

[Report 1951] / Medical Officer of Health, Epping (Union) R.D.C.

Contributors

Epping (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1951

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/sw2f4hqb>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

LIBRARY

EPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

including the Report of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the year ending December 31st, 1951.



EPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members of
The Epping Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the year ending 31st December, 1951, on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Epping Rural District.

The Birth Rate was 17.2 per 1,000 population (the figure for 1950 was 17.1), and the Death Rate was 11.9 per 1,000 population (the figure for 1950 being 11.5). With 356 births and 245 deaths there was a natural population increase of 111, but the Registrar General estimated the population at 20,650, an increase of 1,490 on the 1950 estimate. This difference in the natural increase and the Registrar General's estimate is due, as was indicated in last year's Report, to the continuing development of Harlow New Town.

The Infant Mortality Rate, i.e. the Death Rate of infants under 1 year, was 22.5 per 1,000 live births which is below the figure for England and Wales of 29.6 per 1,000 live births.

Infectious Diseases.

During the year sixteen new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, but of these, five were patients already suffering from the disease at the time of taking up residence in the District.

In connection with the National Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign a Mass Radiography Unit of the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board visited Harlow in September, 1951. A total of 727 persons (359 men and 368 women) volunteered for X-ray examination on miniature films, and of these 36 were recalled for further examination on large films. No case of active tuberculosis was discovered, but 10 persons showed signs of previous infection with pulmonary tuberculosis, and one person showed signs of bronchiectasis.

One case of diphtheria again occurred in 1951, and it will be recalled that one case also occurred in 1950 which made a break in a five year record of freedom from this disease. This is an appropriate reminder that diphtheria infection is still a risk to be reckoned with, and it is very necessary that every child should be given protective immunisation against this serious disease.

The Ministry of Health considers it essential that not less than 75 per cent of babies should be immunised by the time they reach one year old. In the Rural District during 1951 approximately 37% of babies of about one year old had received immunisation. This reveals a most alarming complacency on the part of parents, and calls for considerable improvement in the future if we are to avoid diphtheria again becoming a prevalent disease.

One case of Poliomyelitis occurred in 1951. The patient was a boy aged 13 years. The case was very mild and of the non-paralytic type.

Food Poisoning.

Two cases of food poisoning occurred during 1951. Both cases occurred quite independently, and although the usual investigations were carried out, no definite source of the infecting organism was discovered.

National Health Service Act, 1946.

Services under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are provided by the County Council as Local Health Authority. No difficulties have been experienced, and, during 1951 these Part III services have continued as in previous years.

In conclusion I again take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the help and co-operation afforded me by the staff of the Public Health Department, and to Dr. F.G. Brown, Area Medical Officer (Forest Health Area), for some of the statistics included in this Report, and finally also to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their help and support during 1951.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
J.L. PATTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

E P P I N G R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L .

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1951.

Chairman: Counc. C.H. Bradshaw, J.P. until June 1951.
Counc. Mrs. H. Howard from June 1951.

Vice Chairman: Counc. Mrs. H. Howard until June 1951.
Counc. A.F. Joseph, M.A., from June 1951.

MEMBERS:

Councillor Mrs. A.R. Duck	Councillor L.P. Davis
" Mrs. C.O. Sainsbury	" J. Padfield
" A. Barratt C.C.	" R. Padfield
(until Dec. 1951)	" J.W. Stevens
" A.E. Brown	" E.D. Swift
" F.A. Coates	
(from June 1951)	

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health:
DR. J.L. PATTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health:
MRS. I.M. STOCK.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:
MR. H.J. HEELEY, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.
Certificate of Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board
Royal Sanitary Institute (Meat and other Foods) Certificate
Diploma in Practical Sanitary Science, London.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:
MR. G.H. GREEN, M.S.I.A.
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute
and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Examination Board.

Clerks:
MISS A.E.A. ROTHWELL - Chief Clerk.
MISS S. SHAW (until 30th July, 1951)
MISS M. STUDHOLME (from 30th July, 1951).

	Male.	Female.	Total.
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS:			
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	0	0	0
		Total:	5

MATERNAL DEATHS:			
Puerperal and Post-abortion sepsis ... ..	...	...	0
Other maternal causes ... ..	...	...	0
		Total:	0

CAUSES OF DEATH AS GIVEN BY THE REGISTRAR
GENERAL FOR THE YEAR 1951.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Influenza	4	3	7
Whooping Cough	0	1	1
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	0	1	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	0	1	1
Cancer (all forms)	24	20	44
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System ...	11	18	29
Heart Disease (all forms)	32	42	74
Other Disease of Circulatory System ...	6	5	11
Bronchitis	8	5	13
Pneumonia	6	4	10
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	0	1	1
Digestive Diseases	4	0	4
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis,	1	0	1
Congenital malformations and Birth Trauma .	2	1	3
Diabetes	0	2	2
Hyperplasia of the Prostate	2	0	2
Road Traffic Accidents	4	0	4
Suicide	2	0	2
All Other Accidents	3	2	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	16	12	28
	Totals:	119	245

**TABLE OF COMPARATIVE BIRTH AND DEATH RATES
IN THE YEAR 1951.**

(Provisional figures based on weekly and quarterly returns)

Rates per 1,000 population.

	Eng-land & Wales.	126 Co. Boroughs & Great Towns inc. London.	148 Small towns Res. pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adm. County	Epping Rural District.
--	-------------------	---	--	--------------------	------------------------

BIRTHS:

Live Births ...	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8	17.2
Still Births ...	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37	0.30

DEATHS:

All causes ...	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1	11.9
----------------	------	------	------	------	------

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING
THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.
Scarlet Fever ...	13	20	13	20	18
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	1	1
Typhoid & Paratyphoid ...	1	0	0	1	1
Erysipelas ...	3	4	1	0	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	0	0	1	1
Measles ...	95	200	276	36	508
Whooping Cough ...	24	139	48	199	61
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	1	0	1	0	0
Dysentery ...	0	1	1	2	1
Infective Hepatitis ...	2	0	11	5	0
Pneumonia ...	6	7	5	3	17
Poliomyelitis - paralytic ...	0	2	19	0	0
- non-paralytic ...)))))
Food Poisoning ...	1	5	1	5	2

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

							Cases Notified.	
							1950.	1951.
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	199	61
Measles	....	...	...	...	...	36	508
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	20	18
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	...	5	0
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	17
Tuberculosis (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	11	12
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	1	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
IN THE DISTRICT.

Laboratory Facilities.

A Ministry of Health Laboratory operates at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping. Water and ice-cream samples are examined at the Counties Public Health Laboratory, 66, Queen Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. Milk samples are examined at the Institute of Agriculture, Writtle.

Hospitals.

The district is served by various Hospitals under the Epping Group Hospital Management Committee.

Child Welfare.

The Local Health Authority is the Essex County Council. Clinics are held at the following times and places:-

EPPING: The Combined Treatment Centre, 15, Regent Road, Epping, provides the following services:-

An Ante-Natal Clinic is held at
2.30 p.m. on each Monday afternoon.

A Women's Welfare Clinic is held at 2 p.m. on the second Friday in the month by appointment, where advice is given about Family Planning. Attendances at this clinic in 1951 totalled 75.

A Child Welfare Centre is held on Thursday afternoons at 2 p.m. Attendances of children under 5 years of age totalled 1,727 in 1951. Diphtheria immunisation is carried out at the Child Welfare Centre every Thursday afternoon at 2 p.m.

School children's minor ailments every Thursday afternoon at 1.45 p.m. where a Doctor is in regular attendance. Appointments are arranged for Eye, Orthoptic, Orthopaedic and Speech Therapy Clinics.

HARLOW: The Women's Institute Club Room:-

An Ante-Natal Clinic is held at 2.30 pm. on the 2nd Friday in the month.

A Child Welfare Centre is held on the 1st Wednesday in the month at 2 p.m. Diphtheria Immunisation is carried out at this centre.

HARLOW
NEW TOWN: Haygarth House Health Centre:-

An Ante-Natal Clinic is held on the 3rd Wednesday at 2 p.m., a Minor Ailments Clinic on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at 9.30 am. and a Child Welfare Centre on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

Child Welfare Centres:

HARLOW COMMON:	The Red Lion P.H. Potter Street.	1st Monday in the month at 2 p.m.
MATCHING TYE:	The Women's Institute Hall	3rd Friday in the month at 2 p.m.
SHEERING:	The Village Hall	1st Friday in the month at 2 p.m.

Child Welfare Centres (contd):

THEYDON BOIS:	The Village Hall, Loughton Lane	1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays in the month at 2.30 p.m.
NETTESWELL:	The Women's Institute Hall.	4th Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
MAGDALEN LAVER:	The Village Hall (Weighing Centre)	2nd Tuesday in the month at 2 p.m.
NORTH WEALD:	The Queens Rooms	1st Tuesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
PARNDON:	The Parish Hall	4th Tuesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
ROYDON:	The Community Centre	2nd Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
NAZEING:	The Cadet Hut, St. Leonards Road.	1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at 2 pm.

Diphtheria Immunisation is available at the above Child Welfare Centres.

Home Visiting is carried out by the County Council's Health Visitors in the area.

School Health Service.

The Education Authority is the Essex County Council. School Nurses inspect the children regularly and there is a medical inspection at each school at least once a year.

Tuberculosis.

A Chest Clinic is held at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping, every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and every Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. All cases now seen by appointment only.

During the year the Care Association covering Chigwell, Epping, Waltham Abbey and Ongar districts continued to do useful work. The Association assists cases waiting admission to sanatorium in various ways, and arranges for the admission of child contacts to a convalescent home. It concerns itself also with the after care of patients by assistance in obtaining materials for occupational therapy and whenever possible suitable employment for

those fit for work. The Association is supported by voluntary contributions and receives also a grant from the County Council.

The Honorary Secretary is Mr. A.J. Edwards, 37, Woodland Road, Loughton, Essex.

District Nurses.

District Nurses and Midwives, employed by the Essex County Council, serve the area.

-----0000000000000000-----

REPORT OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The Chairman and Members of the
Epping Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have to present my annual report for the year 1951, being the twenty-sixth report I have had the pleasure of submitting to you.

The report sets out the work carried out by the Department during the year, from which you will observe its varied nature which is necessary to preserve the amenities of life in this rural area.

The work of the Department increases rapidly owing to new legislation which has come into force and other legislation which supplements that already existing and to the formation of the Harlow New Town bringing about increases in population and of the expansion of industry.

I would express my thanks to the Members of the Council for the help and consideration given me during the year and to my staff for their ready co-operation. I am indebted too, to the Surveyor and the Housing Estates Officer of the Council for certain details supplied affecting their Departments which are embodied in this report.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

H. J. HEBLEY, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING

(1) Progress.

The erection of houses by the Council during the year has proceeded steadily, one hundred and forty-two houses being erected which exceeded that erected during the previous year by twenty-nine houses. There were twenty-four houses erected by private enterprise, being three less than in the course of the previous year.

During the year there were also five hundred and thirty-one houses erected by the Harlow Development Corporation. The latter houses, however, are not available to local applicants.

At the end of the year under review there were five hundred and eleven applicants for housing accommodation registered in the Council's Housing Estates Department, this being three hundred and sixty-eight less than those registered at the corresponding period of the previous year. This considerable reduction is due, partly, to the housing of some of these applicants registered in 1950, but is largely due to the policy of the Council in reviewing the applicants registered. The Council resolved during the year that the following principles of application should apply.

(1) applicants must have resided in the district for a continuous period of twelve months prior to registration; or, (2) if now living out of the district, must have been resident in the district for a total period of not less than ten years prior to leaving and (3) persons will not be entitled to apply for housing accommodation simply by reason of the fact that he or she works in the district.

As pointed out in my report to you covering the year 1950 the worst housing conditions in the District continue to be due to the occupation of premises structurally defective and in a state of disrepair with a lack of facilities which in many cases, as revealed at the time of the Survey of Rural Houses throughout the district, renders them unfit for human habitation.

The housing accommodation required by the lower income groups, owing to deterioration of the cottages in which they live and in some cases the occupants inability to pay council house rents, is much higher than hitherto and these facts are reflected in the report of the Central Housing Advisory Committee.

There is a guide in determining as to whether premises are fit or unfit for habitation laid down in the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1930 and the Rural Housing Manual issued by the Ministry of Health in 1938, this reads:- that fit for habitation implies generally that a dwelling shall be free from serious dampness, satisfactorily lighted and ventilated, properly drained and provided with adequate sanitary conveniences and that a sink and suitable arrangements for disposal of slop water, and be in good general repair and should also have a satisfactory water supply, adequate washing accommodation, facilities for preparing and cooking food and a well ventilated store for food.

It is therefore necessary to keep this standard in mind when dealing with property and in cases where such standards cannot be complied with at a reasonable expense consideration should be given by the Council for demolition.

I would again remind the Council of the housing survey of the district which took place in 1946 - 1948 when it was found that there were two hundred and eight houses unfit for habitation and little has been done to improve or demolish these properties. Since the survey, however, these houses have been kept weatherproof by service of notices as required.

There is no gross overcrowding recorded, contrary to the provisions of the low standards of the Housing Act, 1936, existing in this District.

The control of rents under the provisions of the Rent Restrictions Act continues and has an important bearing on the work of the Department in carrying out its duties, both under the Housing Acts and the Public Health Act to bring about a better standard of environmental hygiene. The low rents received makes it uneconomical for the owners to carry out repairs, especially having in mind the high cost of both building material and labour charges.

(2) Housing Inspections.

House-to-house inspection of dwelling houses continues; the number inspected is entirely dependent on the time available for this work.

During the year under review one thousand seven hundred and twenty housing inspections have been made and work of repair and adaptation carried out where necessary. Every endeavour is made to deal amicably with owners in getting work done but in fifty-six cases statutory notices were served, in no case however was it necessary to proceed by way of summons before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction.

(3) Hutments.

The occupation of hutments which were vacated by the Services at the end of the war continues. The number in occupation at the end of the year being:- Thornwood seventy-six, Moor Hall four, and Nazeing one, being a reduction of six hutments since the end of 1950.

(4) Demolition.

Proceedings were taken under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 in respect of six cottages during the year. In one case, the Council made a demolition order and in five cases accepted undertakings from the owners that the premises either would be put in a state of repair or would not be occupied until such time that the necessary repairs had been carried out.

Where individual demolition orders are made, although the Council is not legally responsible for the rehousing of the tenants, they have accepted the moral obligation to rehouse the families. In two cases, however, the families still remain in premises in respect of which a demolition order has been outstanding for some time and I feel that every endeavour for the highest priority should be given to these families by the Council in order that they are satisfactorily rehoused and demolition of the properties is proceeded with.

(5) Housing Act, 1949.

During the year four applications were made for grants under the provisions of this Act, two of which were approved in principle and two were refused, both of those approved in principle were later withdrawn by the applicants.

The purpose of the Act is to promote the improvement of housing accommodation by authorising contributions towards the cost. Grants may be made by local authorities subject to the approval by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of up to 50 per cent of the cost. The rules applicable to the making of improvement grants are as follows:-

(a) an application is made to the local authority and approved by them before the improvement works are started;

(b) the local authority are satisfied that the dwellings provided or improved by means of the improvement works will provide satisfactory housing accommodation for a period of not less than 30 years after the completion of the works;

(c) all such dwellings shall conform with the requirements of the Local Authority;

(d) the applicant owns the freehold of the land, or owns the leasehold with not less than 30 years unexpired at the date of the application (except where the application is made in respect of the residence house of a void ecclesiastical benefice by the sequestrator of the profits, or by the trustees in respect of a building held upon trust for use as an almshouse or as the residence of a minister of religion); and

(e) the estimated expenses of executing the improvement works, or, where more than one dwelling is being provided or improved, the proportion of those expenses attributable to each resulting dwelling is neither less than £100 nor (unless the local authority consider that the circumstances of a particular case justify it, e.g., where the buildings of architectural or historic interest are involved, and the Minister gives his consent) more than £600.

No improvement grants can be made for assistance to be given for work of ordinary repair except in so far as it is incidental to improvement works, nor can any assistance be given for the provision of dwellings by means of the conversion as distinct from the improvement of dwellings in respect of which assistance has previously been given under the Act or under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 - 1942.

(6) Caravan Dwellings.

There is a tendency to occupy caravans for permanent housing purposes in the District. These are brought in, usually from outside the District, and in consequence action has to be taken under the provisions both of the Public Health and Town and Country Planning Acts. It is, however, difficult to bring about a satisfactory conclusion having in mind that the occupiers have no other accommodation in which to live.

FOOD

====

Close supervision continues to be maintained where premises are used for the sale, preparation or storage of food.

The Council has adopted byelaws for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly practices and conditions in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air.

There were seven hundred and sixty inspections made of food premises, as follows:-

Public Houses	95
Restaurant & Cafes	59
Canteens	41
Shops	467
Ice-Cream premises	32
Warehouses & Depots	14
Dairy	29
Bakery	23

760

In forty-eight cases it was necessary to serve notice in respect of defects.

Much activity was experienced in the provision of washing-up appliances in public houses, restaurants and canteens and in the provision of hot and cold water behind bars and suitable accommodation in restaurants and canteens.

The Catering Trade Working Party set up by the Government reported on hygiene in catering establishments during the year and it is expected that further legislation will be made to cover the many points reported upon by the Committee.

(ii) Slaughterhouses.

None of the slaughterhouses in the district is used other than for slaughtering pigs for private use. Many of these carcasses were inspected on request.

(iii) Unsound Food.

The amount of food found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption during the year is set out in Appendix "A" of this report. In every case where condemned foods can be used for animal feeding it is done.

It was necessary during the period under review to take up with the Ministry of Food the question of the very large quantity of tinned ham found to be unsound in the district. The Ministry replied that they are taking up the matter with the exporting countries concerned.

It was also pointed out that some of the deterioration might be due to bad storage in this country or to the length of time the tins had been in store. It is observed, however, during inspection by officers of the Department that the tinning of cans in many cases is poor and consequently deterioration of the cans takes place which brings about decomposition of the contents.

(iv) The Storage, Transport and Handling of Meat.

The Council again took up with the Ministry of Food the question of storage, transport and handling of meat. During the year a large amount of meat was found to be unfit for human consumption; this condition being due to bone taint, and is brought about either by it having been insufficiently cooled before transport or it having been transported in unsatisfactory conditions.

The Council requested the Ministry to give consideration to this matter with the view to improvements being brought about, especially with regard to the method of cooling the carcasses and of transporting them in vans provided with hanging rails.

The Ministry, however, replied that it was satisfied with the conditions both appertaining to the slaughtering and the hanging of meat at the slaughterhouses, which it was considered to be well above the average for slaughterhouses, and that the meat is handled by experienced slaughtermen who are very conscientious in their duties and turn out all meat and offals in a clean condition. Bone taint, however, continues, with the consequent condemnation of comparatively large quantities of English beef and the position is most unsatisfactory.

(v) Supply of Wrapping paper.

The Epping and District Grocers Association state that they are experiencing a difficulty in obtaining grease-proof paper and wrapping paper and in consequence it was very difficult for the trade to comply with the Council's byelaws. The Council suggested that this should be raised by the Committee with their own National Federation of Grocers.

MILK.

====

(i) Milk Supply.

The milk supply in the District is considered to be of a very satisfactory nature, the whole of which at the end of the year under review is Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised milk.

The milk supplied by the various retailers in the District is as follows:-

Tuberculin Tested milk	10
Pasteurised milk	9
Sterilised milk	9

(ii) Samples.

Twenty-seven samples were taken during the year and submitted to either the Coliform, Methylene Blue, Plate Count or, in the case of pasteurised milk to the Phosphatase Tests; of these, twenty-five were reported to be satisfactory and two were unsatisfactory: one pasteurised milk being found insufficiently heat-treated and the other having a plate count of over one million bacteria per millilitre.

(iii) Tubercular milk.

The Council were notified during the year of two cases of animals giving tubercular milk and the milk was being retailed in the area. Action was taken by the Department and as a result arrangements were made for each of the supplies to be changed to pasteurised milk and these arrangements continue.

CANTEENS.

=====

(1) School.

Periodical inspections are made of school canteens, especially at the time that the meals are taken. Advice is given as to the precautions to be taken against contamination. The closest co-operation exists between the department and those engaged in dealing with meals for school children.

(2) Factory.

Many of the factories in the district now have their own canteens and canteens are also provided for the building workers in the new town area. These are kept under review in an endeavour to bring about the highest standards in the preparation and the serving of food. In some instances it was necessary to write to the person having control in respect of defects found.

ICE-CREAM.

=====

There are two premises in the area in which ice-cream is manufactured and sold. These are kept under constant supervision.

There are fifty-two premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream and the dealers are encouraged to sell wrapped ice-cream only.

Forty-three samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and submitted to bacteriological examination and to the Methylene Blue reaction test, with the following results:-

	Manufactured.	
	<u>Within</u> <u>the area.</u>	<u>Outside</u> <u>the area.</u>
Ministry of Health's Provisional Grade I.	7	14
" " " " " II.	3	11
" " " " " III.	1	3
" " " " " IV.	-	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11	32
	<hr/>	<hr/>

DRAINAGE.

=====

A scheme has been prepared by the Surveyor of the Council for the sewerage of the Parish of Sheering. The existing unsatisfactory drainage and sewage disposal for the village have been the subject of many reports presented to you, the first which I presented being in 1927, and have been referred to each year in my annual report. It is hoped therefore that on this occasion the scheme will be approved and the work commenced at an early date.

During the year reports have also submitted relating to unsatisfactory drainage conditions in the following areas:-

1. Upper Nazeing, Broadley Common and north of Hamlet Hill and Old House Lane areas, which are situated in the parishes of Nazeing and Roydon.
2. Foster Street, Mill Street and Hastingwood areas, in the parishes of Harlow and North Weald.

The Council agreed in principle to make provisions for the sewerage of these areas and instructions were given for schemes to be prepared.

Eight new connections were made to the sewer from existing properties, six of which were conversion from the conservancy to the water carriage system and two were from cesspools.

Seventeen new privately built houses were also connected

to the sewer. In the Harlow New Town area six hundred and twenty-two flats and houses were connected to the sewerage system.

Sewerage works carried out during the year were as follows:-

Extension of sewer to serve six bungalows at Vicarage Lane, North Weald; extension of sewers at Hoe Lane, Nazeing to serve seventy-eight properties; approximately twenty-five miles of sewers at Harlow New Town.

The Council undertake the emptying of pail closets and cesspools in certain areas in the district.

WATER.
=====

The Water Undertakers for the whole of the District are the Herts & Essex Waterworks Company Limited, the water being derived from wells, one at Sawbridgeworth and one at Roydon, both of which are approximately 200 feet deep. Arrangements are being made by the Harlow Development Corporation to acquire other sources and will in due course supply water to this Company in bulk in order to meet the needs of the inhabitants of the new town of Harlow.

(i) Samples.

Samples are taken throughout the year both by the Water Company and by my Department and submitted both for chemical and bacteriological examination. The results of these show that the water though hard is of a high standard of chemical quality and bacterial purity, and is consistent with a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

During the year there were ten samples of raw water from the main supply submitted for bacteriological examination and six after treatment. The results of two of these samples, one bacteriological and one chemical were as follows:-

(a) Before Treatment - Bacteriological Examination.

Date: 4.6.51. Taken from: Aerating Fountain, Pumping Station, Sawbridgeworth.

No. of Colonies developing on Agar.	1 day at 37°C. 12 per ml.	2 days at 37°C. 16 per ml.	3 days at 20°C. 300 per ml.
-------------------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------------

	Present in.	Absent from.	Probable No.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes reaction.	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. Coli (Type I).	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction.	- ml.	100 ml.	

This sample has slight opalescence but the turbidity is not marked. The bacteria counts are slightly greater than normally recorded but they are in no way excessive and, in the absence of organisms of the Coli-aerogenes group, there is no evidence of dangerous contamination. Apart from the objection that it is not quite clear and bright in appearance the water is considered wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

(b) Before Treatment - Chemical and Bacteriological Examination.

Date: 9.10.51. Taken from: Aerating Fountain Pumping Station, Harlow.

Chemical results expressed in parts per million.

Appearance: Very faint opalescence with a few particles of iron oxide.

Turbidity: Less than 3.
 Odour: Faint sulphuretted hydrogen.
 Colour: Filtered: Nil.
 Taste: Normal.
 pH: 7.1. Free Carbon Dioxide: 25
 Electric Conductivity: 680. Alkalinity as Ca CO₃: 300

Ca	Mg	Na	CO ₃	SO ₄	Cl	NO ₃	SiO ₂	
105	24.8	20	180	69	26	0.0	28	Hypothetical Combinations.
105			153					Calcium Carbonate
	8.9		22					Magnesium "
	15.9			63				Magnesium Sulphate
		3		6				Sodium "
		17			26			Sodium Chloride
							28	Silica
								Difference
Total solid constituents dried at 180°C.								475

Hardness - Total: † 365 Carbonate: 300 Non-carbonate: 65
 Nitrate Nitrogen: 0.0 Nitrite Nitrogen: Less than 0.01
 Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.12 Oxygen Absorbed: 0.25
 Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.000
 Metals: Iron: less than 0.03 Other metals absent.
 Fluoride (F) 0.7

+ Calculated from the calcium & magnesium contents.

Bacteriological results.

No. of Colonies developing on Agar.	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	Present in.	Absent from.	Probable No.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ..	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. Coli (Type I) ..	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ..	- ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron.

The water is neutral in reaction, very hard in character though not excessively so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes. Softening would be advantageous.

(ii) Extensions.

Extensions during the year have been carried out by the Water Company as follows:-

	3in.	4in.	6in.	9in.	12in.	Total yards.
Harlow	898	3007	3938	175	735	8753
Theydon Bois ..	-	101	-	-	-	101
	898	3108	3938	175	735	8854

The number of occupied houses in the District is now 6626. Ninety-three are houses that have not a main supply of water. The details are set out in the following table:-

Parish.	Total No. of Houses.	Main Supply to House	Estimated Population.	Main Supply Stand-pipe.	Estimated Population.	Wells & Springs, Pump, etc.	Estimated Population.
Epping Upland ...	197	146	511	28	98	23	80
Parndon	208	174	609	33	115	1	3
Harlow	2149	2095	7332	43	150	11	38
Magdalen Laver ..	82	75	262	-	-	7	24
Matching	187	179	626	5	17	3	10
Nazeing	784	722	2527	48	168	14	49
Netteswell	264	256	896	2	7	6	21
North weald	742	721	2523	21	73	-	-
Roydon	725	629	2201	75	262	21	73
Sheering	338	274	959	57	199	7	24
Theydon Bois	899	897	3139	2	7	-	-
Theydon Garnon ..	51	49	171	2	7	-	-
	6626	6217	21756	316	1103	93	322

+ Estimated population is based on approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ persons per occupied dwelling.

(iii) Public Health Act, 1936 and Water Act, 1945.

During the year the Council authorised proceedings under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Water Act, 1945, relating to the carrying of water in pipes into houses and this policy has been actively pursued.

There is difficulty, however, regarding the maximum amount, namely, £20 per property, for which the owner is responsible. This may have been a reasonable figure at the time the Public Health Act was passed, but owing to the large increase of the cost of materials and labour it is felt that it is now insufficient. It may, therefore, not be possible to get the desired connections carried out to certain properties where the distance from the main supply of water is found to be so far as to prohibit the work from being proceeded with, owing to the fact that the legal charges would be exceeded.

In thirty-three instances preliminary notices were served upon owners of property to provide a piped supply of water inside houses in order to conform with the afore-mentioned Acts.

In nine cases during the year matters relating to the discolouration of water and insufficiency of supply were taken up with the water Company.

SCHOOLS
INSPECTION OF SCHOOL PREMISES

=====

The inspection of school premises and hygienic condition of schools are dealt with and inspections are made from time to time. This includes the school premises and the canteens in which school meals are served. There is co-operation between the Education Authorities and the Local Health Authorities in these matters and a considerable amount of work has been carried out during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

=====

The Council has in operation a comprehensive scheme for the collection of refuse and it is disposed of by controlled tipping. These methods are entirely satisfactory.

PROVISION OF DUSTBINS.

=====

The Council has adopted subsection 3 of section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which enables them to provide dustbins to properties and make an annual charge. By this adoption the provision of dustbins is dealt with satisfactorily and obviates the necessity of considering whether notices should be served either upon the owner or the occupier.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

=====

The statutory duty of enforcing the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, is fully implemented and a whole-time rodent operative is employed. There is co-operation existing in respect of the work to be carried out with the County Agricultural Committee and by a working arrangement the Committee carries out disinfection of farms and horticultural premises. The initial inspections however to ascertain the existence of infestations are carried out by the Council's operative.

A Workable Area Committee as required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has been set up which consists of members of the Epping Urban and Ongar Rural District Councils and this Council. The purpose of this Committee is to discuss any matter of infestation on the boundaries of each district. The Committee, however, has not yet met.

The work carried out during the year is as follows:-

Number of properties inspected	470
Number of inspections made	1975
Number of properties found to be	
infested (a) rats	287
(b) mice only	11
Number of infested properties treated	
by the Council	166
Number of infested properties referred	
to the Agricultural Executive Committee	132

FACTORIES.

=====

(i) General.

In addition to the public health work relating to factories matters in connection with the issuing of the certificates under section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937 are also dealt with by the Department. This section deals with means of escape in case of fire in every factory and much work has been carried out in this connection, especially in the industrial areas of the Harlow New Town.

Consideration has also been given to matters arising under the provision of the Factories and Petroleum Acts regarding the storage and use of certain petroleum mixtures used in industry having a flash-point rendering them subject to existing legislation.

(ii) Administration of the Factories Acts, 1937 & 1948.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	No. on Register.	No. of inspections.	No. of Written Notices.	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted.
1.	3.	4.	5.	6.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	46	21	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	51	45	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding outworkers' premises) -	-	-	-	-
Total:	97	66	1	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Insptr.	Referred by H.M. Insptr.	
1.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
Want of cleanliness	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences:-					
(a) Insufficient	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	1	0	1	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	2	1	0	1	0

3. Outwork. (Sections 110 and 111)

There are 16 outworkers registered for employment in the district who are engaged in the making and adapting of wearing apparel, brushes and flags. Each of these premises is periodically inspected.

APPENDIX "A".

CONDEMNATION OF DISEASED AND UNSOUND FOOD.

	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Fish (fresh)		1	-	-
Meat (fresh)	1	1	-	-
Canned Luncheon meat	4	2	19	11
" Corned Beef		1	7	12
" Ham	14	-	14	11
" Meat (miscellaneous)		1	24	8
" Fish			25	8 ¹ / ₂
" Milk		2	27	8
" Fruit			20	11
" Vegetables			2	5
" Soup			3	-
" Sausages			1	-
Cheese			3	-
Jam... ..			7	7
Coffee				8
Total:	21	2	13	9

