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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHUNT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Report of the


SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1947

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Urban District Council of Cheshunt

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT—STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part time)

CHARLES R. HILLIS, M.B., B.Ch.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part time)

JOHN A. CURRIE, M.B., B.S.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Petroleum Acts

C. WILSON, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (1.3.4)

Additional Sanitary Inspector

W. G. DAVIES, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (2.3)

General

MISS P. M. MOORE, Shorthand-Typist (Resigned 4/1/47)

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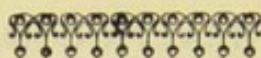
(Transferred from Clerk's Dept. 29/9/47)

MR. E. J. DAY, Clerk (Appointed 3/3/47)

MR. G. WARNER, Disinfector and Mortuary Attendant.

1. Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
2. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board for Sanitary Inspectors.
3. Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
4. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, Royal Sanitary Institute.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Cheshunt*



Ladies and Gentlemen.

I beg to present my second report, together with that of the Sanitary Inspector, upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the area for the year 1947.

The vital statistics again show that a satisfactory health standard has been maintained in Cheshunt. The birth rate continues to rise and at 23.4 per thousand of the population it is the highest since 1914 when the figure was 25.3. The death rate although slightly increased remains low and the infant mortality rate at 22.27 per thousand live births for Cheshunt compared favourably with 41 per thousand for England and Wales.

There were no cases of Malaria or any of the enteric infections and it is particularly pleasing to note that there were no cases of Diphtheria. The epidemic of Acute Poliomyelitis in which cases were widely distributed throughout the country caused some anxiety, for the size of the epidemic was much greater than anything experienced before. One case only was notified in this district, and that unfortunately proved fatal. As age increases the disease appears to become progressively more dangerous but the risk of contracting it decreases.

There was an epidemic of Measles (324 cases) and of Whooping Cough (147 cases). The number of cases of Scarlet Fever showed a marked increase, the total number of notifications being 37 compared with 20 last year. There was a slight increase in the number of new cases of tuberculosis.

I wish to record my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector and to all members of the staff for their co-operation throughout the year, and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES R. HILLIS

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION 1

Statistics

Area : The area of Cheshunt is 8,480 acres.

Population : 21,080 (Registrar General's estimate).

	1946	1947
Number of inhabited houses on the rate books	5,757	5,966
Rateable value	£123,996	£127,132
Sum represented by penny rate ...	£494	£502

Vital Statistics :

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population	21.55	23.43
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	9.17	12.00
Death rate per 1,000 of the population	9.29	10.72

Deaths from puerperal causes :

Deaths from puerperal and post- abortive sepsis	nil	nil
Deaths from other maternal causes	1	nil
Death rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	2.29	nil

Death rates of infants under 1 year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	34.72	22.27
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legi- mate live births	33.89	22.96
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	52.63	nil

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1947.

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adm. County	Cheshunt
Rates per 1,000 civilian population :—					
BIRTHS :—					
Live Births	... 20.5	23.3	22.2	22.7	23.43
Still Births	... 0.50	0.62	0.54	0.49	0.28
DEATHS :—					
All Causes	... 12.0	13.0	11.9	12.8	10.7
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	... 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever	... 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	—
Diphtheria	... 0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Influenza	... 0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	—
Smallpox	... 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	... 0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	—

Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—

Deaths under 1 year of age	... 41	47	36	37	22.27
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	... 5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8	—

Rates per 1,000 civilian population :—

NOTIFICATIONS :—					
Typhoid Fever	... 0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	... 0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—

Cerebro - spinal						
Fever	... 0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	—	
Scarlet Fever	... 1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31	1.75	
Whooping Cough	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80	6.97	
Diphtheria	... 0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14	—	
Erysipelas	... 0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22	0.09	
Smallpox	... 0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	—	
Measles	... 9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29	15.37	
Pneumonia	... 0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64	0.37	

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):—

NOTIFICATIONS:—

Puerperal Fever	7.16	8.99	6.27	1.21	0.09
Puer. Pyrexia	...			6.94	

Causes of Death.

				Male	Female
All causes	... ..			131	95
Tuberculosis of respiratory system				8	2
Syphilis	... ..			1	0
Acute poliomyelitis	... ..			1	0
Cancer	... ..			22	15
Diabetes	... ..			0	2
Heart disease	... ..			31	20
Other circulatory diseases	... ..			5	4
Bronchitis	... ..			16	10
Pneumonia	... ..			4	4
Other respiratory diseases	... ..			1	0
Peptic Ulcer	... ..			1	0
Appendicitis	... ..			0	1
Other digestive diseases	... ..			2	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	... ..			4	4
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	... ..			5	3
Suicide	... ..			3	
Other violence	... ..			5	1

<i>Causes of Death (continued)</i>	Male	Female
Inter-cranial vascular lesions	9	22
Road traffic accidents	3	1
All other causes	10	5

SECTION 2

General Provision of Health Services

Laboratory Facilities.

Throat swabs are sent for examination to Enfield U.D.C. Public Health Department or to the Public Health Laboratory at the Hertford County Hospital.

Other specimens for examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at the Hertford County Hospital.

Ambulance Facilities.

The arrangements in connection with the ambulance service are the same as last year. The number of calls dealt with during the year was 968 as compared with 892 in 1946.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The County Council is the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority.

A Child Welfare Centre is held at Nockold Hall, Goffs Lane, on the first and third Wednesday in the month in the afternoon. There is a full Child Welfare Service but ante-natal and post-natal examinations are not carried out at this centre.

The following Clinics are held at the Infant Welfare Centre, Waltham Cross.

Child Welfare Clinic—Wednesday afternoon.

Ante-Natal Clinic—Wednesday morning.

Dental Clinics—Monday (mornings only), Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (with the exception of every third Saturday).

Ophthalmic Clinic—Friday morning.

Tuberculosis Dispensary—Monday afternoon.

B.R.C.S. Orthopædic and Massage Clinic—Every day (except Saturday).

I am indebted to Dr. Ormiston for the following statement which gives an indication of the extensive work carried on at the Waltham Cross Maternity and Child Welfare Centre:

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

No. of Sessions	...	...	...	53
No. of patients attending	...	...	...	330
No. of attendances	...	...	...	1,080
Average attendances	...	...	...	20
No. of Post-Natal attendances			...	21
No. of patients referred for dental treatment				30
No. of maternal deaths	...	...	...	0

CHILD WELFARE SESSIONS

No. of Sessions	...	...	...	53
No. of children attending	...	...	...	477
No. of attendances	...	...	...	3,223
Average attendance	...	...	...	61
No. of children immunised against Diphtheria				187
No. referred for dental treatment				
	(1) Nursing mothers			3
	(2) Children	...		17
No. referred for Orthopædic treatment	...			15

The County Council have been seeking additional accommodation in the Cheshunt area for Maternity and Child Welfare purposes so that some improvements in this service can be made. There have been complaints of overcrowding at the Waltham Cross Clinics, and of

consequent delay to mothers attending the centre. Although a number of premises were inspected, at the end of the year suitable accommodation had not been located.

Nursing in the Home.

Nurse Hitchin has kindly supplied the following details of the work done by the District Nurses :

	Cases	Visits
Medical	181	
Surgical	28	
Midwifery	58	1,276
Maternity... ..	92	2,012
Miscarriage	7	58
Tuberculosis	17	
General		8,670
Ante-Natal		911
Post-Natal		282
Casual		260
PUBLIC HEALTH WORK		
Babies	330	1,906
Toddlers	850	1,706
Observation Tuberculosis cases		126
SCHOOL WORK		
	No. of inspections.	Child- ren seen.
Medical inspections	49	1,193
Hygiene	42	6,435
Visits to Parents	113	

Day Nurseries.

The war-time day nurseries at Greenfield House, Waltham Cross, and College Road, Cheshunt, as from 1st April, 1946, became nursery schools under the control of the Hertfordshire County Council. The Chestnuts,

157, High Street, Waltham Cross, continues to function as a day nursery and provides accommodation for forty children from 0-2 years. There is a waiting list for admission.

Hospitals. No Change.

Mortuary.

The mortuary is situated in a building at Cheshunt Cemetery, Bury Green Road. During the year ten bodies were received into the mortuary and four post-mortem examinations were made.

Scabies.

Defence Regulation 33A and the Scabies Order of 1941 expired on the 31st December, 1947.

The Regulation and the Scabies Order were introduced as an emergency war-time measure to combat an exceptional increase of Scabies which threatened to be detrimental to the war effort.

Following the making of the Order in 1941, facilities for the treatment of scabies were set up in Cheshunt, first at the Cleansing Station, Waltham Cross, and later at the rear of the Manor House. The work is carried out on a part-time basis by Nurse Bodman. The number of cases treated annually since the scheme began is as follows:

1942	98	1944	192	1946	61
1943	164	1945	151	1947	69

The following is a monthly analysis of the cases treated during the past two years:

1946		1947	
January	12	January	16
February	20	February	5

1946		1947	
March	1	March	13
April	1	April	4
May	6	May	16
June	2	June	0
July	0	July	6
August	1	August	2
September	9	September	0
October	0	October	7
November	4	November	0
December	5	December	0

Blood Donors.

In March the Chairman of the Public Health Committee sought the support of the Council in the campaign for recruitment of Blood Donors, and as a result the Chairman of the Council sponsored a public meeting at the Grammar School on the 10th July, to launch an appeal.

Miss Mary Nevile, Regional Organiser of the National Blood Transfusion Service, addressed the representatives of local organisations present and it was decided to form a Committee to organise a publicity campaign.

The efforts of the Committee resulted in the formation of a panel of 300 blood donors in Cheshunt and present arrangements provide for three sessions to be held annually in November, April and July, at the Infant Welfare Clinic at Waltham Cross.

SECTION 3

Sanitary Circumstances and Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

Water.

The whole of the district is within the area of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board and the supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

No bacteriological or chemical examinations have been made by the Council of water supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board.

All dwelling houses in the district are supplied from public water mains direct to the houses with the exception of twenty isolated cottages and out-lying farms where water is obtained from private sources. A supply of mains water was provided to the Jolly Barge-man Public House during the year.

Samples were taken for bacteriological examination from four wells supplying ten houses in Crouch Lane, and the laboratory report was that the water was unsatisfactory in each case. The Council therefore asked the Metropolitan Water Board to state the terms and conditions upon which they would provide a supply of water to these houses and negotiations were entered into with the County Council regarding contributions under the Rural Water Supply and Sewerage Act, 1944, towards the cost.

A sample of water was submitted for bacteriological examination from a cafe where the source of supply was a private well. The Laboratory report showed the water to be unsatisfactory and alternative arrangements were made by the occupier to obtain a supply of water from the Metropolitan Water Board mains.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year numbered 3,180 and details as to the

nature of these inspections are given in the tables which follow. 257 complaints relating to a variety of matters were received.

SUMMARY

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	308
Number of dwelling-houses inspected for other than housing defects	260
Number of premises other than houses inspected	383
Premises re-inspected (including housing) ...	663
Visits to works in progress (including housing) ...	55
Miscellaneous visits	1,511
	3,180

Included in the above table are the following classified visits :

Visits to bakehouses	18
„ „ slaughterhouses	6
„ „ fish fryers' premises	3
„ „ ice cream premises	50
„ „ cowsheds	11
„ „ dairies... ..	24
„ „ shops and other food premises	262
„ „ schools	10
„ „ swimming bath	17
„ „ tents, vans and sheds	150
„ re overcrowding	2
Inspections of stables and piggeries	13
Visits under Petroleum Acts	79
„ „ Shop Acts	2
„ re collection and disposal of refuse and salvage	293
„ re flooding of houses and premises	305
„ re ambulance service	54

Housing.

Although there are still shortages of labour and materials in the building industry, conditions are gradually improving and it appeared to be less difficult in 1947 than in 1946 to get works of essential building repair carried out. There are, however, considerable arrears of maintenance work to existing occupied dwelling houses to be overtaken before much existing accommodation will be brought up to a reasonable standard of fitness.

The Council had under consideration the making of Demolition Orders in respect of Nos. 2 and 4 College Road, Cheshunt, where conditions were so dangerous as to render this action essential. An undertaking not to use the dwelling houses for human habitation was accepted from the owner.

Housing Statistics.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 308
2. (b) Number of dwelling-houses (included in sub-head (1) above) which were inspected or recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 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 66

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :

(a) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 16 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) by Owners | 10 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners | Nil |

Inspection of Factories.

Details of the inspections made under the Factories Act, 1937, are given in the tables which follow:—

I. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Number of Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies:				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	51	22	—	—
(b) Others	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-worker's premises)	—	—	—	—
	61	26	—	—
Total				

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	1	1	1	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—				
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework) ...	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	2	—

There are no factories in this area submitting lists of outworkers under Section 110 of the Act. Notifications were received of thirteen places of employment of outworkers in this district which had been included in lists submitted to other Councils. Ten inspections were made of outworkers premises and they were found to be satisfactory.

Two notifications were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories under Section 9 of the Act; one of defective sanitary conveniences, and the other of inadequate ventilation, and the necessary action was taken in each case.

A Statutory Notice under the Public Health Act, 1936, was served upon the occupiers of one factory to abate a nuisance arising from the emission of dust.

The co-operation of the Chief Inspector of Alkali etc., Works of the Ministry of Health was sought in connection with this case and the district inspector visited the factory and was able to offer technical advice to the occupiers.

Alterations and improvements were made to the dust extraction plant and certain of the processes were transferred to a new factory elsewhere.

Service of Notices.

Statutory Notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, to abate nuisance	...	...	14
Statutory Notices under Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936, to provide a covered dustbin	...	...	33
Statutory Notices under Section 277, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises	...	...	48
Statutory Notices under Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring execution of Works of			

drainage, etc., in existing building	...	4
Statutory Notices under Section 89, Public Health Act, 1936, to provide sanitary conveniences		3
Statutory Notices under Section 287, Public Health Act, 1936, to enter premises	... ..	1
Statutory Notices under Section 168, Housing Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises	... ..	5
Statutory Notices under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, notice of time and place re-making of a Demolition Order	... ..	4
Statutory Notices to carry out works outstanding 31st December, 1946...	... ..	3
Statutory Notices to carry out works outstanding 31st December, 1947 ...	... ..	4
Statutory Notices to carry out work served during the year	... ..	54
Intimation Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1946	... ..	110
Intimation Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1947	... ..	70
Intimation Notices served during the year	...	333

In November the Council considered whether the service of intimation notices should be dispensed with and only statutory notices should be served.

The existing practice is that, immediately after the inspection of premises at which a nuisance is found to exist, an intimation notice is issued in the form of a letter specifying the defects and requesting that the necessary works should be carried out.

Only in those cases where difficulty is experienced in securing compliance with the informal request is the matter reported to the Public Health Committee with a view to the service of a statutory notice.

Probably the most serious disadvantage in discontinuing the practice of serving intimation notices would be the delay between the time of making the inspection and serving a statutory notice. When an inspection was made on the day following the Public Health Committee six weeks would elapse before a statutory notice could be served and it was decided that the existing practice should be continued.

Training of Sanitary Inspectors.

In 1946, the Council decided to offer facilities for the practical training of Sanitary Inspectors under a special scheme organised by the Government. The scheme provides for intensive courses of 15 months duration at recognised technical colleges followed by 6 months practical training.

In accordance with the decision of the Council to provide facilities, arrangements were made for three students who had undergone theoretical training at the Hammersmith School of Art and Crafts to undertake their practical training at Cheshunt.

Swimming Bath.

There are no public baths or pools in this area.

The swimming pool of the Cheshunt Swimming Club, which is privately owned, has in previous years been open to the public, but this year the pool was available only to members of the Club. Following the difficulties experienced last year in maintaining a satisfactory bacteriological and chemical condition of the water, which was obtained from the River Lee, the Committee arranged this year to supply the bath with water from the Metropolitan Water Board's mains. Intermittent chlorination was continued by the use of Voxsan applied manually and tests for free chlorine are made by means of a Chlorotex indicator.

During the period that the bath was open, six samples were taken—one for full chemical and bacteriological examination and five for bacteriological examination only. Two of the samples were reported upon as falling below a desirable standard. The bath was open from 31st May—16th June; 19th—24th June; 9th July—12th August and 15th August—30th September. The bath was not available for use by schools.

Flooding.

Unprecedented flooding in the Lee Valley occurred in March when considerable areas were inundated. The cause was exceptional weather conditions in which melting snow accompanied by rain with the ground surface in a frozen condition resulted in a very rapid run-off.

The flooding was the worst in living memory. There were breaches in the river banks, Cheshunt Marshes were flooded and the streets of Waltham New Town were transformed into rushing rivers. About 200 houses in the Urban District were flooded to varying depths up to two feet, resulting in considerable damage, especially to household effects. The main road at Turnford (A 10) was flooded and the occupants of the Mill Lane prefabricated houses had an anxious time while the estate roads were under water, but the houses were not flooded.

The floods reached their peak locally on the night of the 14th March, and from then they began to subside. A heavy fall of rain, however, caused the water to rise again and on the 17th March many houses from which the floods had receded were flooded for the second time.

Skeleton arrangements were made for emergency rest centre accommodation should evacuation of the flooded houses have become necessary, but this was not brought into use. Most families continued to occupy the first floor rooms and some found accommodation with friends or relatives. One aged couple who were unable to care for themselves in the flooded condition of their home were removed to Western House, Ware.

By the 19th March the flood water had subsided. The occupants of the flooded houses achieved the clearing away of mud and debris with remarkable speed, but considerable dampness of walls, floors and contents did of course remain. There was a demand for extra fuel and as a necessary public health measure arrangements were made for a limited free issue of soap for cleansing and of disinfectant.

A local Committee was set up to administer the Lord Mayor's National Flood Distress Fund and help in retrieving personal and domestic losses and in reinstating their homes was granted to 176 applicants.

Moveable Dwellings.

Work in connection with moveable dwellings involved 150 inspections in 1947.

In September 1946 proceedings before the Cheshunt Bench were taken against one of the caravan dwellers from The Willows, Waltham Cross, which has been occupied by moveable dwellings for many years.

On behalf of the Council it was argued that under Section 93 (1) of the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, consent was needed by the owner of each moveable dwelling in addition to the general consent granted to the owner of the site under Section 93 (3). The case was dismissed.

The Council's Appeal against the decision of the Cheshunt Magistrates was heard in the Divisional Court in January 1947. The judgment of the Court was that the case be remitted to the Magistrates with a direction to find the charge proven, and as a result the defendant was fined £2. Subsequently consents for a period of twelve months were granted to the owners of thirty-one caravans on the site, and the owner of the site was requested to re-submit plans for the improvement of the sanitary accommodation on the site.

The Britannia Field, Waltham Cross, which was occupied by transport vehicles and moveable dwellings belonging to travelling showmen and others from October 1946 was finally cleared in April. The Showmen's Guild were notified of the circumstances of the occupation of this land by members of the Guild and legal proceedings were instituted against two occupants of moveable dwellings who were not showmen. The case was adjourned on their giving an undertaking to move.

Infestation.

The steps taken to combat infestation include steam treatment of bedding and clothing and the use of contact insecticides and fumigation for houses and household effects.

Hand sprayers and contact insecticides in small tins are available from the Public Health Department for purchase by householders for follow-up treatment or for use where infestation is slight.

Two cases only of infestation by bugs were dealt with during the year. The district would appear

to be reasonably free from this pest, due partly to improved standards of hygiene and partly to effective insecticides being readily available to the public.

Advice was sought by a few householders regarding infestations by ants and in the cases followed up, the use of D.D.T. powder appeared to have been effective.

Refuse Collection.

The shortage of labour and transport which last year prevented a return to the weekly collection of house refuse throughout the district were eased somewhat and by the end of the year a weekly collection was being regularly maintained.

The two new vehicles ordered in 1946 were delivered in September, and one old vehicle was, as a result, taken out of service. The second old vehicle has been retained in use and has helped to provide that margin necessary to meet eventualities, such as mechanical breakdown of vehicles and arrears arising from particularly difficult weather conditions. These factors together with casual labour shortages due to annual holidays, Bank holidays, sickness and accidents, are the difficulties which account for the occasional failure to maintain the regular weekly collection.

The maintenance of refuse receptacles in a satisfactory condition has an important bearing upon the efficiency of the Refuse Collection Service, for obviously battered or otherwise insufficient dustbins spill their contents and waste the collectors' time. The position regarding the supply of dustbins eased somewhat and in the majority of cases requests to replace defective bins were dealt with within a reasonable time.

The High Court decision in the case of Croydon Corporation versus Thomas regarding the provision of dustbins has been wrongly quoted by some owners as placing the responsibility for the supply of the dustbin upon the occupier. The judgment, in fact, establishes nothing more than the right of appeal and does not formulate a rule that notices for the supply of dustbins must be served upon the occupiers of the premises.

A salvage publicity drive was held in December when the arrangements included talks to school children and local organisations, window displays, a display of photographs and posters in the Public Library, use of cinema slides, press advertisements, posters, stencilled slogans on the pavement and public address equipment. A house to house canvass of a portion of the district also was undertaken, and because of the personal contact with the housewife, this is probably the most valuable form of salvage propaganda.

The arrangements for the salvage of kitchen waste by communal street bins were continued and the waste is collected by a local pig keeper from the street bins under contract. During the summer some complaints were received regarding the condition of the communal street bins, but all complaints were promptly dealt with and the bins cleansed and sterilised. With a view to improving the hygienic condition of these bins, the Council placed an order for 40 additional bins so that a change in system of collection could be made. Instead of emptying the bins into the vehicle, under the system proposed, the contractor would start out with 40 clean and sterilised bins and would replace 40 full bins from the street with clean bins. The 40 full bins would be taken to his depot for emptying, cleansing and sterilization and the process of exchange would be continued.

Details of salvage sales during the year together with the figures for 1946 were as follows:—

	1946 (to 31st December)		1947	
	Weight T.Cwts.	Value £ s. d.	Weight T.Cwts.	Value £ s. d.
Paper ...	103 17½	697 5 2	114 17¾	863 10 3
Pig Food ...	156 0	156 0 0	156 0	156 0 0
Tins ...	2	15 0	—	—
Rags ...	1 17½	18 15 0	2 10	31 0 0
Bottles and Jars	9 13	87 5 1	25 10	312 13 1
Bones ...	7½	2 0 0	2¼	13 0
Cullet ...	2 18	4 7 0	1 10	3 0 0
Broken Sleepers	11	2 10 0	8	2 0 0
TOTALS	275 6½	£968 17 3	300 18	£1368 16 4

The cost of refuse collection and disposal for the year ending 31st March, 1947, after the income from salvage sales has been deducted, was as follows:—

Refuse Collection and Disposal ...	£4,350
Cost per 1000 of the population (20,230)	£215.03

Comparable figures for the year ending 31st March, 1946, were:—

Refuse Collection and Disposal ...	£3,611
Cost per 1000 of the population (18,700)	£193.12

Refuse Dumps.

There are in Cheshunt a number of excavated areas from which gravel has been extracted and the excavations are full of water. Dumping of refuse for the filling of these excavations is controlled by consent granted under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, and generally dumping operations are carried out in a satisfactory manner and in accordance with the terms of the consent. Supervision is necessary, however for on visiting one of these premises

in March, it was found that house refuse together with other material from a North London District was being deposited there contrary to the provisions of the Act.

Representations were made to the owners and to the contractors and the deposit of house refuse was stopped immediately.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Eighty-one complaints of minor infestations were received and all were investigated and dealt with by the Pest Officer of the County Council, which is the Authority responsible for the enforcement of the Act.

The Council's refuse tip is systematically baited by the County Council staff under contract.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supply.

There are eighteen cowkeepers on the register, four of whom produce Tuberculin Tested milk and four produce accredited milk under licence from the County Council. Eleven visits to cowsheds and twenty-four to dairies were made during the year.

There is one dairy in the district approved by the Ministry of Food for heat treatment of milk.

Ten samples of milk from this plant were submitted for laboratory examination during the year and all satisfied the prescribed tests.

To prevent the sale to the public of milk infected with tubercle bacilli the County Medical Officer recently stated that the County Council aim at sampling every accredited and non-designated herd in the County once in every nine months. The samples are taken at the

farm and are as representative as possible of all cows in milk. Samples are submitted for biological examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli at laboratories at Cambridge, Hertford, St. Albans and Watford.

If a sample proves positive to tubercle bacilli the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries is asked to investigate and any infected animal is dealt with and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938. Whilst the case is being followed up every effort is made to have the milk from the farm sent for pasteurisation.

It is hoped ultimately to extend the scheme of sampling to tuberculin tested herds.

Samples of pasteurised and heat treated milk are not taken for biological examination as it is considered that the processing of the milk, checked by frequent phosphatase tests, is in itself sufficient safeguard.

In addition to sampling and tuberculin testing, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries carry out clinical examinations of tuberculin tested herds every six months, and of accredited herds every twelve months or every three months if the milk is not heat treated before sale to the public. Non-designated herds are examined if possible at yearly intervals.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-46.

Licences were granted during the year as follows :—

Tuberculin Tested—Retailing Licence	...	1
Tuberculin Tested—Supplementary Licence		2
Pasteurised—Dealer's Retailing Licence	...	2
Pasteurised—Supplementary Licence	...	2

Meat and other Foods.

There are no slaughter-houses in regular use in this district.

During the year two hundred and sixty-six visits were made to shops and premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale and the following foodstuffs were surrendered as unsound and unfit for human consumption.

Canned goods of all descriptions	...	1139 tins		
Beef	... 85 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.		Butter	... 66 lbs.
Tripe	... 18 „		Margarine	... $\frac{3}{4}$ „
Bacon	... 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ „		Flour and other	
Tea	... 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ „		Cereals	152 „
Cheese	... 84 $\frac{3}{4}$ „		Prunes	... 19 „
Dates	... 25 „		Fudge	... 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ „
Chocolate Milk			Egg Substitute	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
Powder	18 „		Fish	... 24 $\frac{3}{4}$ stns.
Beef Extract	1 jar		Junket	... 11 pkts
Jam and			Potatoes	... 1 cwt
Marmalade	22 „		Imported	
Mincemeat	... 7 „		Tomatoes	1 box
Preserved Eggs	365			

The total weight of food condemned was 2,014 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Adulteration.

The Food and Drugs Inspector of the County Council, which is the Foods and Drugs Authority, states that ten samples were taken in the Cheshunt area during the year. Nine of these were milk and one horse-raddish sauce and all the samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be genuine.

Cafes, Refreshment Houses and Coffee Stalls.

The Council had under consideration the conditions at twenty-seven cafes, refreshment houses and coffee stalls in the district which were surveyed towards the end of 1946. The conditions found may be summarised as follows:—

Premises without drainage	7
Premises with unsatisfactory drainage ...	1
Premises without sanitary conveniences	8
Premises with unsatisfactory or insuffi- cient sanitary conveniences ...	5
Premises with unsatisfactory water supply	2
Premises with cleanliness unsatisfactory	15

The refreshment houses fall into three classes, namely permanent premises, temporary premises under licence and premises of a temporary character unlicensed. All the permanent premises have W.C. accommodation available although they are not provided with separate accommodation for the sexes. The Council considered however, that the existing arrangements might be considered reasonable at the present time. At a number of premises the owners were approached to make good minor structural defects and as a result of informal action conditions of cleanliness were in all cases brought up to a satisfactory standard.

Statutory notices to provide drainage within a period of twelve months were served upon the owners of four temporary premises and statutory notices to provide sanitary conveniences were served in respect of three of the same premises. In the case of temporary premises under licence the attention of the owners was drawn to the position and they were informed that if they required subsequent renewal of licences the statutory requirements of the Public Health Act would be taken into consideration.

Licensed Premises—Lead Beer Pipes.

When the survey of licensed premises was undertaken last year at eight premises the beer pipes were found to be of lead and the owners were requested to have them replaced with pipes of more suitable material.

Lead beer pipes at three of these licensed houses were removed during the year and new pipes of stainless steel or plastic provided. The lead pipes at one licensed house, were stated by the Brewery to be tin lined, and they submitted an analytical report of an examination for lead of a sample of the beer which showed that none was found.

The Council decided, in view of the risk of contamination of beer by lead where lead beer pipes were still in use, that it was desirable that samples should be taken for analysis by the Public Analyst to ascertain whether, in fact, contamination does occur, but no samples were taken as a result of this decision before the end of the year.

Ice Cream.

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, came into operation on 1st May, 1947.

Except for ice cream made from complete cold mix powders, the Regulations require that the ingredients of ice cream shall be heat treated after being mixed and that the mixture shall then be cooled until the freezing process is begun. After freezing, the ice cream must not be sold unless it has been kept at a temperature not more than 28 degrees F.; or, if its temperature has risen above 28 degrees F., unless it has again been heat treated and then kept at no more than 28 degrees F., after having been frozen.

Saving clauses make provision for the difficulty of obtaining cooling apparatus and recording thermometers.

The Regulations require that ice cream during manufacture, storage and distribution shall at all times be protected from contamination and also that all

apparatus and utensils brought into contact with it shall be cleansed immediately after use and kept clean at all times.

This part of the Regulations gives for the first time, some degree of control over ice-cream vehicles, but leaves much to be desired for the power of registration applicable to premises cannot be applied to barrows, tricycles and vans.

Sampling.

In the Circular accompanying the Heat Treatment Regulations the Minister draws attention to a form of Methylene Blue Test which has been adapted for testing ice cream.

The conclusions and suggested grading are at present provisional but the Minister advised that this test of bacterial cleanliness appears to provide the best available for the purpose. It is suggested that if, out of four grades recommended, ice cream consistently fails to reach grades one and two it would be reasonable to regard this as indicating defects of manufacture or of handling which call for further investigation.

The Public Health Laboratory at Hertford, were unable to accept samples of ice cream for examination owing to the lack of essential equipment and alternative arrangements had to be made.

In July and August ten samples of ice cream were submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories with the following result:—

Grade I	3	samples	
„ II	2	„	
„ III	2	„	
„ IV	3	„	

Follow up action was taken in those cases where the samples failed to reach a satisfactory standard.

Registration.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1938, requires that premises used for the sale or manufacture of ice cream must be registered by the Local Authority.

There were at the end of the year, five premises on the register at which ice cream was manufactured and twenty-one at which it was being stored and sold.

SECTION 4

Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

Notifiable Diseases.

The following table shows details of diseases notified during 1946 and 1947:—

	1946	1947		
	Cases notified	Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	20	37	28	—
Measles ...	59	324	—	—
Whooping Cough	53	147	—	—
Pneumonia ...	41	8	—	8
Erysipelas ...	8	2	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	12	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	2	—	—
Jaundice ...	8	2	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1	1	1
Mumps ...	1	—	—	—
Malaria...	1	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	1	—	—	—
Encephalitis ...	1	—	—	—

Tuberculosis—New Cases.

Age Period	1947			1946			1945			1944			1943							
	Res. N.Res.			Res. N.Res.			Res. N.Res.			Res. N.Res.			Res. N.Res.							
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total					
0-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
5-15	1	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	2	4	0	4	0	1	1	3	0	2	2	6
15-25	1	4	5	4	4	8	8	6	14	10	1	11	1	2	3	4	2	6	1	5
25-35	7	3	10	5	5	10	11	3	14	8	1	9	1	1	2	3	1	4	2	6
35-45	3	2	5	2	2	4	4	0	4	3	4	7	1	1	2	7	1	8	1	3
45-55	4	1	5	2	0	2	2	1	3	1	1	2	1	0	1	2	2	4	1	4
55-65	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	2
65-upwards	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
Totals	19	10	29	14	12	26	28	13	41	29	9	38	22	6	28	22	6	28	8	28

The number of cases of tuberculosis reported during the year was 33 and the probable explanation of the increase is that the age groups most prone to tuberculosis infection were to be found in the Services during the years shown in table.

The death rate from tuberculosis was 0.47 per 1,000 of the population.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Disinfection.

Terminal disinfection of rooms and bedding is systematically carried out for Scarlet Fever and Tuberculosis.

Special disinfection is done for cases of enteric or paratyphoid fevers, dysentery and poliomyelitis.

Scarlet Fever—Cases Rates per 1,000 population.

	1945	1946	1947
England and Wales	1.89	1.38	1.37
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)...	2.02	1.51	1.54
148 Smaller Towns (Resident populations 25,000 — 50,000 at 1931 census)	2.03	1.33	1.37
London Administrative County...	1.57	1.42	1.31
Herts County	1.11	0.84	0.87
Cheshunt U.D.	1.65	0.98	1.75

Measles and Whooping Cough.

The number of cases of measles was high although not unduly so. The theory that a minor epidemic of measles may be expected on alternate years appears to be amply borne out by the incidence figures for Cheshunt since 1940, which were as follows:

Year.	Cases notified.	Notifications per 1000 population.
1947	324	15.37
1946	59	2.91
1945	351	18.7
1944	14	0.75
1943	420	22.59
1942	38	2.04
1941	508	27.74
1940	60	3.24

The incidence of whooping cough was the highest since 1944. The comparative figures since 1940 are given in the following table :—

Year.	Cases notified.	Notifications per 1000 population.
1947	147	6.97
1946	53	2.61
1945	26	1.39
1944	172	9.19
1943	19	1.02
1942	116	6.23
1941	155	8.41
1940	9	0.44

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of immunisations carried out during the year together with the figures for 1946 are shown in the following table :—

	Under 5 years		Over 5 and under 15	
	1947	1946	1947	1946
No. of children who received full course ...	306	256	103	71
Percentage of child population who have received full course	45.2%	49.5%	88.9%	77.7%

Difficulty continues to be experienced in completing the immunisation of children between the ages of 5 and 15 years, since some do not attend on the second occasion to complete the course. It is of the utmost importance that every child should complete the full course of two injections.

The arrangements were continued whereby Medical Practitioners carry out immunisation privately free of charge to the patient and the number treated under this scheme during the year was 97.

At the beginning of each term consent forms were distributed through the schools to parents of all children who had not previously been immunised.

The Council again co-operated in the National Publicity Campaign by using combined Local Authority/Ministry advertisements in the local press, and by arranging for the display of cinema slides and posters.

The most effective form of publicity is organised persistent personal persuasion, and with a view to furthering that type of publicity the following salient facts about Diphtheria Immunisation are quoted from a Ministry of Health publication.

(1) Some seven million children have been immunised against diphtheria under the Local Authorities' schemes.

(2) The number of deaths has declined steadily since the immunisation campaign got under way in 1941 ; in 1946 it was one-sixth of the average for the ten year period 1931-1940. In 1947 it is was less than one-tenth.

(3) Apart from the saving of young lives, which cannot be estimated in terms of money, the reduction in the number of cases of diphtheria in the last few years has resulted in the saving of several million pounds in the cost of hospital treatment falling on public funds.

(4) It is estimated that the immunisation campaign, by reducing the demand for hospital beds, now frees 2,500 nurses for other work every year.

(5) The objective of the campaign remains the same—the immunisation of at least 75 per cent of babies before the end of their first year of life.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MANOR HOUSE,
CHESHUNT,

JULY, 1948

