

[Report 1958] / Medical Officer of Health, Brentwood U.D.C.

Contributors

Brentwood (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1958

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ydqxu2rn>

License and attribution

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

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28948397>

Urban District of Brentwood

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(as at 31.12.58)

Chairman: F. W. C. Salway (1)

Vice-Chairman: Mrs. A. W. Dell, C.C. (2)

J. S. Alderton		P. J. A. Innes	
F. P. Anderson	(1)	J. A. Isgrove	(1)
C. Barber	(1)	T. W. Kenner	
H. E. Brownnett		G. A. D. McTurk	(1)
Mrs. M. P. E. Cater	(1)	J. W. E. Reddell	
A. V. Cave		J. S. Rowe	(1)
J. W. Cole	(1)	F. H. Sanderson	
H. E. Collins	(1)	A. R. Scrivener	(1)
E. R. D. de Rougemont, J.P., C.C.		D. F. Shiels	(1)
P. W. Duck		J. M. Smith	(3)
J. Durston	(1)	Mrs. H. G. Sparrow	(1)
H. J. Farrow	(1)	H. P. Terry	
C. J. L. Fox		H. Van den Branden	
G. C. Green		S. A. Wilson	(1)

(1) Member of Health and Sewerage Committee.

(2) Chairman of Health and Sewerage Committee.

(3) Vice-Chairman of Health and Sewerage Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

(as at 31.12.58)

Medical Officer of Health:

T. Mackinnell-Childs, B.A., M.B., B. Chir., D.P.H.

Deputy M.O.H.: R. G. Newberry, M.B., B.S. Lond., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

P. T. Shelton, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Public Health Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector, Royal Society of Health's Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, Final Examination Chartered Auctioneers' and Estate Agents Institute.

First Additional Public Health Inspector

E. A. Sheppard, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.San.I., Public Health Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector, Royal Society of Health's Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Second Additional Public Health Inspector

J. K. Blakeley, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.San.I., Public Health Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector.

Clerk: Mrs. S. M. Stacey. Part-time Clerk: Mrs. J. M. Smith.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1958

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Brentwood.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to make the following report upon our first full years work together. The population of our district continues to increase and along with it demands for housing. It is satisfactory to note that we have under way what it is to be hoped may only be the first of our Dorset Schemes. I have this hope because I feel that in years to come district councils will find an ever increasing need for specially laid out and supervised small unit accommodation. The reason for this being partly the result of our ageing population and possibly to some extent the result of the new Mental Health Act, for this new Act may well have the effect of switching the care of the majority of cases from the Institution to "care within the community."

In order to bring up to date and extend that most basic of civic services, namely, sewage disposal, we are facing very heavy-capital expenditure.

Our new refuse tip is running smoothly and well and here I should like to mention the close and continual supervision given to this work by our Chief Public Health Inspector.

We availed ourselves last autumn of the opportunity to take part in a nation-wide campaign directed against accidents due to fire the slogan being "Guard that Fire". I would like to acknowledge the willing help that I received from many quarters at that time and to mention also that contacts made then have furnished me with the basis upon which a more permanent Home Safety Committee is to be established.

It was during this year that our first smoke control area was prospected and promoted. We now await its confirmation and here again it is to be hoped that this is but the first of other similar zones in our district.

I should like to thank the Council for their support in my successful request for two additional sessions per week devoted to work on behalf of the urban district, and also for their generosity in enabling me to attend the Annual Congress of the Royal Society of Health at Eastbourne. There is much stimulation and impetus to be gathered from exchanges of views with such a large number of ones fellow workers.

Our Public Health Inspectorate has been strengthened by the appointment of Mr. D. Gilkes, and this has made it possible to undertake more routine inspections, especially of Food Premises.

I would like to close by paying tribute to all members of the Public Health Staff for their hard work throughout the year.

I am,

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. T. B. MACKINNELL-CHILDS.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	18,166
Estimated (mid-year) Resident Population						
					(Registrar General's figures)	44,170
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£516,376
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£2,014
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	12,547

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	372	349	721
Illegitimate	...	13	15	28
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	16.95
Area Comparability Factor	...	...	...	0.94
Corrected Birth Rate	...	...	...	15.93

Table showing comparisons with England and Wales:

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population for 1958:

	England and Wales	Brentwood	
		1958	1957
	16.4	15.93	15.00

Still Births:		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	9	10	19
Illegitimate	...	—	1	1
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	26.01
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	21.6

Deaths:		M.	F.	Total
Total deaths	...	227	261	488
Area Comparability Factor	...	...	...	0.84
Corrected Death Rate	...	...	...	9.27

Table showing comparison with England and Wales:

Death Rate per 1,000 population for 1958:

	England and Wales	Brentwood	
		1958	1957
	11.7	9.27	8.20

Infant Mortality Rate:			1958	1957
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	9.34	12.10
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000				
illegitimate live births	...	...	Nil	Nil
Neo Natal mortality rate per				
1,000 live births	...	...	6.08	
Maternal deaths				
(including abortion)	...	...	Nil	
Maternal mortality rate per				
1,000 live and still-births	...	...	Nil	

CAUSES OF DEATH

Infectious:

Tuberculosis—Respiratory and other	...	...	...	4
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	2

Cancer:

Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	15
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	8
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	53
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	3

Heart and Circulation:

Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	59
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	54
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	6
Other heart diseases	...	...	...	96
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	20

Diabetes	...	...	...	6
Influenza, Pneumonia	...	...	...	57
Bronchitis	...	...	...	20
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	4
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	42
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	6
All other accidents	...	...	...	7
Suicide	...	...	...	6

488

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following are comparative tables of infectious diseases:

	1958	1957
Scarlet Fever	21	29
Pneumonia	45	45
Poliomyelitis	2	4
Whooping Cough	12	83
Measles	42	1,143
Jaundice	—	1
Food Poisoning	2	1
Dysentery	6	75
	130	1,381

Poliomyelitis:

There were no cases in children of School age and under. Of the two cases that occurred both were paralytic in form. Neither persons had received any vaccination and both have recovered from the acute stages of the disease.

In regard to the protective vaccine against this disease, it is interesting to note that while 75% of those in the younger age groups eligible for protection availed themselves of it, a mere 12½% of those in the 16-25 group have so far come forward.

During the year some 4,000 doses of vaccine have been administered at the Queens Road Clinic.

Measles:

This condition is epidemic in alternate years, and an increase in the disease is to be expected during 1959.

Whooping Cough:

The figures show a greater reduction for the year than ever before.

Dysentery:

During the year under review we have had this very gratifyingly small number of cases.

Food Poisoning:

Two isolated cases were reported, neither being of a serious nature.

Vaccination and Immunisation:

The following figures show the number of Brentwood children immunised or vaccinated in 1958. The figures for 1957 are also shown.

			1958	1957
Diphtheria Immunisation:				
	Primary	...	643	261
	Booster	...	357	328
Whooping Cough:				
	Primary	...	569	163
	Booster	...	29	7
Vaccination against Smallpox:				
	Vaccinated	...	629	650
	Re-Vaccinated		160	364
B.C.G. Vaccination:				
	Tuberculin Tested		324	113
	No. received B.C.G		283	83
Poliomyelitis Vaccination:				
	Primary	...	6,924	1,452
	Booster	...	583	(2 injections)

TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

Year	Population	Births	Rate per 1,000 Population	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality:	
						Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
1953	33,410	448	13.53	455	13.61	14	20.09
1954	34,670	459	13.37	405	10.51	15	19.61
1955	38,040	577	15.32	492	11.64	23	24.26
1956	41,030	656	14.32	482	9.64	22	18.29
1957	42,330	661	15.00	413	8.20	14	12.10
1958	44,170	749	15.93	488	9.27	7	9.34

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS

	1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	1	6	11	2	1	—	—	—	21
Pneumonia	—	—	3	13	4	4	13	4	4	45
Poliomylitis	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough	2	2	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	12
Measles	—	8	11	21	2	—	—	—	—	42
Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Dysentery	—	1	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	6
TOTALS	2	12	27	49	10	5	17	4	4	130

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

National Health Service Act, 1946—Local Health Authority Services under Part III

The following is a list of the Clinical Sessions provided by the South Essex Area Health Committee and held at the BRENTWOOD COMBINED TREATMENT CENTRE, Queens Road, Brentwood.

Type of Service	Day and Time
Child Welfare	Monday afternoons, 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Immunisation and vaccination (Section 26)	First Monday afternoon in month.
Minor Ailment (School Health Service)	Wednesday morning.
Ophthalmic Clinic (School Health Service)	Thursday morning, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
Ante-Natal and Women's Welfare (Section 22)	2nd, 4th, and 5th Fridays 9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
Dental Treatment	By appointment.
Dental Inspection	Monday afternoons, 2 p.m.—3.30 p.m.
Chiropody	Daily—9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with extension to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays (Thursday, 12.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. only).
Handicapped Children (Education Act, 1944) Ascertainment of Mentally and / or Physically handicapped children.	By appointment.

The following is a list of the Clinical Sessions provided at the THREE ARCH BRIDGE ESTATE CLINIC:

Type of Service	Day and Time
Child Welfare (Nurse only) and Speech Therapy	Monday afternoons.
Minor Ailment	1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday mornings in month.
Child Welfare (Doctor in attendance)	Thursday afternoon.
Immunisation	Third Thursday in month.
Women's Welfare	2nd, 4th and 5th Friday mornings in month.
Vaccination against Poliomyelitis	By appointment.
Subsidiary Centres:	
Bentley Child Welfare (Doctor in attendance) (held at the Village Hall)	1st Thursday afternoon in month.

Bentley Child Welfare (Health Visitor's Session)	3rd and 5th Thursday afternoons.
Hutton Child Welfare (held at St. Peter's Church Hall)	1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons.
Warley Child Welfare (Health Visitors' Session) (held at the Warley Barracks)	1st and 3rd Friday afternoons.

Brentwood Foot Clinic:

Number of Sessions	...	...	...	496
New Patients — Adults	...	...	...	112
Children	...	...	...	85
Attendances — Adults	...	...	...	4,136
Children	...	...	...	392

Ambulance Services:

Total number of patients conveyed	...	19,318
Stretcher Cases	...	1,998
Sitting Cases	...	1,564
Walking Cases	...	15,756
Total mileage	...	116,691
Admissions	...	926
Discharges	...	354
Conveyed to and from clinic	...	14,902
Street Accidents	...	192
Home Accidents	...	86
Other Accidents	...	88
Maternity	...	250
Other Emergency	...	477
Total emergencies	...	1,093

Tuberculosis:

The following are figures relating to Tuberculosis for 1958.

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory		
	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.
Cases on Register 1.1.58	185	147	13	8	15	6
New notifications	4	5	—	—	—	—
Transfers in	21	17	3	1	1	2
Transfers out	5	5	—	—	—	—
Died	1	1	—	—	—	—
Lost sight of	1	—	—	—	—	—
Recovered	4	2	—	—	—	—
Total removed from register	11	8	—	—	—	—
Cases on register 31.12.58	199	161	16	9	16	8

B.C.G. Vaccination:

Vaccination of Secondary School children entering upon their last year at School has been continued in the Brentwood Boys' School, the Ursuline Girls' School, and the several local Secondary and High Schools.

National Assistance Act, 1948:

There are no cases to report under this Act.

Water Supply:

We continue to draw our water from two sources. The South Essex Water Works Company and the Southend Water Works Company. Both these supplies have been satisfactory throughout the year under review.

The Mobile Mass Radiography Unit:

There was no Mass Radiography Survey carried out in Brentwood during 1958.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

The entire absence of any sizeable water course has proved a serious obstacle to satisfactory sewage disposal in this area. Normal sewage effluents such as demanded by the Royal Commission are of a relatively low standard, and their safe disposal depends upon very considerable dilution by a constant and level amount of stream or river water. The few small streams here available, in dry weather at any rate, sometimes are of less volume than the effluent discharge in them. It is for this reason the Essex River Board have set an effluent twice as pure as that recommended by the Royal Commission in 1912 already referred to. As the Chief Engineer and Surveyor's remarks appended below, will emphasize the high standard of effluent whilst being most necessary under the circumstances, is at the same time costly to produce:

"The Council are concerned at the present time with the preparation of major schemes for the extension of their Sewage Disposal Works, in order to accommodate the increase in population of the area having due regard to the small water courses which are available in this district for discharging the effluent of the town.

I described in my 1957 annual report the detailed work that had been carried out by the Engineer and Surveyor's department of the Council in planning for the schemes. In particular, mention was made of the Shenfield and Hutton Sewage Disposal Works' extension where

equipment costing approximately £70,000 had already been purchased by the Council as part of the main scheme. Tenders have now been received for the main civil engineering work amounting to approximately £350,000, and permission is now awaited from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to commence construction.

Contract drawings are now being prepared for the extensions at Lapwater Hall where permission has already been received from the Ministry to the Council's proposals.

The remaining area of the Town discharges effluent to the Nags Head Lane Sewage Disposal Works. This drainage area has already been developed to the limits allowed as shown on the Development Plan. The effluent from the works, however, discharges also into a small watercourse. Considerations are now in hand for either improving the works so that the discharge conforms to a similar standard as prescribed for the works at Shenfield and Hutton or for participating in a regional scheme that was proposed for this portion of Essex for discharging the whole of the effluent, together with other adjoining authorities' effluent to the Thames. Negotiations on this matter are now being actively proceeded with and the various proposals are in hand for enabling the adjoining authorities to deal with their sewage problem, and in the light of these recommendations, the Brentwood Council will have to consider what steps are necessary to meet their own responsibilities."

Clean Air Act, 1956:

An area involving some 169 houses has been put forward as a designated Smoke Control Area, and the Minister has recommended the setting up of an inquiry as there have been in consequence a number of protests from the tenants of some of the houses involved. It seems likely that the inquiry will be held sometime in May, 1959. Efforts have been made to explain the benefits to be expected from this Act and also to point out the ways and means of getting the best results from the variety of recommended fuels. The question as to the availability of supplies of authorised smokeless fuels has been very deeply explored, and while it seems unlikely that there will be any great problem of this nature, I would point out that in the absence of supplies people would not be in any way criticised for burning whatever alternative fuel they were able to obtain.

There can be no doubt that as the number of areas declared smokeless increases, so will air pollution diminish, and it is very much to be hoped that each year will see some progress towards the ultimate aim, to see a smoke free England and Wales.

Health Education:

Several meetings have been attended and talks given to Parents' Teachers Association and Head Teachers' Association both with and without the aid of the film show projector. It is hoped in future that more time may be devoted to this important branch of the Public Health Services.

Tuberculosis After-Care Association:

This Association has continued its useful voluntary work throughout the year with the help of the Health Visitors.

It is interesting to note the change of the title of the M.A.P.T. Bulletin which is now known as the Chest and Heart Bulletin. This gives an indication of the widening scope of the Chest Physician whose activities have been mainly concerned with the treatment of Tuberculosis. The steady and welcome decrease in the cases of Tuberculosis requiring In Patient treatment have enabled him to give more time and consideration to other Chest and Heart conditions.

Hospitals in the Area:

It seems likely that High Wood Hospital will now, in part at any rate, be used as additional accommodation for the aged. It may be that the elderly sick now accommodated at Harold Wood Hospital may be re-accommodated at High Wood Hospital, thus making way for the provision of a Maternity Unit at Harold Wood Hospital.

The Chest Clinic will continue to function at High Wood Hospital as before, and the Chest Physician will have a certain number of beds under his control for the treatment of Chest conditions in general.

SECTION B

DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Inspection of Area:	Inspections	Re-inspections
Housing Acts, 1936-1957 (Demolition or Closure)	3	167
Housing Act, 1957, Sec. 9 (Repair of Housing defects)	15	151
Public Health Act, 1936 (Remedy of Sanitary Defects)	121	503
Housing Acts—Improvement grants ...	69	126
Rent Act, 1957 (Re applications for Certificates of Disrepair) ...	35	72
Housing Act (Overcrowding) ...	1	—
Public Health Act (General) ...	139	123
Infectious Disease	64	37
Food Poisoning Investigation ...	7	1
Verminous Premises	7	4
Dirty Premises	2	3
Water Supplies	5	52
Drainage and Sewerage	93	180
Cesspools and Pail Closets	15	29
Ponds, Ditches, etc.	71	139
Keeping of swine, fowl, etc.	7	7
Accumulation of Refuse	15	19
Refuse Tips	53	—
Rats and Mice (General)	96	47
Rats and Mice (Sewer baiting) ...	45	—
Factories (Power)	91	28
Factories (Non-Power)	16	6
Outworkers	17	—
Shops Act	17	—
Hairdressers Premises	3	—
Massage Establishments	13	—
Pet Shops	5	—
Moveable Dwellings	64	371
Swimming Bath Visits	19	—
Swimming Bath Samples	14	—
Miscellaneous Visits	331	3
Miscellaneous Interviews	16	—
Clean Air Act, 1956	32	—
Poliomyelitis Inquiries (Investigation)	86	—
Waste Food Order	28	1
Visits re Flooding	564	—
	2,179	2,069
Number of Complaints received ...		332

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Food Hygiene Regulations—1955/56:

The implementation of the above regulations continued to take up a good deal of time throughout the year. As the District continues to grow and attracts a number of new food shops it is found that the older shopkeepers are more inclined to modernise their premises and bring them up to a good standard. Food preparation premises, however, tend to lag somewhat behind the ordinary shopkeeper in this respect, as the accent is always on the restaurant in full view of the public, rather than on the kitchen which is not open to universal inspection. It is found also, that legislation relating to the temperature at which food is kept is extremely difficult to enforce in premises of this kind. Nevertheless good co-operation was maintained with the vast majority of those responsible at food premises generally, and during the year routine visits in the district showed that the overall standard continued to improve. A great deal of work remains to be done in this field and it is hoped that the number of routine visits will increase during 1959.

Food Inspection:

Number of visits made:						
Slaughterhouses		...	...	...	...	148
Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	...	53
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	11
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	190
Cafes, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	57
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	12
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	78
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	26
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	19
Canteens (School)	...	...	...	...	...	31
Canteens (Factory)	...	...	...	...	...	22
Canteens (Institutional)	...	...	...	...	...	13
Samples (Milk)	...	...	...	...	...	44
Samples (Ice-cream)	...	...	...	...	...	44
Samples (Water)	...	...	...	...	...	14
						762

Milk Supplies:

Most supplies in the district are obtained by local dairymen from outside the area. All premises where the primary business is the storage and sale of milk are treated as dairies for the purpose of this report. During the year 44 samples of milk were obtained and submitted for bacteriological examination. Results were as follows:

Pasteurised Milk:

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	23
Number of samples satisfactory	...	...	...	...	23

Sterilised Milk:

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	6
Number of samples satisfactory	...	...	...	...	6

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	8
Number of samples satisfactory	...	...	...	...	8

Tuberculin Tested:

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	7
Number of samples satisfactory	...	...	...	...	7

Ice-cream Supplies:

44 samples of ice-cream were also submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. Once again it was very pleasing to note that all of these complied with the Provisional Grade 1, at present accepted as the highest standard.

Condemnation of unsound food:

The total amount of meat and other foods condemned during the year was:

Ton	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
1	17	3	9

All condemned food other than meat was disposed of at the Council's Refuse tip under the supervision of the Public Health Inspectors. Meat condemned at the two slaughterhouses in the district was generally collected by recognised merchants, after staining to prevent misuse.

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed & inspected	252	—	18	284	266	—

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:

Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	60	—	2	44	31	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	23.81 %	—	16.66 %	15.49 %	11.65 %	—

Tuberculosis only:

Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	13	—	—	—	15	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.55 %	—	—	—	5.65 %	—

Cysticercosis:

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Slaughterhouses:

There are still two licensed slaughterhouses in the district, and in both cases supplies are for their own shops only. The incidence of Tuberculosis in the animals slaughtered was again low. Once again 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Urban District was carried out.

Water Sampling:

Bi-monthly samples were taken of the main water supplies afforded in the district and were submitted for bacteriological examination. Regular samples were also submitted for full chemical analysis. The results in all cases were satisfactory.

Swimming Pools:

Samples were taken from the various Swimming Pools in the area as follows:

	<i>Number of samples taken</i>	<i>Number of samples satisfactory</i>
Brentwood U.D.C.—Public Swimming Bath	8	8
Brentwood Boys' School	2	2
Ursuline High School	2	2
Brentwood Girls' High School	2	2

Moveable Dwellings:

A total number of 435 visits were made of which 365 were necessary to enforce the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936 in regard to the unlicensed site mentioned in the Annual Report for the year 1957. No satisfactory solution of this particular problem has been found so far, but it is felt that the regular daily visits had the general effect of keeping the number of vans on the site down to reasonable proportions. Other licenses to station and use caravans in the district were granted, and the conditions maintained at all these individually licensed sites were generally very satisfactory.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 RAT AND MICE INFESTATION

A total number of 188 visits were made in connection with rat and mice infestation and the Council's sewers in the district were given two treatments during the year. The destruction of rats and mice at domestic and shop premises was normally carried out by one part-time employee, the costs being re-charged on a time and material basis.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(1) Inspections:

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>No. of Notices Served</i>	<i>No. of Notices Complied</i>
Factories (Power)	138	10	9
Factories (Non-Power)	22	2	2

(2) Defects Found:

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Lack of cleanliness	2	2
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	2	1
Unsuitable sanitary accommodation	7	7
Not separate for sexes	1	1

(3) Outworkers:

Number of Outworkers	10
Number of Inspectors	17

REFUSE DISPOSAL

During the year tipping operations were commenced at a new site in Coxtie Green Road, Brentwood. The general supervision of the tip was placed under the control of the Public Health Department, and from the onset every effort was made to ensure that fully controlled tipping was carried out. Teething troubles were experienced at the commencement, but generally co-operation with the contractors was good and results so far have been reasonably satisfactory. The total area available for tipping is some 37 acres and this is expected to serve the needs of the Urban District for some years to come.

Flooding of Area:

A severe storm on Friday, September 5th, created flooded conditions in parts of the area. Below is an extract of the report made in this matter to the Council's Public Health Committee:

"The storm of Friday, September 5th, created flooded conditions in several widespread parts of the area and on the Saturday following an attempt was made to assess the public health considerations involved. Action was therefore taken as follows:

- (1) The Statutory Water Companies serving the area were contacted to ensure that the main supplies to the district were intact and it was soon apparent that there was little danger from the contamination of drinking water supplies. During the past few days no evidence of contamination of main

supplies has come to light. It is not thought that the small number of properties who depend on well supplies in the area will be adversely affected, but samples will be taken as soon as possible in any cases of doubt.

- (2) The Engineer and Surveyor of course dealt with the problems relating to sewage disposal and so far as possible spot checks were made at various houses to see that the ordinary house drains were working satisfactorily. Where necessary the emptying of cesspools was expedited.
- (3) In some cases food supplies were affected, but the damage suffered to these in the area (apart from growing crops) does not appear to have been considerable and it has not so far been found necessary to condemn much food. Failure of power supplies to refrigerators in some cases caused meat to go bad and it has been necessary to condemn a small quantity of meat because of this.
- (4) In numerous cases it was found necessary to supply occupants with quantities of powder to disinfect underneath wooden floors. In some cases it was necessary to arrange for the removal of floorboards for this purpose. Occupiers were also advised to see that all air gratings were cleared to prevent the setting up of dry rot in the underfloor timbers. This work was done in conjunction with the Engineer and Surveyor's department.
- (5) With the co-operation of the W.V.S., Police, and the Civil Defence Assistant, Col. McGregor, arrangements were made to supply paraffin heaters and fuel to those properties where considerable drying out was needed. Members of the public readily offered the loan of heaters for this purpose.
- (6) Cases where medical attention was thought to be necessary were dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health.
- (7) In all over 200 visits were made by the staff of the Public Health Department and it is expected that various minor matters arising out of the flooding will need attention for the next week or so.

I would like to record my appreciation of the work done by Mr. Sheppard and Mr. Blakeley in this matter."

Housing:

The total number of visits and re-visits made under the Public Health and Housing Acts were 960 and this represented a fair proportion of the time spent in dealing with housing matters generally. Progress with the Council's Slum Clearance programme was again slow, but a good proportion of the unfit houses have now been dealt with by way of closure or demolition orders, and it will be necessary to try and keep the still substantial number of older houses in the district in good repair. As a result of the passing of the Rent Act, 1957, rents generally in the smaller types of houses in the area have been to some extent increased, and it is hoped consequently that the repairing sections of the Housing Acts can be used to greater effect. Numerous applications for improvement grants as provided for by the Housing Acts continue to be dealt with by the Public Health Department, and the scheme again worked well throughout the year. At the same time as the improvements were carried out, it was sometimes necessary to have other ordinary repairs executed and the overall results were generally satisfactory. One of the great housing needs in the area is to provide the older houses with modern amenities, such as bathrooms, hot and cold water, and indoor sanitation. The improvement grants made by the Council are assisting in this.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Houses in clearance areas and unfit houses elsewhere:

(a) Houses demolished during year:

In clearance areas	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Not in clearance areas (As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957)	...	...	...	...	...	7

(b) Unfit Houses closed during year:

Under Section 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	7
Parts of buildings closed	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(c) Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied:

(a) After informal action by Local Authority	...	51
--	-----	----

(b) After formal notice under:

(i) Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	6
(ii) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	...				11

(d) Unfit Houses in temporary use	...	...	...	Nil
-----------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

(e) Purchase of houses by agreement	...	...	...	Nil
-------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----