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EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
County Medical Officer

1955

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
COUNTY HALL
IPSWICH

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To the Chairman and Members of the County Council.

MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health of the County of East Suffolk for the year 1955.

The report is prepared to conform generally with the requirements of the Minister of Health, and in this preamble I have confined myself to brief comments on particular aspects of the report.

Staff.

During the year under review there were vacancies for assistant county medical officers, dentists, health visitors and nurse-midwives. It was a matter of satisfaction that a suitable person was obtained for the post of Deputy County Nursing Officer after considerable delay, but although differing factors enter into the matter, it was one of serious concern that the local authority health service does not seem able to attract sufficient and suitable recruits.

Vital Statistics.

There were no significant changes. The birth rate fell by 1.1 to 14 per thousand population. The death rate rose by .1 per thousand, the main causes again being heart disease and cancer.

Care of Mothers and Young Children.

There was a slight increase in the number of clinic attendances, but the demand for clinic facilities varies very much throughout the County. For the first time it is possible to record some progress in the provision of dental care for expectant mothers and young children, but this has been confined to clinics based on Ipswich, Stowmarket, Leiston and Lowestoft.

During the year premises at Stowmarket were opened as a combined clinic and ambulance station. This was a great improvement on the facilities previously available. The accommodation is also being used by the staff of the Regional Hospital Board and it is also particularly pleasing to report that the local general practitioners, in conjunction with County staff, are using the premises for clinic purposes.

Midwifery and Home Nursing.

Miss Henson retired after over 30 years' service as Matron of the Lowestoft Nurses' Home and it was a matter of profound regret that she died so soon without being able to enjoy a well deserved retirement. The Deputy County Nursing Officer, upon taking up duty, was based on Lowestoft and directly responsible for the Home Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Services in the northern area.

Progress was made with accommodation for nurse-midwives, three sets of double flats being completed and occupied at Hollesley, Mendlesham and Kesgrave. It is hoped to report equally good progress in next year's report, because in some instances it is otherwise impossible to recruit staff. On the other hand, at Felixstowe good accommodation is available but it was not possible to bring the staff there up to strength.

The nurse-midwives can look back with satisfaction on another year of unspectacular but invaluable work to the community, as it was only through goodwill and really hard work that all the calls made upon them were answered adequately.

The bulk of the home nursing work still applied to those over 65 years of age, but there was an increase in demand for the services of the nurses for giving injections following hospital treatment.

Health Visiting.

It has been the practice to emphasise the importance of health visiting in the development of the local authority, and particularly the preventive health services, and the early emphasis was on a separate Health Visiting Service. It now seems clear that not only because of the shortage of staff but through other reasons, it has been necessary to have second thoughts and the development of the Health Visiting Service and the role of the health visitor seems to be very much in the melting pot. I am more than ever convinced that in a county such as East Suffolk it would be wise in the foreseeable future to continue to extend the employment of the district nurse-midwife/health visitor and it is satisfactory to record that during the year three of our own staff were given health visiting scholarships.

The service continued to take a special interest in problem families, playing an important part in the work of the Co-ordinating Committees. It may be that too much publicity has been given to the "problem family", but they cannot be ignored and it is good to know that the concerted efforts of all concerned with the problem have had some beneficial results.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

No comment is needed regarding diphtheria immunisation, but I am pleased to report that although the total number vaccinated remains almost the same, there was an increase of 14% in the vaccination of children under one year. The popularity of the combined diphtheria/whooping cough immunisation continued and it may be necessary to watch the position because of the growing demand for the use of the triple antigen which includes tetanus.

Ambulance Service.

Almost every year it is necessary to make the same comment. The work, particularly in relation to the Hospital Car Service, continues to expand. It is satisfying to know that the whole service continues to operate so efficiently and tribute must once again be paid to the voluntary car drivers and the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society.

Many factors account for the increase in the work—the only assurance that can be given is that from the County side every step possible is taken to ensure that the service is used only when essential.

Home Help Service.

There was an increase of 16% in the number of cases helped and this is wholly attributable to the chronic sick and aged. This, plus the rising rate of pay, put up the cost considerably. This is a necessary service and one in which the beneficial results are very obvious. It can be shown that the need to provide residential accommodation by the County Council is reduced and, equally, the service is of direct value in obviating or delaying admissions to chronic sick hospitals and enabling earlier hospital discharges.

Co-operation within the Health Service.

One health visitor was appointed during the year for specialist duty in the north of the County for tuberculosis work, in close co-operation with the

Consultant Chest Physician. Unfortunately, it was not possible to make a similar appointment in the south of the County. Another health visitor was appointed for specialist duties in the mental health work, and again, she works in the closest contact with the staff of the hospitals. It can be said that the liaison with the other partners of the National Health Service was not only maintained but strengthened, and I feel sure that the general medical practitioners now are satisfied that it is the desire of the Local Health Authority to co-operate with and help them in their work.

National Assistance Act, 1948—Welfare Services.

The Welfare Service does not form part of the Annual Report of a County Medical Officer, but as it represents such an important part of the work of the Health Committee and the department, I would formally record the continued good progress in the development of the work, particularly in relation to the welfare of the handicapped in their own homes. The employment of "all purpose" welfare officers has more than justified itself and enabled the staff concerned to absorb a marked increase in the work.

* * * *

The year under review has been one of steady although perhaps limited progress. Much of the work of the Health Authority, although essential, is unspectacular. There has been no extravagance and sometimes it has been difficult to keep the services going and "making both ends meet". Such progress as has been achieved had depended very much on the loyal co-operation of all the staff of the department and their readiness to put in something extra. Difficulties in maintaining or expanding the services have sometimes been attributable solely to the inability to recruit staff, but in other directions one has been mindful of the need to keep expenditure within the approved annual estimates. The size of the County purse is limited and the calls on it very great: it is not for an officer or even one Committee to say what share shall be made available for one particular service. I can only assure the members that the whole of the staff through their enthusiasm and loyalty have ensured that the money made available to the Health Service has been spent to the best advantage.

The year's work has been made easier by the knowledge that we have always had the kindly interest and support of the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and its Sub-Committees. Ready co-operation has always been shown by our colleagues in the Local Government Service in the County. I cannot end this report without again recording the very great help which has been given by the Administrative Deputy and County Welfare Officer, Mr. L. J. Bowling, and, indeed, all the staff of the Health Department whether engaged in the central office or in the field.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

S. T. G. GRAY,

County Medical Officer.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL,
IPSWICH.

August, 1956,

I.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area : 548,608 acres (*Census*, 1951).

547,397 acres.

Population 1955 : 220,700 (As estimated by the Registrar-General).

Population, *Census* 1951 : 217,124.

Number of dwellings (*occupied and vacant*); *Census* 1951: 67,609.

Number of private households: *Census* 1951 : 65,651

Rateable Value : £1,229,803 (*year beginning 1st April*, 1955).

Estimated product of a penny rate : £4,887 (*year beginning 1st April*, 1955).

TABLE I.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

<i>Live Births :</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
Legitimate	1,528	1,422	2,950	} Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population :— 14.0.
Illegitimate	74	73	147	
Total live births	1,602	1,495	3,097	
<i>Stillbirths :</i>				} Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still- births) :—21.5.
Legitimate	33	31	64	
Illegitimate	3	1	4	
Total stillbirths	36	32	68	
<i>Deaths :</i>	1,399	1,344	2,743	} Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated popu- lation :—12.4.

	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total births.
<i>Deaths from Puerperal Causes :</i>	2	0.6

Deaths of infants under one year of age:

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate ...	48	30	78
Illegitimate ...	2	1	3
Total ...	50	31	81

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	....	....	....	....	—
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	....	....	—
„ Diarrhoea, Gastritis and Enteritis (under 2 years of age)	....	....	....	....	6
„ Cancer (all ages)	....	....	....	....	436
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 population	....	....	....	....	1.97
Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 population	....	....	....	....	0.1

TABLE II.

BIRTHS.

(Still Births are excluded).

Year.	Total.	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.			
		Urban.	Rural.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
1953	3221	14.9	14.5	14.7	15.5
1954	3328	14.6	15.6	15.1	15.2
1955	3097	14.0	14.0	14.0	15.0

TABLE III.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

(Still Births are excluded).

Year.	Total.	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.		
		Urban.	Rural.	Administrative County.
1953	180	0.8	0.8	0.8
1954	174	0.8	0.8	0.8
1955	147	0.7	0.6	0.7

TABLE IV.

DEATHS.

Year.	Total.	Death Rate per 1,000 Population.			
		Urban.	Rural.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
1953	2649	12.5	11.8	12.1	11.4
1954	2715	11.7	12.8	12.3	11.3
1955	2743	12.5	12.3	12.4	11.7

TABLE V.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

Year.	Total	Death Rate per 1,000 total births
1953	2	0.61
1954	1	0.29
1955	2	0.63

TABLE VI.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR.

Year.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.			
		Urban.	Rural.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
1953	60	24	14	18.6	26.8
1954	77	25	21	23.1	25.5
1955	81	32	21	26.1	24.9

TABLE VII.

INFANT MORTALITY OVER FIVE-YEARLY PERIODS.

Quinquennium.	Number of Live Births.	Number of Deaths.	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.
1946	3,919	131	27.6
1947	4,295	140	
1948	3,762	74	
1949	3,497	95	
1950	3,292	78	
	18,765	518	
1951	3,326	95	24.4
1952	3,139	81	
1953	3,221	60	
1954	3,328	77	
1955	3,097	81	
	16,111	394	

TABLE VIII.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN EACH DISTRICT.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	URBAN DISTRICTS.										RURAL DISTRICTS.										Grand Total	
	Aldeburgh	Beccles	Bungay	Eye	Felixstowe	Halesworth	Leiston	Lowestoft	Saxmundham	Southwold	Stowmarket	Woodbridge	Total	Blyth	Deben	Gipping	Hartismere	Lothingland	Samford	Wainford		Total
All causes	37	107	47	29	219	18	56	493	29	39	85	69	1228	274	391	263	187	147	185	68	1515	2743
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory			1		1			5			1	1	9	2	2	1	3	3	1		12	21
2. Tuberculosis, other											1		1								—	1
3. Syphilitic disease					1			1				1	3		1		1				2	5
4. Diphtheria													—								—	—
5. Whooping cough													—								—	—
6. Meningococcal infections					1								1								—	1
7. Acute poliomyelitis												1	1						1		1	2
8. Measles													—								—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1						2			1		5	1			2				3	8
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach		2		2	4		1	11	2	1	2	1	26	8	9	3	8	2	2		32	58
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	2	2		6	1	2	7			5	2	28	4	8	10	5	1	6		34	62
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	3	2	2	3		1	7		2		1	22	4		3		2	5	2	16	38
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus		1			4			6		1		1	13	1	3			1	1	1	7	20
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	6	4	3	23	4	3	43	3	5	4	9	114	21	33	30	21	12	19	8	144	258

15. Leukaemia aleukacmia	...	...	1	1	1	1	3	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	9						
16. Diabetes	...	...	1	1	1	3	3	4	1	2	3	1	1	4	12	16							
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	4	16	3	6	42	1	5	81	3	6	8	183	39	42	32	31	32	32	9	217	400
18. Coronary disease, angina	8	14	8	3	45	1	3	83	4	6	12	7	194	36	41	31	29	18	25	11	191	385
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	2	2	2	3	8			2	2	1	3	2	25	3	10	7	2	7	7	36	61
20. Other heart disease	7	33	7	1	30	7	15	78	4	6	25	11	224	96	111	69	25	16	28	17	362	586
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	1	2	9	2	7		4	22	3	4	2	56	5	32	13	5	10	9	5	79	135
22. Influenza	...	...	1	2					2	2	2	2	3	12	3	4	2	2		1	1	13	25
23. Pneumonia	...	...		4	1	1	6	2	2	30		5	1	50	8	20	8	6	6	5	1	54	104
24. Bronchitis	...	...	1	1			8	2	2	18	2	2	2	36	6	13	4	7	12	4	2	48	84
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...				1		1	1	3	1			6	4	1	1	3	2			11	17
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	1				3			3	2			2	11	1		2	1	3	1	8	19
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...				1	2	1	1	2	1	2			9	1		7	2	2	2	12	21
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	1				2	1	1	9	2	1		1	18	1	3	1	1	3		10	28
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	2				1	1	1	5				1	11	1	5	1	2	3		12	23
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...																				
31. Congenital malformations	1				3		1	10		1	1	1	18	2	1	2	3	1	3	1	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	10	6	4	14	1	8	37	3	3	5	8	102	21	32	19	23	11	21	4	131	233
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1					1	3				1	7	1	5	4	3		3	1	17	24
34. All other accidents	1				3		2	10	1	1	2		20	4	10	8		2	1	1	26	46
35. Suicide	1							7	1		2	2	13		2	1	3		2		8	21
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	...																				

TABLE IX.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	SEX.	AGGREGATE OF URBAN DISTRICTS.								AGGREGATE OF RURAL DISTRICTS.									
		All Ages	0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—	All Ages	0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
ALL CAUSES	M	586	29	3	4	1	19	134	156	240	813	21	3	2	17	31	146	213	380
	F	642	15	1	3	1	14	99	162	347	702	16	1	2	1	22	105	168	387
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	M	4							4		7					1	1	3	2
	F	5					1	1	1	2	5					3	1		1
2. Tuberculosis, other	M	—							1		—								
	F	1									—							1	
3. Syphilitic disease	M	2						1		2	1								
	F	1									1							1	
4. Diphtheria	M	—									—								
	F	—									—								
5. Whooping Cough	M	—									—								
	F	—									—								
6. Meningococcal infections	M	1						1			—							1	1
	F	—									—								
7. Acute poliomyelitis	M	—									—								
	F	1				1					1								
8. Measles	M	—									—								
	F	—									—								
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	M	4			1				2	1	1						1	1	1
	F	1							1	1	2						5	6	5
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	14						6	4	4	16						2	8	3
	F	12							4	8	16						10	8	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	21						12	8	1	26					5	1	2	1
	F	7						5	2		8					1	4	2	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	M	—									1								
	F	22						6	6	10	15					1	6	3	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	M	13						5	4	4	7					1	1	3	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	58			1		3	16	14	24	85					3	20	29	33
	F	56					4	22	19	11	59					1	20	19	19
15. Leukaemia aleukaemia	M	5			1		2		1	1	3						1	1	1
	F	—									—								

II.

STAFF.

Medical Staff.

County Medical Officer: S. T. G. Gray, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officers:

P. G. Cannon, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (from 14.3.55).

A. C. Gee, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

K. M. Harding, M.D., D.P.H.

C. H. Imrie, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

I. Sim, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

E. A. Parkinson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (part-time).

G. E. Pryce, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O. (part-time).

J. F. Morrison, M.D., D.C.H. (part-time).

Consultant Chest Physicians:

C. J. Stewart, M.D., B.S., D.Obst.R.C.O.G.

I. M. Young, M.B., Ch.B.

Administrative Deputy to County Medical Officer and County Welfare Officer:

L. J. Bowling.

Nursing Staff.*County Nursing Officer:*

Miss M. Vaughan Jones., S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Deputy County Nursing Officer:

Miss H. Place, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., (from 4.8.55).

Health Visitors:

At the end of the year, the staff of Health Visitors was 21 whole-time (7 of whom were holding combined appointments as district nurse/midwife-health visitor), and 3 part-time, and 1 whole-time Tuberculosis Health Visitor.

District Nurse/Midwives:

At the end of the year, 58 district nurse/midwives (including 7 who were also district nurse/midwives-health visitors), 7 district midwives, and 10 district nurses were being employed.

County Sanitary Staff.

County Sanitary Officer (seconded to Clerk of Council's Department as Officer in charge of Water Supplies and Sewerage Section):

A. E. Chapman, F.S.I.A.

Assistant County Sanitary Officer: R. E. Law, M.S.I.A.

Dental Staff.

Senior Dental Officer: C. D. Macpherson, L.D.S.

Dental Officers: J. E. Benfield, L.D.S.

Miss J. Hepburn, L.D.S.

Mrs. H. A. Bell, L.D.S.

District Medical Officers of Health.*Boroughs and Urban Districts:*

Aldeburgh	...	Dr. C. H. Imrie.
Beccles ...	...	Dr. P. G. Cannon (from 14.3.55).
Bungay ...	...	Dr. P. G. Cannon (from 14.3.55).
Eye ...	...	Dr. K. M. Harding.
Felixstowe	...	Dr. C. H. Imrie.
Halesworth	...	Dr. P. G. Cannon (from 14.3.55).
Leiston ...	...	Dr. P. G. Cannon (from 14.3.55).
Lowestoft	...	Dr. A. C. Gee.
Saxmundham	...	Dr. D. W. Ryder Richardson.
Southwold	...	Dr. A. C. Gee.
Stowmarket	...	Dr. K. M. Harding.
Woodbridge	...	Dr. C. H. Imrie.

Rural Districts:

Blyth ...	...	Dr. P. G. Cannon (from 14.3.55).
Deben ...	...	Dr. C. H. Imrie.
Gipping ...	...	Dr. K. M. Harding.
Hartismere	...	Dr. K. M. Harding.
Lothingland	...	Dr. A. C. Gee.
Samford	...	Dr. K. M. Harding.
Wainford	...	Dr. P. G. Cannon (from 14.3.55).

III.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

Section 21—Health Centres.

Action under this Section remains in a state of suspended animation, and there is nothing further to report at present, except that the possibility of expansion on these lines in a rural area has become even more remote by the declared policy of the central government that health centres were likely to be justified only in new towns, large housing estates or development areas.

Section 22—Care of Mothers and Young Children.**Infant Welfare Centres.**

New Centres were started at Felixstowe (Landguard)—weekly, at Shotley—fortnightly, and at Yaxley—monthly, and two monthly clinics at Needham Market and Otley were closed,

TABLE X.
Infant Welfare Centres.

Twice weekly.	Weekly.	Twice monthly.
Lowestoft (i) (a)	Aldeburgh Beccles Bungay Felixstowe (i) (a) do. (ii) do. (iii) Stowmarket (a) Woodbridge (a) Lowestoft (ii) (a) do. (iii)	Bramford Brantham Carlton Colville Claydon Eye Halesworth Kesgrave Leiston Shotley Southwold Wattisham R.A.F. Camp Wrentham Yoxford

(a) *Centre also functions as ante-natal and post-natal clinic.*

Monthly.	
Belton	Laxfield
Blundeston	Lt. Bealings
Charsfield	Lound
Chelmondiston	Metfield
Copdock	Nacton
Corton	Newbourne
Debenham	Orford
Earl Soham	Peasenhall
Farnham	Saxmundham
Framlingham	Somerleyton
Friston	Somersham
Grundisburgh	Waldringfield
Hollesley	Wenhaston
Kessingland	Wickham Market
Kirton	Yaxley

Summary of Attendances for 1955.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

<i>Centres provided.</i>	<i>Sessions per month.</i>	<i>No. of Children attending during year.</i>	<i>Total number of attendances made.</i>
54	104	4,491	27,555

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

<i>Clinics provided.</i>	<i>Sessions per month.</i>	<i>No. of Women attending during year.</i>	<i>Total number of attendances made.</i>
5	12	256—A 14—P	732—A 14—P

A=*ante-natal*. P=*post-natal*.

The valuable help of the voluntary workers who support these Infant Welfare and Weighing Centres is again gratefully acknowledged.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and their Children.

Under arrangements made with the Moral Welfare Associations responsibility was accepted for the maintenance in Mother and Baby Homes of 24 unmarried mothers and they were admitted as under:—

St. Paul's Lodge, Gt. Yarmouth	...	...	7
Sunnedon House, Coggeshall	...	...	4
Bedford Girls' Home, Bedford	...	...	2
Ely Diocesan Home, Cambridge	...	...	2
Heigham Grove, Norwich	...	...	2
Salvation Army Home, Sapsworth House, E.5.	...	...	2
Myford House, Horsehay, Wellington, Salop	...	...	1
St. Mary's Home, Stamford Hill	...	...	1
Fellowship of St. Michael's and All Angels, S.W.2.	...	...	1
St. Nicholas House, Alphington Road, Exeter	...	...	1
St. Christopher's Church Army House, Paddington	...	...	1

Care of Premature Infants.

As recommended in Circular 20/44, any infant weighing 5½ lbs. or less at birth is regarded as premature. Fully equipped cots are located in various parts of the county for use if the baby remains at home, or if transfer to hospital is necessary. Special follow-up visits are made to each infant to ensure that progress is maintained.

210 premature live-births were notified during the year, of whom 102 were born at home. Nine of these babies were transferred to hospital for treatment, and 3 of them survived beyond 28 days. The remaining 93 were nursed at home, and 85 of them survived.

Dental Care.

It is pleasing to be able to report a real advance in the numbers of patients other than school children treated by the authority's dental officers.

TABLE XI.
Numbers provided with dental care.

	Examined	Needing treatment	Treated	Made dentally fit
Expectant/Nursing Mothers	50	48	49	15
Children under 5 ...	116	97	128	78

Forms of dental treatment provided.

	Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Fillings	Scalings or gum treatment	Silver Nitrate treatment	X-rays	Dentures provided	
							Complete	Partial
Expectant/Nursing Mothers	55	—	27	1	—	—	3	1
Children under 5	83	40	73	3	39	—	—	—

Nurseries and Child Minder's Regulations Act, 1948.

Two further applications for registration were approved during the year, one being in respect of Lorley Cottage, Aldeburgh, and the other in respect of High Banks, Creting St. Mary, both for the reception of not more than eight children.

The Marian Nursery School, Combs, registered in 1954, continued, and visits of inspection have been made to this and the newly registered nurseries.

Women's Welfare Clinic.

Attendances at the Ipswich and Lowestoft clinics were approximately as in previous years. Appointments are only made for women to attend these clinics at the request of the family doctor or of one of the authority's Medical Officers.

At Ipswich, patients attend the Allington House Clinic by arrangement with the County Borough of Ipswich, and 68 women visited for the first time during the year, making between them a total of 176 attendances.

At Lowestoft, where the two clinics at Connaught House and Southwell Road are conducted by Dr. Sim, 121 patients (of whom 33 were making their first attendance) made 192 visits to the clinics.

Welfare Foods.

The early difficulties were not easily overcome, and it was well into 1955 before the work—especially that of making the necessary returns—could be brought and kept up-to-date. By the end of the year, however, the service was running smoothly, the voluntary distributors continuing readily to co-operate.

The number of distribution centres remained unchanged at 182, and a precis of the returns for 1955 showed that during the year issues had been made as follows:—

National Dried Milk (tins)	...	...	85,173
Orange Juice (bottles)	...	...	142,585
Cod Liver Oil (bottles)	...	...	27,599
Vitamin A & D (packets)	...	...	8,956

Section 23—Midwifery.

During the year the Council's midwives attended 1,016 patients as midwives, and 655 patients as maternity nurses.

Of the total of 1,671 confinements attended, in 81 instances only was a doctor not booked.

Medical aid under the Midwives' Act was summoned in 60 cases.

Gas/air analgesia was administered at 1,457 domiciliary confinements; in 862 cases by midwives acting in that capacity, and in 595 cases by midwives acting as maternity nurses.

Pethidine was given to 562 patients by midwives acting as such, and to 441 patients by midwives acting as maternity nurses.

Refresher Courses.

Four midwives attended refresher courses and one completed a district training course during the year.

Registration of Nursing Homes.

At 31st December, the following premises remained registered:—

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Number of beds available.</i>		
	<i>Maternity</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
St. Monica's, Felixstowe	...	1	—
Lyncote, Felixstowe	...	2	—
Orme House, Lowestoft	...	2	7
Field Stile, Southwold	...	—	8
	5	15	20

Ownership of Otley Hall, Otley, changed again and the premises ceased to be used as a nursing home.

Section 24.—Health Visiting.

TABLE XII.

Summary of visits made

(excluding School Health Service visits).

	<i>1st Visit.</i>	<i>Total Visits.</i>
Expectant mothers	411	489
Children under 1	3,424	18,624
Children over 1 but under 2	—	10,172
Children over 2 but under 5	—	17,697
Tuberculosis households	—	1,722
Other visits	—	2,022

Student Health Visitors.

Three nurse-midwives on the Council's staff were awarded scholarships during the year to train as health visitors. At the successful conclusion of their studies, two of these candidates will return to take up combined health visitor/district nurse-midwife appointments, and the third to undertake whole-time health visiting in Lowestoft.

Refresher Courses.

Two health visitors attended refresher courses during the year.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor.

The whole-time Tuberculosis Health Visitor made altogether 1,259 visits to households during the year and continued the valuable liaison between the Lowestoft Chest Clinic and the local authority.

It had not been possible to select a suitable candidate for a similar appointment in the south of the county.

Section 25.—Home Nursing.

Except in Lowestoft where 10 nurses were employed whole-time in this service, home nursing was provided by the district nurse/midwives.

TABLE XIII.
Summary of visits made.

				<i>Patients attended.</i>	<i>Total visits.</i>
Medical	...	...	...	3,227	85,638
Surgical	...	...	...	1,309	24,446
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	3	83
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	40	1,332
Maternal complications	...	...	...	59	538
Other	...	...	...	150	1,160

Section 26—Vaccination and Immunisation.

Vaccination.

TABLE XIV.

Number of Persons Vaccinated (or Re-vaccinated) during year.

<i>Age at date of vaccination.</i>	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>15 or over</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Primary ...	1,736	100	53	53	110	2,052
Re-vaccination	—	—	18	77	365	460

Diphtheria Immunisation.

TABLE XV.

Number of children at 31st December 1955 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1941).

Age at 31.12.55 i.e., born in year	Under 1 1955	1—4 1954-51	5—9 1950-46	10—14 1945-41	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of in- jections (primary or booster)					
A. 1951-1955	454	8,924	10,671	2,157	22,206
B. 1950 or earlier ...	—	—	3,815	6,923	10,738
Estimated mid-year child population	3,100	13,000	35,500		51,600
Immunity Index ...	14.6	68.6	36.1		430

The immunity index included in the statistics is designed to show a percentage of children considered to be in a state of immunity, i.e., those who have completed a course of immunisation during the past five years.

In arriving at the index figures in the columns 5 to 9—10 to 14, and total, the index is obtained by expressing the figures in line A as a percentage of the estimated mid-year child population.

Section 27—Ambulance Service.

TABLE XVI.

Ambulances.

Summary of Mileage, Journeys and Patients Carried.

<i>Month.</i>	<i>Total Miles.</i>	<i>No. of journeys.</i>	<i>No. of Patients Carried.</i>
January ...	20,295	674	1,450
February ...	18,240	592	1,195
March ...	19,216	640	1,267
April ...	18,404	646	1,196
May ...	20,412	681	1,297
June ...	19,756	692	1,331
July ...	20,380	681	1,390
August ...	19,110	672	1,380
September ...	19,475	656	1,393
October ...	17,839	623	1,218
November ...	17,785	639	1,291
December ...	18,876	625	1,278
	229,788	7,821	15,686

TABLE XVII.

Hospital Car Service.

Summary of Mileage, Journeys and Patients Carried.

Month.	VOLUNTARY CAR POOL.			C.C. SITTING CASE CARS.		
	Total Miles.	No. of Journeys.	No. of Patients Carried.	Total Miles.	No. of Journeys.	No. of Patients Carried.
January	37,503	960	2,278	1,934	73	135
February	33,504	902	2,242	1,973	103	153
March	41,473	1,107	2,652	2,662	122	193
April ...	38,792	984	2,346	2,944	111	199
May ...	39,301	1,030	2,533	2,212	111	158
June ...	45,461	1,199	2,832	2,433	130	208
July ...	41,414	1,126	2,691	2,689	138	231
August	44,097	1,171	2,896	2,062	112	241
September	41,980	1,075	2,704	2,387	116	225
October	41,734	1,106	2,892	2,900	118	186
November	45,259	1,223	3,073	1,724	133	235
December	39,565	1,056	2,704	1,889	118	222
	490,083	12,939	31,843	27,809	1,385	2,386
Total Mileage ...	...	...	...	517,892		
„ Journeys	...	...	...	14,324		
Average Monthly Mileage	...	...	...	43,157		
„ Miles per Journey	...	...	...	36.1		

Section 28—Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care.

TABLE XVIII.

Tuberculosis Register, 1955.

	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
Cases on Register at 1.1.55 ...	951	360
New (Primary) Notifications during 1955 ...	86	29
Inward transfers and cases restored to register in 1955 ...	47	2
Total ...	1084	391

Cases written off register in 1955:

	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
Non-tuberculous ...	1	1
Died ...	25	7
Recovered ...	43	32
Removed or lost sight of ...	67	18
Total ...	136	58
Cases remaining on register at 31.12.55 ...	948	333

B.C.G. Vaccination.

Reports were received from the Consultant Chest Physicians on 198 persons successfully vaccinated during the year.

Provision of Milk.

At 31st December, 95 patients (47 in Lowestoft) were being helped under the scheme for the provision of one pint of milk daily free to tuberculosis patients on recommendations made by the Consultant Chest Physicians or the Council's health visitors.

Provision of Nursing Equipment.

The medical loans depots organised under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society—and manned by their voluntary personnel, whose help is gratefully acknowledged—have continued to work satisfactorily.

Section 29—Home Help Service.

At 31st December, 231 part-time workers (20 more than in 1954) were being employed, and the types of cases to which help has been given during the year were as follows:—

(i) Maternity (including expectant mothers)	...	209
(ii) Tuberculosis	... ..	14
(iii) Chronic sick, including aged and infirm	...	460
(iv) Other	... ..	87

Sections 28 and 51—Mental Health.

Administration.

No special Sub-Committee has been appointed to deal with the work relating to Mental Health and the work has been delegated to the Health Services Sub-Committee of the Health Committee.

Staff.

The County Medical Officer and his Assistant Medical Officers are all approved for the purpose of giving certificates under Section 5 of the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913. They also carry out other medical examinations as in the ascertainment of cases. The County Medical Officer is approved by the Minister to give recommendations under Section 5 of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

The supervision of boys up to the age of 16 years and girls up to the age of 20 years under Statutory Supervision is carried out by the County Council's health visitors.

The supervision of the remainder of the patients under Statutory Supervision and of those under Friendly Supervision is given by the welfare officers of the County Council.

A specially qualified health visitor has been appointed to carry out specialist work under the Mental Deficiency Acts and to give after-care in the case of patients discharged from mental hospitals.

The male welfare officers of the County Council are appointed as duly authorised officers under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts. Members of the staff of the Health Department are also authorised to act and do so

when a welfare officer is not available. Home teaching under the Mental Deficiency Acts is given by those welfare officers who are qualified home teachers.

Co-ordination with Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Management Committees.

The following arrangements obtain:—

1. With the Management Committee of the Royal Eastern Counties Hospital, Colchester, which is in the area of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, for the supervision by the officers of the Council of patients on licence from the hospital, and for the provision of the necessary reports upon the home circumstances of patients.
2. With the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board for the supervision of patients on licence from hospitals in the Hospital Board's area, and for the provision of reports on home circumstances.

Admissions to Mental Hospitals.

During the year the duly authorised officers attended on the admission of 55 male and 117 female patients to mental hospitals, as follows:—

<i>Under the Lunacy Acts:</i>				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
On certification	...	...		29	68	97
On "Three day" Orders under						
Section 20	...	...		—	3	3
<i>Under the Mental Treatment Act:</i>						
As voluntary patients	...	...		24	44	68
As voluntary patients under 16	...	...		1	—	1
As temporary patients	...	...		1	2	3
				<hr/> 55	<hr/> 117	<hr/> 172

The duly authorised officers have given help in the cases of a number of patients discharged from mental hospitals where it was felt that after-care and assistance in coping with the problems involved in returning to normal community life were necessary.

Mental Deficiency Acts.

Admissions to Hospitals.

During the year arrangements were made for the admission of 8 male and 13 female patients. The numbers remaining on the waiting list on 31st December, 1955 were 21 males and 18 females.

During the year 13 males and 8 females were admitted for periods of temporary care.

Supervision.

The numbers under supervision on 31st December, 1955 were:—

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Statutory Supervision	...	146	125
Friendly Supervision	...	50	38

Occupation Centres.

The Lowestoft Occupation Centre continues most successfully as a full-time one with meals provided by arrangement with the Local Education Authority. At the end of the year there were 10 boys and 8 girls in attendance.

Three girls and 1 boy were attending the Ipswich Occupation Centre by arrangement with the Ipswich Mental Welfare Association.

Home Training.

On 31st December, 1955, 12 males and 39 females were receiving home training.

The training class at Ipswich continues to be held on alternate Thursday afternoons and at the end of the year it was attended by 1 boy and 14 girls.

Three male and 4 female patients attend a weekly handicraft class at Lowestoft.

Ascertainment.

During the year 26 new cases (16 males and 10 females) were ascertained.

Guardianship.

There are 4 males and 5 females of East Suffolk origin under Guardianship.

IV.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies and Sewerage.

This section of the report has been prepared by the County Sanitary Officer, who is responsible for examining and reporting upon schemes of water supply and sewerage submitted for the approval of the County Council for financial assistance.

Water Supplies.

Good progress has been maintained during 1955 in the construction of the regional water schemes in all the Rural Districts. Those of Blyth and Deben Rural District Councils are now virtually complete, and four others, those of Hartismere, Lothingland, Samford and Wainford Rural District Councils, will soon be in a similar position. Completion of the Gipping Rural District Council's full scheme will be delayed, because as many of the proposed mains are in the north-eastern part of the District where there is already a local network, the Minister has deferred further development.

During the year 129 miles of water mains were laid, which means that 79 per cent. of the ultimate network of mains has now been completed. The following table shows the position with regard to development in each Rural District.

TABLE XIX.

District	Length of Water Mains in Miles.				Proportion of Ultimate Network completed
	Pre 1945	1946 to 1955	Approved Proposals	Ultimate Network	
Blyth	12	145	4	161	98%
Deben (incl. Stat. areas)	85	87	4	176	98%
Gipping	35	45	101	182	44%
Hartismere	65	113	29	207	86%
Lothingland (incl. Stat. areas)	23	37	16	76	79%
Samford	13	59	24	96	75%
Wainford	5	56	29	90	68%
Totals	238	543	207	988	79%

The Barsham Pumping Station, built for the Barsham Bores Joint Water Committee, was completed during the year and officially opened in October. In addition, water towers have been completed or brought near to completion at Saxmundham, for Blyth Rural District; Beddingfield in Hartismere Rural District; Freston, Erbarton and Raydon in Samford Rural District; and Ilketshall St. Andrew and South Elmham St. Michael in Wainford Rural District. Work is due to start on water towers at Barking Tye in Gipping Rural District and Fressingfield and Cotton in Hartismere Rural District. In Deben Rural District an iron removal plant at Pettistree Pumping Station has been completed and is in operation, and the modernisation of equipment at Tuddenham Pumping Station was also carried out during the year. Work was started on the Pumping Station, Treatment Plant and Reservoir at Redgrave in Hartismere Rural District and good progress has been made. At Raydon in Samford Rural District the main building of the Headworks was completed and the installation of machinery is about to proceed.

Sewerage.

During the year there was rather more sewerage work done than previously, with 7 schemes under construction. Of these, 4 have been completed.

The end of 1955 brings to a close the first five-year period of the 20-year Programme of Sewerage Development for the County as agreed between the District Councils and the County Council in May, 1951. The following summary shows the present position with regard to those schemes which were scheduled in the Programme for the period 1951-55.

Scheme.	State of Progress.
Alderton—Deben Debenham—Gipping Mendlesham—Hartismere Bradwell } Kessingland } Lothingland Shotley—Samford	Completed.
Fressingfield & Weybread—Hartismere Brantham (Stage I)—Samford	Virtually completed but not yet in use.
Haughley (S.D. Works) } Stowupland } Gipping Hopton—Lothingland	Works under construction.
Kelsale—Blyth Needham Market—Gipping Palgrave—Hartismere Carlton Colville } Wrentham } Lothingland Brantham (Stage II)—Samford	Schemes anticipated to start in 1956.
Framlingham (S.D. Works)—Blyth Melton—Deben Bramford—Gipping East Bergholt } Holbrook } Samford. Sproughton }	Approved but not yet allowed to proceed.
Worlingham (Stage I)—Wainford	Ministry Inquiry held, result awaited.
Botesdale & Rickinghall } Hoxne } Hartismere	Awaiting Ministry Inquiry.
Yaxley—Hartismere	Not approved for grant purposes.
Thorpeness—Blyth Kesgrave & Martlesham } Kesgrave & Rushmere } Deben Grundisburgh } Orford } Chelmondiston—Samford Worlingham (Stage II), North Cove & Barnby— Wainford	Schemes not yet submitted in detail.

Housing.

I am pleased to be able to report that there has been a further increase in the number of unfit dwellings demolished under the Housing Acts. During the year details were submitted by Local Authorities to the Minister of Housing and Local Government of unfit houses in their areas and proposals for dealing with them.

The following tables show work carried out by the various authorities during 1955 and a summary of their proposals for the next five years.

TABLE XX (a).

Summary of Housing Activities in Boroughs and Urban Districts.

	Alde- burgh M.B.	Beccles M.B.	Bungay U.D.	Eye M.B.	Felix- stowe U.D.	Hales- worth U.D.	Leiston U.D.	Lowes- toft M.B.	Sax- mund- ham U.D.	South- wold M.B.	Stow- market U.D.	Wood- bridge U.D.
1. Houses inspected for all purposes	136	354	300	58	77	54	272	1,018	35	52	103	—
2. No. found to be unsatisfactory	72	92	157	22	38	15	71	565	29	10	103	—
3. No. rendered fit:												
(a) By informal action	12	32	33	8	29	15	32	126	6	9	48	—
(b) By action under Public Health Act	—	21	—	—	—	—	—	27	—	—	1	—
(c) By action under Housing Act	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	10	—	—	—	—
4. No. of Demolition Orders secured	—	7	—	4	3	—	1	4	—	—	—	1
5. No. of dwellings included in Clearance Orders secured	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
6. No. of dwellings demolished under Demolition Orders	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	1
7. No. of dwellings demolished under Clearance Orders	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. No. of cases of Overcrowding relieved during 1955	3	—	—	1	15	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
9. No. of cases of Overcrowding known to exist at the end of 1955	—	—	—	—	17	—	—	4	—	—	—	1
10. No. of new houses erected:												
(a) by Local Authority	14	17	26	18	79	—	—	128	8	6	32	42
(b) by Private Enterprise	20	14	4	2	70	8	9	124	2	8	9	16

TABLE XX (b).
Summary of Housing Activities in Rural Districts.

	Rural District.						
	Blyth.	Deben.	Gipping.	Hartismere	Lothingland	Samford.	Wainford.
A. Existing Houses.							
(1) Houses inspected for all purposes ...	425	450	156	168	389	41	106
(2) Houses in which sanitary defects were found ...	201	405	45	86	190	17	106
(3) No. rendered fit—by informal action ...	119	180	30	17	32	14	21
(4) No. of dwellings in respect of which Statutory notice served under Public Health Act ...	—	—	—	—	10	4	—
(5) No. of dwellings in respect of which Statutory Notice served under Housing Acts ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(6) No. of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made either as—							
(a) Individually unfit ...	21	3	4	6	7	13	—
(b) In Clearance areas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(7) No. of houses demolished in pursuance of Orders made under 6(a) or 6(b) above ...	1	5	1	1	5	5	1
(8) Houses occupied on 31.12.55 in respect of which Demolition or Clearance Orders have been made ...	17	13	7	5	12	14	Not known
(9) Overcrowding							
No. of houses overcrowded at end of year ...	8	Not known	22	—	Not known	—	Not known
No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during year ...	5	4	2	—	—	—	—
B. New Houses.							
(1) No. of new houses completed by Local Authorities during 1955 ...	44	68	31	69	30	42	4
(2) Total No. of permanent houses and flats owned by Councils on 31.12.55	886	1139	997	817	631	586	377
(3) Housing Act, 1949							
No. of applications for grants ...	91	112	30	69	43	37	13
No. of applications approved during year ...	72	69	30	69	40	27	7

TABLE XX (c).
Summary of Housing Proposals for succeeding 5 years.

HOUSING AUTHORITY	Total number of permanent houses in area	Estimated number of unfit houses	ACTION IN FIRST 5 YEARS.				Number of houses to be retained for temporary accommodation
			Number of Houses to be demolished.			Total number of houses to be demolished	
			Individual houses	Houses in clearance areas			
Boroughs:							
Lowestoft	13,338	478	71	407		478	—
Aldeburgh	1,100	21	21	—		21	—
Beccles	2,850	73	64	9		73	—
Eye	566	22	22	—		22	—
Southwold	1,213	12	12	—		12	—
Urban Districts:							
Bungay	1,136	124	124	—		124	—
Felixstowe	4,892	6	6	—		6	—
Halesworth	748	83	40	—		40	—
Leiston-cum-Sizewell	1,527	80	14	66		80	—
Saxmundham	651	16	16	—		16	—
Stowmarket	2,431	90	10	80		90	—
Woodbridge	1,982	300	—	50		50	—
Rural Districts:							
Blyth	7,327	300	114	—		114	—
Deben	8,452	273	123	150		273	—
Gipping	6,161	579	214	15		229	—
Hartismere	5,929	900	900	—		900	—
Lothlingland	5,230	122	122	—		122	—
Samford	4,456	179	96	—		96	—
Wainford	2,174	236	120	20		140	20

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The following table shows the amount of meat inspection carried out by County District Sanitary Inspectors during the year. In all areas 100% inspection is being carried out of meat from animals slaughtered in the County.

Inspection of Meat for Human Consumption.

	Cattle (including Calves)	Sheep	Pigs
Number of animals inspected ...	10,237	6,286	58,351
Whole carcasses condemned:			
Tuberculosis	131	—	12
Other causes	54	27	111
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:			
Tuberculosis	1,136	—	1,967
Other causes	2,748	256	7,954

Food and Drugs.

During 1955, 872 samples were taken for analytical examination; of these 79 or 9.06% proved unsatisfactory. 55.5% of samples taken were milk and 44.5% other food and drugs.

Milk.

Total number of samples taken	484
Number submitted to Public Analyst	36
Number unsatisfactory by reason of:—	
(1) Fat content below standard	31
(2) Solids not fat content below standard	10
(3) Fat and solids below standard	17
Number found to contain added water	3
Adulteration figure	12.6%

Samples reported as unsatisfactory are all those which did not comply with the presumptive standard laid down in the Sale of Milk Regulations; or in the case of Channel Island milk, where the fat content was less than 4% specified in the Milk (Great Britain) Order, 1953.

In almost every case it was shown by samples taken at a supervised milking or by the results of the Hortvet (Freezing Point) test that the deficiencies were due to natural causes. Action taken in such cases was to inform the producer of the results of analyses and to advise him to contact the National Agricultural Advisory Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

One sample was found to contain at least 7.7% of added water, the Hortvet test confirmed the presence of extraneous water and samples taken at a supervised milking showed that the normal milk from the herd was satisfactory. Legal proceedings were instituted and as a result the producer was convicted and granted absolute discharge on payment of £1 1s. 0d. costs.

In one sample 2% added water was found and in another a trace of added water. The natural milk from both herds was found to be of poor quality and strong warning letters were sent. Subsequent samples taken from these producers proved satisfactory.

Other Foods.

Total number of samples taken	348
Number submitted to Public Analyst	332
Number unsatisfactory	17
Adulteration figure	4.9%

Details of Unsatisfactory Samples.

Sample No.	Food	Nature of Adulteration	Action Taken
L.125	Gelatine ...	Excess of copper present	Legal proceedings instituted. Case dismissed.
L.172	Beef Sausages ...	Preservative not declared.	Verbal warning to vendor.
L.177	Cheese Spread ...	Deficient in fat	Formal sample taken and proved satisfactory.
L.188	Beef and Vegetable Weaning Food ...	Inaccurate label in that product contained more Vegetable than Beef.	Manufacturers agreed to amend label.
L.229	Pork Sausages ...	19% deficient in meat content	Formal sample taken and proved satisfactory.
L.258	Pommel Demi-Sel	Deficient in fat	Importers contacted and our views sent to Manufacturers in France. As a result a new composition has been agreed for the product; the analysis of which has been submitted.
L.260	Puff Pastry ...	Fat rancid	Ascertained that none of the stock concerned was still for sale. Retailers warned and advised not to keep the product in stock longer than absolutely necessary.
L.287	Rum & Butter sweets	Contained no butter.	All other stocks of these sweets labelled correctly. Retailer and Wholesaler informed of importance of labelling.
L.288	Tomato Ketchup ...	Excessive copper	Formal sample taken proved satisfactory.
L.319	Dairy Butters ...	16% deficient in butter-fat	Warning letter sent to Manufacturers.
L.322	Milk Chocolate Roasted Peanuts	Chocolate coating made with separated milk.	Manufacturers informed—stocks withdrawn.
L.326	Lemonade ...	79.5% deficient in sugar content	Warning letters sent to Retailer and Manufacturers of Mix, who agreed to amend formula.
L.338	Rum and Butter Toffee ...	17.5% deficient in butter-fat.	Warning letter sent.
L.451	Butter Drops ...	Slight butter-fat deficiency.	Warning letter sent.
L.454	Leaf Gelatine ...	Contained 15 parts per million of lead.	Formal sample taken and proved satisfactory.
L.488	Dripping ...	Slightly high acid value	Manufacturer informed and advised to take more care in refining.
C.493	Butter Drops ...	20% butter-fat deficiency	Formal sample taken and proved satisfactory.

At the end of 1955 there was still no standard laying down clearly the required composition of sausages although the Minister had stated that the matter was under consideration. Only one sample of pork sausage taken during the year proved unsatisfactory, based on the standard repealed in 1953, and in this case the price was below average for pork sausages sold in this area.

The standard used in respect of butter confectionery is that agreed by the Minister of Food and the Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery Trade in 1951, and published in a Code of Practice. This states that butter confectionery should contain at least 4% butterfat unless the word 'butter' is qualified by the word 'flavoured'.

Drugs.

Total number of samples taken	...	...	40
Number submitted to Public Analyst	...	...	40
Number unsatisfactory	...	...	1
Adulteration figures	...	...	2.5%

The only drug sample which proved unsatisfactory was of indigestion tablets, and these were found to be deficient in neutralising value. After considerable correspondence with the Manufacturers of the product, in America, and their agents in this country, the Manufacturers agreed to adjust their formula. Samples of the new product were received and proved satisfactory.

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

Eight Dealers' (Pasteurisers') Licences were in force at the beginning of the year.

During March a licence was issued in respect of Mount Pleasant Dairy, Framlingham. In June, two dairies merged to form a new Company and a new licence was subsequently issued to Felixstowe Dairies, Ltd. in respect of premises in Victoria Street, Felixstowe.

During the year 334 samples of Pasteurised and 166 samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) milk were taken and a summary of results of statutory tests carried out is given in the following table.

Designation.	Test.	No. of Samples	
		Passed	Failed.
Pasteurised	Phosphatase ...	324	10
	Methylene Blue ...	312	3
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	Phosphatase ...	160	6
	Methylene Blue ...	154	1

The failures to pass the prescribed tests were distributed between 6 of the dairies as follows:—

Dairy.	Type of Plant.	No. of samples failed.	
		Phosphatase.	Methylene Blue.
C.F.D. ...	H.T.S.T. ...	2	—
Mt. P.D. ...	Holder ...	2	2
A.H.D. ...	Holder ...	2	1
H.F.D. ...	Holder ...	4	—
A.D. ...	Holder ...	3	—
D.D. ...	Holder ...	3	1

Cleaning and Sterilisation.

Swabs of the plant surfaces and specimens of washed bottles were taken regularly during the year and proved invaluable in ascertaining the efficiency of methods used. Generally conditions in this respect were satisfactory, although occasionally practices were improved and in all cases full co-operation was received.

Biological Examination of Milk.

During the year 477 samples of milk were taken for biological examination.

Eight were found to contain tubercle bacilli and as a result of subsequent action 8 cows were slaughtered.

Fifteen were found to contain brucella organisms. In these cases action by District Medical Officers resulted in diversion of milk for heat treatment.

Milk Production—General.

There was a reduction in the number of Registered Producers during the year, there being 1,420 at the end of 1955 compared with 1,463 at the end of 1954. There was, however, a further increase in the number of Licensed Tuberculin Tested producers, the number licensed at the end of 1955 being 1,067 as compared with 1,004 at the end of 1954.

The number of cattle in attested herds in the County at the end of the year was 60,100 compared with 45,280 at the end of 1954.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

The following figures relate to the number of cows slaughtered under the Order during the year and are supplied by the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Chronic cough and definite clinical signs	...	—
Tuberculosis with emaciation	...	—
Tuberculosis of the udder or excreting tubercle bacilli	...	5

Specified Areas.

The Borough of Beccles and Urban District of Bungay were included in a Specified Area, declared by the Minister of Food with effect from 21st March, 1955. The implication of this Order is that from the date mentioned only Specially Designated milk (i.e., Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin Tested) may be sold by retail.

Provision of Milk for School Children.

A full report is contained in my report as School Medical Officer for the year.

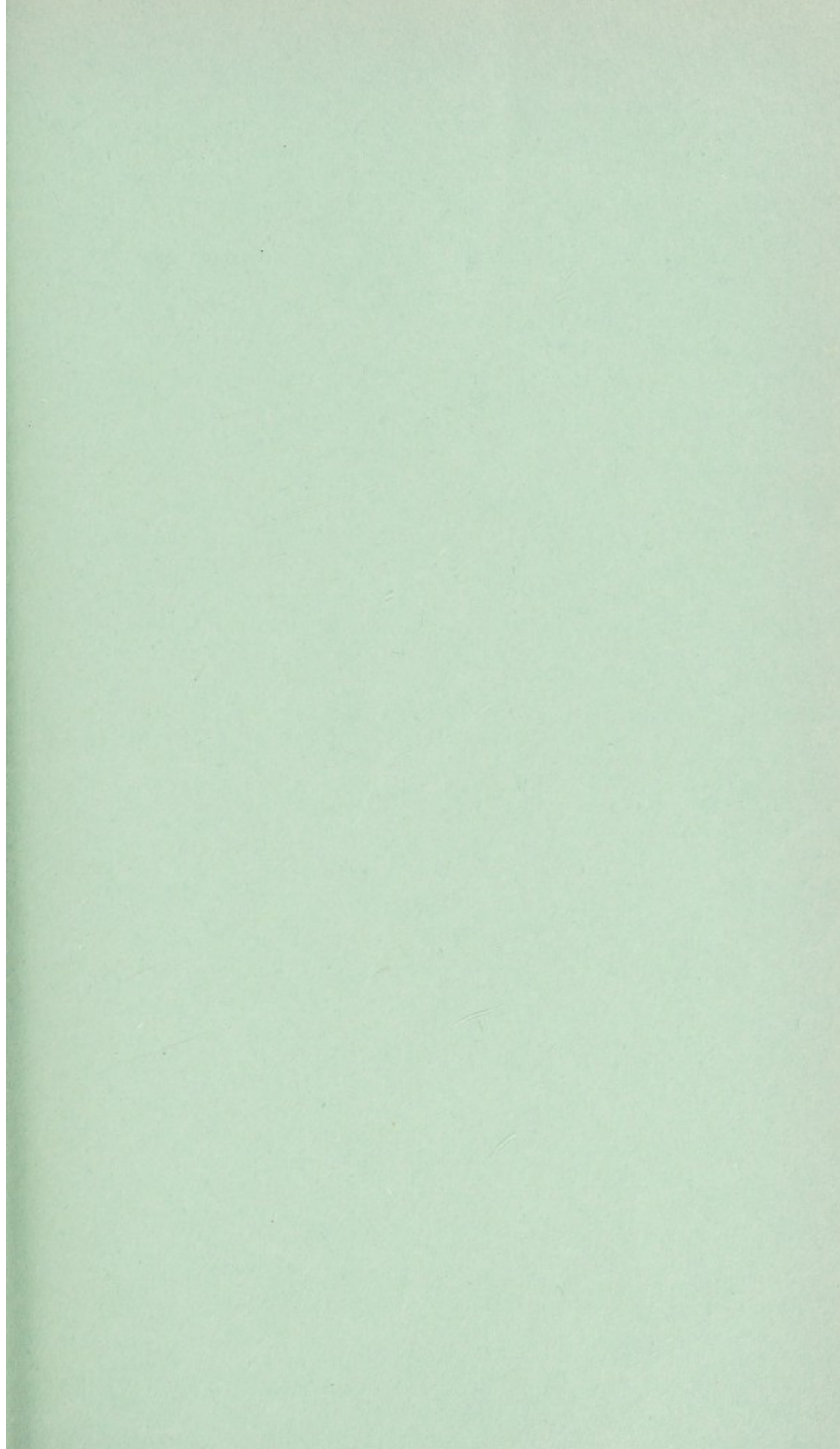
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PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

TABLE XXI.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Disease.	Number of cases notified	Number of deaths.
Scarlet Fever	81	—
Whooping Cough	447	—
Poliomyelitis—paralytic	17	2
do. —non-paralytic	11	—
Measles	2,295	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Pneumonia	104	104
Dysentery	278	—
Smallpox	—	—
Encephalitis—infective and post infective ...	2	—
Enteric or typhoid fever	—	—
Paratyphoid fever	—	—
Erysipelas	10	—
Meningococcal infection	2	—
Food poisoning	57	—
Puerperal pyrexia	25	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	—
Infective hepatitis	61	—
Malaria	1	—



EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL



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HEALTH DEPARTMENT
COUNTY HALL
IPSWICH