

**[Report 1955] / Medical Officer of Health, East Hertfordshire Combined Districts (Hertford Borough, Hoddesdon U.D.C., Bishop's Stortford U.D.C., Ware U.D.C., Sawbridgeworth U.D.C., Ware R.D.C., Braughing R.D.C., Hertford R.D.C.).**

### **Contributors**

East Hertfordshire Combined Districts.

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# EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS

Hertford (M.B.)

Hoddesdon (U.D.)

Braughing (R.D.)

Sawbridgeworth (U.D.)

Hertford (R.D.)

Ware (U.D.)

Ware (R.D.)

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## Annual Report

ON

## The Health of the Area

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*For the Year*

1955

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





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## EAST HERTS COMBINED DISTRICTS

### PREFACE AND GENERAL REMARKS

This Report on the Health of the East Hertfordshire Combined Sanitary Districts during 1955, is once again presented in two main sections. Section "A" is devoted mostly to statistics and general information on Health Matters in East Herts, and Section "B" outlines progress made with Council Services and Sanitary Work; also a few notes concerning infectious illness, in respect of each Sanitary District in the Combine.

#### Vital Statistics

During 1955 the population of the Combined Districts increased by 790 persons to a new total of 73,400 people. The increase is made up of an excess of births over deaths amounting to 276, together with an influx of 514 persons from outside the District.

During the same period the number of inhabited houses (including Flats at Shop and Business premises) increased by 959 over the previous year, bringing the total inhabited houses to 22,314.

Full details appear in Table 1 of the Vital Statistics and General Statistics.

The Birth and Death Rates for the Combined District as a whole compare favourably with the rates for England and Wales, and generally speaking so do the Rates for each separate District. Ware Rural District enjoys the lowest Death Rate, and Hertford Borough the highest Birth Rate. The Death Rate for Ware Urban District is nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times greater than that shown for the Country as a whole, but I cannot believe that this truly represents facts. It is possible that this high Rate may be due to the high proportion of deaths in the Town which occur at Western House, chiefly amongst people who are not residents of Ware, and who come to that Institution from all over the County. I have been in communication with the Office of the Registrar General, and understand the possibility of making an adjustment to the Death Statistics for Ware, beginning with the Statistics for 1956, is being considered; with a view to correcting this anomaly.

#### Infectious Diseases

##### *Influenza*

An outbreak of Influenza which began elsewhere in the Country towards the end of 1954, reached East Herts: in January 1955. One of the three "spotters" on the look out for the illness reported that his patients had a mild form of the illness and that a laboratory test had identified the infection as due to Virus 'B' influenza.

##### *Measles*

A mild outbreak of measles was reported at Ware in March 1955. The disease then invaded each of the remaining Districts



in turn, ending up at Hoddesdon, in July. One child aged 2 years developed Encephalitis following an attack of Measles, and died.

#### *Acute Poliomyelitis*

There were 11 cases of Acute Paralytic Poliomyelitis and six non-paralytic cases. The first case was in January, the second in May, and the remainder followed on quickly, beginning in August. All the non-paralytic cases have fully recovered, but some of the other cases have been left with a slight to moderate degree of muscle weakness. One case at Datchworth in the Hertford Rural District was instrumental in getting the group of houses in which he lived, joined on to the new sewer in advance of other properties in the area. This was done as a public health measure to avoid the necessity of emptying a cesspool draining these properties, as there was a danger that sewage in the cesspool was infected with the virus of poliomyelitis.

#### *Food Poisoning*

Only 9 cases were notified. These were mostly isolated family outbreaks. One outbreak involving two elderly patients arose following consumption of what was thought to be vegetable marrow, but which on investigation turned out to be Ornamental Gourds. Gourds secrete a Colocynthin, which is a very powerful purgative.

#### *Infective Jaundice*

A total of 70 cases were reported during the year, 45 of them from Ware. Routine public health visits were made to many of these cases, and contact with others who had also had the disease was soon established as the probable source of infection. These visits revealed how few of the households knew that this type of Jaundice is 'catching', and that the interval between catching the disease and knowing they've got it varies from between 28 days and 42 days.

#### *Tuberculosis*

19 new cases of Tuberculosis (14 Pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary) were notified during 1955, but 33 cases were removed from the Register as cured. There were 5 deaths, all from lung tuberculosis. After allowing for inward and outward transfers, 490 cases remain on the Registers of the 7 Combined Districts of East Hertfordshire; 7 cases fewer than in 1954.

Once again I am grateful for all the help and co-operation I have received from the Sanitary Inspectors and the staff of the Public Health Departments, as well as from Officers and staff of other Departments of the Councils.

JOHN WILDMAN,  
*Medical Officer of Health*

The Castle,  
Hertford,  
August, 1956.



# EAST HERTS COMBINED DISTRICTS

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JOHN H. WILDMAN, M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.P.H.

Central Office: The Castle, Hertford

(Office Telephone: Hertford 2204)

(Private Telephone: Hoddesdon 2908)

### Deputy (Part-time) Medical Officer of Health

PETER DE BEC TURTLE, V.R.D., M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H.

## SANITARY INSPECTORS

### Hertford Municipal Borough

The Castle, Hertford

(Tel.: Hertford 2204)

*Sanitary Inspector*

B. W. PECK (2)

*Pupil Assistant*

J. E. STACEY

### Hoddesdon Urban District

Council Offices,

High Street,

Hoddesdon

(Tel.: Hoddesdon 3061)

*Senior Sanitary Inspector (and Housing Manager)*

W. N. DAVID (1), (3) and (4)

*Additional Sanitary Inspector*

W. F. FORREST (2) and (3)

### Sawbridgeworth Urban District

Council Offices,

The Forebury,

Sawbridgeworth, Herts

(Tel.: Sawbridgeworth 2161)

*Sanitary Inspector (and Surveyor)*

C. A. FORD (2), (3) and (4)

### Ware Urban District

The Priory,

Ware, Herts

(Tel.: Ware 425)

*Senior Sanitary Inspector*

C. J. LUCAS (2), (3) and (4)

*Additional Sanitary Inspector*

J. C. CHAPMAN (2) and (5)

### Braughing Rural District

Bridgefoot House,

Buntingford,

Herts

(Tel.: Buntingford 315)

*Senior Sanitary Inspector (and Surveyor)*

E. E. WATERIDGE (1)

*Sanitary Inspector (and Asst. Surveyor)*

G. C. SMITH (2) and (3)

*For interpretation of figures in brackets see next page.*

**Hertford Rural District**

Council Offices,  
 "Wallfields,"  
 Peg's Lane,  
 Hertford  
 (Tel.: Hertford 3007)

*Senior Sanitary Inspector (and Surveyor)*  
 H. E. GILBY (2) and (3)  
*Additional Sanitary Inspectors*  
 C. W. PITMAN (2) and (3)  
 D. R. HOWE (2) and (3)

**Ware Rural District**

97 New Road,  
 Ware, Herts.  
 (Tel.: Ware 492)

*Senior Sanitary Inspector (and Surveyor)*  
 A. D. G. GOOLD (2), (3) and (4)  
*Additional Sanitary Inspector*  
 P. G. ALLISON (2)

**INDEX TO FIGURES IN BRACKETS**

- (1) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.
- (2) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate (R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board).
- (3) Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.
- (4) Smoke Inspector's Certificate.
- (5) Diploma in Hygiene (Royal Inst. Public Health and Hygiene).

**COMMITTEES****CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS****Hertford Municipal Borough**

Public Health and Town Planning Committee.

**Hoddesdon Urban District**

Public Health Committee.

**Sawbridgeworth Urban District**

Highways, Public Health, Allotments and Lighting Committee.

**Ware Urban District**

Public Health and Public Works Committee.

**Braughing Rural District**

Public Health and Housing Committee.

**Hertford Rural District**

General Purposes Committee.

**Ware Rural District**

Housing, Town Planning and Public Health Committee.



## VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1955

Table 1

|  | Hertford<br>M.B. | Hoddesdon<br>U.D. | Sawbridge-<br>worth U.D. | Ware<br>U.D. | Braughing<br>R.D. | Hertford<br>R.D. | Ware<br>R.D. | TOTAL<br>E.H.C.D. |
|--|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <b>Population</b>  |                  |                   |                          |              |                   |                  |              |                   |
| ESTIMATED (MID-YEAR) POPULATION ...                                    | 14,800           | 15,050            | 4,030                    | 8,600        | 10,450            | 8,870            | 11,600       | 73,400            |
| Natural increase or decrease ...                                       | + 88             | + 78              | + 16                     | — 75         | + 49              | + 49             | + 71         | + 276             |
| Migration in or out ...  | + 222            | + 192             | + 64                     | + 55         | — 49              | + 61             | — 31         | + 514             |
| Total increase or decrease ...   | + 310            | + 270             | + 80                     | — 20         | 0                 | + 110            | + 40         | + 790             |
| <b>General Statistics</b>  |                  |                   |                          |              |                   |                  |              |                   |
| AREA IN ACRES ...  | 3,882            | 4,423             | 2,678                    | 1,343        | 45,570            | 31,746           | 29,102       | 118,744           |
| NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES AT END<br>OF 1955 (according to Rate Books) | 4,494            | 4,454             | 1,330                    | 2,583        | 3,414             | 2,809            | 3,230        | 22,314            |
| Number of houses per acre ...  | 1.16             | 1.07              | 0.50                     | 1.93         | 0.07              | 0.09             | 0.11         | 0.19              |
| Number of persons per acre ...   | 3.8              | 3.4               | 1.5                      | 6.4          | 0.2               | 0.2              | 0.4          | 0.6               |
| Number of persons per house ...  | 3.3              | 3.3               | 3.1                      | 3.3          | 3.1               | 3.2              | 3.6          | 3.3               |
| RATEABLE VALUE OF DISTRICT ...   | £ 119,715        | £ 112,345         | £ 25,711                 | £ 59,883     | £ 52,651          | £ 46,149         | £ 73,577     |                   |
| SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE  | 460              | 456               | 100                      | 241          | 205               | 183              | 295          |                   |

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1955 Table 2

|   | Hertford<br>M.B. | Hoddesdon<br>U.D. | Sawbridge-<br>worth U.D. | Ware<br>U.D. | Braughing<br>R.D. | Hertford<br>R.D. | Ware<br>R.D. | TOTAL<br>E.H.C.D. |
|---|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <b>Births</b>   |                  |                   |                          |              |                   |                  |              |                   |
| STANDARDISED BIRTH RATE (per 1,000<br>population) ... ..        | 16.45            | 16.38             | 14.70                    | 15.22        | 15.90             | 15.94            | 14.20        | 15.77             |
| Area Comparability Factor ...                                   | 0.99             | 1.04              | 1.04                     | 1.07         | 1.03              | 1.01             | 1.03         | 1.03              |
| NUMBER OF BIRTHS: TOTAL ...                                     | 245              | 237               | 57                       | 124          | 161               | 140              | 160          | 1,124             |
| Male ...  | 129              | 122               | 26                       | 70           | 84                | 72               | 84           | 587               |
| Female ...  | 116              | 115               | 31                       | 54           | 77                | 68               | 76           | 537               |
| Legitimate ...  | 237              | 227               | 54                       | 117          | 154               | 135              | 156          | 1,080             |
| Illegitimate ...  | 8                | 10                | 3                        | 7            | 7                 | 5                | 4            | 44                |
| <b>Deaths</b>   |                  |                   |                          |              |                   |                  |              |                   |
| STANDARDISED DEATH RATE (per 1,000<br>population) ... ..        | 10.18            | 10.25             | 8.85                     | 17.81        | 9.11              | 10.78            | 6.67         | 10.28             |
| Area Comparability Factor ...                                   | 0.96             | 0.97              | 0.87                     | 0.77         | 0.85              | 0.96             | 0.87         | 0.89              |
| NUMBER OF DEATHS: TOTAL ...                                     | 157              | 159               | 41                       | 199          | 112               | 91               | 89           | 848               |
| Male ...  | 74               | 69                | 17                       | 104          | 63                | 40               | 53           | 420               |
| Female ...  | 83               | 90                | 24                       | 95           | 49                | 51               | 36           | 428               |
| <b>DEATHS OF INFANTS:</b>                                       |                  |                   |                          |              |                   |                  |              |                   |
| Under four weeks of age ...                                     | 5                | 1                 | 1                        | 2            | 4                 | 2                | 3            | 18                |
| Four weeks to one year of age ...                               | 2                | 0                 | 1                        | 0            | 1                 | 0                | 1            | 5                 |
| TOTAL under one year of age ...                                 | 7                | 1                 | 2                        | 2            | 5                 | 2                | 4            | 23                |
| Still Births ...  | 4                | 1                 | 1                        | 0            | 5                 | 1                | 2            | 14                |
| INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000<br>Related Live Births) ... | 29.0             | 4.3               | 35.7                     | 16.1         | 32.0              | 14.4             | 25.3         | 20.72             |

Comparison with the Rates for England and Wales

Birth Rate 15.0. Death Rate 11.7. Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Related Live Births) 24.9.



INFECTIOUS DISEASES—GENERAL STATISTICS 1955  
Incidence

|                              | Hertford<br>M.E. | Hoddesdon<br>U.D. | Sawbridge-<br>worth U.D. | Ware<br>U.D. | Braughing<br>R.D. | Hertford<br>R.D. | Ware<br>R.D. | TOTAL<br>East Herts |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Scarlet Fever ...            | 5                | —                 | —                        | 5            | 2                 | 8                | 4            | 24                  |
| Whooping Cough ...           | 1                | 11                | 1                        | 2            | 36                | 10               | 23           | 84                  |
| Poliomyelitis (Acute):       |                  |                   |                          |              |                   |                  |              |                     |
| Paralytic ...                | 3                | —                 | —                        | 1            | 1                 | 4                | 2            | 11                  |
| Non-Paralytic ...            | 1                | 1                 | 1                        | —            | 1                 | —                | 2            | 6                   |
| Measles ...                  | 285              | 247               | 78                       | 260          | 213               | 78               | 254          | 1415                |
| Diphtheria ...               | —                | —                 | —                        | —            | —                 | —                | —            | 0                   |
| Acute Primary Pneumonia ...  | —                | 7                 | 2                        | 2            | 10                | 2                | 7            | 30                  |
| Dysentery ...                | 1                | —                 | —                        | —            | —                 | —                | 1            | 2                   |
| Smallpox ...                 | —                | —                 | —                        | —            | —                 | —                | —            | 0                   |
| Encephalitis (Acute):        |                  |                   |                          |              |                   |                  |              |                     |
| Infective ...                | —                | —                 | —                        | —            | —                 | —                | —            | 0                   |
| Post-Infectious ...          | —                | —                 | —                        | —            | —                 | —                | —            | 0                   |
| Enteric or Typhoid Fever ... | —                | —                 | —                        | —            | 1                 | —                | —            | 1                   |
| Paratyphoid Fever ...        | —                | —                 | —                        | —            | 1                 | —                | —            | 1                   |
| Erysipelas ...               | —                | 3                 | —                        | —            | —                 | —                | —            | 3                   |
| Meningococcal Infection ...  | —                | —                 | —                        | —            | —                 | —                | —            | 0                   |
| Food Poisoning ...           | —                | 5                 | 2                        | —            | —                 | —                | 2            | 9                   |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ...        | 1                | 1                 | 2                        | 1            | —                 | 2                | —            | 7                   |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...    | —                | —                 | —                        | —            | —                 | —                | —            | 0                   |
| Infective Jaundice ...       | 6                | 6                 | 3                        | 45           | 4                 | —                | 6            | 70                  |



## TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1955

|                       | Cases on Register at 1st January, 1955 |     |     | Cases added to Register during 1955 |    |     |                            |    |     | Cases removed from Register during 1955 |    |     |        |    |     | Cases remaining on Register at 31st Dec., 1955 |    |     | Increase or decrease over 1954 |                |    |     |     |
|-----------------------|--|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|----|-----|----------------------------|----|-----|---|----|-----|--------|----|-----|--|----|-----|--------------------------------|----------------|----|-----|-----|
|                       | 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.                                     | 43  | 10  | 95                                  | -  | -   | Nil                        | -  | -   | Nil                                     | 3  | 1   | 11     | 1  | -   | 1  | 5  | -   | 6                              | 39             | 6  | 90  | - 5 |
|                       | F.                                     | 29  | 13  |                                     | -  | -   |                            | -  | -   |   | 6  | 1   |        | -  | -   |  | 1  | 2   |                                | 33             | 12 |     |     |
| Hoddesdon U.D. ...    | M.                                     | 38  | 9   | 81                                  | 4  | 1   | 6                          | -  | -   | Nil                                     | 2  | -   | 8      | 1  | -   | 1  | 4  | -   | 3                              | 37             | 10 | 84  | + 3 |
|                       | F.                                     | 26  | 8   |                                     | 1  | -   |                            | -  | -   |   | 4  | 2   |        | -  | -   |  | 1  | 2   |                                | 29             | 8  |     |     |
| Sawbridgeworth U.D.   | M.                                     | 8   | -   | 24                                  | 1  | -   | 2                          | 1  | -   | 1                                       | -  | -   | 2      | -  | -   | Nil  | 2  | -   | 3                              | 8              | -  | 26  | + 2 |
|                       | F.                                     | 15  | 1   |                                     | 1  | -   |                            | -  | -   |   | 2  | -   |        | -  | -   |  | 1  | -   |                                | 17             | 1  |     |     |
| Ware U.D. ...         | M.                                     | 31  | 7   | 70                                  | 1  | -   | 3                          | -  | -   | Nil                                     | 2  | -   | 4      | -  | -   | Nil  | 2  | -   | 6                              | 30             | 6  | 66  | - 4 |
|                       | F.                                     | 21  | 11  |                                     | 2  | -   |                            | -  | -   |   | 2  | -   |        | -  | -   |  | 4  | -   |                                | 21             | 9  |     |     |
| Braughing R.D. ...    | M.                                     | 35  | 8   | 82                                  | 2  | -   | 4                          | -  | -   | Nil                                     | 2  | -   | 3      | -  | -   | 1  | 6  | -   | 7                              | 32             | 6  | 75  | - 7 |
|                       | F.                                     | 26  | 13  |                                     | 1  | 1   |                            | -  | -   |   | 1  | -   |        | 1  | -   |  | 1  | -   |                                | 24             | 13 |     |     |
| Hertford R.D. ...     | M.                                     | 16  | 6   | 50                                  | -  | -   | Nil                        | -  | -   | Nil                                     | 2  | -   | 4      | -  | -   | Nil  | 1  | -   | 3                              | 16             | 5  | 46  | - 4 |
|                       | F.                                     | 21  | 7   |                                     | -  | -   |                            | -  | -   |   | 2  | -   |        | -  | -   |  | 2  | -   |                                | 19             | 6  |     |     |
| Ware R.D. ...         | M.                                     | 37  | 12  | 95                                  | -  | 1   | 4                          | -  | -   | Nil                                     | 10 | -   | 15     | 1  | -   | 2  | 4  | -   | 8                              | 42             | 13 | 103 | + 8 |
|                       | F.                                     | 27  | 19  |                                     | 1  | 2   |                            | -  | -   |   | 5  | -   |        | 1  | -   |  | 4  | -   |                                | 28             | 20 |     |     |
| Total East Herts C.D. | M.                                     | 208 | 52  | 497                                 | 8  | 2   | 19                         | 1  | -   | 1                                       | 21 | 1   | 47     | 3  | -   | 5  | 22 | -   | 36                             | 204            | 46 | 490 | - 7 |
|                       | F.                                     | 165 | 72  |                                     | 6  | 3   |                            | -  | -   |   | 22 | 3   |        | 2  | -   |  | 14 | -   |                                | 171            | 69 |     |     |

## 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.

## HOUSING PROGRESS—1955

| NEW HOUSING   | Hertford M.B. |            | Hoddesdon U.D. |            | Sawbridge-worth U.D. |            | Ware U.D.   |            | Braughing R.D. |            | Hertford R.D. |            | Ware R.D.   |            |
|---|---------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------------|------------|-------------|------------|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|-------------|------------|
|   | During 1955   | Since 1945 | During 1955    | Since 1945 | During 1955          | Since 1945 | During 1955 | Since 1945 | During 1955    | Since 1945 | During 1955   | Since 1945 | During 1955 | Since 1945 |
| By PRIVATE ENTERPRISE   |               |            |                |            |                      |            |             |            |                |            |               |            |             |            |
| New dwellings erected ... ..  | 57            | 147        | 177            | 450        | 28                   | 89         | 26          | 116        | 17             | 126        | 32            | 178        | 23          | 139        |
| War-destroyed dwellings rebuilt ... ..  | —             | 21         | —              | 5          | —                    | 1          | —           | —          | —              | —          | —             | 2          | —           | —          |
| Repairs to war-damaged houses ... ..  | —             | 4          | —              | —          | —                    | —          | —           | —          | —              | 46         | —             | 31         | —           | —          |
| Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units ... ..                                | 4             | 39         | —              | 23         | —                    | 1          | —           | 33         | 1              | 38         | 4             | 31         | 2           | 2          |
| By LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITY   |               |            |                |            |                      |            |             |            |                |            |               |            |             |            |
| New dwellings erected ... ..  | 72            | 708        | 29             | 570        | 13                   | 173        | 82          | 423        | 8              | 396        | 38            | 400        | 60          | 534        |
| Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units ... ..                                | —             | 6          | —              | 8          | —                    | 78         | —           | —          | 1              | 61         | —             | —          | —           | —          |
| Temporary prefabricated bungalows ... ..  | —             | 50         | —              | 38         | —                    | 10         | —           | 13         | —              | —          | —             | —          | —           | —          |
| By OTHER AUTHORITIES (County Council, Police, Military, Forestry Commission, etc.) ... .. | —             | 32         | —              | 8          | —                    | —          | 2           | 18         | —              | 2          | 6             | 45         | —           | 2          |
| TOTAL PROPERTIES CONTROLLED BY THE LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES ON 31st DEC., 1955          |               |            |                |            |                      |            |             |            |                |            |               |            |             |            |
| Council Houses ... ..   | 1,345         |            | 935            |            | 283                  |            | 867         |            | 777            |            | 682           |            | 906         |            |
| Temporary prefabricated bungalows ... ..  | 50            |            | 38             |            | 10                   |            | 13          |            | —              |            | —             |            | —           |            |
| Sundries ... ..   | 40            |            | 20             |            | 15                   |            | 12          |            | 19             |            | —             |            | —           |            |



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

### County Council Health Services

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

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

#### *Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centres*

District Nurse/Midwives work at 14 localities in the East Herts Combined Sanitary Districts.

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

Twenty-five 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, 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 3013), Bishop's Stortford (Tel.: Bishop's Stortford 1101), Hoddesdon (Tel.: Hoddesdon 3021) and Ware (Tel.: Ware 441).

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

#### *Day Nurseries*

There is one Day Nursery in the Area, 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 Eastern Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

| <i>Hospitals within the Group</i>   | <i>Beds<br/>in Use</i> |
|---|------------------------|
| Bishop's Stortford and District Hospital ... ..   | 68                     |
| East Herts 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 in East Herts:*

Hoddesdon Physiotherapy and Orthopaedic Clinic, Rye Road, Hoddesdon.

Chest Clinic, East Herts Hospital Hertford. (Tel.: Hertford 2585)

Chest Clinic, Haymeads Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

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 38 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.

### Dental Services

Thirteen dentists are in practice in the East Herts Combined Districts: Hertford (8), Hoddesdon (3), Ware (1), Buntingford (1). The Area is also served by Dentists living in towns of adjoining Districts outside East Herts Combined Districts.



## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1955

| Line No. | Causes of Death                               | Hertford M.B. |    | Hoddesdon U.D. |    | Sawbridge-worth U.D. |    | Ware U.D. |    | Braughing R.D. |    | Hertford R.D. |    | Ware R.D. |    | Line No. |
|----------|---|---------------|----|----------------|----|----------------------|----|-----------|----|----------------|----|---------------|----|-----------|----|----------|
|          |   | M.            | F. | M.             | F. | M.                   | F. | M.        | F. | M.             | F. | M.            | F. | M.        | F. |          |
| 1        | ALL CAUSES ...                                | 74            | 83 | 69             | 90 | 17                   | 24 | 104       | 95 | 63             | 49 | 40            | 51 | 53        | 36 | 1        |
| 2        | Tuberculosis, respiratory ...                 | 0             | 0  | 1              | 0  | 0                    | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0              | 1  | 0             | 0  | 0         | 0  | 2        |
| 3        | Tuberculosis, other ...                       | 0             | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0                    | 0  | 0         | 0  | 1              | 0  | 0             | 0  | 0         | 0  | 3        |
| 4        | Syphilitic disease ...                        | 0             | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0                    | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0              | 1  | 0             | 0  | 0         | 0  | 4        |
| 5        | Diphtheria ...                                | 0             | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0                    | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0             | 0  | 0         | 0  | 5        |
| 6        | Whooping Cough ...                            | 0             | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0                    | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0             | 0  | 0         | 0  | 6        |
| 7        | Meningococcal infections ...                  | 0             | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0                    | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0             | 0  | 0         | 0  | 7        |
| 8        | Acute Poliomyelitis ...                       | 0             | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0                    | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0             | 0  | 0         | 0  | 8        |
| 9        | Measles ...                                   | 1             | 0  | 0              | 1  | 0                    | 0  | 0         | 1  | 0              | 0  | 0             | 0  | 0         | 0  | 9        |
| 10       | Other infective and parasitic diseases ...    | 2             | 3  | 2              | 1  | 1                    | 0  | 3         | 1  | 2              | 2  | 0             | 2  | 1         | 0  | 10       |
| 11       | Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...               | 2             | 2  | 8              | 1  | 0                    | 0  | 6         | 0  | 2              | 1  | 3             | 0  | 4         | 0  | 11       |
| 12       | " lung, bronchus ...                          | 0             | 2  | 0              | 2  | 0                    | 0  | 0         | 6  | 0              | 1  | 0             | 4  | 0         | 0  | 12       |
| 13       | " breast ...                                  | 0             | 2  | 0              | 0  | 0                    | 1  | 0         | 1  | 0              | 1  | 0             | 1  | 0         | 0  | 13       |
| 14       | " uterus ...                                  | 0             | 2  | 0              | 0  | 0                    | 1  | 0         | 1  | 0              | 1  | 0             | 1  | 0         | 0  | 14       |
| 15       | Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...   | 7             | 6  | 6              | 13 | 2                    | 1  | 10        | 9  | 5              | 6  | 2             | 5  | 8         | 2  | 15       |
| 16       | Leukæmia, leukaemia ...                       | 4             | 1  | 1              | 1  | 1                    | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0              | 1  | 1             | 0  | 0         | 0  | 16       |
| 17       | Diabetes ...                                  | 0             | 0  | 2              | 1  | 0                    | 0  | 0         | 1  | 1              | 0  | 0             | 0  | 0         | 1  | 17       |
| 18       | Vascular lesions of nervous system ...        | 4             | 14 | 6              | 11 | 0                    | 3  | 19        | 15 | 11             | 7  | 5             | 6  | 5         | 7  | 18       |
| 19       | Coronary disease, angina ...                  | 13            | 22 | 16             | 5  | 4                    | 4  | 14        | 12 | 14             | 10 | 10            | 5  | 13        | 3  | 19       |
| 20       | Hypertension with heart disease ...           | 1             | 0  | 1              | 1  | 0                    | 1  | 4         | 3  | 1              | 2  | 1             | 1  | 1         | 1  | 20       |
| 21       | Other heart disease ...                       | 9             | 11 | 4              | 13 | 3                    | 5  | 24        | 24 | 6              | 7  | 2             | 12 | 5         | 7  | 21       |
| 22       | Other circulatory disease ...                 | 2             | 6  | 3              | 6  | 2                    | 1  | 1         | 5  | 2              | 3  | 3             | 2  | 0         | 1  | 22       |
| 23       | Influenza ...                                 | 1             | 1  | 0              | 0  | 0                    | 0  | 1         | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0             | 0  | 0         | 0  | 23       |
| 24       | Pneumonia ...                                 | 5             | 4  | 0              | 2  | 0                    | 1  | 3         | 5  | 2              | 1  | 2             | 3  | 4         | 0  | 24       |
| 25       | Bronchitis ...                                | 2             | 2  | 2              | 2  | 2                    | 1  | 4         | 0  | 1              | 1  | 1             | 1  | 3         | 1  | 25       |
| 26       | Other diseases of respiratory system ...      | 2             | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0                    | 1  | 2         | 0  | 3              | 0  | 1             | 0  | 0         | 1  | 26       |
| 27       | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...             | 2             | 1  | 0              | 0  | 0                    | 0  | 2         | 0  | 0              | 0  | 2             | 1  | 0         | 1  | 27       |
| 28       | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...        | 0             | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0                    | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0             | 0  | 1         | 1  | 28       |
| 29       | Nephritis and nephrosis ...                   | 1             | 0  | 0              | 1  | 0                    | 1  | 0         | 4  | 0              | 0  | 0             | 0  | 0         | 0  | 29       |
| 30       | Hyperplasia of prostate ...                   | 0             | 0  | 2              | 0  | 0                    | 0  | 5         | 0  | 2              | 0  | 0             | 0  | 1         | 0  | 30       |
| 31       | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...           | 0             | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0                    | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0             | 0  | 0         | 1  | 31       |
| 32       | Congenital malformations ...                  | 1             | 2  | 1              | 0  | 0                    | 0  | 1         | 1  | 1              | 0  | 1             | 0  | 1         | 2  | 32       |
| 33       | Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...    | 12            | 4  | 11             | 21 | 1                    | 3  | 4         | 5  | 5              | 3  | 2             | 6  | 2         | 7  | 33       |
| 34       | Motor vehicle accidents ...                   | 0             | 0  | 0              | 1  | 0                    | 0  | 0         | 1  | 1              | 0  | 1             | 1  | 3         | 0  | 34       |
| 35       | All other accidents ...                       | 1             | 0  | 2              | 6  | 1                    | 0  | 1         | 1  | 2              | 1  | 2             | 0  | 1         | 0  | 35       |
| 36       | Suicide ...                                   | 1             | 0  | 1              | 1  | 0                    | 0  | 0         | 0  | 1              | 0  | 0             | 0  | 0         | 0  | 36       |
|          | Homicide and operations of war ...            | 1             | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0                    | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0              | 0  | 0             | 0  | 0         | 0  |          |
| (a)      | Still Births ...                              | 3             | 1  | 0              | 1  | 0                    | 1  | 0         | 0  | 4              | 1  | 0             | 1  | 1         | 1  | (a)      |
| (b)      | Deaths of infants under four weeks of age ... | 3             | 2  | 0              | 1  | 0                    | 1  | 1         | 1  | 4              | 0  | 1             | 1  | 2         | 1  | (b)      |
| (c)      | " " four weeks to one year of age ...         | 2             | 0  | 0              | 0  | 1                    | 0  | 0         | 0  | 1              | 0  | 0             | 0  | 0         | 1  | (c)      |



# FACTORIES ACT, 1937

## Inspections of Factories during 1955

| Copy of Information supplied<br>to the Ministry of Labour and<br>National Service on Form 572<br>(Revised)  | Hertford M.B. | Hoddesdon<br>U.D. | Sawbridge-<br>worth U.D. | Ware U.D. | Braughing R.D. | Hertford R.D. | Ware R.D. |
|---|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|-----------|
| <b>Factories without<br/>Mechanical Power</b>   |               |                   |                          |           |                |               |           |
| Number on Register ...  | 21            | 9                 | 3                        | 10        | 15             | —             | 10        |
| Inspections ...   | 34            | —                 | 7                        | 3         | 3              | —             | 8         |
| Written Notices ...   | —             | —                 | —                        | —         | —              | —             | —         |
| Occupier Prosecuted ...   | —             | —                 | —                        | —         | —              | —             | —         |
| <b>Factories with<br/>Mechanical Power</b>  |               |                   |                          |           |                |               |           |
| Number on Register ...  | 101           | 102               | 18                       | 76        | 41             | 28            | 41        |
| Inspections ...   | 88            | 52                | 22                       | 14        | 8              | 3             | 27        |
| Written Notices ...   | —             | —                 | —                        | 1         | —              | 1             | —         |
| Occupier Prosecuted ...   | —             | —                 | —                        | —         | —              | —             | —         |
| <b>Other Premises<br/>under the Act</b><br>(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites<br>of Buildings operations and works of<br>engineering construction, but not<br>including Outworkers premises) |               |                   |                          |           |                |               |           |
| Number on Register ...  | 4             | 10                | 6                        | 12        | 4              | —             | —         |
| Inspections ...   | 17            | 3                 | 16                       | 4         | —              | —             | —         |
| Written Notices ...   | —             | —                 | —                        | —         | —              | —             | —         |
| Occupier Prosecuted ...   | —             | —                 | —                        | —         | —              | —             | —         |

## Outworkers

| Copy of Information supplied<br>to the Ministry of Labour and<br>National Service on Form 572<br>(Revised) | Hertford M.B. | Hoddesdon<br>U.D. | Sawbridge-<br>worth U.D. | Ware U.D. | Braughing R.D. | Hertford R.D. | Ware R.D. |
|--|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|-----------|
| <b>Wearing Apparel:</b>  |               |                   |                          |           |                |               |           |
| Making, etc. ...   | 207           | —                 | —                        | —         | —              | —             | —         |
| Paper Bag and Box Making ...   | —             | —                 | —                        | 25        | —              | —             | —         |
| Brush Making ...   | 24            | —                 | —                        | —         | —              | —             | —         |



## Defects found in Factories during 1955

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

SECTION B  
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH DISTRICT

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BOROUGH OF HERTFORD

WATER SUPPLY

**Source**

All the water is obtained from five Boreholes sunk in the chalk, at Molewood Road, Wadesmill Road, Hartham Lane and Port Hill. From these boreholes sufficient water can be obtained to meet the needs of the Borough for many years.

**Distribution**

During the year work was commenced to extend the mains at the Sele Farm Estate on the West side of Thieves Lane to supply approximately a further 400 new houses.

Preliminary preparations were made, and drawings prepared in connection with the proposed improvement scheme, which entails the construction of a large storage reservoir at Hertford Heath and the laying of a larger distribution main. This becomes necessary through the continued growth of the Borough, population, and the increased demand for both domestic and trade supplies.

**Quality**

*Bacteriological*

Samples of the mains water from all four pumping stations, were submitted to bacteriological examination each month. *B.Coli* were absent from 100 ml. in each case and the water was passed as satisfactory for drinking purposes.

**DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

The Council's Sele Farm Housing Estate has continued to develop through the year and the Council's main sewers have been extended to provide for this development.

The existing sewers have been maintained and few difficulties experienced. Tests and analyses have been taken regularly at the Activated Sludge treatment Works in Mead Lane, and without exception the results have been satisfactory with an effluent up to the Ministry standard of requirements. Maintenance works at the Sewage Works have continued throughout the year, and although repairs have had to be carried out to the air compressing units, the plant has continued to function quite well.

In July an accidental outbreak of fire occurred in a heap of dry sludge comprising several hundred tons, which caused some nuisance from smell. The fire had become so deep seated by the time it was discovered that efforts to extinguish it were unsuccessful, and the material took 6½ months to burn itself out.



## REFUSE DISPOSAL

The Corporation has continued to use the Fox Hole Farm refuse tip without difficulty or complaint, for the controlled tipping of domestic refuse.

The weekly collection of refuse has continued, and also the Corporation's policy of disposing of salvage at the best prices. The amount of refuse collected is between 70 and 80 tons each week. Because of the continued expansion of the District replacement of the smaller refuse collecting vehicle by one of larger capacity will become necessary.

## PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK during the year 1955

|   |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| <b>Total Number of Visits</b>   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,721 |
| Dwelling Houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 513   |
| Housing Re-inspection of Works in Progress, and Interviews with Owners and Builders | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 236   |
| General Inspections   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 115   |
| Complaints Investigated   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 190   |
| Food Inspections and Control Visits   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 74    |
| Visits re Cases of Infectious Diseases  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13    |
| " " " " " Disinfections   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8     |
| Smoke Observations  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23    |
| Rodent Control—Inspections and Visits   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 58    |
| Miscellaneous Visits  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 108   |
| <b>Registered and Licensed Premises—<i>Inspections</i></b>                          |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Factories   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 139   |
| Bakehouses  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9     |
| Ice Cream Premises  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 38    |
| Dairies and Milk Shops  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10    |
| Shops, Meat Stores, and other Food Premises   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 142   |
| Common Lodging House  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10    |
| Refuse Dumps  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21    |
| Other Premises  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14    |

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Normal work of the Department under the Public Health Acts was carried out during the year, this including a considerable amount of minor repairs to property and works of drainage maintenance and cleansing, which, together with the majority of complaints which required action under the above Acts, were dealt with informally. There were no special problems of note which required to be dealt with during the year.

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.

Because of a recurrence of nuisance and damage to Corporation property, due to pigeons, trapping was recommenced at the end of



the year. The trap was again sited on the flat roof of an adjoining County Council building. This latter roof has also been extensively damaged by pigeons, and had undergone repairs.

Although the River Lee and the Canal are navigable within the Borough boundary, the waterways are not now used by canal boats. Certain stretches of the waterways, particularly those adjacent to built up areas, were found to have become foul and overgrown and also with accumulating foodstuffs presumably meant for the swans, and it was necessary to request assistance of the Inland Docks and Waterways who arranged the 'clearing' of these areas.

Occasional routine smoke observations continue to be taken. Investigation of a complaint revealed a smoke nuisance being caused by an asphalt plant, and the co-operation of the firm in question was secured in order to provide greater control and management of the plant to overcome and prevent a re-occurrence of the nuisance.

### **Vermin**

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

### **Infectious Diseases and Disinfections**

In two cases during the year, following disinfection of premises, it was necessary to require the cleansing and redecoration of rooms. Two 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.

### **Common Lodging Houses**

There is only one Registered Common Lodging House within the Borough. It is the White House, Railway Street, which provides nightly accommodation for 32 men. The number of accommodations during the year was 3,980, a decrease of 469 compared with the previous year; the average number accommodated nightly was 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 their 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.



Regular tipping of non-putrescible matter in accordance with the conditions of consent continue to be made, though on a limited scale. In October, following deposits of putrescible matter, considerable nuisance occurred from flies. Prompt action was taken and a tip dressing of insecticidal dust was successfully used, the putrescible matter buried and the tip generally tidied up, steps also being taken to prevent further deposits not in accordance with the conditions of consent.

### **Employment Agencies** (*Section 74*)

There are now two Employment Agencies within the Borough, a Domestic Agency and an Agency for Office and Shop Workers, the latter being first licensed during 1955. The conduct and management of both has been in accordance with Part V of the above Act.

### **Moveable Dwellings** (*Section 93*)

There is only one caravan camping site within the Borough and it is owned and controlled by an organisation holding a Certificate from the Ministry of Health, and which by reason of its own camping rules, is exempt from the similar provisions of the Hertfordshire County Council Act.

There are no Consents operative at the present time in respect of individual sites within the Borough.

Informal action was necessary during the year to require the removal of two caravans found to be occupied, and sited without authority, on land owned by the Corporation. On investigating the siting of a further two caravans on enclosed land normally used for vehicle standing, it was found that these were being overhauled and were not being used for living accommodation.

## **PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951**

The two licences in respect of use of premises as Pet Shops were renewed at the beginning of the year. The issue of a third licence was authorised in respect of a stall in the Hertford Market as and when the Applicant was granted the tenancy of a stall.

## **HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952**

An electric fire which was exposed for sale was found not to comply with the Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953, as required by the Act.

The fire was immediately withdrawn from sale until it could be fitted with an appropriate guard, as required by the Regulations.



## HOUSING

A table showing the progress with new housing appears in the statistical section of this Combined Report.

No survey has been carried out during the year with particular regard to overcrowding and no new cases of overcrowding were discovered. The number of cases of overcrowding at the end of the year was 4.

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received by the Council during 1955.

### Housing Survey

Following a housing survey of the town, the proposals of this Authority were submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government under part 1 of the 1954 Act with regard to dealing with houses found to be unfit for habitation. The estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the 1954 Act and suitable for action under Sections 11 or 25 of the 1936 Act was 47, and the suggested period within which these could be dealt with was 5 years. The figure of 47 included 8 houses already owned by the Corporation. The majority of the houses to be dealt with are in groups of two or three, and approximately half are occupied by elderly people paying only a very small rent. The larger blocks of substandard property were dealt with in the pre-war years.

### Substandard Housing

During the year an Undertaking that the properties would not be relet for human habitation, was accepted by the Council in respect of two houses which had been Officially Represented as unfit, in 1954. The tenants were rehoused by the Corporation.

Official Representations were made to the Council in respect of a further 4 houses. The Council made Closing Orders on these properties under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, as modified by section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953. The intention is to secure the closure of these houses until such time as adjoining property can be dealt with under the Housing Act, after which, all the properties could be demolished. The occupants from three of these houses were rehoused by the Corporation.

Following one further Official Representation the Council made a closing Order prohibiting the use of part of a house for human habitation, in accordance with Section 12 of the Act.

## 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  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24  |
| Fish Shops (including Fried Fish Shops)  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8   |
| Dairies and Milk Shops   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4   |
| Other Food Shops (including small general stores,<br>Greengrocers, Bakers' Shops, Sweet Shops, etc.) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 51  |
| Bakehouses   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7   |
| Cafes, Restaurants and Hotels  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20  |
| Inns and Public Houses   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 42  |
| Institutional Kitchens, School and Industrial Canteens<br>and Clubs                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31  |
| <hr/>  |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Total (inclusive of 56 premises registered under Section<br>14 and included above)                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 202 |
| <hr/>  |     |     |     |     |     |     |

A total of 273 inspections and visits to food premises were made during the year, this figure including 74 inspections and control visits for the examination of foodstuffs. These figures, and including those in the columns above, do not include visits to the weekly market where there is usually one butchers stall, two fishmongers and several greengrocers.

### Food Hygiene

Various improvements still continue to be carried out at the food premises, including additional washing facilities, improved storage arrangements as well as improvements of a structural character.

The gradual increase during the past few years in the use of covered display counters for unwrapped foodstuffs has continued, together with a continuing increase in the ratio of the wrapped goods offered for sale. Wrapped bread from London firms has been on sale at grocers for some time, but in addition three local bakers have installed machinery for wrapping their own, locally baked, bread.

In December, 1955, an employee of a food premises in the Borough, was excluded from work for several days because of close contact with a case of Sonne Dysentery. Laboratory tests upon the contact gave negative findings, and the Management was advised that their employee could resume work immediately. Further information is given in the Infectious Diseases Section of the Borough Report.

### Ice Cream

There are 42 registered premises for the sale of ice cream, and one manufacturer. Three new registrations occurred during the year, and there were two notifications of change in the occupation of registered premises. A total of 38 visits were made to these premises during the year. Practically all of these retailers now sell pre-packed ice cream only.



**Milk and Dairies***Milk Supply*

|  |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Number of Producers  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| (including 1 discontinued during the year)   |     |     |     |     |     |   |
| Number of Milk Shops   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| (3 of these used in connection with a retail round, and two grocers with Dealers Licences for the sale of Sterilised Milk) |     |     |     |     |     |   |

*Milk (Special Designations) Regulations**Tuberculin Tested Milk*

|   |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Dealer's Licences   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Supplementary Dealer's Licences   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Producer's Licences (issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |

*Sterilised Milk*

|                                 |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Dealer's Licences               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Supplementary Dealer's Licences | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

*Pasteurised Milk*

|  |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Dealer's Licences  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Supplementary Dealer's Licences  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Pasteuriser's Licence (issued by Herts County Council in respect of premises situate in the Borough) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

Of the eleven samples of pasteurised milk taken by the Hertfordshire County Council under the Milk in Schools scheme, and notified to this department, all were satisfactory.

A further 45 samples of pasteurised milk samples taken from the pasteurising plant within the Borough proved satisfactory.

All milks now sold within the Borough come originally from three firms each with processing plant, one situate within the Borough, one in an adjoining District, and one from towards London.

One complaint of a dirty milk bottle being delivered from the local Pasteurising premises to a household outside the Borough was investigated and appeared to arise from the growing trade of the dairy outpacing existing machinery and the consequent increased difficulties of supervision of this part of the plant. These matters were, however, already receiving attention and no further trouble was experienced during the installation and change-over to a bottle washing machine of larger capacity, improved and larger boiler facilities as well as other improvements carried out in conjunction with this scheme.

One other complaint of a dirty bottle delivered in the Borough from premises outside the town was also informally dealt with, this latter bottle being of orange juice of the type now frequently carried by the milk roundsman.



At the beginning of the year there were 15 premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food, intended for sale. Of these 2 registrations were surrendered during the year. There are 15 meat traders in the Borough.

Of the 3 slaughtermen licensed by the corporation in 1954 in accordance with the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, only 1 applied for renewal of his licence in 1955.

These duties have necessitated a total of 74 inspections and control visits and the issue of 83 Certificates of Condemnation of Foodstuffs.

All the following foodstuffs were surrendered to the Corporation and disposed of by burial at the Corporation's refuse tip at Foxholes.

|                      |     |     |         |
|----------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| <i>Fish</i>          |     |     |         |
| Dogfish              | ... | ... | 84 lb.  |
| Prawns               | ... | ... | 79 „    |
| Roes                 | ... | ... | 7 „     |
| Fish Cakes           | ... | ... | 32 lb.  |
|                      |     |     | —       |
| Total weight of fish |     |     | 202 lb. |



*Miscellaneous Foodstuffs*

|                                     |     |                            |     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|-------|
| Beef, Imported frozen               | ... | Internal Decomposition     | ... | 4 lb. |
| Lambs Liver, Imported frozen        | ... | Decomposition              | ... | 10 „  |
| Ham, Sliced Shoulder                | ... | Decomposition              | ... | 5 „   |
| Sausages (4 condemnations)          | ... | Decomposition and Mould... |     | 44 „  |
| Bacon (2 condemnations)             |     | Decomp. and Maggots        | ... | 17 „  |
| Cheese (3 condemnations)            |     | Mould                      | ... | 49 „  |
| Hen Egg Albumin (Flaked)            |     | Salmonella                 | ... | 7 „   |
| Total weight of Miscellaneous Foods |     |                            |     | 136 " |

Total weight of all foods condemned: 8 cwt. 54 lb.  
*(Total 1954: 13 cwt. 11lb.)*

**Unsound Foodstuffs**

Two notifications were followed up during the year of consignments of foodstuffs having been condemned as unfit for human consumption, being released to a local firm for processing into a form suitable for animal feeding purposes. The normal precautions were taken by the firm to ensure correct handling and use of the consignments.

**FACTORIES ACT, 1937**

Figures showing the number of factories on the Register, the number of inspections carried out, and details of contraventions discovered and remedied, are shown in a table at the end of the Statistical Section of this Combined Report.

**Outworkers**

The half-yearly lists of outworkers supplied by factories within the Borough in accordance with the requirements of the Factories Act, include 231 persons. Of this total, 67 are resident within the Borough.

Lists supplied by other local authorities of outworkers employed by firms situate outside the Borough, include 14 persons within the Borough.

The nature of the work carried out by the outworkers living within the Borough is, — Making of wearing apparel 51, Envelope making 10, and Brush Making and packing 20.

**Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951**

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

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

In view of the advantages and convenience for use, practically all treatments for surface infestations continued to be carried out with the use of Warfarin bait. Treatment of private dwellings continues without charge in order to encourage occupiers to give



early notifications of infestations. With regard to Business premises, ten agreements are in operation whereby eighteen properties are treated as required, the cost of these treatments being on a time and materials basis. Normal routine visits are made to the school canteens and precautionary measures taken during the school holidays.

A 16 per cent. test baiting of the Corporation sewers was carried out during the year as well as the normal two treatments. The decrease in infestation in the sewers that has been noticed over the past few years has been maintained and in the last treatment covering 59 manholes in four areas, takes were recorded at only 9 manholes.

### Summary of work of Rodent Operator

|                                | <i>Premises<br/>Inspected</i> | <i>Revisits</i> | <i>No. of<br/>Treatments</i> |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------|
|                                |                               |                 | <i>Mice</i>                  | <i>Rats</i> |
| Corporation Properties ... ..  | 14                            | 17              | 1                            | 2           |
| Private Dwellings ... ..       | 3,475                         | 507             | 24                           | 124         |
| Business Premises ... ..       | 248                           | 115             | 23                           | 20          |
| Agricultural Properties ... .. | 21                            | —               | —                            | —           |

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### Acute Poliomyelitis

Between August and December there were 4 reported cases of Acute Poliomyelitis. The first case had no paralysis and made a good recovery. The others all recovered except for a certain amount of residual weakness in the affected muscle groups.

Routine visits were made to all the affected households, including contacts, and advice given where necessary.

### Measles

An epidemic of Measles affecting the rest of the Country reached Hertford in May and continued until September. A total of 285 cases was notified, but there were probably many more than this in patients who did not consult a doctor.

### Sonne Dysentery

A boy suffering from Dysentery due to *Shigella sonnei* was admitted to hospital for treatment. His mother worked in a food shop, and steps were taken to keep her off work pending the result of laboratory tests to establish whether or not she was carrying the infection. The tests which were all negative lasted 5 days, after which the lady concerned was allowed to resume work. Although the Borough Council excluded this employee from her work and issued all the necessary Statutory Notices etc: in accordance with Part 3 of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953, which would enable her or her employers to be compensated by the Council for any loss which might result, no such claim has been received. The firm, and the employee were most co-operative throughout and appeared glad for the way in which the Council has acted.



## NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### during 1955

| DISEASE                    | TOTAL | AGE GROUP (in Years) |     |     |     |     |         | Age not Known | Admitted to Hospital | Deaths |
|----------------------------|-------|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|---------------|----------------------|--------|
|                            |       | Under 1              | 1-  | 5-  | 15- | 25- | Over 65 |               |                      |        |
| Scarlet Fever ... ..       | 5     | —                    | 1   | 4   | —   | —   | —       | —             | 1                    | —      |
| Whooping Cough ... ..      | 1     | —                    | —   | —   | —   | 1   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Poliomyelitis (Acute):     |       |                      |     |     |     |     |         |               |                      |        |
| Paralytic ... ..           | 3     | —                    | 1   | 2   | —   | —   | —       | —             | 3                    | —      |
| Non-Paralytic ... ..       | 1     | —                    | —   | 1   | —   | —   | —       | —             | 1                    | —      |
| Measles ... ..             | 285   | 5                    | 102 | 171 | 3   | 2   | —       | 2             | 1                    | —      |
| Diphtheria ... ..          | 0     | —                    | —   | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Acute Pneumonia ... ..     | 0     | —                    | —   | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Dysentery ... ..           | 1     | —                    | —   | 1   | —   | —   | —       | —             | 1                    | —      |
| 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 ... ..   | 1     | —                    | —   | —   | 1   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum      | 0     | —                    | —   | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Infective Jaundice ... ..  | 6     | —                    | —   | 2   | 1   | 3   | —       | —             | 1                    | —      |

Tuberculosis notifications are shown in a separate table at the beginning of this Combined District Report.

## INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

### DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

| DISEASE              | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December |
|----------------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Scarlet Fever ... .. | —       | —        | —     | —     | —   | —    | —    | —      | —         | 3       | 2        | —        |
| Whooping Cough       | —       | 1        | —     | —     | —   | —    | —    | —      | —         | —       | —        | —        |
| Poliomyelitis ... .. | —       | —        | —     | —     | —   | —    | —    | —      | 1         | 1       | 1        | 1        |
| Measles ... ..       | 1       | 3        | —     | 1     | 30  | 128  | 96   | 25     | 1         | —       | —        | —        |
| Dysentery ... ..     | —       | —        | —     | —     | —   | —    | —    | —      | —         | —       | —        | 1        |
| Puerperal Pyrexia    | —       | —        | —     | 1     | —   | —    | —    | —      | —         | —       | —        | —        |
| Infective Jaundice   | —       | —        | —     | —     | —   | 1    | —    | 1      | 1         | —       | 1        | 2        |



# HODDESDON URBAN DISTRICT

## WATER SUPPLIES

With the exception of a few houses in the outlying parts of the district, water is derived from the public mains.

### Public Mains Supply

The Council's water undertaking, which served all but the Northern part of the district, was transferred to the Metropolitan Water Board at midnight on the 30th September, 1955, and the whole of the district is now within the area of supply of the Board.

### Private Supplies

26 samples of water were taken from dwelling houses with private well supplies, and the bacteriological examinations showed 4 sources of supply to be unsatisfactory. The occupiers were warned to boil all water before use, and in one case an alternative supply was connected to the water filter, with satisfactory results. Of the others, in one case the well ceased to be used, an alternative source of supply being available, in another the two cottages concerned were made the subject of a Clearance Order, and in the third case the owner started negotiations for the provision of a supply from the public mains.

*Caravan Site, Frogley's Road, Dobbs Weir, Hoddesdon*

5 samples of water taken from this borehole supply were found to be of satisfactory quality.

*Hut, Lea Wharf Estate, Wormley*

Following the report of a case of dysentery in a London family who had been spending a week-end at one of these huts, a sample of water was taken from a shallow well and was reported upon as unsatisfactory, although the causative organism was not isolated.

### Factory Supplies

9 water samples were taken from one factory and five of these were found to be unsatisfactory. The supply is taken from a deep bore. The water service pipes were renewed and the storage tanks cleaned out, after which, satisfactory samples were obtained.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The major part of the district is sewered, the sewage being disposed of at Broxbourne and Wormley by broad irrigation, following screening and settlement. The sewage from the old urban area is treated at the Rye Park works.

As indicated in the last report, a scheme had been agreed in principle to pump the whole of the sewage from the Council's area to the new Rye Meads Sewage Disposal Works. Approval of the scheme in detail was received in February 1956.

### Northern Drainage Area

No progress was made during the year in completing the sewage scheme in the Northern area referred to in previous reports.



Provision has been made in the 1956 estimates for the commencement of these works.

### **Factory Group, Westhill, Hertford Road, Hoddesdon**

For some years difficulties had been experienced, mainly from trade waste, from a group of factories in this locality which were serviced by a private sewage disposal plant. After prolonged negotiations, a pumping station has been installed and the whole of the sewage is now pumped into the Council's sewer.

### **Houses connected to the sewer**

Nos. 199, 201 and 203 Ware Road, Hoddesdon, "Evelynhurst," Stanstead Road, Hoddesdon and "Cap D'Ail" Bell Lane, Broxbourne, were connected to the Council's sewers, and cesspools discontinued.

Although almost completed, work on a private sewer from Ware Road to the Galley Hall P.H., has been stopped.

## **REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

Household refuse is collected at weekly intervals and is disposed of by controlled tip methods in a disused gravel pit at Cock Lane, Hoddesdon.

The tip is treated regularly to prevent nuisance from flies and crickets.

## **SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS ETC.**

### **During the year 1955**

|   |     |     |     |     |     |      |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Dwelling houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1070 |
| Housing, re-inspection of works in progress and interviews with Owners and Builders | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2453 |
| Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases                                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22   |
| Inspection of Dairies and Milkshops   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 35   |
| Inspection of Stables and Pig-sties   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5    |
| Inspection of Butchers' Shops   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 39   |
| Inspection of Slaughterhouses   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 69   |
| Inspection of Bakehouses  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11   |
| Inspection of Ice Cream Premises  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12   |
| Visits to other premises where food is prepared and/or exposed for sale             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 106  |
| Market inspections  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37   |
| Refuse Tip inspections  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31   |
| Investigation of Complaints other than Housing                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 66   |
| Inspection of Factories   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 44   |
| Shops Act   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2    |
| Inspection of Camping Grounds and Caravans  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 70   |
| Inspection of Hairdressers' Premises  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1    |
| Inspection of Pet Shops   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3    |
| Miscellaneous Inspections   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 282  |
| Total Inspections   |     |     |     |     |     | 4358 |



|                                    |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Complaints received                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 274 |
| Number of letters sent             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 547 |
| Number of Informal Notices served  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 90  |
| Number of Statutory Notices served | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9   |

### Defects Remedied

|                                    |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Drainage and Sanitary Arrangements | ... | ... | ... | ... | 338 |
| Dwelling Houses etc.               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 140 |

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

### Statutory Notices

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

Six Statutory Notices under Section 75, requiring the provision of dustbins were served during the year. The Notices were complied with in each case.

### Smoke Nuisances

Representations were made to the owner of a factory and a bakehouse regarding smoke nuisances. Automatic Stokers were installed in the factory and some improvement effected in the case of the bakehouse.

Complaint was made regarding fumes and smoke through the melting of lead alloy mixed with small particles of battery casings and the operators promised to avoid further nuisance.

### Flooding

#### *Essex Road/Charlton Mead Area*

There was evidence that an underground conduit running through the affected area, and which conveys water from the Rye House Electricity Generating Station Cooling Towers back into the River Lee, was leaking, and was a contributory cause of flooding of the ground. During the year one leak was repaired. Other leaks are suspected, and the matter is being investigated.

### 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.

### Disinfestation

#### *Verminous Houses*

Four houses were treated with suitable insecticides.

#### *Wasps' Nests*

Complaints were received about wasps' and hornets' nests and seven nests were destroyed during the year.



## Disinfections

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

## Sanitary Conveniences

### *Licensed Premises—Public Houses*

The modernisation and provision of additional sanitary accommodation at one public house was carried out during the year. Plans and specifications are in course of preparation for improvements and additions to the sanitary arrangements at another public house.

## Swimming Bath

The Council's swimming pool at "The Spinning Wheel" High Street, Hoddesdon was opened to the public from 1st May to 2nd October.

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

Apart from the regular and routine tests for residual chlorine in the water, twenty-three bacteriological examinations were made during the year, as well as one full chemical analysis. With the exception of one, these were reported as satisfactory. The adverse result occurred during hot weather and when the supply of chlorine was interrupted as a result of the railway strike. Prompt action was taken to obtain emergency supplies of chlorine.

The Council's scheme for enlarging the bath with additional filtering plant, and providing new dressing rooms and additional sanitary accommodation was completed during the year.

## HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1952

### HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

#### Slum Clearance

The Housing Survey which commenced in 1954, as required by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, was completed during the year, some 300 houses being inspected. A list of 159 insanitary properties was compiled and the Council's proposals for dealing with these properties during the next 5 years was submitted to the Minister, after approval by the Council.

Detailed inspection of houses for clearance was started and by the end of the year, preliminary work on 4 clearance areas comprising 12 houses, was well advanced. The Council made 2 Clearance Orders involving a block of 3 and 2 houses respectively, and these Orders were subsequently confirmed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

#### *Houses Demolished*

During the year 9 properties were pulled down.



### Certificate of Disrepair

Certificates of Disrepair under Part II of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were granted to the occupiers of two properties during the year.

### Improvement of Housing Accommodation

During 1955 the Council approved applications for improvement Grants to 10 properties. By the end of the year work was complete at 5 houses. In addition, at the end of the year, improvement work which had commenced at 2 houses in 1954 was completed at one house, and was still in progress at the second.

### Housing Progress

A table showing the progress with new housing appears in the statistical section of this Combined Report.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

### Milk and Dairies

|   |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of Dairies   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7  |
| Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk by Round from outside the district | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  |

After October 1954 the bottling of Pasteurised milk in the Urban District at premises other than those where it is pasteurised became illegal. Such bottling was done at only one dairy in Hoddesdon, which operated a pasteurising plant until December, when the process was discontinued.

Regular inspection of the dairies was carried out, a total of 35 visits being recorded during the year. After informal action, one dairy was cleansed and redecorated.

Following a reported case of Food Poisoning, it was ascertained that one milk retailer was bottling designated milk at a farm dairy in an adjoining district. It was established that the bottles were cleansed locally, transported to the farm dairy and filled without any other cleansing processes. Representations were made and methods suggested in order to ensure that the bottles are practically sterile before being filled. Empty bottles were taken from the plant of the retailer concerned and submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological examination. Three of the bottles were found to be of a very high standard of cleanliness and one fell below the standard. Further samples were taken and the results were found to be satisfactory.

Only two retailers actually bottle milk in this district. All the other milk is bottled elsewhere.

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

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

Dealer's Licences to use Special Designation:

|                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| "Pasteurised"       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9  |
| "Sterilised"        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| "Tuberculin Tested" | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7  |



## Supplementary Licences to use Special Designation:

|                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| "Pasteurised"       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| "Sterilised"        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| "Tuberculin Tested" | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |

*Milk Sampling*

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

| Type of Milk        | Passed | Prescribed | Failed to Pass  |
|---------------------|--------|------------|-----------------|
|                     |        | Test       | Prescribed Test |
| "Pasteurised"       | ...    | 44         | Nil             |
| "T.T. Pasteurised"  | ...    | 1          | Nil             |
| "Tuberculin Tested" | ...    | 12         | 1               |

*School Milk*

Eleven samples of milk supplied to schools in the district were taken during the year by the County Council Sampling Officers. All were reported as being 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.

**Preserved Food etc.**

There are 15 premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or preserved foods.

**Food Premises generally**

Routine inspection of food premises has continued throughout the year, a total of 240 visits being made.

Improvements effected during the year include provision of hot water and washing facilities and cleansing and redecoration.

*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.

**Ice Cream**

There are fifty-seven licenced retailers registered with the Council and all sell pre-packed ice cream. A total of 12 visits was made to ice cream premises during the year.

Six samples of prepacked ice cream of various makes were sent to the laboratory, and were all classed as 'Provisional Grade 1'



## Unsound Food

### 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<br>Containers | Approx<br>Weight<br>cwt. | lb. |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Meat and Meat Products    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 78                   | 3                        | 47  |
| Milk                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4                    |                          | 3   |
| Fish                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5                    |                          | 4   |
| Fruit and Vegetables etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10                   |                          | 79  |
|                           |     |     |     |     |     |                      | 4                        | 21  |

### *Miscellaneous Foodstuffs*

|               |     |     |     |     |     |     |   |    |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|----|
| Beef          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 44 |
| Offals etc.   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |   | 54 |
| Pork Sausages | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |   | 34 |
| Fish          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |   | 28 |
| Cheese        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |   | 56 |
| Prunes        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |   | 30 |
|               |     |     |     |     |     |     | 3 | 22 |

Total weight of all foodstuffs: 7 cwt. 43 lb. (1954: 12 cwt. 19lb.)

## Slaughterhouses

There is 1 slaughterhouse in operation in the District and a licence has been issued for the period to 31st December, 1957

Details of Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part, are given below:—

|                          | Cattle<br>(excl.<br>Cows) | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|
| No. killed and inspected | 66                        | —    | 2      | 160                   | 26   |

The carcases of 3 Cattle (excl. Cows) were affected in whole or in part with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticercosis, and represented 4.5% of the total cattle inspected. A similar number and percentage of Cattle was affected with Tuberculosis only.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

### Private Dwellings

The Council continued to give a free service to private dwellings and 81 complaints of infestation were received from occupiers during the year.

## Business Premises

Contracts with the owners of three commercial properties for the servicing and treatment of their premises, were in operation during the year. Treatment of twenty 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 farm 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<br>and<br>Rye Park | Brox-<br>bourne | Wormley |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Total No. of Sewer Manholes<br>(approx.) ... .. | 235                          | 170             | 50      |
| No. of Manholes Test Baited ... ..              | 36                           | 17              | 5       |
| „ „ „ showing “Takes” ... ..                    | 6                            | 1               | 5       |
| Treatment was carried out as follows:—          |                              |                 |         |
| <i>May, 1955:</i>                               |                              |                 |         |
| No. of Manholes Baited ... ..                   | 14                           | 2               | —       |
| „ „ „ showing “Takes” ... ..                    | 9                            | 2               | —       |
| <i>November, 1955:</i>                          |                              |                 |         |
| No. of Manholes Baited ... ..                   | 16                           | 2               | —       |
| „ „ „ showing “Takes” ... ..                    | 8                            | Nil             | —       |

## Summary

Details of inspections made, infestations recorded, and treatments carried out during 1955 are summarised as follows:—

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Inspections made ... ..                  | 1,777 |
| Properties inspected ... ..              | 807   |
| Properties infested ... ..               | 98    |
| Total treatments and retreatments ... .. | 159   |

## HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1935

### Moveable Dwellings etc,

Permission was granted during the year for the placing of four moveable dwellings on land in the Urban District, for limited periods only.

#### *Lea Wharf Estate*

There are still some 10 caravans and 100 other shacks on this estate situated near the West Bank of the River Lee at Wormley. These are used mainly at week-ends during the Summer months and every effort is made to prevent these being in use for permanent habitation.

#### *Dobbs Weir Riverside Holidays, Frogleys Road, Dobbs Weir*

This Camp set up in 1951, is well conducted and consents granted by the Council under the Hertfordshire County Council



Act, 1935 and the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 provide for the placing of 100 moveable dwellings on the site from the Sunday before Easter to 31st October in each year to 1960.

*Riverside Dwellings, Frogleys Road, Dobbs Weir*

Two families were housed by the Council from the wooden bungalows, "Buxtehude" and "Belvedere" at Frogleys Road. The owner gave an undertaking not to use these for permanent habitation, although use as chalets in connection with the above camp, for Summer holidays, is sanctioned for the same period as prescribed for the moveable dwellings.

### 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.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Fifty-five visits and inspections were made during the year.

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

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948—1951

One elderly lady who was ill in bed and incapable of looking after herself, and who was not receiving adequate care and attention at home, was removed to hospital on March 1st. The removal was carried out by Order of a Justice of the Peace in accordance with the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951. The patient died 22 days later.

### SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

Following representations made to the Hertfordshire County Council the School Dental Clinic at the Welfare Centre, was reopened on June 23rd, 1955. The County Dental Officer reported that routine dental inspections of schoolchildren would be resumed, and having due regard to the arrears of work to be taken up, every school in the District would be visited as soon as circumstances permitted.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

#### Food Poisoning

Two family outbreaks of suspected food poisoning were notified. The first involved three members of one family, who became violently ill from between 1 to 3 hours after supper on 20th January, 1955. The only positive finding after detailed investigations was a moderate growth of non-faecal coliform organisms in vomit from one of the patients, and also from an opened bottle of milk. The number of germs present was thought to have been too few to have caused the illness.

During September an isolated case of food poisoning due to *Salmonella newport* was reported. The source of infection was not traced. No other cases were reported.

#### Acute Poliomyelitis

In September a boy of 12 years was reported to be suffering from non-paralytic poliomyelitis. He made a good recovery.



# NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES during 1955

| DISEASE                    | TOTAL | AGE GROUP (in Years) |     |     |     |     |         | Age not Known | Admitted to Hospital | Deaths |
|----------------------------|-------|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|---------------|----------------------|--------|
|                            |       | Under 1              | 1-  | 5-  | 15- | 25- | Over 65 |               |                      |        |
| Scarlet Fever ... ..       | 0     | —                    | —   | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Whooping Cough ... ..      | 11    | 1                    | 4   | 5   | 1   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Poliomyelitis (Acute):     |       |                      |     |     |     |     |         |               |                      |        |
| Paralytic ... ..           | 0     | —                    | —   | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Non-Paralytic ... ..       | 1     | —                    | —   | —   | 1   | —   | —       | —             | 1                    | —      |
| Measles ... ..             | 247   | 9                    | 105 | 128 | 2   | 3   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Diphtheria ... ..          | 0     | —                    | —   | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Acute Pneumonia ... ..     | 7     | —                    | —   | 2   | —   | 4   | —       | 1             | —                    | —      |
| Dysentery ... ..           | 0     | —                    | —   | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Smallpox ... ..            | 0     | —                    | —   | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Encephalitis (Acute):      |       |                      |     |     |     |     |         |               |                      |        |
| Infective ... ..           | 0     | —                    | —   | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Post-Infectious ... ..     | 0     | —                    | —   | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Enteric or Typhoid Fever   | 0     | —                    | —   | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Paratyphoid Fever ... ..   | 0     | —                    | —   | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Erysipelas ... ..          | 3     | —                    | —   | —   | —   | 3   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Meningococcal Infection... | 0     | —                    | —   | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Food Poisoning ... ..      | 5     | —                    | —   | 1   | 1   | 3   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..   | 1     | —                    | —   | —   | —   | 1   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum      | 0     | —                    | —   | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Infective Jaundice ... ..  | 6     | —                    | 1   | 3   | —   | 2   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |

Tuberculosis notifications are shown in a separate table at the beginning of this Combined District Report.

## INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

| DISEASE              | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December |
|----------------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Scarlet Fever ... .. | —       | —        | —     | —     | —   | —    | —    | —      | —         | —       | —        | —        |
| Whooping Cough       | —       | —        | 3     | 2     | 1   | —    | 1    | —      | —         | —       | 3        | 1        |
| Ac. Poliomyelitis    | —       | —        | —     | —     | —   | —    | —    | —      | 1         | —       | —        | —        |
| Measles ... ..       | —       | 1        | —     | 8     | 12  | 157  | 49   | 20     | —         | —       | —        | —        |
| Acute Pneumonia      | —       | 3        | —     | 3     | 1   | —    | —    | —      | —         | —       | —        | —        |
| Erysipelas ... ..    | —       | —        | 1     | —     | —   | —    | 1    | —      | —         | 1       | —        | —        |
| Food Poisoning       | 3       | —        | —     | —     | —   | —    | —    | —      | 2         | —       | —        | —        |
| Puerperal Pyrexia    | —       | 1        | —     | —     | —   | —    | —    | —      | —         | —       | —        | —        |
| Infective Jaundice   | 1       | 2        | —     | 1     | 1   | —    | —    | 1      | —         | —       | —        | —        |



# SAWBRIDGEWORTH URBAN DISTRICT

## WATER SUPPLY

The piped supply is provided by the Herts and Essex Water Company to 1,223 houses, six of which share three standpipes.

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

### Quality

#### *Bacteriological*

Reports were received upon 56 samples of the town's water supply, and show that B.Coli. were absent from 100 ml. in each case.

#### *Chemical*

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

| Results in Parts<br>per Million               | 5th April,<br>1955                                   | 7th July,<br>1955                |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Appearance ... ..                             | Faint opalescence with very few<br>mineral particles |                                  |
| Turbidity (Silica scale) ...                  | Less than 3  | Less than 12                     |
| Colour (Hazen) ... ..                         | Filtered   | Filtered                         |
| Odour ... ..                                  | Nil  | Slight sulphuretted<br>hydrogen  |
| Reaction pH ... ..                            | 7.1  | 7.0                              |
| Free CO <sub>2</sub> ... ..                   | 34   | 44                               |
| Electric Conductivity at<br>20° C. ... ..     | 660  | 660                              |
| Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ... ..        | 300  | 305                              |
| Total solids dried at 180° C.                 | 460  | 455                              |
| Hardness:                                     |  |                                  |
| Carbonate (Temp.) ...                         | 300  | 305                              |
| Non-Carb. (Perm.) ...                         | 60   | 50                               |
| Total ... ..                                  | 360  | 355                              |
| Nitrogen in:                                  |  |                                  |
| Nitrates ... ..                               | 0.0  | 0.0                              |
| Nitrites ... ..                               | Less than 0.01                                       | Less than 0.01                   |
| Free Ammonia ... ..                           | 0.15   | 0.29                             |
| Albuminoid Ammonia ...                        | 0.026  | 0.025                            |
| Residual Chlorine ... ..                      | Nil  | Nil                              |
| Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at<br>27° C. ... .. | 0.25   | 0.50                             |
| Metals ... ..                                 | Iron 0.30<br>Other metals absent                     | Iron 1.00<br>Other metals absent |
| Fluorine ... ..                               | 0.6  | 0.5                              |

## 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 out of five samples of effluent taken from the Central Sewage Works for analysis were satisfactory upon analysis. The remaining one was slightly high in suspended matter.

Difficulty was experienced during the year in obtaining and retaining adequate labour at the Sewage Works due to severe competition from industry.

Improvements to the Pishiobury Sewage Ejector were commenced during the year which enabled new properties to be drained to the sewage system.

## 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.

Arrangements were made by the Council in 1955 for disposal of refuse at Redricks Lane Tip and from the beginning of October no tipping was carried out on the Council Tip adjacent to the Sewage Works.

## PARTICULARS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK during the year 1955

### *Summary of Visits*

|                                   |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Public Health Acts                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 157 |
| Housing Acts                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 234 |
| Food and Drugs Act                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 78  |
| Factories Act                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 45  |
| Miscellaneous                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 211 |
| Total                             |     |     |     |     | 725 |
| Number of Informal Notices served |     |     |     |     | 17  |
| ,, ,, Statutory Notices served    |     |     |     |     | Nil |

## HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1949

13 houses were completed and tenanted on the Bullfields Housing Estate.

### **Ex-Aerodrome Site—Parsonage Estate**

11 huts were demolished in 1954, and the Occupants rehoused. 11 huts were still occupied at the end of the year. It is hoped to complete the demolition of the remaining huts by 31st March, 1958.



## Housing Progress

A table showing the progress with new housing, appears in the statistical section of this Combined Report.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

### Milk

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

### *Supplementary Licences to use Special Designations*

|                   |     |     |     |     |   |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Pasteurised       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Sterilised        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Tuberculin Tested | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |

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

### Ice Cream

No ice cream is manufactured in the district. There are 11 registered premises, and regular inspections are carried out.

### Unsound Food

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

| Category             | No. of<br>Tins or<br>Containers | Weight<br>in lb. |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Meat (Tinned)        | 6                               | 50               |
| Fruit and Vegetables | 2                               | 13               |
| Total Weight         | ...                             | 63               |

(1954 Total: 98 lb.)

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

No charge is made in respect of private dwellings.

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

### Rodent Control—*Summary of work done*

|   |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Total number of premises inspected        | ... | ... | 103 |
| Number of premises infested               | ... | ... | 39  |
| Number of premises treated by the Council | ... | ... | 39  |
| Total Number of visits and re-visits      | ... | ... | 207 |

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### Measles

A small outbreak occurred towards the middle and end of February, 1955.

### Food Poisoning

Two isolated family outbreaks of food poisoning due to *Salmonella typhimurium* occurred in August and September. Only one person in each family was affected. The source of infection could not be traced.

**Poliomyelitis**

One case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis was reported in September.

**Typhoid Fever: *Carrier***

Arising from the investigation of several cases of Typhoid Fever at a town in East Anglia, it was discovered that a resident of Sawbridgeworth, was a carrier of the disease. Appropriate steps to deal with the situation have been taken.



| DISEASE                    | TOTAL | AGE GROUP (in Years) |    |    |     |     |         | Age not Known | Admitted to Hospital | Deaths |
|----------------------------|-------|----------------------|----|----|-----|-----|---------|---------------|----------------------|--------|
|                            |       | Under 1              | 1- | 5- | 15- | 25- | Over 65 |               |                      |        |
| Scarlet Fever ... ..       | 0     | —                    | —  | —  | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Whooping Cough ... ..      | 1     | —                    | —  | 1  | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Poliomyelitis (Acute):     |       |                      |    |    |     |     |         |               |                      |        |
| Paralytic ... ..           | 0     | —                    | —  | —  | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Non-Paralytic ... ..       | 1     | —                    | —  | —  | —   | 1   | —       | —             | 1                    | —      |
| Measles ... ..             | 78    | 1                    | 27 | 47 | —   | 3   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Diphtheria ... ..          | 0     | —                    | —  | —  | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Acute Pneumonia ... ..     | 2     | —                    | —  | —  | —   | —   | 2       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Dysentery ... ..           | 0     | —                    | —  | —  | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Smallpox ... ..            | 0     | —                    | —  | —  | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Encephalitis (Acute):      |       |                      |    |    |     |     |         |               |                      |        |
| Infective ... ..           | 0     | —                    | —  | —  | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Post-Infectious ... ..     | 0     | —                    | —  | —  | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Enteric or Typhoid Fever   | 0     | —                    | —  | —  | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Paratyphoid Fever ... ..   | 0     | —                    | —  | —  | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Erysipelas ... ..          | 0     | —                    | —  | —  | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Meningococcal Infection... | 0     | —                    | —  | —  | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Food Poisoning ... ..      | 2     | —                    | 1  | 1  | —   | —   | —       | —             | 2                    | —      |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..   | 2     | —                    | —  | —  | —   | 2   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum      | 0     | —                    | —  | —  | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Infective Jaundice ... ..  | 3     | —                    | —  | —  | 1   | 2   | —       | —             | 2                    | —      |

### INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

[illegible]

# 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.

During the year extensions have been made to provide water mains to new housing estates and industrial development. A scheme is in course of preparation for improvements to the Scotts Road booster station.

### 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 16th August, 1955 from both the Musley Lane (Tower Supply) and Musley Hill (Reservoir Supply) is as follows:—

| Chemical Results in Parts<br>per Million |     |     |     | Tower<br>Supply                             | Reservoir<br>Supply |
|--|-----|-----|-----|---|---------------------|
| Appearance                               | ... | ... | ... | Clear and Bright                            | Clear and Bright    |
| Turbidity (Silica scale)                 | ... | ... | ... | Nil   | Nil                 |
| Colour                                   | ... | ... | ... | Nil   | Nil                 |
| Odour                                    | ... | ... | ... | Nil   | Nil                 |
| Reaction pH                              | ... | ... | ... | 7.1   | 7.1                 |
| Free Carbon Dioxide                      | ... | ... | ... | 30  | 30                  |
| Electric Conductivity                    | ... | ... | ... | 620   | 620                 |
| Total Solids                             | ... | ... | ... | 445   | 445                 |
| Chlorine in Chlorides                    | ... | ... | ... | 28  | 26                  |
| Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>          | ... | ... | ... | 270   | 265                 |
| Hardness:                                |     |     |     |   |                     |
| Carbonate                                | ... | ... | ... | 270   | 265                 |
| Non-carbonate                            | ... | ... | ... | 65  | 65                  |
| Total                                    | ... | ... | ... | 335   | 330                 |
| Nitrogen in Nitrates                     | ... | ... | ... | 5.2   | 5.4                 |
| Nitrogen in Nitrites                     | ... | ... | ... | Absent                                      | Absent              |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen                      | ... | ... | ... | 0.000                                       | 0.000               |
| Oxygen Absorbed                          | ... | ... | ... | 0.25  | 0.25                |
| Albuminoid Nitrogen                      | ... | ... | ... | 0.000                                       | 0.000               |
| Residual Chlorine                        | ... | ... | ... | Absent                                      | Absent              |
| Metals:                                  |     |     |     | Iron: less than 0.03<br>Other metals Absent | Absent              |

These samples are clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so, contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution and it is of the highest standard of organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.



## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year a connection was made to the Trunk Sewer at Stanstead Abbots to divert the drainage of the parishes of St. Margarets and Great Amwell directly into the Trunk Sewer instead of through this Council's Pumping Station at Marsh Lane. A scheme is in course of preparation for diverting the main outfall from Ware into the Trunk Sewer near Easneye Lodge. This work will be carried out during 1956 when it will be possible to abandon Marsh Lane Pumping Station.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

During 1955 tipping has continued at Amwell End. This site was practically full at the end of the year, and during 1956 a new tip will be developed at Crane Mead.

## SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

during the year 1955

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Sewers and Drains ... ..                          | 144   |
| Sanitary accommodation and fittings ... ..        | 93    |
| Nuisances;  |       |
| House defects ... ..                              | 109   |
| Animals ... ..                                    | 15    |
| Offensive accumulations ... ..                    | 44    |
| Fly nuisances ... ..                              | 46    |
| Filthy and verminous premises and articles ... .. | 21    |
| Dust and effluvia ... ..                          | 8     |
| Dangerous structures ... ..                       | 2     |
| Tents, vans and sheds ... ..                      | 13    |
| Smoke nuisances ... ..                            | 32    |
| Dustbins ... ..                                   | 3     |
| Infectious disease ... ..                         | 36    |
| Housing:  |       |
| Improvements and repairs ... ..                   | 9     |
| Clearance Areas and recorded ... ..               | 218   |
| Overcrowding ... ..                               | 5     |
| Food premises. (Section 13 and Byelaws.) ... ..   | 25    |
| "    "    Condemnations ... ..                    | 17    |
| Ice Cream ... ..                                  | 29    |
| Milk ... ..                                       | 10    |
| Slaughterhouse: inspection of meat ... ..         | 598   |
| Butcher shops ... ..                              | 7     |
| Shop Acts ... ..                                  | 1     |
| Rats and mice ... ..                              | 70    |
| Factories ... ..                                  | 17    |
| Outworkers ... ..                                 | 1     |
| Building operations ... ..                        | 4     |
|   | <hr/> |
|   | 1,577 |

**Complaints Received**

|               |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| General       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 135   |
| Rats and Mice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 44    |
|               |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | <hr/> |
| Total         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 179   |
|               |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | <hr/> |

**Notices, etc., Served***Informal Notices*

|                         |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Public Health Act, 1936 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 63    |
| Food and Drugs Acts     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3     |
| Housing Act, 1936       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8     |
|                         |     |     |     |     |     |     | <hr/> |
| Total                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 74    |
|                         |     |     |     |     |     |     | <hr/> |

*Statutory Notices*

|  |     |       |
|--|-----|-------|
| Public Health Act, 1936, Section 39 (Drainage)         | ... | 2     |
| Public Health Act, 1936, Section 45 (Closets)          | ... | 1     |
| Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93 (Nuisances)        | ... | 2     |
| Housing Act, 1936, Section 11 (Time and Place)         | ... | 1     |
| Housing Act, 1936, Section 168 (Ownership of premises) | ... | 46    |
| Factories Act, 1937, Section 7 (Sanitary Conveniences) | ... | 1     |
|  |     | <hr/> |
| Total  | ... | 53    |
|  |     | <hr/> |

**Licences Issued**

|   |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Pet Shops   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Slaughtermen                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Food and Drugs Acts, (Milk and Dairies Regs:)     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |
| Dealers' Licences to use Special Designation      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Supplementary Licences to use Special Designation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5  |

**PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936**

Informal and formal action has been taken to secure the abatement of drainage and sanitary nuisances at properties in the Town. In only one instance was it necessary for the Council to act in default, and this was to repair a defective water closet.

A fly nuisance was again reported from the Council refuse tip off Amwell End. As Gammexane powder used on the tip was not proving effectual, Malathion was tried during September.

During February it was observed that snow over a large area of the town was blackened by soot. The trouble arose from a local factory, where oil fired boilers are in use, and the Organisation concerned had rectified the trouble before the Public Health Department communicated with them. It was reported that an adjustment to the oil burners became temporarily out of trim, resulting in incomplete combustion of the oil fuel.



## HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1954

### Housing Progress

A table showing the progress with new housing appears in the statistical section of this Combined Report.

### Substandard Housing

The survey made to assess the number of unfit houses in Ware, in connection with the Government's Slum Clearance Programme, revealed an estimated number of 46 houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. This figure includes four properties remaining from part of Clearance Area 13, and five houses in Clearance area 18, both having been 'declared', pre-war.

The Council purchased 10 cottages in two terraces, as being sufficient and suitable accommodation for certain classes of applicants. Three were vacated and let in the year under review, one being used for rehousing from Clearance Area 13, and another for rehousing a person displaced on account of road improvement works.

Area 20 comprising two houses and workshop, 'declared' in 1954, was confirmed. Sixteen houses in Areas 21, 22, 23, and 24, were declared unfit, of which six have been confirmed in Areas 23 and 24.

Closing Orders were made on three houses, and Undertakings by the owners not to re-let 10 houses were accepted by the Council. Six of these were originally Represented as suitable only for Clearance in the proposed Area No. 19 (Monkey Row.)

Six unfit attics or rooms were closed.

### Improvements to substandard houses

Two houses were improved by the addition of kitchen and toilet facilities.

### Overcrowding

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

|  | Privately<br>Owned | Council<br>Houses | Total |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Number of overcrowded houses brought forward at 1st Jan., 1955 | 1                  | 5                 | 6     |
| New cases of overcrowding discovered during 1955 ... ..        | 1                  | 2                 | 3     |
| Number of cases abated ... ..                                  | —                  | 3                 | 3     |
| Number of overcrowded houses at 31st Dec., 1955 ... ..         | 2                  | 4                 | 6     |

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

A full time Rodent Operative is employed by the Council, and it is chiefly because of his constant vigilance throughout the District that infestations are kept within reasonable limits. His work is increased because the very old type of building to be found in Ware offers much more shelter for rats than a modern type of



construction. Also because of the types of food industry found locally there is potentially plentiful food supply for rats. Co-operation by the owners of food premises generally is excellent, and they either make their own arrangements for rodent control, or they employ the Council to carry out the work. One of the best methods of dealing with infestations covering groups of premises is by 'block control', and this can only be done effectively if all concerned work together.

It was not necessary to serve any Statutory Notices in connection with the abatement of Rodents Nuisances; no action was taken in default, and no legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

A brief summary of the Rodent Operator's work is as follows:—

|   |     |     |     |       |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Approx. No. properties in the District, including |     |     |     |       |
| Agricultural properties                           | ... | ... | ... | 3,064 |
| Total inspections and re-inspections              | ... | ... | ... | 4,302 |
| Properties found infested by rats and mice        | ... | ... | ... | 242   |
| Infected properties treated by Council            | ... | ... | ... | 221   |

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

A complaint made by a dairyman regarding foul smelling milk received from a farm was passed to the Milk Regulations Officer for attention.

Two complaints regarding flies in bottled orange drink from different manufacturers were received. The plant of one manufacturer was inspected and the process and premises were considered satisfactory. Such contamination appears possible on the carrier belt leaving the washer en route to the filler. The trapped fly floating under the cap of a freshly filled bottle was considered likely to escape normal inspection.

The Sanitary Inspector of the other district concerned also decided that there was no evidence of neglect on the part of the manufacturers.

Sampling of ice cream from a factory was satisfactory until the hot spell when tests were not reliable owing to temperature control difficulties at the laboratory. The factory ceased to manufacture at the end of the season and it is to be registered for the storage of ice cream retailed by a Company of national repute.

## Meat Inspection

Both Inspectors have been kept very busy at the Slaughterhouse in Ware, and practically all the animals slaughtered have been inspected. Generally speaking the meat inspected has been of high quality, as shown by the small proportion of condemnations compared with previous years. However as meat from this slaughterhouse goes far afield the great importance of continuing this inspection cannot be too greatly stressed both from the food hygiene angle and the prestige of the industry concerned.

Meat has also been inspected at retail premises in the Town.



*Total Weight of Meat Condemned, in lb.*

| Home Killed:         | Beef  | Mutton | Pork   | Total  |
|----------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| Diseased ... ..      | 8,149 | 231    | 14,409 | 22,789 |
| Decomposition ... .. | 177   | —      | —      | 177    |
| Imported:            |       |        |        |        |
| Decomposition ... .. | 106   | —      | —      | 106    |

*Total Weight in lb. of Carcase Meat Condemned*

| Market ... .. | Beef  | Veal | Mutton | Pork  | Total |
|---------------|-------|------|--------|-------|-------|
|               | 1,932 | 73   | 36     | 6,941 | 8,982 |

*Carcases Inspected and Condemned during 1955*

|                               | Cattle<br>(excl.<br>Cows) | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs  |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|-------|
| No. killed during 1954 ...    | 2,085                     | 445  | 712    | 5,929                 | 4,633 |
| No. killed during 1955 ...    | 777                       | 317  | 561    | 1,215                 | 9,386 |
| No. inspected during 1954 ... | 2,085                     | 445  | 712    | 5,929                 | 4,626 |
| No. inspected during 1955 ... | 776                       | 316  | 546    | 1,215                 | 9,261 |

*All diseases except tuberculosis.*

|  |   |   |      |      |      |
|--|---|---|------|------|------|
| Whole carcases condemned                           | — | — | 3    | 1    | 20   |
| % of the number inspected totally condemned ... .. | — | — | 0.55 | 0.08 | 0.22 |

*Tuberculosis only whole Carcases condemned*

|  |   |      |   |   |   |
|--|---|------|---|---|---|
| ... ..   | — | 2    | — | — | — |
| % of the number inspected totally condemned ... .. | — | 0.63 | — | — | — |

*Cysticercosis:*

|  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned   | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ... | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Generalised and totally condemned ... ..             | — | — | — | — | — |

**Other Foods**

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

|                     | No. of<br>Containers | Approx.<br>Weight<br>in lb. |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tinned Foods ... .. | 57                   | 68                          |
| Tinned Meat ... ..  | 14                   | 111                         |
| Frozen Foods ... .. | 111                  | 80                          |
| Cheese ... ..       | —                    | 44                          |
| Dried Fruit ... ..  | 2                    | 2                           |
|                     |                      | —                           |
|                     |                      | 305                         |
|                     |                      | —                           |

Number of condemnation notes issued: 62

**FACTORIES ACT, 1937**

A copy of the information supplied to the Ministry of Labour and National Service on Form 572 (Revised), is given at the end of the Statistical Section of this Combined Report.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

### Infective Jaundice

Early information concerning the possible existence of cases of Infective Jaundice was obtained solely due to several head teachers at schools in Ware reporting an undue prevalence of sick absence amongst their pupils. These cases were visited, whereupon it was discovered that a number had not called in their doctor. One large family first had a case of Jaundice in October 1954, and at intervals of just over one month various other members contracted the same complaint, as well as probably passing it on to other people. Immediate steps were taken to inform all the Medical Practitioners in Ware and the surrounding District, and by the end of February 27 notifications of Infective Jaundice had been made. A few more cases occurred until June.

### Measles

A minor epidemic of measles took place during February. One child died after complications had set in.

### Smallpox

A sharp reminder of the continued existence of this disease was received when the Health Department was informed that a member of the crew of a liner from the Far East was a possible contact of a case of Modified Smallpox diagnosed on board ship. The crew member who lives in Ware was kept under surveillance during the danger period, and remained perfectly well. The family doctor was kept informed, and arrangements made to carry out any vaccinations that might have been necessary.



## NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES during 1955

| DISEASE                    | TOTAL | AGE GROUP (in Years) |    |     |     |     |         | Age not Known | Admitted to Hospital | Deaths |
|----------------------------|-------|----------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|---------|---------------|----------------------|--------|
|                            |       | Under 1              | 1- | 5-  | 15- | 25- | Over 65 |               |                      |        |
| Scarlet Fever ... ..       | 5     | —                    | —  | 5   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Whooping Cough ... ..      | 2     | —                    | 1  | 1   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Poliomyelitis (Acute):     |       |                      |    |     |     |     |         |               |                      |        |
| Paralytic ... ..           | 1     | —                    | —  | 1   | —   | —   | —       | —             | 1                    | —      |
| Non-Paralytic ... ..       | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Measles ... ..             | 260   | 5                    | 97 | 155 | 1   | 1   | —       | 1             | 1                    | 1      |
| Diphtheria ... ..          | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Acute Pneumonia ... ..     | 2     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | 2       | —             | 2                    | 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 ... ..   | 1     | —                    | —  | —   | 1   | —   | —       | —             | 1                    | —      |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum      | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Infective Jaundice ... ..  | 45    | —                    | 2  | 34  | 1   | 8   | —       | —             | 1                    | —      |

Tuberculosis notifications are shown in a separate table at the beginning of this Combined District Report.

## INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

| DISEASE               | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December |
|-----------------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Scarlet Fever ... ..  | —       | —        | —     | —     | 1   | 3    | —    | —      | —         | 1       | —        | —        |
| Whooping Cough ... .. | —       | —        | —     | —     | 1   | —    | —    | —      | —         | 1       | —        | —        |
| Poliomyelitis ... ..  | —       | —        | —     | —     | —   | —    | —    | —      | —         | —       | 1        | —        |
| Measles ... ..        | 3       | 134      | 86    | 14    | 3   | 13   | 6    | 1      | —         | —       | —        | —        |
| Acute Pneumonia       | —       | —        | —     | —     | 1   | —    | —    | —      | —         | —       | 1        | —        |
| Puerperal Pyrexia     | —       | —        | —     | —     | —   | —    | —    | —      | —         | 1       | —        | —        |
| Infective Jaundice    | 5       | 22       | 6     | 7     | 3   | 1    | —    | —      | —         | —       | 1        | —        |

# BRAUGHING RURAL DISTRICT

## WATER SUPPLY

### Source of Supply

There is a piped supply in each of the 19 parishes. Thirteen of these are supplied from Chipping pumping station. Out of the remaining 6 Parishes, Thorley is supplied from Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council, High Wych from the Herts and Essex Water Company, leaving the two Hadhams, Albury and Braughing which are supplied from Standon, in the Ware Rural District.

In April, 1955, work commenced at Chipping pumping station to install booster pumps for pumping water from a new storage and treatment tank to the Therfield (Hitchin R. D.) and Throcking water towers, of 100,000 gallons and 75,000 gallons capacity respectively. The station also supplies the Buntingford Reservoir which holds 60,000 gallons of water. In addition a section of the pumping main had already been duplicated, and larger borehole pumps are to be installed. It is anticipated that this Scheme which has been undertaken jointly by the Hitchin Rural District Council and the Braughing Rural Council, will be completed during 1956. These improvements became necessary due to increased demand for water, resulting primarily from housing schemes, and mains extensions to existing properties.

### Distribution of Supply

| Parish                 | Type of Water Supply |                            |       |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-------|
|                        | Water in House       | Outside Supply (Standpipe) | Wells |
| Albury ... ..          | 175                  | 13                         | 1     |
| Anstey ... ..          | 69                   | 18                         | 16    |
| Ardeley ... ..         | 91                   | 22                         | 11    |
| Aspenden ... ..        | 75                   | —                          | —     |
| Braughing ... ..       | 191                  | 115                        | 4     |
| Brent Pelham ... ..    | 56                   | 4                          | 4     |
| Buckland ... ..        | 93                   | 16                         | 1     |
| Buntingford ... ..     | 528                  | 57                         | 1     |
| Cottered ... ..        | 149                  | 14                         | 3     |
| Furneux Pelham ... ..  | 114                  | 18                         | 7     |
| High Wych ... ..       | 131                  | 20                         | 37    |
| Hormead ... ..         | 202                  | 4                          | —     |
| Little Hadham ... ..   | 227                  | 33                         | —     |
| Meesden ... ..         | 37                   | 4                          | —     |
| Much Hadham ... ..     | 593                  | 38                         | 1     |
| Stocking Pelham ... .. | 39                   | 5                          | —     |
| Thorley ... ..         | 61                   | 5                          | —     |
| Westmill ... ..        | 61                   | 7                          | 15    |
| Wyddial ... ..         | 27                   | 14                         | 1     |
| 1955 Total ... ..      | 2,919                | 407                        | 102   |
| 1954 Total ... ..      | 2,837                | 426                        | 103   |



Consequent upon the former Parishes of Broadfield and Throcking being absorbed into the Parish of Cottered, with effect from April 1955, the total number of parishes in the Braughing Rural District has been reduced by 2 from 21 parishes to 19 parishes. However this internal boundary change has not altered the area supplied with main water. Details of distribution of water are given in the table on the previous page.

### **Quality of Water Supply**

#### *Bacteriological*

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

## **SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

### **Cesspools**

In August 1955, following reports concerning the cesspool emptying service, the Council resolved that in future no cesspool or septic tank be emptied free of charge more frequently than once in each twelve months.

The Councils were informed that during the previous year there had been 589 emptyings, 122 second emptyings, and by August 1955 there were 122 outstanding applications for emptyings. The demand was rising, and the Council felt it was wrong to suggest they would give two free emptyings if they found it impossible to carry this out. It was decided that the cost of providing a second cesspool emptying vehicle and crew, or of hiring a vehicle, together with labour, would prove uneconomic. At the same time the Council realising its duty to provide some service resolved that only 1 free emptying be provided.

### **Septic Tanks and Sewage Treatment Plants**

In January 1955 the Council gave consideration to problems of maintenance of sewage plants and installations in the District. In addition to sewage disposal at Buntingford and Much Hadham, there were plants at Buckland, Braughing, Anstey (2 small plants), Meesden, Furneux Pelham, Albury, Thorley, High Wych, and Little Hadham. It was decided to employ a small mobile team to carry out the maintenance work.

During the year progress was made with improvement schemes approved in principle in 1954. Work commenced upon the conversion of septic tank installations at Meesden and Furneux Pelham into purification plants capable of producing an effluent pure enough to be discharged into a water course. This will overcome difficulties arising from failure of a heavy clay soil to absorb sewage effluent satisfactorily, and which creates drainage nuisances.

Also at Albury, in connection with 8 new Council Houses and modernisation of 4 old Council Houses, a small purification plant has been installed. This installation consisting of a small settlement tank, rotary filter, humus tank and sand filters, has



been constructed almost entirely above ground level, to avoid difficulties should flooding of the site occur; and is consequently of somewhat unorthodox design. It functions satisfactorily and produces a final effluent of good quality fit for discharge into a nearby water course.

Small schemes for effecting improvement to existing plants notably at Much Hadham and at High Wych were placed before the Council later in the Year.

### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This continues upon the basis of a fortnightly collection covering the whole District. Refuse is disposed of at the Council's tipping sites at Buckland, Little Hadham, Much Hadham, Braughing and Furneux Pelham.

Because of labour difficulties during the summer holiday period in 1955 there was a temporary breakdown in the Service, which affected parts of the District. The Council took immediate steps to make recurrence of this trouble unlikely in the future.

### PARTICULARS OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

#### During the year 1955

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Inspections and reinspections under the Housing Acts, 1936-54                  | 345          |
| Investigation of complaints and nuisance under the Public Health Act, 1936     | 144          |
| Inspections of premises where Food is sold or stored                           | 5            |
| Visits to examine unsound foodstuffs   | 3            |
| Visits to Slaughterhouses for inspection of meat                               | 130          |
| Infectious disease enquiries   | 63           |
| Inspections under Factories Act  | 11           |
| Inspections under Petroleum Consolidation Act                                  | 9            |
| Refuse Collection—visits to trade and domestic premises                        | 58           |
| Inspections to Refuse Tipping Sites  | 14           |
| Investigations of complaints of nuisance from defective drainage installations | 119          |
| Visits to Sewage Plants  | 306          |
| Investigation of complaints of Rodent Infestation                              | 101          |
| Visits in connection with Milk samples   | 83           |
| Visits in connection with Water samples  | 9            |
| Visits in connection with Sewage samples                                       | 11           |
| Appointments with owners   | 14           |
| Miscellaneous visits   | 98           |
| Visits to supervise outdoor labour   | 174          |
| Building inspections   | 172          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1,869</b> |
| Number of Informal Notices served  | Nil          |
| Number of Statutory Notices served   | Nil          |



## HOUSING ACTS 1936—1954

### Housing Progress

A table showing the progress with new housing appears in the Statistical Section of this Combined Report. A total of 8 new Council houses was completed during 1955.

### Substandard Housing

The re-survey of houses placed in Category 5 of the Rural Housing Survey, was completed during the year. This showed that because of repairs which had been carried out in many cases, often by owner occupiers, 123 houses should be reclassified in a higher category. 196 houses, though of poor quality, could, it was suggested, be improved at very considerable expense to the owners, whereas a further 191 properties were in such poor condition that they were only fit for demolition. These houses, fit only for demolition, are scattered throughout the parishes. Only in the larger villages such as High Wych and Braughing are there groups of properties of this type.

No properties were demolished during 1955, as a result of action under the Housing Acts.

### Improvement Grants

Improvement Grants, totalling approximately £3,983 were made in respect of schemes for improvement to 14 properties.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

### Milk Sampling

During the year 83 routine samples of milk were sent to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory for methylene blue and phosphatase tests. 78 samples passed the test and there were five failures.

### Meat Inspection

Meat inspection took place at the 3 licensed slaughterhouses in the District, situated at Buntingford (2), and Braughing (1), with the following results:—

|  |     |     |        |
|--|-----|-----|--------|
| Total Number of Carcases Inspected             | ... | ... | 1,341  |
| Meat condemned as unfit:                       |     |     |        |
| Home killed                                    | ... | ... | 184lb. |
| No other meat or meat products were condemned. |     |     |        |

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

### Rodent Control

A part-time Rodent Operative is employed by the Council.

The Council offers free treatment of rodent infestations at private households, but a charge is made for treating Trade or Business premises.

Routine treatments were carried out on the Council's refuse tips. Test baits were laid in the Council's sewers at Buntingford, Cottered, High Wych and Much Hadham, with negative results in each case.

During the year 91 properties which were inspected were found to be infested with rats or mice, and were treated by the Council.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### Acute Poliomyelitis

There were two cases of poliomyelitis. The first case, in January, had paralysis, but has made good recovery. The other case was non-paralytic and soon recovered.

### Paratyphoid Fever

A single case of Paratyphoid Fever occurred at Thorley in September, 1955. The patient had recently returned from holiday near Weymouth where an outbreak of Paratyphoid Fever had taken place. Laboratory investigations confirmed that there was a similarity between the germs causing the Weymouth outbreak and those causing the above illness. The Weymouth outbreak was traced to infected Chinese Frozen Egg, used by confectioners. The patient was treated in hospital, and made a complete recovery.

### Typhoid Fever

In November notice was received of two clinical cases of Typhoid Fever at an East Coast Town. The patients had recently visited relatives near High Wych. Detailed investigations of these contacts revealed that one contact was a carrier of the illness. This person had in fact been unwell some months earlier, but the illness was not diagnosed for certain; but in retrospect it seems probable that it might have been Typhoid Fever. Investigation continued for several weeks and eventually a second carrier of Typhoid Fever was traced in a nearby town. This second carrier suffered from Typhoid Fever in 1931 in West London, and still carries the infection. It seems probable, though there is no conclusive proof, that this long standing carrier infected the High Wych carrier, who in turn passed on the illness to the cases from the East Coast Town. In this respect it is interesting to record that the species of Typhoid germ (*Salmonella typhi*, Vi-phage type D.1.) is identical in all these cases.

### Anthrax

In June notice was received from the Police in accordance with the Anthrax Order, 1938 that a carcase of a Cow at a farm in the District was infected with Anthrax. Bacteriological confirmation of the disease was later received from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

This was the first proven case of Anthrax in the District for a number of years.

The Police who are the Authorised Officers under the Disease of Animals Acts, took steps to destroy the carcase and disinfect the farm, and I interviewed the farm workers to explain to them the possible dangers of Anthrax, since Anthrax is a disease communicable to man, and if untreated can cause severe illness or even death. The family doctors of the workers concerned were also informed of events.



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

| Parish                 | Scarlet<br>Fever | Whooping<br>Cough | Acute Polio-<br>myelitis | Measles | Acute<br>Pneumonia | Typhoid and<br>Paratyphoid<br>Fever | Infective<br>Jaundice |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Albury ... ..          | —                | —                 | —                        | 2       | 1                  | —                                   | —                     |
| Anstey ... ..          | —                | —                 | —                        | 4       | —                  | —                                   | —                     |
| Ardeley ... ..         | —                | —                 | —                        | —       | —                  | —                                   | —                     |
| Aspenden ... ..        | —                | —                 | —                        | 19      | —                  | —                                   | —                     |
| Braughing ... ..       | —                | —                 | 1                        | 10      | —                  | —                                   | —                     |
| Brent Pelham ... ..    | —                | 1                 | —                        | —       | —                  | —                                   | —                     |
| Buckland ... ..        | —                | 3                 | —                        | 8       | —                  | —                                   | —                     |
| Buntingford ... ..     | —                | 30                | 1                        | 59      | 2                  | —                                   | —                     |
| Cottered ... ..        | —                | 1                 | —                        | 34      | 1                  | —                                   | —                     |
| Furneux Pelham ... ..  | —                | —                 | —                        | 3       | 1                  | —                                   | —                     |
| High Wych ... ..       | —                | 1                 | —                        | 4       | —                  | 1                                   | —                     |
| Hormead ... ..         | 1                | —                 | —                        | 35      | —                  | —                                   | —                     |
| Little Hadham ... ..   | —                | —                 | —                        | 3       | —                  | —                                   | 3                     |
| Meesden ... ..         | —                | —                 | —                        | —       | —                  | —                                   | —                     |
| Much Hadham ... ..     | 1                | —                 | —                        | 13      | 4                  | —                                   | —                     |
| Stocking Pelham ... .. | —                | —                 | —                        | —       | —                  | —                                   | —                     |
| Thorley ... ..         | —                | —                 | —                        | —       | —                  | 1                                   | 1                     |
| Westmill ... ..        | —                | —                 | —                        | 16      | 1                  | —                                   | —                     |
| Wyddial ... ..         | —                | —                 | —                        | 3       | —                  | —                                   | —                     |

## NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES during 1955

| 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 ... ..      | 36    | 1                    | 13 | 21  | —   | 1   | —       | —             | —                    | 1      |
| Poliomyelitis (Acute):     |       |                      |    |     |     |     |         |               |                      |        |
| Paralytic ... ..           | 1     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | 1   | —       | —             | 1                    | —      |
| Non-Paralytic ... ..       | 1     | —                    | —  | 1   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | 1      |
| Measles ... ..             | 213   | 3                    | 65 | 142 | 1   | 2   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Diphtheria ... ..          | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Acute Pneumonia ... ..     | 10    | —                    | —  | 2   | 1   | 3   | 4       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Dysentery ... ..           | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Smallpox ... ..            | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Encephalitis (Acute):      |       |                      |    |     |     |     |         |               |                      |        |
| Infective ... ..           | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Post-Infectious ... ..     | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Enteric or Typhoid Fever   | 1     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | 1   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Paratyphoid Fever ... ..   | 1     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | 1   | —       | —             | 1                    | —      |
| Erysipelas ... ..          | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Meningococcal Infection... | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Food Poisoning ... ..      | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..   | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum      | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Infective Jaundice ... ..  | 4     | —                    | —  | 1   | 1   | 1   | —       | 1             | —                    | —      |

Tuberculosis notifications are shown in a separate table at the beginning of this Combined District Report.

## 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        | —     | —     | —   | —    | —    | —      | —         | —       | —        | —        |
| Whooping Cough       | 1       | —        | 5     | 20    | 8   | —    | 2    | —      | —         | —       | —        | —        |
| Ac. Poliomyelitis    | 1       | —        | —     | —     | —   | —    | —    | —      | —         | 1       | —        | —        |
| Measles ... ..       | 5       | 1        | 14    | 32    | 93  | 53   | 12   | 2      | 1         | —       | —        | —        |
| Acute Pneumonia      | 1       | 2        | 2     | 2     | —   | 1    | —    | 1      | —         | —       | 1        | —        |
| Typhoid Fever        | —       | —        | —     | —     | —   | —    | —    | —      | —         | —       | —        | 1        |
| Paratyphoid Fev'r    | —       | —        | —     | —     | —   | —    | —    | —      | 1         | —       | —        | —        |
| Infective Jaundice   | —       | —        | —     | 1     | 1   | 1    | —    | —      | —         | 1       | —        | —        |



## HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT

### Introduction

In 1955 important developments in the fields of water supplies, sewerage and housing, have enabled further progress towards attainment of a satisfactory standard of environmental hygiene. Some of these developments are outlined in the respective sections of the Report.

### WATER SUPPLIES

In July, 1955, a newly constructed concrete water tower of about 150,000 gallons capacity, at Bulls Green, was brought into service. It is supplied through a new pumping main from Aston Pumping Station, where larger pumps have been installed. Concurrently purchase of water in bulk from Welwyn Rural District has ceased, and the Council is now in complete control of supply and distribution over most of the District.

During the hot dry summer of 1955, further difficulties in supply and distribution of water to the Southern Parishes were experienced. A local improvement was effected at Brickendon in June, by laying a length of 4" main from Penny Royal water tower to the centre of Bayford village. The pumping capacity of Water Hall pumping station was insufficient to meet the exceptionally heavy demand, and on occasions the Penny Royal water tower would run dry. Larger pumps are to be installed at Water Hall.

The Council confirmed its intention of making every effort to proceed with a scheme for the construction of a new water tower of 120,000 gallons capacity at Epping Green (existing tower only 8,000 gallons capacity), together with new pumping mains, being firmly of opinion that this was justified on public health grounds. Such a scheme will help overcome the water supply and distribution difficulties in the Southern Parishes, and will also enable 28 properties North of Brickendon, now dependent upon an unsatisfactory private water supply, to receive a main supply.

**Quality***Bacteriological*

The quality of supplies is tabulated below:—

|                             | Public<br>Supplies | Estate<br>Mains | Individual<br>Private<br>Wells |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Class I—Highly Satisfactory | 53                 | 1               | 6                              |
| Class II—Satisfactory ...   | 2                  | —               | —                              |
| Class III—Suspicious ...    | 1                  | 1               | 1                              |
| Class IV—Unsatisfactory ... | 1                  | 2               | 6                              |

The Class III sample from the Public Supply was obtained at a cottage where the water storage tank was subsequently found to be in a foul condition. The Class IV sample in the same column arose from a precautionary check of the conditions of a water tower under repair, before bringing it back into service. The tower was kept out of supply until a Class I report was obtained.

*Chemical*

Samples of water from the two main sources of supply were submitted for chemical examination in December, with the following results:—

| Results in Parts<br>per Million          | Southern<br>Parishes                     | Northern<br>Area |
|--|--|------------------|
| Appearance ...                           | Bright with a very few mineral particles |                  |
| Turbidity (Silica scale) ...             | Less than 3                              | Less than 3      |
| Colour (Hazen) ...                       | Nil                                      | Nil              |
| Odour ...                                | Nil                                      | Nil              |
| Reaction pH ...                          | 7.1                                      | 7.1              |
| Free CO <sub>2</sub> ...                 | 22                                       | 30               |
| Electric Conductivity at 20° C. ...      | 580                                      | 525              |
| Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ...      | 250                                      | 260              |
| Total solids dried at 180° C. ...        | 400                                      | 365              |
| Hardness:                                |  |                  |
| Carbonate (Temporary) ...                | 250                                      | 260              |
| Non-Carbonate (Permanent) ...            | 60                                       | 45               |
| Total ...                                | 310                                      | 305              |
| Nitrogen in:                             |  |                  |
| Nitrates ...                             | 4.4                                      | 4.4              |
| Nitrites ...                             | Absent                                   | Absent           |
| Free Ammonia ...                         | 0.000                                    | 0.000            |
| Albuminoid Ammonia ...                   | —  | —                |
| Residual Chlorine ...                    | Absent                                   | Absent           |
| Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C. ... | 0.40                                     | 0.00             |
| Metals ...                               | Iron 0.10                                | Absent           |
| Fluorine ...                             | 0.15                                     | 0.14             |

The reports comment in detail upon the foregoing figures, and conclude that the results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

**Means of Supply to Dwellings—during 1955**

Indoor taps have been fitted at 11 houses formerly supplied from standpipes, and the number of properties dependent upon



wells and privately owned supplies is reduced by 7. One remote house having no means of supply has been demolished, leaving only seven properties in the whole District dependent upon water fetched from elsewhere.

| Parish                     | Houses connected to Mains |            | Houses supplied by Wells and Private Systems | No Means of Supply | Total |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------|--|--------------------|-------|
|                            | Indoors                   | Stand-pipe |  |                    |       |
| Aston ... ..               | 164                       | 6          | 19   | 2                  | 191   |
| Bayford ... ..             | 111                       | 4          | 5  | 1                  | 121   |
| Benington ... ..           | 202                       | 10         | 3  | —                  | 215   |
| Bengeo Rural ... ..        | 101                       | —          | 4  | 2                  | 107   |
| Bramfield ... ..           | 72                        | 1          | 2  | —                  | 75    |
| Brickendon ... ..          | 83                        | 1          | 41   | —                  | 125   |
| Datchworth ... ..          | 294                       | 27         | 8  | 1                  | 330   |
| Hertingfordbury ... ..     | 198                       | 2          | 6  | —                  | 206   |
| Little Amwell ... ..       | 247                       | 29         | —  | —                  | 276   |
| Little Berkhamstead ... .. | 150                       | 4          | —  | —                  | 154   |
| Sacombe ... ..             | 60                        | —          | —  | 1                  | 61    |
| Stapleford ... ..          | 116                       | 25         | 2  | —                  | 143   |
| Tewin ... ..               | 269                       | 16         | 3  | —                  | 288   |
| Walkern ... ..             | 239                       | 8          | 14   | —                  | 261   |
| Watton ... ..              | 246                       | 9          | 1  | —                  | 256   |
| Total ... ..               | 2,553                     | 142        | 108  | 7                  | 2,809 |
| 1954 Total ... ..          | 2,459                     | 153        | 115  | 8                  | 2,735 |

Important development whereby polythene tubing can be laid through the ground by means of a tractor and a mole plough have made it possible to provide a mains water supply at two isolated properties situated 1,550 ft. from the nearest water main. This work would have been entirely beyond the financial resources of the Council by means of traditional methods. Similar proposals for supplying water to a dairy farm situated 1,000 yards from the nearest Rural District water main, were under consideration at the end of the year. The farm at present possesses a chemically unsatisfactory well water supply.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

### *Datchworth*

The commencement in March of contract works upon the Datchworth Sewerage Scheme was an event of considerable importance, and although subsequent progress has not been quite as rapid as anticipated, the main contract was more than 60% complete by the end of December.



The scheme did not include sewerage the Bury Farm locality, the cost of such work being out of proportion to the service obtainable thereby, but the level of the main sewer was adjusted so as to permit a later extension should this prove desirable. A reversal of the education authority's intentions regarding the future of Datchworth School made it necessary later in 1955 to provide for main drainage in this area, and Ministry approval has been requested to include this work within the current contract.

At the end of 1955 a case of poliomyelitis occurred in a house on the Nutcroft estate, and for this reason it was undesirable that cesspool drainage should continue in the presence of alternatives; therefore, with the consent of the Harlow Development Corporation, special arrangements were made to connect Nutcroft to the new sewerage system in advance of other premises in Datchworth.

#### *Bengeo Rural*

An Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government visited Chapmore End and Tonwell in October; the Ministry's approval in principle of the proposals for a sewerage scheme to serve these two communities jointly was subsequently received, together with an intimation that for financial reasons, work upon this scheme should not be put in hand until 1957.

#### *General*

Following agreement with Harlow Development Corporation upon financial and administrative principles associated with discharge of Datchworth sewage into the trunk sewer, it has been possible to consider the cases of other areas where a change from present disposal arrangements is overdue. Watton-at-Stone and Waterford can readily be dealt with, and the Council has instructed that schemes be prepared for diversion of the flow at both outfalls in Watton-at-Stone, and at the Waterford ejector station; it is hoped to carry out this in late 1956 and to prepare for comprehensive re-sewerage of Watton, Waterford and Stapleford in 1957.

Consideration of schemes for the parishes of Aston, Walkern, Benington, Sacombe and Bayford stand deferred for a year following review at Government request of the capital development programme.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

### **Refuse Collection**

A fortnightly collection continues in operation, disposal arrangements at Birchall Lane, Cole Green being unchanged.

### **Cesspool Emptying**

Although the number of houses draining to cesspools is roughly static compared with 1954, demand upon the service has been much greater, particularly in the period October to December, when two vehicles were in frequent use.

The cost per load of sewage removed has risen from approximately 10s. 0d. in 1952 to 14s. 2d., and it was decided that in 1956



the charge for removing sewage in excess of the Rate Provided Service would have to be increased to 12s. 6d. per load.

It is hoped that impending relief upon cesspool emptying by connection of properties to the Datchworth Sewerage Scheme will make it possible to reduce the cost of the Service.

### SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S UNDERTAKINGS AND SERVICES

A detailed summary of the development of the Council's Services since 1952, when records for this purpose were started, has been prepared, and copies are available upon request.

The number of houses has increased by approximately 10% Percentage increases in the following Services are:—

|                           |     |     |     |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Main Water into houses    | ... | ... | 13% |
| Main Sewerage connected   | ... | ... | 27% |
| Cesspools emptied (loads) | ... | ... | 58% |
| Refuse collected          | ... | ... | 10% |

### SUMMARY OF VISITS BY SANITARY INSPECTOR during the year 1955

|   |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Factories Act                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3     |
| Food and Drugs Act:                         |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Food Shops                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8     |
| Licensed Houses                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8     |
| Other Food Premises                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7     |
| Unfit Food                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3     |
| Food Poisoning                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6     |
| Dairies                                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4     |
| Slaughterhouses                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33    |
| Housing Acts:                               |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Inspections and Interviews                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1227  |
| Improvement Grants                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 323   |
| Public Health Acts:                         |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Caravans                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26    |
| Complaints                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2     |
| Infectious Diseases                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12    |
| Nuisances                                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 48    |
| Refuse Collection                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13    |
| Sewerage                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 313   |
| Verminous Premises                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14    |
| Water Supplies                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1195  |
| Sanitary accommodation at Cafes, Inns, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5     |
| Petrol Storage                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1     |
| Rodent Control                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32    |
| Shops                                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1     |
| Street Numbering and Naming                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 869   |
| Miscellaneous Visits                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 209   |
| Total                                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4,362 |

Six International Certificates of Vaccination were verified.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Details of registrations and licences in force, and further particulars concerning milk and other foods, are as below:—

## Milk and Dairies

|                         |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Registered Dairies      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5  |
| Registered Distributors | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |

## Designated Milk Licences:—

|                   |     |     |     | <i>Dealers</i> | <i>Supple-<br/>mentary</i> |    |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|----------------------------|----|
| Tuberculin Tested | ... | ... | ... | 9              | 11                         | 20 |
| Pasteurised...    | ... | ... | ... | 9              | 9                          | 18 |
| Sterilised        | ... | ... | ... | 2              | 8                          | 10 |

## Slaughterhouses

|                          |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Licensed Slaughterhouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Licensed Slaughtermen    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |

## Ice Cream Premises

|                            |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Registered for Manufacture | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  |
| „ „ Storage                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | —  |
| „ „ Sale                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 |

## Preserved Foods

|                                      |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (a) Sausage Manufacture              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| (b) Other Preserved food manufacture | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |

## Food Premises by type of business

|                                 |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Bakery (no shop)                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Bakery with Shop                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| Butcher                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  |
| Cafe                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Greengrocery...                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5  |
| Grocery and general             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| Office or industrial canteen... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Hotel                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  |

## Licensed Houses:

|  |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Full Licence                                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 39 |
| Off Licence only                                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| Mineral Water Factory                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Poultry slaughterhouse and Packing Establishment | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Gut Cleaning and Sausage Skin Dressing           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |

## Food Unfit for Human Consumption

Unfit foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered were:—

2½ lb. canned Pilchards      ¾ lb. canned Corned Beef.

This small quantity was dealt with by burial at the refuse tip.



## Meat Inspection

One slaughterhouse licence has been granted, following completion of work considered necessary to comply with modern standards. A limited number of "smalls" are killed there, and every carcase has been inspected.

Details of carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part, are given below:—

|                          | Cattle<br>(excl.<br>Cows) | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|
| No. Killed and Inspected | —                         | —    | 5      | 8                     | 28   |

No Tuberculosis or other serious diseased condition was found. In two cases organs or parts of pigs' carcasses were condemned; one of these being infected with Cysts of *Echinococcus Veterinorum*.

## HOUSING ACTS 1936–1954

### Improvement Grants

The policy of encouraging modernisation of suitable properties has continued, and during 1955 schemes for improvement of 30 properties have received consent. Improvement works were completed at 18 houses, making a total of 29 houses improved since commencement of the scheme in 1949.

### Substandard Houses

During the year considerable progress was made with the housing survey, and houses in five parishes were inspected in detail. Details are as follows:—

|  |     |     |     |     |       |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| No. of houses inspected                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,035 |
| No. of houses in need of repair                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 343   |
| No. of houses incapable of repair at reasonable cost |     |     |     |     | 103   |

The Council resolved to commence action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of 63 of these unfit properties; and as suitable reconditioning proposals were not forthcoming from the owners, the Council resolved to serve Demolition Orders relating to 18 of these houses. 12 Demolition Orders had been served by the end of the year.

In one case a property owner appealed against the Council's decision to make Demolition Orders in respect of two cottages, and subsequently the appeal was adjourned sine die, the owner agreeing to submit comprehensive reconditioning proposals.

In all other cases where demolition orders were made the owners decided that the property could not be made fit at a reasonable cost and the orders were therefore not opposed.

The survey of the five parishes, other routine housing inspections, and the reinspections necessary in connection with repair work involved at a total of 1,227 visits.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

### Verminous Premises

One case of flea infestation was reported, and was dealt with by means of an insecticide dust.



**Closet Conversion Scheme—*Bramfield***

The majority of the work involved in provision of water closets; in substitution for other sanitary accommodation was executed early in the year; one further property remained to be dealt with, and it is anticipated that the whole scheme will be completed early in 1956.

**Nuisance—*Offensive Pond at Brickendon***

An unusual event was brought to light following complaints late in November, concerning the foul condition of a pond upon the Green which adjoins Bourne Orchard. It was stated that the offensive state was first noticed in early November, coinciding with the first appreciable rainfall after the dry summer, and that conditions became progressively worse.

Upon investigation the pond was found to be covered with a liquid of appearance and odour characteristic of crude sewage. Suspicion fell upon private and Council drainage systems in the immediate locality, but an exhaustive series of colour tests failed to establish that these sources were responsible.

A sample from the pond was sent for laboratory investigation and the analyst's report confirmed the impure state of the sample, and added that the pollution could have arisen through a comparatively heavy content of decayed vegetable matter (e.g. fallen leaves) beyond the natural oxygenation capacity of the pond, and that if it were so, rapid restoration of normally clean conditions would follow.

Such restoration did in fact take place from early December, and confirms that sewage pollution was not implicated.

**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACTS, 1949***Sewers*

Sewers are treated in accordance with Ministry recommendations to ensure destruction of rats, and following a period of three years without trace of infestation in systems at Brickendon, Tonwell and Waterford, relief from regular baiting has been granted for the next two years. Similar relief will be granted in respect of sewers at Bramfield and Bayford if these remain clear of rats for another twelve months.

*Private Dwellings*

Complaints of rat infestation at private properties are investigated as they arise, and unless conditions are beyond the occupier's control the Council does not undertake any rodent control, beyond offering advice as to suitable methods of rat destruction, and rat proofing.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE****Acute Poliomyelitis**

A total of four cases of paralytic poliomyelitis was notified in Hertford Rural District during 1955. The first was during May in a child at a residential school. The school was placed in quar-



antine and a close watch was kept on known contacts for a period of three weeks. No secondary case was reported.

The last case was at Datchworth, during December, and because it occurred in a house with cesspool drainage special arrangements were made to connect the property to the new sewerage system in advance of other premises in Datchworth.

### Measles

The epidemic of measles which hit districts of East Herts: mostly during February and March, 1955, appeared to have lost its power when it reached Hertford Rural, for only 78 cases were reported.

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

| Parish               | Scarlet<br>Fever | Whooping<br>Cough | Acute<br>Poliomyelitis | Measles | Acute<br>Pneumonia | Puerperal<br>Pyrexia |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Aston ... ..         | —                | —                 | —                      | 11      | —                  | 1                    |
| Bayford ... ..       | —                | —                 | —                      | 6       | —                  | —                    |
| Benington ... ..     | —                | 4                 | —                      | 5       | —                  | —                    |
| Bongeo Rural ... ..  | —                | —                 | —                      | 3       | —                  | —                    |
| Bramfield ... ..     | —                | —                 | —                      | 2       | —                  | —                    |
| Brickendon Liberty   | —                | —                 | —                      | —       | —                  | —                    |
| Datchworth ... ..    | —                | —                 | 1                      | —       | —                  | —                    |
| Hertingfordbury ...  | 1                | —                 | —                      | —       | —                  | —                    |
| Little Amwell ... .. | —                | —                 | —                      | 2       | —                  | —                    |
| Lt. Berkhamstead ... | —                | 5                 | —                      | 2       | —                  | —                    |
| Sacombe ... ..       | —                | —                 | —                      | —       | —                  | —                    |
| Stapleford ... ..    | 2                | —                 | —                      | 2       | —                  | —                    |
| Tewin ... ..         | —                | —                 | 2                      | 8       | —                  | 1                    |
| Walkern ... ..       | 2                | —                 | 1                      | 33      | —                  | —                    |
| Watton-at-Stone ...  | 3                | 1                 | —                      | 4       | 2                  | —                    |

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
during 1956[illegible]

Tuberculosis notifications are shown in a separate table at the beginning of this Combined District Report.

### INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

[illegible]



# 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 water continues to be of good quality and ample supply. The average quantity of water pumped throughout the year was 470,000 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*

Two samples were tested, one in June and the other in December. Both results show no evidence of pollution and the water is fit for drinking purposes. The water is hard, but the hardness is mainly "temporary" in nature, i.e. removable by boiling. Details of the chemical analysis of the sample taken on December 5th are given in the table which follows:—

| Chemical Results in Parts<br>per Million |     |     |     |     |     | Sample taken<br>5th December, 1955 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------------------------|
| Appearance                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Clear and bright                   |
| Turbidity                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil                                |
| Colour                                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil                                |
| Odour                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil                                |
| Reaction pH                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7.1                                |
| Free Carbon Dioxide                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31                                 |
| Electric Conductivity at 20° C.          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 540                                |
| Total solids, dried at 180° C.           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 360                                |
| Chlorine as Chloride                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15                                 |
| Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 270                                |
| Hardness:                                |     |     |     |     |     |                                    |
| Carbonate (Temporary)                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 270                                |
| Non-Carbonate (Permanent)                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 40                                 |
| Total                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 310                                |
| Nitrate Nitrogen                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1.8                                |
| Nitrite Nitrogen                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Absent                             |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.000                              |
| Oxygen Absorbed                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.20                               |
| Albuminoid Nitrogen                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.000                              |
| Residual Chlorine                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil                                |
| Metals                                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Absent                             |
| Fluoride (F)                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.20                               |



### Distribution of Water Services

Dwelling houses supplied by public water mains in 1955:—

| Parish                  | Number of Houses | Population (approx.) | Main direct to House | Main to Standpipes |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Eastwick ... ..         | 67               | 160                  | 67                   | —                  |
| Gilston ... ..          | 63               | 169                  | 62                   | —                  |
| Great Amwell ... ..     | 652              | 2,465                | 628                  | 10                 |
| Great Munden ... ..     | 117              | 442                  | 85                   | 17                 |
| Hunsdon ... ..          | 333              | 825                  | 326                  | 7                  |
| Little Munden ... ..    | 133              | 525                  | 108                  | 23                 |
| St. Margarets ... ..    | 57               | 201                  | 57                   | —                  |
| Standon ... ..          | 891              | 2,847                | 824                  | 32                 |
| Stanstead Abbots ... .. | 420              | 1,608                | 416                  | 10                 |
| Thundridge ... ..       | 175              | 778                  | 132                  | 6                  |
| Ware Rural ... ..       | 229              | 1,074                | 180                  | 9                  |
| Widford ... ..          | 135              | 467                  | 94                   | 32                 |
| Total ... ..            | 3,272            | —                    | 2,979                | 146                |
| 1954 Total ... ..       | 3,188            | —                    | 2,872                | 164                |

### 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 are drained to a pumping station from which the sewage is raised to join the Ware Urban District sewers. Great Amwell and St. Margarets drain to a pumping station from which the sewage is pumped into the Lee Valley trunk sewer. The village of Stanstead Abbots has been connected direct to the Lee Valley sewer. All the sewage from these villages is disposed of at the new Rye Meads works.

Part of the village of Hertford Heath is in the Great Amwell parish and is sewered by agreement with the Hertford R.D.C. to Hertford Corporation Sewers.

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

There is a small sewerage system at Eastwick and the effluent discharges into a septic tank which was originally installed to take the sewage from the Council Houses.

A scheme to drain Widford and Wareside in conjunction with Much Hadham in the Braughing Rural District submitted to the Ministry in 1946, has been rejected by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. An alternative scheme which would discharge the sewerage from these villages in to the Lee Valley trunk sewer for treatment at Rye Meads has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry.

The Dane End scheme will be completed early in 1956. 86 properties were connected to the sewers during the year.



|  |    |
|--|----|
| Number of Informal Notices served ... .. | 24 |
| „ „ Statutory Notices served ... ..      | 13 |

## HOUSING ACTS 1936 TO 1954

**Housing Progress**

A table showing the progress with new housing appears in the statistical section of this combined report.

**Substandard Housing**

A survey was made of properties as required by Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. Proposals for dealing with 265 properties were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

**Inspection and Supervision of Food****Ice Cream Premises**

There are 35 premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for sale of ice cream.

No new premises were registered during the year.

**Slaughtering and Meat Inspection**

Slaughtering of animals for human consumption has continued at the two licensed slaughterhouses. Details of Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part, are shown in the following table:—

|   | Cattle<br>(excl.<br>Cows) | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs  |
|---|---------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|-------|
| No. killed during 1955 ...                              | 975                       | 86   | 67     | 1,650                 | 1,400 |
| No. inspected during 1955                               | 969                       | 86   | 67     | 1,597                 | 1,341 |
| <i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i> |                           |      |        |                       |       |
| Whole carcase condemned                                 | —                         | —    | 1      | 3                     | 1     |
| Part carcase or organ<br>condemned ...                  | 126                       | 6    | —      | 26                    | 24    |
| <i>Tuberculosis only:</i>                               |                           |      |        |                       |       |
| Whole carcase condemned                                 | 3                         | —    | —      | —                     | —     |
| Part carcase or organ<br>condemned ...                  | 33                        | 6    | —      | —                     | 14    |
| <i>Cysticercosis:</i>                                   |                           |      |        |                       |       |
| Part carcase or organ<br>condemned ...                  | 4                         | —    | —      | —                     | —     |
| Treated by refrigeration                                | —                         | —    | —      | —                     | —     |

**Other Foods Condemned***Canned Foodstuffs*

Fruit ... 48 tins 56 lb.

*Meat and Meat Products*

Imported Meat ... 4 cwt. 21 lb.

Total weight of all foods condemned:— 2 tons 14 cwt. 5 lb.



## Food Premises

In addition to two slaughterhouses the following Food Premises, which number as shown, were inspected during the year:—

|                     |     |   |                    |    |
|---------------------|-----|---|--------------------|----|
| Bakehouses ...      | ... | 3 | Grocers' Shops ... | 28 |
| Butchers' Shops ... | 11  |   | Cafes ...          | 7  |
| Fishmongers ...     | 3   |   |                    |    |

## Milk and Dairies

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

### *Biological Sampling*

No samples of milk were reported as positive to the tubercle bacillus during the year.

A number of investigations were carried out at farm dairies following reports of milk which did not pass the Methylene blue and phosphatase tests.

## 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   |                 |              |                   |       |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|-------|
|   | Council's Property | Dwelling Houses | Agricultural | Business Premises | Total |
| Number of properties inspected ...            | 9                  | 694             | 12           | 42                | 757   |
| Number found to be infested by rats ...       | 7                  | 164             | 3            | 6                 | 180   |
| 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<br>Fever | Whooping<br>Cough | Poliomyelitis | Measles | Acute<br>Pneumonia | Dysentery | Food<br>Poisoning | Jaundice |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------|
| Eastwick ... ..      | —                | 6                 | 1             | 2       | —                  | —         | —                 | —        |
| Gilston .. ...       | —                | 3                 | —             | —       | —                  | —         | —                 | —        |
| Great Amwell ...     | 2                | 11                | 1             | 46      | —                  | —         | —                 | —        |
| Great Munden ...     | —                | 1                 | —             | —       | 1                  | —         | —                 | —        |
| Hunsdon ... ..       | 1                | —                 | —             | 39      | —                  | —         | 2                 | 4        |
| Little Munden ...    | —                | 1                 | —             | 2       | —                  | —         | —                 | —        |
| St. Margarets ...    | —                | —                 | —             | 7       | —                  | —         | —                 | —        |
| Standon ... ..       | —                | —                 | 2             | 57      | 6                  | —         | —                 | 1        |
| Stanstead Abbots ... | —                | 1                 | —             | 76      | —                  | 1         | —                 | —        |
| Thundridge ... ..    | —                | —                 | —             | 2       | —                  | —         | —                 | —        |
| Ware Rural ... ..    | 1                | —                 | —             | 6       | —                  | —         | —                 | 1        |
| Widford ... ..       | —                | —                 | —             | 17      | —                  | —         | —                 | —        |

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

**Poliomyelitis**

Four cases were notified, two of whom had no paralysis. One non-paralytic case occurred at a large residential school. The School Authorities acted very promptly and all the pupils were kept in quarantine for three weeks. The patient was at first kept in isolation at the school, but was subsequently sent home. No other cases occurred amongst pupils at this school.

**Measles**

An epidemic which spread through the whole of East Herts during 1955, affected Ware Rural District continuously for the first eight months of the year, causing a total of 254 cases.

**Chemical Food Poisoning**

During September two elderly people had severe diarrhoea shortly after consuming a meal containing what they thought to be vegetable marrow. Investigations showed that the "marrows" were really ornamental fruits called gourds, which are related to marrows. Gourds secrete Colocynthin which is a powerful purgative and can be poisonous. Fortunately both patients soon recovered.



## NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES during 1955

| DISEASE                    | TOTAL | AGE GROUP (in Years) |    |     |     |     |         | Age not Known | Admitted to Hospital | Deaths |
|----------------------------|-------|----------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|---------|---------------|----------------------|--------|
|                            |       | Under 1              | 1- | 5-  | 15- | 25- | Over 65 |               |                      |        |
| Scarlet Fever ... ..       | 4     | —                    | 3  | 1   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Whooping Cough ... ..      | 23    | 3                    | 7  | 13  | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Poliomyelitis (Acute):     |       |                      |    |     |     |     |         |               |                      |        |
| Paralytic ... ..           | 2     | —                    | 1  | 1   | —   | —   | —       | —             | 2                    | —      |
| Non-Paralytic ... ..       | 2     | —                    | —  | 1   | 1   | —   | —       | —             | 1                    | —      |
| Measles ... ..             | 254   | 5                    | 90 | 159 | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Diphtheria ... ..          | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Acute Pneumonia ... ..     | 7     | —                    | —  | 1   | 1   | 1   | 4       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Dysentery ... ..           | 1     | —                    | —  | —   | 1   | —   | —       | —             | 1                    | —      |
| Smallpox ... ..            | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Encephalitis (Acute):      |       |                      |    |     |     |     |         |               |                      |        |
| Infective ... ..           | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Post-Infectious ... ..     | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Enteric or Typhoid Fever   | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Paratyphoid Fever ... ..   | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Erysipelas ... ..          | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Meningococcal Infection... | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Food Poisoning ... ..      | 2     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | 2       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..   | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum      | 0     | —                    | —  | —   | —   | —   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |
| Infective Jaundice ... ..  | 6     | —                    | 1  | 1   | —   | 4   | —       | —             | —                    | —      |

Tuberculosis notifications are shown in a separate table at the beginning of this Combined District Report.

## INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE DIFFERENT MONTHS

| DISEASE              | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December |
|----------------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Scarlet Fever ... .. | 1       | —        | —     | —     | 3   | —    | —    | —      | —         | —       | —        | —        |
| Whooping Cough       | —       | —        | —     | —     | 13  | 4    | 5    | —      | 1         | —       | —        | —        |
| Ac. Poliomyelitis    | —       | —        | —     | —     | —   | —    | —    | 1      | 1         | 2       | —        | —        |
| Measles ... ..       | 16      | 21       | 40    | 45    | 10  | 53   | 54   | 15     | —         | —       | —        | —        |
| Acute Pneumonia      | 2       | —        | 2     | —     | —   | 1    | —    | —      | 1         | —       | —        | 1        |
| Dysentery ... ..     | —       | —        | —     | —     | —   | —    | —    | —      | —         | 1       | —        | —        |
| Food Poisoning       | —       | —        | —     | —     | —   | —    | —    | —      | 2         | —       | —        | —        |
| Jaundice... ..       | —       | 5        | —     | —     | —   | 1    | —    | —      | —         | —       | —        | —        |

## NOTES





