swine, Fowls and other Animals	2	—	—
Urinals	14	—	2
Tents, Vans and Sheds	16	—	—
Ponds, Ditches, etc.	27	—	10
Council Houses	35	—	—
Mortuaries	—	2	1
Tips and Waste Land	26	—	3
Rat Infested Premises	31	—	20
Miscellaneous Visits	203	12	—
Slaughterhouses	851	34	—
Slaughterhouses (Sunday)	5	—	—
Meat Shops	37	—	—
Provision and other foods	8	—	—
Ice Cream Premises	26	—	—
Hairdressers' and Barbers' Premises	11	—	—
Dairies and Milk Shops	63	—	—
Cowsheds	306	—	—
Knackers Yards	28	—	—
Fried Fish Shops	6	—	—
Samples of Milk	153	—	—
Samples of Water	55	—	—
Samples of Ice Cream	8	—	—
Totals	3153	48	1323

Informal Notices Served	294
Informal Notices Complied With	267
Statutory Notices Served (Total)	12
Statutory Notices Complied With (Total)	10
Number of Complaints Received	123

HAIRDRESSERS' AND BARBERS' PREMISES.

Number on Register	21
Number of Inspections	11

These premises were inspected in accordance with the byelaws adopted by the Council in pursuance of the Essex County Council Act, 1933. The premises and utensils were kept in a satisfactory condition.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The number of observations taken was forty-three as against nine for the previous year. Engineers and firemen were interviewed on ten occasions and two notices were forwarded to offending firms.

As mentioned in the Annual Report for 1936 considerable difficulty was experienced with a smoke and dust discharge from a brickworks and the introduction of a washing plant, whilst removing a large amount of the dust, still left the smoke problem to be dealt with. This was due to the reduced temperature of the gases which are used to dry the clay and whilst a higher temperature would probably abate the smoke nuisance, it would leave the clay in an unworkable condition for the process.

The question of atmospheric pollution from smoke appears to be receiving greater attention of recent years and in this connection the smoke from domestic fires appears to be the greatest and most constant offender against atmospheric purity.

Much good may be done if the public were made aware by the publication of comparative figures showing the extent to which various localities are robbed of active light by smoke pollution.

The accompanying table of smoke observations shows the results of observations during the year:—

Chimney	No. of Observations	Total minute Observations	Average amount of dense black smoke calcu- lated upon observations taken.
Brickworks, Childerditch	12	395	3.3
Brickworks, Kavanaghs Road	6	175	2.7
Brickworks, Shenfield	1	30	Nil
High Wood Hospital	3	90	Nil
Hutton Residential School	6	210	4.07
Mental Hospital	4	120	.5
St. Faith's Hospital	2	60	Nil
Selo Works	2	60	Nil
South Essex Waterworks	1	30	Nil
Royal Laundry	6	153	1.1

The byelaw in operation prescribes that the emission of black smoke for a period of three minutes in the aggregate within any continuous period of thirty minutes from any one chimney in a building other than a private dwelling house shall until the contrary is proved be presumed to be a nuisance,

LEGISLATION.

The following byelaws are in operation:—

- Hairdressers' and Barbers'.
- Smoke Abatement.
- Rag and Bone Dealers.
- Ventilation of Buildings.
- Moveable Dwellings and Camping Grounds.
- Slaughterhouses.
- Common Lodging Houses.

Essex County Council Act, 1933 (Section 158 of this Act, relating to ice cream premises).

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the year four Council houses and seven privately owned houses were found to be infested with bugs.

In respect to the Council houses the work of disinfection was carried out by the Council's workmen under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

Advice was given to the private owners as to the best means of eradicating bugs and inspections were made to the premises after disinfection had been carried out.

SWIMMING POOLS.

There are four swimming pools in the District, of which one is owned by the Council. The other three are situated respectively in Brentwood School, The Girls' County High School, and the Ursuline School.

Samples taken from these three school pools gave satisfactory results on analysis.

The Council's Swimming Pool situated in North Road was in use throughout the summer.

The size of the pool is 120 feet by 48 feet.

Capacity: 210,000 gallons.

Maximum possible number of bathers per hour: 315.

The filtration plant, consisting of vertical pressure filters complete with aeration and sterilisation by Chloramine and Ammonia processes, gives a turnover once in five hours.

There are three slipper baths for males and three for females together with the usual dressing rooms and conveniences.

Two samples taken by this Department gave satisfactory results. A third sample was taken personally by the Bacteriologist for Essex in August and he reported thereon as follows:—

"The general appearance of the Pool is very attractive, and it is obvious that treatment is carefully applied and supervised.

"The water in the Bath was clean and suitable and safe for swimming purposes."

SCHOOLS.

The Medical Inspection of Elementary and Secondary School Children was carried out as usual under arrangements made by the County Council.

There was no epidemic outbreak of infectious disease in Schools, nor did the need for School Closure arise.

The sanitary arrangements at some of the smaller schools where there is no sewerage system available require constant supervision by Head Teachers as well as by the Sanitary Authority.

Following a fire, by which a portion of the School buildings were destroyed, Shenfield Church of England School has been partly rebuilt. The new wing comprises three light and airy classrooms, together with cloak-room, lavatory, staff-room, etc., the whole being a good example of what a modern school should be.

The improvement on the old accommodation is remarkable and I should like to see some other Church Authorities throughout the District embarking on a similar enterprise.

The milk-in-schools scheme of the County Council is in operation in all schools and is most beneficial. Pasteurised milk is supplied by local dairies. In many cases where parents cannot afford milk it is issued to children free on medical recommendation.

An excellent cooked dinner is provided daily at low cost at the Boys and Girls Senior Schools and here again free dinners are given to necessitous cases on the advice of the School Medical Inspector.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

A full report on the three clearance areas was made in the Annual Report for 1936. In connection with these areas it is to be noted that during the present year all the occupants who were prepared to accept a Council House were re-housed.

The area known as Hart Street and Ropers Yard was demolished and the site cleared and fenced.

The demolition of the Crown Street area was held up owing to the question of business premises.

Demolition of the South Street area could not be commenced owing to the occupation of two of the premises. It is hoped that demolition will commence early in 1938.

With the removal of these insanitary houses in the various areas, there do not appear, at present, to be any other properties so situated as to form a clearance area.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

Further progress was maintained in dealing with the many individual unfit houses situate in different parts of the district and although each house represented involves a considerable amount of administrative work the report indicates the steady progress made.

Official representations for 12 houses for demolition were made. During the year the following properties were demolished, some of which were represented in 1936, and demolition held over owing to the difficulty of the occupants in finding other accommodation.

Six Houses, Billericay Road, Herongate.

3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Cottage Place, High Street, Brentwood.

Elm Cottage, Brook Street, South Weald.

With regard to six other cottages the demolition is held up owing to rehousing difficulties.

The owner of a further six cottages gave the Council an undertaking to have the premises repaired in accordance with the Council's specifications and works in this connection are proceeding in a satisfactory manner.

It should be clearly understood that the Housing Act gives the owner every opportunity of repairing these defective premises before the question is finally decided by the Council.

It is again recorded that several owners of defective properties situated in the rural parts of the district have been given particulars of the Housing (Rural Workers) Act by which they can obtain financial assistance in connection with the improvement of their cottages, but as yet no works have been undertaken with the assistance of the Act.

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)	299
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1105
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	32
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	147
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	12
(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	60

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	55
--	--	--	----

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	9
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
		(a) By Owners	7
		(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(b)		Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
		(a) By owners	3
		(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	8
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	13

(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	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the room or tenement having been rendered fit	Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART 4. — OVERCROWDING.

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	27
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	28
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	170
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	6
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	19
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	129
(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	Nil

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Number on Register	2
Number of Inspections	60

One common lodging house was demolished during the year.

The remaining premises require alterations and improvements and will be dealt with during 1938.

During the year the Council adopted byelaws in connection with these premises.

BYELAWS RELATING TO TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS, ETC.

No action was taken under these byelaws. During the summer months there appeared to be a reduction in the number of campers under canvas in the district. Complaints were made regarding van dwellers of the gipsy type camping in the district for a few days or a night, leaving the site, usually by the roadside, in an insanitary condition. Upon investigation it is often found that they have moved out of the district.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY

As in previous years samples of milk have been taken from retail purveyors and producers in order to test the purity of the milk produced and sold in the district.

These samples were submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories for examination. Under the County Council Scheme a proportion of these samples were examined without charge, the Local Authority undertaking the transport costs.

SUMMARY OF SAMPLES TAKEN:—

Number of samples taken from dairy farms at time of production	75
Number of samples taken from Producer Retailers during distribution	12
Number of samples taken from Retail Purveyors	29
Number of samples of Pasteurised milk submitted for bacteriological examination	18
Number of samples of Pasteurised milk submitted for Phosphatase Test	19
Total number of samples taken	153

Of this number 75 were taken during early morning visits to farms.

ACCREDITED PRODUCERS.

Forty-five of the samples taken were obtained from dairy farms licensed to produce this grade of milk. These samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue Reduction Test and Coliform Test with the following results:—

31 samples satisfied both tests.

13 samples failed in both tests.

1 sample failed in the Methylene Blue Reduction Test and satisfied the Coliform Test.

The following table gives particulars of the unsatisfactory samples:—

Sample	Methylene Blue Reduction Test		Coliform Test		Result
	Decolourised at end of	Standard Hours	Present in	Standard	
1	4 hours	5½ hours	0 tubes	Absence in 1/100th ml.	Failed Methylene Blue Test
2	3 hours	do.	3 tubes	do.	Failed both tests
3	½ hour	do.	3 tubes	do.	do.
4	4 hours	4½ hours	3 tubes	do.	do.
5	1½ hours	do.	3 tubes	do.	do.
6	2 hours	do.	3 tubes	do.	do.
7	1 hour	do.	3 tubes	do.	do.
8	3 hours	do.	3 tubes	do.	do.
9	2 hours	do.	3 tubes	do.	do.
10	1 hour	do.	3 tubes	do.	do.
11	3 hours	do.	3 tubes	do.	do.
12	1½ hours	do.	3 tubes	do.	do.
13	3½ hours	do.	3 tubes	do.	do.
14	1 hour	do.	3 tubes	do.	do.

It will be observed that during the 4½ hour period, which is the time allowed during the period from 1st May to 31st October, 11 samples failed in both tests whereas during the colder months of the year only 3 samples failed although almost an equal number was obtained during each period.

This test is stated by many farmers to be too stringent during the summer months. From the reports of the Laboratories it appears that certain producers have consistently had satisfactory samples throughout the year and in each case the standard of cleanliness in all stages of production at these farms has been very satisfactory. Judging from these results the Methylene Blue Test does not appear to be too exacting.

PASTEURISED MILK.

Eighteen samples of this grade of milk from schools and producers were submitted for bacteriological examination and in all cases the milk was found to satisfy the prescribed standard.

Nineteen samples of pasteurised milk were taken for the Phosphatase Test—efficiency of pasteurisation—and of this number ten were obtained from schools in the district; in all cases the milk was reported as being efficiently pasteurised.

UNGRADED MILK.

Thirty-two samples were obtained from dairy farms and submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results:—

Satisfactory	...	...	24
Unsatisfactory	...	...	8

Particulars of unsatisfactory samples:—

Sample	Temperature on Receipt	No. of Bacteria per c.c.	Presence of <i>Bacillus Coli</i>	Remarks
1	20° C.	180,000	Present in 0.01 c.c.	Unsatisfactory
2	19° C.	120,000	Ditto	Ditto
3	19° C.	—	Ditto	Ditto
4	18° C.	70,000	Ditto	Ditto
5	14° C.	72,000	Present in 0.001 c.c.	Ditto
6	14° C.	120,000	Ditto	Ditto
7	14° C.	16,000	Present in 0.01 c.c.	Ditto
8	14° C.	18,000	Ditto	Ditto

39 samples were also obtained from retailers during distribution and submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results:—

Satisfactory	...	...	33
Unsatisfactory	...	...	6

Particulars of unsatisfactory samples:—

Sample	Temperature on Receipt	No. of Bacteria per c.c.	Presence of <i>Bacillus Coli</i>	Remarks
1	9° C.	14,000	Present in 0.01 c.c.	Unsatisfactory
2	9° C.	9,200	Ditto	Ditto
3	15° C.	28,000	Ditto	Ditto
4	15° C.	25,000	Ditto	Ditto
5	16° C.	62,000	Ditto	Ditto
6	12° C.	42,000	Ditto	Ditto

It will be seen from the increased number of samples taken and the early morning inspections at dairy farms that a considerable amount of time has been devoted to this important section of the Department's duties.

In all cases where unsatisfactory samples were obtained from Producers in the district they were communicated with and notified of the unsatisfactory report. This was followed by an inspection being made just before production commenced and each stage of the operations was carefully noted with a view to ascertaining the cause of the contamination.

In this way many recommendations were made which helped the farmer in the production of a clean milk.

I am pleased to say that in the majority of cases the farmers welcomed the co-operation of the Department, for it is realised that more can be achieved in this friendly manner of understanding each other's difficulties than by the service of notices and great credit is due to the Sanitary Inspectors for their tactful attitude.

In one case it was necessary for the Council to warn the producer that unless an improvement was made in the general cleanliness and methods of production the Council would have to take action. As a result of this warning there has been a considerable improvement at the premises.

The reports of unsatisfactory samples obtained from producers with premises outside the district were forwarded to the local authorities of the respective districts for attention.

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS.

During the year the following licences were granted for the sale of designated milk:—

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	8
Pasteurised	...	...	4

Two of the above Pasteurised licences include pasteurising establishments.

The names and addresses of persons licensed to sell designated milk within the Urban District are as follows:—

TUBERCULIN TESTED.

Foleys Dairies, 143, High Street, Brentwood.
 Clemoes, J. L., 119, High Street, Brentwood.
 Davey, G., and Sons, 16, High Street, Brentwood.
 Denny, F. S., 61, Ongar Road, Brentwood.
 Frost, B. W., 76, High Street, Brentwood.
 Hatton, W. H., Little Burstead, Billericay.
 London Co-operative Society, Ltd., 48, High Street, Brentwood.
 Pannett, G., Fairview Dairy, Hutton.

PASTEURISED.

Barratt, R. F., Park Farm, Herongate.
 Davey, G., and Sons, 16, High Street, Brentwood.
 Frost, B. W., 76, High Street, Brentwood.
 London Co-operative Society Ltd., 48, High Street, Brentwood.

COWSHEDS.

Number of Producers on Register	...	...	...	...	...	49
Number of Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	91
Number of Cows (approximately)	...	...	...	...	...	1400
Number of Inspections to Dairy Farms	...	...	...	...	...	306
Number of Accredited Producers	...	...	...	...	...	27
Number of Producers granted Accredited Licences during the year	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of retail purveyors with premises in the Urban District	...	...	...	...	...	19

Number of retail purveyors with premises outside the Urban							
District	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of shops retailing bottled milk only							
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Number of inspections of dairies and milk shops							
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63

The following improvements were effected during the year:—

BRICK HOUSE FARM, SHENFIELD.

Main water supply provided in lieu of polluted shallow well supply.

TOOKS FARM, GREAT WARLEY.

Cowshed and dairy walls rendered impervious; ventilation to dairy improved; yard approach to cowshed improved; gas lighting installed in cowshed. Sterilising apparatus and boiler installed.

PALMERS FARM, SHENFIELD.

Internal walls of cowsheds rendered impervious; standings shortened and floors relaid in concrete; additional natural lighting and ventilation provided in each cowshed.

New dairy with separate wash-up and milk rooms.

HALL FARM, SHENFIELD.

Internal walls of cowshed rendered impervious; floors repaired; drainage from cowsheds reconstructed to discharge to cesspool; additional natural lighting and ventilation provided; electric lighting installed in cowsheds and dairy. Yard surface improved. Building reconstructed to house sterilising apparatus and boiler. Main water supply laid on to dairy and cowsheds.

SAWYERS HALL FARM, SHENFIELD.

Internal walls of cowshed rendered impervious; floor and channels relaid in concrete; yard approach to cowshed improved; structure of dairy improved and walls rendered impervious; sterilising apparatus and boiler installed.

CLYDEDALE FARM, HUTTON.

Cowshed walls rendered impervious, floor and channels relaid in concrete; additional natural lighting and ventilation provided; Dairy floor relaid in concrete, walls and ceiling lined with impervious materials; additional ventilation provided. Sterilising apparatus and boiler installed.

In several other farms minor improvements have been carried out including yard approaches to cowsheds and dairies.

It is pleasing to note that after the remarks made in the last Annual Report regarding the inadequate artificial lighting in many of the cowsheds that there has been a marked improvement and gas or electric light is now in use at 15 farms and incandescent pressure lamps are in use at 6 farms.

During the year under review there has been a further increase in the installation of mechanical milking machines and they are now in use at six farms. It cannot be emphasised too strongly that with the introduction of the machine care and attention is still required in cleansing the cows and in the thorough cleansing and sterilising of the machine after each milking.

The following list of producers has been registered for the production of Accredited Milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order:—

Allison, J. M., Fouchers Farm, Herongate.
 Batson, F., Tooks Farm, Great Warley.
 Batstone, E., Stonyhills Farm, Great Warley.
 Barratt, R. F., Park Farm, Herongate.
 Bloomfield, H., Hill Farm, Childerditch.
 Bird, C. H., Nuttys Farm, Childerditch.
 Brett, S. (Exors. of), Clapgate Farm, Little Warley.
 Calderwood, H., Creaseys Farm, Hutton.
 Clemoes, J. G., Hatch Farm, Thorndon Park.
 Cook, R., Martines Farm, Hutton.
 Cumbers, W. S. B., Brick House Farm, Shenfield.
 Dobson, E. E., Canterbury Tye Farm, Shenfield.
 Fetherston, S. J., Burses Farm, Hutton.
 Ford, F. W., Childerditch Hall Farm, Childerditch.
 Ford, W. H., White House, Little Warley.
 McTurk, G. A. D., Frieze Hall Farm, South Weald.
 McTurk, G. A. D., Rochetts Farm, South Weald.
 Phillips, G., Oakhurst Farm, South Weald.
 Rich, A. A., Ellices Farm, Hutton.
 Sansome, A. and L., Hall Farm, Little Warley.
 Steven, W., and Sons, Chain Bridge Farm, Mountnessing.
 Stokes, Mrs. D. E., Coxtie Green Farm, South Weald.
 Towers, H., Mount Thrift Farm, Herongate.
 Wainwright, C. A., Clydedale Farm, Hutton.
 Watt, A. P., Ingrave Hall Farm, Ingrave.
 White, W. G., Goldings Dairy, Great Warley.
 Widdowson, J. H., Calcott Hall Farm, South Weald.

DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS.

Number on Register	...	...	28
Number of Inspections	...	...	63

During the year two new dairies were erected and works of improvements were carried out at four other premises.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number of Premises	...	...	9
Number of Inspections	...	...	890

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number Inspected	385	Nil	79	774	7050
All Diseases except T.B.					
Whole carcasses con- demned	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	25	Nil	Nil	1	393
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than T.B.	6.49	Nil	1.26	0.12	5.06
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses con- demned	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	31	Nil	3	Nil	44
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tub- erculosis	8.05	Nil	6.32	Nil	0.66

The following table shows the slaughter-houses in occupation at the end of 1937:—

Registered	...	...	...	...	2
Licensed—					
(a) Permanent	...	...	...	...	6
(b) Annual	...	...	...	...	1

There is no public slaughterhouse in the Urban District. The standard of animal slaughtered is good and in addition the Butchers' Association has in operation an insurance scheme whereby a member is compensated for the loss of an animal.

One slaughterhouse was improved during the year. In one slaughterhouse attached to a large public institution animals are slaughtered for consumption by the inmates and not for sale and therefore no meat inspection can be undertaken under the Act.

The method of inspection continues to be that laid down by the Ministry of Health in Memo 62 Foods.

The following tables give particulars of meat condemned. It will be noticed that Tuberculosis continues to be the greatest cause of condemnation in beef. As to sheep, there was no condemnation for tuberculosis and only a small amount from other causes. No legal proceedings were taken during the year, all diseased, unsound and unwholesome food dealt with by the Department being condemned in circumstances which permitted it being voluntarily surrendered for destruction at the Council's depot.

SURRENDER OF UNSOUND FOOD, OFFAL, ETC., 1937.

Number of whole carcasses, parts of carcasses, organs and offals surrendered:—

	Cattle	Pigs	Sheep	Calves
Whole carcasses, including organs ...	—	11	—	3
Part Carcasses ...	—	3	1	—
Heads, including tongues ...	18	15	1	—
Lungs ...	22	209	1	3
Hearts ...	4	207	1	2
Livers ...	25	163	1	3
Kidneys ...	2	29	—	—
Mesenteries ...	9	29	1	1
Diaphragm ...	3½	—	—	—
Spleen ...	—	11	—	1
Skin of Carcase ...	—	1	—	—

REASON FOR SURRENDER AND WEIGHT.

Disease	Cattle lbs.	Pigs lbs.	Sheep lbs.	Calves lbs.
Tuberculosis ...	857	1162	—	337
Inflammation ...	—	540	15	—
Parasitic Condition ...	4	135	—	—
Cirrhosis ...	—	283	—	—
Abscesses ...	16	—	—	—
Distomatosis ...	200	8	—	—
Cysts ...	—	8½	—	—
Necrosis ...	—	3	—	—
Skin Eruption ...	—	66	—	—
Fracture ...	—	11	—	—
Fevered Condition ...	5	524½	—	—
Actinomycosis ...	20	—	—	—
Degeneration ...	—	2	—	—
Fatty Infiltration ...	—	8	—	—
Oedema ...	—	—	—	64
Moribund Condition ...	—	168	—	—
Totals ...	1102	2919½	15	401

SURRENDERS OF OTHER FOODSTUFFS:—

1 Tin Cooked Ham ...	11½ lbs.	Decomposition
1 Frozen Liver ...	12 lbs.	Ditto
2 Boxes Kippers ...	28 lbs.	Ditto
2 Tins Corned Beef ...	12 lbs.	Ditto
100 Danish Eggs ...	—	Ditto

Total weight of meat and other food surrendered:—

2 tons 1 stone 6¾ lbs.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

The number of men licensed to slaughter animals in accordance with the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, is 23.

Since the 1st January, 1935, all animals slaughtered in local slaughter-houses have first to be stunned by a mechanically operated instrument before slaughter.

ADULTERATION.

The Foods and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, is administered by the County Council, to whose Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures I am indebted for the following particulars:—

SAMPLES TAKEN UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

Article	No. of samples taken	No. genuine	No. adulterated or below standard
Milk	106	95	11
Butter	6	6	—
Lard	6	6	—
Margarine... ..	3	3	—
Cooking Fat	2	2	—
Cheese	6	6	—
Suet	2	2	—
Tea	1	1	—
Cocoa	1	1	—
Mustard	1	1	—
Pepper	1	1	—
Rice	2	2	—
Tapioca (flaked)	1	1	—
Sugar	3	3	—
Ground Almonds... ..	2	2	—
Ground Ginger	3	3	—
Ground Cinnamon... ..	1	1	—
Ground Arrowroot	1	1	—
Mixed Spice	1	1	—
Mixed Herbs	1	1	—
Glaze Cherries	2	2	—
Table Jelly	2	2	—
Jelly Crystals	1	1	—
Milket	1	1	—
Pea Flour... ..	1	1	—
Egg Substitute	1	1	—
Chocolate Roll	3	3	—
Veal and Ham Loaf	1	1	—
Total	162	151	11

The following particulars are in respect of the samples of milk which are noted above as adulterated or below standard:—

No. 1 was deficient in milk fat. Nos. 2, 3 and 4 were taken from milk in course of delivery to the vendor of No. 1 and were also found to be deficient in milk fat.

No. 5 was found to contain 4 per cent. of added water.

Nos. 6, 7, 8 and 9 were taken as a result of the analysis of the preceding sample. These four samples were found to be adulterated with added water to the extent of 29 per cent., 19 per cent., 10 per cent., and 10 per cent. respectively. A summons was issued in respect of each of these four samples and the cases came before the Brentwood Magistrates who imposed a fine of £5 in each case.

No. 10 was slightly deficient in milk fat.

No. 11 contained 7 per cent. of added water but was rich in milk fat. A summons was issued and the case came before the Brentwood Magistrates; a fine of £1 was imposed.

The following are particulars of samples of Milk taken from Schools in the Urban District:—

No. of samples taken	No Genuine	No. Adulterated or below standard
19	16	3

The following particulars are in respect of the samples of milk which are noted above as adulterated or below standard:—

No. 1 was found to contain 2½ per cent. added water, No. 2 was found to be 26 per cent. deficient in Milk Fat. These samples were traced to the vendor of samples Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9 set out above.

No. 3 was found to be 3 per cent. deficient in Milk Fat and the Vendor was cautioned.

ICE CREAM PREMISES:

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	...	47
Number of premises used for manufacturing ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	13
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	26
Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of unsatisfactory samples	...	...	...	...	...	3

Particulars of unsatisfactory samples:—

- (1) Number of bacteria growing on Agar in 2 days at 37° C. ... 148,000 per c.c.
- (2) Number of bacteria growing on Agar in 2 days at 37° C. ... 172,000 per c.c.
- (3) Number of bacteria growing on Agar in 2 days at 37° C. ... 520,000 per c.c.

It is regrettable that no legal standard of purity and wholesomeness in ice-cream is in existence. Until some standard is laid down the sampling and analysis of this article of food is likely to continue to be fraught with difficulties.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1928.

No rag flock was manufactured at any time at any premises during the year. One upholsterer has at times during the year used a small amount. No samples have been taken.

BAKEHOUSES.

Number of Premises	...	...	...	...	15
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	37
Number of Premises Improved	...	...	...	...	1

Extensive alterations were carried out to one bakehouse and oil-fired ovens were installed. Complaints were made to the Department of excessive noise and alterations were made to the oil feed apparatus which reduced the vibration, after which no fresh complaints were received.

KNACKERS YARDS.

Number of Premises	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	28

These premises are situated at the rear of the main shopping thoroughfare and appear to be the only business of this kind for the surrounding districts.

As will be seen from the number of inspections the premises are kept under frequent observation.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

Number of Premises	...	...	...	...	4
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	6

No further additions to this trade have been made during the year although several inquiries for copies of the Council's byelaws have been made by people desirous of commencing a business of this nature. They have had to be informed that the Council have no byelaws controlling this class of business.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	31
Number of Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	20

During rat week the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries were again observed and posters exhibited calling the attention of residents to the provisions of the Act.

Thirty-one visits have been made to premises in connection with complaints of rats, and rat poisons have been issued where necessary.

In many cases it was noticed that the occupiers have attracted rats to the premises by putting food and water in the gardens for birds during cold weather. It is usually at this time of the year that the rats are short of food and the occupiers' kindness for the birds often leads to the outbuildings becoming infested with rats.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Number of Inspections	338
Number of Re-inspections	19

During the year 338 retail shops were dealt with under subsections 1 and 2 of section 10 of the Shops Act. The matters calling for attention related to ventilation, sanitary conveniences and heating. After inspection thirteen written notices were sent and several verbal notices given regarding these matters.

In a number of cases the requirements of additional sanitary accommodation were held over as it appeared that several of these premises required washing facilities and these could best be incorporated when extensions were made for the conveniences. As the section of the Act relating to washing facilities was being administered by the County Council, arrangements were made to consult them on this matter.

The Council decided that where applications for exemption under section 10 (2) is made, the following general principles be laid down when considering such applications:—

- (1) That no application be entertained unless alternative sanitary accommodation is available at a distance of not more than 50 yards from the shop.
- (2) That public conveniences be not regarded as providing conveniently available sanitary accommodation.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Premises	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices Complied
Factories	32	8	7
Workshops	31	5	5
Workplaces	14	1	1
	77	14	13

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Lack of Cleanliness	9	9
Unsatisfactory water supply	1	1
Defective sanitary accommodation	3	2
Defective floors	1	1
	14	13

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.

There was a very marked fall in the number of cases as compared with 1936.

The disease continued to be of a mild type and occurred sporadically. As it is probable that more than 30 per cent. of apparently healthy persons are intermittent "carriers" of haemolytic streptococci the difficulty of ascertaining the source of infection in most cases is apparent.

DIPHTHERIA.

In conformity with the whole of England and Wales this disease showed a marked rise in incidence over the previous year, and had a tendency to assume a severe type. Of the six deaths which occurred in the Urban District, two were in children who were found to be moribund when a doctor was first sent for and their cases were the subject of an Inquest. There was no epidemic outbreak and the various cases occurred sporadically.

As in previous years, High Wood Hospital, which receives invalid children from outside the District contributed largely to the total number of cases.

It is considered that generally from 6 per cent. to 12 per cent. of apparently healthy school-children are from time to time "carriers" of the Diphtheria Bacillus. As the continual exclusion of such children from school is not practicable the value of securing the Immunisation of 100 per cent. of susceptible children cannot be over-estimated.

Immunisation of Elementary School Children was proceeded with steadily throughout the year and under the same arrangements as in the previous year.

In December the Scheme was extended to cover children of pre-school age whose elder brothers and sisters attend elementary schools in the District. Previously such younger children had been immunised if their parents cared to present them, but no official invitation had been made to them.

The response by parents continues to be disappointing on the whole as regards numbers, though at the same time an increase in confidence in the procedure is apparent.

The immunising agent was again Toxoid Antitoxin Floccules and it gave uniformly good results.

The following table shows the Schools visited during the year together with the average numbers on the Registers and the number of acceptances.

The difference between the latter total and the total number dealt with represents children under school age plus children whose injections had not been completed by 1st January, 1937.

School	Average number on Register	Acceptances
Brentwood Boys Senior	345	60
Brentwood Girls Senior	315	109
Brentwood C.E. Junior	309	80
Brentwood C.E. Infants	191	48
South Weald, Junction Road Junior	139	25
South Weald, Crescent Road Infants	120	20
Christ Church, Warley	147	49
Great Warley, C.E.	42	14
Bentley, C.E.	120	38
Total	1728	443

The following table shows the numbers of children dealt with under the Scheme.

Total Children presented	...	...	...	...	...	...	482
Schick Tested (over 8 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	283
Schick Negative	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Schick Positive	...	...	...	...	...	...	215
Required Immunisation	...	...	...	...	...	...	414
Received Completed Course of Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	346
Received Partial Course of Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Did not attend	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	414

Those children who had not completed their injections by the end of the year will do so early in 1938.

The following table shows the results of giving a Post-Schick to children who have been immunised under the Scheme. This test is given about three months after the final injection.

Number Tested	Result		Percentage of success
	Negative	Positive (requiring further treatment)	
169	165	4	97.7

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

Diphtheria Antitoxin for the treatment of cases of Diphtheria was issued free of charge to General Practitioners as usual. The amount was 280,000 units—being four times that required in 1936.

DISINFECTION.

Terminal Disinfection by modern methods as described in my last Annual Report continues to give entirely satisfactory results.

The Council, however, is still carrying on the steam sterilisation of bedding as a routine in cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. This procedure is of little practical value while at the same time it is expensive. During 1937 the cost was about £140.

The time is now ripe to complete our acceptance of modern knowledge of the value of terminal disinfection by abandoning routine steam sterilisation of bedding.

MEASLES.

There was no undue prevalence of Measles during the year.

DYSENTERY.

Many notified cases of Dysentery occurred at the Brentwood Mental Hospital. The Medical Superintendent reported that they were due to *B. Flexner*.

As *B. Sönne* Dysentery has been prevalent lately and has been the subject of certain inquiries by the Ministry of Health it is satisfactory to note that no such cases occurred either in or outside the Asylum population of the District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospitals	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	53	52	—
Diphtheria	75	69	6
Enteric Group (including Paratyphoid)	3	1	—
Puerperal Fever	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1	—
Pneumonia	22	4	2
Dysentery	43	In Mental Hospital	1
Erysipelas	12	1	—

It should be noted that the number of notified cases of Puerperal Fever relate to the first thirty-nine weeks of the year only. Cases occurring afterwards are classed to Puerperal Pyrexia and are included accordingly.

TABLE SHOWING THE INCIDENCE OF THE TWO PRINCIPAL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN VARIOUS WARDS.

Wards.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.
Central	39	42
Hutton	1	2
Ingrave	3	1
Shenfield	1	—
South Weald	3	20
Warley	6	10
	53	75

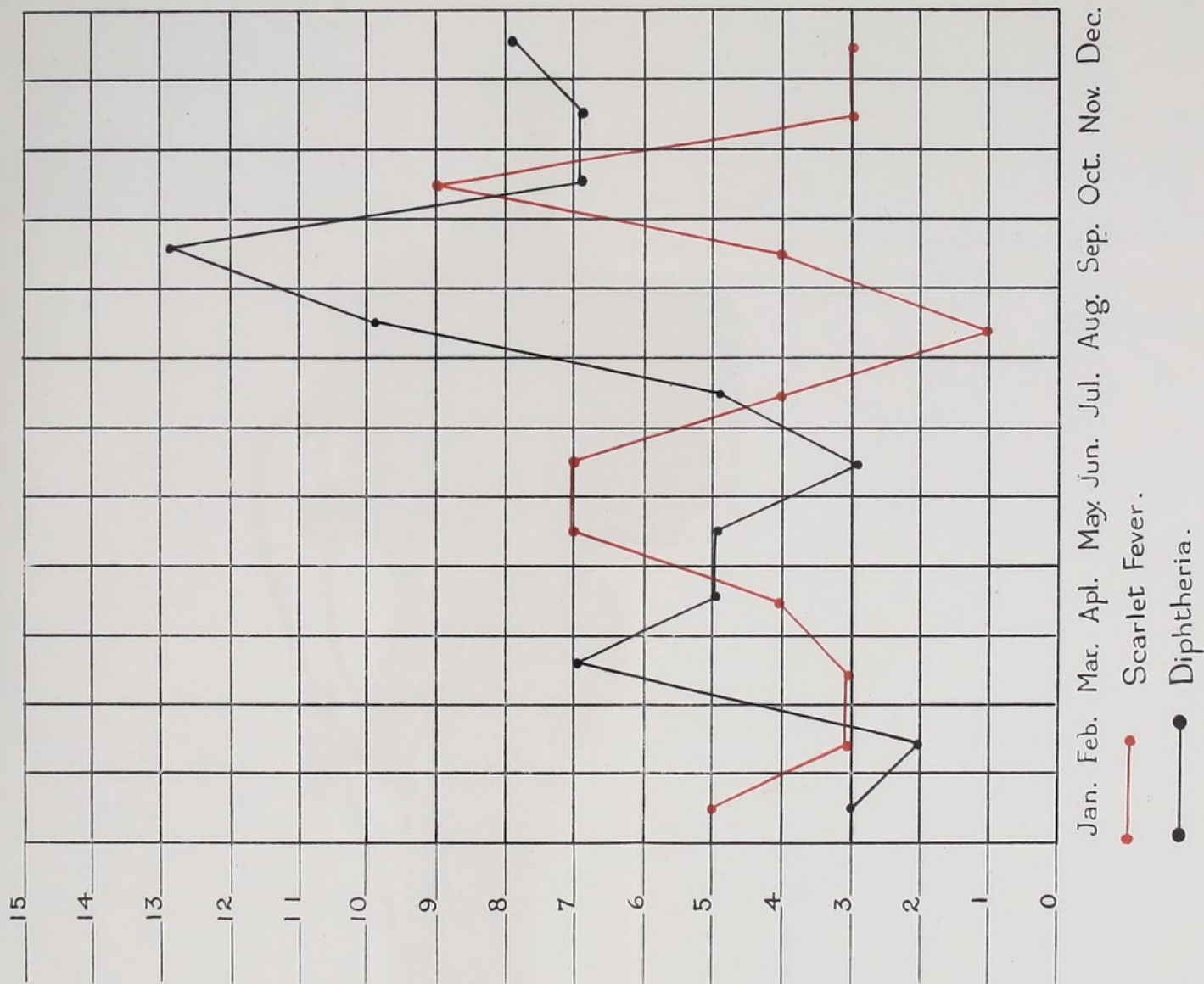
INSTITUTIONAL CASES (included in above figures).

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.
Brentwood Mental Hospital	—	3
High Wood Hospital	10	26
Hutton Residential Schools	1	2
St. Faith's Hospital	1	—
	12	31

TABLE SHOWING THE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AT VARIOUS AGES.

Disease	Age Groups	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 upwards	Totals
Scarlet Fever		1	1	3	2	4	21	11	5	5	2	—	—	53
Diphtheria		1	1	3	5	4	29	14	8	6	3	2	—	75
Erysipelas		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	5	1	12
Pneumonia		1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	5	4	5	2	22
Dysentery		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	11	18	3	43
Puerperal Fever		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	8
Enteric Group (including Paratyphoid)		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3
Totals		1	1	6	7	9	51	28	14	33	25	32	6	213

SCARLET FEVER AND DIPHTHERIA CURVES, 1937.



TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives particulars of the ages of new cases notified and Deaths from Tuberculosis during 1937 of persons normally resident in the District. The Tuberculosis Service is in the hands of the County Council.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 —	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
5 —	...	...	2	2	...	...	1	...
15 —	...	3	1	...	...	1	...	2
25 —	6	6	...	1	1	1	...	...
35 —	6	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
45 —	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 —	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 Upwards	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	13	12	4	3	3	2	3	2

