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Contributors

East Hertfordshire Combined Districts.

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EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS

Hertford (M.B.)

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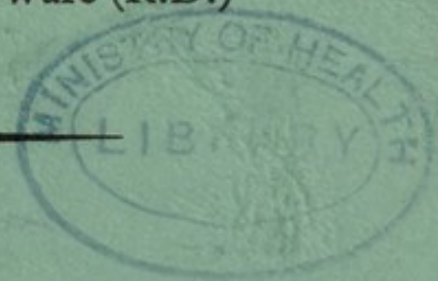
Braughing (R.D.)

Sawbridgeworth (U.D.)

Hertford (R.D.)

Ware (U.D.)

Ware (R.D.)



Annual Report

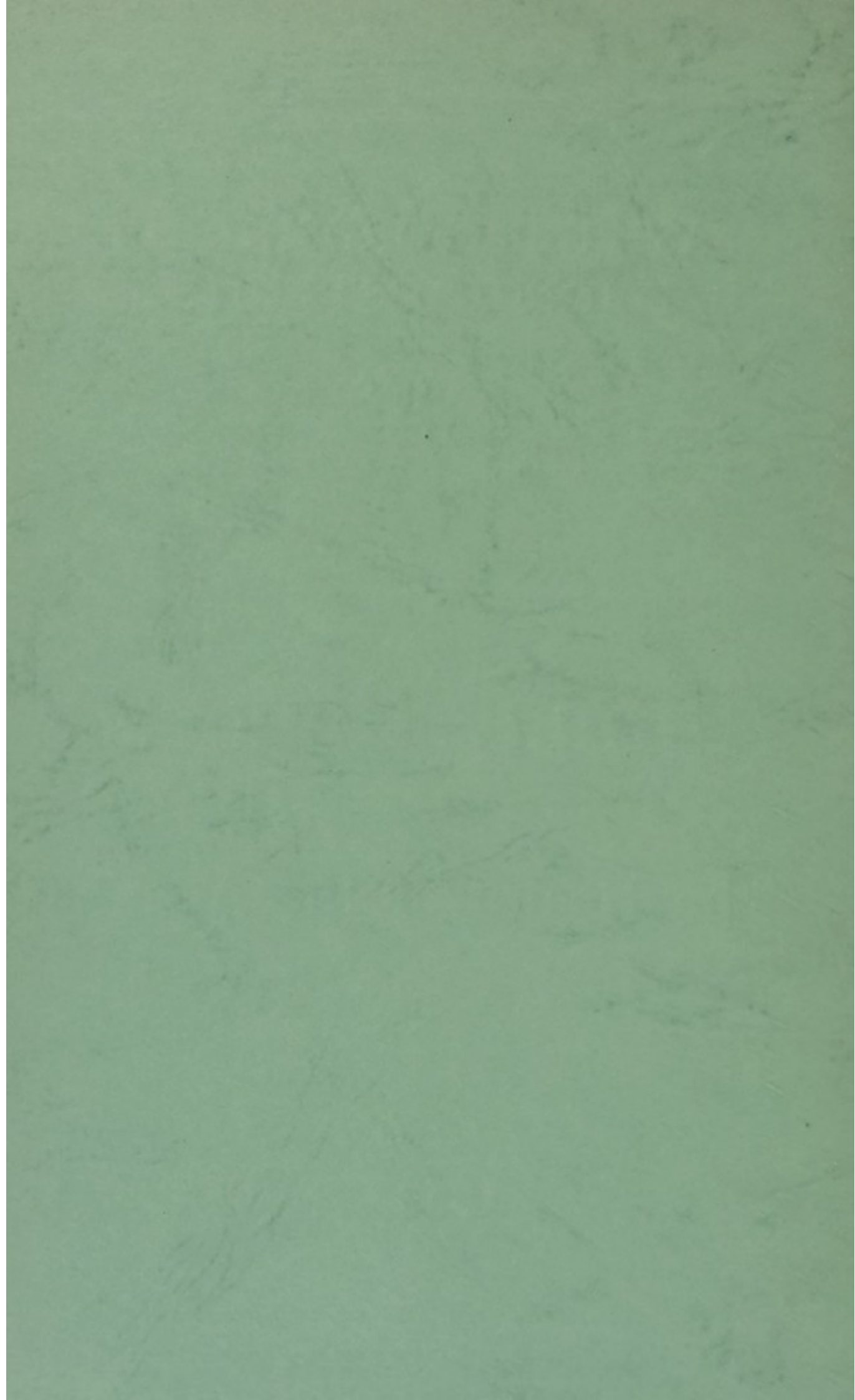
ON

The Health of the Area

For the Year

1953





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

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(*Dr. Billington is retiring in September, 1954*)

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Sawbridgeworth Urban District

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Braughing Rural District

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Hertford Rural District

Council Offices, HORACE ERNEST GILBY (1) and (4)
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Hertford

(Telephone: Hertford 3007)

Ware Rural District

97 New Road, Ware, Herts A. D. G. GOOLD (1) and (4)
P. G. ALLISON (3)

(Telephone: Ware 492)

- (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

This Report on the Health of the East Hertfordshire Combined Districts, is the fifth since I took office as Medical Officer of Health. It has been compiled in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, and most of the material it contains has been taken from reports drawn up chiefly by the Sanitary Inspectors, and also by Surveyors and other Officials in the Area. I am indeed truly grateful for all the help received, and which I am still receiving from all my colleagues in the various Districts.

The Reports for each District although printed separately are in fact all linked together, not only in their presentation, but also through this Preface and the Statistical section which follows: and in a number of instances cross references are included in the text. It is hoped therefore that the Report will as a result, be more easily read.

New Housing, and Sewage Disposal

The immediate post-war years have been taken up with the problem of finding homes for thousands of people who because of the war and cessation of major building activities have been forced to live in overcrowded and socially difficult circumstances. In East Herts alone, well over 3,000 new dwellings have been constructed since 1945, four-fifths of them having been built by the Local Housing Authorities. The back of the housing problem has thus been broken, but there are still several hundreds of persons awaiting houses, quite apart from all those forced to live in sub-standard, insanitary and usually very old, properties, many of which properties ought to have been replaced years ago. However, progress with housing continues, and it is envisaged that in the very near future Local Councils will commence a drive to improve or eliminate many of these old, insanitary, and structurally inconvenient properties. But to what extent can this be carried out? Before a house which is occupied can be demolished the occupants should be found alternative living accommodation. This often means offering them a new house, so there is naturally plenty of scope, even yet, for an intensification of the drive towards the construction of new dwellings, either by private enterprise, or by the Local Housing Authority.

Modern Sanitary Facilities Required

Modern standards of hygiene and sanitation demand that houses should be equipped with an internal water supply. But as soon as water is installed the housewife must have drains to take away the waste water. Most large towns have some sort of a drainage system. There is sometimes a tendency to take it for

granted that the drains are adequate to meet the needs of the district, and I often wonder how many "men in the street" give it a thought—except perhaps those living adjacent to a sewage farm!

Rural Sanitation

The problem in the Rural Districts has been partially met by installing either septic tank drainage systems equipped with a soak-away into the subsoil, or quite often by a cesspool, which requires periodic emptying. A time arrives, however, when for a variety of reasons these sewage disposal facilities become less efficient and more overloaded. Sewage purification of any kind whatsoever ceases, and nuisances arise. In the open country sanitarians have adopted various cunning expedients to mitigate the evils arising; but there comes a time when their ingenuity fails. In my opinion this stage has now been reached in the Rural Areas of East Herts, and large patches of the soil in the neighbourhood of housing development are heavily polluted with crude sewage. The trouble is aggravated by a substantial clay content in the soil making absorption of the sewage effluent impossible. Puddles form in fields and roadside ditches, and remain offensive until they are washed away by the rain, or they evaporate. Until recently the practice of some Councils has been to extend the length of the soakaways, but these efforts are to my way of thinking a waste of time and public money, particularly when the extension takes place in a clay soil. Any improvement can only be of a temporary nature, and it is not long before the nuisances recur, only this time a little further away from the former site. To aggravate this difficult situation, if any foul effluent reaches a watercourse, an offence under the Rivers Pollution Act is created.

Sewage Disposal in Towns

In urbanised areas sewage disposal problems are very often concentrated at the local sewage works, though in old towns particularly, problems are experienced owing to overloading of sewers, some of which are outdated in design.

The towns in the Combined Districts of East Herts are perhaps fortunate in that their sewage disposal works have been constructed or rebuilt this century. Improvements have from time to time been carried out with the result that for the most part their capacity will be sufficient to meet the needs of a growing population for a number of years hence.

The Broxbourne and Wormley sewage disposal arrangements are already overloaded, and new housing will aggravate the position. For this reason a scheme was prepared, and is now at the Ministry awaiting approval.

Hertford Borough sewage works functions on the activated sludge principle, and still has a considerable reserve of capacity.

Ware Urban District has neatly solved many of its sewage disposal problems by selling its sewage farm at Rye Meads to the

Harlow and Stevenage Development Corporations, which latter mentioned organisations plan to construct a new works there.

Sawbridgeworth possesses an efficient sewage disposal works in Sheering Mill Lane, and it would appear that the reserve of capacity of this particular works is adequate for the needs of the District. There is however a smaller works in Redricks Lane, which was inherited after the war from the R.A.F. This plant is working to capacity.

Planning for the Future

I hope that I have not given the impression that the Rural Districts have done nothing about their sewage problems. Such an impression would be incorrect. They are all very much aware of the enormous problems; nevertheless they are not entirely blameless. There is no doubt that had past policy set higher standards of sanitation, few of these Councils would have permitted large-scale building projects to have been commenced, without firstly attending to the sewage disposal requirements. Had that been established practice throughout, they could have then presented a united front towards any Government which refused a grant of the necessary funds.

In the immediate post-war years the cry was for more and more houses "as fast as possible please," and the urgency of this cry overshadowed realisation of the necessity for proper and adequate sewage disposal arrangements. Thus, although the Ministry was presented with a small number of sewage disposal schemes in East Herts the Exchequer demanded that something less ambitious was built, and refused the Councils permission to proceed with their original schemes.

The Effect of the New Towns

Another weapon used by the Ministry was of course the proposal to build the New Towns of Harlow and Stevenage, and for the necessity of constructing a Trunk Sewer. Nobody at that time knew the precise route of the sewer, so that whenever a small rural sewage scheme was prepared and sent to the Ministry, it was pointed out that if the Trunk Sewer should pass that way any monies spent on the smaller scheme would of course be utterly wasted, particularly as assurances were given that districts through which the Sewer passed would be able to drain into it. That kept the critics quiet for a time, but the Trunk Sewer has taken four years to construct. Meantime rural sanitation has suffered, and any schemes about to be sanctioned by the Ministry are not only very much overdue, but the benefits arising from their construction will not be felt in the Rural Districts for several years to come.

A further effect of the New Towns has been commented upon by the Surveyor of the Ware Rural District, in this Combined Report. A major scheme for the construction of a proper sewage

treatment works, drawn up as long ago as 1946, has been suspended indefinitely. The site chosen by the Council was taken over by the Harlow New Town, who have sunk a borehole for drinking water. What better method is there of stopping the construction of a new sewage works?

Conclusions

A few years ago a number of Medical Officers of Health, myself included, despaired of the future of Public Health in a Sanitary Authority. A torrent of New Legislation after the war had the effect of reducing the scope of the work of Health Departments in small sanitary authorities. I now hold the opinion that with a forthcoming "drive" on bad housing, urged by the Government, coupled with the existing drainage difficulties and nuisances, a very busy future for the Medical Officer of Health lies ahead. Out of evil has arisen some good, and it would appear that the Sanitarian will again come into his own.

JOHN WILDMAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

The Castle,
Hertford.

June, 1954.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1953

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 ...	14,460	14.4	0.99	14.25	8.29	0.96	7.96	4.81
URBAN DISTRICTS								
Hoddesdon ...	14,560	17.3	1.04	17.99	7.55	0.97	7.32	27.78
Sawbridgeworth ...	3,901	14.1	1.04	14.66	12.02	0.87	10.45	—
Ware ...	8,521	15.6	1.07	16.69	20.77	0.77	15.99	22.58
RURAL DISTRICTS								
Braughing ...	10,420	17.2	1.03	17.71	11.99	0.85	10.19	22.34
Hertford ...	8,726	18.1	1.01	18.28	9.85	0.96	9.45	12.65
Ware ...	11,560	15.2	1.03	15.65	10.64	0.87	9.31	28.40
East Herts (C.D.) ...	72,148	15.98	—	—	11.58	—	—	16.93
England and Wales ...	—	15.5	—	15.5	11.4	—	11.4	26.8

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1953
Table I

	Area (Acres)	Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953, 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	4,950	3.7	1.27	2.9	£ 113,048	£ 445
Hoddesdon	4,423	4,186	3.3	0.95	3.5	101,306	419
Sawbridgeworth	2,678	1,132	1.4	0.42	3.4	24,162	96
Ware (U.D.)	1,343	2,474	6.3	1.84	3.4	55,176	222
Braughing	45,570	3,329	0.2	0.07	3.1	50,671	199
Hertford (R.D.)	31,746	2,643	0.3	0.08	3.6	42,874	178
Ware (R.D.)	29,102	3,163	0.3	0.10	3.7	69,618	276
East Herts (C.D.)	118,744	21,877	0.6	0.19	3.3		

Table II

	BIRTHS						DEATHS		Natural Increase or Decrease	
	Legitimate	Illegitimate		TOTAL		M.	F.	M.		F.
		Number	Percentage	M.	F.					
Hertford (M.B.)	201	7	3.48	91	117	50	70	88	+ 88	
Hoddesdon	244	8	3.28	114	138	61	49	142	+ 142	
Sawbridgeworth	54	1	1.85	28	27	27	20	8	+ 8	
Ware (U.D.)	124	9	7.26	73	60	95	82	44	- 44	
Braughing	168	11	6.55	89	90	60	65	54	+ 54	
Hertford (R.D.)	153	5	3.22	72	86	49	37	72	+ 72	
Ware (R.D.)	171	5	2.92	97	79	78	55	43	+ 43	
East Herts (C.D.)	1,115	46	4.08	564	597	420	378	363	+ 363	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERAL STATISTICS, 1953

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.) ...	3	60	—	—	100	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	1	1
Hoddesdon (U.D.) ...	3	140	—	—	283	—	17	—	—	—	9	—	20	—
Sawbridgeworth (U.D.) ...	2	16	1	—	109	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ware (U.D.) ...	0	9	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Braughing (R.D.) ...	2	22	—	—	217	—	19	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Hertford (R.D.) ...	18	24	—	—	117	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ware (R.D.) ...	1	27	—	—	91	—	13	—	—	—	2	—	5	1
Total East Herts (C.D.) ...	29	298	1	—	922	—	57	—	—	—	15	1	26	4

Case Rate

District	Per 1,000 Population														Per 1,000 Total Births
	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles	Diphtheria	Acute Pneumonia	Small-pox	Typhoid Fever	Paratyphoid Fevers	Erysipelas	Meningococcal Infection	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	
			Paralytic	Non-paralytic											
Hertford (M.B.) ...	0.20	4.15	—	—	6.91	—	0.13	—	—	—	0.13	—	0.07	4.80	
Hoddesdon (U.D.) ...	0.20	9.61	—	—	19.44	—	1.17	—	—	—	0.62	—	1.37	—	
Sawbridgeworth (U.D.) ...	0.51	4.10	0.26	—	27.94	—	0.26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ware (U.D.) ...	—	1.06	—	—	0.59	—	—	—	—	—	0.12	—	—	—	
Braughing (R.D.) ...	0.19	2.11	—	—	20.82	—	1.82	—	—	—	—	0.09	—	11.18	
Hertford (R.D.) ...	2.06	2.75	—	—	13.41	—	0.57	—	—	—	0.11	—	—	—	
Ware (R.D.) ...	0.09	0.23	—	—	0.79	—	0.11	—	—	—	0.02	—	0.04	5.69	
Total East Herts (C.D.) ...	0.40	4.11	0.01	—	12.72	—	0.79	—	—	—	0.21	0.01	0.34	3.44	
England and Wales ...	1.39	3.58	0.07	0.04	12.36	0.01	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.14	0.03	0.24	18.23	

TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1953

	Cases on Register at 1st January, 1953			Cases added to Register during 1953						Cases removed from Register during 1953						Cases remaining on Register at 31st Dec., 1953			Increase or decrease over 1951	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Population						
	P.	NP.	Td.	New Cases			Cases restored to Register			Inward Transfers			Deaths			Outward Transfers					Patients Cured					
				P.	NP.	Td.	P.	NP.	Td.	P.	NP.	Td.	P.	NP.	Td.	P.	NP.	Td.			P.	NP.	Td.			
Hertford M.B. ...	M.	35	11	86	-	-	3	5	-	9	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	37	10	89	+ 3	0.20
	F.	24	16		3	1		4														27	15			
Hoddesdon U.D. ...	M.	43	6	90	1	3	8	-	-	Nil	1	-	1	-	2	-	6	3	-	7	38	9	84	- 6	0.07	
	F.	31	10		4																	30	7			
Sawbridgeworth U.D.	M.	3	-	15	1	-	2	1	-	3	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	5	-	20	+ 5	Nil	
	F.	11	1		1			2														14	1			
Ware U.D. ...	M.	25	6	62	5	-	7	1	-	4	1	-	1	-	2	-	7	1	-	1	29	6	63	+ 1	0.2	
	F.	21	10		1	1		2	1												16	12				
Braughing R.D. ...	M.	28	11	75	1	1	4	3	-	6	-	2	-	2	-	2	1	4	3	1	27	10	74	- 1	0.2	
	F.	23	13		2			2	1												24	13				
Hertford R.D. ...	M.	18	5	50	2	1	4	2	-	8	2	-	3	-	1	-	3	1	-	1	19	6	55	+ 5	0.34	
	F.	19	8		1			6													22	8				
Ware R.D. ...	M.	29	13	84	1	-	3	2	-	6	3	-	3	-	3	-	6	3	-	Nil	26	13	84	Nil	0.26	
	F.	22	20		2			3	1												25	20				
Total East Herts C.D.	M.	181	52	462	11	5	31	14	-	96	10	-	14	-	8	1	31	7	2	16	181	54	469	+ 7	0.19	
	F.	151	78		14	1		19	3						20	2		4	3		158	76				

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.

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.	M.	F.	
1	50	70	61	49	27	20	95	82	60	65	49	37	78	55	1	1	
2	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	2	0	
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10	2	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	4	1	1	6	1	10	1	
11	1	0	7	1	3	0	2	1	2	1	1	0	6	0	11	0	
12	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	12	4	
13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	
14	4	9	7	5	4	2	12	5	7	5	6	2	7	5	14	5	
15	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	
16	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	
17	9	11	6	5	3	2	13	14	6	10	4	4	11	10	17	10	
18	11	9	8	4	2	1	8	10	11	5	11	5	5	5	18	5	
19	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	
20	4	14	3	7	6	1	10	15	5	11	6	6	6	11	20	11	
21	2	2	2	1	1	1	5	3	3	6	2	7	0	2	21	2	
22	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	2	2	22	2	
23	0	4	3	3	1	2	14	3	3	6	0	1	3	4	23	4	
24	3	2	5	2	1	0	7	6	5	2	1	2	5	3	24	3	
25	1	1	1	1	0	2	5	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	25	0	
26	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	26	1	
27	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	27	0	
28	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	28	1	
29	2	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	7	0	29	0	
30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	
31	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	31	0	
32	4	9	13	8	0	2	7	5	5	9	8	2	8	5	32	5	
33	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	3	0	33	0	
34	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	0	34	0	
35	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	35	0	
36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	
(a)	1	1	1	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	4	1	(a)	1	
(b)	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	(b)	0	

HOUSING PROGRESS DURING 1953

	Hertford M.B.		Hoddesdon U.D.		Sawbridge-worth U.D.		Ware U.D.		Braughing R.D.		Hertford R.D.		Ware R.D.	
	During 1953	Since 1945	During 1953	Since 1945	During 1953	Since 1945	During 1953	Since 1945	During 1953	Since 1945	During 1953	Since 1945	During 1953	Since 1945
By PRIVATE ENTERPRISE														
New dwellings erected	13	61	67	184	6	40	19	68	11	99	25	118	20	86
War-destroyed dwellings rebuilt	—	21	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Repairs to war-damaged houses	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46	—	31	—	—
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units	—	34	—	23	—	1	3	33	2	37	—	27	—	—
By LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITY														
New dwellings erected	159	507	100	490	30	127	48	314	22	388	44	299	38	414
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.)	—	26	1	8	—	3	2	16	2	2	—	37	—	—
TOTAL PROPERTIES CONTROLLED BY THE LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES ON 31ST DEC., 1953														
Properties provided under the various Housing Acts:														
Council Houses	1,146	—	854	—	231	—	754	—	768	—	575	—	786	—
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	50	—	38	—	10	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sundries	44	—	30	—	38	—	17	—	28	—	1	—	34	—
Requisitioned dwellings	—	—	2	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

County Council Health Services

The following County Council Services under the National Health Services 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 13 localities in the East Herts Combined Sanitary Districts.

These Nurses also carry out Health Visiting and School Nursing except in Hertford, Hoddesdon, Sawbridgeworth and Ware districts, 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), and Ware (Tel.: Ware 441).

Calls for the Hoddesdon area must be routed to Hertford Ambulance Station (Tel.: Hertford 2222).

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	472†
Hertford County Hospital	173
Ware Park Hospital, Ware	129
Western House, Ware (by Agency arrangements with the Hertfordshire County Council)	124

† Also 51 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 1953

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 ...	22	15	3	13	16	—	10
Inspections	27	—	6	4	11	—	12
Written Notices	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Occupier Prosecuted ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factories with Mechanical Power							
Number on Register ...	102	102	17	77	40	41	45
Inspections	66	98	15	13	14	15	63
Written Notices	—	10	—	—	—	—	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 ...	4	3	5	31	4	—	—
Inspections	9	13	12	11	4	—	—
Written Notices	2	—	—	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.	185	—	—	66	—	—	—
Cleaning and Washing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Box Making	—	—	—	26	—	—	—
Brush Making	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feather Sorting	—	—	—	15	—	—	—
Chocolates and Sweetmeats ...	—	—	—	46	—	—	—

Defects found in Factories during 1953

Copy of Information supplied to the Ministry of Labour and National Service on Form 572 (Revised)	Hertford M.B.	Hoddesdon U.D.	Sawbridge- worth U.D.	Ware U.D.	Braughing R.D.	Hertford R.D.	Ware R.D.
Want of Cleanliness:							
Found	-	3	-	-	-	-	7
Remedied	-	3	-	-	-	-	7
Overcrowding:							
Found	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature:							
Found	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation:							
Found	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Remedied	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors:							
Found	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences Insufficient:							
Found	2	5	-	2	2	-	5
Remedied	2	4	-	2	2	-	5
Sanitary Conveniences Unsuitable or Defective:							
Found	1	4	2	-	-	-	3
Remedied	1	4	2	-	-	-	2
Sanitary Conveniences not separate for Sexes:							
Found	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences:							
Found	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remedied	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Defects:							
Found	3	14	2	2	5	-	15
Remedied	3	13	2	2	5	-	14
Total Defects referred to H.M. Inspector	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Defects referred by H.M. Inspector	-	4	-	1	-	-	6

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, 1953, from each of the four pumping stations with the following results:—

Chemical Analyses (parts per million)

(Samples taken 26th Nov., 1953)	Wadesmill Road	Port Hill	Hartham	Molewood
Appearance ...	Clear and Bright	Bright with very few Mineral Particles	Bright with very few Mineral Particles	Clear and Bright
Turbidity (Silica scale) ...	Nil	Less than 3	Less than 3	Nil
Colour (Hazen) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Taste ...	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Reaction pH ...	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.1
Free CO ₂ ...	37	25	31	31
Electric Conducti- vity at 20° C. ...	530	490	580	500
Total solids dried at 180° C. ...	350	350	415	345
Hardness:				
Carbonate (Temp.)	250	245	265	240
Non-Carb. (Perm.)	40	25	40	30
Total ...	290*	270*	305*	270*
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	4.8	3.6	3.4	3.6
Nitrite Nitrogen ...	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.003
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C. ...	0.15	0.10	0.20	0.10
Residual Chlorine	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Metals ...	Iron less than 0.03 Other metals Absent	Absent	Iron 0.04 other Metals Absent	Absent
Fluoride (F) ...	Less than 0.1	Less than 0.1	Less than 0.1	Less than 0.1

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

REPORT. (All four samples)

This sample is 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 works on the main and subsidiary sewers in the Borough have been undertaken.

The extension of trunk sewers in Bramfield Road to serve the Sele Farm housing estate has now been completed, terminating at the northern end of Thieves Lane.

During the course of the year the Hertford Rural District Council's new sewer from the Sewage Works at Hertford Heath was completed and connected to the town sewerage system in Foxholes Avenue.

The Activated Sludge Treatment Works at Mead Lane have continued to function satisfactorily.

Results of analyses taken periodically have been generally very satisfactory.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

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

The volume of refuse per head of population appears to be increasing, and the number of bins to be emptied per week has also increased, and to cope with this problem the Council have ordered a large, rear-loading, compressing refuse collecting vehicle, which is expected to be delivered in the early part of July, 1954.

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' WORK during the year 1953

Inspection of District

Total Number of Visits	...	...	...	...	...	1,511
Dwelling Houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	195
Housing, re-inspection of Works in Progress, and interviews with Owners and Builders	...	...	...	...	...	331
General Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	158
Complaints Investigated	...	...	...	...	...	124
Food Inspections and Control Visits	...	...	...	...	...	194
Visits re Cases of Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	21
" " " " " " "					Disinfections	10
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	13
Rodent Control—Inspections and Visits	...	...	...	...	...	76
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	62
Registered and Licensed Premises Inspected						
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	82
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	20
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	35
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	18
Shops, Meat Stores, and other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	131
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	11
Refuse Dump	...	...	...	...	...	12
Other premises	...	...	...	...	...	18

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

A considerable amount of work was done under the Public Health Acts during the year, many minor repairs and drainage works were dealt with informally, and the majority of complaints investigated and dealt with also required informal action under public health powers.

The periodic cleansing of the pail closets from Hertingfordbury and from the more scattered premises within the Borough boundary was undertaken by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

Vermin

Disinfestation was carried out at seven premises during the year, D.D.T. or B.H.C. preparations being used in each case. At three premises where a liquid preparation was used, a pressure spray was loaned by the Health Department. At none of these seven premises was the infestation other than light.

Infectious Diseases

In four cases during the year, following disinfection of premises, it was necessary to require the cleansing and redecorating of rooms. Three disinfections were also carried out on request following the death of aged persons and in each case, after receipt of formal application, a small quantity of bedding and clothing was removed and destroyed.

Canal Boats

Although the River Lee and the Canal are navigable within the Borough boundary, these waterways are not now used.

Smoke Abatement

Following a complaint of a smoke nuisance, observations were taken, but no nuisance recorded—the complaint apparently directed at an isolated case of a heavy emission occurring early one evening whilst works were in progress.

A nuisance arising from the burning of a factory waste containing tar products was informally dealt with, suitable adjustments being made to an existing incinerator enabling it to be used for this purpose.

Common Lodging Houses

There is only one Registered Common Lodging House within the Borough, The White House, Railway Street, providing nightly accommodation for 32 men; the number of accommodations during the year was 4,152, a nightly average of 11 men.

The premises have been kept under observation and the house is generally well conducted. Although the accommodation is not restricted, practically no casual lodgers were received during the year, the semi-permanent lodgers using the premises are elderly and the number continues to decrease.

No case of infectious disease was notified at the house.

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1935**Refuse Dumps** (*Section 26*)

In addition to the Corporation's own refuse tip, there is only one other refuse dump in the Borough, this being situate in the Old Clay Pits, Hertingfordbury, consents for its use being given to the Southgate Borough Council in 1947. The pit is at present being used for occasional tipping only and the 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 above Act.

Movable Dwellings (*Section 93*)

There are only two caravans separately sited within the Borough.

During the year an area was prepared and completed for use as a camping-caravan site by an organisation holding a certificate of the Ministry of Health and who, by reason of their own camping rules, are exempt from the similar provisions of the Herts County Council Act.

HOUSING ACTS**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 1953:—

Number of overcrowded houses at 1st January, 1953	...	2
New cases discovered during the year	... ..	2
Overcrowding abated—Rehoused by Corporation	... ..	1
Abated by Occupier	... ..	2
Number of overcrowding cases remaining at 31.12.1953	...	1

There are still two cases of borderline overcrowding remaining from 1952.

Substandard Housing

A Closing Order was made by the Council during 1953 in respect of basement rooms at 13 Ware Road, the Official Representation having been made late in 1952.

An inspection being made regarding an application for a Corporation house, it was found that a garden summerhouse was being used for separate occupation. The premises were vacated and their use as a dwelling discontinued.

Housing Progress

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

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Food Premises

The total number of Food Shops and other premises dealing with foodstuffs is 202. This number is made up as follows, the separate premises being included under the main trade being carried on.

Butchers, Meat Stores	...	...	...	...	...	15
Grocers and Provision Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	22
Fish Shops (including Fried Fish Shops)	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other Food Shops (including small general stores, Greengrocers, Bakers' Shops, Sweet Shops, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	45
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cafes, Restaurants and Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	20
Inns and Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	46
Institutional Kitchens, School and Industrial Canteens and Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	32
Total (inclusive of 50 premises registered under Section 14 and included above)						202

Excluding visits for the inspection of foodstuffs, the number of inspections of food premises carried out during the year was 204.

Various improvements continue to be carried out at the Food premises, including additional washing facilities, improved storage facilities and refrigerators, as well as improvements of a structural character. A number of display cases giving protection to the foodstuffs have been fitted during the year and in the case of one of the smaller shops, a refrigerated display counter has been installed. Fitted glass display covers for biscuit tins continue to be provided at many of the shops.

Ice Cream

Ice Cream Premises

The number of registered premises for the sale of ice cream within the Borough is:—

Registered Dealers (including six new registrations during 1953)	...	...	...	...	...	35
Registered Producer/Dealer "cold mix"	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	35

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	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Supplementary Dealer's Licence	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Producer's Licence (issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Sterilised Milk

Dealer's Licence	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Supplementary Dealer's Licence	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Pasteurised Milk

Dealer's Licence	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Supplementary Dealer's Licence	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pasteuriser's Licence (issued by Herts County Council in respect of premises situate in the Borough)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

During the year the pasteurising premises in the Borough changed from the Holder method to the High-Temperature Short-Time method of pasteurising and also introduced a standard type bottle and installed machinery to provide overlapping caps to the bottles for all milks handled in the dairy.

Of the nine samples of pasteurised milk taken by the Herts County Council under the Milk in Schools Scheme and notified to this department, two failed to satisfy the prescribed tests, but subsequent samples were satisfactory.

A further 44 samples of pasteurised milk samples taken from the pasteurising plant within the Borough proved satisfactory with the exception of one only.

During the year one sample from a local Accredited Herd gave a positive result for tubercle bacilli and after inspection by the Divisional Veterinary Officer, the tuberculous cow was discovered and slaughtered, and a follow-up sample proved negative. A sample taken from a non-designated herd proved positive to *Brucella abortus*. In both the above cases the milk was disposed of by wholesale to pastuerising premises.

Meat Premises, Slaughterhouses and Slaughtermen

There are 15 premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. The number of Meat Traders in the Borough is 15 with the addition of a Meat Depot of the South Eastern Wholesale Meat Supply Association which is a distribution centre for the meat traders within the surrounding area.

There are now no slaughterhouses within the Borough. Of the five premises in use in 1939, the renewal of three of the licences have been refused on the grounds of structural and material changes and of the condition of the premises, the two remaining premises being used for other purposes and no applications being made. Centralised slaughter for the area is being 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 194 visits and the issue of 176 Certificates of Condemnation of Foodstuffs.

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

<i>Canned Foodstuffs</i>	No. of Containers	Weight in lbs.
Corned Beef	95	198
Ham	7	73 $\frac{3}{4}$
Other Meat and Meat Products	164	163 $\frac{1}{2}$
Soups	15	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pulses and Vegetables	189	191 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fruit	377	498 $\frac{1}{2}$
Preserves and Jams	24	57 $\frac{3}{4}$
Milk	85	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pickles and Sauces	65	29
Cereals	61	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fish and Fish Products	1,024	180 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,106	1,516
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Fish

Dogfish	91 lbs.	Prawns	104 lbs.
Mackerel	98 „	Lobsters	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
Smoked Fillet	98 „		— „
Kippers	56 „	Total Weight of Fish	537 $\frac{1}{2}$
Skate Wings	86 „		—

Miscellaneous Foodstuffs

Beef—Home Killed:

Topside, Silverside and Thick Flank (4 con- demnations)	Internal Decomposition ...	101 lbs.
Topside and Silverside	Bruised	17 „

Beef—Imported:

Topside, Silverside and Thick Flank (6 con- demnations)	Internal Decomposition ...	171 „
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Mutton:

2 Forequarters	Abscess and Bruising ...	37 „
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Pork:

Part 5 Legs and Loins (3 condemnations) ...	Internal Bruising	73½ „
Part Shoulders (2 condemnations) ...	Abscess	15 „
Mesenteries	Decomposition	50 „
Trimnings (2 condemnations)	Decomposition	18 „

Sausages:

Irish Pork	Decomposition	115½ „
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Bacon:

Smoked Side (2 condemnations) ...	Decomposition	9¾ „
Collar and Gammon ...	Decomposition	27 „
Rabbits	Tainted	29 „
Cheese	Extensive Mould	7¾ „
Cheese Spread	Extensive Mould	52½ „
Oatmeal	Mite Infested	32½ „
		756½ „

Total Weight of Condemned Foods*During 1953:*

	tons	cwts.	lbs.
Food in Containers		13	60
Fish		4	89½
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs		6	84½
	1	5	10

The total weights of foodstuffs found to be unsound continues to gradually decrease, the amount found during 1953 being between one-third and one-quarter of the total weights of approximately 4 tons found in each of the years immediately following the war.

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

Mechanical Factories	102
Non-Mechanical Factories	22
Other Premises	4
	128

Number of Inspections :

Mechanical Factories (including the eight "Mechanical" Bakehouses)	66
Non-Mechanical Factories (including the one non-mechanical Bakehouse)	27
Other Premises (Building Sites, etc.)	9
	102
Number of Notices Served	2

During the year references were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories in regard to new or changed circumstances at 20 factories.

Contraventions

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

Sanitary Accommodation insufficient	2
Sanitary Accommodation unsuitable or defective	1

Outworkers

The half-yearly lists of outworkers supplied by factories within the Borough in accordance with the requirements of the Factories Act include 205 persons. Of this total, 84 are resident within the Borough, the remaining 123 being located in the Districts of 37 other Local Authorities.

Lists supplied by other local authorities of outworkers employed by firms situate outside the Borough include 31 persons resident within the Borough.

The nature of the work carried out by the outworkers within the Borough is as follows: Wearing apparel 83; Brush workers 20; Envelope making 7; Handbag making 5.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

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.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

In view of the advantages and convenience for use, practically all treatments for surface infestations were carried out with the use of a Warfarin bait.

Publicity in the field of Rodent Control was given by the co-operation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and for a short period in September a Display Unit was on exhibition in the Borough showrooms of the Eastern Gas Board.

Corporation Surface Properties. Routine visits were made to all the Council properties occupied by the Corporation.

Private Dwellings. In order to encourage occupiers to give early notification of infestations, the Corporation continues to service and treat private dwellings without charge.

Business Premises. No fixed contract work is undertaken by the Corporation but five agreements are in operation whereby 12 properties are treated as required, charges for all business premises being on a time and materials basis. Routine visits are also made to the School canteens and precautionary measures taken during the school holidays.

Agricultural Properties. During the year it was not found necessary to refer infestations to the County Pest Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who by agreement continue to carry out the treatment of agricultural properties.

Sewers. In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, one test-baiting and two treatments of the Corporation sewers were carried out during the year. During February, 61 manholes covering the infested areas of the previous test-baiting were treated, only 18 of which showed "takes."

Of the 480 manholes in the Borough, 76 (or 16 per cent.) were test-baited in September, seven being found to be infested. This was followed by a treatment of 66 manholes covering the six areas of the infested seven manholes, the number of "takes" recorded being 33.

Inspections and Treatments

		<i>Inspections and Revisits</i>	<i>Treatments carried out.</i>	
	<i>Premises Inspected</i>		<i>Mice</i>	<i>Rats</i>
Corporation Properties	... 14	25	—	5
Private Dwellings	... 741	876	13	189
Business Premises	... 110	142	8	19
Agricultural Properties	... 30	30	—	—
	895	1,073	21	213

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

During the year two licences were granted for the use of premises as Pet Shops—in the case of one of these, however, the premises were later vacated and their use for this purpose discontinued.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951

Persons in Need of Care and Attention—Section 47

A man age 75 years who was living alone became completely incapable of looking after himself, and help he received from neighbours and others was inadequate. He was removed to

Western House, Ware, on a Court Order. He shortly afterwards gave up the tenancy of his house. The house was disinfected and treated with an insecticide.

Informal action resulted in the removal to Western House of two elderly ladies who lived alone in separate houses, and who were unable to look after themselves.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—COMMENT

Infective Jaundice

Seven cases were reported during the year, the first case being during August. As one would expect there is a fairly definite link between the cases, and the interval between probable contact and the onset of illness is about four weeks.

Bacillary Dysentery

Hertford County Hospital

A young child from Ware Rural District, who was a contact of a child who died from an Enteritis, developed an illness himself, and was admitted to a Children's Ward at Hertford County Hospital for observation. A few hours later a post-mortem bacteriological diagnosis of Sonn  Dysentery was announced in respect of the deceased child. The young child contact was immediately transferred to an Enteritis Unit, where subsequently he also was found to have Sonn  Dysentery. This all happened on June 25th, 1953.

On June 30th another child in the ward developed an enteritis, and a further child also became ill on July 6th. Both had Sonn  Dysentery.

The ward was closed, and all the staff and patients were examined. No carriers were found. Fifteen children who had been in the ward during the stage of infection from June 25th until July 5th, and who had been discharged home, were also followed up at their homes. No further cases of illness were reported.

Contact in Cafe in Hertford

During the investigations carried out in connection with the above cases of Sonn  Dysentery it was discovered that a woman who had been a contact of one of the infected children worked at a cafe in Hertford. She was kept away from work, in accordance with the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953, whilst a medical examination, necessitating a bacteriological test, was carried out. Upon receipt of a satisfactory report the lady was allowed to resume her duties.

Outbreaks of Communicable Disease in Hospital

Control of Infection Committee

Regional Hospital Boards were asked, in April, 1953, to set up Control of Infection Committees in their hospitals, and were

asked by the Ministry of Health to invite the Local Medical Officer of Health to be a Committee Member.

This matter was raised again, following the above reported cases of Sonne Dysentery at the Hospital in June and July.

In September, notice was received from the Hertford Group of Hospitals that Control of Infection Committees were about to be constituted in the Area.

So far as the Hertford County Hospital, and the East Herts Infectious Diseases Hospital (both of which are within the Borough) are concerned, the Committee was still incomplete at the end of the year, and consequently was unable to meet.

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES**

DISEASE	TOTAL	AGE GROUP (in Years)						Age not Known	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65			
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	—
Whooping Cough	60	3	37	19	—	1	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	100	3	46	50	—	1	—	—	2	—
Diphtheria	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Dysentery	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Smallpox	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (Acute):										
Infective	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
Meningococcal Infection	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice ...	7	—	—	5	2	—	—	—	—	—

**INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS**

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	1	—	—	3	6	11	5	14	9	11
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	13	3	8	18	18	25	9	6	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	1

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 superchlorinated at the pumping station, followed by partial dechlorination on entry into the reservoir prior to distribution through the mains. A chlorine residual recorder was installed during the year.

Routine Bacteriological Examinations

Public Supply (after treatment). Fifty-two samples of water were taken from the Council's public supply and submitted for bacteriological examination. All were reported as satisfactory.

Raw Water (before treatment). One sample was tested and showed the presence of Fæcal Coli.

Chemical Analysis of Raw Water Supply

The result of the analysis of a sample of raw water is given below:—

Chemical Results in Parts per Million	Raw Water Sample taken 22nd Jan., 1953
Appearance	Bright with a few mineral particles
Turbidity	Less than 3
Colour	Nil
Taste	Normal
Odour	Nil
Reaction pH	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	20
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	610
Total solids, dried at 180° C.	440
Chlorine as Chloride	28
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	215
Hardness:	
Carbonate (Temporary)	215
Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	105
Total	320
Nitrate Nitrogen	7.2
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	0.300
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000
Residual Chlorine	—
Metals	Iron: Less than 0.03 Other metals absent
Fluoride (F)	0.2

During the year Byelaws were made under Section 17 of the Water Act, 1945, for preventing waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water. The Council also adopted new Waterworks Regulations.

Adequacy of Supply

During the year, the Council resolved to examine the possibility of utilising the supply from the old well at the Broxbourne Waterworks. Test pumping was carried out but this gave a limited yield only. Samples of the water were submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination and it was reported that this source should not be redeveloped unless the safeguard of filtration could be added to existing methods of purification. In the circumstances the Council resolved not to proceed with this project.

Consultations continued to take place with the officers of the Metropolitan Water Board during the year and the Board agreed to afford this Council a temporary bulk supply when necessary. This facility was taken advantage of for short periods on two occasions in the summer.

The Council's Surveyor is conferring with the Consulting Engineers to the Council as to the possibility of securing an additional source of supply by the provision of a new borehole. During the year, some complaints were received about the adequacy and poor pressure to certain houses on higher ground in the Park Lane, Springfields area at Broxbourne, and it was found necessary to impose restrictions on the use of water, for purposes other than domestic, in this part of the district. A scheme for the laying of additional 3 and 4-inch link mains was prepared and a contract entered into for the execution of this work, which was completed early in 1954. This has resulted in an adequate pressure being maintained and no further complaints have been received from this part of the area.

Private Supplies

Six samples of water taken from the private supply to one dwelling house, following the installation of a filter, referred to in the 1952 Report, were found on bacteriological examination to be satisfactory.

Following unsatisfactory reports on samples of water taken from the well supply to another dwelling house (Fæcal Coli present), representations were made to the owner and the house was connected to the Council's main supply.

Five samples taken from the supply to a workers' hostel and submitted to bacteriological examinations showed the presence of Fæcal Coli in two samples. Check samples taken after the storage tank had been cleaned, proved satisfactory.

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

Full chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations were made of the private supplies to three factories during the year, satisfactory results being recorded in each case. In addition, two further samples submitted for bacteriological examination were reported as satisfactory.

A sample of water was taken from a nursery borehole, which source it was intended to utilise in connection with the setting-up of a new factory. The report on the examination of the water was not satisfactory and the project was not proceeded with.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

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.

The major scheme of sewerage referred to in last year's report, to deal with the foul drainage for the whole of the area and pumping into the Rye Meads Disposal Works, was submitted in outline to the Ministry for approval. The estimated cost of these works is £60,000.

Northern Drainage Area

It was not possible during the year to proceed with the scheme for the provision of the short length of sewer from a point south of Cranbourne Drive connecting with the existing sewer near the entrance of Hoddesdon Secondary School.

Ware Rural District Council's Sewer Extension, Haileybury

None of the small number of cottages in the neighbourhood of this sewer have yet been connected but efforts are being made to induce owners of the properties concerned to do so.

Houses connected to the Sewer

During the year, one house formerly served by a cesspool was connected to the Council's sewer. In addition, three detached cottages on the Broxbournebury estate, formerly served by individual cesspools, were linked with the drainage of the Mansion, which is treated in a private disposal plant.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The system of household refuse collection which was previously carried out at fortnightly intervals has been re-organised and a full weekly collection was brought into operation in September. This improvement was not brought about without a great deal of

disturbance and innumerable complaints, but the scheme is now working smoothly and effectively.

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. Complaints were received regarding flies, which it was alleged came from the tip. The tip is regularly treated with insecticide and every effort made, with the labour available, to comply with the ministerial suggestions for controlled tips. For a short period during the summer, owing to labour difficulties, the Council were not able to utilise this tip and arrangements were made with another local authority to use their tip, which is situated in this district.

Ware Rural District Council Tip, Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon

The tipping of household refuse from the Ware Rural District on this site finally ceased in June, 1953.

PARTICULARS OF INSPECTIONS, ETC. during the year 1953

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

Dwelling houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	789
Housing, re-Inspection of Works in Progress, and interviews with Owners and Builders	...	...	...	...	...	2,140
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	24
Inspection of Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	59
Inspection of Stables and Pig-sties	...	...	...	...	...	15
Inspection of Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	47
Inspection of Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	17
Inspection of Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	35
Visits to other premises where food is prepared and/or exposed for sale	...	...	...	...	...	154
Market Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	37
Refuse Tip Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	97
Investigation of Complaints other than Housing	...	...	...	...	...	53
Inspections under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	94
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	11
Inspection of Camping Grounds and Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	82
Inspection of Hairdressers' Premises	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inspection of Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	427
Total Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	4,084
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	344
Number of Letters sent	...	...	...	...	...	565
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	81
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	6

Defects Remedied

Drainage and Sanitary Arrangements	...	...	...	441
Dwelling Houses, etc.	...	...	...	176

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936**Statutory Notices**

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

Three Notices were served on the owners of public houses under Section 89 and the matter is referred to under the heading "Sanitary Conveniences."

Nuisance—*Wormley Hill House, Wormley*

The filter of the sewage disposal plant, which was the cause of complaints in 1952, was covered in during the year and this appeared to reduce the aerial nuisance. The house was vacated near the end of the year.

Nuisance—*Factories, Westhill, Hoddesdon*

Representations were made to the factory owners, regarding the discharge of trade effluent into the Woollensbrook, causing a public health nuisance in the stream and consultations continued with the Lee Conservancy Catchment Board's officers. During the year works were undertaken to disconnect the trade waste from the surface water system and link up with the firm's own domestic sewage disposal plant. This was undertaken against the advice of the Council as it was thought that this would interfere with the effective working of the existing plant, which had hitherto done its job quite satisfactorily. It is understood that the Lee Conservancy Catchment Board have granted their consent to this new discharge to the Woollensbrook from the sewage disposal plant but they have laid down rather stringent conditions. The matter is being closely watched.

Nuisance—*Farm Drainage into the Woollensbrook, Hoddesdon*

Attention was called to the unsatisfactory condition of the sewage disposal plant at a fairly large dairy farm which was obviously inadequate to deal with the increased flow from the bottle washing plant and other processes connected with the farm and dairy business.

Some improvements were eventually effected and the premises ceased to be used for the retail sale of milk. The nuisance was abated.

Nuisance—*Farm Drainage, Roman Road, Wormley*

Complaints were received that drainage from a farm was discharging on to the public footpath. The farmer was requested to abate the nuisance and works were carried out which removed cause for complaint.

Smoke Nuisances

During the year, it was observed that portable boilers utilised by local nurserymen to generate steam for sterilizing the soil were emitting black smoke. Representations were made to an owner in one case, when the trouble was alleged to be due to inferior and dirty fuel.

Disinfestation

Eradication of Bed Bugs

During the year four 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 40 nests were destroyed during the year.

Disinfections

Disinfections were carried out in consequence of infectious diseases (including tuberculosis) in six dwelling houses.

Sanitary Conveniences

Proposed Public Convenience, Wormley

Contracts for the proposed public convenience at Wormley were prepared towards the end of the year and tenders invited early in 1954.

Premises Licensed for Public Entertainment—Dance Halls, etc.

No progress appears to have been made in formulating a code imposing modern standards of hygiene and sanitation (on a County basis) for premises licenced under the Cinematograph Act, 1909, and the Home Counties (Music and Dancing) Licensing Act, 1926.

Licensed Premises—Public Houses

It was necessary to serve Statutory Notices under Section 89 of the Public Health Act, 1936, requiring the provision of sanitary conveniences at three public houses, as the existing arrangements were insufficient or insanitary. In one case a new sanitary block was provided, in another work on the construction of additional sanitary conveniences had commenced and in the third case the Notice had not been complied with at the end of the year.

Another public house was furnished with completely new sanitary arrangements after protracted negotiations with the owners. Minor improvements were effected at other premises.

Swimming Bath

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

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 were reported as satisfactory.

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. Results show that an average of 6 tons of soot, ash and grit fall on each square mile of the District each month. Detailed results are available at the Council Offices.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1949

Overcrowding

Eight new cases of overcrowding of Council houses were discovered during the year.

Overcrowding of nine Council houses and one privately-owned house, and the partial overcrowding of 28 other houses was abated mainly through the allocation of new houses.

Insanitary Properties

The following properties were dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, during the year:—

- Railway Crossing Cottage, Wharf Road, Wormley;
- Red Cottage, 2 High Road, Wormley;
- The Cabin, Slipe Lane, Wormley.

A Demolition Order was served in respect of Railway Crossing Cottage and this was subsequently demolished.

After considering representations from the owners of the other two properties, the Council accepted undertakings that they be not used for human habitation until rendered fit for that purpose. Proposals were made in respect of No. 2 High Road, Wormley, but these did not satisfy the Council's requirements and the work was not proceeded with.

The following insanitary properties were also demolished:—
Nos. 56 and 58 High Road, Wormley.

(In the case of No. 58 an undertaking not to use for human habitation had previously been given.)

In addition, Nos. 1 and 3 Bell Lane, and the flat over the shop at 5 Burford Street, Hoddesdon, ceased to be used for human habitation by arrangement with the owner. An undertaking was given not to use "The Glade," Frogley's Road, Dobbs Weir, for permanent habitation, but the Council sanctioned its use as a chalet during the summer season when the caravan camp is open.

Supplementary Licences to use Special Designation:

"Pasteurised"	2
"Sterilized"	2
"Tuberculin Tested"	2

Milk Sampling

Seventy-six 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	45	6
Ungraded Milks	20	5

Two of the Pasteurised milk samples failed to pass the Phosphatase test. Four T.T. and five 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.

In one case it was found necessary to submit for bacteriological examination bottle rinsings from empty bottles prior to use. No pathogenic organisms were found to be present.

School Milk

Nineteen samples of milk supplied to schools in the district were taken during the year by the County Council Sampling Officers. All except three were reported on as being satisfactory. The adverse reports were in respect of Pasteurised milk which failed the Phosphatase test. Follow-up action resulted in check samples proving satisfactory.

Biological Sampling

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

During the year one sample gave a positive result for *tubercle bacilli*. It was ascertained that the milk from this farm was sent for heat treatment, except for the milk supplied to the farm workers. A further sample was taken and proved negative.

Food Premises Generally

Routine surveillance of all premises where food is prepared, stored or sold, was carried on throughout the year, a total of 349 visits and inspections being made.

Efforts were continued to secure an improved standard of food handling and to bring premises up to the structural standards laid down in the Food and Drugs Act. Several improvements were made as the result of informal action, mainly in the provision of hot water and washing facilities.

Market

Regular supervision of stalls selling foodstuffs in the market was maintained and it has been found that such supervision is a considerable deterrent to the more undesirable type of food traders which the market is apt to attract.

Preserved Food, etc.

There are 17 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 and a total of 35 visits was made to ice-cream premises during the year. The majority of retailers sell pre-packed ice cream only.

During the year two retailers were found to be selling home-made iced lollies to the public. Representations were made and the practice ceased without resource to formal action.

Eight 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, two samples	2	—	—	—
Pre-packed retail samples of various makes, six samples	6	—	—	—

Other Food Premises

There are some 198 other premises in the district where food is prepared, stored or sold, made up as follows:—

Bakers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Butchers (including one cooked meat manufacturer)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Canteens—School	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ —Factory	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ —Mobile	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Confectionery and Sweets	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Hostels	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Conference Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

The above list does not include retailers in the weekly market held in the open air. Usually there is one grocery stall, one fishmonger, four greengrocers and a confectionery stall.

Unsound Food

Sale of Unsound Food

During the year a complaint was received from a resident regarding a loaf of bread in which was embedded a portion of cigarette. Proceedings under Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were taken against the bakery firm concerned and the case was heard at the local Magistrates Court. The defendants pleaded guilty and were fined £5 together with 5 gns. costs.

One retailer was found during the year to be selling meat for animal feeding from his butcher's shop. Informal Notice was served and the practice ceased.

Condemnation

Details of foodstuffs which were found to be unfit for human consumption and were surrendered are given below. These are disposed of in the Council's controlled tip at Cock Lane, Hoddesdon.

<i>Canned Foodstuffs</i>	No. of Containers	Approx. Weight cwt. lbs.
Meat and Meat Products	20	59
Milk	9	9
Fish	7	2
Fruit and Vegetables	84	103
Preserves!... ..	2	2
		<hr/>
		1 63
		<hr/>
<i>Fish</i>		
Smoked Haddock (approximate weight) ...		14
		<hr/>
<i>Miscellaneous Foodstuffs</i>		
Beef (approximate weight)		1 13
Pork Sausages (approximate weight)		1 89
Sheep's Livers (approximate weight)		40
		<hr/>
		3 30
		<hr/>

Total Weight of all Foodstuffs: 4 cwts. 107 lbs.

Watercress Beds, Conduit Lane, Hoddesdon

These continued to be kept under observation and a sample of water taken from the supply in which the watercress is washed before despatch to market was found, on bacteriological examination, to be of a satisfactory standard. A sample taken from the water in which the watercress is grown confirmed that the quality is not of drinking water standard. The washed cress was found to be of a satisfactory bacteriological standard.

Slaughterhouses

Number of slaughterhouses in the district 4

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

Transport of Meat

The transport of meat from the slaughterhouse to retail shops during the year left much to be desired. Representations continued to be made to the appropriate department of the Ministry of Food. The impression was formed that there was little likelihood of any real alteration in the method of distribution in view of the possibility of an early modification in the Ministry's Central Slaughtering arrangements. It is sincerely hoped that with the impending de-rationing of meat and increased supplies more hygienic methods of transportation will be employed.

THE PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

There were two Pet Shops in operation in the district during the year and licences were issued under the above Act.

In addition, a licence was issued in respect of a stall in the weekly market, but the trader concerned ceased to attend after a short period.

SHOPS ACT

The provision of separate sanitary accommodation for females in two shop premises was made during the year.

Additional W.C.s were also provided to two offices during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

One hundred and eleven visits and inspections were made during the year.

New sanitary conveniences were provided at two factories and work was commenced on the provision of sanitary accommodation at another factory. Additional sanitary accommodation for females was also provided at one other factory.

One new bakehouse was provided during the year.

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

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Private Dwellings

The Council continued to give a free service to private dwellings and a total of 128 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 29 business premises was carried out by arrangement with the owners on a time and material basis.

Agricultural Properties

Although the Council is the responsible authority under the

Act, infestations on agricultural properties are referred to the County Agricultural Committee, who, by agreement, continue to carry out the treatment of such properties.

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 April, with the following results:—

	Hoddesdon and Rye Park	Brox- bourne	Wormley
Total number of sewer manholes (approx.)	218	160	48
Number of manholes test baited	37	16	5
" " " showing "takes"	5	Nil	Nil
<i>Treatment was carried out as follows:—</i>			
<i>April, 1953</i>			
Number of manholes baited	14	—	—
" " " showing "takes"	7	—	—
<i>October, 1953</i>			
Number of manholes baited	14	—	—
" " " showing "takes"	5	—	—

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

Number of Inspections made	798
" " properties inspected	651
" " properties infested with rats and mice	167
Total number of treatments carried out to all properties	230

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, 1935

Movable Dwellings

There is still a large number of movable dwellings and shacks situated mainly near the west bank of the River Lee at Wormley. Most of these are used at week-ends during the summer months. A few are used for the purposes of permanent habitation but every effort is made to discourage this tendency and to advise intending purchasers of riverside plots of the Planning Restrictions in operation. It is intended to deal with this area if the Development Plan under the Town and Country Planning Act is confirmed by the Minister.

Permission was given for seven movable dwellings to be placed in the Urban District during the year, for limited periods only.

Dobbs Weir Riverside Holidays, 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 October 31st in each year until 1955.

The maximum number actually on the site at any time during 1953 was not more than 40.

A second block of sanitary conveniences was provided during 1953.

A large hut, formerly used by a family, since rehoused by the Council, is, with the consent of the Council, being used as a chalet in connection with the camp during the summer season only.

The camp is extremely well conducted.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES: COMMENT

Measles

An epidemic of measles swept across the district during the first five months of the year. Toddlers and schoolchildren were the most affected, and the peak of notifications was reached in April with 87 reported cases. A few cases were notified as late as August.

Whooping Cough

Cases occurred throughout the year, and affected adults as well as children. The outbreak was most marked during the spring and summer months.

Food Poisoning

A number of small outbreaks were reported by the General Practitioners, but subsequent tests and investigations failed to reveal the cause of the illness in several of them.

One outbreak of toxic food poisoning was attributed to the victims drinking milk which upon test contained Coagulase Positive Staphylococci. The source of the milk was a farm which produced raw Tuberculin Tested milk, bottled at the farm. A cow with mastitis, and a cowhand with a rash on the arm were found at the farm. The milk, the mastitis, and the rash on the arm all yielded Coagulase Positive Staphylococci, which upon phage-typing were of an identical type. Unfortunately, no staphylococcal toxins were detected in any of the victims, since no specimens of vomit were available for test. However, it is considered that the circumstantial evidence is strong enough to link the illness—which affected 17 people—with the infected milk. No explanation can be offered as to why only so few people, out of a milk round of several hundred persons, developed symptoms of food poisoning.

SAWBRIDGEWORTH URBAN DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

The piped supply is provided by the Herts and Essex Water Company to 1,124 houses, eight of which share three standpipes.

Forty houses in the district, including new houses, were connected to the mains during the year, leaving 11 dwellings in Spelbrook which are supplied from privately-owned wells.

Quality

Bacteriological

Reports were received upon 33 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 a sample of the town's water supply is set out below:—

Results in Parts per Million	16th April, 1953
Appearance	Faint opalescence with very few mineral particles.
Turbidity (Silica scale)	7
Colour (Hazen)	7
Odour	Nil
Reaction pH	7.1
Free CO ₂	3.5
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	650
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	305
Total solids dried at 180° C.	445
Hardness:	
Carbonate (Temporary)	305
Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	55
Total	360
Nitrogen in:	
Nitrates	0.0
Nitrites	Absent
Free Ammonia	0.35
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.00
Residual Chlorine	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	0.40
Metals	Iron 0.88 Other metals absent.
Fluorine	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,

Four 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 1953

Summary of Visits

Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	205
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	11
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	47
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	27
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	198
						—
			Total	...	...	488
						—
			Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	10
			„ „ Statutory Notices served	...	...	Nil

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Verminous Premises and Verminous Articles

Sections 83 and 85

Disinfection and cleansing was carried out at two cottages. D.D.T. preparations were used.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1949

Thirty houses were completed and tenanted on the Bullfields Housing Estate and work was commenced on a further 33 during the year. It is hoped that the houses will be ready for occupation in July, 1954.

Ex-Aerodrome Site—Parsonage Estate

Twenty-seven huts were demolished during 1953, and the occupants rehoused. Thirty-eight huts are still occupied.

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 11 occasions during the year. Purveyors' delivery vehicles also receive frequent inspection.

Milk Sampling

Two samples of milk were taken from dealers and submitted for bacteriological examination and each sample passed the prescribed test.

Ice Cream

No ice cream is manufactured in the district. There are 11 registered premises and regular inspection of the premises has been carried out.

Ice Cream Samples

Eleven samples of ice cream were collected from retailers and submitted for examination and in every case the report was Provisional Grade 1.

Unsound Food

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

Category	No. of Tins or Containers	Weight in lbs.
Meat (Tinned)	22	83
Fruit and Vegetables	144	181
Cereals, etc.	6	49
Total Weight		313
(1952 Total: 146 lbs.)		

**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY
PESTS ACT, 1949**

Rodent Control

Total number of premises inspected	105
Number of premises found to be infested	39
„ „ premises treated by the Council	39
Total number of visits	211

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.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES:
CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

Measles

A mild epidemic occurred during 1953. Two cases developed complications and were treated in hospital.

Acute Poliomyelitis

One case of paralytic poliomyelitis was notified. It was the only case to be notified in the Combined Districts in 1953. The patient, who was not at all ill, was a contact of poliomyelitis in Sawbridgeworth and Bishop's Stortford in the autumn of 1952. The diagnosis was made retrospectively by a specialist; the only signs being weakness of certain groups of muscles in the back.

**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	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	16	—	11	5	—	—	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis (Acute):										
Paralytic	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	109	1	45	63	—	—	—	—	2	—
Diphtheria	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (Acute):										
Infective	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

**INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS**

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	4	4	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles	17	22	52	14	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	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.

A scheme for the installation of a booster station at Watton Road to improve the Westmill area supply will be commenced in 1954 and it is expected to be in operation at an early date.

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 August 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	7.3	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	18	19
Electric Conductivity	620	610
Total Solids	415	410
Chlorine in Chlorides	24	24
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	255	260
Hardness:		
Carbonate	255	260
Non-carbonate	75	70
Total	330	330
Nitrogen in Nitrates	4.8	5.0
Nitrogen in Nitrites	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.003	0.010
Oxygen Absorbed	0.10	0.20
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000	0.000
Residual Chlorine	Absent	Absent
Metals:	Absent	Absent

Both samples from the High and Low Level supplies are clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so, and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic quality.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Practically the whole of the district is sewered.

Construction of the new Trunk Sewer from Stevenage New Town, through the Urban District is expected to be completed early in 1954.

The scheme for sewerage the London Road area was commenced at the end of the year.

A scheme for the relief of surcharging of the High Street sewer is in course of preparation, consisting of a relief sewer to intercept the main sewer at the junction of Baldock Street and High Street, and which will connect to the Stevenage Trunk Sewer via Priory Street, the Priory Grounds, under the River Lea and Messrs. Gliksten's Timber Yard. This project will also relieve the surcharging of the Priory Street Sewer and it is anticipated that it will be completed during the summer of 1954.

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. Temporary tipping at Wengo Lane during the construction of the Stevenage Trunk Sewer has ceased.

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK during the year 1953

Summary of Visits

Sewers, Drains, Sanitary Accommodation, etc.	...	...	141
Nuisances	...	...	306
Infectious Disease	...	...	49
Housing Overcrowding, Repairs, Housing Acts, etc.	...	...	82
Food Premises, Section 13, Condemnations	...	...	29
Ice Cream, Factories, Retailers, Sampling	...	...	91
Milk, Dairies, Sampling	...	...	33
Slaughter House: Inspection of Meat	...	...	756
Butchers' Shops, Meat Transport, etc.	...	...	49
Shops Act, 1934 (Section 10)	...	...	2
Rats and Mice	...	...	42
Factories and Outworkers	...	...	116
Total	...	...	1,696

Complaints Received

General	...	...	135
Rats and Mice	...	...	30
Total	...	...	165

Notices, etc., Served*Informal Notices*

Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	441
Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	...	...	...	22
Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	2
Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	1
						—
				Total	...	466
						—

Statutory Notices

Order for Demolition of a house	...	...	...	...	...	2
Notice to occupier to quit house after Demolition Order has become operative	...	...	...	...	...	2
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
Pet Shop licensed	...	...	...	...	...	1

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Many minor repairs and drainage works were dealt with informally and nuisances due to such defects abated. In one instance the Council's sewer was found to be the cause of leakage into a cellar.

During building operations on a vacated smallholding the carcase of a heifer was found in a cesspool. The R.S.P.C.A. Inspector agreed that the owner had improperly disposed of the animal following its sudden death.

Improved sanitary accommodation has been provided at two public houses.

Serious atmospheric pollution due to the burning of electric cable was referred to a neighbouring Rural Council. Dense clouds of smoke drifted over this district from the site which is one mile from the Urban boundary.

There were periods sometimes lasting two weeks when 8 tons of cable were being burnt daily in order to recover the copper.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936–1949

Demolition Orders were made in respect of two houses in bad repair and poorly sited, although the Orders are not yet operative.

The Council approved the redevelopment plan of the owners in respect of the four houses proposed as a Clearance Area. The reconstruction works are now under way.

The owners of two houses gave undertakings not to re-let the premises for habitable purposes, and the Council refused to cancel a similar undertaking in respect of an old cottage.

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., 1953	2	7	9
New cases of overcrowding discovered during 1953	3	3	6
Number of cases abated	3	2	5
Number of overcrowded houses at 31st Dec., 1953	2	8	10

FACTORIES ACTS

Building operations are frequently carried out without sanitary accommodation being provided. Recognition of this need is not generally accepted by the building and allied industries.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

In order to simplify the examination of claims received from local authorities towards their expenditure on rodent control the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries now require the detailed Annual Report to coincide with the financial year.

The year's work was uninterrupted by staff changes and regularity and continuity were therefore possible. This has resulted in the main to infestations being of a minor and sporadic nature.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS**Meat Inspection**

All animals slaughtered were inspected. The number of pigs inspected from 1950 to 1953 (504, 1,470, 1,913, 3,660) shows a large increase.

Swine Fever having been very prevalent throughout the country during the year and a Standstill Order having been operative in the adjacent county of Essex for several months, it is not surprising that 22 suspected outbreaks were notified to the Divisional Veterinary Officers. Five of these notifications related to pigs received via Collecting Centres. Contacts from infected premises formed a high proportion of the pigs examined. These circumstances have increased the work and its importance.

Suspect cases of Anthrax and Foot and Mouth Disease were reported but fortunately these were not confirmed by laboratory examinations.

Total Weight of Meat Condemned in Lbs.

Home Killed	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Total
Diseased	57,273	3,203	17,823	78,299
Decomposition	60	—	—	60
Imported:				
Decomposition	50	—	—	50

Total Weight in Lbs. of Carcase Meat Condemned

	Beef	Veal	Mutton	Pork	Total
Market	11,490	668	727	1,346	14,231
Casualty	13,921	441	556	10,685	25,603
Totals	25,411	1,109	1,283	12,031	39,834

Carcases Inspected and Condemned during 1953

	Cattle (excl. Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed during 1953 ...	3,214	660	1,513	8,696	3,660
No. killed during 1952 ...	3,763	734	1,804	6,991	2,004
No. inspected during 1953	3,214	660	1,513	8,696	3,660
No. inspected during 1952	3,669	714	1,716	6,739	1,913
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	12	15	26	26	104
% of the number inspected totally condemned	0.37	2.27	1.72	0.30	2.84
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned ...	8	3	—	—	1
% of the number inspected totally condemned	0.25	0.45	—	—	0.03
Whole carcasses condemned from: Market	10	4	17	18	11
Casualty	10	14	9	8	94

Slaughterhouse

The contractual system of disposal of condemned offals has caused wide disparity in the method and regularity of collection. Collectors operating from Yorkshire and Norfolk do not give the same service as their nearer competitors. The daily removal of such material is obligatory under the Bye-laws and is particularly necessary in the warmer months.

Illicit Slaughter

Judgment was given for the Council in proceedings for slaughtering without giving notice by an unlicensed person on unlicensed premises. Fines totalling £14 were imposed.

Milk and Dairies

The Minister of Food proposes during 1954, to declare parts of Hertfordshire to be an area in which only specially designated milk may be sold. The dairies in this district are able to meet the consumer demand in this respect. At the present time the bulk of milk sold in this district is pasteurised.

Ice Cream

The bad results of samples at the large factory (see table) were due to a leak in the cooler. The manufacturer voluntarily destroyed his stocks of ice cream and no further trouble was experienced.

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
1952	45	93.3	6.7	—	—	81	35.8	18.5	28.4	17.3
1953	55	43.6	14.6	18.2	23.6	142	45.0	13.4	16.2	25.4
Percentage in each Grade recommended by Advisory Committee							over 50%	under 30%	under 20%	Nil

Food Premises

At the beginning of the year the extent to which sweet wrapping was being carried on in this district was found to be in excess of expectations. The number of outworkers employed was given as 64 but the employer later reported that no outworkers were engaged after August, 1953.

Only a few authorities appear to have similar classes of outwork done in their districts, consequently the degree of interest shown in these activities is not widespread although strong feelings have been expressed by local inhabitants against this type of business.

The new Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill seeks to raise the standard of hygiene in food premises. The new regulations envisaged may present particular difficulties in towns where there is a high percentage of old timber framed buildings, many of which have large centrally placed brickwork flues supporting the main beams.

Unless such premises are virtually rebuilt, the cramped and low accommodation resulting is often unattractive in appearance, making for small comfort and service difficulties on account of poor layout. Attempts to improve them short of reconstruction are in such circumstances inadequate.

Numbers of Food Premises in the District

Retailers

Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Pharmaceutical Chemists	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*8
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Wholesale Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	†2
Wholesale Greengrocer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wholesale Ice Cream Factory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Frozen Foods Factory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Flour Mill, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Manufacturing Pharmaceutical Chemists	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Registered Premises

Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Manufacture of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ice Cream, Storage only	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Manufacture of Sausages, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Manufacture of Jam	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Repacking and Freezing of Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

* Three also Bakers. † One also Retailer.

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	382	534
Tinned Meat (not Ration Meat)	29	70
Salt	1	7
Sausages		30
		—
		641
		—

Number of Condemnation Notes issued: 154.

Disposal of Unfit Food

Unfit food in small quantities is collected and disposed of at the Council's tip. Condemned meat and offal from the Ware Central Slaughterhouse is collected by processors or contractors under contract arrangement with the Ministry of Food. The occasional small quantity of meat condemned at butchers' shops is sent to the slaughterhouse for collection by a processor.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—COMMENT

Very few infectious diseases were reported in Ware, whereas in adjoining districts there were very many cases of measles and whooping cough, as well as a variety of other notifiable diseases (see Infectious Diseases Table at the beginning of this Combined Report). The Medical Practitioners have been questioned about this anomaly. It has been suggested that for a trial period a check could be maintained on the reasons for school absenteeism, and it is proposed to ask for the help of the Local Education Authority in this respect.

BRAUGHING RURAL DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

Source of Supply

There is a piped supply in each of the 21 parishes. Fifteen of these are supplied from the Chipping Pumping Station. Out of the remaining six parishes Thorley is supplied from Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council, High Wych from the Herts and Essex Water Co., leaving the two Hadhams and Braughing, which are supplied from the Standon Station in the Ware Rural District.

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.

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	159	16	1
Anstey	65	20	16
Ardeley	82	26	11
Aspenden	75	—	—
Braughing	185	115	5
Brent Pelham	53	5	4
Broadfield	5	—	—
Buckland	91	16	1
Buntingford	524	58	1
Cottered	113	15	2
Furneux Pelham	102	18	7
High Wych	129	20	37
Hormead	193	6	—
Little Hadham	222	34	—
Meesden	37	4	—
Much Hadham	581	41	1
Stocking Pelham	37	7	—
Thorley	60	6	—
Throcking	23	3	1
Westmill	54	7	15
Wyddial	23	14	1
Totals	2,813	431	103

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 once again an extra vehicle was hired to help meet the demand.

A further eight Council houses were connected to the sewer in Buntingford.

The Sanitary Inspector, sometimes accompanied by the Medical Officer of Health, made 778 visits in connection with nuisances arising from sewage disposal installations. The majority of complaints concerned installations draining Council houses. The chief problem arises where sewage effluent which is not sufficiently pure to be discharged into a water course, is unable also to be absorbed into the subsoil owing to a high content of clay rendering the soil impervious. The only real answer to this problem is to provide the means for adequately purifying sewage effluent so that it may be run off into a water course.

At the time of writing this Report, the Braughing Rural District Council is going thoroughly into this problem.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A fortnightly collection continues to operate in all parishes, and the trade collection is being used increasingly by business premises. The tendency for quantities of refuse to increase has continued during the year and is most noticeable in the parishes of Buntingford, Much Hadham and Little Hadham. This is not surprising if it is realised that the combined estimated populations of these three parishes represents about one-third of the total population of the entire 21 parishes.

PARTICULARS OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS during the year 1953

Inspections under the Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	340
" " " Housing Act, 1936	...	...	286
" " " Food and Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	121
" " " Pest Destruction Act, 1949	...	...	34
" " " Factory Act	...	...	25
" " " Byelaws—Building Inspections	...	...	70
Appointments with Owners, etc.	...	...	11
Miscellaneous Visits and Inspections	...	...	146
Sewage Purification Installations and Drainage Nuisances	...	...	778
			<hr/>
	Total	...	1,811
			<hr/>

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1949

The Sanitary Inspector carried out 286 inspections in connection with housing. The Council made no Demolition Orders or Closing Orders in respect of sub-standard housing 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
81	46	22	2	11

During the year a number of complaints concerning foreign bodies in milk bottles were received. After investigation the Dairy Company was informed, and no further complaints have been received.

Tuberculous Milk

A number of biological milk samples revealed the presence of Tubercle bacilli. After investigation of the herds concerned, infected cattle were removed for slaughter.

One producer-retailer of undesignated milk had a series of bad reports, and as a public health safety measure he was required to have milk from his herd of cows heat-treated before it was sold for human consumption. The first Order under Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations operated from June 22nd, 1953, until August 8th, when a satisfactory biological test result was obtained. On October 13th another sample of milk from the same herd was reported to be tuberculous and a further milk "Diversion Order" was imposed. The Divisional Veterinary Officer has found this herd to be in a very poor state of health from the point of view of tuberculosis. A further positive biological milk test was received during November. The "Diversion Order" remained in force and was still effective on December 31st, 1953.

Food Premises

Premises registered for the Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	15
" " " " " Manufacture of Sausages	...	...	7
Dairy Premises	...	...	7

Other Food Premises

Restaurants, Cafes, Canteens	...	...	18
Public Houses, Hotels	...	...	62
Butchers' Shops	...	...	8
Fish Shops	...	...	2
General Stores, Grocers and others	...	...	40
			—
	Total	...	159
			—

All registered premises have been inspected during the year and suggestions made for improvements of four properties have been carried out.

The number of licensed premises which have been reconditioned and have had modern services and conveniences installed during the past six years, has reached 42; approximately two-thirds of the total. This achievement has done much to raise the general standard of hygiene in food premises of the District. It is worthy of note that the Brewery Companies are continuing this progressive work with five premises at the present time.

Unsound Food

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

Meat—Home killed	...	...	...	...	...	176 lbs.
Meat—Imported	...	...	...	...	...	214 „
Canned Meat Products	...	...	...	...	...	10 „
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	35½ „
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	22 „
Canned Fish	...	...	...	...	...	36 tins

Condemned foodstuffs continue to be destroyed by incineration.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

Total number of properties inspected	...	...	...	354
Total number of premises found to be infested	...	...	...	317
Number of premises treated by the Council	...	...	...	290

Routine treatments have been continued on the Council's refuse tips at Braughing, Buckland, Furneaux Pelham, Little Hadham and Much Hadham. Test baits have been laid in the Council's sewerage systems at Buntingford, Cottered, High Wych and Much Hadham.

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

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Meningococcal Infection	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Infective Jaundice	Puerperal Pyrexia	Malaria
Albury	2	—	—	6	2	—	—	—
Anstey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ardeley	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Aspenden	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Braughing	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	—
Brent Pelham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broadfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buckland	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—
Buntingford	—	6	—	86	2	—	1	—
Cottered	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Furneux Pelham	—	1	—	19	—	1	—	—
High Wych	—	1	—	3	1	—	—	—
Hormead	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—
Little Hadham	—	—	—	3	4	—	1	—
Meesden	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Much Hadham	—	6	—	52	5	—	—	1
Stocking Pelham	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
Thorley	—	3	—	5	—	—	—	—
Throcking	—	3	—	7	—	—	—	—
Westmill	—	1	—	4	2	—	—	—
Wyddial	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES: COMMENT

Measles

A mild epidemic, spread throughout the District, occurred during the year. This disease usually reaches epidemic proportions in alternate years.

Malaria

The case reported at Much Hadham probably contracted the disease whilst abroad in Hong Kong.

HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Boundary Changes

A minor boundary revision took place early in the year under review, when adjustments were made at the boundaries of Stevenage Urban District with those of neighbouring authorities. The parish of Aston was affected in this district, where adjustments were made in both directions; the broad effect is that (in addition to changes affecting agricultural land) 20 houses erected at Aston Park by the Stevenage Development Corporation, and a cottage at Bandle Hill, were removed from the Rural District, a farmhouse and 12 other properties at Chells and at Boxfield Farm being brought into this district.

The Aston Park properties continue to be served by this Council's water mains and sewerage facilities; refuse collection has been withdrawn from properties leaving the district, and extended to serve incoming properties which had not previously received this service.

WATER SUPPLIES

Mains Supply

Water is provided in the greater part of the district by the Council's three systems of supply which remain as in previous years, as follows:—

Northern Area. Boreholes at Aston, from which water is distributed in the parishes of Walkern, Aston, Benington, Watton-at-Stone, Sacombe, Stapleford and Bengoe Rural.

Southern Area. Boreholes at Little Berkhamstead, supplying the parishes of Hertingfordbury, Little Berkhamstead, Bayford and Brickendon, and also outlying properties in the southern portion of Tewin.

Central Area. Water purchased in bulk from Welwyn R.D.C. to serve Datchworth, Bramfield and most of the parish of Tewin.

The Metropolitan Water Board supplies 239 houses at Hertford Heath, whilst a further 14 houses at Waterford obtain water from Hertford Borough Council's mains. Twenty-one houses at Wormley West End were supplied with water by Hoddesdon U.D.C.

The year has been notable for the placing of a contract for the improvement of water supplies in the Central area and the works are now going forward. They include the provision of enlarged pumps at the Aston Station, a rising main to the new reinforced concrete tower and reservoir at Bulls Green, together with various new distribution mains and the linking of the central and southern supply areas.

When complete the Council's water undertaking will provide and distribute water in 14 parishes; the supply from the Burnham Green Water Tower of the Welwyn Rural District Council will be no longer required although an emergency link between the two undertakings will be maintained.

In the southern area water distribution difficulties have been experienced involving the parishes of Bayford and Brickendon.

Private Supply

One hundred and eighteen houses in various parishes rely upon private sources of water, mainly distributed through systems provided by the estates of which these houses formed part; except in two cases, i.e. at Bragbury End, and at Chelsing Farm and cottages (Bengeo Rural), estate water supplies are of satisfactory standard of purity. At Bragbury End, provision is made to afford a pure supply of water from a pumping main now being laid in conjunction with the Bulls Green scheme, and in the case of Chelsing Farm and cottages, negotiations have been opened with the Harlow Development Corporation who are laying pumping mains across the farm from boreholes at Sacombe.

The figure of 118 houses quoted above includes 22 still dependent upon wells of the "bucket and windlass" type.

Houses without Supply

Seven houses are dependent upon water carted from elsewhere, and all are remote from any means of supply; two of the houses became unoccupied in the year and have become so damaged as to make reoccupation unlikely.

At the joint expense of the owner and the Council, one house at Hertingfordbury, formerly dependent on well water, was provided with main water, involving the installation of approximately 200 ft. of service pipes. A similar offer to owners of three other properties in identical circumstances was not taken up, each owner being unable to raise the sum required in addition to the Council's contribution.

Quality of Mains Supply

Chemical

The results of chemical analysis of samples taken from the three sources of supply is as follows:—

Chemical Results in Parts per Million	Little Berkhamstead	Aston	Burnham Green Reservoir
Appearance	Clear and Bright	Clear and Bright	Bright with very few mineral particles.
Turbidity (Silica scale)	Nil	Nil	Less than 3
Colour (Hazen) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reaction pH	7.2	7.2	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	22	18	18
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	560	540	520
Total solids dried at 180° C.	375	360	350
Chlorine in Chlorides	20	15	14
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	245	200	245
Hardness:			
Total	310	290	290
Temporary	245	200	245
Permanent	65	90	45
Nitrogen in Nitrates	3.0	3.0	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. ...	0.10	0.15	0.00
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000	0.000	0.000
Residual Chlorine ...	Absent	Absent	Absent
Metals	Absent	Iron. Less than 0.03 Zinc 1.0 Other metals absent	Absent

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Bacteriological

The quality of supplies is summarised in the Table below:—

	Public Supply	Estate Main Supply	Individual Private Wells
Class I: "Highly satisfactory" ...	88	8	3
Class II: "Satisfactory"	3	6	—
Class III: "Suspicious"	3	1	—
Class IV: "Unsatisfactory" ...	Nil	2*	3
Total	94	17	6

* Bragbury End supply.

Means of Supply to Dwellings

Details of supply of water to dwelling houses are set out below, and by comparison with the previous year's Table, it will be seen that the number of houses dependent upon standpipes has fallen by 33; the number not supplied by public mains has been reduced by 18, but a boundary revision at Chells brought in 13 houses supplied by a private system.

	Houses connected to Mains		Houses supplied by Wells and Private Systems	No Means of Supply	Total
	Piped	Standpipe			
Aston	160	7	19	2	188
Bayford	109	4	4	2	119
Benington	183	11	3	—	197
Bengeo	90	1	6	3	100
Bramfield	65	—	2	—	67
Brickendon	87	1	35	—	123
Datchworth	263	30	9	—	302
Hertingfordbury	180	3	11	—	194
Hertford Heath	207	34	—	—	241
Little Berkhamstead	135	5	7	—	147
Sacombe	61	—	—	—	61
Stapleford	113	26	4	—	143
Tewin	252	16	3	—	271
Walkern	221	13	14	—	248
Watton	232	9	1	—	242
	2,358	160	118	7	2,643

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Council has adopted the principle of affording main sewerage facilities at all communities in the district, and the following is a brief resume of the present position:—

Aston. Village already sewered; no facilities yet at Aston End.

Bayford. Village not sewered. Joint scheme for Broad Green completed during year and all houses connected.

Benington. Part of village sewered pre-war, with post-war extension to serve Three Stiles Estate now being developed. Under consideration with Walkern for comprehensive scheme by consulting engineers.

Bengeo Rural. Main sewerage at Tonwell; scheme in preparation for sewerage at Chapmore End, with disposal works to receive sewage from Tonwell.

Bramfield. New installation with modern disposal works completed in 1952. Foul drainage connections now being transferred from original to new sewer, the original sewer being retained for surface water only. Scheme in preparation for conversion of nail

closets to water closets at 17 properties in private ownership, the cost to be shared equally between the owner and the Council, as in Section 47, Public Health Act, 1936.

Brickendon. New sewers and treatment works installed in 1953. All Council-owned properties now connected and owners of private properties in sewerage area to be asked to take similar action.

Datchworth. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government has given approval in principle to the scheme submitted late in 1952, but no information has been available from the Ministry as to the delay which may occur before permission is given to proceed. Cesspool drainage continues meantime, and is referred to later.

Hertingfordbury. Main sewerage provided at Birch Green; cesspool drainage elsewhere in the parish. If proposals for development of the Letty Green Housing Site had come to fruition, the sewerage of Letty Green would have been hastened, but abandonment of the housing scheme has caused the prospect of a comparatively early switch-over from cesspool drainage to recede.

Hertford Heath. This area is served by a system of sewers laid many years ago, and administered by the Great Amwell and Little Amwell Joint Committee. Until the present time, purification by settlement and land treatment was effected at a site to the west of the village. An intercepting sewer was laid during the year to communicate with the sewers of Hertford, into which normal flows from Hertford Heath are now discharged. Provision is made for dealing with storm overflows at the site mentioned above, which has been planted with poplar trees.

Little Berkhamstead. The village has main drainage; sewage purification consisting of settlement and biological filtration followed by land treatment, is carried out at works in Breach Lane.

Sacombe. There are no main drainage facilities in this parish, individual properties being served by cesspools or septic tanks.

Stapleford. Seventy-one houses in this parish have main drainage facilities, the majority being in the hamlet of Waterford, where sewage gravitates to a pumping station and is pumped to high ground in Waterford Plantation for disposal in soakage trenches; a small number of private properties in Stapleford take advantage of the drainage facilities provided in post-war development at Clusterbolts. The Stevenage Trunk Sewer passes through Stapleford and Waterford, and will simplify future extensions of main sewerage.

Tewin. Of a total of 271 houses, 122 are connected with sewers serving the central area, which drains to a settlement tank and irrigation trenches south-west of the village. The Mimram Valley sewer, now under construction by a neighbouring authority, crosses the extreme south-west of the parish, and provides the

means whereby the existing system can be extended with eventual discontinuance of the present treatment works.

Walkern. Land treatment is provided south of the village for sewage discharged from the system of sewers to which 153 houses are connected. A preliminary report has been received from the Council's consultants upon proposed extension of the drainage area, and connection to the Trunk Sewer.

Watton-at-Stone. One hundred and twenty-nine houses from a total of 242, are served by the sewers now existing. Disposal facilities are provided by land irrigation, but development of the village has outgrown these arrangements. The proximity of the Trunk Sewer, which passes through the parish from north to south, provides the means for necessary improvements to be made in due course.

General

During the year, 102 houses were connected to sewers, and resulting from this, but offset by new construction, the number of houses having cesspools fell from 1,142 to 1,127, while the number of houses drained by other means, or without drainage, was slightly reduced at 416.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

A fortnightly collection is afforded at all properties save 11, these being inaccessible to the collecting vehicles; 2,632 houses were thus served at the end of the year, two Dennis vehicles being operated by an average staff of 3·7 men.

Tipping facilities at Stevenage, which formerly served the northern parishes, were withdrawn early in the year, and necessitated the cartage of all refuse to Cole Green; operating arrangements were carefully revised and in this way it has been possible to minimise the effect of the long journeys which are now involved.

Cleansing of Cesspools

The Council recognises the criticism of those who, although denied main sewerage, are none the less obliged to pay a sewerage rate; the cesspool service is therefore partly rate-provided in that at each house served by a cesspool, two loads of sewage are removed on each of two visits per annum, without direct charge to the householder. Quantities in excess of this limit are charged for at the rate of 7s. 6d. per load or part load.

Two men and one Dennis vehicle are engaged full time on this work, a second vehicle and crew being called out as required. A slight reduction in the number of cesspools, noted above, has not been reflected in the amount of work undertaken; 3,107 loads of sewage were removed in the year, and the service was operating in a fully extended condition for fully the first half of 1952.

SUMMARY OF VISITS BY SANITARY INSPECTOR

Particulars of visits are given below:—

Factories Act	15
Food & Drugs Act:	
Food Shops	28
Licensed Houses	4
Slaughterhouses	3
Dairies	22
Other visits	9
Housing Acts:	
Inspections and Interviews	130
Improvement Grants	38
Public Health Acts:	
Caravans	39
Infectious Diseases	30
Complaints and Nuisances	107
Sewerage	521
Verminous Premises	22
Water Supplies	385
Workplaces	6
Sanitary accommodation at Cafes, Inns, etc.	6
Dangerous Buildings	7
Refuse Collection	43
Slaughter of Animals Act	3
Rodent Control	34
Street Naming and Numbering	244
Miscellaneous	123
Total	1,825

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Details of registrations and licences in force, together with further particulars concerning milk, meat and other foods, are as follows:—

Milk and Dairies

Premises registered as a Dairy	4
Persons registered as Distributors	11
Designated Milk Licences:	
(a) Dealers' Licences:	
Pasteurised	6
Sterilised	Nil
Tuberculin Tested	6
(b) Supplementary Licences:	
Pasteurised	6
Sterilized	4
Tuberculin Tested	8

Slaughterhouses

Licensed Slaughterhouses	4
Slaughterhouses in use by Ministry of Food	Nil
Licensed Slaughtermen	4

Ice Cream Premises

Premises registered:

(a) Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Storage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c) Sale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27

Preserved Foods

(a) Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(b) Other preserved food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Table of Food Premises by Type of Business

Bakery (no shop attached)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakery (with shop attached)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Butcher	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cafe	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Greengrocery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Grocery and General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Office or Industrial Canteen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hotel	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Licensed Houses:								
Beerhouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Full Licence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Off-licence only	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mineral Water Factory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Poultry Killing and Dressing Establishment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sausage Skin Preparation and Gut Cleaning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Food Unfit for Human Consumption

No special arrangements were necessary for disposal of unfit foodstuffs, and the small amount voluntarily surrendered (see below) was deposited at the refuse tip; foods capable of being salvaged for re-processing have been returned through trade channels in previous years, and this procedure would again be followed if suitable materials were involved. The quantities of unfit food dealt with are as follows:—

Cheese	...	...	...	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	12 „
Canned Fruit	...	...	...	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
				—
				38 $\frac{1}{4}$ „
				—

Milk

Milk sampling equipment was delivered late in the summer season, and samples of designated milk were examined thereafter with these results:—

Tuberculin Tested: Three satisfactory, one not satisfactory.

Pasteurised: Three satisfactory, one not satisfactory.

Meat

No instances were reported of butchers receiving meat unfit for human consumption, and there were no complaints regarding the transport and handling of meat in distribution to retailers.

Slaughtermen

In considering the issue of licences, the Council were advised that one applicant no longer fulfilled the conditions required of slaughtermen by reason of excessive age; a licence was granted, but the applicant was requested not to seek further renewal of his licence.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1949**Substandard Properties**

No action was taken under Section 9 (properties repairable at reasonable expense), but reports were presented to the Council in nine cases of houses considered incapable of repair at reasonable expense. The outcome of this action was as follows:—

Houses already under consideration Jan. 1st, 1953	...	...	...	3
Houses reported on during 1953	...	...	...	9
				—
		Total	...	12
				—
Cases in which action deferred	...	...	...	1
" " " no action taken	...	...	...	1
Cases dealt with informally	...	...	...	4
Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	Nil
Houses still under consideration 31st Dec., 1953	...	...	...	6

Overcrowding

At Watton-at-Stone one applicant for a Council house was discovered to be living in overcrowded conditions, and the case was brought to the notice of the Housing Committee for consideration when the next allocation of houses in the parish is dealt with.

Improvement Schemes

Approval was given to schemes for improvement of four houses in private ownership in accordance with the Housing Act, 1949.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936**Verminous Premises**

Three cases of flea infestation, and one bug-infested house, were reported; occupiers were encouraged to deal with these conditions themselves, a dust-gun or spray-gun was loaned as appropriate, advice being given upon the choice and application of suitable insecticides. In each instance the infestation was thus successfully dealt with.

Nuisance Abatement—Ponds and Ditches

Upon the complaint of Walkern Parish Council, conditions at a stagnant ditch adjoining the Children's Recreation Ground

were investigated; the Rural District Council and the Parish Council possess identical powers in relation to nuisances arising from ditches, watercourses, etc., and the Parish Council were informed that the Rural Council therefore did not wish to intervene.

At Brickendon an informal local attempt to fill a stagnant roadside pond progressed slowly, with putrescible garden refuse as filling material. The co-operation of the Parish Council was enlisted, and resulting from this the pond site was rapidly filled with inert material, topped with soil.

Disused Wells

At Bayford the covering of a public well now in disuse became dangerous, and a protective concrete slab was installed.

Infectious Diseases—Terminal Disinfection

Except in special circumstances, terminal disinfection is not practised; an exception was made following a fatal case of infectious disease occurring in a caravan dweller, the caravan being sealed and fumigated.

Steam disinfection facilities for bedding are available by arrangements at Western House, Ware, and no charge is made by the Council when disinfection is necessary following cases of notifiable disease. The full charge is recovered when disinfection is sought for other reasons, and one consignment of bedding was dealt with in this way.

Offensive Trades

The gut-cleaning factory at Burnham Green continues to operate, and serves as a continual reminder of the necessity for main drainage in the area. Due to lack of these facilities it is not possible to secure installation of modern equipment for destruction of gases produced by the manure-drying plant, and many complaints have again been received concerning the obnoxious aerial pollution which is produced. It is fair to say that the owners of the factory are no less anxious than the Council to secure an improvement, and have expressed their willingness to install the necessary apparatus when main drainage becomes available.

Caravans and Movable Dwellings

The provisions of the Hertfordshire County Council Act are operated in preference to Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, and the dual control provided by the local Act, together with the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, is found not only adequate but less complicated in operation. The four small sites are permitted to accommodate three, three, six and six caravans respectively, and the Council owns a site for four caravans upon land held for housing purposes, but not yet fully developed. In addition 15 persons are permitted to use land as sites for single caravans.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

Regular treatment of the Council's sewerage systems is undertaken to ensure location and destruction of rats inhabiting sewers

or treatment works; the heavy pressure from all the other utility services of the Council upon the available labour force has made it necessary to reduce the employment of staff in rodent control work at private property. Consequently, in those cases where rat destruction work is thought to be within the capability of the occupiers of infested premises, advice is given upon the appropriate measures for rat destruction and subsequent rat-proofing work (where necessary). The Council's staff continue to deal with infestations where it is beyond the occupier's capacity to take effective action, and systems of "block control" are included within this category.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES: COMMENT

Measles

A minor epidemic of measles occurred during the first quarter of the year. Most cases occurred in January and February.

Scarlet Fever

Isolated cases occurred throughout the year. One of the problems associated with the control of scarlet fever is that for every case of a "sore throat and a rash" (scarlet fever) there are very many persons with sore throats only, who never develop the rash, but who are probably carriers of the *Streptococcus* which causes the illness. These persons are the danger, because they often mix with their fellows, whereas most people keep well away from someone with a rash. Persons with any degree of sore throat could do an enormous amount to limit any spread of infection by isolating themselves, and by obtaining treatment from their doctor.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES among the different parishes

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Infective Jaundice
Aston	—	—	21	—	—	—
Bayford	—	—	1	—	—	—
Benington	1	9	51	1	—	—
Bengeo Rural	1	1	—	1	—	—
Bramfield	—	3	—	—	1	—
Brickeondon Liberty	—	—	2	—	—	—
Datchworth	4	—	5	—	—	—
Hertingfordbury ...	—	—	15	—	—	—
Little Amwell	1	—	6	—	—	—
Lt. Berkhamstead	—	—	1	—	—	—
Sacombe	2	2	—	—	1	—
Stapleford	1	1	—	1	—	—
Tewin	1	1	5	—	—	—
Walkern	2	1	6	1	—	—
Watton-at-Stone ...	5	6	4	1	—	—

WARE RURAL DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

Water is derived from two boreholes, 450 ft. deep, at the Standon Pumping Station. The water is pumped into supply after chlorination and filtration, and is stored by means of a water tower at Old Hall Green.

The mains pass through 10 of the 12 parishes in the district, and also supply Little Hadham, Much Hadham and Braughing, in the Braughing Rural District. The parishes of Great Amwell and Stanstead St. Margarets are supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board.

The water continues to be of good quality and ample supply. The average quantity of water pumped throughout the year was 440,000 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 15th July, 1953	Sample taken 27th Nov., 1953
Total solids (dried at 180° C.)	46.0	41.0
Combined Chlorine (Cl)	1.9	1.8
equivalent to Sodium Chloride (NaCl)	3.1	3.0
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	0.32	0.06
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.0004	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	Nil	0.0004
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C.	0.003	0.005
Lead or Copper	Nil	Nil
Temporary hardness (equivalent to CaCO ₃)	27.0	29.5
Permanent " " " " " "	6.0	4.0
Total " " " " " "	33.0	33.5

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	620	2,390	583	16
Great Munden	117	442	85	17
Hunsdon	283	678	256	17
Little Munden	133	525	108	23
St. Margarets	49	176	42	—
Standon	840	2,697	702	96
Stanstead Abbots	404	1,560	397	18
Thundridge	161	737	118	10
Ware Rural	229	1,074	180	9
Widford	133	464	84	42
Total	3,099	—	2,684	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 with Hertford Rural District Council, to Hertford Corporation sewers. This new arrangement was in operation by November, 1953. The original works at Hertford Heath were constructed by the Hertford Rural Sanitary Authority in 1876. In April, 1911, the Great and Little Amwell Sewage Farm Joint Committee was constituted to manage the sewage works on behalf of Hertford Rural and Ware Rural Councils. The Committee functioned continuously until the new sewer to Hertford was completed, and finally met in April, 1954, in order to disband itself.

Haileybury College, Hailey Lane and Springle Lane drain by agreement into the Hoddesdon Urban District sewers.

There is a small sewerage system at Eastwick. The effluent discharges into a septic tank which was originally installed to take the drainage from the new Council houses. The tank was suitably enlarged and improved for this purpose.

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

A scheme to drain Widford and Wareside in conjunction with

Much Hadham in the Braughing Rural District, submitted to the Ministry in 1946, was suspended pending proving of a well at Widford, for the Harlow New Town. No further progress has been made on this scheme.

The Dane End scheme, drawn up in 1950, has now been approved by the Ministry. The scheme, which entails construction of a disposal works at the south end of the village, will provide sewage disposal facilities for the Dane End district of Little Munden Parish. Tenders for the work will be invited during 1954.

Seventy-four sewer connections were made during 1953.

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

Refuse is collected weekly throughout the district, two 10 cu. yd. Commer vehicles being used. The amount collected per week is between 40 and 50 tons. The bulk of the refuse has increased considerably during recent years. This may be due partly to better living standards following the easing of food rationing restrictions so that the need for utilising every scrap of food has gone, the greater availability of tinned and packaged food products, and also the fact that no salvage scheme for paper or scrap metals is in operation. The population of the district is also increasing rapidly.

There are two tips, one at Standon which is practically full and Wiggins' gravel pit at Great Amwell, which has a capacity equivalent to about two years' refuse.

The Amwell tip is controlled, and a mechanical (Chaseside) shovel is used for spreading and consolidating soil.

Further tipping space is urgently required. Finding suitable land in East Herts is a serious problem. Active gravel pits are inconvenient because tipping cannot take place hard on the heels of the gravel operators. There is only one worked-out pit of any size in the Ware Rural District with sufficient reject material for

use as cover, but there are three other active pits besides Wiggins'.

Planning permission is necessary before refuse can be tipped and this entails consultation with the Metropolitan Water Board and the Lee Conservancy Catchment Board who usually insist on special precautions including the retention of a layer of clay or sand over the bases of each tip.

There is intensive pressure from the Northern London Boroughs who require tipping space in Hertfordshire, and they are usually able to offer better terms to commercial operators than a small rural district. Pressure is now imminent from the new towns of Harlow and Stevenage, particularly Harlow in Essex which seeks to acquire the little land available in Ware Rural District for tipping their refuse.

If the Council do not soon acquire a suitable site to meet their needs for some years to come they may be faced in the future with having to transport refuse many miles outside their district at increased haulage and tip operating costs.

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS during the year 1953

<i>Inspections</i>					
Housing	...	...	241	Total brought forward	841
Complaints	...	...	75	Bakehouses	...
Infectious Diseases	...	...	24	Factories	...
Food Premises	...	...	156	Knackers Yard	...
Drainage	...	...	165	Refuse Tips	...
Water Supply	...	...	87	Caravans	...
Schools	...	...	15	Rats and Mice	...
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	42	Miscellaneous	...
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	36		
			841		1,356
				Number of Informal Notices served	...
				„ „ Statutory Notices served	...

HOUSING ACTS 1936 TO 1949

Individual Unfit Houses

Three properties at Thundridge, which were the subject of demolition orders made in 1938, were demolished during the year.

A property at Stanstead Abbots was made the subject of action under Section XI of the Housing Act, 1936, and demolished, and another property was considered under this Section and the Council accepted an undertaking from the owner not to re-let.

Housing Act, 1949

An application was made by an owner of three condemned properties to have the Demolition Orders revoked. The Council refused to apply to the Courts for the Orders to be revoked as they did not consider that the properties were in all respects fit for human habitation.

Clearance Areas

Great Amwell (No. 1) Clearance Area, 1952

The tenants of the three houses in this area have been rehoused by the Council and the properties demolished.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Ice Cream Premises

There are 34 premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of ice cream.

Two 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 fifty-six inspections were made of the other food premises, which number as follows:—

Bakehouses	...	...	3	Grocers' Shops	...	27
Butchers' Shops	...	...	11	Cafes	...	7
Fishmongers' Shops	...	...	3			

Milk and Dairies

The Council are responsible for the registration of five 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

Only one sample of milk positive to the tubercle bacillus was notified this year. Steps were taken to ensure that milk from the affected herd was pasteurised before resale.

Condemned Foodstuffs

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

<i>Canned Foodstuffs</i>							Approx. Weight
Fruit	...	...	...	...	3 tins		3 lbs.
Meat	...	...	...	...	6 „		38 „
							—
							41 „
							—
<i>Meat and Meat Products</i>							Approx.
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	...	39 lbs.
<i>Various</i>							
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	33 lbs.

Total weight of all foods: 1 cwt. 1 lb.

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	Agricultural	Business Premises	
Number of properties inspected	9	694	12	42	748
Number found to be infested by rats ...	9	164	3	6	173
Number seriously infested by mice ...	1	4	—	—	5
Number of properties treated for infestations	9	99	—	5	113
Number of block control schemes carried out	—	16	—	—	16

DISTRIBUTION OF THE NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES among the different parishes

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Infective Jaundice
Eastwick	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gilston	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Amwell	—	8	18	1	—	—	—	—	—
Great Munden	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Hunsdon	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Little Munden	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
St. Margarets	—	7	5	1	—	—	—	—	—
Standon	—	2	27	6	—	—	—	1	1
Stanstead Abbotts	—	7	12	2	—	1	5	—	—
Thundridge	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ware Rural	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Widford	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—COMMENT

Bacilliary Dysentery

On June 22nd, 1953, information was received that a 14-month-old child had died the previous day suffering from an acute enteritis. A post-mortem bacteriological test confirmed that the enteritis was due to *Shigella sonnei*. Routine enquiries, carried out immediately, failed to show how the deceased child became infected. Three weeks before death the child had been admitted to a residential children's nursery belonging to the County Council. Records show that the child was never actually ill but did not seem to flourish. He was medically examined and it was decided to have him sent home to mother. He spent one night at his home, became violently ill with diarrhoea and vomiting and was immediately admitted to hospital. He died later that day. No cases of illness occurred amongst the staff or children at the nursery.

The second case occurred four days later when the three-year-old brother of the deceased child also became ill with an enteritis. This appeared to be an obvious case of cross-infection at home. This second child was treated at an Enteritis Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, Hackney. The infection was proved to be due to *Shigella sonnei*. After a long convalescence, and an apparent relapse, this child made a good recovery.

Two further cases of Sonn  Dysentery are associated with the above cases, but they occurred at Hertford, and are reported upon in that section of the Combined Districts Report.

Food Poisoning

During September five notifications of food poisoning due to *Salmonella typhi-murium* were reported from the Easney Park (L.C.C.) Children's Residential Nursery, near Ware. Exhaustive tests and enquiries failed to reveal the source of infection, and efforts were concentrated on preventing further spread of infection at the nursery.

The fullest co-operation was readily forthcoming from the London County Council Medical Officer in charge of the nursery, and the local doctor, as well as from the Matron and her staff; and the nursery was placed in strict quarantine.

Eighty persons, comprising 42 children and 38 staff, were "at risk." Five children and three staff became clinical cases of food poisoning and were removed to hospital immediately. A further 24 persons, comprising 19 children and five staff, were shown to be symptomless carriers of infection. Shortly after the commencement of the outbreak when it was thought the spread of infection was limited in extent, four symptomless carriers were isolated at a fever hospital, and one member of the nursing staff was sent home (the M.O.H. of her home town having been duly consulted in advance). When 19 more symptomless carriers were discovered it

was decided to isolate these persons at the nursery. The layout of the nursery and the duties of the staff were completely reorganised. A clean and an infected side of the nursery was arranged. Infected staff looked after infected children and special arrangements were made regarding catering. The efficiency of these arrangements can be judged by the fact that no more clinical cases or symptomless carriers occurred.

The outbreak of acute illness lasted only five days, but the quarantine and follow up lasted until the end of October, 1953.

Outbreaks of Communicable Disease in Hospital

Control of Infection Committee

In September notice was received from the Hertford Group of Hospitals that a Control of Infection Committee was to be formed at Ware Park Hospital, and as your Medical Officer I was invited to be a member of the committee. The Committee held its first meeting shortly afterwards.

N O T E S

N O T E S

