

[Report 1932] / Medical Officer of Health, Grays Thurrock U.D.C.

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I.
Grays Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

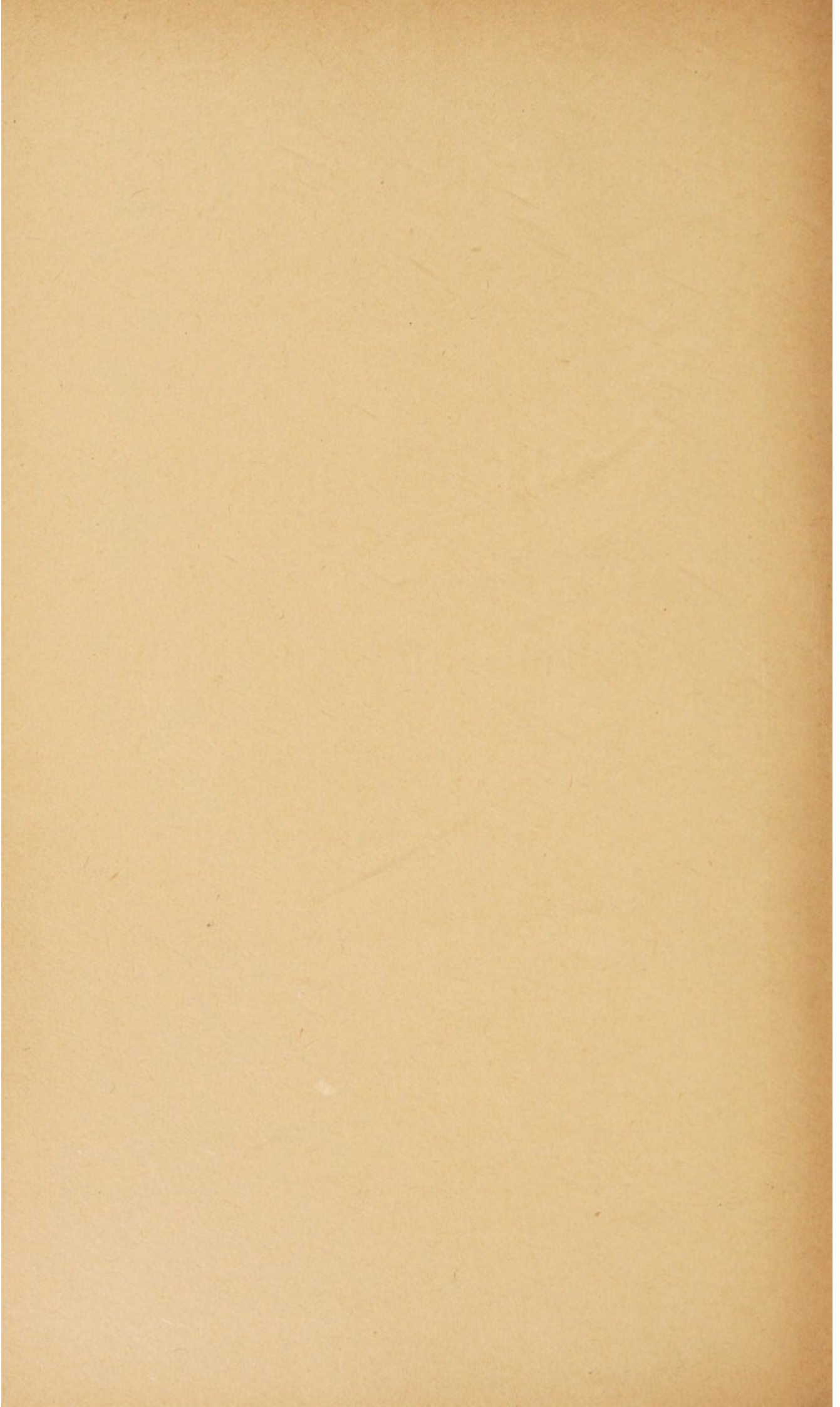
Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1932.

GRAYS.

John Higgins, Printing Contractor.

1933.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health :

W. T. G. BOUL, M.D., Ch.B. (Vict.), D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

CYRUS IVE, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

(Appointed October, 1932.)

Assistant Medical Officer of Health :

MAUDE BENNETT, L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P. & S.
(Glas).

Orthopædic Surgeon (part time) :

B. WHITCHURCH HOWELL, F.R.C.S. (Eng.)

Obstetric Specialist (part time) :

ANDREW McALLISTER, F.R.C.S. (Eng.)

Dental Surgeon (part time) :

W. S. ROSE, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.)

Sanitary Inspector :

A. H. PLUMB, A.R.S.I.,

Inspector of Meat and other Foods ; Rats Officer.

Orthopædic Masseuse (part time) :

Miss M. SCOTT, C.S.M.M.G. Certificates : Medical
Electricity, Teachers' Diploma for Educational
Gymnastics.

Health Visitors :

Miss E. C. P. MILLER, S.R.N., General Training, Certified
Midwife, Certificate Queen Victoria Nursing Institution,
New Health Visitor's Certificate.

Miss A. POLLEY, S.R.N., General Training, Certified
Midwife, Certificate Queen Victoria Nursing Institution.

Chief Clerk :

R. C. GILBERT.

Clerical Assistant :

Miss D. LAYZELL.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health to the adjoining Urban Districts of Purfleet and Tilbury, Medical Officer of Health to the surrounding Rural District of Orsett, and School Medical Inspector, Inspector of Midwives, and District Tuberculosis Officer for these districts under the Essex County Council.

The Deputy Medical Officer of Health is also Deputy Medical Officer of Health to the same districts, and School Medical Inspector and District Tuberculosis Officer to these districts under the Essex County Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
QUARRY HILL,
GRAYS.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Grays Thurrock
Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my eighth Annual Report upon the Health of the Urban District. This, as in 1931, is an ordinary Report.

All statistics have been calculated upon the Registrar-General's estimate of population to mid-1932 (18,530). An increase of 358 will be observed.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Birth Rate of 16·5 is the highest since 1927, and above the average for England and Wales. The Death Rate at 11·5 is the highest for ten years, but this is still below the National Rate of 12·0. The Infantile Mortality Rate is higher at 65·5, but since the comparative figure for the country as a whole is 65 this cannot be regarded as abnormal. I consider that having regard to present day conditions these statistics are very satisfactory.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of notified cases fell from 113 in 1931 to 96 in 1932. Few cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria occurred, but there were 18 cases of Smallpox against 4 last year, and 34 cases of Pneumonia compared with 25 in 1932. I am pleased to say that a commencement was made during the year with the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic, and full details thereof will be found in the Infectious Diseases Section of the Report.

As the result of action taken by my Department there has been a considerable improvement in the standard of cleanliness of much of the milk retailed in the district.

Grays Thurrock is now well equipped in every branch of Public Health work. There are abundant ambulance facilities for infectious, accident and maternity cases, agreements with various hospitals for the reception of confinement cases, orthopædic cases, and for the treatment of certain eye diseases in the newly-born. Facilities are available for expectant mothers to receive free expert advice and dental treatment, milk free of cost or at reduced price, and the services of an obstetric specialist. All that remains is for the public to take fullest advantage of the facilities offered to them.

I am pleased to remark that the question of providing adequate office accommodation is receiving consideration. The conditions under which the Department's work is carried on at present are too well-known to call for comment here.

My thanks are due to the Council for their continued courtesy and interest in my representations. To those bodies and institutions who supplied information for this Report, and to the local medical practitioners for their continued help and co-operation, I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. T. G. BOUL, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

The Urban District is situate upon the northern bank of the river Thames, opposite but somewhat to the West of Gravesend. Portions of the river bank are within the Urban District and a quantity of shipping trade is carried on. Of late years the town has extended towards the north, where higher ground exists, and the older portion of the town, situated upon the river side, has need of constant attention in the matter of housing inspection. The higher portions of the town, to the north, are based on chalk, the quarrying of which for the manufacture of cement forms one of the local industries. Much of the higher ground, now being built over, is actually outside the border of the Urban District, and the anomaly is rising of two towns, geographically one but under separate control.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	-	-	-	1,382 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1932	-	-	-	18,530
No. of inhabited houses on Rate Books, 1932	-	-	-	4,250
Rateable value	-	-	-	£101,050
Product of One Penny Rate	-	-	-	£402

Grays is to a great extent the home of an industrial community, but of late years a colony of city workers has grown in the new housing areas. The occupations of the inhabitants are mostly as follows:—

- (a) Workers in local industries (e.g., Margarine Works, Board Mills, Cement Factories).
- (b) Transport Workers.
- (c) Tradesmen and Clerical.
- (d) Seamen.

There is no evidence to show that any particular occupation exercises a deleterious influence upon the public health.

The air over the western portion of the town is on many occasions polluted with cement dust, and with a south-westerly wind this nuisance becomes seriously enhanced.

LIVE BIRTHS.		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	....	145	157	302
Illegitimate	....	1	2	3
				<hr/> 305 <hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ... 16.5

		Male	Female	Total
STILLBIRTHS	....	3	7	10

Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths) births - 31.7

DEATHS	....	Male	Female	Total
	....	129	84	213

Death Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population ... 11.5

DEATHS FROM DISEASES AND ACCIDENTS OF PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH :

From Sepsis	....	Nil
From other causes	....	Nil

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	....	65.5
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	....	66.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		Nil

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	....	1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)		3
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		3

The principal causes of death were as follows :

Cancer and malignant disease	-	36 or 16.9%
Heart disease	-	34 or 15.9%
Tuberculosis (all forms)	-	15 or 7%
Pneumonia	-	14 or 6.5%

In view of the large amount of publicity devoted to Influenza by the daily Press it is interesting to note that in only 9 instances (4.2%) did it prove fatal.

The following tables have been supplied by the Registrar-General, with the exception of the line marked * in Table No 2.

TABLE 1. CIVILIANS ONLY. CAUSES OF DEATH IN GRAYS THURROCK U.D., 1932.

Causes of Death.			M.	F.
ALL CAUSES			129	84
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	—	—
2	Measles	...	1	—
3	Scarlet fever	...	1	—
4	Whooping cough	...	1	2
5	Diphtheria	...	1	—
6	Influenza	...	2	7
7	Encephalitis lethargica	...	1	—
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	1	—
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	9	2
10	Other tuberculous diseases	...	3	1
11	Syphilis	...	—	—
12	General Paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	1	—
13	Cancer, malignant disease	...	16	20
14	Diabetes	...	2	2
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	6	3
16	Heart disease	...	21	13
17	Aneurism	...	1	—
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	3	1
19	Bronchitis	...	2	5
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	10	4
21	Other respiratory diseases	...	—	—
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	1	2
23	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	1	2
24	Appendicitis	...	1	—
25	Cirrhosis of liver	...	—	—
26	Other diseases of liver, &c.	...	—	—
27	Other digestive diseases	...	5	3
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	5	1
29	Puerperal sepsis	...	—	—
30	Other puerperal causes	...	—	—
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, &c.	...	9	3
32	Senility	...	4	6
33	Suicide	...	4	1
34	Other violence	...	3	1
35	Other defined diseases	...	13	5
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	1	—
37	Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)—			
	Small-pox	...	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	...	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	...	13	7
	Legitimate	...	13	7
	Illegitimate	...	—	—
LIVE BIRTHS ...	Total	...	146	159
	Legitimate	...	145	157
	Illegitimate	...	1	2
STILLBIRTHS ...	Total	...	3	7
	Legitimate	...	3	7
	Illegitimate	...	—	—

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY

DURING THE YEAR 1932. (Provisional figures).

(The Mortality Rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to Civilians as regards London and the group of towns).

	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS				
	Live Births.	Still-births	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years)	Total Deaths under One year	Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases	Certified by Coroner after P.M.	No Inquest	Uncertified Cause of Death	
England and Wales ...	15.3	0.66	12.0	0.01	0.08	0.08	0.01	0.07	0.06	0.32	0.53	6.6	65	91.1	6.2	1.8		0.9	
118 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	15.4	0.70	11.8	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.01	0.08	0.07	0.28	0.48	8.9	69	91.3	5.9	2.3		0.5	
126 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations, 25,000-50,000 at Census 1931) ...	15.4	0.69	10.8	0.00	—	0.06	0.01	0.06	0.03	0.31	0.42	4.5	58	91.9	5.8	1.3		1.0	
London ...	14.2	0.51	12.3	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.02	0.08	0.07	0.27	0.53	12.6	66	89.4	6.2	4.4		0.0	
*Grays Thurrock ...	16.5	0.54	11.5	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.16	0.05	0.48	0.48	9.8	65.5	92.7	5.1	1.3		0.9	

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows :

{ per 1,000 Live Births	Puerperal Sepsis.	Others.	Total.
	.. 1.61	2.63	4.24
{ .. Total Births	.. 1.54	2.52	4.06

COMPARISON OF VARIOUS STATISTICS.

Year.	No. of Births	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
1927	314	17·3	9·9	47·0
1928	317	14·1	8·2	37·8
1929	307	13·8	8·3	65·1
1930	314	14·4	7·5	22·2
1931	288	15·2	8·9	31·2
1932	305	16·5	11·5	65·5

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(i.) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

The Public Health Officers of the Local Authority are enumerated at the commencement of my Report.

(ii.) NURSING IN THE HOME. (a) *General.*

There are no district Nursing Associations within the area. A small amount of professional nursing in the home is performed by the Health Visitors, and attention should be called to the excellent work of the 48th Nursing Division, St. John Ambulance Brigade. This comprises a Lady Superintendent, two lady Ambulance Officers and a number of Ambulance Sisters. I am indebted to Mrs. A. H. Harvey, the Superintendent, for the following details of duties during 1931 :—

Motor Ambulance duties	....	820
Home Comforts Centre	....	247
Orthopædic Clinic	....	485
Miscellaneous (including night visits)	....	1121

The voluntary work of the Division should earn the appreciation of the Council and public alike.

A Hospital Home Comforts Committee was established in 1926, with the Medical Officer of Health as Chairman. Its object was to establish Centres whereat articles for use in a sick room could be obtained for

nominal loan charge. The under-mentioned Centres have been established.

Quarry Hill, Grays. Open 2-4 p.m. daily.

The Rectory, Tilbury.

4 Morley Square, Chadwell-St.-Mary.

Council School, Stanford-le-Hope.

33 Second Avenue, West Thurrock.

29 Jarrah Cottages, Purfleet.

The Green, South Ockendon.

The Rectory, Orsett.

Church Institute, Aveley.

Articles Loaned, 1932.

Air Beds	....	28
Air Rings	....	87
Air Pillows	....	8
Bedpans	....	152
Bed Rests	....	85
Bed Cradles	....	11
Crutches	....	48
Hot-water Bottles	....	16
Waterproof Sheets	....	36
Bronchitis Kettles	....	34
Invalid Chairs	....	20
Feeding Cups	....	15

The Committee's scheme for the supply of Nurses, persons with some nursing experience and Home Helps to the homes of the Sick, has proceeded quietly but satisfactorily. Owing to the demand for such assistance steps are being taken to increase the number of names on the register.

(b) *Infectious Disease.*

There is no nursing in the home for Infectious Disease other than that carried out upon occasions by Health Visitors in cases of Measles, &c.

(iii.) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The examination of Pathological and Bacteriological specimens is provided for at the Essex County Laboratories, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4, and during the year the following examinations have been undertaken.

Specimens.		No. Examined.
Diphtheria	-	220
Sputa	-	107
Typhoid	-	9
Miscellaneous	-	4
	Total	<u>340</u>
Biological Examinations	-	<u>1</u>

iv. LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws and Regulations, relative to Public Health in force in the district :—

P.H. Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890. Parts 2, 3, 4 & 5.

Adopted 1st January, 1891.

I.D. (Notification) Act, 1889.

Adopted 9th October, 1890.

I.D. (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Adopted 1st January, 1891.

P.H. Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.

Part 2 other than Sec. 26.

Part 3 other than Sec. 50.

Part 4, Sections 52, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63,

Part 6. [64, 65 and 66.

Part 10, Sec. 93.

Adopted 1908.

P.H. Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, Section 50.

Adopted May, 1928.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Slaughter Houses. June 23rd, 1887.

Common Lodging Houses. June 23rd, 1887.

Nuisances. June 23rd, 1887.

Nuisances. September 22nd, 1892.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops. July 13th, 1889.

Additional Cowsheds and Milkshops. May 11th, 1905.

Tents, Vans and Sheds. December 22nd, 1910.

New Streets and Buildings. July 30th, 1896.

New Streets and Buildings. November 21st, 1913.

Slaughter Houses. July 26th, 1927.

Nuisances.

v.

HOSPITALS.

There have been no changes during the year in the Hospital Services of the district.

(a) *Seamen's Hospital, Tilbury Dock*—Accommodation: Men, 52; Women, 24; Children 16.

The Hospital is equipped with efficient X-ray, Dental and Ophthalmic apparatus, and I wish once again to record my appreciation of the kindly co-operation extended to this Department by the Staff. The Medical Officer of Health is a member of the Consultant Staff, and I am indebted to the Secretary, Seamen's Hospital Society, for the following statistics relating to the Hospital:

Number of In-patients	-	-	1327
„ Out-patients	-	-	5319
„ Major operations	-	-	339
„ Minor operations	-	-	540

(b) *Orsett (Public Assistance) Infirmary*—Accommodation: General Medical, 97 beds; General Surgical, 7; Mental (Observation), 5 beds; Tuberculosis, 21 beds; Children, 20 beds; Maternity, 7 beds.

(c) *Orsett Joint Hospital Board*, of which the Urban District of Grays is a constituent authority, maintains:

1. Isolation Hospital, Stifford Long Lane, Little Thurrock, 96 beds. During the year the Joint Board decided to equip the Hospital with a new Operating Theatre. This will be completed during 1933, at an approximate cost of £500. The theatre consists of a main room, 18ft. x 12ft., together with a small annexe, with full equipment for minor operations.
2. Smallpox Hospital, Stifford Long Lane, Little Thurrock, 22 beds.

The Hospital accommodation has been found adequate for the needs of the district during the year. Owing to the proximity of the district to the Metropolis, a large number of persons attend various London Hospitals. Most of the firms of the district maintain branch groups of the Hospital Savings Association, and the arrangement of treatment is a comparative simple matter.

(vi.) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) *Infectious Disease*.—Three Motor Ambulances are maintained at the Isolation Hospital and are available immediately upon application, at any hour of the day or night.

1922, Ford 20 h.p.	1930, Austin 20 h.p.
1932, Morris 20 h.p.	(This is kept solely for the use of Smallpox cases).

(b) *Non-Infectious and Accident Cases*.—The St. John Ambulance Brigade, Grays Division, maintain two Motor Ambulances and various hand vehicles.

1928, Austin 20 h.p.	1930, Ford 23 h.p.
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The hire charges are very moderate, and I am indebted to C. Simons, Esq., for the following details:

	No. of Cases.	Miles.
Road accidents	.... 70	980
Sick removals	.... 944	20571

(c) *Maternity Patients*.—These Patients are removed where necessary by ambulances of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

	Address.	Hours.	Notes.
Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.	The Park.	Medical Officer, Tuesday, 2.30 p.m., except 3rd Tuesday (see Ante-Natal Clinic.) Health Visitor, Thursday, 2 p.m. (M.O.H. alternate Thursdays). Health Visitor, 9.30-10 a.m.	Grays U.D.C.
Ante-Natal Clinic	The Park.	3rd Tuesday and 1st Friday at 2 p.m.	Grays U.D.C.
School Clinic	Quarry Hill.	MINOR AILMENTS, Daily, 9.30-11 a.m. INSPECTION CLINIC, Wed. 9.30-11.30 a.m. *EYE CLINIC, Thursdays, 9-11.30 a.m. DENTAL CLINIC. (a) Extractions, Tuesday, 9.30 a.m. (b) Conservative Treatment. *Thursday, 9.30 a.m.	The School Clinics are provided by the Essex County Council, the Medical Officer of Health, as School Inspector, supervising the work of the Clinics.
Orthopædic Clinic „ After-Care Clinic	Quarry Hill.	*By Arrangement. Tues., Wed. and Fri., at 2 p.m.	Grays, Purfleet & Tilbury Urban District Councils, Orsett Rural District, and Essex County Council.
Diphtheria Immunisation	The Park.	*2nd & 4th Wednesdays, at 2 p.m.	Grays U.D.C.
Tuberculosis	59 London Road.	Adults—Monday, 4-6 p.m. Children—Thursday, 10-12 noon.	The Dispensary is provided by the E.C.C. the M.O.H. as Tuberculosis Officer supervising the work of the Dispensary.
Venereal Disease	22 Cobham Street, Gravesend.	*Men—Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. „ —Thursday, 4.45-6.30 p.m. *Women—Tuesday, 12.45-2.30 p.m. „ —Thursday, 3-4.30 p.m.	

* Patients attend these Clinics by appointment.

Application should be made to any member of the Public Health Staff.

3. (i.) MIDWIVES.

There are 4 practising midwives within the district. There are no practising midwives employed by or receiving subsidy from the Local Authority.

(ii.) MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Maternal deaths and cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia are investigated by the Medical Officer of Health. The Council have complete arrangements for the treatment of the latter at the special Hospital provided by the Essex County Council at Chelmsford. During the year two cases were so investigated.

The Council considered during the year Circular 1167 and Memorandum 156/M.C.W., and it is gratifying to record that the majority of the recommendations in the Memorandum have been carried out in the Urban District for some years.

The Ante-Natal Clinic is very efficiently equipped and staffed, and it may be noted that in another portion of my Report that during the year 1932 a further session has been commenced. For some years notes upon every patient at the Ante-Natal Clinic have been transmitted in writing to the Medical Practitioners or Midwives engaged for the confinement. The Midwives in the town attend the clinic with the utmost regularity and the success of the clinic is in great measure due to them. The Ante-Natal Clinic has been available for some time for the use of Medical Practitioners in the district. Difficult ante-natal cases are referred to the Obstetric Specialist for an expert opinion.

The employment of handy women in the district has been discouraged for many years, and the number of cases so attended is now very small.

Complete arrangements for maternity in-patient treatment are now available. Cases of expected normal delivery in poor financial circumstances may receive treatment in Orsett Public Assistance Institution at a

cost to the Council of £2 2s. 0d. per week, plus ambulance charges. Cases of expected difficult labour or obstructed labour are admitted by arrangement to Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford, E.15., the cost to the Council being £3 3s. per week, plus ambulance charges.

Cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia are admitted to the special Puerperal Fever Wards of the Essex County Council's Institution at Chelmsford, at a cost to the Authority of 10/- per day, and ambulance charges. In every case the Council recover from the parents those amounts which their financial circumstances enable them to pay.

Sterilised Maternity Outfits and Home Helps for patients have been supplied through the Welfare Centre for some years.

(iii.) HEALTH VISITING.

<i>Visits Paid by Health Visitors.</i>	1929.	1932.
(a) To infants under 1 year	922	1333
(b) To children, 1-5 years	1589	1268
	<hr/> 2511	<hr/> 2601

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

No. of sessions held ....	....	36	91
Total attendances of children ....	....	1444	3925
Percentage of total births in attendance ....	....	Not available	55%

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

No. of sessions held ....	....	11	13
„ attendances by expectant mothers ....	....	143	189

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1921.

Total value of Milk supplied	1929 £157 8s. 10d.	1932 £384 10s. 9d.
Cost of Milk supplied free of charge	£7 11s. 2d.	£90 10s. 5d.

One Health Visitor was absent from duty for approximately two months owing to illness.

In 1933 the Ante-Natal sessions will increase to 24, compared with 11 in 1929.

It is a great pleasure to record once again the excellent work carried out by my colleague, Dr. Maude Bennett, who acted as Assistant Medical Officer in charge of this Clinic. My thanks are also due to the Health Visitors employed by this Authority who have, since their appointment, put in most excellent work, and to whom the increasing attendances at the Welfare Centre are very largely due.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS (Local Records).

Total number of Births, including Stillbirths...	292
Notified by Medical Practitioners	136
,, ,, Certified Midwives	151
Otherwise notified	5
Total Births registered	292
Total Stillbirths	5

(iv.) SECTION 1, CHILDREN ACT, 1908. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Number of Fostermothers in the area ...	5
,, Infants registered	5
Total visits paid by Health Visitors during the year	23

The conditions with regard to the above are quite satisfactory. No prosecutions have been undertaken or warnings given during the year under review.

(v.) ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.

The Orthopædic Scheme is carried out in conjunction with the Urban District of Tilbury, the Rural District of Orsett, and the Essex County Council. The Orthopædic Surgeon appointed, Mr. B. Whitchurch Howell, F.R.C.S., visits the district at frequent intervals. After-Care is carried out by an Orthopædic Masseuse three times weekly, at a specially equipped clinic in Grays.

I think the time has now arrived when the Local Authority can congratulate itself that no Orthopædic case, however slight, escapes detection and treatment. The general medical practitioners in the district have co-operated with me in this matter and requests for an opinion from the Orthopædic Surgeon are frequent. In every case the Local Authority have adopted the advice given by their Orthopædic Surgeon.

Massage, after-care, remedial exercises, &c., are provided at the After-Care Clinic and cases requiring hospital treatment are sent by the Local Authority to the Queen's Hospital, Hackney Road, London, E., the Cheyne Hospital, Chelsea, or to Brookfields Hospital, Walthamstow.

ORTHOPÆDIC ASCERTAINMENT CLINIC.

		County	Grays	Tilbury	Orsett	Total
No. on Register, 1st Jan., 1932	...	209	12	45	13	279
" " 31st Dec., 1932	...	238	18	62	17	335
No. Discharged as cured, &c.	...	39	5	11	2	57
" of New Cases reported	...	68	11	28	6	113
" of Cases treated in Hospital	...	14	—	2	1	17
" of Cases in Hospital on 31/12/32		1	—	—	—	1

ORTHOPÆDIC AFTER-CARE CLINIC.

		County	Grays	Tilbury	Orsett	Total
No. of Cases on Register, Jan., 1932	...	183	15	41	12	251
" " " Dec., 1932	...	176	23	63	15	277
" " Discharged as Cured	...	56	10	9	4	79
" " " other reasons	...	25	4	7	2	38
" New Cases during year	...	74	22	39	10	145
" Attendances during year	...	1008	101	149	33	1336

Nature of Treatment Received :

Exercises	...	40	—	—	—	40
Massage & Muscle Re-education	...	28	4	7	1	40
Wedges and After-Care	...	166	14	55	17	252
Breathing Exercises	...	8	1	1	—	10

(6) There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

DENTAL TREATMENT FOR EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS.

Three patients were recommended for treatment under the Council's scheme, the cost being allocated as follows :

Total cost of treatment	....	....	£1	2	6
Borne by Council	....	....	0	15	0
Borne by patients	....	....	0	7	6

MATERNITY IN-PATIENT TREATMENT.

Two patients were admitted to hospital for in-patient maternity treatment as under :—

Orsett Institution ...	....	....	1
Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford		....	1
Total cost of treatment ....	....	£15 14	0
Borne by Council ....	....	6 0	0
Borne by patients ....	....	9 14	0

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.

I am indebted to Inspector Sacret, of the above, for particulars of the work carried out by the N.S.P.C.C. in the area to which I am Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1932.

Total number of cases investigated	...	42
„ „ children concerned in the above		83
„ „ supervision visits paid	....	146

SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTION, ORSETT DISTRICT.

*Annual Report of the School Medical Inspector for
the year ending 31st December, 1932.*

During 1932 every school in the district was inspected, and owing to the increased staff, inspections were completed at an earlier date than formerly. It is hoped that during 1933 every department in the area will be visited twice by a School Medical Inspector. At the present time there are in the Orsett District 11,557 children on the registers with an average attendance of 10,389. This is an increase over 1931 of approximately 400. Certain schools remain considerably overcrowded, notably those in Tilbury and Langdon Hills.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

The area is served by four School Clinics—at Grays, Tilbury, Stanford-le-Hope and Langdon Hills. In my Reports for 1930 and 1931, I mentioned the necessity of Clinic facilities in Stanford-le-Hope, where the nearest treatment centre was five miles from the town. Stanford-le-Hope Minor Ailment Clinic was commenced on the 15th July, 1932, and is held on each Friday morning, a Medical Officer attending once monthly.

1932 also saw the provision of a whole-time Dentist, unfortunately not whole-time as regards this area, to which only certain sessions per week are given. The complete figures for Dental work will be found at a later stage of this report.

The Orsett District has now complete ancillary branches of the School Medical Service. The Open-Air School, established in 1930, has achieved great popularity. There is always a waiting list, and applications from parents for the admission of children are continuous. In my opinion this is in great part due to the popularity of the Head Teacher and staff, and the Committee have been very fortunate in this respect.

The Myope Class at Quarry Hill School, Grays, continues satisfactorily. Early in the year literature published by the Clear Type Publishing Committee, Cleveland, U.S.A., was obtained for use by the children, and its introduction has been very much appreciated by teacher and children alike.

MYOPE CLASS.		Male.	Female.
No. on Register at 1/1/32	....	10	10
„ admitted during year	....	1	1
„ discharged „ „	....	1	4
„ on Register at 31/12/32	....	10	7

Reasons for discharge—all children attained school-leaving age.

CLASSIFICATION OF VISIONAL DEFECTS.		Male.	Female.
Myopia ....	....	5	4
Congenital dislocation of both lenses		—	2
Myopia and Astigmatism		1	—
Ophthalmia and Nystagmus ...		1	—
High Myopia and Astigmatism and Nystagmus ....	....	1	—
Mixed Astigmatism, Strabismus and Corneal opacities		—	1
Congenital Cataract ....	....	1	—
Secondary Cataract ....	....	1	—

OPEN-AIR SCHOOL.

No. of places in School	....	60
„ admissions during year	....	58
„ discharges „ „	....	56

Reasons for Discharge.

Fit for ordinary School life	....	35
Left the district ....	....	5
Attained school-leaving age	....	3
Unfit for open-air treatment (rheumatic)	....	2
Otherwise unsuitable	....	2
Admitted to Hospital	....	2
Discharged for non-attendance	....	4*
„ „ non-payment of fees	....	3

*Includes 1 child absent owing to illness of long standing.

Admissions.

Recommended by School Medical Inspectors	51
„ „ Tuberculosis Officer	4
„ „ private practitioner	1

The following comparisons of weight and height have been compiled :

BOYS.

Half-year ending July, 1932.	Half-year ending Dec., 1932.
Average increase in weight $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	$3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Highest increase noted $4\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	8 lbs.
Lowest „ „ $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. ...	2 lbs.

GIRLS.

Average increase in weight $3\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	4 lbs.
Highest increase noted 7 lbs.	10 lbs.
Lowest „ „ 2 lbs. ...	$1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

It will be noted that the girls appear to have responded to treatment better than the boys. Every child, with the exception of three, gained in height and weight during attendance at the school.

The washing accommodation has been improved by the provision of extra wash-basins, and a hot water supply has been installed, this being very much appreciated.

The school is situated at a considerable distance from the School Medical and Education Departments, and there is no means of rapid communication. All matters requiring the attention of either Office have either to be posted or delivered by hand by a member of the very small staff. On many occasions this has caused considerable inconvenience. I submit that the provision of a telephone at the school would prove economical insofar as it would save a great amount of time on both sides.

SPRAY BATHS.

The attendances hereat have increased considerably during the year. In the early months of 1932, by arrangement with the Clerk to the District Sub-Committee, a certain amount of reorganisation took place, and the increase is probably due to this.

	1931	1932
Grays	2664	2989
Tilbury	4601	5611

TONSIL AND ADENOIDS OPERATIONS.

	1930	1931	1932
Number of cases operated upon	92	151	210

This branch of the work has more than doubled itself in three years. During the early part of the year I discussed with the School Medical Inspectors questions concerning the recommendation of cases for operation. My opinion on this matter was borne out by the Chief Medical Officer to the Board of Education later in the year. I have again to express my appreciation of the valuable help provided by Doctors Bennett, Barrow and Hawes, and the Authorities and staff of the Seamen's Hospital, Tilbury. Owing to the number of extra Clinics held it was possible to treat every case on the waiting list by the end of the year.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

During the short time the new Dentist has been available the following Schools have been inspected.

School.	Inspected.	Offered Treatment.	Age Groups.	
			5-10	10-14
Stanford-le-Hope Roman Catholic	110	53	88	22
Corringham	96	62	—	96
East Thurrock Mixed	168	84	28	140
Stanford Boys'	115	82	—	115
Arthur Street Girls'	212	128	85	127
„ „ Infts.'	162	86	162	—
„ „ Boys'	222	134	11	211
Langdon Hills	445	260	283	162
Aveley Mixed	283	167	118	165
„ Infants	69	29	69	—
Orsett Mixed .	151	92	53	98
Stanford Infants	105	50	105	—
Garrison Hill, Purfleet	283	165	137	146
Stanford Girls'	253	160	118	135
Totals	2674	1552	1257	1417

DENTAL CLINIC.		1931	1932
Children Treated ....	....	1240	1443
Attendances by above ....	....	1365	1544
Extractions—			
(1) Temporary ....	....	2704	2653
(2) Permanent ....	....	469	582
Fillings—			
(1) Temporary ....	....	91	30
(2) Permanent ....	....	138	277
Gas Cases ...	....	934	1000
Local Anæsthetic ....	....	—	144
Operations ....	....	28	70

It is hoped that early in 1933 the Dental work will be transferred to the premises of the Grays Urban District Council Welfare Centre.

MINOR AILMENT TREATMENT CLINIC.

	GRAYS.		TILBURY		STAN-FORD.
Number of individual children	1931	1932	1931	1932	1932
treated ...	...1245	1233	1261	2744	114
Total attendances made	...3332	3035	3697	4394	160

EYE REFRACTION CLINIC.

The above has been held at Quarry Hill, Grays, and great difficulty has been experienced in coping with the waiting list, which at times numbered over one hundred cases. A considerable number of extra sessions were held, and I am indebted to Drs. W. A. M. Stewart and C. Ive for their work in this direction. There is every reason to believe that the demand on the Clinic will be very heavy during 1933.

	1930	1931	1932
Refractions	251	283	369
Glasses advised	133	232	295

FEEDING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

During the year it has been found necessary to recommence the provision of meals for scholars in certain parts of the district. Each child recommended has been examined by one of the School Medical Inspectors—a most unenviable occupation, as many of the parents are apparently unable to understand that school meals are provided solely for educational reasons. During the year I also assisted the Provision of Meals Sub-Committee in their administration and choice of food for the children. The arrangements are undoubtedly very much improved in comparison to those of the previous winter, and in my opinion there is little doubt as to the necessity of the work being carried out.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER.—The water of the district is supplied by the South Essex Water Company, and is on the “Constant System.”

The water possesses 23 degrees of hardness, but is of an excellent standard of purity. No complaints concerning the quality of the water have been received during the year, and no samples have been taken for analysis.

(ii.) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The greater part of the district is efficiently sewered. I am indebted to the Works Manager of the Thurrock, Grays and Tilbury Joint Sewerage Board for the following particulars.

The Works are situated one-and-three-quarter miles N.E. of Tilbury Station, and consist of Sewage Disposal Works with Sedimentation Tanks and Circular Revolving Distributors on Bacterial Beds.

Total volume of sewage pumped :—

1928	-	-	429,081,000 gallons.
1929	-	-	474,012,000 „
1930	-	-	468,993,000 „
1931	-	-	461,529,500 „
1932	-	-	452,451,000 „

LODGE ESTATE.—In my Annual Reports for the years 1924 to 1931 attention has been called to the unmade streets on the above Estate. At last something definite has been accomplished in this direction. There were upon this estate at the end of 1931, four unmade roads, the houses so situated being supplied with cesspools. At the end of 1931 the approximate number of such cesspools was 120. During the year 1932 one road was sewered and made up. This work is being continued during 1933 and the Authority is to be congratulated in taking a step which has required attention for a considerable number of years past. The number of cesspools remaining at the end of the year 1932 was 120, and it is hoped that during the year 1933 a number of these will be abolished.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.—Apart from the river Thames upon the north bank of which the town of Grays is situate, there are no rivers in the area.

3. (i.) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Every house in the district is now supplied with a proper closet and flushing apparatus.

(ii.) PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Public cleansing has been, as in the past, carried out by direct labour. Every house is supplied with a portable galvanised dustbin of approved type. All cases of defective dustbins are reported to the Sanitary Inspector on cards provided for that purpose. The collection of household refuse is weekly, by means of covered horse-drawn and motor vehicles, and I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for the following details :—

Total cost of collection and disposal			
of Refuse	....	....	£1,747 0s. 0d.
No. of Tons of Refuse Collected	....	....	3675
Cost per head of population	....	....	1s. 10½d.

The refuse so collected is dealt with by incineration at the Council's destructor, which is somewhat inconveniently situated, and during the year several complaints as to smoke nuisance, &c., were received from residents in the district.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Nature of Inspections.	Number	Notices.			Outstand- ing.
		Informal	Formal.	Complied with.	
Dwelling Houses	606	482	1	483	Nil
Disinfections	1086	1086	Nil	1086	Nil
Factories	21	4	Nil	4	Nil
Workshops	24	2	Nil	2	Nil
Schools	84	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Slaughterhouses	692	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Butchers' Shops	536	2	Nil	2	Nil
Drainage Defects	91	91	Nil	91	Nil
Ashbins	205	205	Nil	205	Nil
Fishshops	323	2	Nil	2	Nil
Houses Cleansed	108	108	Nil	108	Nil
Tents, Vans, Sheds, W.C. Pans, Cisterns and Pails	92	92	Nil	92	Nil
Overcrowding	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	3784	2074	1	2075	Nil

(iv.) SMOKE ABATEMENT.—During the year, and from time to time, observations upon various factory chimneys have been recorded. The only complaint worthy of notice is that of cement dust in the western portion of the town.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

A. INSPECTIONS OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	In- spections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prose- cuted
1	2	3	4
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	86	2	Nil
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	63	Nil	Nil
Workshops (Other than Outworkers premises)	65	4	Nil
Total	214	6	Nil

B. DEFECTS FOUND,

in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Offences in respect of which Prosecu- tions were Instituted
	Found.	Rem- edied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
1	2	3	4	5
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts —</i>				
Want of cleanliness	2	2	Nil	Nil
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	4	4	—	—
<i>Sanitary accommodation—</i>				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under Factory & Workshops Acts —</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (s.101).... ..	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
[Excluding offences relating to outwork, and offences under the Sections men- tioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921]				
Total	6	6	—	—

(v.) SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS
SUBJECT TO CONTROL BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

HOUSES-LET-IN-LODGINGS.—There are within the Urban District a number of houses which may be regarded as houses-let-in-lodgings, but these conditions are not widespread. The question of the adoption of Bye-laws has not yet been considered.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—There is one establishment within this area, to which 14 visits were paid during the year. It contains accommodation for 50 men, and no breach of the bye-laws was noted.

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS AND SIMILAR STRUCTURES.—The south-east of Essex has in recent years become notorious in regard to this matter, but I am glad to report to you that conditions within the Urban District are good. There are very few structures indeed of this type, and they receive constant supervision.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—There are no premises under this heading, and bye-laws have not been considered necessary. There are 11 fried-fish shops in the area, and by dint of constant visits they are kept in a satisfactory condition.

UNDERGROUND SLEEPING ROOMS.—There are no premises of this description in the Urban District.

(vi.) OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS
REQUIRING NOTICE.

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD.—The arrangements operating in the district are adequate, an excellent cemetery existing in the north-eastern part of the town.

MORTUARY.—For many years past I have commented in my Annual Reports upon the inadequate accommodation and equipment of the old mortuary. I am very pleased to record that during the year the Local Authority have constructed a modern well-equipped building at a cost of £630. The building contains a small waiting room, post-mortem room and a reception room capable of holding three bodies. It is adequate in every way.

(vii.) RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1928.—There are no premises within the Urban District to which these Regulations apply.

4. SCHOOLS.

Owing to the fact that the Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Inspector under the Essex County Council, the supervision of school buildings and the Health of the scholars is very much simplified. During the year a complete inspection of all Public Elementary Schools in the district was carried out and all defects were reported to the Essex County Council for attention.

HOUSING.

From time to time in my previous Annual Reports I have expressed my own views of the housing of the district, and in the present year I do not propose to elaborate on this matter. At the commencement of the year, by arrangement between myself and the owners of the property, some 50 houses in East Street and Bond Street were completely reconditioned. These reconditions included re-roofing, plastering, pointing, &c., the provision of larger windows, extra W.C.'s and, in certain places, wash-houses.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 606
---	------	----------

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1818

- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 201
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 201
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation Nil
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 405

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 404

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. *Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.*

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 1
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :
- (a) By Owners 1
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By Owners Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made Nil
2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930.

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

E. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices became operative requiring repairs Nil

2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By Owners	....	.... Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	....	.... Nil

3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close Nil

F. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative ... Nil

2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit Nil

3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders became operative Nil

4. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

NOTE.—Section 3 and Sections 11 to 15 of the Housing Act, 1925, have been repealed by the Housing Act, 1930, but the proviso to Section 64 of the Act of 1930 continues in force. Any Notices, Closing Orders and Demolition Orders made before the operation of the Act (15th August, 1930) and houses subject to those Notices and Orders must continue to be dealt with under the relative provisions of the Act of 1925.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

A. MILK SUPPLY.

The conditions under which milk is handled in the Urban District are satisfactory. Samples were taken from various producers and retailers. See following table :

No.	Date Sampled.	Bacterial content per c.c.	B. Coli present in c.c.
1	11/3/32	170,000	0.1
2	11/3/32	32,000	1.0
3	11/3/32	90,000	1.0
4	11/8/32	620,000	0.00010
5	11/8/32	210,000	0.1
6	11/8/32	2,600,000	0.00001
7	20/9/32	120,000	0.01
8	20/9/32	86,000	0.1
9	20/9/32	280,000	0.0001

Nos. 2 and 8 were taken from the same producer.

„ 4 and 9 „ „ „ „ „ „
 „ 6 and 7 „ „ „ „ „ „

Numbers 4, 6, 9, were very bad indeed, especially number 6, and since the high B. Coli counts indicated manurial contamination during production, the authorities in each producer's area, which happened to be outside the Urban District, were notified. There are signs that the employees in certain dairies are far from conscientious in the matters of cleansing churns and bottles, and the most elaborate equipment will not produce clean milk until retailers instruct their staffs in the necessity for absolute cleanliness in *all* stages of handling.

Number of Cowsheds on Register	....	1
„ Dairies „ „	....	7
„ Milkshops ....	....	3
„ Inspections made	....	128

Number of Retailers on Register :—

(a) Ungraded Milk	....	3
(b) Grade "A" „	....	7
(c) Grade "A" (T.T.) milk	....	2
(d) Certified milk	....	1

B. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

No. of Slaughterhouses registered	....	2
„ „ „ licensed	....	3
„ Visits paid	....	692

Animals Slaughtered:—

Beasts	....	....	771
Sheep	....	....	2582
Swine	....	....	2763
Lambs	....	....	309
Calves	....	....	201

Unsound Food Surrendered—

Beef	....	....	740 lbs.
Pork	....	....	71 „
Fish	....	....	459 „
Turkeys (35)	...	....	320 „
Apples	....	....	80 „
Watercress (Crates)	....	....	16 „

BAKEHOUSES.—Number Registered

(a) Factories	....	5
(b) Workshops	....	1

No. of Inspections made to above 79

C. ADULTERATION.

The Essex County Council is the Authority under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, the Artificial Cream Act, 1929, the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, and the Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925 and 1927.

D. CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This is carried out at the instance of the County Council, by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.

E. NUTRITION.

Periodical articles upon diet, nourishment and general health are contributed to the local Press by the Medical Officer of Health.

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

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING 1932.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	18	18	—
Scarlet Fever	14	11	1
Diphtheria	21	20	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	—
Pneumonia	34	—	14
Erysipelas	5	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	1
	96	52	18

DISINFECTION.

In the majority of cases of infectious disease the patient's bed is removed for steam sterilisation, but in the light of modern science disinfection has been proved to be of little or no value. Gradually, the amount of disinfection carried out in the district has been reduced and education as to the value of sunlight, fresh air and soap and water has taken place.

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AT VARIOUS AGES.

Age Groups.		Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Erysipelas.	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Smallpox.	Total.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—2	„	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	4
2—3	„	...	1	4	...	...	1	...	...	6
3—4	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4—5	„	..	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	4
5—10	„	...	12	4	3	...	...	...	3	22
10—15	„	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	7	11
15—20	„	...	2	1	5	...	...	...	3	11
20—35	„	...	...	2	7	2	...	...	2	13
35—45	„	...	1	...	4	...	2	...	1	8
45—65	„	..	...	...	6	...	1	...	1	9
65 yrs. upwards	...	...	...	7	...	1	...	...	...	8
Totals	...	21	14	34	2	5	1	1	18	96

The amount of infectious disease during 1932 was lower than in the previous year.

SMALLPOX.

A small outbreak of this disease caused a considerable addition to the work of the Department. There is no question that the present type of Smallpox, Variola Minor, although usually mild in form, is extremely infectious and calls for the utmost care and precautions to prevent its spread. The following is a brief outline of the cases in Grays:—

Date		Sex		Age		Isolation		Whether Vaccinated
18/2/32	....	F	....	18	....	Hospital	....	No
31/3/32	....	F	....	16	....	"	....	"
3/4/32	....	M	....	7	....	"	....	"
4/4/32	....	M	....	7	....	"	....	"
13/4/32	....	F	....	13	....	"	....	"
13/4/32	....	M	....	10	....	"	....	"
14/4/32	....	F	....	14	....	"	....	"
15/4/32	....	F	....	11	....	"	....	"
15/4/32	....	M	....	11	....	"	....	"
16/4/32	....	F	....	34	....	"	....	"
16/4/32	....	M	....	10	....	"	....	"
16/4/32	....	F	....	2	....	"	....	"
16/4/32	....	F	....	41	....	"	....	"
16/4/32	...	F	....	15	....	"	....	"
16/4/32	...	F	....	12	....	"	....	"
22/4/32	....	M	....	59	....	"	....	"
25/4/32	....	F	....	13	....	"	....	"
22/6/32	....	M	....	21	....	"	....	"

There were 5 cases in each of two houses.

" " 2 " " two "
 " was 1 case " four "

PEMPHIGUS NEONATORUM continues to be a notifiable disease, and as in previous years the number of cases of Pneumonia notified, despite the efforts of this Department, fails to reflect the true position.

During 1932 the Orsett Joint Hospital Board, after considerable efforts on my part, agreed to admit severe cases of Measles.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is available for use day and night by Medical Practitioners, but owing to the rapid transport facilities to the Isolation Hospital it is little used.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

In June, 1932, the Council in response to my representation commenced a scheme for Diphtheria immunisation by means of Schick treatment.

At the start there was a certain amount of opposition, but it is gratifying to report that the efforts of the Department are meeting with increasing success. I find, however, that there is still a certain amount of confusion on this matter, and it will be advisable, perhaps, to repeat some observations.

Immunisation against diphtheria creates in the person thus treated an active resistance to the disease. It does not affect the "carrier" problem. The protection created by immunisation lasts for a considerable number of years. It is most important that the whole scheme should be carried out scientifically and with the greatest care, and in my opinion the time has arrived when central legislation should be insisted upon. Immunisation carried out inefficiently or improperly will result in chaos. For example during 1932 a case was brought to my notice, not in the Grays Urban District, of a patient alleged to have been immunised who subsequently developed an almost fatal attack of Diphtheria. The allegation was sufficiently serious to demand full enquiry into the circumstances, and it transpired that

the patient had received from a private medical practitioner 1 c.c. of diphtheria prophylactic T.A.M. only. No previous Schick test was carried out, nor had any examination been performed to ascertain whether immunity had been produced after this very limited amount of treatment. Procedure carried out on these lines is calculated to bring diphtheria immunisation into disrepute.

Under the local system applicants for immunisation are tested and classified into negatives and positives. The former are re-tested at the end of three months and if again found to be immune receive a certificate of immunity. Positive cases receive a course of immunisation treatment; in children three doses at fortnightly intervals and adults six doses. After three months they are again Schick tested. If negative results are obtained certificates of immunity are granted. No person is regarded as immune without the possession of such certificate.

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS.

School children infested with vermin are dealt with at the Grays School Baths. No further action has been taken.

PREVALENCE OF VERMIN.

Rat suppression has been carried out from time to time. No special action has been taken to deal with mosquitoes and similar pests.

4. (a) CANCER.

Thirty-six deaths from cancer have occurred during the year. For Classification of the age groups, see the General Death Table.

(b) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1932. LOCAL RECORDS.

Age Groups.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
1-5 years	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
5-15 "	...	1	3	...	...	...	1	...
15-25 "	...	...	3	1	1	1	1	...
25-35 "	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
35-45 "	3	3	...	...	4	...	...	...
45-55 "	5	1	...	...	3	...	...	...
55-65 "	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 years upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	9	6	8	1	10	1	4	...

All deaths from Tuberculous Meningitis are investigated by a Health Visitor with a view of detecting all possible cases of phthisis in the household. Should these enquiries prove negative investigation takes place in regard to the milk supply.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925, AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SEC. 62.

No action has been taken under the above during the year under review.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum have occurred in the area during the year 1932.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The Essex County Council have an agreement with the Kent County Council (see table of Clinics). Every inducement is offered to patients to attend this clinic. The fares, in necessitous cases, are paid by the County Council. I am indebted to Dr. R. Erskine Gray for the following figures relating to the work of the Clinic during 1932. Although not classified into the various districts, these figures show that the problem of Venereal Disease is still of great importance.

A. *Statistics relating to the Complete Clinic.*

1. Total number receiving treatment :

	Male	Female	Total
(a) For venereal disease ...	409	118	527
(b) For non-venereal disease....	43	25	68
	—	—	—
Total	452	143	595
	—	—	—

2. New Patients :

(a) For venereal disease	....168	29	197
(b) For non-venereal disease....	43	24	67
	—	—	—
Total	211	53	264
	—	—	—

B. *Statistics relating to Essex Patients.*

1. New Patients :

(a) For venereal disease	.... 46	8	54
(b) For non-venereal disease....	15	5	20
	—	—	—
Total	61	13	74
	—	—	—

2. Percentage of New Infection contributed by Essex.

(a) For venereal disease	...	27·4%
(b) For non-venereal disease	..	29·8%
Total Attendances ....	....	15,497
Attendances for Essex	....	3,371 or 21·7%

In an analysis of a hundred recent male infections, 23% were found to have been contributed by Essex.

