

[Report 1939] / Medical Officer of Health, East Hertfordshire Combined Districts (Hertford Borough, Hoddesdon U.D.C., Bishop's Stortford U.D.C., Ware U.D.C., Sawbridgeworth U.D.C., Ware R.D.C., Braughing R.D.C., Hertford R.D.C.).

Contributors

East Hertfordshire Combined Districts.

Publication/Creation

1939

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/njvwdg2x>

License and attribution

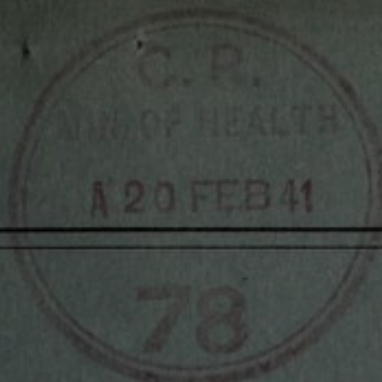
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

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

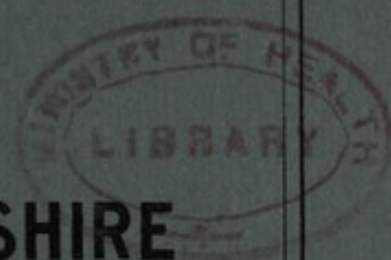
Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



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



LIBRARY



EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS.

Hertford (M.B.)	Sawbridgeworth (U.D.)
Hoddesdon (U.D.)	Ware (R.D.)
Bishop's Stortford (U.D.)	Braughing (R.D.)
Ware (U.D.)	Hertford (R.D.)



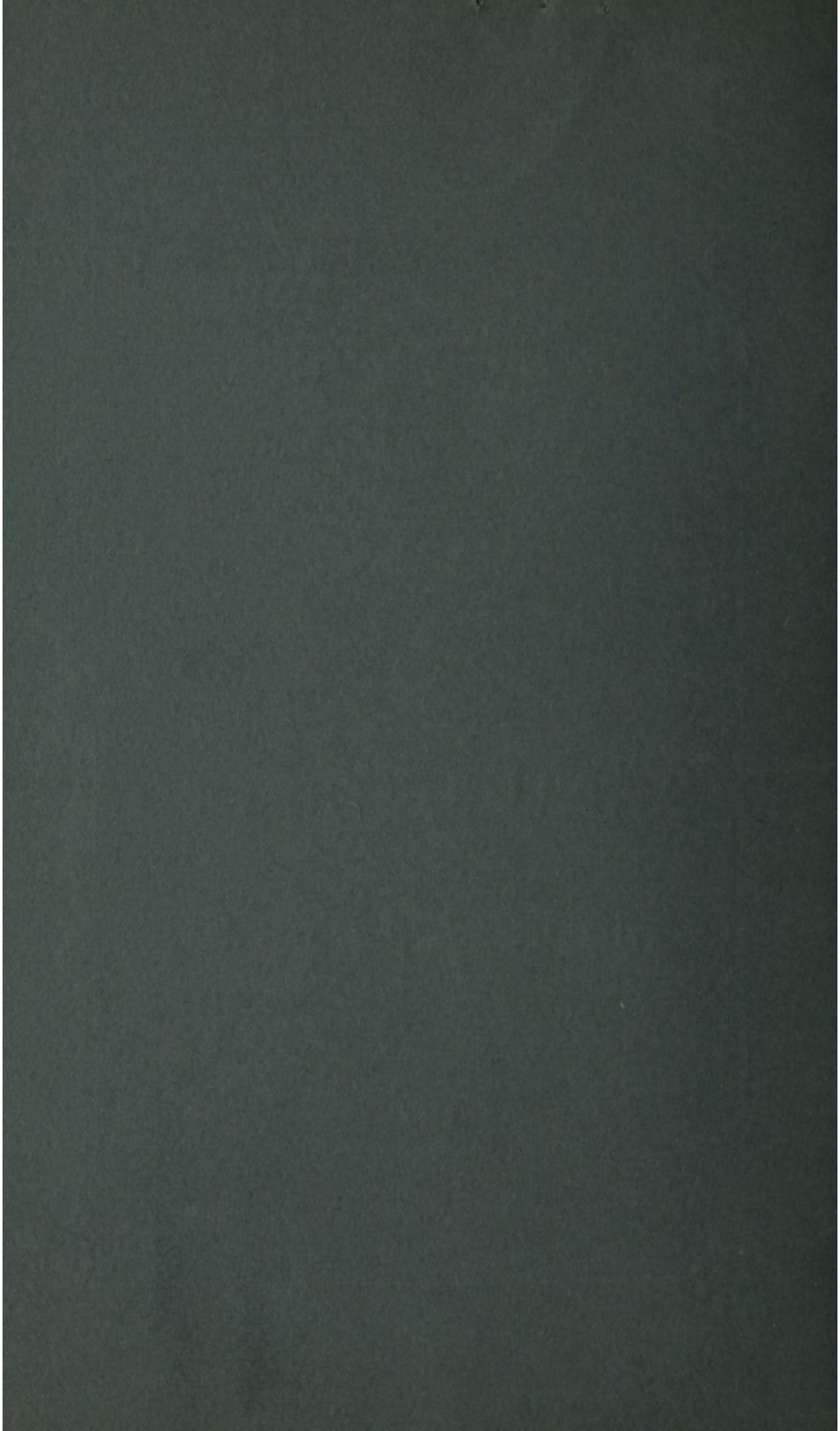
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

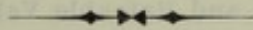
MEDICAL OFFICER

(Alan D. Whitelaw, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.)

1939.



**EAST HERTFORDSHIRE
COMBINED DISTRICTS.**



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER.

1939.

PRINTERS:

CREASEYS, BULL PLAIN, HERTFORD.

INDEX.

PREFACE. Vital statistics for each district	...	...	...	4
A.				
General Statistics for each district	...	...	...	5
Acreage, Population and Rateable Value.				
Number of inhabited houses.				
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.				
Births and Deaths.				
Causes of Death...	...	...	...	6
General Provision of Health Services for the Area	...	...	...	7
Nursing in the Home.				
Laboratory Facilities.				
Hospitals	...	...	...	7
Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	7
Diphtheria Immunisation	...	...	...	7
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	8
B.				
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.				
Municipal Borough of Hertford	...	...	...	9
Urban District of Hoddesdon	...	...	...	12
Urban District of Bishop's Stortford	...	...	...	17
Urban District of Ware	...	...	...	20
Urban District of Sawbridgeworth	...	...	...	25
Rural District of Ware	...	...	...	26
Rural District of Braughing	...	...	...	29
Rural District of Hertford	...	...	...	31

PREFACE

The following Report on the Health of the Combined Districts has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Circular issued by the Minister of Health.

Sanitary Inspectors :

JOHN BARNISH*	-	-	(The Castle) Hertford (M.B.)
WM. NOEL DAVID*	-	-	(Council Offices) Hoddesdon (U.D.)
JOHN LORD*	-	-	(The Council House) Bishop's Stortford (U.D.)
CHAS. J. LUCAS*	-	-	(The Priory) Ware (U.D.)
KENNETH STEENT†	-	-	(Council Offices) Sawbridgeworth (U.D.)
LAURENCE J. DALE*†	-	-	(97, New Road) Ware (R.D.)
E. E. WATERIDGE†	-	-	(Bridgefoot House, Buntingford) Braughing (R.D.)
W. D. WAINE*†	-	-	(2, The Wash) Hertford (R.D.)

* Certificated Meat Inspector (Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board).

† Also District Council Surveyor.

PREFACE.

The following Report on the Health of the Combined Districts has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Circular issued by the Minister of Health.

	Resident Population.	* Birth Rate.	* Death Rate.	** Infantile Mortality.
MUNICIPAL BOROUGH.				
Hertford... ..	13,320	11	9'6	40
URBAN DISTRICTS.				
Hoddesdon	12,460	18'4	8'8	13
Bishop's Stortford	11,640	15'2	9'6	31
Ware	7,616	11'5	9'8	34
Sawbridgeworth	3,200	11'4	8'8	0
RURAL DISTRICTS.				
Ware	9,990	13'1	9'4	23
Braughing	9,398	13'1	10'7	25
Hertford... ..	7,249	15'5	10'4	40
England and Wales		15	12'1	50

*Per 1,000 population.

**Per 1,000 births.

These rates have been calculated on the Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population in 1939.

I am indebted to the respective Sanitary Inspectors for the information on Sanitary Matters generally, Housing and Food Inspection. Owing to the War this part of the Report has been very greatly curtailed.

ALAN D. WHITELOW,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE CASTLE,
HERTFORD.

I. General Statistics.

	Area (acres)	Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939, according to the Rate Books)	Density (persons per acre)	Density (houses per acre)	Average number of occupants per house	Rateable value	Sum represented by a Penny Rate
						£	£
Hertford (M.B.) ...	3,882	3,608	3·4	0·9	3·7	101,532	415
Hoddesdon ...	4,430	3,729	2·8	0·8	3·3	86,826	321
Bishop's Stortford	3,826	3,333	3·0	0·9	3·5	91,127	371
Ware (U.D.) ...	1,358	2,043	5·6	1·5	3·7	44,264	183
Sawbridgeworth ...	2,678	989	1·2	0·37	3·2	20,681	81
Ware (R.D.) ...	29,102	2,627	0·3	0·09	3·8	60,102	249
Braughing ...	45,570	2,997	0·2	0·07	3·1	42,048	176
Hertford (R.D.)...	32,664	2,110	0·2	0·06	3·4	37,891	145

	BIRTHS			TOTAL		DEATHS	Natural Increase or Decrease
	Legitimate	Illegitimate		M.	F.		
		Number	Per Centage				
Hertford (M.B.) ...	136	9	6·2	77	68	134	+ 11
Hoddesdon ...	217	6	2·7	115	108	117	+106
Bishop's Stortford	162	8	4·7	90	80	131	+ 39
Ware (U.D.) ...	86	—	—	48	38	84	+ 2
Sawbridgeworth...	34	1	2·9	14	21	34	+ 1
Ware (R.D.) ...	125	2	1·6	56	71	113	+ 14
Braughing ...	113	4	3·4	54	63	134	- 17
Hertford (R.D.) ...	102	7	6·4	59	50	86	+ 23

II.—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Nursing in the Home.

This is carried out by the Hertfordshire County Nursing Association.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Haileybury College, Hertford Heath, (Pathologist—S. D. Elliott, M.B., B.S.(Lond.)). The chemical analyses of water samples are done at Haymeads Emergency Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

Hospitals (Voluntary).

HERTFORD. County Hospital (165 beds).

BISHOP'S STORTFORD. The Hospital, Rye Street (61 beds).

County Council.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD. Haymeads Emergency Hospital (600 beds + 170 reserved for Air Raid Casualties).

WARE. Western House (85 beds).

Infectious Diseases.

	Small Pox.	Enteric Fevcr.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Acute Polio myelitis.
Hertford (M.B.)...	—	—	26	12	2	³ 3	2	—
Hoddesdon ...	—	—	42	¹ 8	—	⁴ 11	2	—
Bishop's Stortford	—	—	48	3	9	¹ 5	5	1
Ware (U.D.) ...	—	—	5	15	1	⁶ 6	2	—
Sawbridgeworth...	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
Ware (R.D.) ...	—	1	11	6	1	⁷ 7	2	—
Braughing ...	—	—	43	14	—	4	1	—
Hertford (R.D.)...	—	—	18	2	1	6	1	—

(Small figures denotes Deaths).

Facilities for the free immunisation against Diphtheria of children between the age of 1 and 14 are available in all districts.

Isolation Hospitals.

(*East Herts Joint Isolation Hospital Board*).

HERTFORD. Gallows Hill. 76 beds, including 13 cubicles.

CHESHUNT. Longfield Lane. 34 beds (for Evacuated children suffering from Measles and Whooping Cough).

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

	NEW CASES						TOTAL
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory				
	M.	F.	M.	F.			
Hertford (M.B.)... ..	3	5	—	2		10	
Hoddesdon	6	4	3	—		13	
Bishop's Stortford	4	2	1	—		7	
Ware (U.D.)	2	1	1	—		4	
Sawbridgeworth	—	2	1	—		3	
Ware (R.D.)	1	—	—	—		1	
Braughing	2	1	2	—		5	
Hertford (R.D.)	1	1	—	—		2	

*Number of cases remaining on the Register
at the end of the year.*

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		TOTAL
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
	Hertford (M.B.)... ..	25	16	7		5	53
Hoddesdon	25	21	11	13	70
Bishop's Stortford	18	26	4	9	57
Ware (U.D.)	18	10	7	8	43
Sawbridgeworth... ..	3	3	—	—	6
Ware (R.D.)	11	4	11	8	34
Braughing	12	7	7	5	31
Hertford (R.D.)... ..	12	4	—	3	19

Borough of Hertford.

Water.

There are four separate pumping stations; Molewood, Hartham, Port Hill and Wadesmill Road. Most of the town is supplied from the Port Hill Reservoir, which is filled from Molewood and Wadesmill Road. Bengo, Hertingfordbury, Great Molewood and the higher parts of the town are supplied from the Bengo Water Tower, which is filled from Hartham and Wadesmill Road. Port Hill pumping station is being kept as a stand-by.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The method of disposal of the sewerage of the town is by the presedimented activated sludge process, and the resulting effluent is ultimately discharged into the River Lee.

During the year, 12 houses in Hertingfordbury have been converted to the water carriage system and connected to the sewer.

There is a weekly collection, in covered freighters, of refuse which is disposed of by controlled tipping on Hartham.

Housing.

St. Andrew's Street : Nos. 66/68. This house was represented as being unfit for human habitation.

St. Andrew's Street : Nos. 17 and 63. Closing Orders under the Housing Act, 1936: Section 12 operate in respect of parts of these buildings.

Maidenhead Street : No. 6, Dolphin Yard represented as being unfit for human habitation is subject to an undertaking not to be let for human habitation.

During the year, 12 houses found to be in certain respects unfit for human habitation have been improved.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

In so far as it is possible, slaughterhouses are visited and carcasses examined at time of slaughter. During the year, the number of visits to slaughterhouses was 109, and to the General Market and Meat Stores, 53.

Food Condemned as unfit for human consumption.

The following were condemned as unfit for human consumption :

Meat.

Meat (bone taint)	182 lbs.
Pigs' Liver (cirrhosis)	

Fish.

Smoked Haddocks (6 boxes)	182 lbs.
Smoked Fish Fillets (1 box)	14 lbs.

Meat Inspection.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number of carcasses inspected ...	74	8	15	217	191

*Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.**Scarlet Fever.*

Ward	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
All Saints'...	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	5	0	4	15
Bengeo ...	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
St. Andrew's	0	1	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	8*
Total ...	0	3	1	1	5	1	2	0	0	7	0	6	26

*2 of these cases occurred at the County Hospital.

Prevention of Diphtheria.

20 children of school age were immunised against Diphtheria by general medical practitioners under the Corporation's scheme.

Hertford Borough.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1939.

	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 years & over	Removed to Hospital	Treated in School Sanatorium	Nursed at Home	Died
Small-pox	0																
Diphtheria	12						6	3	3					12			
Scarlet Fever	26			1	1	11	7	1	3					25			
Enteric Fever	0																
Puerperal Fever	0																
Puerperal Pyrexia	2								3					3			
Pneumonia	3													1			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0													2			
Erysipelas	2	1							1								
Malaria	0																
Dysentery	0																
Trench Fever	0																
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0																
Polio-myelitis	0																
Encephalitis Lethargica	0																
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0																
Other Tuberculosis	0																

There was an epidemic of Diphtheria at the Kingsmead School for Mental Defectives; 7 cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital and a number of boys found to be "carriers" were isolated at the School.

Hoddesdon Urban District.

Water Supply.

The northern part of the district formerly in the parish of Great Amwell is served by the Metropolitan Water Board, whose water is subjected to dual filtration and chlorination and daily bacteriological examinations. The remainder of the district is served by the Council's water from two deep wells in chalk, one at Hoddesdon and one at Broxbourne. The work in connection with the new scheme referred to in the last report is proceeding and has reached an advanced stage. A new reservoir and water tower have been constructed and a new pumping station erected. The laying of new mains is still proceeding and should be completed at an early date. When the scheme is completed the supply from the Broxbourne Well will be discontinued.

Drainage and Sewerage.

An extension of the Ware Road Sewer of some 758 yards, has been made during the year. 22 houses in the Ware Road and Hailey area were connected to the sewer and their cesspools abolished. The remainder of the district (except for houses in undeveloped and low-lying parts of the area) is sewered. Sewage disposal works consisting of detritus, settling tanks, contact beds, and percolating filters serve the old urban area. Sewage from Broxbourne and Wormley is disposed of by broad irrigation at the sewage farm.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Weekly collection from practically the whole of the district by low-loading—dustless type—S.D. freighter. Refuse is disposed of in the refuse destructor and by controlled tipping.

Sanitary Conveniences at Public Houses.

As a result of informal action—new and modern Sanitary conveniences were provided at 4 public houses in the districts.

Dwelling-houses, Etc.

Sanitary defects remedied and other improvements effected during the year...	315
--	--------	-----

Housing.

No Demolition Orders were made during the year.

The following properties were demolished during the year:—

Nos. 3 and 4, Griffin Yard, Hoddesdon	... ..	2
Nos. 1, 3 and 5, High Street, Hoddesdon	... ..	3
		5

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

Number of dwellings overcrowded on 31/12/1938	...	20
Number of dwellings overcrowded on 31/12/1939	...	19
Number of families dwelling therein	... ..	19
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	2
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year		3
Number of persons concerned in such cases	... ..	19
Cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of the overcrowding	... ..	Nil
Number of Council Houses overcrowded on 31st December, 1939	... ..	8

Swimming Baths and Pools.

In August a sample of water was taken from the open air Swimming Bath at the Spinning Wheel, Hoddesdon, and submitted for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination. It was reported as being satisfactory.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

During the year twelve houses were found to be infested. Disinfestation was carried out in each case.

*Inspection and Supervision of food.**(a) Milk Supply.*

Number of registered producers	... ..	10
Number of retail purveyors of milk	... ..	20
Number of retail purveyors of milk by rounds from premises outside the Urban District	... ..	7
Dairy Cow population	... ..	200

Four of the cowkeepers in this district are licensed Accredited producers.

The cowsheds and dairies have been frequently inspected, over 113 visits being made during the year. Improvements to two cowsheds were effected during the year.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.

Retailers' licences in respect of Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	6
Supplementary retailers' licences in respect of Accredited Milk	1
Supplementary retailers' licences in respect of Pasteurised Milk	1

Seven samples of Tuberculin Tested milk were submitted and in two instances Bacillus Coli was found to be present. Further samples of this milk were taken and in each case a satisfactory report was received. One sample of Pasteurised Milk was analysed and this conformed to the required standard. This was also submitted to the Phosphatase Test and found to be satisfactory.

Twenty samples of ungraded milk were analysed, of these three were from milk produced outside the County. In 7 instances Bacillus Coli was found to be present, being accompanied by a rather high Bacterial Count in one case. Where unsatisfactory reports were received, visits were paid to the premises and advice given. Further samples were taken and the matter followed up until reports showed better results.

Biological Examination of Milk.

Two samples of Milk were submitted to the Biological Test for the presence of tuberculosis and negative results were recorded in both cases.

(b) Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

Number of registered slaughterhouses	3
Number of licensed slaughterhouses	1

During the year 232 visits were made, and the following carcasses were examined :—

Beasts 105	Calves	29
Sheep 69	Pigs	319

With the exception of sheep and lambs, practically all the carcasses of animals slaughtered in the district were examined.

The following unsound food was surrendered :—

Animal.	Details.	No.	Approx. Wt.	Disease.
Beast	Hindquarters (Imported)	1	120lbs.	Bone Taint
„	Head and Tongue ...	2	45lbs.	Tuberculosis
„	Livers	1	11lbs.	Abscesses
„	Pair Lungs	6	4lbs.	Tuberculosis
„	Mesenteries	1	4lbs.	Tuberculosis
Pig	Head	8	37lbs.	Tuberculosis
„	Mesenteries	13	8lbs.	Tuberculosis
Calf	Pair Lungs	1	3lbs.	Tuberculosis
	Canned Beef		3lbs.	Unsound

Broxbourne Fish Market.

At the outbreak of the war, Billingsgate Fish Market was split up into depots in different parts of the country, and a section was established at Broxbourne Goods Yard. As a result of the normal organisation of transport and distribution having been disturbed, somewhat large quantities of fish were found to be in an unsuitable condition and were surrendered and destroyed.

Inspections of Factories.

Thirty eight visits and Inspections were made. Informal action was taken in six cases for want of cleanliness, and in one case for insufficient sanitary accommodation.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Immunisation against diphtheria is offered free to children (aged 1-14 inclusive) whose homes are in the Urban District and whose parents give their consent. Treatment is carried out by the family doctor. The following children have received treatment :—

	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
Rye Park	19	16	35	15
Broxbourne	16	8	5	5
Hoddesdon	5	6	6	23
Wormley	13	2	6	9

Bishop's Stortford.

Water.

There is a piped supply for most of the Urban District from the pumping station near the western boundary.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There is a public sewerage system for the town. The sewage gravitates to tanks at the sewage farm in the parish of Hallingbury (Dunmow Rural District), where it is screened and then pumped on to the high level. After chlorination it is treated by broad irrigation, with final treatment through longitudinal gravel filters before the effluent passes into the River Stort.

Public Cleansing.

Household and trade refuse is collected by motor lorry and in horse-drawn covered dust carts, and disposed of by tipping on land adjoining the Castle grounds.

Swimming Bath.

The public open-air swimming bath adjoins the Council House. Purification is effected by filtration (8-hourly turnover) and the administration of chlorine and ammonia to the water.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Four premises were disinfested; three were treated with Zaldecide: the fourth with Hydrogen Cyanide.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

The following samples of ordinary milk retailed in the town were analysed:—

No.	Place of Production.	Bact. Count per ml.	Bacillus Coli.	Tubercle Bacillus.
1.	Essex	120,000	Absent in 1/100 ml.	Absent
2.	Essex	30,000	" " "	"
3.	Essex	33,000	" " "	"
4.	Bishop's Stortford	30,000	" " "	"
5.	Essex	14,000	" " "	"
6.	Braughing Rural...	400,000	Present in 1/100 ml.	"
7.	Essex	3,000	Absent in 1/100 ml.	"
8.	Essex	20,000	" " "	"
9.	Essex	17,000	" " "	"
10.	Bishop's Stortford	65,000	" " "	"

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known) ...	102	10	15	605	185
Number inspected ...	102	10	15	605	185
All diseases except T.B.					
Whole carcases condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	10	1	1	0	1
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	9·8	10	6·6	0	0·5
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcases condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	0	1	1	0	1
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with T.B.	0	10	6·6	0	0·5

The following were found to be unfit for human food and destroyed:—

161 lbs. of beef; 190 lbs. of ham; 60 lbs. of veal; 30 sheep's livers; 9 bullock's livers; 1 bullock lung and heart; 1 pig's pluck.

*Housing.**Dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.*

11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, Chapel Row. 7, 9, 11, 13, 233, Rye Street.
1, Apton Road. 80, 82, 84, 86, Dunmow Road.
133, Stansted Road. 33, 35, 37, 39, Dane Street.
16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, Castle St. 3, 5, 7, Hadham Road.
2 houses, Mansells Orchard, Hadham Road.

Total—32 houses.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1939.

Bishop's Stortford U.D.

	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 years & over	Removed to Hospital	Treated in Sanatorium	Nursed at Home	Died
Small-pox	0													3			0
Diphtheria	3							2	1								
Scarlet Fever	48		1	1	1	22	6	9	6		1	1		39	2	7	0
Enteric Fever	0																
Puerperal Fever	0																
Puerperal Pyrexia	9								8		1	1		8		1	0
Pneumonia	5							1						2		3	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0																
Erysipelas	5										2	1	2	1		4	0
Malaria	0																
Dysentery	0																
Trench Fever	0																
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0																
Polio-myelitis	1								1					1			0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0																
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7						1		2	1	1	3		6		1	0
Other Tuberculosis	1					1								1			0

Ware Urban District.

Water.

The supply, which is publicly owned, has always been satisfactory in quality and quantity. There are two deep wells sunk in the chalk :—

1. Upper Waterworks (136 ft.) at Musley.
2. Lower Waterworks (101 ft.) at Musley Lane.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Practically the whole district is sewered. The sewage gravitates to the pumping station at Stanstead Abbots, in the Ware Rural District.

From here it is lifted to the Sewage Farm near Rye house (131 acres) and distributed by broad irrigation.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse is collected weekly in two covered mechanical conveyances and is disposed of by controlled tipping.

Shops Act, 1934. Section 10.

Fourteen premises were inspected, and all had suitable and sufficient means of ventilation, twelve had suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences, and nine had suitable and sufficient means to maintain a reasonable temperature. Two certificates of exemption were granted in the case of the two shops without sanitary conveniences. With regard to heating, two shops having shop parlours adjacent, it was not thought necessary to insist on heating for the shops, three and in other cases very satisfactory heating facilities were provided upon request.

Factories Act, 1937 (Cleanliness, Section 1).

8, Baldock Street, Ware.

The workrooms at this address were cleansed following an intimation from the Factory Inspector that they were in an unclean condition.

Sanitary Accommodation (Section 7).

Accommodation was provided in the following instances, after the service of statutory notices.

61, High Street, Ware.

Water Row Malting, High Street, Ware.

Welfare (General Provisions)—(Section 41).

The approval of the Medical Officer of Health was given to the use of drinking water obtained from a private well used by Messrs. Allen & Hanbury.

Public Health Act, 1936. Drainage of Existing Buildings (Section 39).

A considerable amount of work was done arising out of complaints concerning drain smells, etc.

<i>New drainage works provided.</i>	<i>No. of Houses.</i>
(1) Replacing pail closets	2
(2) Laying drains and connecting sinks ...	13
(3) W.C. provided and hand basin	1
(4) Yards drained	2
	<hr/>
	18
<i>Old drainage works completely renewed</i>	8
<i>Old drainage works partly renewed</i>	10

Housing.

A few old houses were demolished or closed during the year. Housing activities were in general less than in several previous years.

<i>Houses Demolished.</i>	<i>No. of Houses.</i>
49, Church Street ... Clearance Area 15	1
41, 43, 45, Kibes Lane ,, ,, 11	3
27, 28 Priory Street ... Demolition Orders	2
2, 3, 4, 5, Eagle Yard Undertakings not to re-let ...	2
16, London Road ... ,, ,, ,,	1
	<hr/>
	9
	<hr/>

Houses Closed.

2, 4, & 8, The Bourne...	Undertaking not to re-let	...	3
16, London Road ...	„ „ „ and later owner voluntarily demolished	... ..	1
50, Star Street... ..	Voluntarily closed upon inform- al representation that house was unable to be made fit	... ..	1
13, and 15, Amwell End	Demolition Order sealed. Ap- peal adjourned sine die	... ..	2
			<hr/> 7

Houses Improved.

69/83, High Oak Road	Considerable works of improve- ment, including new windows, sinks and drainage, etc. Following service of Statu- tory notice under Section 9 during 1938.		8
6, The Bourne	Considerable works of improv- ment including new windows, repairs to floors, doors, and drainage, etc. Following in- formal action.		1
Blue Boot Stores ...	Repairs, food Storage provided, new drainage. Following in- formal action.		1
26, 28, 30, Star Street	Damp roof courses horizontal and vertical provided, roofs repaired, general repairs.		1
			<hr/> 11

Meat Inspection.

The number of visits made during the year were as follows:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	93.
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	40.

The following statistical information shows a low percentage of disease in the animals slaughtered in the district.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

			Cattle excluding cows.	Calves.	Sheep and lambs.	Pigs.
Number Inspected	...	...	57	1	105	59
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	...		0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...		7	0	1	1
Per cent number inspected affected with disease	...	...	12.28	0	0.95	1.69
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	...		2	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...		7	0	0	2
Per cent number inspected affected with disease	...	...	15.8	0	0	3.4

Other food premises Inspected.

Number of visits to Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	22
„ „ „ Dairies	...	...	...	...	25
„ „ „ Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ „ Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ „ Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	8

The Prevention of Diphtheria.

A scheme for the free immunisation of children of school age residing in the district was adopted during the year; and before its close about 300 children were undergoing treatment by the general medical practitioners of the town.

Ware U.D.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1939.

	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 years & over	Removed to Hospital	Treated in School Sanatorium	Nursed at Home	Died
Small-pox	0																0
Diphtheria	15						12	2	1					14			0
Scarlet Fever	5					1	4							4			0
Enteric Fever	0																
Puerperal Fever	0																
Puerperal Pyrexia	1								1					1			0
Pneumonia	6	1											1	4			6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0																
Erysipelas	2											1		0			0
Malaria	0																
Dysentery	0																
Trench Fever	0																
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0																
Polio-myelitis	0																
Encephalitis Lethargica	0																
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0																
Other Tuberculosis	0																

There was an outbreak of Diphtheria in the Autumn following the billeting of children, evacuated from London, in the town; 14 children were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, 5 of whom were evacuees (including 1 Diphtheria "carrier.")

Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

Water.

The town is adequately supplied by the Herts and Essex Waterworks situated in Redrick Lane. The hamlet of Spellbrook depends on a spring; the water is hand pumped from a collecting chamber in Spellbrook Lane.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The district is well sewered with the exception of Spellbrook. The sewage gravitates to the farm, situated in the south-east. After screening, it passes through a settling tank and a dosing chamber on its way to the contact beds. The effluent enters a small stream which discharges into the River Stort.

Public Cleansing.

House refuse is collected weekly in a horse-drawn covered dust cart, and disposed of by controlled tipping near the sewage disposal works.

Housing.

Ten houses in Barnard Road were completed: six for occupation by persons displaced from individual unfit houses dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 and four for overcrowding.

The following unfit houses were demolished:—

Spellbrook Crossing—four back-to-back type houses.

Spellbrook, Main Road—

East side—one house.

Sawbridgeworth—

Nos. 2 and 4, West Road—two back-to-back types.

No. 10, Church Street—two-storey terrace cottage.

No. 94, London Road—detached cottage.

Nos. 3 and 4 Taylor's Yard—two semi-detached cottages.

Nos. 5 and 6, Bell Yard—two semi-detached cottages.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

A scheme for the voluntary immunisation of all children, between 5 and 14 was adopted (treatment is to be carried out by the family doctor).

Ware Rural District.

Water.

Most of the District has a piped water supply. The water is obtained from two boreholes, 450 feet in the chalk, at the Puckeridge Pumping Station, and distributed from a water tower at Old Hall Green. The pumps are electrically driven and all water is chlorinated before delivery.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Comprehensive schemes for the parishes of Great Amwell, Standon, St. Margarets and Thundridge have now been completed. New sewers have been laid in Great Amwell and St. Margarets, draining to the pumping station recently erected near the Gas Works in the former parish. The Stanstead Abbots pumping station has been remodelled and the flow from the two stations is pumped through cast iron mains to the Ware U.D.C. station at Stanstead Abbots from which the sewage is lifted to the Ware Urban District Council's sewage farm at Rye Meads for disposal.

High Cross and Wadesmill are drained to the pumping station in the latter village, from which the sewage is raised into the head of a gravitating sewer which has been laid from the Sow and Pigs Inn, Thundridge, to join the Ware U.D. sewer at the north end of Ware.

Standon and Puckeridge are drained to the pumping station in Paper Mill Lane, Standon, from which the sewage is raised to the disposal works which have been constructed south of the village. At the disposal works the sewage is treated in sedimentation tanks followed by percolating filters, and the effluent disposed of on an area of land set apart for the purpose.

Part of the village of Hertford Heath is in Great Amwell parish and is sewered to disposal works in Hertford Rural District. This small drainage scheme is controlled by the Great and Little Amwell Sewage Farm Committee.

Public Cleansing.

Cesspools are emptied free on request. Pails are emptied twice weekly from cottages not connected to a sewer. House refuse is collected weekly in a covered conveyance and disposed of by tipping at Standon and St. Margarets.

Meat Inspection.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	176	247	387
Whole carcases condemned ...	3 bullocks	—	1

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Scarlet Fever.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Great Amwell - . -		1											1
Standon - . - .			1								1		2
Ware Rural - . -	1										4		5
Boarding Schools - . -										2			2
Widford - . - .				1									1

Diphtheria Immunisation.

This is carried out at the schools by Dr. Alan Wigfield and myself.

The number of children immunised at the various schools is as follows:—

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Eastwick - . -	22	—	2	—	—
Gilston - . -	14	—	2	3	—
Great Amwell - . -	27	3	3	1	7
Great Munden - . -	12	5	—	1	2
Hertford Heath - . -	3	—	—	2	—
High Cross - . -	11	7	3	1	1
Hunsdon - . -	9	—	1	1	18
Little Munden - . -	39	8	8	3	5
Puckeridge (C.E.) - . -	28	14	4	6	7
„ (R.C.) - . -	32	4	4	5	7
Standon - . -	64	10	13	11	—
Stanstead Abbotts - . -	20	17	5	12	14
Thundridge - . -	23	5	6	3	2
Wareside - . -	18	1	—	2	—
Widford - . -	21	2	1	6	3
Other - . -	10	2	3	4	—
	353	78	55	61	66

Braughing Rural District.

Water.

During the year the comprehensive water schemes were completed. The northern part of the district is now supplied from 2 deep boreholes at Chipping, from which water is pumped to a water tower at Throcking and to a reservoir at Buntingford; while the southern part of the district is supplied from Much Hadham, augmented by a supply from the Ware Rural District which is pumped to a water tower at Albury to serve the parishes of Braughing, Albury and the higher parts of Little and Much Hadham. The full benefit of the schemes have yet to be obtained, as various private connections remain to be completed.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Buntingford sewers drain by gravitation through a 15in. outfall to sewage disposal works situated at the south end of the parish near Aspenden Bridge, where the sewage is dealt with by broad irrigation.

Cottered: The sewerage flows by gravitation to sedimentation tanks and disposed of by broad irrigation at a site a little to the north of the village.

Much Hadham town is drained by a 12in. outfall sewer to disposal works situated alongside the river at the south end of the parish, and dealt with by broad irrigation.

High Wych village has sewers which drain to a small but adequate disposal works consisting of a sprinkler and bacteria beds with final treatment on land.

Braughing village has a short length of sewer running from the Axe and Compass Inn to Hill Green, where there is a small broad irrigation area for the disposal of slop water.

Buckland parish has no proper system of sewerage or sewage disposal, though a few houses in the village of Chipping are drained to a small tank on the west side of the road.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

In view of the evacuation of London children to the district on the outbreak of war, the Council adopted a scheme for children between 5 and 14; and by the end of the year some 600 children had been treated by general medical practitioners.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1939.

Braughting R. D.

	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 years & over	Removed to Hospital	Treated in School Sanatorium	Nursed at Home	Died
Small-pox	0																
Diphtheria	14				4		1	7	1		1			14			1
Scarlet Fever	43	1			4		13	13	3			1		43			0
Enteric Fever	0																
Puerperal Fever	0																
Puerperal Pyrexia	0																
Pneumonia	4			1			1				2						0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0																
Erysipelas	1												1				0
Malaria	0																
Dysentery	0																
Trench Fever	0																
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0																
Polio-myelitis	0																
Encephalitis Lethargica	0																
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0																
Other Tuberculosis	0																

An outbreak of Scarlet Fever at Much Hadham was followed by a number of cases of Diphtheria.

Hertford Rural District.

Water.

A piped supply serves the parishes of Aston, Benington, Walkern Watton, Stapleford, Sacombe, and part of Bengeo Rural. The water is obtained from two boreholes, 312 feet in the chalk, at the Aston Pumping Station, and distributed from water towers at Benington and Aston.

The new 310 feet deep boreholes at Little Berkhamstead have been brought into use and are supplying the parishes of Bayford, Brickendon, Hertingfordbury and Little Berkhamstead.

The parishes of Tewin, Datchworth and Bramfield are supplied from the Welwyn R.D.C. reservoir at Burnham Green, the water being obtained in bulk from Welwyn Garden City Waterworks.

Waterford village (in Stapleford Parish) is supplied from a shallow brick well (11 feet) situated between two courses of the River Beane, and the water is pumped by a wheel actuated by the river.

The Metropolitan Water Board serves Hertford Heath (Little Amwell).

Drainage and Sewerage.

ASTON. The northern portion of the village is drained by a 9in. outfall, gravitating to sewage disposal works situated in the valley east of Aston Dene. The south-western portion of the village is drained to a pumping station near Stringer's Lane, from which the sewage is raised through a cast iron pumping main into the head of the gravitating outfall. At the disposal works the sewage is passed through sedimentation tanks, the effluent from which is irrigated on land.

STAPLEFORD. The village of Waterford is sewered to a small pumping station, from which the sewage is raised and disposed of on an area of land. Tonwell drains to a small irrigation area to the south of the village.

BENINGTON. A portion of the village is drained by gravitation to a small irrigation area west of Garrat's Farm.

HERTINGFORDBURY. There is a sewage disposal plant at Birch Green consisting of septic and humus tanks and filter, the effluent discharging into the stream.

LITTLE AMWELL. There is a joint scheme in conjunction with the Ware R.D.C. for Hertford Heath, which is sewered to disposal works (open tanks, filters and broad irrigation) south-west of the village.

LITTLE BERKHAMPSTEAD is drained by an outfall sewer running from the school northwards up the road and down Breach Lane to the disposal works at the north end of the lane. The sewage passes through screening tanks into two sedimentation tanks with a total capacity of 7,500 gallons. The tank effluent is distributed to a percolating filter with a capacity of 230 cubic yards and finally distributed over the land.

TEWIN. A portion of the village is sewered to an irrigation area south of the Rectory. A small sewer extension at Tewin enabled the conversion to w.c.'s of pails for which no adequate emptying facilities were available.

WALKERN. There is no proper system of sewers in the village, most of the houses having cesspools or pail closets. At the southern end of the village slop water is discharged to an old drain running southwards down the road to near Walkern Mill, and thence through the fields to the existing sewage disposal works south-west of Walkern Croft. At the disposal works the sewage passes through a small catch pit and thereafter is dealt with on the land by broad irrigation.

WATTON. The sewage from that portion of the village north of the Bull Inn is drained by gravitation to the site south of the Corn Mill, where it is dealt with on land by broad irrigation. The southern portion of the village gravitates southwards down the main road to a cesspool near the War Memorial, the overflow discharging on to land on the east side of the road.

The parishes of BAYFORD, BRAMFIELD, BRICKENDON LIBERTY, SACOMBE and STAPLEFORD have no systems of sewerage and sewage disposal and in each case the houses are scattered to need it.

DATCHWORTH is another parish at present without any sewerage system, but requiring one on account of the development taking place.

Public Cleansing.

Cesspools are emptied on request free twice a year.

Meat Inspection.
Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

Number inspected	...	...	19	1	0	27	87
Tuberculosis only—							
whole carcases condemned			0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or							
or organ was condemned	...		0	0	0	0	1
Percentage of the number in-							
spected affected with T.B....			0	0	0	0	1.15

No. of Slaughter-houses :—

Registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Knacker's Yards	...	...	...	...	..	...	0
No. of visits to Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
No. of visits to other premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Casualty Slaughter	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

Housing.

3 houses were demolished in Walkern (2 in Rectory Lane and 1 in Stevenage Lane).

1 house was demolished at Datchworth Green.

Hertford R.D.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1939.

	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 years & over	Removed to Hospital	Treated in Sanatorium	Nursed at Home	Died
Small-pox	0																0
Diphtheria	2									1				2			0
Scarlet Fever	18					3	6	3	2	2	1			15		3	0
Enteric Fever	0																
Puerperal Fever	0																
Puerperal Pyrexia	1										1						0
Pneumonia	6								1		2	3					2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0																
Erysipelas	1																0
Malaria	0																
Dysentery	0																
Trench Fever	0																
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0																
Polio-myelitis	0							1		1							0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0																
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0																
Other Tuberculosis	0																

Cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in the following parishes:

Datchworth	5	Brickendon	3	Sacombe	1	Hertingfordbury	1
Stapleford	1	Tewin	3	Little Berkhamstead	2	Bengeo Rural	2

