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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, 1952.

EPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
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To the Chairman and Members of
The Epping Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is with pleasure that I submit this my first Annual Report.

My part of the report is, I regret to say, a brief and bare statement of facts. I took up my post at the end of September so I am not in a position to comment on the greater part of the period under review. Also during the year there were three Medical Officers in charge of the Department, one of whom, Dr. Miller Wood, was serving in an acting capacity for seven months. These changes have inevitably interfered with the continuity of the work in the Department and caused the severance of local contacts, through which so much of the social side of Health work should be done.

In the tables of this report the figures for the birth rate and death rate, for infant mortality rate and for the incidence of infectious disease are very satisfactory. It should be remembered, however, that these rates are taken from a relatively small population and the actual figures could change quite considerably due to chance variation alone. Those people interested in public health work should study the figures given by the Registrar General for the whole country in order to obtain a more accurate picture of trends.

It will be noticed that this year the stillbirth rate is very much up, as is also the incidence of illegitimate births. Again, you can see that the figures from which these rates are calculated are so small that this apparent increase may very easily have occurred by chance. Similarly, the fact that our birth rate is rather higher and our death rate rather lower than that for the country as a whole, does not necessarily mean that Epping is a more fertile and healthy area than the other districts of our land showing slightly higher rates. It is more probably a reflection of an artificially formed population, due to the development of Harlow New Town. Here a large number of young married people have come suddenly to live in our midst and so the birth rate is high

and the death rate low. You might find as so often happens that the death rate for your favourite seaside resort is higher than that for London. This will not be due to the lethal affect of sea air but to the fact that many old people have taken up residence by the seaside on retirement from work in order to spend their last few years in a healthy spot, and it is the relatively frequent deaths amongst this increased proportion of aged persons that has caused the artificially high rate.

These points are mentioned to draw attention to the deceptiveness of figures as an indication of the health of the community. The Registrar General in his report attempts to overcome the false picture, given by the so-called crude rates and figures, by various methods of standardisation, so that in Harlow and in your seaside resort the various rates recorded would be applied to a standard population or standard rates would be applied to the known population. In this way the artificial movements of population are partially allowed for. Standardised rates can not be calculated for this area owing to the lack of details about the population in age groups.

There still remains the fact that the figures for the whole country are nearly as good as those for Epping. So, we can retain faith in the well-being of the Nation as a whole as well as in the well-being of our own community; for the national trends confirm our own figures, even if these latter figures have been a little distorted by artificial means and by the play of chance.

Although the health of the nation and of the Epping community is pretty sound as judged by its death rates and infectious disease incidence figures, it must not be forgotten that we are only just becoming conscious of the burden of morbidity. That is to say, the burden to the community of the diseases not causing death. It is in this field that the new sphere of preventive medicine is growing, and it is along these lines that you all must begin to think. Here lie the enormous problems of mental health; problems connected with normal development of children and of child delinquency; problems of the broken home; and the many, many problems concerned with the ageing of our population.

There is therefore no reason for complacency. Certainly many bogies in the Public Health field have disappeared. We no longer have Leprosy, Malaria, Cholera or Plague in our midst; the incidence of Smallpox and Diphtheria is negligible. There is still, however, a great deal of preventable Tuberculosis, which is costing the country enormous amounts of money through the treatment services. There are still many unsolved problems in connection with the virus diseases, the Common Cold, Poliomyelitis and even in the rise of new virus diseases.

In ending this preamble to my first report, I would affirm my belief in the old saying that "prevention is better than (and I would add, very much cheaper than) Cure", and I hope I have shown, albeit very briefly, that there is still a great need for emphasis to be put on the preventive services.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope that in the years to come we may together tackle and overcome some of the many difficulties still confronting us and preventing the achievement of health which is to be found only in the well being of man's body, mind and spirit.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Public Health Committee for the very kind welcome they gave me and for their willing support to the projects in which I have been concerned. My thanks are also due to the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff for the way they have co-operated in helping me to get to know the area and in supplying local information on all the health problems which have arisen.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to Dr. F.G. Brown, Area Medical Officer, Forest Division, and his staff for supplying some of the figures given in this report.

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

J.F. LUCEY, 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, 1952

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. H. Howard.
Vice Chairman: " J.W. Stevens.

MEMBERS:

Councillor A.E. Bond	Councillor F.J. James
" A.E. Brown	" Lt.Col.K.F. May, O.B.E.
" F.A. Coates	" W.M.B. Newcomb
" A.J. Chesterton	" J. Padfield, J.P.
" L.P. Davis	" R. Padfield.
" Rev. E.J. Grant	

P U B L I C H E A L T H S T A F F :
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Medical Officers of Health:

DR. J.L. PATTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (until 28.2.52.)
DR. J.L. MILLER WOOD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (From 1.3.52.
to 20.9.52.)
DR. J.F. LUCEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (From 20.9.52.)

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.

Chief Clerk:
MISS A.E.A. ROTHWELL

Clerk:
MISS M. STUDHOIME.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	34,856.
Population	22,590.
Number of Inhabited houses	7,266.
Rateable Value at the 31st March, 1952	£157,107.
Sum represented by a penny rate for the financial year ended 31st March, 1952	£491.
The rate in the pound of the general rate was :-	
in respect of the financial year 1951/52 ...	21s. 2d.
" " " " " " 1952/53 ...	21s. 0d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

			<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
LIVE BIRTHS:	Legitimate ...	...	213	208	421
	Illegitimate	...	9	5	14
				Total:	435

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population: 18.9

		<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
STILL BIRTHS:	Legitimate	7	5	12
	Illegitimate	1	0	<u>1</u>
			Total:	13

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births: 29.12

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
DEATHS:	88	99	187
	(Registrar General's figures).		

Death Rate per 1,000 population: 8.5

				<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR:						
	Legitimate	...	...	8	8	16
	Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	<u>0</u>
					Total:	16

Death rate of Infants under 1 year
(per 1,000 live births): 35.8

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS:			
Legitimate	6	5	11
Illegitimate	0	0	0
		Total:	11

NO MATERNAL DEATHS OCCURRED IN THE AREA DURING THE YEAR.

CAUSES OF DEATH AS GIVEN BY THE
REGISTRAR GENERAL FOR THE YEAR 1952.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	1	1	2
Cancer (all forms)	20	20	40
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System ...	7	15	22
Heart Disease (all forms)	20	22	42
Other diseases of Circulatory System ...	5	7	12
Bronchitis	1	3	4
Pneumonia	4	3	7
Other diseases of the Respiratory System	0	2	2
Digestive Diseases	3	1	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1	3
Congenital Malformations and Birth Trauma	1	1	2
Diabetes	0	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	0	2
Road Traffic Accidents	0	2	2
Suicide	0	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	0	1
Meningococcal infections	1	1	2
All other accidents	6	3	9
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	14	14	28
Totals:	88	99	187

**TABLE OF COMPARATIVE BIRTH AND
DEATH RATES IN THE YEAR 1952.**

(Provisional figures based on weekly and quarterly returns)

Rates per 1,000 population.

	England and Wales.	160 Co. Boroughs & great towns inclg. London.	160 Small- er towns. Res. pop. 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census	London Adm. County	Epping Rural Dist.
BIRTHS:					
Live Births	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6	18.9
Still Births ...	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.34	0.57
DEATHS:					
All causes ...	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6	8.5

**NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS.**

	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
Scarlet Fever	20	13	20	18	47
Diphtheria	0	0	0	1	0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid...	0	0	1	1	0
Erysipelas	4	1	0	2	4
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	1	1	0
Measles	200	276	36	508	184
Whooping Cough	139	48	199	61	86
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	0	1	0	0	1
Dysentery	1	1	2	1	4
Infective Hepatitis ...	0	11	5	0	4
Pneumonia	7	5	3	17	4
Polio-myelitis, Paralytic	2	19	0	0	0
Non-Paralytic			0	1	0
Food Poisoning		1	5	2	21

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.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held on
THURSDAY AFTERNOONS at 2 p.m. Attendances
of children under 5 years of age totalled
1,36 in 1952. 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 those needing advice or
treatment to see Specialists -

In Eyes - three Mondays in each month.
Orthoptic - every WEDNESDAY.
Orthopaedic - every TUESDAY
Speech Therapy - every MONDAY during
school term.

HARLOW: The Women's Institute Club Room provides the following services:-

An Ante-Natal Clinic is held at 2.30 p.m. 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, The Chantry, Harlow New Town, provides the following services:-

An Ante-Natal Clinic is held on the 3rd WEDNESDAY in the month at 2 p.m.

A Minor Ailments Clinic on the 2nd and 4th FRIDAYS in the month at 9.30 a.m.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held on the 2nd and 4th WEDNESDAYS in the month at 2 p.m.

Arrangements have been made for a Children's Physiotherapy Clinic to be held every TUESDAY morning at MOOT HOUSE, HARLOW NEW TOWN.

Other Child Welfare Clinics are held at:-

HARLOW COMMON:	The Red Lion P.H. POTTER STREET.	1st MONDAY in the month at 2.30 p.m.
MAGDALEN LAVER:	The Village Hall (Weighing Centre)	2nd TUESDAY in the month at 2 p.m.
MATCHING TYE:	The Women's Institute Hall.	3rd FRIDAY in the month at 2 p.m.
NAZEING:	The Cadet Hut, St. Leonards Road.	1st and 3rd TUESDAYS in the month at 2 pm.
NETTESWELL:	The Women's Institute Hall.	3rd MONDAY in the month at 2.30 p.m.
NORTH WEALD:	The Queens Rooms.	2nd TUESDAY in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Child Welfare Clinics (contd)

PARNDON:	The Parish Hall, GT. PARNDON.	4th TUESDAY in the month at 2.30 p.m.
ROYDON:	The Community Centre.	2nd THURSDAY in the month at 2.30 p.m.
SHEERING:	The Village Hall	1st FRIDAY in the month at 2 p.m.
THEYDON BOIS:	The Village Hall.	2nd, 4th and 5th MONDAYS in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation is available at the above
Child Welfare Clinics.

Home Visiting.

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

District Nurses.

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

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The Chairman and Members of the
Epping Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1952, which sets out the work undertaken during this period.

The report sets out, in some instances, in detail, the various activities carried on which have increased, mainly, by the development of the district, especially in the Harlow new town area, and to new legislation coming into force during the period under review.

I respectfully beg to express my thanks to the Council for the help and consideration given me during the year and to my Staff for their ready co-operation. I express my thanks also to the Surveyor and the Housing Estates Officer of the Council for certain details incorporated in this report.

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

Your obedient Servant,

H.J. HEELEY, M.S.I.A.,
M.R.San.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING.

=====

The Council has from time to time during the year considered the problem of unsatisfactory houses in the district both from defective condition and the lack of amenities, having regard to the recommendations of the Housing Advisory Committee as to what is a satisfactory standard for human habitation, and in this connection supported and forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government the resolution of the 1952 Conference of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, which is as follows:-

- (a) to inaugurate a national effort designed to abolish the slums;
- (b) to give legal sanction to the 16 points of the recommendations of the Central Housing Advisory Committee:
- (c) To recall the special committee formed to consider the advisability of rent reform.

The 16 points to which reference is made are as follows:-

- (i) be in all respects dry;
- (ii) be in a good state of repair;
- (iii) have each room properly lighted and ventilated;
- (iv) have an adequate supply of wholesome water laid on for all purposes inside the dwelling;
- (v) be provided with efficient and adequate means of supplying hot water for domestic purposes;
- (vi) have an internal or otherwise readily accessible water closet;
- (vii) have a fixed bath, preferably in a separate room;
- (viii) be provided with a sink or sinks and with suitable arrangements for the disposal of waste water;
- (ix) be provided with facilities for domestic washing, including a copper, preferably in a separate room;
- (x) have a proper drainage system;
- (xi) be provided with adequate points for artificial lighting in each room;
- (xii) be provided with adequate facilities for heating each habitable room;
- (xiii) have satisfactory facilities for preparing and cooking food;
- (xiv) have a well-ventilated larder or food store;
- (xv) have proper provision for the storage of fuel;
- (xvi) have a satisfactorily surfaced path to outbuildings and convenient access from a street to the back door.

During the year under review 1,729 inspections were made to enforce the provisions of the Public Health Acts and the Housing Acts for the repair of properties which necessitated the service of 135 intimation notices and 35 statutory notices. As a result of these notices 340 housing defects were remedied.

Action was taken under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of seven properties on representations being made that the premises were in such a state of disrepair as to be unfit for habitation and could not at reasonable expense be made so fit. In three cases demolition orders were made, in three cases undertakings not to let the properties, after vacation, for habitation were accepted and one case was, at the end of the year, still under consideration by the Council. Two properties were demolished during the year.

The Council also considered representation for the clearance of nine cottages at Fore Street, Harlow, under the provisions of section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, and at the time of writing this report the clearance order had been made against which two appeals had been entered and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Inquiry is now awaited.

Many of the occupied cottages, especially those with a rateable value of less than £20 are in a state of disrepair and in some cases deterioration continues. It is now the Council's policy to deal with this property and as a result have instructed that further housing inspections are to be made and for this purpose have authorised the appointment of another sanitary inspector. It is hoped, therefore, during the coming year to deal with many of these unsatisfactory properties either by repair, or adaptation and improvement, and where this is not found possible, to proceed for demolition of unfit cottages or clearance where necessary. This will be linked up with the Council's programme of housing to rehouse the existing tenants. In this connection it is desirable to consider the rents which can be reasonably expected the future tenants can afford, as it is felt that much hardship will result in families occupying new council houses at a much higher rent than those they now occupy. The reflection is by way of the mother going out to work in cases where sometimes there is a number of small children with the result that the home conditions are found to be, on occasions, not satisfactory.

Regard too, should be made to building houses to accommodate the persons to be rehoused, taking into consideration the number in each family.

I would again report that the control of rents under the provisions of the Rent Restrictions Acts has an important bearing on the work carried out in getting the cottages brought up to standard, and indeed, is often an impediment to the Council in carrying out their statutory obligations under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

The low rents received makes it uneconomical for the owners to carry out the repairs and great difficulty is met when the money for such work is not available.

HOUSING ACTS, 1949 and 1952.

These acts afford facilities for considerable grants being made for the improvement of property subject to the cost of the work required not being less than £150 or more than £800.

During the year the Housing Act, 1952 was passed which enables owners of tied cottages to become eligible for these grants.

The grant must be approved in principle by the Local Authority and it is required that all applications shall be submitted to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government for final approval. In this connection it is found that the time from which an application is made to the final decision being given is considerable.

The grant may be up to 50 per cent. of the costing of the work in respect of which the contribution of the Exchequer is 75 per cent., and that borne by the local rate charge 25 per cent.

During the year seven applications were made for grant under these Acts, five of which were approved in principle by the Council and two were not approved.

At the end of the period under review the five approved in principle by the Council had been forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government but their decision has not yet been made known.

At the end of the year the Council owned 1,480 properties; 611 being pre-war and 869 post-war houses.

During the year the Council erected 95 houses being 47 less than in 1951; 31 houses were erected by private enterprise, being seven less than in the 1951 period, and the Harlow Development Corporation erected 1,079 houses as compared with 531 during the 1951 period.

Fifty-eight hutments were in occupation, namely, Thornwood 57 and Moor Hall 1.

It is interesting to note that approximately 27.5 per cent. of the population of the rural district is housed in Council houses; this does not take into consideration those persons who have been afforded accommodation by the Harlow Development Corporation.

HOUSING APPLICATIONS.

=====

At the end of the year under review, there were eight hundred and forty-seven applicants for housing accommodation registered in the Council's Housing Estates Department, this being three hundred and thirty-six more than at the corresponding period of the previous year. This considerable increase is due to the renewal of application by persons formerly registered, and to new applications from other persons.

OVERCROWDING.

=====

One case of legal overcrowding was brought to the notice of the Department during the year, and as a result the family has been rehoused by the Council.

CARAVANS.

=====

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 of both 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.

During the year, one thousand two hundred and seventy-seven inspections were made of food premises, as follows:-

Public Houses	81
Restaurants & Cafes	48
Canteens	38
Shops	1,050
Warehouses & Depots	12
Dairy	18
Bakery	20
Mobile Food Vans	10

In twenty-four cases it was necessary to serve notices in respect of defects or deficiencies.

In all public houses lavatory accommodation for each sex has been or will be provided in the near future, likewise sinks with hot and cold water behind the bars. The kitchens of public houses especially those used in connection with the trade of caterers are

kept under continual observation and in some cases the conditions found were not satisfactory. These have been brought to the notice of the traders with satisfactory results; the methods of preparation and storage suggested are being carried out.

The reports of the Catering Trades Working Party set up by the Government have been received, but further legislation is not yet available. It is expected, however, that new legislation will be in force during the coming year dealing with this question.

UN SOUND FOOD.

=====

The food found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption during the year is set out in the appendix of this report. Where possible these commodities are used for pig-feeding.

In one instance it was necessary to take action relating to the transport of meat when one of the vans was found to be in a dirty condition, and immediate action was taken by the contractors.

There is still a lack of hanging rails in the vans with the consequent unsatisfactory loading of meat, and it is desirable for these vans to be provided with rails as soon as possible. The Council were informed by the Ministry of Food that this would be done when the supply of steel available is improved.

SITE CANTEENS.

=====

The standard of site canteens in the Harlow New Town leaves much to be desired, and much work is carried out in the supervision of these establishments.

Although the structures are of a temporary nature being moved as the work progresses from site to site it is essential that the food supplies of the workers must be of the highest purity, and although it would appear that this is not realised by both the contractors and the persons in charge of the canteen, an endeavour to enforce the Council's requirements is carried out with vigour.

SCHOOL CANTEENS.

=====

Periodical inspections are made of school canteens, and advice given. The closest co-operation exists between the department and those engaged in dealing with the meals for school children.

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	10
Pasteurised	9
Sterilised	12

Thirty-two 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 test. All the samples were reported to be satisfactory.

Thirty-three licences were issued under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, as follows:-

	Supplementary.	Dealer.	Total.
Pasteurised milk	6	4	10.
Sterilised "	6	7	13
Tuberculin Test Milk ..	6	4	10
Totals:	18	15	33

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 sixty premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream, and the dealers are encouraged to sell wrapped ice-cream only.

Thirty-five samples of ice-cream and three of ice-lolly were taken during the year, and submitted to bacteriological examination, and to the Methylene Blue 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		3	20
- do - II		2	4
- do - III		2	4
Totals:		7	28

Of the ice-lolly samples, two were reported to be satisfactory and one unsatisfactory.

In the case of all unsatisfactory samples the matter was taken up with the manufacturers concerned.

DRAINAGE.

=====

A scheme for the drainage of the houses in the Parish of Sheering has been prepared by the Surveyor, and approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The sanitary condition in this parish has been most unsatisfactory over a long period and it is therefore gratifying to note that a scheme for sewerage it has at last been approved.

The disposal of sewage matter will therefore be converted from the conservancy method to the water carriage system and the Council must be prepared therefore to consider the question of paying half of the cost of such conversions, as provided for in the Public Health Act, 1936.

Unsatisfactory drainage conditions continue to exist 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 has agreed in principle to proceed with the work of sewerage these areas in order to abate public health nuisances.

Forty-one connections were made to the sewer from existing properties, twelve of which were conversion from the dry to the water carriage system.

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

1. Sewers to serve 155 houses at Queens Road, North Weald housing site.
2. Sewers to serve 35 houses at Walling Hill, Netteswell.

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.

Samples.

Samples are taken throughout the year both by the Water Company and by my Department, and submitted 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 thirteen samples taken, seven samples of raw water from the main supply were 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 - Chemical and Bacteriological Examination.

Date: 7.10.52.

Taken from: Roydon Pumping Station.

Chemical results expressed in parts per million.

Appearance: Slight opalescence with a very slight deposit of iron oxide.

Turbidity: 8 Colour Filtered: less than: 10
 Odour: Nil Taste: Normal
 H: 7.1 Free Carbon Dioxide: 36.
 Electric Conductivity: 650 Alkalinity as CaCO₃: 315

Ca	Mg	Na	CO ₃	SO ₄	Cl	NO ₃	SiO ₂	Hypothetical Combinations	
108	19.9	24	189	53	25	0.0	20		
108			162					Calcium Carbonate	270
	10.9		27					Magnesium Carbonate	38
	9			36				Magnesium Sulphate	45
		8		17				Sodium Sulphate.....	25
		16			25			Sodium Chloride	41
							20	Silica	20
								Difference	17
Total solid constituents dried at 180°C.									450

Hardness - Total 350 Carbonate 315 Non-carbonate 35
 (calculated from Nitrate Nitrogen 0.0 Nitrite Nitrogen Absent
 the calcium & Ammoniacal Nitrogen 0.26 Oxygen absorbed 0.00
 magnesium contents) Albuminoid Nitrogen 0.000 Residual chlorine
 Metals Iron: 0.86 Other metals absent. absent.
 Fluoride (F) 0.6

Bacteriological results.

No. of Colonies 1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C. 3 days at 20°C.
 developing on Agar 0 0 0

Presumptive coli-	Present in.	Absent from.	Probable No.
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 opalescence and appreciable turbidity which is due to the presence 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. Apart from the objection to the iron, these results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes. Softening would be advantageous.

(b) After Treatment - Bacteriological Examination.

Date: 8.7.52. Taken from: 10, Vicarage Road,
North Weald.

No. of Colonies developing on Agar.	1 day at 37°C. 0 per ml.	2 days at 37°C. 0 per ml.	3 days at 20°C. 0 per ml.
	Present in.	Absent from.	Probable number.
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 is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Extensions.

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

	Area.	3"	4"	6"	9"	12"	Total.
Harlow New Town							
Mark Hall (North)	1 - 18	51	637	264			952
Mark Hall (South)	9 - 17	2186	3875	1311	77		7449
East Industrial Area			667	478	1049		2194
Netteswell	18 - 26	996	2605	783	577		4961
Potter Street ...	43 - 46	12	78	128	69	5	292
Road B.5						723	723
Roads C.1,2 & 3..						756	756
Hoe Lane, Nazeing Housing Site			405				405
North Weald High Road				1685			1685
North Weald Housing Site			357				357
Church Road, Sheering		29					29
		3274	8624	4649	1772	1484	19803

The number of occupied houses in the District is now 7266 and 105 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 and Springs Pump, etc.	Estimated Population.
Epping Upland.	200	160	560	17	59	23	80
Parndon	200	164	574	23	80	13	45
Harlow	2778	2724	9534	38	133	11	38
M. Laver	76	69	241	-	-	7	24
Matching	184	180	630	1	3	3	10
Nazeing	839	782	2737	43	150	14	49
Netteswell ...	262	228	798	28	98	6	21
North Weald ..	741	723	2530	18	63	-	-
Roydon	716	621	2173	74	259	21	73
Sheering	346	300	1050	39	136	7	24
Theydon Bois..	879	877	3069	2	7	-	-
Theydon Garnon	45	43	150	2	7	-	-
	7266	6871	24046	285	995	105	364

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. This position, however, will be partly overcome when the relevant section of the Essex County Council Act, 1952 is adopted by the Council, which allows the maximum amount to be increased to £40.

In fifty-six 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. At the end of the year most of the work required had been completed.

Complaints relating to Supply.

In five instances the Department has taken action where the water supply was found to be insufficient and in two cases relating to discolouration.

Water Supply - Parish of Theydon Bois.

There was a temporary shortage of water in the parish of Theydon Bois during the year, this being due to defects in the pumping and distribution system of the Statutory Water Undertakers. Agreement has been reached between the Undertakers and the Council relating to the distribution of a minimum amount of water for drinking and domestic purposes should a similar emergency arise.

SCHOOLS.

INSPECTION OF SCHOOL PREMISES.

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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.

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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.

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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 ACT, 1949.

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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 disinfestation 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 dealt with	541
Number of inspections made	2013
Number of properties found to be infested: (a) rats	194
(b) mice	8
Number of infested properties treated by the Council	188
Number of infested properties referred to the Agricultural Executive Committee	6

FACTORIES.

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Periodical inspection of factories is made in an endeavour to afford healthy conditions in which work is carried on, and in this connection much has been undertaken by the Department and advice given especially relating to the erection of factories at Harlow New Town.

The work of determining that proper means of escape from fire, as required under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, is also carried out by the Department, which involves a considerable amount of detailed investigation.

Administration of the Factories Acts, 1937 & 1948.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises. 1.	No. on Regis- ter. 3.	No. of inspec- tions. 4.	No. of Written Notices. 5.	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted 6.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities..	51	12	2	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authy.	58	61	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Exc.Outwrks premises.	-	-	-	-
Total:	109	73	2	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars. 1.	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were insti- tuted. 7.
	Found. 3.	Reme- died 4.	Refer- red to H.M. Insp- ector 5.	Ref- erred by HM Insp- ector 6.	
Want of cleanliness	-	2	-	2	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors..	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:-					
(a) Insufficient	-	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective..	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not incl. offences relating to Outwork)	-	3	1	3	-
Total:	-	6	1	6	-

3. Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

There are sixteen 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.

CONDEMNATION OF DISEASES AND UNSOUND FOOD.

	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Bacon		1	6	8
Ham			17	5
Meat - Fresh	5	1	3	-
Soup			8	9½
Miscellaneous - fresh			12	-
Sausage meat		1	2	-
Dried Fruit		2	6	4
Canned - meat	1	1	24	5½
" fish			13	8½
" milk		2	17	6½
" fruit	1	2	22	5
" vegetables		3	17	4½
" jam		3	22	8
" miscellaneous			22	4
	12	2	27	8¼

