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Contributors

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CHELMSFORD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

1955

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA :

W. H. Houldershaw, Ltd., 49-55, London Road,

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STAFF

Clerk of the Rural District Council : C. A. Bohannon

Deputy Clerk of the Rural District Council : A. J. Little, LL.B.,
D.P.A.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health : T. D. Blott, B.Sc., M.B., B.S.,
D.P.H. (also Medical Officer of Health to Borough of Maldon &
Maldon Port Health Authority, Urban District of Burnham-on-
Crouch, Rural Districts of Chelmsford & Maldon, and Assistant
County Medical Officer, Essex County Council.)

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health :

Mrs. E. M. Renzelman (part-time).

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

*Chief Sanitary Inspector and Petroleum Inspector :**

A. Denton Ogden, M.B.E., F.R.S.H., F.S.I.A.,
Hon. Fellow, American Public Health Association.

*Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :**

T. H. C. Bartrop, F.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors :

L. G. Smart, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.*

F. B. Brewster, A.R.S.H.

Chief Clerk : R. H. Hawkes.

Clerk/Typist : Mrs. R. S. Church.

*Qualified Inspectors of Meat and other Foods, Royal Society
of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the Chelmsford Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I present herewith my second Annual Report covering the year 1955.

Infectious disease notifications numbered 649 compared with 270 in 1954. This increase is due to an epidemic of measles, 547 cases being notified.

There is a wide-spread feeling that notifications are filed and forgotten, therefore local authorities have to convince doctors that notification is worth the trouble and essential for effective, preventive action. Hospitals should make certain that the private doctor has notified, or else do it themselves.

There were 8 cases of poliomyelitis in the area with 1 death. I hope all our children will have been immunised against this disease before we have another outbreak.

Your authority has certain duties under the National Assistance Act, 1946, in connection with the care of old people and an increasing amount of my time is now taken up with this often difficult work.

When Dr. Thresh presented his first Annual Report as your Medical Officer for the year 1889, most of his introduction was devoted to deaths due to infectious disease. Thirty died during the year from whooping cough, measles and typhoid fever.

Water supplies also were of great health importance. Of the 31 samples taken by Dr. Thresh in the last four months of 1889, 14 were good, 10 bad and 7 suspicious; very different from the analyst's figures in this year's report.

About Housing he strikes a more modern note, observing that "it is worse than useless to condemn houses as unfit for human habitation unless better houses have been provided." Our legislators might well read his report with profit.

I feel that as the work of the Medical Officer has changed so much in character with the years that it would be more appropriate for your Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Denton Ogden, to write the introduction to the section of this Report for which he is responsible. This is in line with modern practice and should allow for future developments.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. David Smith, Chairman of the Public Health Committee, for his advice and support which have been so generously given to me, and also to Mr. Denton Ogden, your Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the Staff of his Department, who never fail me in any emergency.

Finally I can do no better than quote Dr. Thresh and close by thanking the Council for the courtesy with which they have always listened to my reports.

Your obedient servant,

T. D. BLOTT.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Public Health Committee consists of all the members of the Council (49 in number) and meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The Council meeting is held on the fourth Tuesday in each month.

Chairman of Public Health Committee : Mr. David Smith.

Vice-Chairman of Public Health Committee : Mrs. A. L. Mitchell.

LIST OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL :

General Purposes and Staffing.

Finance.

Buildings and Planning.

Public Health.

Housing.

Building Contracts.

Re-Housing.

Slum Clearance.

Estates Management.

Drainage and Water.

Fuel and Lighting Advisory.

Community Centres.

Council and Staff Joint.

Civil Defence.

Reception (Civil Defence).

The Council is represented on the:—

Chelmsford Joint Sewerage Committee.

South-East Essex Superannuation Joint Committee.

Chelmsford Borough and Rural District Road Safety Committee.

East Central-Essex Area Planning Sub-Committee.

Chelmsford and District Tuberculosis After-Care Association.

Chelmsford and District Youth Committee.
 Essex County Branch, Rural District Councils' Association.
 Divisional Executive Education Committee.
 Mid-Essex Health Area Sub-Committee.
 Old People's Committee.
 Chelmsford Hospital House Committee.
 Boreham Airfield Community Centre Committee.
 Essex Boroughs and District Councils' Association.
 Eastern Regional Executive Committee (National Housing
 and Town Planning Council).
 Citizens' Advice Bureau Sub-Committee.
 Standing Conference Civil Defence.
 Civil Defence Joint Advisory Committee.
 Town Development Co-ordinating Committee.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 50. The Council has the duty to arrange the burial or cremation of the body of any person who has died or is found dead in their area, when no other suitable arrangements can be made.

From 1948-54 thirty-five such burials were arranged and during 1955 arrangements were made for the burial of one person.

Section 47. Legal action was necessary in one case during the year. This section is concerned with the removal of aged and infirm persons from their homes when they are not receiving adequate care and attention. In most cases after the position has been explained to them the person concerned consents to leave home voluntarily, but sometimes legal action is necessary as a last resort.

Clinics and Treatment Centres Administered

by the Essex County Council.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

Centre	Address	Sessions (Monthly)
Great Baddow ...	Parish Hall ...	Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Galleywood ...	Keene Memorial Hall ...	3rd Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Little Baddow ...	Memorial Hall ...	3rd Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Boreham ...	Village Hall ...	Last Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Broomfield ...	Church Room ...	3rd Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Chignal Smealey	Congregational Church Room ...	1st and 3rd Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Danbury ...	Village Hall ...	4th Monday, 2.30 p.m.
East Hanningfield	Women's Institute Hall ...	1st & 3rd Thursdays, 2 p.m.
South Hanning- field ...	Women's Institute Hall, Downham ...	1st Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Highwood ...	New Village Hall ...	1st Friday, 2 p.m.
Ingatestone ...	Working Men's Club ...	4th Wednesday, 2.30 p.m.
Great Leighs ...	Village Hall ...	2nd & 4th Fridays, 2 p.m.
Rettendon ...	Village Hall ...	2nd Tuesday, 2.30 p.m.
Roxwell ...	Village Hall ...	2nd & 4th Wednesday, 2 p.m.
Stock ...	Congregational Schoolroom	3rd Wednesday, 2.30 p.m.
Great Waltham...	Village Hall ...	3rd Thursday, 2 p.m.
Little Waltham...	Chapel Schoolroom ...	3rd Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Woodham Ferrers	Village Hall ...	1st Tuesday, 2 p.m.
South Woodham	Village Hall ...	2nd Monday, 2 p.m.
Writtle ...	Village Hall ...	1st Monday, 2 p.m.
		2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, London Road, Chelmsford. Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.
 Women's Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinic, Coval Lane Clinic, Chelmsford. Thursdays.

IMMUNISATION CLINIC.

Coval Lane Clinic, Chelmsford. 2nd Monday, 2 p.m.—4 p.m.

MINOR AILMENT CLINIC.

Coval Lane Clinic, Chelmsford. Monday, 9 a.m.—11 a.m.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC, DENTAL CLINIC, CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC, SPEECH CLINIC.
 These clinics are held by appointment and full details can be obtained from the Area Medical Officer, 75, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

OTHER CLINICS, Etc.—

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY

Broomfield Hospital, Broomfield. Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m.—12 noon.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Treatment is available at—

- (a) Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, London Road, Chelmsford.
- (b) Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC.

Coval Lane Clinic, Chelmsford. Tuesday evenings.

HOSPITALS.

The Hospitals in the area belong to the 18th Group, North East Metropolitan Hospital Board.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES are provided by the Essex County Council.

MORTUARIES.

Situate at—

- (a) St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford.
- (b) Chelmsford & Essex Hospital, Chelmsford.
- (c) Isolation Hospital, Great Baddow. (Infectious Diseases.)

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These services are used by arrangement with the Essex County Council.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY

During the year 633 cases of infectious diseases (exclusive of Tuberculosis) were notified compared with 246 during 1954.

This is the tenth year in which there has been no case of Diphtheria notified and the seventeenth without a fatal case. The use of combined immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough is becoming increasingly popular, and recently a triple injection covering Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus came into use. It is hoped that such combined injections will lead to a higher percentage of children being immunised. Unfortunately the scourge of Diphtheria has been forgotten and it is often difficult now to persuade parents to have their children immunised.

There were six cases of Food Poisoning the cause of which was thought to be cooked meats, but investigations were unable to confirm the cause.

Fewer cases of Infective Hepatitis have been notified during the year.

There have been 8 cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis, but these were sporadic cases and there has been no generalised outbreak.

Details of the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases classified according to age and locality are given on pages 10 and 11.

TABLE SHOWING LOCAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

PARISH	Anterior Poliomyelitis	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Infective Hepatitis	Measles	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	Totals
Great Baddow	4	1	1	1	1	82	—	—	—	4	2	—	96
Little Baddow	1	1	—	—	—	8	—	2	—	1	—	—	10
Boreham	—	1	—	—	—	10	2	—	1	—	—	—	17
Broomfield	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	2	—	1	—	10
Chignall	—	1	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Danbury	—	—	—	1	—	42	1	—	—	3	1	—	48
Good Easter	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
East Hanningfield	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
South Hanningfield	—	—	—	—	2	23	—	1	—	4	1	—	31
West Hanningfield	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	2	2	1	—	2
Highwood	—	—	—	—	—	116	—	1	—	—	—	—	6
Ingatstone & Fryerning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	117
Great & Little Leighs	—	—	—	—	—	37	—	—	2	2	1	—	3
Margaretting	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40
Mashbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mountnessing	—	—	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Pleshey	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Rettendon	—	—	—	—	—	12	1	—	2	—	—	—	15
Roxwell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3
Runwell	—	—	—	—	—	30	—	—	1	3	1	—	36
Sandon	1	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	2	—	12
Springfield	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	4
Stock	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	4	—	—	—	8
Great Waltham	—	—	—	1	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Little Waltham	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	—	—	—	1	—	24
Woodham Ferrers	—	—	—	—	—	86	—	—	1	6	—	—	93
Writtle	—	—	—	2	—	12	1	1	6	3	—	—	25
TOTALS	8	4	1	6	4	547	5	6	22	30	16	—	649

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Infectious Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	2	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
Measles ...	547	13	49	43	59	28	340	10	1	4	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2
Food Poisoning ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	1
Scarlet Fever ...	22	—	—	2	2	2	14	1	—	1	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	30	3	3	2	7	3	10	1	—	1	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	633	16	52	47	68	33	369	17	5	12	5	6	3

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis during the year.

Age Periods	*New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	1	—	—
20—25	2	2	—	—
25—35	4	1	—	—
35—45	—	2	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—
65 & over	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	10	6	—	—

*Not including cases of tuberculosis removed into the District during the year, which had been previously notified elsewhere.

The number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis was one and from non-respiratory tuberculosis two.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

<i>Total number of outbreaks</i>	<i>Number of cases</i>	<i>Number of deaths</i>	<i>Organisms or other agents responsible, with number of outbreaks attributed to each</i>	<i>Foods involved, with number of outbreaks associated with each food</i>
6	6	NIL	No specific organism isolated	No specific food identified

WATER SUPPLY

The following is a summary of the water supplies from the Council's mains for the year ending 31st March, 1956.

Total amount of water supplied ...	452,697,000 gallons
(includes 205,236,500 gallons supplied by meter)	
Total length of water mains in use ...	236.62 miles
Total number of supplies afforded ...	12,867
Total number of metered supplies ...	1534
New supplies afforded ...	495
New mains laid ...	7.88 miles
Mains renewed ...	3.98 miles
Number of burst mains repaired ...	108
Number of burst service pipes repaired ...	150

It was not necessary to cart any water to individual properties during the year.

In addition to the water supplied from the Council's mains a total of 15,653,000 gallons was supplied by the Southend Waterworks Company to the parish of Mountnessing, part of the parish of South Hanningfield, and a small part of the parish of Woodham Ferrers during the year 1st January to 31st December 1955.

SOUTH ESSEX WATERWORKS COMPANY

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES OF WATER PUMPED FROM THE WORKS AT LANGHAM AND LAYER-DE-LA-HAYE

(CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION)

	Langham	Layer-de-la-Haye
Appearance	Clear and Bright	Clear and Bright
Colour A.P.H.A.	under 10	under 10
Turbidity, silica scale	under 0.5	under 0.5
Odour	Nil	Nil
Taste	Nil	Nil
Electric Conductivity 20°C.	750	600
Total solids 180°C.	510	420
Reaction P.H.	7.57	7.74
Residual Chlorine	0.17	0.25
Chlorides as Cl.	81	41
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.7	3.9
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil	Nil
Hardness, non-carbonate	95	140
„ carbonate	235	170
„ Total	330	310
Free Ammonia	0.19	0.11
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.06	0.11
Oxygen absorbed 4hrs. 27°C.	1.60	1.25
Colony Count per ml. on Agar 1 day at 37°C.	4	7
Ditto 3 days at 20°C.	11	22 (4 days)
Presumptive coli absent in Bact. Coli absent in	100 ml.	100 ml.
Cl. Welchii	100 ml.	100 ml.
Reaction	Present	Present
	Absent in 100 ml.	Absent in 100 ml.

*Copy of a Recent Analysis of Water from the Southend Waterworks
Company's Mains.*

	Chemical Results in parts per Million	
Appearance	...	Slight opalescence with a slight yellow brown flocculent deposit.
Microscopical Examination	...	Amorphous mineral debris.
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	...	Less than 3
Colour A.P.H.A. Filtered	...	Nil
Odour	...	Nil
Reaction pH	...	8.5
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	Absent
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	...	1100
Total Solids, dried at 180°C.	...	735
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	150
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	245
Hardness : Total	...	55
Carbonate	...	55
Non-Carbonate	...	0
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	0.0
Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	0.01 approx.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	0.17
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	0.023
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C.	...	0.55
Residual Chlorine	...	Absent on sampling
Metals	...	0.08 Iron—other metals absent.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per ml. in—

1 day at 37°C. = 17

2 days at 37°C. = 19

3 days at 20°C. = 140

Presumptive Coliform

Reaction ... Absent in 100ml.

Bact. coli ... Absent in 100ml.

Cl. Welchii Reaction ... Absent in 100ml.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, faintly alkaline in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is soft in character and contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

STREET LIGHTING

Street lighting is provided in the following parishes :

Great Baddow.
 Broomfield.
 Danbury.
 East Hanningfield.
 Ingatestone.
 Great and Little Leighs.
 Margaretting.
 Mountnessing.
 Rettendon.
 Roxwell.
 Runwell (administered by Parish Council).
 Springfield.
 Stock.
 Great Waltham (administered by Parish Council).
 Little Waltham.
 Woodham Ferrers.
 Writtle.

SEWERAGE

Sewers are provided in the more populous areas of the following parishes :

Great Baddow.

Broomfield.

South Hanningfield (Ramsden Heath area).

Ingatestone and Fryerning.

Mountnessing.

Roxwell.

Runwell.

Great Waltham.

Little Waltham.

Writtle.

The Galleywood and Great Baddow scheme is under construction.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

The Rural District is within the area of the East Central Essex Planning Committee.

The Council, under delegated powers from the Essex County Council, deals with applications for permission to develop.

HOUSING

Details of Council houses and private houses erected during the year are given in the tables on pages 18 and 19.

Council Houses.

PARISH	HOUSES ERECTED UNDER					Totals
	The Housing Act 1890	Housing (assisted scheme) 1919	The Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1924	Prefabricated Bungalows 1944	1925/46 Housing Acts	
Great Baddow (s.p.a.) ...	—	51	57	30	321	459
Great Baddow (o.s.p.a.) ...	—	12	16	—	67	95
Little Baddow ...	6	—	8	—	22	36
Boreham ...	—	—	46	—	97	143
Broomfield ...	—	—	40	20	184	244
Chignall ...	—	—	8	—	2	10
Danbury ...	6	25	4	—	64	99
Good Easter ...	—	6	—	—	24	30
East Hanningfield ...	—	—	12	—	17	29
South Hanningfield ...	6	—	—	—	52	58
West Hanningfield ...	—	—	4	—	16	20
Highwood ...	—	—	12	—	10	22
Ingatestone & Fryerning ...	2	30	32	20	90	174
Great & Little Leighs, ...	—	—	16	—	47	63
Margaretting ...	—	6	—	—	26	32
Mashbury ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mountnessing ...	—	8	—	—	58	66
Pleshey ...	—	—	6	—	25	31
Rettendon ...	—	—	26	—	93	119
Roxwell ...	—	—	12	—	71	83
Runwell ...	—	—	—	—	34	34
Sandon ...	4	4	6	—	31	45
Springfield ...	—	—	—	—	38	38
Stock ...	—	—	10	—	52	62
Great Waltham, (Village) ...	—	—	18	—	130	148
Great Waltham, (Ford End) ...	—	—	12	—	29	41
Little Waltham ...	—	—	6	—	32	38
Woodham Ferrers ...	—	4	24	—	38	66
Writtle ...	—	16	102	20	158	296
TOTALS ...	24(a)	162	477	90	1,828(b)	2,581

(a) Includes 2 Waterworks Cottages in Ingatestone.

(b) Includes 2 Racecourse Cottages in Great Baddow, (o.s.p.a.)

10 Agricultural Cottages :—

West Hanningfield, 4,

Writtle 4,

Ford End 2.

6 Cottages purchased by Council :—

Great Baddow, (s.p.a.) 1,

Great Baddow, (o.s.p.a.) 3,

Ford End 2.

Of the 26 houses in Rettendon under the 1924 Act, 14 were transferred from Runwell in 1948 owing to alteration in parish boundaries.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE 9 YEARS 1946-55

PARISH	Council Houses erected during						Private Houses erected during						Totals			
	1946-1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Totals	1946-1949	1950	1951	1952		1953	1954	1955
Great Baddow (s.p.a.) ...	(a)60	18	19	—	36	93	34	260	60	15	24	55	88	88	89	419
Great Baddow (o.s.p.a.) ...	24	8	14	—	—	—	—	46	12	—	—	—	5	19	26	62
Little Baddow ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	10	10	9	2	2	2	4	8	5	32
Boreham ...	14	18	4	—	—	16	21	73	10	3	—	2	3	7	7	32
Broomfield ...	(d)48	—	5	20	6	114	—	193	1	—	2	—	—	1	1	5
Chignall ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Danbury ...	29	7	7	21	—	—	—	64	8	6	1	2	9	12	21	59
Good Easter ...	6	2	—	—	—	10	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
East Hanningfield ...	6	—	5	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
South Hanningfield ...	10	—	—	—	36	6	—	52	21	2	2	4	4	8	3	44
West Hanningfield ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	3	—	1	—	3	—	10	17
Higwood ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ingatstone & Fryerning	(b)42	—	34	—	—	—	—	76	7	1	—	2	9	43	82	144
Great & Little Leighs ...	9	—	5	6	—	27	—	47	4	—	—	—	7	5	—	16
Margaretting ...	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	14	18	—	2	4	6	2	1	33
Mashbury ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	30	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Mountnassing ...	—	12	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	10
Pleshey ...	—	15	—	10	—	—	—	25	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Rettendon ...	5	—	—	—	—	76	12	93	6	1	1	1	1	2	4	16
Roxwell ...	21	—	7	25	4	—	—	57	3	1	2	—	—	1	3	10
Runwell ...	20	—	10	—	—	2	2	34	18	1	2	1	13	30	72	137
Sandon ...	8	—	—	13	—	—	—	21	11	—	1	2	3	—	1	18
Springfield ...	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Stock ...	6	10	9	10	13	—	—	48	6	—	—	2	4	3	2	17
Great Waltham ...	35	8	8	8	87	1	8	155	6	1	2	2	3	4	4	22
Little Waltham ...	8	—	13	7	4	—	—	32	2	2	—	4	—	—	1	9
Woodham Ferrers ...	4	—	—	16	—	—	—	20	15	3	3	3	7	4	7	42
Writtle ...	(c)48	—	—	26	20	32	5	126	19	1	1	1	2	4	8	36
Totals ...	447	98	150	176	206	377	100	1554	242	39	47	88	177	245	355	1193

Includes 90 Prefabricated Bungalows :— (a) 30, (b) 20, (c) 20, (d) 20.

**TABLE SHOWING ESTIMATED POPULATION
MID-1955 AND THE NUMBER OF HOUSES AND
HUTMENTS AT THE END OF DECEMBER, 1955**

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Area in statute acres (land and inland water)</i>	<i>Estimated Population Mid-1955</i>	<i>Number of Houses and Hutments at end of 1955</i>
Great Baddow	3,804	7,702	2,502
Little Baddow	2,755	1,029	333
Boreham	3,802	1,412	457
Broomfield	1,847	2,185	707
Chignall	2,303	399	129
Danbury	3,495	2,656	860
Good Easter	1,988	414	134
East Hanningfield	2,516	420	136
South Hanningfield	4,236	1,397	452
West Hanningfield	2,928	603	195
Highwood	3,659	640	207
Ingatestone & Fryerning	3,917	2,774	901
Great & Little Leighs	4,275	1,230	398
Margaretting	2,782	828	268
Mashbury	898	136	44
Mountnessing	2,775	920	298
Pleshey	1,713	383	124
Rettendon	4,035	1,294	419
Roxwell	4,782	1,087	352
Runwell	1,686	1,718	556
Sandon	2,376	843	276
Springfield	1,842	475	154
Stock	4,433	1,443	467
Great Waltham	5,828	2,014	652
Little Waltham,	2,786	1,128	365
Woodham Ferrers	4,756	2,204	713
Writtle	4,286	2,846	921
Totals	86,506	40,180	13,020

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births :	Legitimate	...	332	289	621
	Illegitimate	...	28	17	45
Still Births :	Legitimate	...	7	6	13
	Illegitimate	...	2	—	2
Crude birth rate per thousand of the population					16.6
Corrected birth rate per thousand of the population					17.1
Birth rate for England & Wales per thousand of the population					15.0

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths	...	...	238	276	514
Crude death rate per thousand of the population					12.8
Corrected death rate per thousand of the population					11.2
Death rate for England & Wales per thousand of the population					11.7

Deaths from:—

Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	0

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age	...	9
Males, 8 (illg. 2) Females 1 (illg. —),		

The following tabular statement shows age and cause of death of infants under 1 year of age.

Cause of death	LIVED FOR				Totals
	less than 24 hours	1-7 days	1-4 weeks	1-12 months	
Anoxia and Atelectasis	—	1	—	—	1
Premature birth	1	2	—	—	3
Asphyxia					
Neonatorum	2	—	—	—	2
Other known causes	—	1	—	2	3
Totals	3	4	—	2	9

Death-rate of infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births		13.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		11.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		44.4
Deaths from Malignant neoplasm (all ages)		88
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		Nil
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age, Males 6, Females, 1		7

Natural increase of population, namely, the excess in the number of live births over the number of deaths since 1943 is shown in the following tabular statement.

Year	Number of Births	Deaths	Increase
1943	584	387	197
1944	670	427	243
1945	586	358	228
1946	693	396	297
1947	770	428	342
1948	726	371	355
1949	690	391	299
1950	642	405	237
1951	589	413	176
1952	590	402	188
1953	641	470	171
1954	602	455	147
1955	666	514	152

Comparative Table of Birth and Death Rates During the Year, 1955.

Death rate for Chelmsford Rural District when corrected for age and sex was 11·2 per 1,000 population, and corrected birth rate was 17·1.

The deaths classified according to age were as follows :—

				Number of Deaths							
				Occurring in district		Of non- residents occurring in district		Of residents occurring outside district		Allotted to district	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	7	1	8	1
1 and under	2	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
2	"	"	5	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
5	"	"	15	—	3	—	—	1	1	1	4
15	"	"	25	1	—	—	—	2	—	3	—
25	"	"	35	1	1	1	—	4	1	4	2
35	"	"	45	6	2	1	—	1	2	6	4
45	"	"	55	12	6	4	—	6	6	14	12
55	"	"	65	15	23	2	1	16	10	29	32
65	"	"	75	42	40	5	3	30	28	67	65
75 and over	...	...	...	61	112	2	13	46	56	105	155
Totals	...	...	...	140	188	15	18	113	106	238	276

The following table classifies the deaths according to cause and sex.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	1	1
Tuberculosis, other	1	1	2
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	1	1	2
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach... ..	8	9	17
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	13	7	20
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	8	8
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	25	39
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3	—	3
Diabetes	—	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	35	41	76
Coronary disease, angina	31	36	67
Hypertension with heart disease	6	7	13
Other heart disease	36	53	89
Other circulatory disease	16	8	24
Influenza	3	3	6
Pneumonia	13	17	30
Bronchitis	17	6	23
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	4	6
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	2	—	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	33	46
Motor vehicle accidents	5	1	6
All other accidents	6	4	10
Suicide	5	2	7
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
All causes	238	276	514

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres) ... 86,506 (land and inland waters).

Home Population (estimated,
June, 1955) ... 40,180

Census population, 1951 ... 39,258 (males 18,814, females
20,444).

The rateable value of the district for the half-year commencing—

1st April, 1954, was £231,825

1st April, 1955, was £242,516

The sum represented by a penny rate, year ended

31st March, 1954	...	...	...	...	£918 14 0
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31st March, 1955	...	...	...	...	£953 3 8
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MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is a pleasure to present my Annual Report on the work of my department during the year.

Comments upon details of the work involved are made in the appropriate sections of the Report.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the help and co-operation received from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, without which my work would be difficult, as it also would without the friendly relationship which exists between your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Blott, and myself.

I wish to express my appreciation of the loyalty and assistance I have received from every member of my staff throughout the whole of the year. The fine team spirit which exists is an asset to all concerned.

A. DENTON OGDEN.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Director of Public Cleansing.*

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following tabular statement gives details of the housing work carried out during the year.

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)	360
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	793
	(2)(a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-heading (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations ...	34
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	292
	(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	18
	(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 ...	73
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 ...	84
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	14
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	By Owners ...	12
	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	11
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders :—	
	By Owners ...	24
	(3) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit for human habitation as a result of owners complying with undertakings to carry out works of repair ...	Nil

INSPECTIONS AND PARTICULARS OF NOTICES FOR THE YEAR, 1955.

Nature of Inspection	Total Inspections	Notices Outstanding at end of 1954	Notices Served		Notices		
			Informal	Statutory	Complied with	Cancelled	Out-standing at end of 1955
Infectious Disease Inquiries	58	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infectious Disease Disinfections	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Houses Inspected under Public Health or Housing Acts	326	76	40	8	47	17	60
Houses "Carded" under Public Health or Housing Acts	34	—	—	—	—	—	—
Re-inspections under Housing Acts	254	—	—	—	—	—	—
Re-inspections under Public Health Acts	179	—	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dirty Condition of Houses	19	1	1	—	1	—	1
Other Nuisances in Houses	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water Closets	23	28	13	4	13	4	28
Privies and Pail Closets ...	35	9	7	—	2	—	14
House Drainage	572	84	67	6	67	8	82
Other Drainage	47	4	13	1	4	3	11
Water Supply	147	34	15	1	15	4	31
Urinals	17	3	—	—	1	—	2
Pig-Styes	17	—	2	—	1	1	—
Animals Improperly Kept	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rats, Mice and Insect Pests	229	6	4	—	6	1	3
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures ...	624	—	—	—	—	—	—
Schools	52	3	—	—	1	1	1
Milk Retailers' Premises and Vans	30	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream Premises	67	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	15	2	2	—	1	—	3
Restaurants and Cafes ...	10	—	1	—	—	—	1
Public Houses	20	5	1	—	3	—	3
Fresh and Fried Fish Shops	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops	1058	8	2	—	4	4	2
Knackers Yards	34	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Food Preparation and Food Shops	46	8	1	—	4	2	3
Inspections under the Shops Acts	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factories:—							
(a) with Mechanical Power	39	4	5	—	6	—	3
(b) without Mechanical Power	42	—	6	—	6	—	—
Public Cleansing:—							
Dustbins	37	28	10	1	8	4	27
Refuse Dumps	367	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	198	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	188	7	14	2	10	5	8
TOTALS	4,823	310	204	23	200	54	283

The following table provides statistics of work done as a result of the service of Informal and Statutory Notices :—

Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	14
Brick footings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Brick walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Chimney pots provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Chimney stacks repaired or re-pointed	...	...	...	...	...	12
Ceiling plaster, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Coppers repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dampness remedied other than by d.p.c.	...	...	...	...	...	11
Door furniture provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Door frames, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Eavesgutters and downspouts repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	6
External wall plaster repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Fireplaces and stoves, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Floors repaired or re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	4
Handrails provided to staircases	...	...	...	...	...	1
Internal wall plaster repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Internal walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	15
Sinks provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sink waste pipes provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Staircases provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Washhouses repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Weatherboarded walls renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Window sills repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Window frames repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Window sashes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cesspools cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cesspool overflows abolished	...	...	...	...	...	10
Chemical closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Choked drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drainage systems altered or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Drainage cut off from ditches, water courses etc.	...	...	...	...	...	34
Foul ditches cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Foul ponds cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hot water units provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Inspection covers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Main water supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	11
Main water supply extended	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pails provided to closets	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pail closet structures repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pig-sty drainage improved	...	...	...	...	...	2

Sewer connections	...	...	...	...	...	13
Sewage disposal plants cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Soil ventilation pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Urinals cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Urinals repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wash-hand basins provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Water closet flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Water closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	15
Water closets cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water closet structures repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water closet pedestals repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Water pipes and taps repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous items of work done	...	...	...	...	...	40

Moveable Dwellings. During the year, eighty-seven licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were in force to station moveable dwellings in the District. All such dwellings were inspected.

The moveable dwellings are sited in the following parishes :—

Great Baddow	...	...	13
Little Baddow	...	...	10
Boreham	...	...	4
Broomfield	...	...	2
Chignal	...	...	—
Danbury	...	...	7
Good Easter	...	...	—
East Hanningfield	...	...	—
South Hanningfield	...	...	2
West Hanningfield	...	...	1
Highwood	...	...	3
Ingatestone	...	...	2
Great Leighs	...	...	—
Margaretting	...	...	2
Mountnessing	...	...	1
Pleshey	...	...	3
Rettendon	...	...	3
Roxwell	...	...	1
Runwell	...	...	1
Sandon	...	...	4
Springfield	...	...	5
Stock	...	...	9
Great Waltham	...	...	—
Little Waltham	...	...	3
Woodham Ferrers	...	...	5
Writtle	...	...	6

Five licences to use land as sites for moveable dwellings were in force during the year. Details are as follows :

<i>Site</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>No. of Moveable Dwellings</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
May-Phil Swimming Pool, Battlesbridge, Rettendon.	Badger Building Company	10	Licence expires 7th March, 1957.
Mill Mead, Little Baddow.	F. J. May	15	Site is licensed during summer months only from 1st April to 30th September.
Hayes Farm, Battlesbridge, Rettendon.	V. H. Theobald	50	Licence expires 31st October, 1956. Use restricted to period 1st April to 31st October in each year.
Post Office Field, Boreham.	B. Harris	12	Licence expires on 31st December, 1956.
Bramwoods Farm, Highwood.	W. A. Brown	12	Licence expires on 31st December, 1956.

Conditions are attached to each licence regulating the proper conduct of the site and these conditions have been complied with.

Considerable difficulty was experienced with the Boreham Post Office Field encampment, which consisted of vans and shacks, a number of which were unsuitable for use and which were permitted by the owner to stay on the site.

A Sub-Committee of the Public Health Committee inspected these structures and interviewed the owner who was informed that only a limited number of approved licensed caravans would be permitted in the future.

Due to the shortage of houses, applications for licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, tends to increase. An intending caravan dweller must, in addition to obtaining a licence, obtain the consent of the Planning Authority. He should obtain planning consent before he applies for the licence under the Public Health Act.

A caravan, however modern and well designed it may be, is, after all, only a temporary substitute for a house.

Swimming Pool, The Chase, Ingatestone. The capacity of this open-air swimming pool is 180,000 gallons and it is fitted with a continuous purification plant. Sanitary accommodation is provided for both sexes.

May-Phil Swimming Pool, Battlesbridge. This open-air sea water swimming pool, with a capacity of 312,000 gallons, is situated about 250 yards from the Chelmsford-Southend Road on the bank of the River Crouch.

Byelaws, made under Section 233 of the Public Health Act, 1936, with respect to swimming pools and bathing pools came into operation on 1st January, 1954. These byelaws, which I greatly welcome, enable the Council to exercise greater control over the swimming pools in their District.

Water Analysis. Samples of water were taken by my department as follows :—

New mains	...	...	32
Swimming Pools	...	...	1
Wells	...	...	10
Ponds	...	...	1

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	80	42	5	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	87	54	6	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	167	96	11	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary { Insufficient ..	12	12	—	—	—
Conveniences { Unsuitable or					
(S.7.) { Defective ...	1	1	—	1	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	13	13	—	1	—

OUTWORK

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel—Making, etc.	8	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	8	—	—	—	—	—

MILK SUPPLY

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for the supervision of dairy farms, and this Council, under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, for the registration of distributors (who are not also producers) of milk, and for issuing dealers' licences and supplementary licences as set out below :—

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Number of registered milk distributors with premises in the District	23
Number of registered milk distributors with premises outside the District	8

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of dealers' licences in force during the year authorising the use of the special designation :	
Tuberculin Tested	13
Number of supplementary licences in force during the year authorising the use of the special designation :	
Tuberculin Tested	6

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of dealers' licences in force during the year authorising the use of the special designation :	
Pasteurised	14
Sterilised	20
Number of supplementary licences in force during the year authorising the use of the special designation :	
Pasteurised	7
Sterilised	4

Milk Sampling.

It is pleasing to report that of the twenty-nine samples of milk taken for examination, all were reported upon as satisfactory.

Details are set out below :—

Tuberculin Tested	4
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	6
Pasteurised	12
Sterilised	7
	—
	29
	—

BAKEHOUSES

The following table shows the number of bakehouses in use at the end of the year :—

GREAT BADDOW	...	...	Carters (Gt. Baddow) Ltd.
BROOMFIELD	...	...	G. H. Follett.
DANBURY	...	...	H. Digby. E. Roast.
GOOD EASTER	...	...	R. D. Miller
SOUTH HANNINGFIELD	...	...	G. Warder.
INGATESTONE AND FRYERNING			E. Warder. S. Raven
RETTENDON	...	...	H. and E. Benson
STOCK	...	...	A. C. Cottee.
GREAT WALTHAM	...	...	Bigg Bros.
LITTLE WALTHAM	...	...	E. W. Amos.
WOODHAM FERRERS	...	...	Taylor and Woodland.
WRITTLE	...	...	A. W. Hance.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1933.

Ice Cream.

At the end of the year there were 121 registered vendors of ice cream. There is one manufacturer of ice cream in the District.

The retailers' sources of supply are investigated before certificates are issued.

Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, which deals with the registration of ice cream premises is not in force in the District as the above local Act operates.

Ice Cream Sampling.

Forty-seven samples of ice cream were submitted to the bacteriologist for examination. The grades of the Ministry of Health Provisional Grading Scheme into which these samples were placed, together with the results for previous years, were as follows :—

	1955	1954	1953
Grade I	37	41	72
Grade II	6	4	21
Grade III	4	1	2
Grade IV	—	—	—

None of these samples was unsatisfactory.

Twenty-six samples of ice lollies were taken and, of these, only two were reported upon as “unsatisfactory,” two were classified as “fair,” and the remaining twenty-two as “excellent” or “satisfactory.” They are not subject to grading under the above-mentioned scheme.

In all cases where samples are reported upon as less than satisfactory, re-visits are made and the retailers advised as to the possible cause.

MINISTRY OF FOOD MODEL BYELAWS

SERIES 1.

These Model Byelaws have been prepared to assist local authorities in making byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption, and in connection with the sale of food or exposure of food for sale in the open air.

These Byelaws were adopted, without amendment, by the Council on 28th February 1950, confirmed by the Minister of Food on 19th May, 1950, and came into operation on 26th June, 1950.

CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS

The following foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

<i>Number of tins of—</i>		<i>Miscellaneous—</i>
Apricots	3	30 pounds sheeps' livers
Baked Beans	2	212 pounds imported beef
Beetroot	1	33½ pounds tinned cooked ham
Carrots	1	
Corned Beef	7	
Cream	3	<i>Home killed meat (from shops only)—</i>
Evaporated Milk	10	85 pounds beef
Grapefruit	4	
Ham	1	
Jam	1	
Lobster	1	
Luncheon Meat	4	
Mandarin Oranges	12	
Minced Beef Loaf	2	
Orange Juice	1	
Peaches	4	
Pears	14	
Peas	24	
Pilchards	2	
Pineapple	6	
Pineapple Juice	89	
Plums	5	
Soup	4	
Stewed Steak	1	
Tomatoes	9	

Meat Inspection

All animals slaughtered in the District for human consumption are inspected and the time taken on this work amounts to the equivalent whole time work of one inspector with a considerable amount of necessary overtime, including weekends and public holidays.

The following details illustrate the wide scope of this work as well as its great importance :—

TABLE I. Animals inspected and number affected with disease, etc. (The figures in brackets relate to the year 1938—the last full year for which figures are available.)

		<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Goats</i>
Number inspected	...	2,096 (404)	599 (—)	445 (86)	5,672 (1,076)	10,716 (4,049)	2 (—)
<i>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned		— (—)	3 (—)	2 (—)	9 (2)	14 (7)	— (—)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned		393 (11)	55 (—)	4 (3)	377 (5)	293 (194)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected	...	18·7% (2·7%)	9·7% (—)	1·35% (3·5%)	6·8% (0·65%)	2·85% (4·96%)	— (—)
<i>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned		3 (1)	4 (—)	— (3)	— (—)	9 (5)	— (—)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned		124 (19)	58 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	219 (411)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected	...	6·05 % (4·95%)	10·3% (—)	— (3·49%)	— (—)	2·6% (10·25%)	— (—)

In addition to the above-mentioned condemnations, 10 bovine carcasses were found to be affected with the parasite *Cysticercus bovis*, which causes the condition commonly known as "measly beef." The carcasses were released when we were satisfied that arrangements had been made for them to be held for three weeks in a refrigerator at 20 degrees Fah. This treatment destroys the cysts provided they are not generalised in the carcass musculature as well as in the usual sites of predilection.

The figures given in this Table, taken in conjunction with the weight condemned (see Table II), give some idea of the scope of this important work and of the time and skill which the inspections entail. Although the quantity of meat and edible offal condemned may seem high, it should be considered in relation with the number of animals killed. The general quality of the animals killed in this District, will, in my opinion, bear favourable comparison with that in any other District in the country.

When comparing the 1938 and 1955 figures, and taking changed circumstances into consideration, two or three features are outstanding. These are the better health of calves, the increased percentage of sheep and lambs affected with parasitic diseases of the lungs and livers, and the better health of pigs, particularly so far as tuberculosis is concerned where the percentage figure has dropped from over 10 per cent. to less than 3 per cent.

TABLE II. Reasons for and weights of condemnations.

ALL DISEASES, EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS

		<i>Number of whole or parts</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
<i>Cattle, —Livers including Cows</i>	—Abscesses	49	566
	—Cirrhosis	10	51
	—Cavernous angioma (benign tumours)	42	586
	—Degeneration	7	98
	—Distomatosis (flukes) (parasitic)	294	2777
	—Hydatid cysts (parasitic)	1	14
	—Necrosis	10	100
	—Lungs (pairs of)	3	21
	—Abscesses	1	6
	—Bronchitis and pleuro- pneumonia	1	7
	—Congestion	3	21
	—Parasites	32	224
	—Pleurisy	4	28
	—Pneumonia	1	20
	—Lungs and 'skirt'		
	—Traumatic abscess		
—Hearts	—Pericarditis	2	9

Table II—*cont.*

			<i>Number of whole or parts</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
<i>Cattle,</i>	—‘ Skirt ’	—Inflammation	6	28
<i>including</i>		—Abscess	1	4
<i>Cows</i>	—Kidneys	—Hydronephrosis	1	4
<i>(cont.)</i>	—Spleen	—Congestion	1	7
		—Torsion	1	3
	—Heads and tongues	—Actinomycosis (parasitic fungus)	5	148
		—Cranial abscess	1	30
		—Cysticercus bovis (parasitic)	10	240
	—Tongues	—Actinomycosis (parasitic fungus)	7	45
	—Forequarter	—Traumatism	1	10
	—Flank	—Dropsy	1	11
	—Hindquarter	—Dropsy	1	30
	—Carcases and all organs	—Emaciation	1	426
		—Emaciation associated with septic pericarditis	1	376
		—Oedema	1	500
<i>Calves</i>	—Head	—Abscess	1	10
	—Lungs	—Strongylides (parasitic)	2	8
	—Kidneys	—Nephritis	2	4
	—Forequarter	—Traumatism	1	6
	—Carcases and all organs	—Moribund	1	60
		—Umbilical pyaemia	1	45
<i>Pigs</i>	—Livers	—Ascarides (parasitic)	198	743
		—Cirrhosis	18	72½
		—Congestion	13	63
		—Degeneration	1	4
		—Fatty infiltration	1	4
		—Necrosis	3	10
	—Lungs (pairs of)	—Congestion	17	23
		—Inflammation	1	2
		—Pleurisy	4	12
		—Pneumonia	9	13
	—Hearts	—Inflammation	2	2½
		—Congestion	13	10
	—Hocks	—Arthritis	8	31

Table II—*cont.*

			<i>Number of whole or parts</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
<i>Pigs</i> (<i>cont.</i>)	—Kidneys	—Hydronephrosis	2	1
		—Nephritis	6	3½
		—Retention cysts	8	5½
	—Mesenteries	—Inflammation	1	1
		—Cysts	1	1
	—Spleen	—Inflammation	2	1
		—Torsion	1	1
	—Hindquarters	—Traumatism	3	52
	—Foreleg	—Traumatism	3	34
	—Loins	—Dropsy	2	20
	—Heads	—Abscesses	2	20
	—Carcases and all organs	—Jaundice	1	100
		—Fevered flesh	3	234
		—Moribund	5	905
		—Pyæmia	1	120
		—Sarcosporidiosis (parasitic)	1	215
		—Septicaemia	2	336
		—Swine erysipelas	1	65
<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	—Lungs (pairs of)	—Echinococcal Cysts (parasitic)	1	2
		—Congestion	2	4
		—Hydatid cysts (parasitic)	48	58
		—Strongylides (parasitic)	175	245
	—Livers	—Congestion	2	12
		—Distomatosis (flukes) (parasitic)	265	839
		—Fatty degeneration	2	4
		—Hydatid cysts (parasitic)	42	126
		—Necrosis	1	3
		—Strongylides (parasitic)	16	34
		—Echinococcal cysts (parasitic)	1	4
	—Hearts	—Congestion	2	3
	—Loin	—Haemorrhage	1	6
	—Hindquarter	—Traumatism	1	10

Table II—*cont.*

			<i>Number of whole or parts</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
<i>Sheep</i>	Carcases and	—Caseous lymphadenitis	1	60
<i>& Lambs</i>	all organs	—Dropsy	1	30
<i>(cont.)</i>		—Emaciation	1	35
		—Metritis	2	120
		—Moribund	4	165

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :

<i>Cattle,</i>	—Heads (with tongues)	86	2,611
<i>including</i>	—Lungs (pairs of)	124	868
<i>Cows</i>	—Livers	18	244
	—Mesenteries	13	92
	—‘ Skirts ’	8	28
	—Spleens	2	4
	—Forequarters	17	1,899
	—Hindquarters	1	138
	—Carcases and all organs	7	4,847
<i>Pigs</i>	—Heads (with tongues)	193	2,095
	—Mesenteries	72	97
	—Livers	10	34
	—Lungs (pairs of)	2	4
	—Forequarters and hindquarters	3	225
	—Carcases and all organs	9	797
Total weight condemned			<u>25,366</u>

Weight condemned for all diseases except tuberculosis—

5 tons 1 cwt. 71 lbs.

Weight condemned for tuberculosis—

6 tons 4 cwts. 95 lbs.

TOTAL WEIGHT CONDEMNED DURING 1955—

11 tons 6 cwts. 54 lbs.

TABLE III : Slaughterhouses in use :

- J. Copsey & Sons, Rothmans, High Street, Great Baddow.
- L. Campen, The Street, Great Waltham.
- A. Fincham, High Street, Ingatestone.
- E. G. Patten, Ramsden Heath.

TABLE IV : Percentage incidence of condemnations for tuberculosis of organs or carcasses of over one-and-a-third million of the twenty-one-and-a-half million animals slaughtered in Great Britain in 1954.

<i>Place</i>	<i>Total Kill</i>	<i>Cattle, exc. cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep/lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Bolton	83,046	1.94	29.19	0.21	0.0	1.16
Kingston-on-Hull	85,853	9.14	27.17	0.14	0.0	6.31
Leeds	245,559	8.12	16.9	0.02	0.003	3.44
Leicester	160,283	7.64	33.9	0.00	0.0	8.16
Liverpool	559,853	3.81	14.71	0.64	0.0	1.79
Nottingham	178,672	11.94	42.38	0.15	0.0	4.52
Chelmsford Rural (1955)	19,528	6.05	10.3	0.00	0.0	2.60

The whole of the meat condemned was voluntarily surrendered by those concerned and it has not been necessary to resort to any legal action. An amicable understanding exists between the butchers and the Department, and in all cases our judgment has been unquestioned.

Fat Stock Guarantee Scheme

The Council has agreed to assist the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in certifying the deadweight of pigs at slaughterhouses, and the four slaughterhouses in use are registered by the Ministry as Certifying Centres. Your sanitary inspectors have been appointed Certifying Officers.

The work of certification entails the marking and weighing of pig carcasses which have not been certified at liveweight centres. Records of weights, etc., are made and copies sent immediately to the Ministry and the producer. Weekly summary sheets and monthly returns are also made to the Ministry.

During 1955, 4,440 pigs were certified, compared with 1,660 for the period 1st July to 31st December, 1954.

Knackers Yard

There is one in the District, situate in the parish of Great Baddow.

This is a modern building erected in 1935. It is inspected regularly and no cause for complaint has arisen. It is owned and administered by Messrs. Harrison, Barber & Co., Ltd.

The annual licence permits the slaughter of horses at these premises.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The refuse collection and disposal scheme was maintained throughout the year although dislocations of the regular schedules continued to occur owing to the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient number of suitable workmen.

The number of workmen has remained the same for two to three years despite the fact that the number of houses in the District has steadily increased.

All refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping, and one tip (near The Mill, Writtle) continued in use throughout the year.

The transport for the public cleansing service consists of the following vehicles :—

<i>Vehicle No.</i>	<i>Make</i>	<i>Capacity in cu. yds.</i>	<i>Date Purchased</i>	<i>Mileage</i>	
				1954	1955
2	Dennis	... 7	1943	7,139	8,741
3	Shelvoke & Drewry (Mark II)	... 11.3	1947	6,820	7,063
4	Shelvoke & Drewry (Mark II)	... 11.3	1947	8,368	8,450
5	Shelvoke & Drewry (W. Type)	... 11.3	1948	8,322	7,889
6	Shelvoke & Drewry (W. Type)	... 11.3	1950	6,331	8,360
7	Shelvoke & Drewry (Diesel Fore-and-Aft Tipper)	... 16.18	1954 (Oct.)	1,467	6,971
Total ...				38,447	47,474
Austin A.40 pick-up (1950)				1952	13,247 15,335

Nightsoil Collection

The weekly collection of nightsoil is carried out in the following parishes by a contractor, Mr. G. Barker of Steeple, for the sum of £18 per month.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. of houses</i>
Rettendon	
Battlesbridge	... 30
Hoe Lane	... 14
Woodham Ferrers	... 52

No complaints were received regarding the service.

PETROLEUM LICENCES IN FORCE DURING 1955

During the year, 157 licences to store petroleum spirit were granted. Of these 111 are for private installations (not for re-sale to the public) and 46 are for filling stations.

Four licences for the storage of cellulose were granted.

The total storage capacity is 153,150 gallons for petroleum spirit, and 200 gallons for cellulose.

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