

[Report 1950] / 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.).

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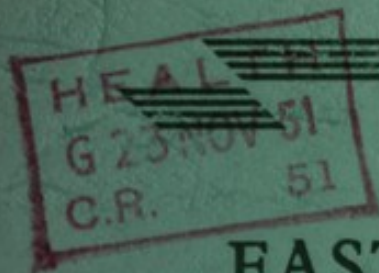
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EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS

Hertford (M.B.)

Hoddesdon (U.D.)

Braughing (R.D.)

Sawbridgeworth (U.D.)

Hertford (R.D.)

Ware (U.D.)

Ware (R.D.)


Annual Report

ON

The Health of the Area

For the Year

1950

A blue oval stamp on the right side of the page. It contains the words "DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH" in a circular arrangement around the word "LIBRARY" in the center.



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PRINTED BY THOMAS KNIGHT AND CO., LTD,
THE CLOCK HOUSE PRESS, HODDESDON, HERTS

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE
COMBINED DISTRICTS

General (M.D.)

Bedford (M.D.)

Harpenden (M.D.)

Woburn (M.D.)

St Albans (M.D.)

Verulam (M.D.)

Watlington (M.D.)

Annual Report

by

The Health of the Area

For the Year

1950

Printed by the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire
County Councils, Bedford and St Albans

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EAST HERTS. COMBINED DISTRICTS

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EAST HERTS. COMBINED DISTRICTS

PREFACE

The following report on the health of the East Herts Combined Districts during 1950, has been drawn up on the lines indicated in circulars 2/50 and 112/50 issued by the Ministry of Health. The various rates have been calculated on the Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population for 1950.

As in former years, items of interest to all seven members of the Combined Districts have been placed together at the beginning of the Report, with however several modifications designed to facilitate comparison between the Districts. The list of *Causes of Death* has been revised to bring it into conformity with the World Health Organisation Nomenclature Regulations, 1948. *Tuberculosis* statistics and *Housing Progress* for each district are now shown in a consolidated form, instead of separately at the end of each District Report. *The Summary of Infectious Diseases* at the beginning of this Report is followed by some general comments, and there is also a review of the *Personal Health Services* administered by the Hertfordshire County Council within the Combined Districts.

I am indebted to all my colleagues who have helped me compile this Report, and to the County Medical Officer for the summary of County Council Services.

JOHN WILDMAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

The Castle,
Hertford.
September, 1951.

VITAL STATISTICS

District	Resident Population	Birth Rate (per 1,000 Population)	Death Rate (per 1,000 Population)	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 Related Live Births)
MUNICIPAL BOROUGH						
Hertford	14,240	14.3	11.73	1.02	11.96	4.9
URBAN DISTRICTS						
Hoddesdon	13,890	15.7	11.23	0.97	10.89	27.5
Sawbridgeworth	3,729	17.7	14.48	0.87	12.60	15.2
Ware	8,920	17.2	10.42	0.89	9.27	26.1
RURAL DISTRICTS						
Braughing	10,530	16.9	11.87	0.86	10.21	0.0
Hertford	8,400	18.7	9.31	0.94	8.75	6.4
Ware	10,270	17.9	12.27	0.91	11.17	16.3
East Herts (C.D.)	69,979	16.6	11.48	—	—	13.8
England and Wales	—	15.8	11.60	—	11.6	29.8

GENERAL STATISTICS

Table I

	Area (Acres)	Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950, according to the Rate Books)	Density of persons per Acre	Density of Houses per Acre	Average Number of Occupants per House	Rateable Value	Sum represented by a Penny Rate
Hertford (M.B.)	3,882	4,626	3.7	1.19	3.1	£ 107,925	£ 412
Hoddesdon	4,423	4,007	3.1	0.91	3.5	96,264	372
Sawbridgeworth	2,678	1,056	1.4	0.39	3.5	23,791	95
Ware (U.D.)	1,343	2,254	6.6	1.68	4.0	49,745	198
Braughing	45,570	3,254	0.2	0.07	3.2	47,596	191
Hertford (R.D.)	32,664	2,495	0.3	0.08	0.34	41,061	157
Ware (R.D.)	29,102	2,915	0.4	0.10	3.5	64,944	240
East Herts (C.D.)	119,662	20,607	0.6	0.17	3.4		

Table II

	BIRTHS						DEATHS		Natural Increase or Decrease
	Legitimate	Illegitimate		TOTAL		M.	F.		
		Number	Percentage	M.	F.				
Hertford	...	199	5	2.5	104	100	81	86	+ 37
Hoddesdon	...	211	7	3.2	105	113	75	81	+ 62
Sawbridgeworth	...	64	2	3.0	32	34	26	28	+ 12
Ware (U.D.)	...	139	14	9.1	72	81	51	42	+ 60
Braughing	...	172	6	3.4	86	92	60	65	+ 53
Hertford (R.D.)	...	148	9	5.7	74	83	39	40	+ 78
Ware (R.D.)	...	178	6	3.3	91	93	68	61	+ 55
East Herts (C.D.)	...	1,111	49	4.3	564	596	400	403	+ 357

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERAL STATISTICS

Incidence

District	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles	Diphtheria	Acute Pneumonia	Small-pox	Typhoid Fever	Paratyphoid Fevers	Erysipelas	Meningococcal Infection	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia
			Paralytic	Non-paralytic										
Hertford (M.B.) ...	17	74	—	—	11	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Hoddesdon (U.D.) ...	7	22	3	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	39	—
Sawbridgeworth (U.D.) ...	4	31	—	—	5	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ware (U.D.) ...	5	14	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Braughing (R.D.) ...	3	79	—	—	14	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hertford (R.D.) ...	7	21	1	—	9	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Ware (R.D.) ...	7	42	—	—	15	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Total East Herts (C.D.) ...	50	283	4	—	61	—	15	—	1	—	5	1	42	2

Case Rate

District	Per 1,000 Population														Per 1,000 Total Births
	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles	Diphtheria	Acute Pneumonia	Small-pox	Typhoid Fever	Paratyphoid Fevers	Erysipelas	Meningococcal Infection	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	
Hertford (M.B.) ...	1.19	5.20	—	—	0.77	—	0.07	—	—	—	—	0.07	0.07	—	
Hoddesdon (U.D.) ...	0.50	1.58	0.22	—	0.29	—	0.07	—	—	—	0.29	—	2.80	—	
Sawbridgeworth (U.D.) ...	1.07	8.31	—	—	1.34	—	0.27	—	0.27	—	—	—	—	—	
Ware (U.D.) ...	0.56	1.57	—	—	0.34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Braughing (R.D.) ...	0.28	7.50	—	—	1.33	—	0.76	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Hertford (R.D.) ...	0.83	2.50	0.12	—	1.07	—	0.12	—	—	—	—	—	0.12	—	
Ware (R.D.) ...	0.68	4.09	—	—	1.46	—	0.29	—	—	—	0.09	—	0.09	10.87	
Total East Herts (C.D.) ...	0.71	4.04	0.06	—	0.87	—	0.21	—	0.01	—	0.07	0.01	0.60	1.72	
England and Wales ...	1.50	3.60	0.13	0.05	8.39	0.02	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.17	0.03	0.17	5.81	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN EAST HERTS: GENERAL COMMENT

DIPHTHERIA

For the first time on record there have been no cases of diphtheria in the whole of the Combined Districts.

Ever since diphtheria became compulsorily notifiable in 1889, one or other of the Combined Districts has reported cases each year. The records before 1900 are incomplete, but between 1900 and 1939 there has been an average of over 60 cases of diphtheria annually. In 1939 there were 57 cases, dropping to 53 in 1941. For the next three years there was an average of 14 cases, whilst in 1945 only three cases occurred. The last recorded death from this cause was one case in Hertford Borough in 1946.

There is no doubt that the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign which began in each Sanitary District early in the war, and which has been intensified during more recent years, has had a lot to do with this remarkable and welcome improvement, resulting in the stamping out of this disease locally. However, the disease is still prevalent in some other localities, and there is always the chance that it may spread to East Herts again.

Because of this danger, parents should see to it that as many of their children as possible are immunised. Children should be immunised in infancy and again just prior to starting school.

Those parents and children who have already participated in the Anti-Diphtheria Campaign are to be congratulated upon the success of their efforts in abolishing this deadly disease during 1950 in East Hertfordshire.

Diphtheria is a preventable disease—it is up to us all to keep it so.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

Four cases occurred which were very mild. Three have completely recovered, and the fourth has only a small degree of weakness in a limb.

FOOD POISONING

Seven outbreaks were recorded, but only five of these were officially notified by the practitioners concerned. Over 80 people were involved in all these outbreaks, including close contacts many of whom were suffering from the illness, and who were discovered during the course of routine investigations. The smallest outbreak affected only one person, and the largest single outbreak involved 63 persons.

The un-notified outbreaks occurred in the Ware Rural and Braughing Rural Districts respectively.

Details of the outbreaks are given in the various District Reports.

Full details concerning the notifiable diseases are shown separately in the District Reports.

TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1950

	Cases on Register at 1st January, 1950			Cases added to Register during 1950								Cases removed from Register during 1950								Cases remaining on Register at 31st Dec., 1950			Increase or decrease over 1949	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Population			
	P.	NP.	Td.	New Cases			Cases restored to Register			Inward Transfers			Deaths			Outward Transfers			Patients Cured								
				P.	NP.	Td.	P.	NP.	Td.	P.	NP.	Td.	P.	NP.	Td.	P.	NP.	Td.	P.	NP.	Td.						
Hertford M.B. ...	M.	24	12	69	8	1	14	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	-	3	2	-	3	1	-	2	27	12	77	+ 8	0.21
	F.	16	17		4	1		-	-	-	1	-		-	-	-	1	-		-	1	20	18				
Hoddesdon U.D. ...	M.	50	9	106	6	2	12	-	-	-	1	-	1	7	5	1	5	2	8	-	-	-	47	8	101	- 5	0.50
	F.	33	14		3	1		-	-	-	-	-		-	1	-	1	-		-	2	32	14				
Sawbridgeworth U.D.	M.	-	-	8	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	Nil	Nil	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	Nil	1	-	10	+ 2	Nil
	F.	6	2		2	-		-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	1		-	-	8	1				
Ware U.D. ...	M.	19	5	49	6	1	9	-	-	-	-	-	Nil	Nil	3	-	4	-	5	-	-	Nil	18	6	48	- 1	0.61
	F.	15	10		2	-		-	-	-	-	-		-	1	1	1	-		-	-	15	9				
Braughing R.D. ...	M.	21	10	53	2	1	8	-	-	-	3	-	5	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	25	10	62	+ 9	0.19
	F.	13	9		4	1		-	-	-	2	-		-	1	-	1	-		-	-	17	10				
Hertford R.D. ...	M.	13	4	42	2	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	Nil	Nil	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	13	5	41	- 1	0.24
	F.	16	9		1	1		-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	3	-		1	-	13	10				
Ware R.D. ...	M.	12	15	52	7	1	14	-	-	-	3	-	4	3	1	1	-	-	Nil	1	-	20	15	65	+13	0.29	
	F.	12	13		2	4		-	-	-	1	-		-	1	-	-	-		1	-	13	17				
Total East Herts C.D.	M.	139	55	379	32	7	65	-	-	-	8	-	12	22	15	2	11	2	21	2	1	151	56	404	+25	0.31	
	F.	111	74		18	8		-	-	-	4	-		4	4	1	7	1		4	2	118	79				

ABBREVIATIONS USED

M—Male, F—Female, P—Pulmonary, NP—Non-Pulmonary, Td.—Total, M.B.—Municipal Borough, U.D.—Urban District, R.D.—Rural District, C.D.—Combined Districts.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1950

	Causes of Death	Hertford M.B.		Hoddesdon U.D.		Sawbridge-worth U.D.		Ware U.D.		Braughing R.D.		Hertford R.D.		Ware R.D.		
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1	ALL CAUSES ...	81	86	75	81	26	28	51	42	60	65	39	40	68	61	1
2	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	3	0	6	1	0	1	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	2
3	Tuberculosis, other ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
4	Syphilitic disease ...	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
5	Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
6	Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
7	Meningococcal infections ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
8	Acute Poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
9	Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
10	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	10
11	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	5	1	4	1	1	0	1	2	3	1	0	1	3	1	11
12	" lung, bronchus	0	2	4	1	1	0	2	1	2	0	2	1	3	1	12
13	" breast	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	13
14	" uterus	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	14
15	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	9	4	7	3	3	2	5	8	4	3	3	10	9	15
16	Leukemia, aleukemia ...	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	16
17	Diabetes ...	1	1	0	3	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	17
18	Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	12	7	7	4	7	4	4	9	12	3	7	8	7	18
19	Coronary disease, angina ...	9	11	8	5	2	1	13	6	13	9	10	3	9	5	19
20	Hypertension with heart disease	3	2	3	5	2	0	1	1	1	2	3	3	1	1	20
21	Other heart disease	12	19	8	19	4	11	5	9	5	12	3	5	12	8	21
22	Other circulatory disease ...	1	5	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	4	3	22
23	Influenza ...	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	23
24	Pneumonia ...	3	1	2	3	3	1	1	0	1	0	2	3	1	4	24
25	Bronchitis ...	3	2	4	2	2	1	7	5	3	0	1	1	4	1	25
26	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	26
27	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	27
28	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	28
29	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	29
30	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	30
31	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	31
32	Congenital malformations ...	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	32
33	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	10	13	10	2	0	3	5	3	12	7	3	4	6	33
34	Motor vehicle accidents ...	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	34
35	All other accidents ...	1	2	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	2	0	1	0	2	35
36	Suicide ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	36
	Homicide and operations of war ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
	Still Births ...	2	0	1	4	0	1	3	0	2	7	1	0	3	1	
	Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	
	" " four weeks to one year of age	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

County Council Health Services

The following County Council Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946, are available in the District.

Further details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Hertford.

Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centres

District Nurse/Midwives work at 17 localities in the East Herts Combined Sanitary Districts.

These Nurses also carry out Health Visiting and School Nursing except at Hoddesdon and Sawbridgeworth, where there are whole-time Health Visitor/School Nurses.

Twenty-two Welfare Centres have also been established in the same area.

Vaccinations and Diphtheria Immunisations

Medical Officers at Welfare Centres will vaccinate or immunise any babies at the request of parents. Family Doctors will also provide this prophylaxis free of charge.

Home and Domestic Help

Applications for this Service should be addressed to the Local Organiser at 27 Bull Plain, Hertford (Tel.: Hertford 3232) and 25a Portland Road, Bishop's Stortford (Tel.: Bishop's Stortford 332). A charge may be made for this Service in accordance with the County Council's assessment scale.

Care and After-Care

Applications for recuperative holidays, if recommended by the Medical Attendant, should be made to the County Medical Officer.

Equipment can be issued on loan to patients being nursed at home. Loan Depots have been established at Bishop's Stortford, Braughing, Hertford, Great Hormead, Hoddesdon, Much Hadham, Standon, Stanstead Abbots, Ware and West Mill.

A charge may be made for both these Services.

Ambulance Services

There are Ambulance Stations at Hertford (Tel.: Hertford 2222), Bishop's Stortford (Tel.: Bishop's Stortford 1101), Hoddesdon (Tel.: Hoddesdon 3021) and Ware (Tel.: Ware 441).

Except in emergency an Ambulance should be ordered by a Medical Practitioner.

Mental Health

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a General Practitioner are made by the Duly Authorised Officer, Mr. Parker, Colett Road, Ware (Tel.: Ware 541).

Help in respect of Mentally Defective persons can be obtained by application to the County Medical Officer.

An Occupation Centre for defective children has been established in Hertford.

Hospital and General Practitioner Medical Services

There has been no important change in these services since publication of the 1949 Report.

HOUSING PROGRESS DURING 1950

	Hertford M.B.		Hoddesdon U.D.		Sawbridge- worth U.D.		Ware U.D.		Braughing R.D.		Hertford R.D.		Ware R.D.	
	During 1950	Since 1945	During 1950	Since 1945	During 1950	Since 1945	During 1950	Since 1945	During 1950	Since 1945	During 1950	Since 1945	During 1950	Since 1945
By PRIVATE ENTERPRISE														
New dwellings erected	8	40	19	84	1	25	7	33	4	67	5	76	8	45
War-destroyed dwellings rebuilt	2	19	1	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Repairs to war-damaged houses	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46	—	31	—	—
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	4	27	2	16	—	—	—	24	—	34	—	24	—	11
By LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITY														
New dwellings erected	77	185	72	240	—	65	14	152	53	283	46	194	38	268
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	—	6	—	—	2	76	—	—	—	67	1	1	—	5
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	—	50	—	38	—	10	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
By OTHER AUTHORITIES (County Council, Police, Military, etc.)	15	25	2	6	—	3	8	12	1	1	1	36	Nil	Nil
TOTAL PROPERTIES CONTROLLED BY THE LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES ON 31ST DEC., 1950														
Properties provided under the various Housing Acts:														
Council Houses	824		606		169		592		669		470		640	
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	50		38		10		—		—		—		—	
Sundries	21		27		76		18		67		1		56	
Requisitioned dwellings	6		3		4		1		3		7		5	

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Inspections of Factories during 1950

Copy of Information supplied to the Ministry of Labour and National Service on Form 572 (Revised)				Hertford M.B.	Hoddesdon U.D.	Sawbridge- worth U.D.	Ware U.D.	Braughing R.D.	Hertford R.D.	Ware R.D.
Factories without Mechanical Power										
Number on Register	...			23	21	5	16	37	23	14
Inspections	...	...	...	12	2	7	7	30	12	6
Written Notices	...	...	...	1	1	—	—	5	1	—
Occupier Prosecuted	...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factories with Mechanical Power										
Number on Register	...			98	86	10	69	23	—	36
Inspections	...	...	...	9	80	15	22	11	—	23
Written Notices	...	...	...	1	6	—	1	—	—	—
Occupier Prosecuted	...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Premises under the Act (Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Buildings operations and works of engineering construction, but not including Outworkers premises)										
Number on Register	...			—	1	4	—	4	—	—
Inspections	...	...	...	12	4	4	—	4	—	—
Written Notices	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Occupier Prosecuted	...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Outworkers

Copy of Information supplied to the Ministry of Labour and National Service on Form 572 (Revised)				Hertford M.B.	Hoddesdon U.D.	Sawbridge- worth U.D.	Ware U.D.	Braughing R.D.	Hertford R.D.	Ware R.D.
Wearing Apparel:										
Making, etc.	...	...	...	233	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and Washing	...			—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Box Making	...	...	...	—	—	—	75	—	—	—
Brush Making	...	...	...	33	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paper Bag Making	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Defects found in Factories during 1950

Copy of Information supplied to the Ministry of Labour and National Service on Form 572 (Revised)	Hertford M.B.	Hoddesdon U.D.	Sawbridge- worth U.D.	Ware U.D.	Braughing R.D.	Hertford R.D.	Ware R.D.
Want of Cleanliness:							
Found	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Remedied	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Overcrowding:							
Found	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature:							
Found	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation:							
Found	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors:							
Found	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Remedied	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences Insufficient:							
Found	1	2	1	1	-	1	3
Remedied	1	2	1	1	-	-	3
Sanitary Conveniences Unsuitable or Defective:							
Found	3	4	1	1	-	-	-
Remedied	3	4	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences not separate for Sexes:							
Found	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Remedied	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Other Offences:							
Found	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total Defects:							
Found	4	8	3	2	5	1	3
Remedied	4	7	3	2	3	-	3
Total Defects referred to H.M. Inspector	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Total Defects referred by H.M. Inspector	2	5	-	1	-	-	-

BOROUGH OF HERTFORD

WATER SUPPLY

Source

All the water is obtained from boreholes (sunk in chalk) at Molewood, Wadesmill, Hartham and Port Hill.

Quality

Chemical.—The water has no plumbo-solvent or other detrimental action, and although rather hard, is of a high standard of purity. A chemical examination of the water was carried out in November, 1950, from each of the four pumping stations with the following results:—

Chemical Analyses (parts per million)				
(Samples taken 14th Nov., 1950)	Wadesmill Road	Port Hill	Hartham	Molewood
Appearance	Bright with very few mineral particles.	Clear and bright.	Bright with very few mineral particles.	Bright with very few mineral particles.
Turbidity (Silica scale)	Less than 3	Nil	Less than 3	Less than 3
Colour (Hazen) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Faint Chlorinous	Nil
Taste	—	—	—	—
Reaction pH ...	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1
Free CO ₂	30	30	29	31
Electric Conducti- vity at 20° C. ...	520	490	540	500
Total solids dried at 180° C.	340	320	350	330
Hardness:				
Carbonate (Temp.)	245	225	235	235
Non-Carb. (Perm.)	50	45	55	45
Total	295*	270*	290*	280*
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	4.4	4.0	3.4	3.4
Nitrite Nitrogen ...	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Albuminoid "	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C. ...	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00
Residual Chlorine	Absent	Absent	0.09	Absent
Metals	Absent	Absent	Iron 0.04 Other metals Absent	Absent
Fluoride (F) ...	Less than 0.1	Less than 0.1	Less than 0.1	Less than 0.1

* The precise figure calculated from the Magnesium and Calcium contents.

REPORT. (All four samples)

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction.

The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution.

It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity (Wadesmill.—It is of the highest standard of organic quality and of very satisfactory bacterial purity.)

Bacteriological.—Forty-four samples of water from the public water supplies were examined bacteriologically during the year, and in each case *B. Coli* organisms were absent from 100 ml.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year difficulties were experienced with the Activated Sludge purification process at the Sewage Works, and the quality of the effluent deteriorated. In February, 1951, dome-shaped diffusers were installed to replace the old flat-plate-type diffusers, and the sewage effluent on analysis, is now classified as of "very good quality."

REFUSE DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of refuse is carried out to each household and special arrangements exist for the collection of trade refuse.

During August, 1950, the refuse tip at Hartham was closed down and a new tip was opened up at a disused gravel quarry at Foxholes Farm.

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' WORK during the Year, 1950

Inspection of District

Total Number of Visits	1,221
Dwelling Houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	125
Housing, re-inspection of Works in Progress, and interviews with Owners and Builders	124
General Inspections	86
" " re-visits	26
Complaints Investigated	48
Food Inspections	152
" " Control Visits	45
Visits re Cases of Infectious Diseases	20
" " " " " " Disinfections	17
Smoke Observations	7
Rodent Control—Inspections and Visits	185
Miscellaneous Visits	171
Registered and Licensed Premises Inspected	
Factories	27
Bakehouses	6
Ice Cream Premises	37
Slaughterhouses	3
Shops, Meat Stores	121
Common Lodging Houses	6
Refuse Dump	15
	<u>1,221</u>

During the year, 102 houses have been inspected in regard to sanitary defects. Arising from informal procedure 87 improvements have been carried out in regard to 67 premises.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Common Lodging Houses (Part IX)*The White House, Railway Street*

This is the only registered Common Lodging House within the Borough. The house provides nightly accommodation for 32 men; the number of men accommodated during the year was 6,678, a nightly average of 18 men.

The premises have been kept under observation, six visits having been made during the year. The house is generally well conducted.

No case of Infectious Disease has been notified at the house.

Canal Boats (Part X)

During the year the riverside and wharves have been kept under observation for the purpose of inspection of Registered Canal Boats using the Canal within the Borough boundary.

No registered canal boats have been observed using the canal during the year.

Hertingfordbury—Sanitary Circumstances

The periodic cleansing of the pail closets commenced by the Corporation in November, 1947, is continued.

Water Supply

The houses in the area are provided with constant water supply connected with the Borough Service.

Houses as follows are served by stand-pipes:—

Houses 229, 231, 233, 235, Hertingfordbury Road:	one external tap
„ 237 239 241	„ „ „ „ „
„ 260, 262, 264, 266, }	„ „ „ „ „
„ 268, 270, 272, 274 }	„ „ „ „ „

Infectious Diseases

The number of visits re cases of Infectious Diseases made during the year was 20.

The number of disinfections of rooms carried out, following cases of infectious diseases was 17.

In one case, following death from Tuberculosis, after receipt of formal application, a small quantity of bedding and clothing was removed and destroyed.

In five cases, following infectious diseases, it was necessary to require the cleansing and redecorating of rooms.

Verminous Premises, Articles and Persons*Verminous Premises (Section 83)*

Disinfestation was carried out at five houses during the year. D.D.T. Preparations being used in each case.

Verminous Persons (Section 85)

Although the Scabies Order, 1941, is now no longer in force, the arrangements made under the Order whereby verminous persons are treated at the County Welfare Clinic, Bull Plain, have continued.

All male cases are treated by a male employee of the Corporation specially trained for the work, and the County Council have agreed for all female cases to be treated by the Nursing Sisters or Health Visitors.

No cases received treatment during 1950.

Smoke Nuisance—*Reliance Laundry, Hertford*

Preliminary investigations of a smoke nuisance from the chimney stack to the boiler installation at the above-mentioned factory were completed during the latter part of 1949.

Owing to the difficulty in avoiding a smoke nuisance with the available fuel supplies (coal), the nuisance was abated by a change-over from coal consumption to the use of coke.

"Follow up" observations, each of 15 minutes, were made during the first two months of the year.

Licensed Premises—*Sanitary Accommodation*

Informal action under Section 89 has secured the following improvements:—

New urinal accommodation provided	...	...	...	1
Urinal accommodation improved	...	...	...	1
Separate accommodation for the sexes	...	...	...	2
Sanitary accommodation improved	...	...	...	2

Notices outstanding at the end of the year include:—

Abolition of unsatisfactory urinal accommodation	...	1
Provision of new urinal	...	1
Provision of separate accommodation for the sexes	...	2

HOUSING ACTS**Overcrowding Summary**

The following is a summary of the recorded conditions of overcrowding within the Borough, for the year 1950.

Overcrowding

Number of overcrowded houses at 1st January, 1950	...	14
Rehoused by Corporation	...	6
Abated by Occupier	...	1
	—	7
New cases discovered (including one borderline case which became overcrowded during the year)	...	4
	—	3
Number of overcrowding cases at 31st December, 1950	...	11

Borderline Cases

Number of borderline cases at 1st January, 1950	...	9
Rehoused by Corporation	... 1	
Abated by Occupier	... 3	
Cases which became overcrowded during the year	... 1	
	— 5	
New cases discovered	... 1	
	— 4	
Number of borderline cases at 31st December, 1950	...	5

Partial Overcrowding Cases (overcrowding of rooms)

Number of partially overcrowded cases at 1st January, 1950	... 4	
Rehoused by Corporation	... 3	
Abated by Occupier	... 1	
Cases which became borderline overcrowding during the year	... 4	
	—	
New cases discovered during the year	... 2	
	— 2	
Number of partial overcrowding cases at 31st Dec., 1950	...	2

Housing Progress

Details of Housing Progress are tabulated in the combined statistical part of this Report.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938**Milk and Dairies***Milk Supply*

Number of Producers	... 9
„ „ Producers/Retailers	... 1
„ „ Retail Purveyors of Milk	... 3

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

Tuberculin Tested Milk

Dealers' Licence	... 3
Supplementary Dealer's Licence	... 1
Producer's Licence (issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries)	... 6

Sterilised Milk

Dealer's Licence	... 2
Supplementary Dealer's Licence	... 1

Pasteurised Milk

Dealer's Licence	... 1
Supplementary Dealer's Licence	... 1
Pasteurisers Licence (issued by Herts County Council in respect of premises situate in the Borough)	... 1

Ice Cream

Ice-Cream Premises

The number of registered premises for the sale of Ice Cream within the Borough is:—

Registered Dealers (including three new registrations during 1950)	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Registered Producer/Dealer "cold mix"	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Changes of Occupation	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	36

There is one mobile ice-cream van retailing pre-packed ice-cream within this area. The van, a converted lightweight commercial vehicle, commenced operating during the year, and, on the advice of this department, was fitted out with washing facilities, etc., viz detachable washing bowl, insulated vacuum urn for hot water, container for cold water, soap and towels

Cafes and Restaurants

The following contraventions were remedied during the year:—

Provision of adequate food storage (a refrigerator being provided)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Provision of suitable and sufficient washing facilities	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cleansing and redecoration of walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Shops and Meat Stores

Number of premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Number of Meat Retailers	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Number of Shops retailing general foodstuffs (not including the above Meat Retailers)	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	121

Byelaws

Byelaws for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, and Sale of Food in the Open Air, made by the Corporation on the 6th April, 1950, being duly confirmed by the Minister of Food, came into operation on the 10th July, 1950.

A copy of the Byelaws was circularised to food premises as follow:—

Retail Shops	...	...	...	...	...	99
Cafes, Restaurants, Inns and Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	67
Works and School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	35

201

Slaughterhouses and Slaughtermen

During the year three visits were made to the Slaughterhouses in respect of Section 57 (2a) reference the renewal of the licences.

No application was received during the year for the renewal of the licence in respect of one of the slaughterhouses, these premises now being used for other purposes.

The two remaining licensed slaughterhouses in the town are not being used at the present time, centralised slaughter for the area being carried out at the Ministry of Food's Central Slaughterhouse at Ware. Both of these premises, apart from deterioration due to non-usage, have not materially changed.

There are four slaughtermen licensed by the Corporation under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

During the year a considerable amount of time has been taken up with food inspections. The duties have necessitated a total of 197 visits and the issue of 198 Certificates of Condemnation of Foodstuffs.

The Foodstuffs dealt with are set out under their respective headings as follows:—

<i>Canned Foodstuffs</i>					No. of Containers	Weight in lbs.
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	32	118½
Other Meat and Meat Products	...	...	...	...	96	145½
Soups	...	...	...	...	125	93½
Pulses and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	97	117¼
Vegetables—Diced Carrots	...	...	...	...	636	1,113
Fruit	...	...	...	...	267	422
Preserves and Jams	...	...	...	...	52	61½
Milk	...	...	...	...	76	75¼
Milk	...	...	...	...	136	136
Pickles and Sauces	...	...	...	...	156	90¾
Cereals	...	...	...	...	55	19½
Fish and Fish Products	...	...	...	...	151	51¾
					1,879	2,444½

With regard to the above 636 tins of Diced Carrots, these were part of a consignment of war-time salvaged goods which had deteriorated through prolonged storage.

Milk—the above 136 tins were part of a consignment of imported condensed milk, which, on opening, were found to contain mould—the importers were notified of the circumstances.

Included in the canned meat products is a 16-lb. tin of French Ham; the origin of the foodstuff being identified with the district concerned with the outbreak of food poisoning at Hoddesdon.

The Meat Depot, the South Eastern Wholesale Meat Supply Association, situated within the Borough, is a distribution centre for the meat traders within the surrounding area. Close co-operation has been maintained with the Depot in regard to notification and examination of suspect canned meat.

Fish

	Lbs.		Lbs.
Skate Wings	203	Cod Fillets	42
Soles	28	Smoked Fillets	28
Dogfish	42	Haddocks	14
Herrings	210	Sprats	98
Kippers	98	Herring Roes	28
Catfish	70	Fried Fish	12½

Total: 873½ lbs.

Miscellaneous Foodstuffs

		Lbs.	Lbs.
Beef—Imported Frozen:			
Silverside and Topside,	Internal Decomposition	10	
Fore Rib,	Rat-gnawed	10	
		—	20
Beef—Home Killed:			
Topside,	Internal Decomposition	9	
Silverside and Thick Flank,	Internal Decomposition	15½	
Topside and Silverside,	Internal Bruising	28	
Fore Rib,	Bruising	4	
		—	56½
Mutton—Imported Frozen:			
One Sheep,	Caseous Lymphadenitis	52	
Shoulder of Lamb,	Decomposition	5	
		—	57
Pork—Home Killed:			
Part Loin and Leg,	Internal Decomposition	12½	
Sow Pork,	Internal Decomposition	53	
		—	65½
Sausages:			
Pork,	Decomposition	8	
Beef,	„	84	
		—	92
Bacon (2¼ + 3 + 10¾ + 1),	Decomposition	17	
Brains—Lambs—Imported Frozen,	Decomposition	124	
Eggs—Imported Frozen:			
Liquid Whole Egg,	Decomposition	128	
Pies,	Decomposition	2	
		—	562

The condemned carcass of imported mutton appeared to have been examined at the export abattoir of the country of origin and by mistake included for export.

Arising from action on the 8th December, 1950, by the Enforcement Officers of the Ministry of Food, 23 lbs. of home-killed meat and 30 lbs. of fat were examined—the foodstuffs were not unsound and were certified accordingly. On the 28th of December the Ministry of Food instituted legal procedure at the Borough Sessions on a number of indictments included being contraventions of the Livestock (Restrictions of Slaughtering) Orders. The Sanitary Inspector was requested and attended the Court to testify as to the condition of the deposited meat and fat.

Total weight of foodstuffs for the year:—

	tons cwt. lbs.		
Food in Containers ...	1	1	92½
Fish ...		7	89½
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs ...		5	2
	1	14	72

	1947			1948			1949		
	tons	cwt.	lbs.	tons	cwt.	lbs.	tons	cwt.	lbs.
Canned Foods	1	13	68		14	30		11	49
Fish ...	1	6	106		12	64	1	6	52
Miscellaneous		18	73	2	0	38		11	13
	3	19	23	3	7	20	2	9	2

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Number of Factories on Register:

Mechanical Factories ...	98
Non-Mechanical Factories ...	23
	121

Number of Inspections:

Mechanical Factories (including five "Mechanical" Bake-houses) ...	9
Non-Mechanical Factories (including one non-mechanical Bakehouse) ...	12
Other Premises (Building Sites, etc.) ...	12
	33
Number of Notices Served ...	4

During the year references were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories in regard to new or changed circumstances at 26 factories.

Contraventions

Contraventions of the Factories Act discovered and remedied during the year include:—

Sanitary accommodation provided (a brick structure converted for use, together with provision of pail closet on a building site)	1
Replacement of unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation (a portable "sentry box" type structure provided with pail closet for use on a building site)	1
Cleansing of sanitary accommodation and repair of defective water-closet seat	2

Outworkers

The half-yearly lists of outworkers supplied by factories within the Borough in accordance with the requirements of the Factories Act include 266 persons. Of this 266, 101 are resident within the Borough.

Lists supplied by other local authorities of outworkers employed by firms situate outside the Borough include 13 persons resident within the Borough.

The nature of the work carried out by the outworkers within the Borough is as follows: Wearing apparel 77; Brush workers 26; Envelope making 11.

Information was received during the year of a case of Scarlet Fever having been notified at an address outside the Borough at which "home work" was received from a firm within the Borough. As the patient was being nursed at home, the necessary precautions were taken to prevent the further acceptance of "home work" until the termination of the case, and the disinfection of the material already held by the outworker.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which supercedes the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and directly vests the District Councils with Powers and Duties in relation to the control of rats and mice, came into operation on the 1st April, 1950.

Corporation Properties

Surface Properties

Routine visits were made during the year to all Council properties occupied by the Corporation. Treatments were made as follows:—

Sewage Works	2
Effluent Channel ($\frac{3}{4}$ mile)	1
Waterworks, Port Hill	1
Other Premises	3

Sewers

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, test-baiting of the Corporation sewers was carried out in May, followed by a treatment.

Test Bait:

Total number of sewer manholes	...	420
Number test-baited	... ..	*79
Number showing takes	... ..	12
*18.8 per cent. or 1 in 5		

Treatment

The 12 manholes showing takes formed the basis of eight areas (76 manholes) which were later treated in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry.

Private Dwellings

Mice infestations treated	... ..	16
Rat infestations treated	... ..	49

In order to facilitate the work of rodent control, the Corporation continues to service and treat private dwellings without charge. The advantage of this policy is the gradual increase in the number of complaints of minor infestations (potential major infestations) which might otherwise have not been reported.

Business Properties

Total number of premises treated	...	40
----------------------------------	-----	----

Agricultural Land

Although the District Council is the responsible authority under the new Act, infestations on agricultural properties are referred to the County Pest Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who by agreement continue to carry out the treatment of such properties.

Close co-operation has been maintained with the Pest Department of the Herts County Agricultural Executive Committee.

Workable Area Committee

A suggestion of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries that a Workable Area Committee be formed by the Hertford Corporation and the Hertford R.D.C. was considered by the Council.

Whilst there are no inter-connected sewers running between the area of the Borough and the areas of any other local authority, and as the boundary line areas of the Borough and the adjoining Districts consist solely of agricultural land (treatment of which is carried out by the Ministry) it was decided not to form a Workable Area Committee.

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1935

Refuse Dumps (Section 26)

Old Clay Pits, Hertingfordbury still continue to be occasionally used by the Southgate Borough Council for the deposit of "refuse and waste material which is not of an edible or putrescible character" in accordance with the conditions of consent given by the Council on the 5th February 1947.

Employment Agencies (Section 74)

The conduct and management of the only Employment Agency in the Borough, a Domestic Agency, has been in accordance with Part V of the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935.

Movable Dwellings (Section 93)

Consideration of an application in respect of siting a movable dwelling was deferred by the Public Health and Town Planning Committee until such time as it has been considered under the Town and Country Planning Act. This application was later withdrawn and the caravan removed.

One other application for consent for siting a movable dwelling for a limited period, was granted.

During October a caravan, found to be sited on land within the Borough, was removed.

FOOD POISONING

Notifications (corrected) returned to Registrar General:—

First Quarter	...	...	...	—
Second „	...	...	...	—
Third „	...	...	...	1
Fourth „	...	...	...	—
				—
Total	...	...	...	1
				—

Total Cases: 1

Case History

This was an isolated case affecting a man aged 68 years. He was taken ill with malaise, stomach pains and diarrhoea on 19th August, 1950 and on 23rd August, 1950 was admitted to hospital. Laboratory tests on his faeces revealed the presence of *Salmonella typhi-murium*. It was thought that the infection may have originated in some duck eggs purchased locally or in some meat stew which had been prepared at home the day before the onset of illness. Factors contributing to this outbreak were:—

- (a) Lack of proper food storage facilities in the house;
- (b) Out-of-date sanitary convenience at end of garden making cleanliness difficult. No hand washing facilities.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

DISEASE	TOTAL	AGE GROUP (in Years)						Age not Known	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65			
Scarlet Fever	17	—	1	14	2	—	—	—	17	—
Whooping Cough	74	3	39	32	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	11	1	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dysentery	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (Acute):										
Infective	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice ...	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	8	—	—	2	—	1	—	2	1	2
Whooping Cough	—	—	2	—	—	1	6	20	17	7	2	19
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	—	—	1	4

HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

Most of the houses (more than 98 per cent.) derive their water from public mains. A small number of houses are served by standpipes, but during the year four of such houses were provided with an internal water supply. There are about 55 houses in the district without a public supply and these are situated in the out-lying and undeveloped parts of the district.

In June, the Council made a requisition on the Metropolitan Water Board under the provisions of Section 46 of the Water Act, 1945, to extend the mains in Nursery Road a distance of 135 yards to serve some 20 houses in Southern and Western Terraces, which derived their water from a private supply. The laying of the mains was completed in October, although the actual linking-up to the houses was not made until March, 1951.

During the year, an extension of approximately 1,027 yards of 4-in. main was laid by the Council's water undertaking to afford a supply to the Rye House Generating Station, which is in course of construction. This enabled the large canteen and hostels on the site, two factories and two houses on the line of route, which formerly had shallow well supplies, to be provided with main water.

It was necessary to cart water to one cottage, at some distance from the mains, where the supply failed. A separate piped supply from the above-mentioned new main was made available in 1951.

Public Main Supplies

The northern end of the district is served by the Metropolitan Water Board.

The Council's own water undertaking covers the remainder of the district, all the water being chlorinated and pumped into reservoirs prior to distribution through the mains.

During the year, the system of chlorinating the water at the works was improved, the chlorine now being injected into the pumping main at surface level, thus enabling samples of raw water to be taken from the well at any time.

Ministry of Health Sanction has been received to the scheme for super-chlorinating the water at the Pumping Station and for subsequent partial dechlorination on entry into the reservoir.

A chlorine residual recorder is to be installed. The works involved will be commenced in 1951.

Sixty-three samples of water were taken from the Council's public supply and submitted for bacteriological examination. One full chemical analysis was also made during the year. In addition 25 bacteriological examinations and four full chemical analyses of the raw water were carried out.

Routine Bacteriological Examinations

Public Supply (after treatment).—Sixty-three samples were tested, Fæcal Coli were absent in each case, but Non-fæcal Coli were present in samples taken on 3rd October and 27th November respectively.

Raw Water (before treatment).—Twenty-five samples were tested and showed the presence of Fæcal Coli in each case.

This contamination of the raw water before treatment has necessitated the maintenance of a very high level of chlorination of the water in order to safeguard the public health. The two failures already mentioned arose following constructional works. It is expected that when the new super-chlorination and dechlorination system has finally been installed and is operating efficiently, consumers will be unaware of any further taste or smell of chlorine in the public water supply.

Chemical Analyses of Hoddesdon U.D.C. Main Supply

Chemical Results in Parts per Million	Public Supply. Sample taken 23rd Feb., 1950	Raw Water. Sample taken 11th July, 1950
Appearance	Faint opalescence with a slight flocculent deposit consisting of chalk particles with mineral debris.	Bright with a very slight deposit consisting of chalk particles.
Turbidity	Less than 5	Less than 3
Colour	Filtered: Less than 10	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil
Reaction pH	7.3	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide ...	15	16
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	610	640
Total solids, dried at 180° C. ...	410	430
Chlorine as Chloride ...	29	29
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	215	225
Hardness:		
Carbonate (Temporary) ...	215	225
Non-Carbonate (Perm.) ...	105	110
Total	320	335
Nitrate Nitrogen	7.2	7.2
Nitrite Nitrogen	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.000	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	0.35	0.15
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.000	0.000
Residual Chlorine	Absent	—
Metals	Iron: 0.08 Other metals absent	Absent

Private Supplies

Following a series of five unsatisfactory reports on samples taken from the shallow well supply to one dwelling house, the owner had a new deep well sunk into the chalk. Subsequent samples submitted for bacteriological examination proved satisfactory.

One dwelling house, previously without a proper water supply, was provided with a piped supply from a private well in an adjoining property. Following unsatisfactory bacteriological reports on samples taken from the cottage and from the source of supply, a filter was fitted, which proved effective and further samples taken were reported as being satisfactory.

Further samples taken from the two pumps at Frogley Road, Dobbs Weir, Hoddesdon, and submitted for bacteriological examination, showed the water to be still unsatisfactory. Representations were made to the owners who now propose to sink a new deep borehole.

Unsatisfactory reports were received on four samples taken from the private supply at a workers' hostel. Following representations to the owners, the storage tank was cleaned out and subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

Three other samples—the first of which was unsatisfactory—were taken from private supplies during the year.

Results of Bacteriological Examinations of Private Supplies

In 12 instances the unsatisfactory results mentioned above were due to the presence of fæcal coli and in 11 due to non-fæcal coli. In three further samples they were due to gross contamination with *Bacillus pyocyaneus*.

Factory Supplies

Investigations continued following unsatisfactory reports on samples of water taken from one group of factories, and the trouble was eventually cleared up. A total of 27 samples were taken from this private supply, and submitted for bacteriological examination. One unsatisfactory result was due to the presence of fæcal coli, and eight further unsatisfactory results were due to gross contamination with non-fæcal organisms and *Bacillus pyocyaneus*.

Four unsatisfactory reports due to the presence of fæcal coli and three to non-fæcal coli, were received on samples taken from another factory, and the owners were advised to boil all water before use. A supply for drinking purposes was subsequently afforded from the extension of the Council's main supply in Essex Road.

Four bacteriological examinations, one of which was unsatisfactory due to non-fæcal coli, and one full chemical analysis was made of other factory supplies during the year. The chemical analysis is satisfactory and closely corresponds to the result tabulated in respect of the Hoddesdon Public Supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There was no alteration to the sewerage arrangements in the district during the year. Most 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 farms, after passing through screening and precipitation tanks.

Northern Drainage Area

In the Report for 1949, mention was made that the Council were considering means of sewerage the northern part of the district (Stanstead Road area). Ministry approval was received for the first part of the scheme to construct 400 yards of 9-in. soil sewer to serve the Stanstead Road/Cranbourne Road area. Tenders were invited in November, and the work was begun early in 1951. It is hoped that work on the remainder of the scheme will be put in hand in 1951.

Properties Connected to Sewer

"Hall View" and "Grasmere," Ware Road, Hoddesdon, which were formerly served by cesspools, were connected to the Council's sewer during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Household refuse is collected fortnightly, but during the year a system of weekly collection was instituted in certain roads in the district where the occupiers co-operate by bringing the dustbins to the front entrance gates.

Refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping methods in a gravel pit in Rye Road, Hoddesdon, and at the Edmonton Borough Council tip in Church Lane, Wormley.

The filling in of the Rye Road gravel pit was completed in December. A new site was obtained in Cock Lane, Hoddesdon, well removed from any dwelling houses, and brought into use in 1951.

Ware Rural District Council Tip, Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon

It was again necessary to make representations about this Tip, but conditions improved towards the close of the year.

Edmonton Borough Council Tip, Church Lane, Wormley

Destructor clinker and screenings are deposited at this Tip, and during the summer months it was used for the tipping of Hoddesdon household refuse. The Tip was well maintained and treated with an insecticide to prevent nuisance from flies and crickets.

Gravel Pit, Nazeing Road, Broxbourne

The tipping of spoil and waste in that part of the Pit within the urban boundary has ceased and the Tip levelled off.

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK during the year 1950

Inspections, etc.

The following inspections have been made and the following notices served:—

Dwelling houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	624
Housing, re-Inspection of Works in Progress, and inter-views with Owners and Builders	...	...	...	...	1,902
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	57
Inspection of Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	2
Inspection of Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	26
Inspection of Stables and Pig-sties	...	...	...	...	9
Inspection of Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	27
Inspection of Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	10
Inspection of Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	24
Visits to other premises where food is prepared and/or exposed for sale	...	...	...	...	178
Market Inspections	...	...	...	...	40
Visits to School Premises	...	...	...	...	6
Refuse Tip Inspections	...	...	...	...	110
Investigation of Complaints other than Housing	...	...	...	...	32
Inspection of Factories	...	...	...	...	86
Inspection of Camping Grounds and Caravans	...	...	...	...	58
Miscellaneous Inspections	...	...	...	...	415
Total Inspections					3,606
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	234
Number of Letters sent	...	...	...	...	744
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	72
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	24

Defects Remedied

Drainage and Sanitary Arrangements	...	...	...	404
Dwelling Houses, etc.	...	...	...	255

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Statutory Notices

Three Statutory Notices were served under Section 93 to remedy nuisances arising from structural defects to dwelling houses.

Twenty-one Statutory Notices were served under Section 75 for the provision of dustbins at various addresses in the district.

Disinfestation

Eradication of Bed Bugs

During the year nine houses were treated for bug infestation, including four Council houses. The same method of disinfestation was followed as in previous years.

Disinfections

Disinfections were carried out in consequence of infectious diseases (including Tuberculosis) in 16 dwelling houses.

Verminous Persons

No cases were reported during the year.

Sanitary Conveniences

Public Conveniences

The modernisation of the Public Conveniences at the Clock House was completed during the year, this includes the provision of two slipper baths.

A scheme to provide a Public Convenience at Wormley is awaiting approval.

Public Halls

As a result of representations, the sanitary arrangements at the Drill Hall were improved.

Licensed Premises

The owners of several public houses in the district have been requested to effect improvements to the sanitary accommodation. Negotiations are proceeding, and in some instances plans for modernising and improving have been submitted to the Council.

Swimming Bath

The swimming pool at "The Spinning Wheel," High Street, Hoddesdon, was opened to the public from 1st May to Saturday, 30th September.

In August, the Council installed "break-point" chlorination, superseding the "marginal" system formerly in use.

Apart from the regular and routine tests for residual chlorine in the water, frequent bacteriological examinations were made during the year.

Atmospheric Pollution

Measurement and Recording

The construction of the Rye House Generating Station by the British Electricity Authority is proceeding and the Council have decided to set up two stations for measuring atmospheric pollution.

Two deposit gauges for collecting soot, ash and grit, and two lead peroxide instruments for measuring sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere, have been ordered. There is likely to be some delay in the supply of this equipment.

Movable Dwellings

Wooden Bungalows, Huts, Shacks and Caravans Frogley Road, Dobbs Weir, Hoddesdon

After many consultations with the owner and his advisers, the Council's Officers have secured approval in principle under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, to a scheme of development for this area.

The scheme provides for the removal of most of the unsightly shacks and movable dwellings alongside the river bank, and the retention of the six more substantial bungalows.

The remainder of the site is to be used for caravans and chalets for summer occupation only.

A satisfactory water supply, sanitary accommodation, drains and sewers and means of sewage disposal are to be provided to the Council's requirements.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1949

Overcrowding

Fifteen cases of overcrowding were reported during the year, 11 in Council houses and four in privately owned houses.

Overcrowding was abated in 18 Council houses and 31 privately-owned houses, mainly through the allocation of new houses.

Demolition Orders

No Demolition or Closing Orders were served during the year.

Improvement Grants

An application was considered for an improvement grant. The application was subsequently withdrawn.

Housing Progress

Details are tabulated at the beginning of this Combined Report.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Milk and Dairies

Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	...	9
Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk by Round from outside the district	...	...	...	...	3

The dairies have been frequently inspected and a total of 26 visits has been made.

One dairy which was inadequate, was discontinued. Larger premises were acquired, altered and improved, and brought into use.

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

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

Dealers' Licences to use Special Designation:

"Pasteurised"	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
"Sterilised"	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
"Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Supplementary Licences to use Special Designation:							
"Pasteurised"	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"Sterilised"	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
"Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Milk Sampling

Forty-eight samples of milk were taken from Dealers in the district and submitted for bacteriological examination. A summary of the results obtained is given below:—

Type of Milk		Passed Prescribed Test		Failed to Pass Prescribed Test	
Designated Milks	36	1	
Ungraded Milks	7	4	

Regular sampling of milk from producers in the district and of supplies to schools is undertaken by Officers of the County Council. The results obtained did not necessitate any follow-up action.

Clean Food Campaign

The Council adopted Byelaws with respect to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air. These came into operation on the 18th September, 1950, and a copy was sent to each Food Trader in the district.

A survey to include every place from which food is prepared, stored or sold, was begun and is continuing in 1951.

Other Food Premises

Visits paid to food premises during the year amounted to 241.

A greengrocer's shop was set up in disused and dilapidated premises, without a water supply, washing facilities, drainage or sanitary accommodation. After some pressure, these necessities were provided.

A refreshment hut, used mainly during the summer months, was provided with a piped water supply from public mains, washing facilities and drainage.

In many other cases, minor improvements have been effected and additional washing facilities installed.

Ice-Cream

There are 44 licensed retailers and one manufacturer registered with the Council.

Twenty-four visits were made to ice-cream premises during the year.

Facilities for the bacteriological examination of ice-cream samples became available at the Public Health Laboratory at Hertford during the year, and 18 samples were submitted.

The results of the tests are summarised in the following table:—

Description, Origin, and Number of Samples	Approximate % in each grade			
	1	2	3	4
From local manufacturer, 6 samples	50	34	—	16
Prepacked retail samples, various makes 12 samples	83	17	—	—

The advisory committee on ice-cream recommend that the minimum percentage of samples in each grade should be as follows:—

Grade 1	...	...	...	50% or over
„ 2	...	...	...	Under 30%
„ 3	...	...	...	„ 20%
„ 4	...	...	...	Nil

Slaughterhouses

Number of slaughterhouses in the district ... 4

As a consequence of the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Orders, the four slaughterhouses in the district cease to be used.

Unsound Food

Details of foodstuffs which were found to be unfit for human consumption and were surrendered, are given below:—

						Approx. Weight	
						cwt.	lbs.
<i>Canned Foodstuffs</i>							
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	No. of Containers		
Pork and Bacon	...	...	...	...	17		60
Ham	...	...	...	...	1		13 ³ / ₄
Meat Products	...	...	...	...	8	1	13 ³ / ₄
Soups, Stews, etc.	...	...	...	...	23		21 ¹ / ₂
Milk	...	...	...	...	5		5
Fish	...	...	...	...	39		36
Fruit	...	...	...	...	53		13 ¹ / ₂
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	178	2	33 ¹ / ₂
Tomato Sauce	...	...	...	...	42		46 ¹ / ₄
Jams, Jellies, etc.	...	...	...	...	3		2 ¹ / ₂
					14		19 ³ / ₄
						5	29 ¹ / ₂
<i>Fish</i>							
Skate (approximate weight)	...	...	...	...			70 lbs.
<i>Miscellaneous Foodstuffs</i>						Approx. Weight	
						cwt.	lbs.
Beef	...	...	...	...			64 ¹ / ₄
Lamb	...	...	...	...			49 ¹ / ₂
Bacon	...	...	...	...			52 ³ / ₄
Rabbits	...	...	...	...			30
Butter, Margarine and Cheese	...	...	...	...			1
Sauces	...	...	...	...			1 ¹ / ₂
Pastry Mixture	...	...	...	...			6
Grapefruit Crush	...	...	...	...			1 ¹ / ₂
						1	94 ¹ / ₂

Total Weight of all Foodstuffs: 7 cwt. 82 lbs.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which supercedes the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and directly vests the District Councils with Powers and Duties in relation to the control of rats and mice, came into operation on the 1st April, 1950.

Private Dwellings

The Council continued to give a free service to private dwellings and a total of 54 complaints of infestation were received from occupiers during the year.

Business Premises

Contracts with the owners of seven commercial properties for the servicing and treatment of their premises were in operation during the year. Four of these subsequently expired and were not renewed, further treatments being carried out on a time and material basis.

Agricultural Properties

Although the District Council is the responsible authority under the new Act, infestations on agricultural properties are referred to the County Agricultural Committee, who by agreement continue to carry out the treatment of such properties.

Prevalence of Rats and Mice and Measures of Control (Summarised)

Number of Inspections made ...	...	...	...	...	467
„ „ properties inspected ...	...	...	...	...	317
„ „ properties infested with rats and mice ...	...	...	...	...	159
Total number of treatments carried out to all properties ...	...	...	...	...	215

Sewers

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, test-baiting of the Council's three sewerage systems was carried out in September:—

	Hoddesdon and Rye Park	Brox- bourne	Wormley
Total number of sewer manholes (approx.) ...	212	160	48
Number of sewer manholes test-baited	25	10	5
„ „ manholes showing "Takes"	5	—	—

It will be seen that there is little evidence of rat infestation in the Council's sewers, and treatment of the affected parts in the Hoddesdon system was carried out in October.

Other Infestations

Wasps' Nests

Complaints were received about wasps' and hornets' nests and a total of 20 nests were destroyed during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Eighty-six visits and inspections were made during the year. The work of rebuilding one factory referred to in the Report for 1949 was completed during the year.

At one factory the work of providing two additional W.C.s was commenced in December and was completed early in 1951.

In another factory the provision of separate W.C.s for both sexes was held up pending an addition being built. Plans since submitted have been approved and the omission rectified in 1951.

Details of matters dealt with during the year are given in the table at the beginning of this Combined Report.

Certificates of Means of Escape in Case of Fire

Certificates of means of escape in case of fire were issued in respect of four factories.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—COMMENT

Food Poisoning

Two outbreaks were reported during the year. The first, in June, was an isolated case in an adult woman. The causative organism was found to be *Salmonella typhi-murium*, but the mode of infection of the patient could not be discovered.

The second outbreak occurred in September and involved a total of 63 persons. About two-thirds of the number affected had to receive medical treatment, and in this respect 38 notifications were received from the local Medical Practitioners.

By kind permission of my co-authors, Dr. Grant-Nichol of the Ministry of Health, and Dr. G. H. Tee of the Public Health Laboratory Service, I am permitted to quote in this Annual Report abstracts from a joint article about this food poisoning outbreak. The article has appeared in the August edition, Vol. 10, 1951, of the Monthly Bulletin of the Ministry of Health and the Public Health Laboratory Service. The abstract is as follows:—

An Outbreak of Illness following the Consumption of Imported Tinned Ham

Over the week-end 2nd–4th September, 1950, 49 residents in the adjoining towns of Broxbourne and Hoddesdon developed diarrhoea and vomiting after eating tinned ham imported from France. One tin of this ham had been opened at 9 a.m. on 2nd September in a grocer's shop, the ham being freshly sliced for each purchaser. The time between ingestion and onset of symptoms varied from four to 59 hours. Initial laboratory reports suggested that the infection was due to *Salmonella paratyphi B*. this organism was reported to have been isolated from the actual substance of the ham, and from the stools examined from every one of the

consumers who had developed gastro-enteritis. Pending the phage-typing of the cultures and confirmation of the regional laboratory findings, the position was that 59 persons had eaten infected ham, and 49 of these were ill with an initial gastro-enteritis.

Of these 49 patients, 47 had gastro-enteritis only and in two this merged into an enteric-like illness. In addition, there were two persons at risk (with positive stools) who had no initial gastro-enteritis but who developed clinical enteric-like illness after incubation periods of five and seven days respectively. Eight symptomless excretors were detected. Of the 59 persons who had eaten the infected ham 57 could be examined and the organism was isolated from the faeces of all of them. The other two persons had already left the district.

Control Measures

On 8th September when an initial appreciation of the position was made, it was felt that immediate action must be taken to minimise the potential danger of cases of paratyphoid fever arising among those at risk. With the co-operation of the County Health Department at Hertford, arrangements were made for all these persons to be visited at first twice daily, then once daily, by a nurse who took and recorded the temperature, asked about general health and instructed them to provide a daily specimen of faeces for laboratory examination. The nurses met the district Medical Officer of Health at a daily consultation, and all residents at risk remained under the closest supervision by their medical practitioners and by the Medical Officer of Health.

It was also decided that every patient should be given a short course of chloromycetin (chloramphenicol, Parke, Davis and Co.). A meeting was arranged with the local practitioners to whom the position was explained. It was agreed (1) that one half of the patients at risk—those most recently infected—should receive four 250 mgm. capsules of chloramphenicol every six hours for adults and proportionately less for children, for three days, beginning on the 9th September; and (2) that the other half—those with the earliest infection—should receive a similar course of chloramphenicol commencing on the 12th September, i.e. after an interval of three days. It was also agreed that any patient in this second group whose clinical condition was unusually severe receive chloramphenicol without delay. Thus all patients were to be offered chloramphenicol and of these 49 in fact were treated with it. Six persons declined treatment, three had already left the district, and one died of pre-existing chronic illness.

No significant difference was apparent in the time taken by the members of any of these groups to give consistently negative bacteriological results.

Laboratory Findings

The first specimens (two samples of ham, one ham sandwich, one specimen of vomit and five specimens of faeces) were received

by the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge on 5th September, and on the following day it was reported that from all these specimens there had been isolated an organism of the salmonella group. A visit to the grocer's shop at Broxbourne, where the ham had been sold on 2nd September, was made at noon on this day by the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary Inspector together with workers from the laboratory at Cambridge. Here cultures were made from various parts of the bacon-slicing machine used for cutting the ham and from a marble slab upon the counter where the slices had been placed. A fly was also taken for examination. From none of these cultures was a salmonella isolated and it was therefore considered that there was no danger arising from the continued use of the shop for the sale of bacon, cheese and butter provided food-handlers were free from infection. As a precaution it was advised that the counter be well scrubbed with hot water and soap before swabbing it over with a hypochlorite solution.

It was arranged that, as far as possible, daily specimens of faeces should be examined and, for this purpose, specimens were sent by train to Cambridge where they were cultured on the same day.

Cultures from the piece of ham remaining unsold in the grocer's shop showed the presence of the organism on the surface (together with a few *Staph. albus*) and also in the muscle. Cultures of the fat were sterile. Distribution of the salmonellæ within the muscle was evidently not uniform since a portion excised with the intention of making a bacterial count proved sterile. The organism was isolated from portions of the purchased ham seized by the Sanitary Inspector, including a ham sandwich. It was also isolated from the faeces of each of the 57 local residents known to have eaten the ham—from 55 of them at the first attempt and from two at the second. Owing to the ease with which the organism could be isolated from the faeces, urinary cultures were not considered necessary.

It is, therefore, reasonable to suppose that the ham was heavily infected before the tin was opened in the grocer's shop, indicating that the heat treatment to which the tinned ham was exposed at the place of canning was insufficient. This evidence is supported by the fact that other tins from the same batch were bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

The value of early culture of faeces of all those known to be at risk is emphasised as being of great value in controlling this outbreak. It enabled positive food handlers to be detected and suspended from work as soon as possible.

It is also notable that two persons were found to have positive faeces when the first culture was made five and seven days respectively before they developed symptoms—precocious carriers. One of these two cases might have been considered to be a secondary case if early cultures had not been made.

As a result of serological tests carried out at the Central Enteric Reference Laboratory, Colindale, London, the organism which was to all appearances *Salmonella paratyphi B* was shown to

have a constitution not previously found in this country. The provisional designation *Salmonella broxbourne* was suggested, but it was found later that an organism with a similar antigenic structure (*Salmonella-wien*) had been described recently in Vienna, and comparison of the two organisms showed them to be identical.

Clinical Findings

From the clinical aspect the 59 persons who ate infected ham can be grouped as follows:—

Distribution of the Clinical Types of Disease

		<i>Incubation Period</i>
Acute gastro-enteritis only ...	47 cases	4-16 hours
Clinical paratyphoid fever ...	4 „	1-15 days
No symptoms (excretors only)	8 persons	—

The period between the eating of infected ham and development of the first symptoms (diarrhoea or vomiting) varied between 4 hours and 59 hours.

The sufferers from simple acute gastro-enteritis formed the largest group and numbered 47 persons. They all ate infected ham during the 2nd and 3rd September, 1950, and the majority developed diarrhoea and vomiting within two days. One child vomited after only four hours; 38 persons after intervals varying from eight to 27 hours; seven adults became ill after periods ranging from 28 to 46 hours after eating the ham. Finally, one woman of 64 years of age who had experienced no previous symptoms of gastro-enteritis developed diarrhoea and a temperature of 100° F. 13 days after eating the ham, although her stools were positive for *Salmonella wien* from the outset.

Three of the patients were treated in hospital, three others left the area on the day after eating the ham, and the remaining 41 patients were visited daily at their homes in order to observe their clinical progress.

The smallest group consisted of four adults only, who were diagnosed *in hospital* as mild cases of clinical paratyphoid fever. Three patients were ill from the outset with gastro-enteritis which merged into paratyphoid fever. On the tenth day of illness, two of these patients developed rose spots. The final patient to be admitted to hospital was a woman of 70 who had suffered no initial illness although her stools were positive seven days previously. Fifteen days after eating some of the ham she suddenly developed diarrhoea and vomiting, associated with a temperature of over 101° F. but no rash. All four patients gave a positive Widal reaction and continued to excrete *Salmonella wien* in their stools for several weeks.

Eight persons at risk developed no symptoms whatsoever although they continued to excrete *Salm. wien* for periods ranging from two to eight weeks after infection.

The age and sex distribution did not reveal anything of significance in any of the three groups of patients shown in the above table.

Administrative Aspects

In addition to the clinical and bacteriological features of the outbreak already described, the coincident administrative action presented certain interesting problems. The unsold portion (12 lb.) of the offending ham together with its accompanying tin and the remaining stock of this brand of ham (one unopened blown tin and one unopened sound tin) were surrendered voluntarily by the grocer. The causative salmonella was isolated in almost pure culture from the remainder of the ham, and from portions of ham recovered from purchasers, but not from the inside surface of the containing tin or from either of the other tins of ham and their contents. Inquiries were then made as to the possibility of there being further infected tins of ham in other districts. It was found that the three tins of ham in Broxbourne were part of an original importation from France of 40 cases (240 tins). The distribution of this consignment was traced to provision and cooked food shops over a wide area in London and the Home Counties, including some 20 different local authorities. Of this ham, some had been sold and eaten without any reported ill-effect; some remained unsold; and a number of tins had been surrendered as "blown" and apparently unsound. The sanitary authorities concerned had submitted nine further tins and an informal sample from a tenth tin for examination at various laboratories of the P.H.L.S. but in no case was either *Salm. wien* or *Salm. paratyphi B* isolated; in fact no further *Salmonella wien* infection was discovered despite a widespread examination of the remaining tins of this brand. From the tins examined certain of the cultures yielded coliform bacilli, aerobic spore bearers, non-hæmolytic streptococci, and *Proteus*; others gave entirely negative results. Although the specific disease-producing organism was not found, the consignment was bacteriologically unsatisfactory and action was taken by the Ministry of Food.

Of the 59 persons affected, four were food handlers—the grocer from whose shop the ham was sold, his assistant, the owner of a fruit and vegetable shop, and a café waitress. They all suffered an initial gastro-enteritis, and were found to be excreting salmonellæ of the type found in the ham. The grocer's assistant, the greengrocer and the waitress were incapacitated by their illness and the question of their exclusion from work did not therefore arise. In the grocer himself the illness had been very mild; and he was able to continue work. It was found advisable therefore to apply the provision of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1927, and to serve a formal notice prohibiting him from remaining at work as being a carrier of enteric fever. This decision was later reviewed in the light of the final laboratory findings, but after consideration of all the factors and, in particular, that the disease had been clinically an enteric fever in certain of the cases, it was decided to adhere to the original decision, and to exclude him from work requiring the handling of food. The statutory notice remained in force for over four weeks and was

finally withdrawn after stool specimens had remained consistently negative.

Of the 59 persons at risk two moved out of the district, and one was temporarily absent from the area. These immediately came under the surveillance of the Medical Officer of Health of their new locality. It is of interest that a large proportion of those so examined remained persistently or intermittently positive for as long as nine weeks, yet there were only three secondary cases in persons who had not eaten the infected ham, all close contacts of infected families.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

DISEASE	TOTAL	AGE GROUP (in Years)						Age not Known	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65			
Scarlet Fever	7	—	2	5	—	—	—	—	2	—
Whooping Cough	22	1	15	3	—	—	—	3	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Non-Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (Acute):										
Infective	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	39	—	1	5	8	21	3	1	4	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	3	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	—	2	2	1	6	4	4	2	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	38	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

SAWBRIDGEWORTH URBAN DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

The piped supply is provided by the Herts and Essex Water Company to 1,041 houses, eight of which share three standpipes.

Six houses in the District, including new houses, were connected to the mains during the year, leaving 15 dwellings in Spelbrook which are supplied from privately-owned wells.

Quality

Bacteriological

Reports were received upon 21 samples of the town's water supply, and show that B. Coli were absent from 100 m.l. in each case.

Chemical

The results of a chemical analysis of four samples of the town's water supply are set out below:—

Results in Parts per Million	22nd Feb., 1950	21st Mar., 1950	28th June, 1950	25th Sept., 1950
Appearance ...	Faint opalescence with very few mineral particles			
Turbidity (Silica scale) ...	6	Under 5	4	3
Colour (Hazen) ...	Under 10	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Faint sul- phuretted hydrogen.
Reaction pH ...	7.0	7.0	7.2	7.1
Free CO ₂ ...	45	42	27	34
Electric Conducti- vity at 20° C. ...	640	690	650	660
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃ ...	315	295	295	300
Total solids dried at 180° C. ...	440	465	420	460
Hardness:				
Carbonate (Temp.)	315	295	295	300
Non-Carb. (Perm.)	25	75	50	65
Total ...	340	370	345	365
Nitrogen in:				
Nitrates ...	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nitrites ...	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01	Absent	Less than 0.01
Free Ammonia ...	0.38	0.16	0.30	0.14
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.000	0.000	0.020	0.012
Residual Chlorine	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C. ...	0.20	0.20	0.40	0.10
Metals ...	Iron 0.53 Other metals absent.	Iron 0.32 Other metals absent.	Iron 0.60 Other metals absent.	Iron 0.22 Other metals absent.
Fluorine ...	0.6	0.8	—	0.7

All four samples have an appreciable content of CO_2 . They are hard in character but not excessively so, and contain no excess saline or mineral constituents in solution. Apart from the objections that the samples are not quite clear and bright in appearance and are also hard, the water is considered pure and wholesome in character, and suitable for public supply purposes.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Most of the District is served by main drainage. Sewage is disposed of at two sewage works. The effluent at the principal works is discharged into the River Stort after purification and in the case of the other (smaller) works it is disposed of by septic tank treatment followed by land irrigation.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Household refuse is collected fortnightly and is disposed of by controlled tipping on ground adjacent to the principal sewage works. Special arrangements are made in connection with trade refuse.

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK during the year 1950

Summary of Visits

Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	215
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	46
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	27
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	26
Miscellaneous	.....	...	...	...	252
Total					566
Number of Informal Notices served					18
,, ,, Statutory Notices served					Nil

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Infectious Disease

Disinfection of one dwelling house was carried out following notification of a case of typhoid fever, and arrangements were also made for disinfections following four cases of scarlet fever.

Nuisances

Complaints of dampness inside converted hutments at the Parsonage Estate were investigated. The trouble is aggravated due to the lack of through ventilation owing to the occupants keeping the windows and doors closed. In a few instances, however, leaks in the roof were detected and were remedied.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1949

Work was commenced upon the construction of 14 houses at the Bullfields Estate. It is hoped that the houses will be ready for occupation in June, 1951.

Housing progress is shown in a table in the statistical section of the Combined Report.

FOOD & DRUGS ACTS

Milk

No complaints regarding milk were received during the year.

Ice-Cream

Ice-cream is manufactured at one premises by the Cold-Mix process. The premises have a constant hot water supply and adequate washing facilities.

Ice-cream is sold at five registered premises. Samples of two wrapped and one unwrapped products were tested bacteriologically and the results showed that they were Grade 2 in quality.

Two new applications for registration for the sale of ice-cream, under Section 14, were received by the Council, and granted.

Unsound Food

The following foods were found unfit for human consumption and were surrendered:—

Category	No. of Tins or Containers	Weight in lbs.
Meat (Tinned)	39	36
Meat Pie	1	2
Fish (Tinned and Potted)	3	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fish (Wet)	6	30
Milk (Tinned)	34	27
Liquid Egg (Tinned)	2	56
Fruit and Vegetables	19	22 $\frac{3}{4}$
Jams, Pickles, Sauces, Soups, and Junkets	126	161
Cereals, etc.	—	44
Total Weight		380 $\frac{3}{4}$

(1949 Total: 216 lbs.)

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

Four business premises and 30 private dwellings were treated for infestations of rats by the Council's Rodent Operative.

No charge is made in respect of private dwelling houses.

Routine sewer treatments were carried out in February and September.

Hydrogen Cyanide Fumigation

Fumigation of a portion of a local flour mill was carried out in January. The premises were granted exemption from the requirements of Section 5 (b) of the Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation) Act, 1937.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES: CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Scarlet Fever

Four cases occurred at a local institution. Throat swabs were taken from contacts of the cases, and a carrier of Hæmolytic Streptococci was discovered. This carrier was isolated and given treatment by his doctor, after which no further cases occurred.

Acute Encephalitis

This case occurred in a woman aged 22 years, and she was admitted to hospital. Investigations indicated that the infection took place from a source outside the Sawbridgeworth Urban District. No other cases occurred amongst the close contacts.

Typhoid Fever

On June 9th, 1950, a young lady aged 18 years on a visit to Sawbridgeworth from Southern Spain was found to be suffering from typhoid fever, and was immediately sent to hospital.

She left her home on May 22nd, and sailed from Gibraltar on May 27th, arriving in England on the 1st of June. She was first indisposed on the 29th May, but recovered sufficiently for her to spend about one week at an hotel in London before proceeding to Sawbridgeworth. It would appear that this indisposition was the initial start of her illness. She fully recovered after several weeks in hospital.

Steps were taken to inform the M.O.H. of the London Borough in which the hotel was situated, and the hotel and staff were kept under observation. The Ministry of Health was also given details about the patient's journey, including the name of the ship and the cabin number, so that other passengers sharing the cabin could be traced.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

DISEASE	TOTAL	AGE GROUP (in Years)						Age not Known	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65			
Scarlet Fever	4	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	4	—
Whooping Cough	31	2	13	15	—	1	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	5	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Dysentery	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (Acute):										
Infective	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Post-Infectious	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	4	—	—	2	—	1	22	2	—	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	1
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Encephalitis (Ac.)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

WARE URBAN DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

Most of the town is supplied from two wells sunk in chalk, one at Musley Lane, and the other at Musley Hill, the former being the main source of supply. The Highfields area, however, is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. All these supplies are chlorinated.

Quality

Twenty-four routine samples of town water were taken for bacteriological examination, and showed *B. Coli* absent in 100 ml. in each case.

The result of chemical analysis of samples taken on the 4th July from both the Musley Lane (High Level supply) and Musley Hill (Low Level supply) is as follows:—

Chemical Results in Parts per Million	High Level Supply	Low Level Supply
Appearance	Clear and bright	Clear and bright
Turbidity (Silica scale)	Nil	Nil
Colour	Nil	Nil
Odour	Faint chlorinous	Faint chlorinous
Reaction pH	7.3	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	19	19
Electric Conductivity	620	610
Total Solids	415	410
Chlorine in Chlorides	23	22
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	260	265
Hardness:		
Carbonate	260	265
Non-carbonate	75	75
Total	335	340
Nitrogen in Nitrates	6.0	6.0
Nitrogen in Nitrites	Absent	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	0.00	0.00
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000	0.000
Residual Chlorine	0.18	0.15
Metals	Absent	Absent

These samples are clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is very hard in character, but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality is of the highest standard.

These results are indicative of a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Practically the whole of the district is sewered.

Preparation of a local sewerage scheme has been delayed pending the outcome of the scheme for a proposed trunk sewer from Stevenage New Town, along the Lee Valley to Rye Meads, Hoddesdon. The areas affected by the delay are the proposed industrial site adjoining London Road, including Red House Road which is not sewered, and provision for the residential development of Presdales Estate.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of refuse is in operation with special arrangements for trade refuse. Collection and baling of waste paper was re-introduced during the year.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping off Amwell End, adjoining the railway.

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK during the year 1950

Summary of Visits

Sewers, Drains, Sanitary Accommodation, etc.	...	...	251
Nuisances	...	...	356
Infectious Disease	...	...	43
Housing Overcrowding, Repairs, Housing Acts, etc.	...	...	100
Food Premises, Section 13, Condemnations	...	...	145
Ice-Cream, Factories, Retailers, Sampling	...	...	145
Milk, Dairies, Sampling	...	...	76
Slaughter House: Inspection of Meat	...	...	605
Butchers' Shops, Meat Transport, etc.	...	...	33
Shops Act, 1934 (Section 10)	...	...	169
Rats and Mice	...	...	587
Factories and Outworkers	...	...	43
			2,553

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

The following work has been attended to under the Public Health Acts:—

Sewers and Drains, cleansed, tested, repaired, reconstructed	58
Water Closets, repaired or renewed	12
Sanitary Fittings, repaired or renewed, traps provided, etc.	8
Nuisances and Sundry Repairs, Walls, Floors, Ceilings, Roofs, Windows, etc., overhauled and repaired	62
Dustbins provided	8
Accumulations removed	1
Animals, Nuisance abated	2

Filthy and Verminous Premises and Articles

Two Council Houses were infested with bugs. One house was disinfested by the tenant and the other by the Council.

One private house was also cleansed.

Infectious Disease

Five disinfections were carried out following infectious disease.

Scabies

No cases were reported or treated at the centre during the year.

Welfare

One case of alleged neglect was referred to the children's officer at County Hall.

Smoke Abatement

No complaints were received during the year. Observations have been made.

Tips

A fly nuisance at the Council's refuse tip was remedied by means of a tip-dressing and improved methods of covering the refuse.

Complaints were also received regarding a nuisance from tip fires in a private gravel pit where tipping is permitted. Children were responsible for the ignition.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1949

Demolition Orders. 53, 55 and 57 Crib Street

One of these houses is still occupied and the provision of alternative accommodation for this family has been referred to the Housing Committee.

Overcrowding

No survey has been carried out; but cases of overcrowding have been investigated as follows:—

	Privately Owned	Council Houses	Total
Number of overcrowded houses brought forward at 1st Jan., 1950	3	4	7
New cases of overcrowding discovered during 1950	3	4	7
Number of cases abated	5	5	10
Number of overcrowded houses at 31st Dec., 1950	1	3	4

Section 6—Byelaws for Securing Improvement of Housing Conditions

A large house occupied by three families was the subject of a Statutory Notice which expired during January, 1951.

Officers of the Council were called upon by a Rent Tribunal to give evidence during the hearing of an application for a reduction of rents in respect of three furnished flats at the same premises. The application was successful.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Meat Inspection

Number of Visits to Slaughterhouse 605

This work necessitated late duty on 255 evenings, Sunday inspections on 18 occasions, and once on a Bank Holiday.

Weight of Meat condemned in Lbs.

Home Killed:	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Total
Diseased	58,858	863	2,007	61,728
Internal Bruising	32	—	—	32
Bone Taint	19	—	—	19
Imported:				
Diseased	—	3	—	3
Tinned (Decomposition)	49½	—	—	49½

Carcases Inspected and Condemned during 1950

	Cattle (excl. Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	3,100	750	1,239	5,437	504
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	11	13	16	10	12
% of the number inspected totally condemned	0·35	1·73	1·20	0·18	2·38
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	7	14	0	0	1
% of the number inspected totally condemned	0·22	1·87	—	—	0·20
Whole carcasses condemned from: Market	6	4	13	3	3
Casualty	12	23	3	7	10
Number killed in 1949 ...	1,896	795	950	5,048	549

Total Weight in Lbs. of Carcase Meat Condemned

		Beef	Veal	Mutton	Pork	Total
Market	...	13,467	430	156	235	14,288
Casualty	...	18,631	218	258	1,300	20,407
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	32,098	648	414	1,535	34,695
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Other Foods

The following foods were found to be unfit for human consumption and were surrendered:—

	No. of Containers	Approx. Weight in lbs.
Tinned Foods	212 tins	255
Tinned Meat (not Ration Meat)	21 „	35
Pickles, Sauces, Bottled Fruit, etc.	16 jars/bottles	20
Fish, Wet	5 lots	182
Cabbages	7 cases	350
		<hr/>
	Total	812
		<hr/>

Potatoes

Following a complaint from the School Meals Cooking Centre, Hertford, the sale of 3 tons of potatoes intended for human consumption was diverted for animal feeding by the local wholesaler concerned. The Ministry of Food were informed and dealt with the stocks.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Number of Dairies registered in the Urban District	...	5
„ „ Distributors registered in the Urban District	...	7
„ „ Dairies and Distributors removed from Registers during the year (cessation of business) and included in above	1	
Number of Dairies and Distributors refused Registration	...	1
Dairies reconstructed or improved	...	2
Dairies Pasteurisers Licences granted by Herts C.C. (one new licence)	...	2

Milk Samples

Five samples of Pasteurised Milk and three samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk were taken, all of which satisfied the prescribed Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests.

Eleven samples of pasteurised milk taken by the Herts County Council under the Milk in Schools Scheme satisfied the prescribed test.

Twelve "Bottle Rinses" from the two bottling establishments in the district were examined with satisfactory results. (Average count 124 organisms per bottle, grown at 37° C.)

Tuberculin Tested Milk

During November a complaint was made by the Stevenage U.D.C. concerning unsatisfactory samples of Tuberculin Tested milk bottled in Ware. Of 13 samples, between May and November, 1950, five were satisfactory on final delivery, but the wholesaler's laboratory stated that 11 comparable samples were found by them to be satisfactory and two decolourised Methylene Blue in four and three and a half hours respectively. The two failures were in the months of July and August.

The following are details of tests on bulk Tuberculin Tested milk as received from farms in churns. These show the extent to which this designated milk failed to pass the prescribed test:—

May	...	...	125 tested, 13 failures—10·4%
June	...	...	151 „ 40 „ —26·5%
July	...	...	126 „ 17 „ —13·5%
August	...	...	161 „ 48 „ —29·8%
September	...	...	143 „ 8 „ — 5·6%

These failures do not necessarily imply rejection. The milk is still considered marketable and has to be accepted unless it fails the Resazurin Test. For instance, although 48 samples failed the Methylene Blue test in August, five consignments only were rejected on the 10-minute Resazurin Test. These rejections, apart from the failures quoted immediately above, show that the standard of milk produced at some Tuberculin Tested farms is unsatisfactory.

Because the keeping quality of raw milk from some tuberculin tested herds is unsatisfactory, the wholesalers brine cool milk from the afternoon milking, within four hours of its production. It is then bottled at 4.00 a.m. the next day, and delivered by the distributors in Stevenage the same morning. Milk produced by these herds in the morning is unlikely to keep until the following day if untreated, and is reserved for pasteurisation.

The wholesalers only supply raw Tuberculin Tested milk to meet consumer demand and would much prefer to pasteurise all milk. The pasteurisation of all milk would ensure a safe supply, of good keeping quality, at all times. The quantity of raw Tuberculin Tested milk sold in Ware Urban District is negligible.

The Council resolved to support the Stevenage U.D.C. by making an approach to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and that the Ministry be supplied with the names of unsatisfactory producers.

Brucella Abortus

During August the County Council reported that a sample of raw accredited milk was positive to *Brucella Abortus*. No special action was necessary since the milk from this supply was already being pasteurised before sale to the public.

Ice-Cream

Number of Registered Manufacturers (Pasteurisation Plants)	2
„ „ Premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	... 20
„ „ „ newly registered for the sale of ice-cream	5

Sampling at Large Factory

This factory can produce 1,200 gallons daily. Samples were tested regularly by the Council, and retail samples were tested by other local authorities, with the following results:—

Year	Samples at Factory					Retail Samples				
	Total Samples	% in each Grade				Total Samples	% in each Grade			
		1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4
1948	79	41.7	26.7	27.8	3.8	61	1.6	11.5	24.6	62.3
1949	13	100	—	—	—	51	52.9	9.8	19.6	17.7
1950	58	88	6.9	3.4	1.7	255	43.8	21.5	19.5	15.2

The advisory committee on ice-cream recommend that the minimum percentage of samples in each grade should be as follows:

Grade 1	...	...	...	50% or over
„ 2	...	...	...	Under 30%
„ 3	...	...	...	„ 20%
„ 4	...	...	...	Nil

The sample results indicate a deterioration in quality of the ice-cream after distribution from the factory. It is thought that the methods of transport, storage and handling may be at fault. It is known, for example, that supplies of solidified carbon dioxide are often inadequate, especially during the hottest weather. Temperature conditions during transit are important and sanitary authorities should make temperature checks during delivery to the manufacturer or his agents, in order to see if there is compliance with the requirements of Article 4 of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947. Two complaints of “soft” deliveries by the manufacturer, and two similar cases concerning agents’ deliveries have been recorded.

Sampling at Small Factory

Samples have been satisfactory. Three were Grade 1 and one sample was Grade 2.

Sampling at Local Retailers

Four samples were in Grades 1 and 2, and one in Grade 3.

Precautions against the Contamination of Food

Sections 13-16 Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Following inspections sufficient washing facilities were caused to be provided at five shops, whilst at two premises this matter still requires attention. Also three shops were internally re-arranged and decorated, one shop was cleansed and a floor renewed. Sanitary accommodation was provided for female staff at one grocer’s shop.

Byelaws for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air were confirmed by the Minister of Food on the 15th November, 1950, and came into force on the 18th December, 1950.

Number of Premises registered for the Preparation or Manufacture of Preserved Foods, etc.	10
Number of Premises where Registration was refused for the Sale of Ice-cream	1

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

During the four months between the death of the Council's Rodent Operative in August, and appointment of a successor in December, the Hertfordshire Agricultural Executive Committee agreed to undertake any urgent rodent control work in the town. During this period, however, it was not possible to extend the system of "Block Control" over the whole town as planned, so that some of the benefits derived from 16 months' groundwork were lost, and a definite deterioration in the position was noticed.

Visits

During the year 2,916 visits were made to premises in the town as follows:—

Domestic Premises	...	...	2,004 visits
Business	„	...	817 „
Council	„	...	95 „

and 43 complaints of infestations by rats or mice received attention.

Sewer Treatment

Thirty baiting trays were fixed by the Surveyor's Department and in July the treatments which had been delayed owing to labour shortage were begun. The whole foul sewerage system was covered.

Total number of manholes in foul sewerage system	...	209
Number of manholes baited	...	173 (164)
„ „ „ showing pre-bait take	...	124 (154)
„ „ „ „ complete pre-bait take	...	29 (48)

Scheme of baiting consecutive days.

(Figures in brackets for previous treatment in December, 1949)

To economise in time and labour fourth-day records of poison takes were not made.

General Observations

Council's Controlled Tip

By August this was practically free from rats, but the new operative had to give it his immediate attention upon appointment.

Black Rat

Evidence of Black Rats has been found in three maltings, and barges which ply between Ware and the Port of London are suspected to be the source of origin.

This matter has been referred to the Port of London Health Authority.

Block Control

The following areas were treated:—

March:

- (1) Watton Road, Croft Road, Brazier's Gravel Pit. Old drains sealed off. Bodies found: 17.
- (2) Watton Road, Wengeo Lane, Fanshawe Crescent, and part of Park Road. Bodies found: 44.
- (3) Factory Area, Crane Mead. Bodies found: 18.

April:

- (4) Chicken farm and environs. Bodies found: 17.
- (5) River Lee banks from Ware bridge to Ware Lock. Lock-house grounds and fields. Priory grounds and banks and Factory area. Bodies found: 40.
- (6) Follow up above—north side of river properties, including part of Amwell End. Bodies found: 4. (Arsenic used.)

June:

- (7) North side of King Edward Road and part of West side of Bowling Road. Bodies found: 12.

Hydrogen Cyanide Fumigation

A large block of warehouses, used for the storage of grain, flour, etc., has been provided with new concrete floors and was fumigated. Barges unload at this site and the premises, therefore, have been suspect as far as black rats are concerned.

A large flour mill has also been fumigated against pests.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

DISEASE	TOTAL	AGE GROUP (in Years)						Age not Known	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65			
Scarlet Fever	5	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	14	3	8	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (Acute):										
Infective	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	5	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

BRAUGHING RURAL DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

There is a piped supply in each of the 21 parishes. The parishes of Anstey, Ardeley, Aspenden, Broadfield, Buckland, Buntingford, Brent Pelham, Cottered, Furneux Pelham, Hormead, Meesden, Stocking Pelham, Throcking, Westmill and Wyddial are supplied from Chipping Pumping Station. The parish of High Wych by the Herts and Essex Water Co. The parish of Thorley from the Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council's supply and the parishes of Albury, Little Hadham, Much Hadham and Braughing from Standon Pumping Station in the Ware Rural District.

Distribution of Water Services

Parish	Type of Water Supply		
	Water in House	Outside Supply (Standpipe)	Wells
	No. of Houses	No. of Houses	No. of Houses
Anstey	54	29	18
Albury	144	27	2
Ardeley	72	33	11
Aspenden	74	—	—
Broadfield	4	—	—
Buckland	76	29	1
Buntingford	460	56	1
Braughing	122	146	16
Brent Pelham	49	8	4
Cottered	106	18	2
Furneux Pelham	96	18	7
Hormead	167	14	1
High Wych	129	20	37
Little Hadham	178	39	5
Meesden	27	14	—
Much Hadham	552	42	2
Stocking Pelham	37	7	—
Throcking	23	3	1
Thorley	44	14	—
Westmill	46	13	15
Wyddial	19	14	4
Totals	2,479	544	127

Quality of Water Supply

Bacteriological

Twelve samples of water from the Chipping Pumping Station were subjected to bacteriological test and B. Coli were absent from 100 ml. in each case.

Chemical

A chemical analysis of a sample of water from the public water supply at Chipping Pumping Station was made on 11th December, 1950, with the following results:—

Chemical Results in Parts per Million	Sample taken 11th December, 1950
Appearance	Bright with very few mineral particles
Turbidity (Silica scale)	Less than 3
Colour	Nil
Odour	Nil
Reaction pH	7.1
Free Carbon Dioxide	29
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	580
Total Solids, dried at 180° C.	390
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	250
Hardness:	
Carbonate (Temporary)	250
Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	80
Total	330
Nitrogen in Nitrates	5.6
Nitrogen in Nitrites	Less than 0.01
Oxygen absorbed	0.10
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000
Residual Chlorine	Absent
Metals	Absent

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes apart from the objection that it tends to be very hard.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Four parishes, Cottered, Buntingford, Much Hadham and High Wych, have sewerage systems, and each system gravitates to small disposal works. The treatment in each case is the same—the sewer outfall discharges into sedimentation tanks and the effluent is then irrigated. There is also a cesspool emptying service in other parishes and parts of the four mentioned where no sewers are available. At High Wych sewage works two additional sedimentation tanks were constructed and improvement made to the irrigation.

One hundred and twenty-four post-war council houses have been connected to the sewers (70 in Buntingford, 44 in Much Hadham and 10 in Cottered).

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse continues to be collected fortnightly from each parish and is disposed of at the Council's tipping sites at Buckland, Little Hadham, Much Hadham, Braughing and Furneux Pelham. A Trade Collection is operating for business premises requiring an additional collection.

**PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
VISITS AND INSPECTIONS
during the year 1950**

Inspections under the Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	659
" " " Housing Act, 1936	...	...	556
" " " Food and Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	213
" " " Pest Destruction Act, 1949	...	...	401
" " " Factory Act, 1937	...	...	46
" " " Shops Act	...	...	35
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	103
Total			2,013

MILK SAMPLING

Routine samples of milk were taken during the year with the following results:—

METHYLENE BLUE AND COLIFORM TESTS

Total Number of Samples	Passed Prescribed Test		Failed to Pass	
	Graded	Ungraded	Graded	Ungraded
75	23	39	1	12

HYGIENE IN FOOD PREMISES

During the year 88 visits have been made to Food Premises. Structural alterations and other improvements carried out at these properties have aided in obtaining a higher standard of hygiene. Similar improvements in other properties are proceeding as conditions of licence and labour permit.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

A free destruction service is provided for private dwelling houses, and a charge of 30s. per treatment is made in the case of trade or business premises. With effect from May 1st, 1951, treatment of refuse dumps has been carried out by the Council's operative. Treatment of sewers in the parishes of Buntingford, Cottered, Much Hadham and High Wych have been carried out in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' directions.

Total number of properties inspected	...	...	640
Number of treatments carried out	...	...	295
Total number of visits (inspections and treatments)	...	...	1,173

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

DISEASE	TOTAL	AGE GROUP (in Years)						Age not Known	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65			
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	79	5	34	40	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	14	—	8	5	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	8	—	1	1	1	4	1	—	—	—
Dysentery	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (Acute):										
Infective	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	5	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	—	—

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	4	1	—	—	—	6	2	6	16	21	22
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	4	—	—	1	2	1	2	—	1	—	2	1
Acute Pneumonia	—	2	1	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—
Jaundice	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE
NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES
among the different parishes**

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Acute Pneu- monia	Infective Jaundice
Albury	—	4	1	—	—
Anstey	—	—	—	—	—
Ardeley	—	—	—	—	—
Aspenden	—	—	—	—	—
Braughing	—	24	—	1	1
Brent Pelham	—	—	3	—	—
Broadfield	—	—	—	—	—
Buckland	—	4	1	—	—
Buntingford	—	18	—	—	—
Cottered	—	—	—	—	—
Furneux Pelham	—	2	5	—	—
High Wych	1	7	—	—	—
Hormead	—	—	—	—	—
Little Hadham	—	10	—	2	2
Meesden	—	—	—	—	—
Much Hadham	2	1	2	5	2
Stocking Pelham	—	—	—	—	—
Thorley	—	3	—	—	—
Throcking	—	3	2	—	—
Westmill	—	—	—	—	—
Wyddial	—	3	—	—	—

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES:
CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

Food Poisoning

An isolated case of food poisoning due to *Salmonella typhimurium* occurred during September, 1950, but was not formally notified by the practitioner. Investigations showed that the patient, a woman aged 29 years, was taken ill 10 hours after arriving home from holiday at the seaside. Her illness consisted of pains in the stomach, sickness, diarrhoea and a fever, all of which lasted five days. Several possible sources of infection both at home and at the seaside were investigated, with negative results. No other cases occurred amongst those persons associated with this patient, either at home, or at the seaside boarding house, where she had spent her holiday.

Contaminated Watercress

Following complaints about possible infection of watercress grown in beds supplied with water from the River Ash, tests showed the water to be contaminated with faecal coliform organisms. The owner of the beds has been advised to install water tanks supplied from the public mains, in which to wash the watercress before it is sold for human consumption.

HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

The northern part of the District comprising the parishes of Aston, Benington, Walkern, Watton-at-Stone, Stapleford, Sacombe and Bengoe Rural is supplied by the Aston Pumping Station, the water being obtained from two boreholes 310 ft. in chalk.

Two 310-ft. deep boreholes at Little Berkhamstead supply the southern portion of the District which includes the parishes of Bayford, Brickendon, Hertingfordbury and Little Berkhamstead.

The western portion of the District comprising the parishes of Tewin, Datchworth and Bramfield, is supplied from the Welwyn R.D.C. Reservoir at Burnham Green, the water being obtained from Welwyn Garden City Waterworks.

A portion of Waterford village (in Stapleford Parish) is supplied by the Borough of Hertford, and the Parish of Little Amwell is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board.

Piped supplies have been taken into 24 houses which formerly relied on public standpipes.

Particulars of Dwellings supplied from Public Water Mains

Parish	No. of Houses connected to Mains		No. of Houses supplied by Wells, Private Systems, etc.	Total
	Piped Supply	Stand-pipe		
Aston	143	29	10	182
Bayford	78	13	5	96
Benington	135	37	7	179
Bengoe Rural	46	36	13	95
Bramfield	54	—	3	57
Datchworth	253	36	3	292
Brickendon	70	14	35	119
Hertingfordbury	113	45	24	182
Little Amwell	188	41	2	231
Little Berkhamstead	102	11	24	137
Sacombe	47	12	1	60
Stapleford	83	36	5	124
Tewin	217	29	4	250
Walkern	169	49	22	240
Watton-at-Stone	148	64	7	219
	1,846	452	165	2,463

Quality

Bacteriological

Four samples were taken from various sources of supply during the year and B. Coli were absent from 100 ml. in each case.

Chemical

The result of chemical analysis of samples taken from the undermentioned pumping stations is as follows:—

Chemical Results in Parts per Million	Little Berkhampstead	Aston	Burnham Green Reservoir
Appearance	Bright with very few mineral particles.	Bright with very few mineral particles.	Bright with very few mineral particles.
Turbidity (Silica scale)	Less than 5	Less than 3	Less than 3
Colour (Hazen) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reaction pH	7.3	7.1	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	18	29	18
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	570	520	540
Total solids dried at 180° C.	380	350	360
Chlorine in Chlorides	29	14	17
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	245	250	245
Hardness:			
Total	305	285	285
Temporary	245	250	245
Permanent	60	35	40
Nitrogen in Nitrates	3.2	4.2	5.0
Nitrogen in Nitrites...	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01	0.01
Free Ammonia ...	0.000	0.000	0.000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C. ...	0.05	0.00	0.00
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000	0.000	0.000
Residual Chlorine ...	Absent	Absent	Absent
Metals	Iron less than 0.03. Zinc 2.0 Other metals absent.	Absent	Absent

Remarks

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public water purposes.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Improvements to the outfall at Benington were completed during the year.

Schemes to serve portions of the parishes of Bramfield, Bayford and Brickendon were prepared and it is hoped that these will be in operation by 1952.

PUBLIC CLEANSING**Refuse Collection**

House refuse was collected fortnightly throughout the District and disposed of by tipping at Stevenage and Hertingfordbury.

Cesspool Emptying

Three hundred and sixty-three cesspools were emptied during the year, a total of 2,864 loads being removed.

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK during the year 1950

Summary of Visits

Public Health Acts	...	...	...	253
Housing Acts	...	...	...	171
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	111
Total				541
Number of Statutory Notices served				1

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Disinfestation was carried out at two houses infested by bugs, and disinfections were carried out in consequence of infectious disease at three houses.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Unsound Food

The following foods were, upon inspection, found to be unfit for human consumption, and were surrendered:—

12 lbs. Cheese
6 lbs. Corned Beef
6½ lbs. Bacon

Meat Inspection

Six pigs were slaughtered during the year. On inspection one carcase was found to be diseased and part of it was condemned.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

A part-time operative is employed by the Council and complaints are investigated and dealt with as they occur.

Total number of premises treated	...	...	13
„ „ „ visits (treatments)	...	...	55

Regular treatment is carried out to the sewers in the 10 parishes which have public sewerage systems. A total of 30 visits was made to the parishes, and 105 manholes were treated.

The Council have agreed to make a fixed charge of 7s. 6d. for all domestic premises above £10 rateable value, and offer a free service to premises below this rating. Business premises are charged on the basis of time and materials plus a percentage.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

DISEASE	TOTAL	AGE GROUP (in Years)						Age not Known	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65			
Scarlet Fever	7	—	2	5	—	—	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	21	2	10	8	1	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Non-Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	9	—	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (Acute):										
Infective	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	6	10	2	2	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	4
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE
NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES
among the different parishes**

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Polio- myelitis	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Food Poisoning	Infective Jaundice
Aston	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Bayford	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Benington	-	2	-	2	-	-	-
Bengeo Rural	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bramfield	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brickendon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liberty	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Datchworth	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Hertingfordbury	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Amwell	1	16	-	-	1	-	-
L. Berkhamstead	-	2	-	-	-	-	1
Sacombe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stapleford	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Tewin	1	-	-	4	-	-	1
Walkern	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Watton-at-Stone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES:
CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

Food Poisoning

Investigations were carried out following a report received on the 17th July that a man living at a labour hostel in the parish of Aston had been removed to hospital where he had died. A food poisoning bacillus, *Salmonella typhi-murium*, had been isolated and it was confirmed as the cause of death at the subsequent post-mortem.

A detailed investigation of the matter was made and the large majority of the 92 men in the hostel were interviewed by the Sanitary Inspector. Although about five men could remember having digestive trouble on the 13th July, in only one case was the Welfare Officer informed and a doctor consulted. This man has completely recovered, and was never away from work. No positive evidence as to the likely cause of the trouble was discovered, partly owing to the lapse of time from the period when infection probably occurred, and owing to the lack of guidance which would have been available had there been more cases. Investigation of the catering facilities available for the workers at the sites of their work were carried out by an adjoining district, and yielded negative results; whilst the hostel canteen itself was found to be well maintained and clean.

No further cases have occurred in connection with this hostel.

Acute Poliomyelitis

Only one case occurred in a young lady aged 15 years. A small amount of residual paralysis has resulted.

WARE RURAL DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

The Ware Rural District (with the exception of the parishes of Great Amwell and St. Margaret's) is supplied with main water derived from two boreholes, 450 ft. deep at the Standon Pumping Station. The water is pumped into supply after chlorination and filtration. Storage is effected by means of a water tower at Old Hall Green. The parishes of Great Amwell and Stanstead St. Margarets are supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board, but with the exception of these parishes the mains of the R.D.C. pass through every parish of the Rural District and very few properties are without supply. The water continues to be of good quality and ample supply. The average quantity of water pumped throughout the year was 320,000 gallons per day. The supply was maintained without restriction or interruption throughout the year.

Only one case of a well drying up was reported during the year, and the four houses involved have now been supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board.

Work is nearing completion on a main extension from Babbs Green to Timber Hall, Thundridge. The main will supply eight Council houses, 14 private properties and three farms.

Quality

Bacteriological

Six samples of water from the Ware R.D.C. supply derived from Standon were examined bacteriologically, and B. Coli were absent from 100 ml. in each case.

Chemical Analysis of Public Water Supply

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000	Sample taken 23rd June, 1950	Sample taken 29th Sept., 1950
Total solids (dried at 180° C.)	39.0	39.0
Combine Chlorine (Cl)	1.8	2.0
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride (NaCl) ...	3.0	3.3
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	0.20	0.32
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.004	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	Nil	0.0014
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C. ...	Nil	0.005
Lead or Copper	Nil	Nil
Temporary hardness (equivalent to CaCO ₃) ...	28.5	29.0
Permanent " " " "	4.0	5.0
Total " " " "	32.5	34.0

The above results show no evidence of pollution and the water is fit for drinking purposes. The water is hard, the hardness is mainly "temporary" in nature, i.e. removable by boiling.

Distribution of Water Services

Dwelling houses supplied by public water mains:—

Parish	Number of Houses	Population (approx.)	Main direct to House	Main to Standpipes
Eastwick	63	147	53	10
Gilston	63	169	61	—
Great Amwell	584	2,280	543	16
Great Munden	117	442	82	17
Hunsdon	235	564	206	21
Little Munden	127	501	98	27
St. Margarets	48	173	41	—
Standon	799	2,557	650	109
Stanstead Abbots	404	1,560	366	24
Thundridge	155	715	94	10
Ware Rural	221	1,050	160	9
Widford	119	427	71	42
Total	2,935		2,425	285

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewers from Standon and Puckeridge gravitate to a pumping station in Paper Mill Lane, Standon, from which the sewage is raised to a disposal works south of the village.

High Cross and Wadesmill, Great Amwell, St. Margarets and Stanstead Abbots are drained to pumping stations from which the sewage is raised to join the Ware Urban District Council sewers.

Part of the village of Hertford Heath is in the Great Amwell Parish and is sewered by agreement to disposal works in the Hertford Rural District.

The installation of a sewer at Hunsdon village was completed during the year. The sewer discharges into the ex-R.A.F. Works at Hunsdon. Good progress is being made with sewer connections and conversion of the old earth closets to W.C.s.

A small sewerage system was also constructed at Eastwick. The effluent discharges into the septic tank which was originally installed to take the drainage from the new Council houses. The tank was suitably enlarged and improved for this purpose. The system will eventually be connected to the Harlow trunk sewer.

Sixty-two sewer connections were made during 1950.

A survey has been made for the preparation of a scheme to drain Pye Corner district of Gilston Parish. The sewer would be discharged into the Harlow trunk sewer. A survey is also being undertaken preliminary to preparing a scheme for the drainage of the Dane End district of Little Munden Parish. This will entail disposal works at the south end of the village. Sewer extensions in Great Amwell Parish to drain the Hillside Estate have been approved by the Ministry of Health and the work will be put in hand during 1951. A similar scheme to connect Haileybury College and adjoining property to the sewers of the Hoddesdon Urban

District Council has been approved by the Ministry and work should be in hand during 1951. The Council's Engineers have been instructed to prepare an interim scheme for the drainage of the village of Wareside so that further Council houses can be built and the drainage of the existing houses improved. The disposal works which will temporarily consist of a tank and land drainage will be superseded when other disposal arrangements have been approved by the Ministry of Health.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Cesspools

The Council have a cesspool emptying service which operated during the year as follows:—

Those private houses that are situated outside certain areas in proximity to the Council's sewers and defined on a Resolution Map, were emptied twice a year free of charge.

The remainder which are within the above defined areas were only emptied by request at a scale of charges fixed by the Council.

Pails

A scheme is in operation whereby those private houses within an area in proximity to the sewers (as defined above) were charged 15s. per quarter for emptying one pail twice a week.

This scheme continues to encourage property owners to convert their pail closets to W.C.s.

All other pails to domestic premises are emptied twice weekly free of charge.

Refuse Collection

A weekly system of collection is in operation, two vehicles being used.

Refuse is tipped at two dumps—Standon and Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon. These dumps are regularly supervised and proper controlled tipping methods are employed in the disposal of the refuse.

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK during the year 1950

Inspections

Housing	205	Total brought forward	1,244
Complaints	112	Bakehouses	18
Infectious Diseases	26	Factories	29
Food Premises	175	Knackers Yard	8
Drainage	292	Refuse Tips	122
Water Supply	308	Caravans	36
Schools	15	Rats and Mice	94
Cowsheds and Dairies	37	Miscellaneous	46
Ice-cream Premises ...	74		
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Total carried forward	1,244	Total	1,597

Number of Informal Notices served	83
„ „ Statutory Notices served	11

<i>Meat and Meat Products</i>								Approx.
Beef ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54 lbs.
								Approx.
<i>Fish</i>								Weight
Cod ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42 lbs.
Haddock ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70 „
Kippers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56 „
Skate ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56 „
								224 lbs.
								Approx.
<i>Miscellaneous Foodstuffs</i>								Weight
Dried Peas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28 lbs.
Total weight of all foods: 4 cwt. 64 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.								

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

Rodent control under the above Act is now in full operation in this District. The Council employ a part-time operator who is now principally engaged on this work.

During the year 175 private premises were treated for rat infestations and nine treatments were carried out on the Council's two refuse tips.

Statutory Action

Action was taken under Section 5 (1) against a farmer to rid his land of rats. No action was taken by the owner and the treatment was carried out in default by the Herts Agricultural Executive Committee acting as the Council's agents.

FOOD POISONING

Only one outbreak, affecting a young child in a residential nursery, was notified. The causative organism was identified as *Salmonella typhi-murium*, but the precise origin of infection of the child was not established. No other cases occurred in the nursery.

In May, 1950, an outbreak of food poisoning occurred at an institution in the District, but was not officially notified, and no official report upon the occurrence has hitherto been made. The history suggests that the outbreak was due to a toxic form of food poisoning. The details of the occurrence are as follows:—

On the 21st May, about 30 middle-aged adults sat down to breakfast at which the main dish was cold cooked gammon. The bacon had been purchased locally, and cooked in the institutional kitchen. Approximately 15 of these people fell ill with severe diarrhoea and vomiting, less than two hours afterwards. Their illness was severe for eight to 12 hours, but was followed by complete recovery after two or three days.

The bacon had been purchased nine days earlier at a local shop, and had then been stored in a refrigerator for three days. It was then boiled, and whilst hot was boned and rolled, and again placed in the refrigerator for three days until it was eaten. Prior to breakfast on May 21st the gammon was sliced up in rotation on to two plates. The persons seated along one side of the breakfast table helped themselves to ham from one plate, whilst the other plate was passed along the other side of the refectory table. It is significant that the majority of the 15 persons taken ill comprised those seated mainly along one side of the table only.

An eye witness stated that the gammon smelt and tasted normal, but that the meat nearest where the bone had been situated was more red than usual. It was not possible to interview the cook or assistant cooks, but assurances were given that they had suffered from no recent illnesses, nor had possessed septic cuts or spots during the time of preparation of the meat.

Enquiries also revealed that others, who did not eat any ham, were in no way affected.

Although these investigations are incomplete, it would appear from the very short incubation period—under two hours—that the outbreak was due to toxic poisoning. Infection may have been introduced at the time the bone was removed, or may have arisen from the bone itself, so that the meat nearest the bone would have become infected. When the meat was sliced off in rotation those eating meat from the neighbourhood of the bone would become ill whilst those eating outside slices would be unaffected.

No laboratory tests are available from this outbreak, which would help to identify the cause and origin of the infection.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

DISEASE	TOTAL	AGE GROUP (in Years)						Age not Known	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65			
Scarlet Fever	7	—	1	5	1	—	—	—	2	—
Whooping Cough	42	6	20	15	—	—	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	15	—	8	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	3	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
Dysentery	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (Acute):										
Infective	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	15	—	5	2	7	1	—	—	6	—

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	1	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	10	—	8	—	—	1	—	6	16
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	1	—	1	5	5	1	—	—	—	—	2
Acute Pneumonia	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jaundice	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	8	—	2	—

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE
NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES
among the different parishes**

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Jaundice
Eastwick	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Gilston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Amwell ...	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Munden ...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Hunsdon	1	1	10	2	-	-	-	-
Little Munden ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Margarets ...	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Standon	1	21	1	-	-	-	2	3
Stanstead Abbots	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4
Thundridge ...	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ware Rural ...	1	17	-	-	-	-	-	8
Widford	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

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