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Contributors

East Hertfordshire Combined Districts.

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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

1952



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Ware (U.D.)

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Annual Report

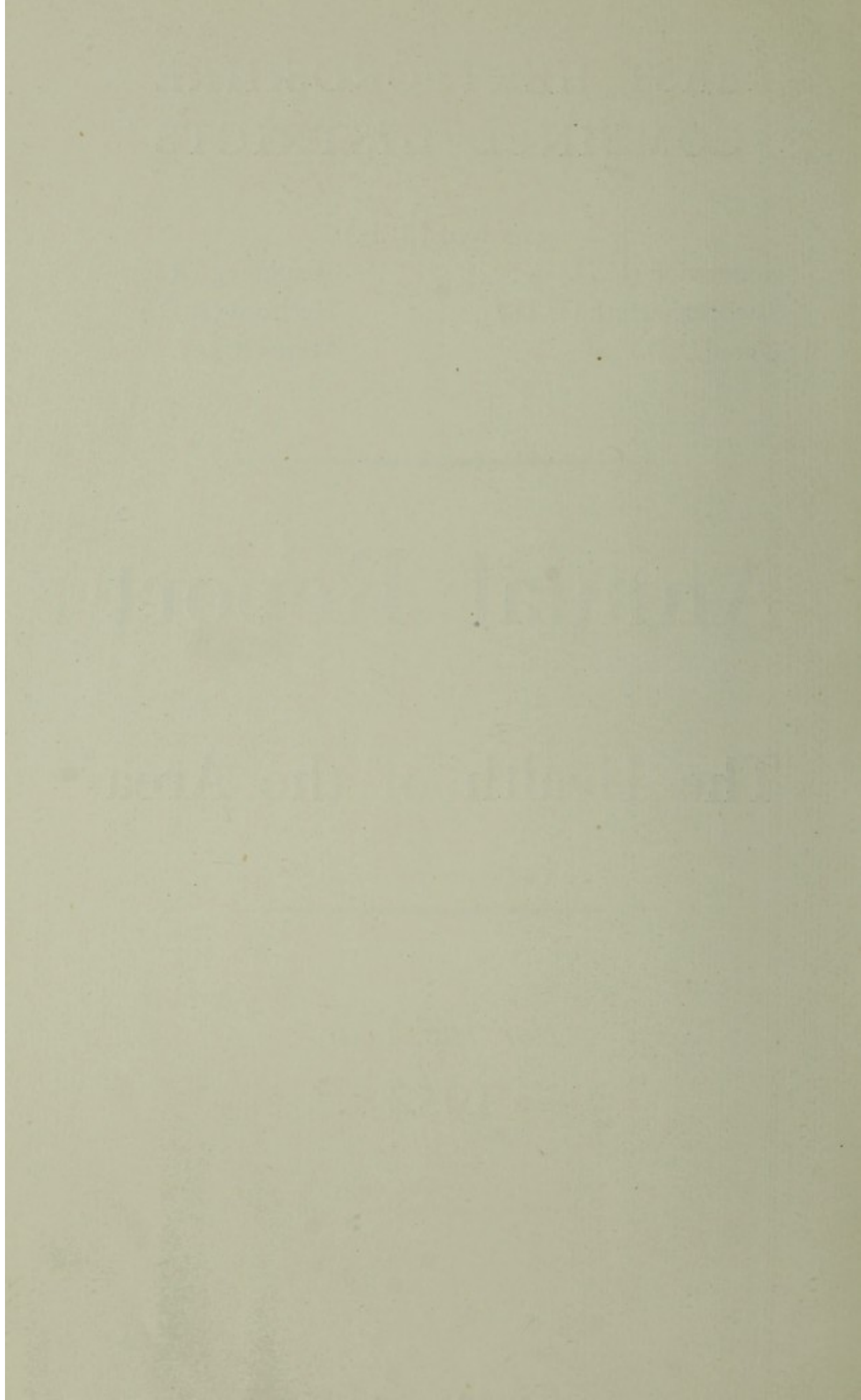
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1952

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97 New Road, Ware, Herts A. D. G. GOOLD (1) and (4)

(Telephone: Ware 492) P. G. ALLISON (3)

(1) Also District Council Surveyor.

(2) Also Assistant Surveyor.

(3) Additional Sanitary Inspector.

(4) Certified Meat Inspector (Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board).

EAST HERTS COMBINED DISTRICTS

PREFACE AND GENERAL REMARKS

The following report on the health of the East Herts Combined Sanitary Districts during 1952, has been drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 2/53 issued by the Ministry of Health. The various rates have been calculated on the Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population for 1952.

This report deals entirely with the environmental health of the area, and apart from a list of services available, gives no details about the personal health services which are administered by the Hertfordshire County Council and the Regional Hospital Board respectively.

Vital Statistics

On the whole the Birth, Death, and Infant Mortality Rates in East Herts compare favourably with those shown for the rest of the country. Deaths from diseases of the heart and circulatory system account for over 38 per cent. of the total, and cancer was the second largest single cause of death with 18 per cent. of the total. It is difficult to say how far the deaths from cancer would be reduced by increased public awareness of the nature of the complaint, and the importance of securing early treatment. Deaths from chest complaints remain constant at about 11 per cent. of the total. There appeared to be very little increase in the number of deaths which occurred during the foggy weather of 5th to 9th December, 1952. This, I hope, can be used as an indication of the relative purity of the atmosphere in East Herts.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

Acute Poliomyelitis

The cases this year were all comparatively mild. Twelve cases occurred. Eleven, one of whom had no paralysis, made good recoveries. One man died. Two women who were between three and seven months pregnant at the time of their illness made good recoveries and were subsequently safely delivered of normal and healthy babies. These cases were at Ware and Sawbridgeworth.

Measles

1952 was a non-epidemic year in East Herts. There were only 286 cases as against 1,346 cases in 1951. This disease usually reaches epidemic proportions in alternate years.

Diphtheria

It is gratifying to record that no cases of diphtheria have occurred in East Herts for the third year in succession.

Food Poisoning

Four notifications of Salmonella food poisoning were received, but a total of 10 separate outbreaks were investigated during the course of the year. The other incidents were connected with the tracing and follow-up in East Herts of contacts from outbreaks of food poisoning outside the districts. Two outbreaks were associated with eating insufficiently cooked duck eggs, and are mentioned in the reports of the Hertford Rural District and the Hoddesdon Urban District.

No cases of toxic poisoning or of bacillary dysentery were reported, but an outbreak of gastro-enteritis amongst school children at Bayford occurred. Their enteritis was similar in type to that caused by Sonn  dysentery at their school in 1951.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

This Section of the Act provides for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. Only four persons were reported to be living in exceptionally dirty or neglected circumstances. They lived at Sawbridgeworth, Hertford, Little Hadham, and at High Wych. Formal action was taken under Section 47 in respect of an old lady at Sawbridgeworth. She died three months after admission to an Institution. Informal action has secured improvement in the conditions of the Hertford case, and the remaining two cases, both women, were persuaded to enter hospital. The woman from High Wych was so emaciated and ill that she died within a week of admission.

Substandard Housing

I have used this term instead of the more ugly words "slum property" to denote a class of property which falls a long way short of the standards considered necessary for the promotion of healthy living. It is a term more convenient for use in a rural area such as East Herts where there are no great aggregations of this type of property all in one place as in some large cities.

Work under the Housing Act, 1936

Quite apart from the considerable number of repairs to houses carried out in pursuance of the Nuisances Section of the Public Health Act, 1936, either by formal or informal action, a further 25 properties were represented to the Councils concerned as being unfit for human habitation and suitable for demolition in accordance with the Housing Act, 1936. Demolition proceedings under Section XI of the Act were initiated in respect of nine houses (four Ware Rural District, three Hertford Rural District, two Hoddesdon Urban District). Undertakings not to relet were given by the owners in respect of seven houses, one demolition order was made, and in the remaining case the Ware Rural District Council decided to take no further action at the present.

A further 12 houses constituted three clearance areas under Section 25 of the Act. The Clearance Order in respect of three cottages at Great Amwell has been confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, the result of a Public Inquiry concerning five houses in a clearance area at Little Hadham is still awaited at the time of writing this report, and three houses in one block at Ware are still being discussed by Ware Urban District, whilst an informal approach is being made to the owners concerned.

Closure of a basement which is unfit for human habitation has been ordered by the Hertford Borough Council in pursuance of Section 12 of the 1936 Housing Act, and three houses in Buntingford are the subject of action under Section 9 of the Act.

In addition to this housing work which was initiated during 1952, work has proceeded with demolitions and repairs which were the subject of action in previous years. Progress was also made in respect of the demolition of a number of ex-W.D. hutments in the Braughing Rural, Ware Rural, and Sawbridgeworth Urban districts. The occupants have either been rehoused in proper houses, or they have been moved into better huts, or they have left the district.

Housing Waiting Lists

All the Sanitary Districts have considerable waiting lists for Council Houses, but it is gratifying to see that the "back of the Housing problem" appears to have been broken in that respect at least. However, there is still a considerable amount of sub-standard property in East Herts, and changing social needs, coupled with the difficulties property owners are facing so far as repairs to property are concerned, will increase rather than decrease their number. In the towns and in certain villages in the Rural Districts there are scattered groups of dwellings which are gradually falling into decay and which will sooner or later be represented officially as Suitable for Clearance. This will mean rehousing the occupants, so that once again the lists of those awaiting a Council House will be swollen.

Problem Families

Another difficulty regarding housing is apparent in the Public Health Department, as well as to Housing Departments. This is the recurring frequency with which problem families are being encountered. In the past, whilst there has been an acute housing shortage their housing difficulties may have been pushed aside. The families have drifted from one Local Authority area to another. They have become anti-social in many respects, and when located are usually found living in the most appalling environmental and moral circumstances. If Councils are reluctant to house these people it is not surprising, particularly when it is realised that these people may never pay the rent regularly and their upkeep

will become a public liability chargeable to the Rates. Yet I think it will be cheaper in the long run for Councils to do as many are already so doing, and face up to this liability and provide these families with houses at the public expense rather than let the families drift about the country performing no useful occupation and perhaps occupying expensive institutional accommodation where only too often families are, for administrative reasons, torn apart. It is very easy to split up a family, particularly a family with an unhappy social background, and it is an established fact that children from such families, whatever their social status, suffer mental upsets (of which they may be quite unaware) which may alter the whole course of their lives. To properly rehouse a problem family to-day will diminish the number of such families to-morrow.

As in former years, I am indebted to all my colleagues for their willing co-operation and assistance during the year. I would also like to say a word of thanks to the Chairman and members of the special committee which manages the Office of Medical Officer of Health, for all their help and consideration.

JOHN WILDMAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

The Castle,
Hertford.

August, 1953.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1952

District	Resident Population	Birth Rate (per 1,000 Popula- tion)	Area Compara- bility Factor for Births	Stan- dardised Birth Rate	Death Rate (per 1,000 Popula- tion)	Area Compara- bility Factor for Deaths	Stan- dardised Death Rate	Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 Related Live Births)
MUNICIPAL BOROUGH Hertford ...	14,340	13.8	1.01	13.9	10.30	1.02	10.50	5.05
URBAN DISTRICTS								
Hoddesdon ...	14,260	14.1	0.96	13.5	11.08	0.97	10.74	15.0
Sawbridgeworth ...	3,878	18.1	1.05	19.0	11.09	0.87	9.64	28.57
Ware ...	8,391	14.5	1.24	18.0	21.21	0.89	18.9	32.8
RURAL DISTRICTS								
Braughing ...	10,400	15.6	1.09	17.0	12.02	0.86	10.3	6.1
Hertford ...	8,751	18.8	1.04	19.6	9.37	0.94	8.8	24.24
Ware ...	11,230	14.9	1.05	15.6	10.88	0.91	9.9	29.8
East Herts (C.D.) ...	71,250	15.26	—	—	12.00	—	—	18.4
England and Wales ...	—	15.3	—	15.3	11.3	—	11.3	27.6

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1952
Table I

	Area (Acres)	Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952, 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	4,807	3.7	1.22	3.0	£ 109,551	£ 439
Hoddesdon	4,423	3,983	3.2	0.90	3.5	100,293	400
Sawbridgeworth	2,678	1,121	1.4	0.42	3.5	25,154	99
Ware (U.D.)	1,343	2,387	6.2	1.76	3.5	53,395	215
Braughing	45,570	3,355	0.2	0.07	3.1	50,012	198
Hertford (R.D.)	31,843	2,584	0.3	0.08	3.4	42,151	168
Ware (R.D.)	29,102	3,089	0.4	0.10	3.6	67,188	274
East Herts (C.D.)	118,841	21,326	0.6	0.19	3.3		

Table II

	BIRTHS					DEATHS		Natural Increase or Decrease
	Legitimate	Illegitimate			TOTAL			
		Number	Percentage	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Hertford (M.B.)	185	13	7.0	96	102	73	74	+ 51
Hoddesdon	195	6	3.7	111	90	85	73	+ 43
Sawbridgeworth	66	4	6.1	39	31	22	21	+ 27
Ware (U.D.)	112	10	8.9	65	57	102	76	- 56
Braughing	154	9	5.8	80	83	61	64	+ 38
Hertford (R.D.)	161	4	2.5	86	79	44	38	+ 83
Ware (R.D.)	164	4	2.5	79	89	66	56	+ 46
East Herts (C.D.)	1,037	50	4.8	556	531	453	402	+ 232

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERAL STATISTICS, 1952 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.) ...	5	4	—	—	122	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Hoddesdon (U.D.) ...	13	21	2	1	49	—	4	—	—	—	6	—	2	—
Sawbridgeworth (U.D.) ...	—	28	2	—	19	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ware (U.D.) ...	—	13	3	—	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Braughing (R.D.) ...	4	46	1	—	53	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hertford (R.D.) ...	12	—	1	—	97	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ware (R.D.) ...	6	35	2	—	27	—	9	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Total East Herts (C.D.) ...	40	147	11	1	397	—	34	—	—	—	9	—	4	1

Case Rate

District	Per 1,000 Population														Per 1,000 Total Births
	Scarlet Fever	Whoop- ing Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles	Diph- theria	Acute Pneu- monia	Small- pox	Typhoid Fever	Para- typhoid Fever	Ery- sipelas	Menin- gococcal Infec- tion	Food Poison- ing	Puer- peral Pyrexia	
			Para- lytic	Non- para- lytic											
Hertford (M.B.) ...	0.35	0.28	—	—	8.51	—	0.21	—	—	—	—	—	0.07	5.01	
Hoddesdon (U.D.) ...	0.91	1.47	0.14	0.07	3.44	—	0.28	—	—	—	0.42	—	0.14	—	
Sawbridgeworth (U.D.) ...	—	7.22	0.52	—	4.90	—	0.77	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ware (U.D.) ...	—	1.56	0.36	—	3.58	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Braughing (R.D.) ...	0.38	4.42	0.10	—	5.10	—	0.96	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Hertford (R.D.) ...	1.37	—	0.11	—	10.28	—	0.57	—	—	—	0.11	—	—	—	
Ware (R.D.) ...	0.53	3.11	0.18	—	2.40	—	0.80	—	—	—	0.17	—	0.09	—	
Total East Herts (C.D.) ...	0.56	2.06	0.15	0.01	5.09	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.06	0.92	
England and Wales ...	1.53	2.61	0.06	0.03	8.86	0.01	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.14	0.03	0.13	17.87	

TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1952

	Cases on Register at 1st January, 1952			Cases added to Register during 1952						Cases removed from Register during 1952						Cases remaining on Register at 31st Dec., 1952			Increase or decrease over 1951	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Population						
				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.			P.	NP.	Td.			
Hertford M.B. ...	M.	33	12	86	8	1	16	-	-	Nil	2	-	5	1	-	3	5	1	14	2	1	4	35	11	86	0.21
	F.	23	18		6	1		-	-		3	-		2	-		6	2		-	-		24	16		
Hoddesdon U.D. ...	M.	48	8	102	2	1	8	-	-	Nil	1	-	3	1	-	1	1	1	10	6	2	12	43	6	90	0.07
	F.	32	14		5	-		-	-		2	-		6	2	-	6	2		2	2		31	10		
Sawbridgeworth U.D.	M.	2	-	11	-	-	1	-	-	Nil	1	-	3	-	-	Nil	-	-	Nil	-	-		3	-	15	Nil
	F.	8	1		1	-		-	-		2	-		-	-		-	-		-	-		11	1		
Ware U.D. ...	M.	20	6	54	4	-	7	-	-	Nil	2	-	6	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	2	6	6	62	0.12
	F.	20	8		2	1		-	-		3	1		3	1	-	1	-		2	-		21	10		
Braughing R.D. ...	M.	22	11	63	8	-	18	-	-	Nil	2	1	3	2	-	3	3	1	6	-	-	Nil	28	11	75	0.29
	F.	19	11		8	2		-	-		-	-		2	-		2	-		-	-		23	13		
Hertford R.D. ...	M.	16	5	46	4	1	8	-	-	Nil	1	-	1	2	-	1	2	-	2	1	1	2	18	5	50	0.11
	F.	17	8		3	-		-	-		-	-		1	-		-	-		-	-		19	8		
Ware R.D. ...	M.	24	15	79	3	-	6	-	-	Nil	4	-	7	-	-	1	1	-	3	1	1	3	29	13	84	0.18
	F.	23	17		-	3		-	-		3	-		-	-	2	-	-		1	-		22	20		
Total East Herts C.D.	M.	165	57	441	30	3	64	-	-	Nil	12	1	27	12	3	11	12	3	37	10	4	22	181	52	462	0.16
	F.	142	77		24	7		-	-		13	1		5	5	-	18	4		5	3		151	78		

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 1952

Line No.	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.		Line No.
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1	ALL CAUSES ...	73	74	85	73	22	21	102	76	61	64	44	38	66	56	1
2	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	2
3	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
4	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	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	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
8	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
9	Measles	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	9
10	Other infective and parasitic diseases	3	5	2	2	1	3	3	2	3	2	3	1	2	2	10
11	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	0	3	0	2	0	3	3	3	0	1	0	2	1	11
12	" lung, bronchus	0	2	0	4	0	0	1	4	0	1	0	2	0	1	12
13	" breast	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
14	" uterus	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	14
15	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	6	7	13	0	1	13	4	7	7	2	2	4	5	15
16	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	16
17	Diabetes	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	17
18	Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	9	11	6	3	5	16	17	5	13	8	6	11	8	18
19	Coronary disease, angina	13	12	13	7	1	3	8	3	5	8	11	6	10	4	19
20	Hypertension with heart disease	0	2	1	1	1	0	4	2	1	4	0	1	0	0	20
21	Other heart disease	8	11	10	15	2	3	17	13	12	6	7	7	4	11	21
22	Other circulatory disease	3	2	4	4	3	0	5	2	5	5	2	1	8	5	22
23	Influenza	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
24	Pneumonia	4	5	3	6	0	0	9	5	2	5	0	1	6	2	24
25	Bronchitis	4	2	6	2	1	1	4	2	6	2	0	0	5	4	25
26	Other diseases of respiratory system	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	26
27	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	5	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	2	27
28	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	28
29	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	29
30	Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	30
31	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
32	Congenital malformations	0	2	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	32
33	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	0	10	10	3	3	6	5	2	5	2	5	4	7	33
34	Motor vehicle accidents	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	34
35	All other accidents	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	4	2	35
36	Suicide	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	36
	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
(a)	Still Births	4	3	4	1	2	1	3	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	(a)
(b)	Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	0	1	2	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	(b)
(c)	" " four weeks to one year of age	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	(c)

HOUSING PROGRESS DURING 1952

	Hertford M.B.		Hoddesdon U.D.		Sawbridge-worth U.D.		Ware U.D.		Braughing R.D.		Hertford R.D.		Ware R.D.	
	During 1952	Since 1945	During 1952	Since 1945	During 1952	Since 1945	During 1952	Since 1945	During 1952	Since 1945	During 1952	Since 1945	During 1952	Since 1945
By PRIVATE ENTERPRISE														
New dwellings erected	4	48	20	117	5	34	9	49	12	88	9	93	11	66
War-destroyed dwellings rebuilt	—	21	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Repairs to war-damaged houses	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46	—	31	—	—
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	1	34	3	23	1	1	3	30	1	35	2	27	—	—
By LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITY														
New dwellings erected	72	348	74	390	18	97	80	266	41	366	20	255	70	376
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	—	6	—	8	—	78	—	—	—	60	—	—	—	—
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	—	50	—	38	—	10	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
By OTHER AUTHORITIES (County Council, Police, Military, etc.)	1	26	—	7	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	37	—	—
TOTAL PROPERTIES CONTROLLED BY THE LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES ON 31st DEC., 1952														
Properties provided under the various Housing Acts:														
Council Houses	987		756		201		706		746		531		748	
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	50		38		10		13		—		—		—	
Sundries	47		30*		65		17		60		1		46	
Requisitioned dwellings	6		2		4		—		2		6		1	

Note:—*Includes 4 Shop Premises.

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 14 localities in the East Herts Combined Sanitary Districts.

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

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

Vaccinations, Diphtheria and Whooping Cough 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, Buntingford, Hertford, Great Hormead, Hoddesdon, Much Hadham, Standon, Stanstead Abbots and Ware.

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.

Day Nurseries

There are only two day nurseries in the area, at 10 Queen's Road, Hertford, and at Bowling Road, Ware.

Mental Health

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a General Practitioner are made by the Duly Authorised Officer, Mr. W. T. Medhurst, Collett 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 Services

These are provided by the Hertford Group of Hospitals within the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

<i>Hospitals within the Group</i>	<i>Total Bed Complement</i>
Bishop's Stortford and District Hospital	68
East Herts (Infectious Diseases) Hospital, Hertford ...	76
Eden Cottage Hospital, Hatfield Broad Oak	7
Haymeads Hospital, Bishop's Stortford	491†
Hertford County Hospital	175
Ware Park Hospital, Ware	129
Western House, Ware (by Agency arrangements with the Hertfordshire County Council)	124

†Also 70 beds available to Herts C.C., for use under the National Assistance Act, 1948 (Part III).

Clinics

Hoddesdon Physiotherapy and Orthopaedic Clinic, Rye Road, Hoddesdon.

Chest Clinic, Hertford County Hospital, Hertford.

Chest Clinic, Haymeads Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

Chest Clinic (Children), Bull Plain, Hertford.

Ante-Natal Clinic, Bull Plain, Hertford.

Ante-Natal Clinic, Portland Road, Bishop's Stortford.

School Children's Ophthalmic Clinic, Bridgefoot House, Buntingford.

School Children's Ophthalmic Clinic, Parliament Square, Hertford.

School Children's Ophthalmic Clinic, Haymeads Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

General Practitioner Medical Services

There are approximately 36 doctors in General Practice who reside in the East Herts Area. In addition, over one dozen medical practitioners resident in adjoining County Districts also carry out general medical practice in this area.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Inspections of Factories during 1952

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 ...	20	17	3	15	34	—	11
Inspections ...	24	9	5	6	18	—	15
Written Notices ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Occupier Prosecuted ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factories with Mechanical Power							
Number on Register ...	99	102	16	73	21	37	42
Inspections ...	34	154	18	20	2	32	74
Written Notices ...	—	11	—	4	—	5	12
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 ...	5	3	5	14	5	—	—
Inspections ...	14	5	16	12	5	—	—
Written Notices ...	3	—	—	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. ...	193	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and Washing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Box Making ...	—	—	—	32	—	—	—
Brush Making ...	24	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paper Bag Making ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Defects found in Factories during 1952

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	-	1	-	2	-	1	6
Remedied	-	1	-	2	-	1	6
Overcrowding:							
Found	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature:							
Found	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation:							
Found	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors:							
Found	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Remedied	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences Insufficient:							
Found	1	2	-	2	2	3	2
Remedied	1	2	-	2	2	2	2
Sanitary Conveniences Unsuitable or Defective:							
Found	3	7	4	3	-	1	9
Remedied	3	7	4	6	-	-	5
Sanitary Conveniences not separate for Sexes:							
Found	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Remedied	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Other Offences:							
Found	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Total Defects:							
Found	-	15	4	8	2	5	18
Remedied	-	14	4	11	2	3	14
Total Defects referred to H.M. Inspector	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Total Defects referred by H.M. Inspector	1	11	3	1	-	1	5

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, 1951, from each of the four pumping stations with the following results:—

Chemical Analyses (parts per million)				
(Samples taken 28th Nov., 1951)	Wadesmill Road	Port Hill	Hartham	Molewood
Appearance... ..	Clear and bright	Clear and bright	Clear and bright	Clear and bright
Turbidity (Silica scale)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colour (Hazen) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Taste	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Reaction pH ...	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2
Free CO ₂	24	22	24	23
Electric Conducti- vity at 20° C. ...	520	480	580	510
Total solids dried at 180° C.	375	340	415	360
Hardness:—				
Carbonate (Temp.)	260	240	260	250
Non-Carb. (Perm.)	50	30	60	35
Total	310*	270*	320*	285*
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	5.2	3.8	3.8	3.8
Nitrite Nitrogen ...	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.000
Albuminoid "	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C. ...	0.00	0.05	0.10	0.00
Residual Chlorine	Absent	0.13	Absent	Absent
Metals	Iron less than 0.03 Other metals Absent	Iron less than 0.03 Other metals Absent	Iron 0.12 Other metals Absent	Iron 0.04 Other metals 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 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.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The usual maintenance work on the main and subsidiary sewers in the Borough has been undertaken.

The first section of the extension of trunk sewers in Bramfield Road to serve the Sele Farm Housing Estate has been completed. Foul sewers from the Estate have been joined to the new mains in Bramfield Road, whilst surface water has been dealt with by sewers discharging into the river above the main Hertford–Stevenage Road in the section known as Goldings Canal.

Further extensions of this contract have been sanctioned for 1953.

The Council have also approved a report on the proposals for flood relief in that area of the Borough centred around Chambers Street, and a scheme has been commenced which will be submitted to the Ministry for approval.

The Activated Sludge Treatment Works at Mead Lane have continued to function satisfactorily, dealing with the difficulties of detergents and trade wastes from factories, etc. Results of analyses taken periodically have been generally very satisfactory when related to the Ministry standard for effluents.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The weekly collection of domestic refuse has been operated throughout the year, and the controlled tipping of the materials Fox Hole Farm site has continued without difficulty or complaints.

The Council are watching carefully the increase in this service made necessary by the development of further housing estates, and are making the necessary arrangements to provide the additional facilities required.

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' WORK during the year 1952

Inspection of District

Total Number of Visits	...	...	...	...	...	1,512
Dwelling Houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	167
Housing, re-inspection of Works in Progress, and interviews with Owners and Builders	...	...	...	...	...	241
General Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	161
Complaints Investigated	...	...	...	...	...	125
Food Inspections and Control Visits	...	...	...	...	...	212
Visits re Cases of Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	25
" " " " " " Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	18
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rodent Control—Inspections and Visits	.	.	.	.	.	105
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	152

Registered and Licensed Premises Inspected

Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Shops, Meat Stores, and other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Refuse Dump	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Other premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	16

During the year, 104 houses have been inspected in regard to sanitary defects. Arising from informal procedure 111 improvements have been carried out in regard to 73 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 5,707, a nightly average of 16 men.

The premises have been kept under observation, 12 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 concerning cases of Infectious Diseases made during the year was 25.

The number of disinfections of rooms carried out, following cases of infectious diseases was 18.

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

In two 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 seven 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.

No cases received treatment during 1952.

Smoke Abatement

Two smoke observations were taken during the year. No nuisance was recorded and no action was required to be taken by the Health Department.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 50

No action was necessary by this Authority in respect to the burial of dead persons where no other suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body were being made otherwise than by this Authority.

In two cases notified to this Authority, arrangements for burial were carried out by the hospital in which the deaths occurred.

HOUSING ACTS 1936-1949

Overcrowding Summary

No survey has been carried out during the year, but the following is a summary of the recorded conditions of overcrowding within the Borough for 1952:—

Number of overcrowded houses at 1st January, 1952	...	6
New cases discovered during the year	... ..	1
Overcrowding abated—Rehoused by Corporation	... ..	2
Abated by Occupier	... ..	3
Number of overcrowding cases remaining at 31.12.1952	...	2

The three cases of borderline overcrowding remaining from 1951 were reduced by one during the year.

Substandard Housing

49 CASTLE STREET.—These premises were “formally represented” as being unfit for habitation in 1937, and an undertaking accepted by the Corporation with regard to their future use. Acceptance of an offer made by the owners and the carrying out of various works allowed the temporary occupation of these premises as a war-time measure to help towards the need for housing accommodation.

The premises were demolished during the year.

13 WARE ROAD.—In November an Official Representation under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, was made in respect of the basement rooms being unfit for human habitation. A Closing Order was made by the Council early in 1953.

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	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

*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	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Supplementary Dealer's Licence	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Pasteurised Milk

Dealer's Licence	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Supplementary Dealer's Licence	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pasteuriser's Licence (issued by Herts County Council in respect of premises situate in the Borough)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

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

A further 52 samples of pasteurised milk taken from the pasteurising plant within the Borough also proved to be satisfactory.

During the year two notifications were received from the County Council of Laboratory reports on biological examinations

of bulk representative samples of tuberculin tested milk which were 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

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 1952)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Registered Producer/Dealer "cold mix"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Changes of Occupation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40

Food Premises

Number of Inspections of Food Premises: 137.

Various improvements have been carried out at Food Premises during the year, additional washing facilities having been installed and additional food storage provided by the installation of refrigerators.

During the year the issue by the Ministry of Food of a Catering Licence in respect to a Cafe was held over pending the completion of the requirements of the Public Health Department and the Borough Council.

Slaughterhouses and Slaughtermen

The application for the annual renewal of the licence of the one remaining slaughterhouse in the Borough was opposed during the year on the grounds of the condition of the premises, considerable deterioration having taken place due to non-usage. Improvements have since been carried out to convert the slaughterhall into storage accommodation and the installation of a Deep Freeze Refrigerator Chamber, and also the provision of additional washing facilities.

Slaughtering for the area is carried out at the Ministry of Food's Central Slaughterhouse at Ware.

There are three 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 212 visits and the issue of 256 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.
Meat and Meat Products	...	...	...	221	647
Ham	...	...	...	19	190 $\frac{1}{4}$
Soups	...	...	...	79	60 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pulses and Vegetables	...	...	...	138	184
Fruit	...	...	...	267	365 $\frac{3}{4}$
Preserves and Jams	...	...	...	35	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
Milk	...	...	...	28	30 $\frac{3}{4}$
Pickles and Sauces	...	...	...	28	25
Cereals	...	...	...	33	17
Fish and Fish Products	...	...	...	209	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
				1,057	1,670 $\frac{1}{4}$

Pork Luncheon Meat.—Included in the above is a consignment of 10 cases of 12 x 4-lb. tins of imported Pork Luncheon Meat which, on examination, was found to be unsound. On enquiry it was found that of the bulk import, similar conditions had been found elsewhere.

Tinned Fish.—117 x 2-oz. tins of fish included above were the remainder of a large consignment which had been in store for a considerable period.

Fish

Plaice	...	...	35 lbs.	Cod Fillets	...	...	42 lbs.
Plaice Fillets	...	...	42 "	Mackerel	...	...	98 "
Haddock	...	...	56 "	Dog Fish	...	...	35 "
Fillets	...	...	28 "	Prawns	...	...	66 "
Smoked Fillets	...	...	56 "				
				Total Fish	...	...	458 lbs.

Miscellaneous Foodstuffs

Beef—Home Killed:—

			Lbs.	Lbs.
Topside (Boneless)	Internal Decomposition		18	
(3 condemnations)	(Bone Taint)			
Topside, Silverside and Thick Flank (4 condemnations)	Ditto	...	190	
Topside and Silverside	Internal Bruising	...	10	
Rump and Fillet	Internal Decomposition			
	(Bone Taint)		11	
Chuck and Blade (2 condemnations)	Ditto	...	78	
Topside, Silverside and Rump (2 condemnations)	Ditto	...	191	
Chuck and Blade	Internal Bruising	...	20	
Part Sirloin	Internal Decomposition	...	19	
Rump (Boneless)	Bone Taint	...	5	
Offal (4 condemnations)	Decomposition	...	96	
				— 638

Mutton—Home Killed:—				Lbs.	Lbs.
Chump Loin	...	Internal Decomposition (Bone Taint)		4	
Legs of Mutton (parts of 12 legs)	...	Ditto	...	97	
Leg of Mutton (1)	...	Internal Bruising	...	6	
Shoulder	...	Abscess	...	2	
				—	109
Pork—Home Killed:—					
Head (1)	...	Decomposition	...	26	
Belly	...	Ditto	...	18	
Shoulder (1) and Legs (2)	...	Severe Bruising	...	27	
Side of Sow	...	Acute Fever and Multiple Abscess	...	104	
Pork Trimmings	...	Abscess	...	3	
				—	178
Sausages (Pork)	...	Decomposition	...	20	
Chickens (7)	...	Ditto	...	41	
Milk Powder	...	Maggot-infested	...	56	
Cheese	...	Unsound	...	5½	
Prunes (3 condemnations)	...	Extensive Mould	...	131	
Sweets	...	Flood Damaged	...	69¼	
					<u>1,247¾</u>

Beef (Home Killed).—Two carcasses with livers were examined at the Meat Depot, Bell Lane, and, after trimming, were passed as being not unsound. A total of 66 lbs. beef and 8 lbs. liver were condemned as being unfit for human consumption. The Police Authorities and the Food Enforcement Officers of the Ministry of Food were involved in an Action concerned with the irregular slaughter of the cattle.

Pork (Home Killed).—The head (26 lbs.), belly (18 lbs.), and shoulder and legs (27 lbs.) were from two carcasses of farm-slaughtered "casualties" which had been taken over by the Ministry of Food.

Sweets.—The 69¼ lbs. Sweets were damaged by flood water on the night of 6th August and were condemned as being unfit for consumption.

The Meat Depot, the South Eastern Wholesale Meat Supply Association, situate within the Borough, is a distribution centre for the meat traders within the surrounding area. Close co-operation continues to be maintained with the Depot.

Total Weight of Condemned Foods*During 1952:—*

	tons	cwts.	lbs.
Food in Containers		14	102 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fish		4	10
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs ...		11	15 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1	10	16

Previous years:—

	1949			1950			1951		
	tons	cwts.	lbs.	tons	cwts.	lbs.	tons	cwts.	lbs.
Canned Foods		11	49	1	1	92 $\frac{1}{2}$		16	108 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fish	1	6	52		7	89 $\frac{1}{2}$		7	15
Miscellaneous		11	13		5	2		9	41 $\frac{1}{2}$
	2	9	2	1	14	72	1	13	53

FACTORIES ACT, 1938*Number of Factories on Register:*

Mechanical Factories	99
Non-Mechanical Factories	20
	119

Number of Inspections:

Mechanical Factories (including the seven "Mechanical" Bakehouses)	34
Non-Mechanical Factories (including the one non-mechanical Bakehouse)	24
Other Premises (Building Sites, etc.)	14
	72
Number of Notices Served	3

During the year references were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories in regard to new or changed circumstances at 11 factories.

Contraventions

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

Sanitary Accommodation insufficient	1
Sanitary Accommodation unsuitable or defective ...	3

Outworkers

The half-yearly lists of outworkers supplied by factories within the Borough in accordance with the requirements of the Factories Act include 217 persons. Of this total, 77 are resident within the Borough.

Lists supplied by other local authorities of outworkers employed by firms situate outside the Borough include 12 persons resident within the Borough.

The nature of the work carried out by the outworkers within the Borough is as follows: Wearing apparel 62; Brush workers 17; Envelope making 10.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Registered Premises

There is only one registration within the town, the premises already being registered as a factory carrying on the trade of Carpet Repairs, Mattress Cleaning, Upholstery, and Cabinet Work.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

The above Act providing for the Licensing by Local Authorities of premises where pet animals are kept, came into operation on 1st April, 1952.

Licensed Premises

One application for Licensing was considered and approved under the Act, the premises already being used as a Pet Shop.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During the year considerable use was made of the new rodenticide, Warfarin. Practically all treatments, other than the sewer treatments, were carried out using this poison. The availability of the poison bait over a longer period and the elimination of pre-baiting was of noticeable advantage over the previous methods of poisoning.

A refresher course on Rodent Control arranged by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, held in London during July, was attended by the Rodent Operator.

Corporation Properties

Surface Properties.—Thirty-five routine visits were made during the year to all Council properties occupied by the Corporation. Eight treatments were carried out during the year, including treatments at the Sewage Works, Corporation Depot, and at the Refuse Tip at Foxholes.

Sewers.—In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, following the annual test-baiting of the Corporation Sewers in February, the winter and summer treatments were carried out during February and September. The number of manholes treated being 56 and 61 respectively.

Private Dwellings

Number of Premises inspected	...	...	...	807
Number of Inspections and Re-visits	...	...	...	923
Mice Infestations Treated	...	...	...	11
Premises included in Rat Disinfestations	...	...	...	161

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

Number of Premises Inspected	...	...	...	77
Number of Inspections and Re-visits	...	...	...	110
Total Number of Premises Treated	...	...	...	16

All treatments at business premises, including four contracts with owners of commercial property, are carried out on a time and materials basis.

Agricultural Land

Number of Inspections and Re-visits	35
-------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

Although the District Council is the responsible Authority under the 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.

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.

Tipping of river dredgings by the Lee Conservancy Board were also made at the tip during the early part of the year.

General conditions at the site remain satisfactory.

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*)

Three caravans are sited within the Borough. The use of one site was discontinued during the year.

HEALTH EDUCATION

In order to assist the promotion of healthy living, the Hertford Borough Council actively supported the re-opening in September of a series of Health Exercise Classes for Women, organised by the Hertfordshire Branch of the Women's League of Health and Beauty. These classes have expanded to such an extent that larger premises are now in use at Longmore Senior School, Churchfields, Hertford.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES
CONTROL AND PREVENTION****Food Poisoning**

An isolated case of Food Poisoning due to *Salmonella typhimurium* occurred in a child of eight years during May. The origin of infection was not traced.

Two separate outbreaks elsewhere necessitated action in Hertford Borough in respect of contacts. The first contact was a nurse from a hospital at Cambridge, who by arrangement with the M.O.H. at Cambridge, was kept under observation at her home in Hertford during June. The second concerned contacts in Hertford Hospital of a Student Nurse from Welwyn Garden City who was suffering from a *Salmonella* infection. I communicated with the management of Hertford County Hospital, who took appropriate action and arranged for contacts amongst the staff to be tested. No other outbreak of illness associated with this isolated case has been reported.

HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

Most of the houses (more than 98 per cent.) derive their water from public mains. A few houses are served by standpipes. There are some 50 houses in the district without a public supply; these are mainly situated in the outlying and undeveloped parts of the district.

Public Mains 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.

The scheme for super-chlorinating the water at the pumping station, followed by partial de-chlorination on entry into the reservoir was completed in 1952. A chlorine residual recorder has been ordered from the makers and will be installed in 1953.

Routine Bacteriological Examinations

Public Supply (after treatment).—Sixty-three samples were tested, 56 were reported as being satisfactory, but Non-fæcal Coli were present in seven samples and in two instances Fæcal Coli were also present.

All except one of the unsatisfactory samples were taken over a short period in the first quarter of the year and are thought to be the result of the change over arising from the installation of the de-chlorinating apparatus.

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

Adequacy of Supply

In view of the increasing water demand, consideration is being given to a further source of supply and, pending such supply being available, negotiations are proceeding with the Metropolitan Water Board for a bulk supply. The maximum well yield is 525,000 gallons per day, and having regard to the potential population a scheme for the supply to be increased to 750,000 gallons per day is suggested.

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

Chemical Results in Parts per Million	Raw Water Sample taken 18th March, 1952	Raw Water Sample taken 16th Oct., 1952
Appearance	Bright with a very slight flocculent deposit consisting of chalk particles	Very faint opales- cence with a slight flocculent deposit consisting of minute chalk particles
Turbidity	Less than 3	Less than 3
Colour	Less than 10 (filtered)	Less than 10
Odour	Nil	Nil
Reaction pH	7.3	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	16	16
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	640	630
Total solids, dried at 180° C.	430	420
Chlorine as Chloride	32	30
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	230	225
Hardness:—		
Carbonate (Temporary)	230	225
Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	115	95
Total	345	320
Nitrate Nitrogen	8.8	6.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.008	0.091
Oxygen Absorbed	0.25	0.50
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.020	0.036
Residual Chlorine	—	—
Metals	Iron: Less than 0.03 Other metals absent	Iron: 0.09 Other metals absent

Private Supplies

Six samples of water were taken from dwelling houses with private well supplies. All were found on bacteriological examination to be unsatisfactory, Non-faecal Coli being present in each case. The occupiers were warned to boil all water before use. In one case an alternative source of supply with filter was obtained.

Borehole, Frogley's Road, Dobbs Weir

Two samples of water from this source were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and were found to be satisfactory.

Factory Supplies

Ten water samples from three factories were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. One, from a shallow well, was reported on as unsatisfactory and the occupiers advised not to use this source for human consumption. The other two factories are served by deep boreholes and the raw water is invariably of good quality. Three unsatisfactory samples were obtained from the distribution system in one of these factories and after a short length of piping and fittings were sterilized, check samples were taken and reported on as being up to standard.

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.

Broxbourne and Wormley Sewage Works

In the Report for 1951, mention was made of the fact that difficulties were being experienced at these works in dealing with the increased volume of sewage, mainly as a result of housing development. The Engineer and Surveyor and the Council's Consulting Engineers are preparing a major sewage disposal scheme for treatment of the whole of the town's main drainage at the Rye Meads Disposal Works now in course of construction.

Northern Drainage Area

During the year, the second part of the scheme for sewerage the above-mentioned area was carried out by the erection of a new pumping station and the laying of 615 yards of 6-in. and 9-in. sewers. These works serve the new Hoddesdon Secondary School and the extensions to municipal housing estate at Stanstead Road and Castle Road, Rye Park. It is hoped that a further length of sewer will be provided from a point south of Cranbourne Drive to the new school entrance in 1953. When this has been done the whole of Stanstead Road will then be sewered and the Northern Area Scheme completed, with the exception of Nursery Road.

Ware Rural District Council's Sewer Extension, Haileybury

The Ware Rural District Council carried out a sewerage scheme in 1952, linking Haileybury College and surrounding properties with the Hoddesdon Urban District Council's sewer in Ware Road. A small extension of 6-in. sewer was also laid from Springle Lane and connected to this Council's sewer. This should enable a small number of properties in the Hoddesdon Urban District Council's area, now served by cesspools, to be provided with main drainage.

British Electricity Authority, Rye House Generating Station

A sewage pumping main from this station was laid to the Council's Hoddesdon Sewage Disposal Works during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Household refuse is collected at fortnightly intervals over most parts of the district, but a scheme of weekly collections is also in operation in certain roads where the occupiers co-operate by bringing the dustbins to the front gate. The Council are

endeavouring to restore a full weekly collection, and it is hoped that the provision of a new modern vehicle in 1953 will greatly assist to this end.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping methods in a disused gravel pit in Cock Lane, Hoddesdon, well removed from the main residential areas of the District.

Ware Rural District Council Tip, Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon

It was hoped that tipping of household refuse from the Ware Rural District on this site would cease in December, 1952. The Ware Rural District Council experienced difficulties in obtaining another site, but it is understood that the Stanstead Road tip will certainly be discontinued in 1953. The Hoddesdon Urban District Council continued to carry out the work of disinfection.

Gravel Pit, Nazeing Road, Broxbourne

Tipping of small quantities of builders' spoil, etc., in a further part of this pit was continued during the year.

PARTICULARS OF INSPECTIONS, ETC., during the year 1952

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

Dwelling houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	619
Housing, re-Inspection of Works in Progress, and interviews with Owners and Builders	...	...	...	...	...	2,096
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	25
Inspection of Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	28
Inspection of Stables and Pig-sties	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspection of Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	39
Inspection of Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	19
Inspection of Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	16
Visits to other premises where food is prepared and/or exposed for sale	...	...	...	...	...	193
Market Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	45
Refuse Tip Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	71
Investigation of Complaints other than Housing	...	...	...	...	...	54
Inspections under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	149
Inspection of Camping Grounds and Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	68
Miscellaneous Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	372
Total Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	3,799

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	335
Number of Letters sent	...	...	...	...	...	661
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	86
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	14
Defects Remedied						
Drainage and Sanitary Arrangements	...	...	...	...	...	546
Dwelling Houses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	377

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Statutory Notices

Eleven Statutory Notices were served under Section 93 to remedy nuisances arising from structural defects to dwelling houses. The Notices were complied with.

One Notice was served on business premises under this Section, and a notice was also served on the same property under Section 45.

Nuisance—*Wormley Hill House, Wormley*

Complaints were received of intermittent odour nuisance arising from the house sewage disposal plant. This was attributed to a rotary filter of large area and shallow depth. Various improvements were effected but the nuisance persisted and the owners have given orders for the filter to be covered, which, it is considered, should remove cause for complaint.

Nuisance—*Woollensbrook Stream, Hoddesdon*

Complaints were made last summer about the condition of this stream, which was discoloured and giving off offensive odours.

This was found to be due to the fact that certain trade waste waters from factories near Westhill, Hoddesdon, were discharged into a lagoon adjoining the brook. The liquid in the lagoon was putrid, giving off sulphuretted hydrogen, and had overflowed into the Woollensbrook.

Strong representations were immediately made to the factory owners, and after consultation with the Lea Conservancy Board temporary works, consisting of a precipitation tank and a filter, were installed so that the trade waste could be treated before discharge. This arrangement has worked fairly satisfactorily, but occasional trouble has arisen, in my opinion, as a consequence of the colloidal or flocculent deposits.

Samples of the factory or trade waste were submitted for chemical examination. The firm's Consulting Engineer has been in touch with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Water Pollution Research Laboratory, and at the time of writing this report it is proposed to exclude all surface water and to treat the factory effluent in the firm's domestic sewage disposal plant.

Smoke Nuisances

Complaints were received of smoke nuisances at one factory which were found to be due to the use of bituminous coal. When supplies of coke became available the trouble ceased.

Disinfestation

Eradication of Bed Bugs

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

Wasps' Nests

Complaints were received about wasps' and hornets' nests and a total of 26 nests were destroyed during the year.

Disinfections

Disinfections were carried out in consequence of infectious diseases (including Tuberculosis) in 10 dwelling houses.

Sanitary Conveniences

Proposed Public Convenience, Wormley

It is regretted that no progress was made in the provision of a public convenience at Wormley. It is to be hoped that more favourable circumstances will permit the Council's plan to be carried out in 1953 as loan sanction has been received since the end of the year.

Premises Licensed for Public Entertainment—Dance Halls, etc.

It was necessary to serve statutory notices under Sections 45 and 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of the sanitary conditions at one property. The requisite works were carried out, except that the urinal surface does not, in my view, conform to present-day standards.

Existing legislation does not appear to be adequate to enforce this requirement and representations are being made to the Herts County Council, as licensing authority under the Cinematograph Act, 1909, and the Home Counties (Music and Dancing) Licensing Act, 1926, to provide that proper standards of sanitary accommodation are provided and maintained before a licence is issued or renewed.

Licensed Premises—Public Houses

Following representations to the owners, improvements were effected to the sanitary accommodation at three public houses in the district, new conveniences and drainage being provided in each case. Plans for modernising and improving the sanitary accommodation at one other public house was submitted to the Council during the year. Representations have been made and consultations with the owners taken place in connection with other licensed premises in need of improvement.

Swimming Bath

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

The water is supplied from the Council's mains. The pool is equipped with modern filtration plant and the "break-point" method of chlorination is employed. The water can be heated to a reasonable temperature when necessary.

Apart from the regular and routine tests for residual chlorine in the water, 21 bacteriological examinations were made during the year, as well as one full chemical analysis. All except two were reported as satisfactory, the cause of these was located and rectified.

Atmospheric Pollution

Measurement and Recording

There are two stations in this district, one at New River Close, Rye Park, and one on the roof of the Council Offices. Each station consists of a deposit gauge for collecting soot, ash, and grit, and a lead peroxide instrument for measuring sulphur. Details of the results of samples taken during the year are as follows:—

Month	Rainfall mm.	Insoluble Deposit Tons per square mile	Soluble Deposit Tons per square mile	Total Solids Tons per square mile	SO ₂ mg./day/100 cm. ² of Batch A Lead Peroxide
STATION No. 1 (Council Offices, High Street, Hoddesdon)					
January ...	37	2.22	5.63	7.85	0.78
February ...	11	1.07	2.01	3.08	0.92
March ...	51	4.87	5.23	10.10	0.72
April ...	32	3.39	6.54	9.93	0.95
May ...	22	3.36	2.78	6.14	0.14
June ...	32	2.22	2.48	4.70	0.32
July ...	9	1.81	2.18	3.99	0.28
August ...	100	2.89	10.23	13.12	—
September ...	67	1.71	3.39	5.10	0.57
October ...	52	2.38	5.30	7.68	0.93
November ...	68	1.84	5.17	7.01	0.69
December ...	46	4.50	3.49	7.99	1.63
STATION No. 2 (8 New River Close, Hoddesdon)					
January ...	45	2.77	5.69	8.46	0.77
February ...	16	1.71	2.40	4.11	1.09
March ...	55	6.59	5.56	12.15	0.80
April ...	37	4.15	5.60	9.75	0.36
May ...	26	5.04	1.98	7.02	0.28
June ...	28	4.61	2.90	7.51	0.36
July ...	14	5.30	2.17	7.47	0.21
August ...	98	4.15	10.01	14.16	—
September ...	62	3.69	6.29	9.98	0.34
October ...	56	9.45	4.28	13.73	0.69
November ...	77	2.30	3.92	6.22	0.80
December ...	62	8.00	4.77	12.77	1.97

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1949

Overcrowding

Seven new cases of overcrowding of houses were discovered during the year (two Council and five privately owned).

Overcrowding of two Council houses and three privately-owned houses, and the partial overcrowding of 20 other houses, was abated mainly through the allocation of new houses.

Insanitary Properties

No Demolition or Closing Orders were served during the year, but a report was submitted to the Council in December on the undermentioned dwelling-houses, with a recommendation that these three properties should be dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

The Cabin, Slipe Lane, Wormley.

Red Cottage, 2 High Road, Wormley.

Railway Crossing Cottage, Wharf Road, Wormley.

The Council served Notices accordingly, and as the matter carried over into 1953 it will be reported on more fully in the next Report.

Attention was drawn to the dangerous and defective condition of a dwelling house, No. 37 Admirals Walk, Hoddesdon. This was demolished by the owner and a licence granted by the Council to build a new house on the site.

The following insanitary properties were also demolished during the year:—

Nos. 108 and 110 Burford Street, Hoddesdon.

Nos. 75 and 77 Lord Street, Hoddesdon. (Demolition Order 3/38.)

Junction Cottage, off Essex Road, Hoddesdon.

Cottage, north of Crossing, Essex Road, Hoddesdon.

Improvement of Housing Accommodation

Substantial alterations and improvements were carried out to the following properties during the year, one as the result of a statutory notice and one voluntarily:—

Cavendish Cottage, Hertford Road, Hoddesdon.

Former Thatched Cottage, Carneles Green, Broxbourne.

No applications for grant under Part 11 of the Housing Act, 1949, were received during the year.

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	...	...	...	...	13
Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk by Round from outside the District	...	...	...	...	1

The dairies have been frequently inspected and a total of 28 visits has been made.

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"	11
"Tuberculin Tested"	6

Supplementary Licences to use Special Designation:

"Pasteurised"	1
"Sterilised"	1
"Tuberculin Tested"	1

Milk Sampling

Forty-two 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	27	1
Ungraded Milks	12	2

One of the Pasteurised milk samples failed to pass the Phosphatase test. Two of the undesignated milk samples failed to pass the Methylene Blue test. Follow-up action was taken and subsequent samples from the same source were found to be satisfactory.

Pasteurised Milk

One dealer in the district has installed a "Positive Holder" type of pasteurising plant and has been granted a licence by the Hertfordshire County Council.

School Milk

Eighteen samples of milk supplied to schools in the district were taken during the year by the County Council Sampling Officers. All except one were found to be satisfactory. The adverse report was in respect of a bottle of Pasteurised milk which failed the Phosphatase test. The cause of the failure was found to be the result of using a utensil previously used for raw milk and which had not been efficiently cleaned. The dealer was given a suitable warning to prevent a recurrence of this kind.

Biological Sampling

The County Council Sampling Officers take samples of milk from producers for biological examination for the presence of *ubercle bacilli* and *brucella abortus*.

During the year one sample gave a positive result for *tubercle bacilli*. This was from a local Accredited herd. The Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Animal Health Division, arranged for the herd to be inspected and one cow was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, and the diagnosis was confirmed.

Food Premises Generally

The inspection of food premises still forms a large part of the work of the Department. Throughout the year there were 345 inspections of and visits to all kinds of premises where food is prepared, stored, or sold.

Structural improvements were carried out and the provision of hot water and washing facilities made in some premises. As the result of informal approach many traders have co-operated and provided glass protection to provision containers or installed display cabinets to protect food from contamination.

There appears to me to be a too ready tolerance of flies in some cooked food shops during hot weather. Efforts are being made to bring about a change in this attitude, and authority for legal proceedings will be requested if necessary.

The whole matter requires constant attention.

Market

All stalls selling foodstuffs at the Market are regularly inspected. Washing facilities with running hot water are available at the nearby Clock House conveniences.

Preserved Food, etc.

There are 18 premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or preserved foods.

Ice Cream

There are 52 licensed retailers and one manufacturer registered with the Council.

Sixteen visits were made to ice cream premises during the year and six samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination, as follows:—

Description and Origin and Number of Samples	Provisional Grade			
	1	2	3	4
From Local Manufacturer, 2 samples ...	1	1	—	—
Prepacked retail samples of various makes, 4 samples	3	1	—	—

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.

Transport of Meat

During the year it was necessary to call attention on one occasion to the unsatisfactory method of delivery of meat to the butchers' shops.

The wooden floor racks provided in the vehicles operating in this district have been rearranged to allow a passageway up the centre.

Unsound Food

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

							Approx. Weight	
<i>Canned Foodstuffs</i>							cwt.	lbs.
Ham	...	...	...	...	...	17	1	78½
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	6		10½
Veal	...	...	...	...	...	2		8
Meat Products	...	...	...	...	...	44	1	47
Soups, Stews, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	9		7½
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	8		7½
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	4		18½
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	204	2	50
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	23		17¼
							6	20¾
<i>Fish</i>								
Herrings (approximate weight)	...	...	...	...	...	...		105
<i>Miscellaneous Foodstuffs</i>								
Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...		100
Veal	...	...	...	...	...	1		48
Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	2		10
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	...		38
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...		16
Minced Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...		43
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...		3
Prunes	...	...	...	...	...	...		24¼
Dates	...	...	...	...	...	...		30
Mandarines	...	...	...	...	...	...		11
Chocolate Rolls	...	...	...	...	...	...		5
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	...	...		3¼
Paste	...	...	...	...	...	...		¼
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	...		3
							5	110¾

Total Weight of all Foodstuffs: 13 cwt. 12½ lbs.

Watercress Beds, Conduit Lane, Hoddesdon

Samples taken from the water in which the watercress is grown indicate that the quality is not of drinking water standard. The grower has been requested to wash all supplies before despatch to market, in water of a satisfactory standard. A supply for this purpose is derived from a deep bore, and two samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination were reported on as satisfactory.

THE PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

The Pet Animals Act, 1951, came into force on 1st April, 1952. There is only one pet shop in the district and a licence has been issued.

SHOPS ACT

An additional water closet was provided for females at one premises and one water closet improved.

Requests have been made for the provision of separate sanitary accommodation for females in two other shop premises. The owners have agreed to do this, but the work was not in hand at the close of the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Private Dwellings

The Council continued to give a free service to private dwellings and a total of 120 complaints of infestation were received from occupiers during the year.

Business Premises

Contracts with the owners of two commercial properties, for the servicing and treatment of their premises, were in operation during the year. Treatment of 36 other business premises was carried out by arrangement with the owners 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	...	...	...	...	...	826
„ „ properties inspected	...	...	...	...	...	661
„ „ properties infested with rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	166
Total number of treatments carried out to all properties	...	...	...	...	...	262

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 May:—

	Hoddesdon and Rye Park	Brox- bourne	Wormley
Total number of sewer manholes (approx.)	216	160	48
Number of sewer manholes test-baited	23	17	5
„ „ manholes showing "Takes"	4	—	—
Treatment was carried out as follows:—			
<i>May, 1952—</i>			
Number of manholes baited	13	—	—
„ „ manholes showing "Takes"	6	—	—
<i>November, 1952—</i>			
Number of manholes baited	13	—	—
„ „ manholes showing "Takes"	4	—	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

One hundred and sixty-eight visits and inspections were made during the year.

New sanitary conveniences were provided at three factories.

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 three factories.

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1935

Movable Dwellings

The Council decided in 1951 to approve the use of certain of its own land at Rye Park, at which water supply and sanitation would be provided, for the placing of movable dwellings belonging to persons with a residential qualification. Owing to the pressure of work and labour difficulties it has not been found possible to proceed with this work.

Only one or two enquiries were received in 1952 for this type of accommodation.

There is a large number of movable dwellings and shacks in Broxbourne and Wormley, mainly in the proximity of the River Lea. Most of these are used at week-ends during the summer, although a few are in daily use. Every effort is made to discourage this latter tendency by frequent inspections of the sites and by advice given to prospective tenants and purchasers of such riverside plots. Three huts at the Lea Wharf Estate were found to be used

for permanent habitation. Prompt informal action was taken and the occupiers left. It is still hoped that effective action will be taken under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, to clear the worst of these sites.

Frogley's Road, Dobbs Weir

This camp was set up in 1951, and consent has been given under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, and the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, for 100 movable dwellings from the Sunday before Easter to 31st October in each year until 1955.

The maximum number actually on the site at any time during 1952 was not more than 30.

A second block of sanitary conveniences is to be provided. The camp is extremely well conducted.

The proposal to build holiday chalets has not been proceeded with.

All the former unsatisfactory shacks and vans have now been cleared from the site.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES: CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Acute Poliomyelitis

Three cases were notified during the last quarter of the year. Two cases—both children—suffered slight paralysis but the third case (an adult) had no paralysis.

Food Poisoning

Due to Insufficiently Cooked Duck Eggs

During July two cases of food poisoning were notified by telephone. The patients, both adults, became ill with stomach pains, diarrhoea, and a raised temperature about 36 hours after each had eaten a lightly boiled duck egg for breakfast. Their illness lasted two or three days. Laboratory tests carried out on these two patients confirmed the presence of *Salmonella typhimurium*. Following routine enquiries, the duck farm was visited. Three batches of eggs from this farm were sampled and subjected to bacteriological tests at the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory, and four out of 13 eggs in one batch were found to be infected with *Salmonella typhimurium*. This information was transmitted to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and their Divisional Veterinary Officer at Hertford continued the investigations and arranged for infected ducks to be killed.

It is understood that 1 per cent. of duck eggs are infected with the germs of food poisoning, and that they become infected in the oviducts before the egg-shell is formed. Whilst these possibilities exist, and until such time as scientists can eliminate this infection, any duck eggs intended for human consumption should first be thoroughly cooked for at least 15 minutes in order to kill any harmful germs which may be present.

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	13	—	4	9	—	—	—	—	3	—
Whooping Cough	21	2	16	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Non-Paralytic	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	49	1	27	20	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	4	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (Acute):										
Infective	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	6	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
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	—	3	2	1	2	—	2	—	—	2	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	1	1	2	3	1	2	2	5	3	—	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Measles	—	—	2	18	4	1	—	4	3	—	3	16
Acute Pneumonia	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Erysipelas	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

Mass X-Ray of the Chest

During July and August, 1952, a Mass Radiography Unit of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board carried out a survey in Hoddesdon. It set up its apparatus at Burford Street School.

2,237 persons were X-rayed. 2,064 persons came from Hoddesdon and district (including part of Nazeing), together with a further 173 persons from the William Baker School and the Herts Training School, near Hertford.

Only 68 of the volunteers from Hoddesdon and district were recalled for further examination on large films. Previously unsuspected active tuberculosis of the lungs was revealed in five cases (2.4 cases per 1,000 total cases examined). Forty-four (about 2 per cent. of the total) were found to have suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis, but the disease at the time of examination was inactive. Of the remaining 19 persons called for re-examination on large films, five failed to attend, nine were found to have an abnormality of the heart, and four more were found to have no chest disease at all. One case is still under observation.

Detailed results are shown in the following table:—

	Male	Female	Total
<i>Wm. Baker School and Herts Training School</i>			
<i>Dr. Barnardo's (Goldings)</i>			
Number of miniatures ...	173	—	173
Recalled for large films ...	6	—	6
<i>Organised Groups (including Factories, Offices, etc.)</i>			
Number of miniatures ...	423	196	619
Recalled for large films ...	12	6	18
<i>Public Sessions</i>			
Number of miniatures ...	581	864	1,445
Recalled for large films ...	22	28	50
<i>Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis</i>			
Active Post-primary ...	3	2	5
Inactive Primary ...	15	5	20
Inactive Post-primary ...	14	10	24
Pleural Effusion ...	—	1	1
<i>Among Other Abnormalities Discovered</i>			
Cardiovascular Lesions—Acquired ...	2	6	8
Congenital	1	—	1
<i>Unable to Classify</i>			
Did not attend for large film ...	2	2	4
Did not attend for complete investigation ...	1	—	1
Still under observation at Chest Clinic	1	—	1
<i>The Active Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were Discovered in the following Groups</i>			
Public Sessions ...	—	3	3
Organised Groups ...	3	—	3

SAWBRIDGEWORTH URBAN DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

The piped supply is provided by the Herts and Essex Water Company to 1,084 houses, eight of which share three standpipes.

Twenty-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 22 samples of the town's water supply, and show that B. Coli were absent from 100 m.l. in each case.

Chemical

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

Results in Parts per Million	8th October, 1952	18th December, 1952
Appearance	Faint opalescence with very few mineral particles	
Turbidity (Silica scale)	8	Less than 3
Colour (Hazen)	Under 10	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil
Reaction pH	7.1	7.2
Free CO ₂	36	27
Electric Conducti- vity at 20° C.	650	660
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	315	295
Total solids dried at 180° C.	450	450
Hardness:		
Carbonate (Temp.)	315	295
Non-Carb. (Perm.)	35	65
Total	350	360
Nitrogen in:		
Nitrates	0.0	0.0
Nitrites	Absent	Less than 0.01
Free Ammonia	0.26	0.09
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.00	0.000
Residual Chlorine	Nil	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C.	0.00	0.05
Metals	Iron 0.86 Other metals absent.	Iron 0.25 Other metals absent.
Fluorine	0.6	0.6

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.

Two samples of effluent taken from the Central Sewage Works for analysis were satisfactory and fit for discharge into a water course.

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 1952

Summary of Visits

Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	196
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	14
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	29
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	39
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	208
Total					486
Number of Informal Notices served					14
,, ,, Statutory Notices served					Nil

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Verminous Premises and Verminous Articles

Sections 83 and 85

Disinfection and cleansing was carried out at one cottage. D.D.T. preparations were used.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1949

Eighteen houses were completed and tenanted on the Bullfields Housing Estate and work was commenced on a further 12 during the year. It is hoped that the houses will be ready for occupation in June, 1953.

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

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Milk

Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	2
Number of Dairies	...	...	...	1

Supplementary Licences to use Special Designations

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	2
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	2

The Dairy was inspected on 12 occasions during the year. Purveyors' delivery vehicles also receive frequent inspection.

Ice Cream

No ice cream is manufactured in the district. There are five registered premises and regular inspection of the premises has been carried out.

Unsound Food

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

Category	No. of Tins or Containers	Weight in lbs.
Meat	—	92
Meat (Tinned)	3	9
Fruit and Vegetables	45	40
Cereals, etc.	—	5
Total Weight	...	146

(1951 Total: 163 lbs.)

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY
PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

Total number of premises inspected	...	...	...	122
Number of premises found to be infested	...	...	...	35
Number of premises treated by the Council	...	...	...	35
Total number of visits	...	...	...	297

No charge is made in respect of private dwellings.

Routine sewer treatments were carried out twice during the year, and the Council Tip and Sewage Works were similarly treated.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Persons in Need of Care and Attention

A Court Order for the compulsory removal to Western House, Ware, of an infirm woman 84 years of age residing at Sawbridgeworth, was obtained on 6th November and put into effect on 10th November, 1952.

The wellbeing of this woman had caused anxiety for a number of years, and her condition became worse early in the year. Attempts were made to provide assistance through the various welfare services, but the aged lady would not co-operate. Only after these attempts proved useless was the Council advised to take action in accordance with Section 47 of the above Act in order to secure the proper care and attention of this old lady.

The initial Order was for a period of three weeks, and this was subsequently extended at the Magistrate's Court by an additional three months.

The old lady appeared content to remain in Western House, so the landlord of her house arranged to take over possession again, after the Council had disinfested and disinfected the rooms, and stored the furniture. She died during February, 1953, at Western House.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES: CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Tuberculosis

164 residents of Sawbridgeworth, comprising 71 women and 93 men, received a free and confidential chest X-ray examination during the visit of a Mass X-Ray Unit to Bishop's Stortford between 22nd September and 6th October, 1952.

The Sawbridgeworth Council hopes that during 1954 the Mass Radiography Unit will be able to visit Sawbridgeworth and carry out a survey locally, thus making it possible for many more local residents to avail themselves of the service offered.

Acute Poliomyelitis

Two cases occurred, with paralysis. The first, during August, was in a man 40 years of age who died two days after falling ill.

The other case was in a young woman aged 23 years. She became ill during October and has been left with partial paralysis of her legs and arms. She was seven months pregnant at the time of her illness, but was subsequently safely delivered of a normal and healthy child.

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	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	28	1	19	8	—	—	—	—	4	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	1
Non-Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	19	—	4	14	1	—	—	—	—	—
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	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 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	4	8	2	3	5	4	2	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Measles	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	7	—	4
Acute Pneumonia	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	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.

Work is in hand upon a scheme of water main interconnection, whereby all property south of the River Lee will be transferred to the High Level Supply, with a consequent increase in pressure.

A scheme has been approved for the installation of a booster station at Watton Road to improve the Westmill Road area supply, and it is anticipated that this will be completed early in 1954.

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	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Reaction pH	...	...	...	6.9	6.9
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	47	46
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	610	610
Total Solids	...	...	...	410	410
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	22	22
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	...	...	...	260	255
Hardness:					
Carbonate	...	...	...	260	255
Non-carbonate	...	...	...	75	80
Total	...	...	...	335	335
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	5.2	5.4
Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	...	...	Absent	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.010	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	0.00	0.05
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.000	0.000
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	Absent	Absent
Metals:					
Iron	...	...	...	Absent	Less than 0.03
Zinc	...	...	...	Absent	Absent
Others	...	...	...	Absent	Absent

The High Level Sample is clear and bright in appearance. It is free from metals but a tendency towards corrosive characteristics would be anticipated from its reaction being slightly on the acid side of neutrality due to the appreciable content of free carbon dioxide. 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 a high 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.

The Low Level Sample is clear and bright in appearance and is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. It has, however, a reaction slightly on the acid side of neutrality due to an appreciable content of free carbon dioxide on account of which corrosive characteristics would be anticipated. 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.

Construction is in hand of that section of the new Trunk Sewer from Stevenage New Town, through the Urban District.

A scheme is in course of preparation for sewerage the London Road proposed industrial area, and a small residential area in the vicinity. This will discharge into the trunk sewer.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of refuse is in operation with special arrangements for trade refuse.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping off Amwell End, adjoining the railway, although temporary tipping is taking place at Wengeo Lane during the construction of the Trunk Sewer in the vicinity of Amwell End.

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK during the year 1952

Summary of Visits

Sewers, Drains, Sanitary Accommodation, etc.	...	...	279
Nuisances	...	...	369
Infectious Disease	...	...	27
Housing Overcrowding, Repairs, Housing Acts, etc.	...	...	62
Food Premises, Section 13, Condemnations	...	...	69
Ice Cream, Factories, Retailers, Sampling	...	...	70
Milk, Dairies, Sampling	...	...	19
Slaughter House: Inspection of Meat	...	...	715
Butchers' Shops, Meat Transport, etc.	...	...	32
Shops Act, 1934 (Section 10)	...	...	3
Rats and Mice	...	...	351
Factories and Outworkers	...	...	38

Notices, etc., Served*Informal Notices*

Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	124
Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	...	...	...	10
Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	6
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	5
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						146

Statutory Notices

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 89	...	...	...	...	...	1
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	...	...	...	...	...	1
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, Section 6	...	...	...	...	...	1
Housing Act, 1936, Section 66	...	...	...	...	...	1
Housing Bye-laws	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rent Restriction Acts, 1920-1939—Certificate of Sanitary Authority as to State of Repair	...	...	...	...	...	1
Certificate of Registration for the sale of ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	1
Certificate of Registration for the storage of ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	1
Certificate of Registration for the preparation of preserved food	...	...	...	...	...	2

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Many minor repairs and drainage works were dealt with informally and complaints received covered a wide field, although a few could not be described as coming within the powers under the Act.

In conjunction with the Surveyor's Department four cases of dangerous structures were satisfactorily repaired or demolished.

Four of the premises treated for vermin during the year were seriously infested. In general, infestations appear to be slight, which is no doubt due to the use of modern insecticides.

Improved sanitary accommodation has been provided at four public houses.

There has been a reduction in indiscriminate tipping at a private pit since a circular letter was sent to tenants of a Council estate.

A serious nuisance arose in the late summer on a small-holding where pea shucks were strewn for cattle and pig food. Due to alternate sun and rain, fermentation was rapid and the offensive odour was carried long distances by the wind. The offensive material was removed to a farm for agricultural purposes.

Routine investigations following cases on infectious disease were carried out as required. Terminal disinfection was carried out according to the circumstances.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47

No cases requiring removal to suitable premises were discovered during the year.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1949

No applications for Improvement Grants were received during the year. In common with other authorities the general repair of cottage property lags behind, urgent repairs only seemingly receive attention, which is not surprising considering the great increase in building costs since the last national revision of private property rents. Unfortunately desirable improvements to the older type of cottage property result in a disproportionate rent for the accommodation provided.

Extensive repairs were done to two houses under Section 9 of the Act.

A proposed Clearance Area of four houses in Crib Street was represented during November, and the owners are preparing their redevelopment plan for the Council's consideration.

The Council refused to cancel an undertaking not to relet a small old cottage on which a new owner had commenced renovations without first reference to the Council.

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., 1952	1	6	7
New cases of overcrowding discovered during 1952	1	7	8
Number of cases abated	—	6	6
Number of overcrowded houses at 31st Dec., 1952	2	7	9

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS**Meat Inspection**

During the year the Council approved arrangements concerning the hours of slaughter since when 100 per cent. inspection has been performed.

The large increase in pigs slaughtered during 1951 was again exceeded by 30 per cent. Ten outbreaks of Swine Fever were reported to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The slaughter of all pigs on infected premises frequently follows, and involves considerable detailed inspection of the carcasses, offals, and viscera.

Tracing the dams of tubercular calves is extremely difficult for Veterinary Officers when calves from several farms are in one consignment, which is usually the case.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned during 1952

	Cattle (excl. Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed during 1952 ...	3,763	734	1,804	6,991	2,004
No. killed during 1951 ...	3,471	736	1,607	5,096	1,756
No. inspected during 1952	3,669	714	1,716	6,739	1,913
No. inspected during 1951	2,455	551	1,207	4,128	1,470
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	6	12	26	7	48
% of the number inspected totally condemned	0.16	1.68	1.52	0.10	2.51
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned ...	8	6	1	—	—
% of the number inspected totally condemned	0.22	0.84	0.06	—	—
Whole carcasses condemned from: Market	8	2	12	3	—
Casualty	6	16	15	4	48

Slaughterhouse

The Ministry of Food added a gut room to the slaughterhouse during the year and provided a mechanical splitting saw. The addition gave more room in the slaughter hall. Sawn carcasses look better, reduce crevices (where eggs can be deposited by flies) and the number of punctiform injuries to handlers. A series of mechanical difficulties have meant a return to the laborious method of hand splitting.

The overloading of the cooling room (besides causing inspection difficulties) in warm weather retards the loss of body heat with subsequent wastage. Owing to the height of the roof, the lack of air space above and below the tightly packed carcasses, the efficient circulation of air necessary to procure cooling is limited. Any proposals the Ministry may consider to improve ventilation are likely to be expensive.

The Council have requested the Ministry of Food to draw the attention of their various contractors to bye-laws relating to the storage and collection of by-products.

Total Weight of Meat Condemned in Lbs.

Home Killed:				Beef	Mutton	Pork	Total
Diseased	...	...	...	57,921	1,834	8,955	68,710
Imported:							
Tinned Ham	...	...	...	—	—	77	77

Total Weight in Lbs. of Carcase Meat Condemned

			Beef	Veal	Mutton	Pork	Total
Market	...	...	11,302	400	165	286	12,153
Casualty	...	...	12,550	749	269	5,656	19,224
Totals			23,852	1,149	434	5,942	31,377

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	...	...	...	427	427
Tinned Meat (not Ration Meat)	...	...	...	101	123
Packeted Foods	...	...	...	257	29
Frozen Foods	...	...	...	73	58
Fish, Wet	...	...	...	2 lots	35
Sultanas	...	...	...	1 box	28
Chocolate	...	...	...	—	32
					732

Number of Condemnation Notes issued: 184.

Milk and Dairies

Following a complaint in December about foul-smelling milk from a local dairy, samples were taken from all churns on receipt at the dairy. Reports were sent to the County Milk Regulations Officer regarding three unsatisfactory sources of undesigned supplies. One producer was said to be giving up production when his remaining cows had dried off, and another rectified a defective cooler.

About this time a biological sample was taken by the Hertfordshire County Council and subsequently found to be tubercular. The cow was slaughtered at a knacker's yard. This farm was the third unsatisfactory source mentioned above. Fortunately it had been the distributor's practice to pasteurise all his undesigned milk,

Ice Cream

Registration for the sale of ice cream was granted in respect of one premises during the year, and one other was registered for storage only. Samples taken at the large ice cream factory were very satisfactory, 93 per cent. being in Grade I and the remainder in Grade II. It has never been possible to obtain a true picture of the sampling results of other authorities from the scattered and incomplete reports received. Many authorities only communicate when they have unsatisfactory results.

Temperature conditions on delivery vans long after leaving the factory remain unknown for no information on this subject has been received from other authorities.

This manufacturer contemplated processing and deep freezing of green peas, but was advised against this project on account of restricted space (an important consideration, since high ice cream sales would occur during the pea picking season), and the possible employment of outworkers for pea shelling (which although permissible) was under the circumstances considered undesirable.

Year	Samples at Factory					Retail Samples (other Authorities)				
	Total Samples	% in each Grade				Total Samples	% in each Grade			
		1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4
1951	74	43·3	29·7	27·0	—	141	29·1	14·9	16·3	39·7
1952	45	93·3	6·7	—	—	81	35·8	18·5	28·4	17·3
Percentage in each Grade recommended by Advisory Committee							over 50%	under 30%	under 20%	Nil

Food Premises

Considerable improvements in the general condition of a canning factory (now closed) followed warning letters from the Council.

The supervision of outworkers engaged in handling food is difficult because work is frequently done at odd hours and often during the evening. Direct supervision of the employee by the employer is also absent. Reputable firms provide hygienic facilities and exercise detailed control over their food production, and officers of local authorities have ready access during working hours. Under the provisions of Section 111 of the Factories Act, 1937, it may be six months before the local authority is notified that an outworker is engaged on such work.

Should this kind of food production be permitted in 1953?

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The work to some extent suffered owing to two operatives resigning during the year.

The policy of "Block Control" has continued when desirable, and in one area, after the service of a Statutory Notice, an occupier permitted the Council's operative to enter and carry out a treatment.

The free treatment of domestic premises is a service out of rates which a number of residents appreciate.

Poorly constructed and badly designed poultry houses encourage rats. The Council's recent decision to provide standard poultry houses for their estates, at a small charge securing purchase, is a wise policy which ensures neatness and discourages rats.

There is no indication that black rats have increased in numbers, although an odd one is sometimes found.

Experience in this district suggests that quick-acting poisons still give the best results, although follow-up treatments with Warfarin are satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACTS

Major improvements to the sanitary accommodation were carried out at two factories.

The general cleanliness of sanitary accommodation is frequently low, and lack of pride in this respect is a lamentable fact. Every factory should have a person responsible for sweeping and cleaning the factory, workrooms, and conveniences.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—COMMENT

Acute Poliomyelitis

Three cases—all with slight paralysis—occurred during September and October.

The first case was a woman who was pregnant. She recovered from her illness and some five months later was safely delivered of a healthy and normal child. She also was the first case of Acute Poliomyelitis in Ware since 1947.

The second and third cases respectively were in a child two years of age and a man.

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	13	2	5	5	—	1	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic	3	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	3	—
Non-Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	30	1	17	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
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 ...	5	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	1	—	1	—	7	4	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Measles	—	1	—	—	8	14	3	3	1	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	—	1	1	—	2	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
Albury	156	16	1
Anstey	63	20	18
Ardeley	82	26	11
Aspenden	75	—	—
Braughing	162	118	10
Brent Pelham	51	6	4
Broadfield	5	—	—
Buckland	89	16	1
Buntingford	512	56	1
Cottered	111	14	2
Furneux Pelham	97	18	7
High Wych	129	20	37
Hormead	170	12	1
Little Hadham	215	34	—
Meesden	27	14	—
Much Hadham	577	42	1
Stocking Pelham	37	7	—
Thorley	57	9	—
Throcking	23	3	1
Westmill	46	13	15
Wyddial	20	13	4
Totals	2,704	457	114

Quality of Water Supply

Bacteriological

Samples of water taken each month from the Chipping Pumping Station were subjected to bacteriological test, and the report on each sample was satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

No alterations have been effected to the sewerage or sewage disposal works during the year.

The Cesspool Emptying Service was maintained, the demand was as heavy as in previous years and on occasions an extra vehicle was hired to cope with the work.

A further 14 council houses were connected to the sewer in Buntingford and 10 in Much Hadham.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A fortnightly collection of refuse continues to operate in each parish. Disposal is by partially controlled tipping at the Council's tipping sites in the parishes of Buckland, Little Hadham, Much Hadham, Braughing, and Furneux Pelham. A trade refuse collection continues to operate for business premises requiring the service.

PARTICULARS OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

during the year 1952

Inspections under the Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	559
" " " Housing Act, 1936	...	...	679
" " " Food and Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	201
" " " Pest Destruction Act, 1949	...	...	119
" " " Factory Act	...	...	25
" " " Shops Act	...	...	18
" " " Byelaws—Building Inspections	...	...	143
Appointments with Owners, etc.	...	...	50
Miscellaneous Visits and Inspections	...	...	187
Total			1,981
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	4

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1949

The Sanitary Inspector carried out 679 inspections in connection with housing.

In October a group of five cottages in the centre of the village at Little Hadham was Officially Represented as unfit for human habitation, and the Council were asked to consider making a Clearance Order under Section 25 of the Act. This matter carried over into 1953,

During November the Council decided that action should be taken in accordance with Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, and Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of three substandard properties in Buntingford. Many of the defects had existed for a considerable number of years, and it was nearly five years since the first informal letter was sent to the owner drawing his attention to the condition of the property.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Milk Sampling

Routine samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests, and the following results were notified:—

Total Number of Samples	Passed Prescribed Test		Failed to Pass	
	Graded	Ungraded	Graded	Ungraded
93	52	25	6	10

The above figures reflect a noteworthy comparison between the quality of milk retailed when routine sampling commenced in 1948 and that sold at the present day. In 1948 approximately only 47 per cent. of samples passed the prescribed tests, whereas in 1952 it increased to 83 per cent. In the first year of sampling the bulk of the milk sold was of the ungraded quality, but it is gratifying to note that in 1952 there are only four retailers selling ungraded milk to a relatively small section of the population of the district. On the whole the milk consumed in the area is of high quality, including a large proportion of Channel Island milk, and only one complaint has been received of bad keeping quality in the past three years.

Food Premises

During the year inspection of Food Premises has been carried out as a routine measure. Progress continues with the improvement of premises and in particular a number of public houses have been modernised by providing hot and cold water in bars, kitchens, etc. Where food is also sold on the premises the kitchens and food stores have also been renovated. Separate sanitary accommodation for male and female patrons have been provided in many premises.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

Total number of properties inspected	...	...	...	331
Total number of premises found to be infested	...	...	...	298
Number of premises treated by the Council	...	...	...	286

Routine treatments have been carried out on the Council's refuse tipping sites at Braughing, Buckland, Little Hadham, Much Hadham and Furneux Pelham. Test baits have also been laid in the Council's sewerage systems at Buntingford, Much Hadham, Cottered, and High Wych.

Expenditure on the rodent control service has decreased during the year. This would appear to be due mainly to the efficacy of the new chemical being used in the treatments.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951

Two persons were reported as being in need of care and protection. The first was a middle-aged woman at Little Hadham who lived alone in a semi-detached cottage. The woman had poor health and was also partially-sighted. Her home was very dirty. Her doctor managed to obtain her admission to hospital, and shortly afterwards she gave up the tenancy of her cottage. In the short interval prior to the patient's admission to hospital, unsuccessful attempts were made to obtain a home help who would be willing to go to this dirty cottage.

The second case was a woman 82 years of age who lived on her own at High Wych. She was bedridden and living in very dirty surroundings. She eventually agreed to enter Western House where she could receive proper attention. She died shortly afterwards. She was extremely weak and undernourished at the time of her admission to the hospital section of Western House.

In neither of the above cases was it necessary to take legal action under the above-mentioned Acts to secure the proper care and attention of the persons concerned.

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	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	46	3	22	18	—	1	2	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	53	—	26	26	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	10	1	—	1	—	5	3	—	—	—
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	3	—	—	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	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	6	16	4	5	3	2	2	1	1	1	5
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	23	10	11	1	4
Acute Pneumonia	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Jaundice	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

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

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Polio- myelitis	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Infective Jaundice
Albury	-	-	-	26	3	-
Anstey	1	3	-	2	1	-
Ardeley	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aspenden	-	9	-	-	-	1
Braughing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brent Pelham	-	-	-	-	-	1
Broadfield	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buckland	-	-	-	2	-	-
Buntingford	-	3	-	8	1	1
Cottered	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furneux Pelham	-	4	-	4	1	-
High Wych	-	6	-	-	-	-
Hormead	-	2	-	-	-	-
Little Hadham	1	-	-	2	2	-
Meesden	-	2	-	-	-	-
Much Hadham	2	-	-	1	2	2
Stocking Pelham	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thorley	-	1	1	5	-	-
Throcking	-	-	-	1	-	-
Westmill	-	16	-	2	-	-
Wyddial	-	-	-	-	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES: COMMENT

Acute Poliomyelitis

One case, a woman aged 20 years, was notified from Thorley Street. She suffered some paralysis.

Tuberculosis

Mass X-Ray of the Chest

During September and October a Mass Radiography Unit visited Bishop's Stortford. A total of 153 persons (63 men and 90 women) from the Braughing Rural District visited the Unit and received a free and confidential X-ray examination of the chest.

HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

The Council supplies water in the whole District, except the Parish of Little Amwell and a portion of Waterford village, where the suppliers are the Metropolitan Water Board and the Borough of Hertford respectively.

The remainder of the District is served by three systems, of which two provide water from boreholes owned and operated by the Council.

The Northern Area (parishes of Aston, Benington, Walkern, Watton-at-Stone, Stapleford, Sacombe and Bengoe Rural) obtains water from two boreholes each 310 feet deep and sunk in chalk at Aston; the southern area (parishes of Brickendon, Bayford, Little Berkhamstead and Hertingfordbury) is supplied from boreholes of similar depth at Little Berkhamstead.

Water supply in the Northern Area has been entirely adequate, but the pumping equipment and distribution system in the Southern Area is now insufficient to meet the increased demand, and excessive periods of pumping are required to maintain the supply. In spite of this, the year saw completion of a main extension to serve Howe Green previously dependent upon wells and boreholes privately owned.

Distribution difficulties have been experienced in the Western Area of Datchworth, Tewin and Bramfield, which rely on water purchased from the neighbouring Welwyn R.D.C., but by the end of the year contractors had tendered for the comprehensive Bulls

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	164	10	9	183
Bayford	106	6	5	117
Benington	179	15	3	197
Bengoe Rural	81	3	14	98
Bramfield	56	2	3	61
Brickendon	83	4	34	121
Datchworth	255	34	9	298
Hertingfordbury	162	10	15	187
Little Amwell	203	34	2	239
Little Berkhamstead	125	6	10	141
Sacombe	57	—	3	60
Stapleford	101	29	4	134
Tewin	245	16	3	264
Walkern	216	15	16	247
Watton-at-Stone	227	9	1	237
	2,260	193	131	2,582

Green Scheme, which will improve distribution by linking the Northern and Southern areas, while at the same time supplying the Western Area without purchasing water from beyond the District boundary.

As will be seen from the table opposite, the number of houses connected to the mains has continued to increase, and in addition to the number attributable to new house construction there is a satisfying reduction of 34 in the number of properties dependent on wells and private systems; piped supplies have been taken into 217 houses formerly served by standpipes.

Quality

Bacteriological

Samples taken at weekly intervals from the three areas of supply have yielded satisfactory results.

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 3	Less than 3	Less than 3
Colour (Hazen) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reaction pH	7.2	7.2	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	22	23	18
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	510	520	520
Total solids dried at 180° C.	340	350	350
Chlorine in Chlorides	16	14	14
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	240	250	245
Hardness:			
Total	285	295	290
Temporary	240	250	245
Permanent	45	45	45
Nitrogen in Nitrates	3.0	3.4	5.6
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 0.08	Absent	Absent
	Other metals absent.		

Remarks

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

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Two short extensions of existing public sewers have been arranged, one at Aston and the other at Tonwell, but work has not yet started; work on the Bayford and Brickendon schemes has commenced and at Bramfield the new purification works has come into operation.

Proposals for the sewerage of Datchworth, and disposal of effluent into the Stevenage Trunk Sewer, have been forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and an early inspection of the area is anticipated. During construction of the Trunk Sewer along the Beane Valley the opportunity has been taken to secure the insertion of junctions at positions which will facilitate connection of future sewers to be provided by the Council.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

All parts of the District are served by a fortnightly collection, for which two collecting vehicles are in daily use. Refuse is disposed of by tipping at Hertingfordbury and Stevenage and no attempt is made to recover salvageable materials.

Cesspool Emptying

The emptying of 415 cesspools during the year involved removal of 2,569 loads (approximately two million gallons) of sewage, and the disposal of this extremely offensive material met with increasing difficulty, which is especially marked in the areas of Tewin, Datchworth, and Hertingfordbury.

SUMMARY OF VISITS BY SANITARY INSPECTOR

A total of 1,869 visits was made during 1952, this figure being arrived at as follows:—

Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	32
Food and Drugs Act—						
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	107
Licensed Houses	...	...	...	...	...	32
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	43
Food Traders' Vans	...	...	...	...	...	7
Other visits	...	...	...	...	...	33
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	158
Public Health Acts—						
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	2
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	32
Nuisances and Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	138
Sewerage	...	...	...	...	...	316
Verminous Persons and Premises	...	...	...	...	...	9
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	560
Sanitary Accommodation at Cafes, Inns, Public						
Halls, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	52
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	2

Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	...	39
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	93
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughter of Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	143
Total						1,869

No. of Statutory Notices served—Housing Act ... 4

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Infectious Diseases

There was one instance of notifiable infectious disease (scarlet fever) occurring in the household of a dairy employee; in order to eliminate the risk of infecting the milk supply derived from the dairy at which he worked, it was arranged for the man concerned to transfer temporarily to other work where the risk was absent. He did not develop scarlet fever, and at the end of six days was permitted to return to normal employment in the dairy.

One house was disinfected following the occurrence of infectious disease, and materials supplied to enable the occupant of a bug-infested house to carry out disinfestation were used successfully.

HOUSING ACTS 1936 TO 1949

Substandard Properties

Official action was taken by the Council in respect of four substandard properties. Two were at Waterford and one each at Hertford Heath and Little Berkhamstead. The house at Waterford was first Officially Represented as unfit in November, 1950, but the Council at that time decided that the matter be deferred. It became possible, however, for the Council to take action during the autumn of 1952, and a time and place notice under Section XI was served upon the owner. This matter carried over until 1953 and will be reported next year.

In the case of the other three properties action was initiated and completed during 1952. Undertakings not to relet until the houses have been made habitable were given by the owners and accepted by the Council.

Towards the end of the year a group of nine further properties adjoining the abovementioned one at Hertford Heath came under consideration by the Council. The properties are substandard and taken together would constitute an excellent Clearance Area. The matter was still receiving consideration at the end of the year,

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Milk and Dairies

The distribution of milk is carried out by 14 distributors, of whom six only operate from addresses within the District; a small quantity of milk is also retailed direct from farms, where responsibility for supervision of methods of production rests with the County Agricultural Executive Committee. Twenty-four licences were in force during the year permitting the sale of designated milks.

Ice Cream

Twenty-one premises are registered for sale of this commodity and it is significant to note that in each case the prepacked article is stocked in preference to selling from bulk containers. No ice cream is manufactured and no premises are registered in the District for this purpose.

Slaughterhouses

Although no slaughterhouses are in use by the Ministry of Food, current licences are in force at four slaughterhouses; the five licensed slaughtermen are identifiable with these premises.

Food Shops and Bakeries

Improvements were secured at four establishments where food is prepared or sold, but unsatisfactory conditions in a further 24 instances are carried over into 1953.

Unfit Food

The total quantities of unfit food voluntarily surrendered are as follows:—

Meat and Bacon	...	...	194 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Cheese	...	...	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Butter	...	...	122 lbs. (returned through trade channels for salvaging).
Various canned goods	...	...	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Sultanas	...	...	60 lbs.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

Complaints of infestation are dealt with by the Council's staff as they occur; two persons have attended courses of training as Rodent Operatives, and are engaged part-time upon Rodent Control work as part of their normal duties.

The Council's sewers are treated in accordance with the recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, which require regular treatment to be carried out in each of the 11 parishes provided with sewerage systems.

During the latter part of the year it was necessary to direct the attention of threshing contractors to observance of the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks) Regulations, which require the close fencing of stacks of corn at time of threshing. Considerable time had to be spent on this work, and two contractors received warning against further contravention.

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

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Polio- myelitis	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Infective Jaundice
Aston	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-
Bayford	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Benington	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Bengeo Rural ...	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Bramfield	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Brickendon Liberty	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Datchworth ...	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Hertingfordbury ...	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Little Amwell ...	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	-
L. Berkhamstead	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Sacombe	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Stapleford	-	-	-	24	2	-	-	-
Tewin	9	-	-	10	-	-	-	1
Walkern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Watton-at-Stone ...	-	-	-	34	1	-	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—COMMENT

Gastro-Enteritis

Two incidents of particular interest were investigated during the year. The first concerned 16 schoolchildren at Bayford. They were taken ill during a period of 10 days in March and suffered from diarrhoea and sickness lasting from one to two days. It was noticed that many of these children had suffered from a similar illness one year previously when they were shown to be suffering from Sonne Dysentery. It is possible that the present illness was a recurrence of dysentery, particularly as the primitive sanitary arrangements at the school which may have facilitated the spread of infection in 1951 had not been modernised at the time of the March, 1952, illness. The work of conversion to a water carriage system was only partially complete at the time, but has since been finished.

The second incident was in June, when two cases of Salmonella food poisoning thought to have been associated with eating insufficiently cooked duck eggs purchased from a smallholding in Broxbourne Woods, were reported to the Enfield Urban District Council. The smallholding was inspected. There was no evidence that the ducks there were the cause of the illness. It is an established fact that this type of food poisoning can occur following the consumption of many different foodstuffs, particularly prepared

dishes, cold cooked meats, shellfish, custards, and the like. A small percentage (1 per cent.) of duck eggs may also carry the infection, but if the eggs are always thoroughly cooked for at least 15 minutes before being consumed the risk of catching this type of infection is negligible. There is no connection between this particular outbreak and a similar one in the Hoddesdon Urban District in July.

Acute Encephalitis

This illness, which is an infection of the tissues of the brain, was first reported as a case of Meningitis (an inflammation of the covering of the brain). The patient was a child aged five years. He made a complete recovery after a long and severe illness. No other cases occurred amongst his contacts.

WARE RURAL DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

The Ware Rural District (with the exception of the parishes of Great Amwell and St. Margarets) 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 409,000 gallons per day. The supply was maintained without restriction or interruption throughout the year.

No cases of wells drying up were reported.

Quality

Bacteriological

Eight 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 26th Feb., 1952	Sample taken 28th Oct., 1952
Total solids (dried at 180° C.)	40.0	36.0
Combine Chlorine (Cl)	1.9	2.0
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride (NaCl)	3.1	3.3
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	0.04	0.24
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.0004	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.0007	0.0004
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C.	0.005	0.004
Lead or Copper	Nil	Nil
Temporary hardness (equivalent to CaCO ₃)	28.5	27.0
Permanent " " " " " "	6.0	5.0
Total " " " " " "	34.5	32.0

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	67	160	67	—
Gilston	63	169	62	—
Great Amwell	604	2,348	567	16
Great Munden	117	442	85	17
Hunsdon	267	630	240	17
Little Munden	131	515	106	23
St. Margarets	48	173	41	—
Standon	823	2,641	685	96
Stanstead Abbots	404	1,560	397	18
Thundridge	159	731	116	10
Ware Rural	229	1,074	180	9
Widford	129	451	80	42
Total	3,041		2,626	248

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.

There is a small sewerage system 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.

Eighty-seven sewer connections were made during 1951.

The village of Hunsdon is sewered to a disposal works near Bonningtons. Sewer extensions in the village were completed at the end of 1951 and during 1952 most of the properties in the village were connected to the main sewer.

A scheme to drain Widford and Wareside in conjunction with Much Hadham in the Braughing Rural District, submitted to the Ministry in 1946, had been suspended pending proving of a well at Widford for the Harlow New Town.

The Minister has now intimated that work of constructing a disposal works at Widford cannot proceed. The Council intend to submit an alternative scheme.

The Dane End scheme has now been drawn up in detail and the Minister has been asked to allow work to proceed in 1953.

The Hillside Estate at Gt. Amwell has been sewered and the private works at Haileybury College connected to the main sewer.

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 1952

Inspections

Housing	180	Total brought forward	980
Complaints	99	Bakehouses	18
Infectious Diseases ...	37	Factories	89
Food Premises	172	Knackers Yard	15
Drainage	235	Refuse Tips	129
Water Supply	105	Caravans	47
Schools	22	Rats and Mice	186
Cowsheds and Dairies ...	59	Miscellaneous	12
Ice cream Premises ...	71		
<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total carried forward ...	980	Total	1,476
<hr/>		<hr/>	
Number of Informal Notices served	66		
„ „ Statutory Notices served	4		

HOUSING ACTS 1936 TO 1949

Individual Unfit Houses

Action was taken under Section XI of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of three properties situated at Colliers End, Old Hall Green, and Stanstead Abbots respectively. In the first two cases

the Council accepted an undertaking from the owners not to relet the houses. A demolition order was made in respect of the third property. All the tenants have been rehoused by the Council.

A fourth property at High Cross was Officially Represented as unfit for human habitation and not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered so fit. The Council, after careful consideration of the facts, resolved to take no further action at the present time.

Work was completed on the reconditioning of three properties which were the subject of action under Section XI of the Housing Act, 1936, during 1950. Two houses are at Widford and one at Burnt Mill Lane, Gilston. The Undertakings not to re-let, given by the owners, have now been cancelled.

One property at Gilston was reconditioned by the Council in default of the owner as the result of statutory action taken under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Clearance Areas

Great Amwell (No. 1) Clearance Area, 1952

One area, involving three properties at Great Amwell, was declared to be a clearance area. The Council made a Clearance Order in October, 1952, and a Public Enquiry was held during January, 1953. The Clearance Order was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in March, 1953. The tenants of these three properties are being rehoused by the Council.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Ice Cream Premises

There are 32 premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of ice cream.

Four new premises were registered during the year and this and the other premises were inspected regularly to ensure an adequate standard of cleanliness.

Meat and Other Foods

There is no slaughtering for sale carried out in the District. There is one knackers' yard which was inspected periodically. One hundred and seventy-two inspections were made of the other food premises, which number as follows:—

Bakehouses	...	...	3	Grocers' Shops	...	25
Butchers' Shops	...	...	12	Cafes	...	7
Fishmongers' Shops	...	...	4			

Milk and Dairies

The Council are responsible for the registration of four dairies under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949. Supplementary licences to retail designated milks in this District were granted to seven retailers. A large proportion of the milk consumed in this District is supplied from dairies in other districts, namely Ware Urban, Hoddesdon, Bishop's Stortford, and Enfield.

Biological Sampling

The County Council notified six samples of milk positive to the tubercle bacillus this year, as against two last year. Eight cows were found to be infected with tuberculosis and were destroyed.

Steps were taken to ensure that all milk from the infected herds was pasteurized before re-sale and it was not necessary to take statutory action under Section 20 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Condemned Foodstuffs

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

						Approx. Weight
<i>Canned Foodstuffs</i>						
Fruit ...	...	...	...	...	61 tins	85 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Meat ...	...	...	...	...	32 „	169 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
Vegetables ...	...	...	...	...	7 „	8 „
						<hr/> 263 $\frac{1}{4}$ „ <hr/>
<i>Meat and Meat Products</i>						Approx.
Beef ...	...	...	...	...	...	212 lbs.
Mutton ...	...	...	...	...	...	9 „
Pork ...	...	...	...	...	...	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
<i>Various</i>						
Cheese ...	...	...	...	...	...	42 lbs.
Total weight of all foods:						4 cwts. 88 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

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

The table below sets out the action taken during the year:—

	Type of Property				Total
	Council's Property	Dwelling Houses	Agricul- tural	Business Premises	
Number of properties inspected ...	9	782	26	61	869
Number found to be infested by rats ...	9	169	5	4	178
Number seriously infested by mice ...	—	4	—	—	4
Number of properties treated for infestations	9	155	—	4	168
Number of block control schemes carried out	—	13	—	—	13

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	6	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	35	2	14	17	2	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
Non-Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	27	1	14	10	—	—	—	2	—	—
Diphtheria	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	9	—	—	1	—	3	5	—	—	—
Dysentery	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (Acute):										
Infective	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
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	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	3	15	3	10	1	1	2	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Measles	—	—	1	1	—	—	8	17	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	3	1	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning
Eastwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gilston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Amwell	1	6	-	1	-	-	1
Great Munden	-	2	-	-	2	-	-
Hunsdon	1	1	1	6	-	-	-
Little Munden	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
St. Margarets	4	7	-	-	-	1	-
Standon	-	4	-	11	5	-	-
Stanstead Abbots	-	12	1	-	-	-	-
Thundridge	-	-	-	9	-	1	-
Ware Rural	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Widford	-	1	-	-	1	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—COMMENT

Acute Poliomyelitis

Two cases were notified. Both were mild and have recovered.

Food Poisoning

An isolated case occurred at Hertford Heath during May, 1952. The illness was due to *Salmonella typhi-murium* but the source of infection was not traced. No other cases occurred.

Tuberculosis

Mass X-Ray of the Chest

Twenty-six residents of the Ware Rural District, comprising seven men and 19 women, availed themselves of the opportunity of a free X-ray of the chest when a Mass X-ray Unit visited Bishop's Stortford during September and October, 1952.

NOTES

N O T E S

