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Dunmow Rural District

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

A. P. KALRA

M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1949

TOGETHER WITH THE

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

N. G. Davey,
16 High Street, Dunmow



Dunmow Rural District Council

Public Health Committee

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Public Health Officers

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. J. MOFFAT, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. (until June, 1949)

A. P. KALRA, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., D.C.H. (from November, 1949)

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

H. B. GARDNER, M.R.SAN.I., S.I.E.J.B.

Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

R. P. MAY, *Cert.* R.SAN.I., S.I.E.J.B.

Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

J. E. FANNON, *Cert.* R.SAN.I., S.I.E.J.B.

Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

HOUSING INSPECTOR

J. P. BURTON

CHIEF CLERK

G. H. MASON

Dunmow Rural District Council

Annual Report 1934-5

Presented to the Council at the Annual Meeting held on 12th December 1935

The Council has the pleasure in presenting to you this report on the work of the Council during the year 1934-5. The year has been a busy one for the Council, and much has been accomplished in the various departments under its control. The Council has been particularly concerned with the improvement of the roads and the drainage of the district. It has also been active in the matter of the provision of public houses and the regulation of the trade of the district. The Council has also been concerned with the improvement of the health of the district and the provision of public buildings. The Council has also been concerned with the improvement of the education of the district and the provision of public buildings. The Council has also been concerned with the improvement of the health of the district and the provision of public buildings. The Council has also been concerned with the improvement of the education of the district and the provision of public buildings.

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Respectfully,
The Chairman

The Council has also been concerned with the improvement of the health of the district and the provision of public buildings. The Council has also been concerned with the improvement of the education of the district and the provision of public buildings. The Council has also been concerned with the improvement of the health of the district and the provision of public buildings. The Council has also been concerned with the improvement of the education of the district and the provision of public buildings. The Council has also been concerned with the improvement of the health of the district and the provision of public buildings. The Council has also been concerned with the improvement of the education of the district and the provision of public buildings. The Council has also been concerned with the improvement of the health of the district and the provision of public buildings. The Council has also been concerned with the improvement of the education of the district and the provision of public buildings. The Council has also been concerned with the improvement of the health of the district and the provision of public buildings. The Council has also been concerned with the improvement of the education of the district and the provision of public buildings.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES.
TOWN HALL,
BRAINTREE.

August, 1950

MR CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1949, on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Dunmow Rural District.

The birth rate was 14.4 and the death rate 10.7 per 1000 of estimated resident population.

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year was higher than in 1948, the increase being largely due to a higher incidence of measles in the district.

The section on the General Provision of Health Services has been almost entirely rewritten, setting out the services provided by the Essex County Council as the Local Health Authority, the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board and the Essex Executive Council.

Housing continues to be the most urgent Public Health problem, as will be seen by the fact that there were still 468 applications for Council Houses at the end of the year.

I should like to thank the members of the Council, the Council's Officers, and, in particular, the staff of the Public Health Department, for their help and co-operation since my appointment as Medical Officer of Health.

I am, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. P. KALRA

THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
THE COUNCIL HOUSE,
DUNMOW.

August, 1950

MR CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report of the work of the department during the year 1949. The year was disappointing in the progress you were able to make in the part of the water scheme under contract. At the close of the year this contract was 26 weeks behind schedule. During the autumn an application was made to the Minister for permission to raise a loan for a further £34,000 for water main extensions. A decision had not been received before the year ended. 1949 was noteworthy in as much as it was the year that the Minister of Health approved the Council's Main Sewage Disposal proposals in principle, but the year closed before your Consultants were able to proceed with the detail work of the most urgent of these. In the field of housing, I regret that progress in the provision of new houses did not maintain the rhythm achieved in the previous year, and only 78 houses were completed. This appears to be due to the completion of larger contracts by contractors who normally did not work in the area, and had withdrawn their labour force.

No change took place in the staff during the year. Mr J. E. Fannon, one of your Additional Sanitary Inspectors satisfied the examiners as an Inspector of Meat and Other Foods in December.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Council for their confidence, and the staff for their loyalty and assistance during the year.

I remain, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. B. GARDNER

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor

General Statistics

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	72,511
Estimate of Resident population in mid-1949	...	...	...	...	18,740
Number of Inhabited Houses according to rate books (as at 31st March, 1949)	...	...	...	...	5,416
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£78,236
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (as at 31st March, 1949)	...	...	...	...	£315 12s. 5d.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS:—In the Rural District the main industry is agriculture. There are also a few factories in the District, such as the Beet Sugar Factory at Felsted, the Sweet Factory at Thaxted, and the Bacon Factory and the Brewery at Great Dunmow, and some Service Department installations, which provide employment for considerable numbers in the respective neighbourhoods.

In the summer and autumn there are numbers of migratory workers in the District temporarily engaged in agricultural work.

As was to be expected in such a Rural District, unemployment was almost totally absent, apart from seasonal changes of occupation. There was no evidence that any industry gave rise to conditions prejudicial to health.

Vital Statistics

In Table I on page 7 are set out extracts from the Vital Statistics of the District for the ten-year period 1940-1949 in regard to the estimated mid-year populations, and the local and national birth and death rates for each year during that time.

DEATHS.

The death rate in the Rural District was 10.7 per 1000 of estimated resident population and is at the same low level as the previous year. The Comparability Factor of 0.89 for the District indicates that the local death rate is lower than that of England and Wales as a whole, after adjustment for the proportion of the different age groups in the population.

Table II on page 8 gives the Causes of Death of residents of the District during the year according to sex, whether death occurred inside or outside the Rural District. The information for this Table has been supplied by the Registrar General. Diseases of the heart and circulatory system account for approximately 46% of all deaths during the year and cancer was the second in importance as a cause of death. The nett deaths of persons dying in 1949, whose normal place of

residence was the Rural District, whether death occurred within or outside the District, were distributed in the age groups as shown below : —

All Ages 199	under 1	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75 & up
	7	—	—	—	1	2	8	13	27	51	90

The proportion of deaths in the age group from 65 upwards was 72%, and is higher than the figure last year and approximates the percentage for 1947 and 1946.

BIRTHS.

In the year 1949, there were 270 live births in the Rural District and these were as follows : —

	Males	Females
Total	144	126
Legitimate	138	117
Illegitimate	6	9

The birth rate was 14.4 per 1000 of estimated resident population. This rate is the lowest since 1941.

STILL BIRTHS.

There were 7 still births registered in 1949 and these were as follows : —

	Males	Females
Total	7	—
Legitimate	6	—
Illegitimate	1	—

The stillbirth rate per 1000 total (i.e. live and still) birth was 25.3

INFANT DEATHS.

There were 7 deaths of infants under one year in 1949, and these were made up as shown below : —

	Males	Females
Total	4	3
Legitimate	4	2
Illegitimate	—	1

The Death Rate for infants under one year of age was as follows :

All Infants per 1000 live births	... ..	25.9
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births		23.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births		66.7

The infant deaths were due to pneumonia, prematurity, inanition, cerebral haemorrhage and asphyxia neonatorum.

TABLE I

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1949 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

YEAR	BIRTHS			DEATHS												
	Population estimated mid-year	NETT			Total number registered in District	TRANSFER- ABLE		Under 1 year of age				NETT			Rate—England and Wales	Rate of births over deaths)
		Number	Rate	Rate—England and Wales		Of Non- residents in District	Of Residents not registered in District	Number	Rate per 1,000 nett. births	Rate—England and Wales	Number	Rate				
													At all ages			
1940	18,240	231	12.7	14.1	192	14	82	4	16.8	x57	260	14.3	14.4	-29		
1941	18,970	247	13.0	13.9	162	8	44	15	53	x60	246	12.9	13.5	1		
1942	18,210	270	14.8	15.6	137	5	101	15	55.5	x51	231	12.7	12.3	19		
1943	17,920	310	17.3	16.2	122	7	96	12	38.7	x49	211	11.8	13.0	99		
1944	18,060	302	16.7	17.7	180	26	79	19	62.9	x45	233	12.9	12.7	69		
1945	17,760	266	14.9	15.9	146	16	95	14	60	x46	225	12.7	12.6	41		
1946	17,810	342	19.2	19.1	146	5	84	12	35.1	x43	225	12.1	12.0	117		
1947	17,980	345	19.2	20.5	154	7	90	7	20.3	x41	237	13.2	12.3	108		
1948	18,490	309	16.8	17.9	126	1	73	8	25.9	x34	198	10.7	10.8	111		
1949	18,740	270	14.4	16.7	119	3	83	7	25.9	32	199	10.7	11.7	71		

x Rate per 1,000 "related" births

TABLE II
CAUSES OF DEATH

The Table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the classification is given under the new abridged list of causes of death as used in England and Wales and contained in the Manual of the International List of Causes of Death.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers ...	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	—	—
Scarlet fever ...	—	—
Whooping cough ...	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	3	1
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	1	—
Syphilitic diseases ...	1	—
Influenza ...	—	2
Measles ...	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	—	—
Acute infectious encephalitis ...	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	2	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	3
Cancer of breast ...	—	1
Cancer of all other sites ...	9	7
Diabetes ...	1	—
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	10	13
Heart diseases ...	25	29
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	7	7
Bronchitis ...	2	4
Pneumonia ...	7	8
Other respiratory diseases ...	—	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	2	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	—	—
Appendicitis ...	—	1
Other digestive diseases ...	2	2
Nephritis ...	3	5
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ...	—	—
Other maternal causes ...	—	—
Premature birth ...	—	1
Congenital malformation, birth injury, infantile disease	4	1
Suicide ...	2	—
Road traffic accidents ...	3	—
Other violent causes ...	1	3
All other causes ...	12	9
All causes ...	98	101

General Provision of Health Services

Public Health Officers

For List see page 1.

The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban Districts of Braintree and Witham and for the Rural District of Braintree, and Assistant County Medical Officer to the Essex County Council.

Dr W. J. Moffat left in June to take up his new appointment as Area Medical Officer to the South East Essex Health Area. Dr A. P. Kalra commenced his appointment as Medical Officer of Health to Braintree, Witham and Dunmow Districts in November.

The Braintree and Bocking Urban District Council, by arrangement with the other local authorities concerned, provide office accommodation for the Medical Officer of Health, in the prefabricated annexe of the Town Hall, Braintree.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector also holds the appointment of Surveyor to the Council.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

CARE OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Regular ante-natal clinics are held at the Dunmow Combined Treatment Centre, and advice given to expectant mothers by a lady doctor in attendance.

CARE OF YOUNG CHILDREN UP TO SCHOOL AGE

Child Welfare clinics are held in the large villages, and immunisation against diphtheria given with the parents' consent. Children requiring treatment are referred to the local general practitioners, hospitals, or appointments given for the Orthopaedic and Eye clinics in Braintree or Chelmsford. A dental clinic was started at the Combined Treatment Centre in Great Dunmow.

CARE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

Regular school medical inspections are carried out and the children with defects are referred for treatment. Reinforcing doses of diphtheria prophylactic are offered to all school children.

HEALTH VISITING

The Health Visitors visit the homes of young children, act as school nurses and help at the clinics.

HOME NURSING AND DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

These services are carried out by the District Nurse Midwives resident in the area.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Applications for domestic help should be made to the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Chelmsford. This service is not provided free of cost.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The whole of the Ambulance Services are now under the control of the Essex County Council and a 24 hour service is available.

CARE OF THE AGED AND INFIRM

Residential accommodation is provided at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree, and at Stisted Hall.

LABORATORY SERVICES

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analyses of water samples, the chemical analyses of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of milk and ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by the Counties' Public Health Laboratories, 61 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. Examination of milk samples from the District are also arranged by the Essex County Council and the service is provided by the Essex Institute of Agriculture at Writtle, near Chelmsford.

Chemical examination of foodstuffs are undertaken by the Public Analyst to the Essex County Council.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE NORTH EAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

The hospitals are managed by the Regional Hospital Board and provide medical, surgical and special treatment. The hospitals which serve the Dunmow population are those in Chelmsford, Braintree, Bishop's Stortford and Saffron Walden. The latter is administered by a different Regional Hospital Board. Usually patients are admitted to the particular hospital nearest to their homes.

A chest clinic was held at Dunmow until the end of the year and treatment for venereal disease could be obtained at Chelmsford or Bishop's Stortford.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ESSEX EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, this Council provides the general medical, dental, pharmaceutical and the supplementary ophthalmic services through the family doctors, dentists, chemists and opticians in the area.

Prevalence of and Control Over Infectious Disease

The table on page 12 shows the incidence and age distribution of cases of notifiable disease other than tuberculosis, notified in the Dunmow Rural District during 1949. The particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease are given separately.

A few brief comments are made on the occurrence of some of the infectious diseases.

Diphtheria

There were no confirmed cases of diphtheria in the Rural District. This speaks well for the diphtheria immunisation of infants and school children, and credit must be given to the Health Visitors, School Nurses and Doctors of the Essex County Council who are largely responsible for the diphtheria immunisation scheme.

Measles

There was again a high incidence of measles in the district during 1949, but the cases were of a mild character and none required admission to hospital. The disease occurred during the months of March to June.

Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)

During the 1949 epidemic of poliomyelitis in England and Wales, only 2 cases occurred in the Dunmow Rural District. Both were admitted to infectious disease hospitals.

Scarlet Fever

On the whole, the disease was of a mild character and only 1 case required admission to hospital.

Non-notifiable Diseases

Of these, 17 cases of mumps, 3 of German measles and 5 of chicken-pox occurred in school children.

Tuberculosis

Particulars of the new cases of tuberculosis reported during the year, and of deaths from the disease in the District are set out in the table below.

Age Periods (Years)			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	...	...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	...	...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	...	...	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	...	...	3	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
45-55	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65	...	...	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total			10	8	3	—	3	3	—	—
			18		3		6		—	

At the end of the year, there were 93 cases on the Tuberculosis Register of the District and these were as follows: —

Males		Females	
Respiratory	Non-respiratory	Respiratory	Non-respiratory
29	22	29	13

The Council have continued their policy of giving some measures of priority in housing to families in which there are cases of infective tuberculosis, or cases whose recovery is prejudiced by unsatisfactory housing conditions.

Disinfection of premises and bedding, after death or removal, from a household of an "open" case of tuberculosis is offered free by the Council.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED IN 1949

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED													Cases admitted to Hospital	Total number of deaths
	At Ages—Years														
	At all under Ages 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over			
Scarlet Fever ...	15	—	—	1	1	10	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Whooping Cough ...	9	1	2	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	
Measles ...	290	7	22	37	27	142	28	2	4	4	—	—	—	—	
Acute Pneumonia ...	13	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	4	4	1	2	
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Infective Hepatitis ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	
Total	336	8	18	24	41	28	156	32	3	11	5	5	5	2	

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water

The water supplies in the area were adequate and were obtained from the Council's waterworks at Thaxted, Dunmow and from the Herts and Essex Water Company.

Regular samples were taken throughout the year and these were satisfactory. Examples of analyses of the three water supplies appear on pages 15, 16 and 17.

The progress on the extensions to the Council's mains network was disappointing, the following mains only being completed: —

Relief Main from Gussetts Tower to Felstead ... 5,040 yards

High Easter Parish Extensions to a distance of ... 13,080 yards

At the close of the year the Contract was 26 weeks behind schedule.

The borehole which was under construction at the commencement of the year was tested shortly before Easter and collapsed on the 12th day of the test. At the close of the year negotiations were complete for a trial hole on land at Totmans Farm, Thaxted. On 12th December, 1949, an application was made to the Minister of Health for authority for loan sanction for £34,000 to complete the extensions included in the Council's Consultant Engineer's report of 1945.

The Thaxted waterworks were converted from manual to automatic operation with a subsequent saving in manpower.

Quantities of Water pumped:

Thaxted	...	...	129,505,700	gallons
Dunmow	...	...	17,601,000	gallons
Total			147,106,700	gallons

New Connections:

No. of houses connected to the Council's water main during 1949	158
No. of metered supplies	23
No. of Repaired Services and Change over to New Main	94
No. of Main Repairs	25

Sample from GREAT DUNMOW WATERWORKS

Date of Sample 17/5/49

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance: Clear and bright.

<i>Colour</i>	Nil	<i>Turbidity (Silica Scale)</i>	Nil
<i>Odour</i>	Nil	<i>Reaction pH</i>	7.2
<i>Electric Conductivity at 20°C</i>	690	<i>Total solids dried at 180°C</i>	460
<i>Chlorine in Chlorides</i>	36	<i>Alkalinity as Ca CO₃</i>	300
<i>Hardness Total</i>	325	<i>Free Carbon Dioxide</i>	27
<i>Temporary</i>	300	<i>Nitrogen in Nitrates</i>	0.0
<i>Permanent</i>	25	<i>Nitrogen in Nitrites</i>	Absent
<i>Metals Iron</i>	Less than 0.03	<i>Free Ammonia</i>	0.038
<i>Other Metals</i>	Absent	<i>Albuminoid Ammonia</i>	0.000
		<i>Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs.</i>	
		<i>at 27°C</i>	0.00

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
<i>Number of Colonies developing on</i>			
<i>Agar per ml. in</i>	0	0	—
<i>Presumptive Coliform Reaction</i>	Present in	—	Absent from 100 ml.
<i>Bact. Coli</i>	Present in	—	Absent from 100 ml.

Report: This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character, but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. The organic quality and bacterial purity of the water are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) ROY HOATHER,
The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Sample from THAXTED PUBLIC SUPPLY

Date of Sample 20/7/49

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance: Slight opalescence with a slight flocculent deposit of iron oxide together with a slight growth *Gallionella*.

<i>Colour</i>	Less than 10	<i>Turbidity (Silica Scale)</i>	5
<i>Odour</i>	Nil	<i>Reaction pH</i>	7.1
<i>Electric Conductivity at 20°C</i>	760	<i>Total Solids dried at 180°C</i>	510
<i>Chlorine in Chlorides</i>	35	<i>Alkalinity as Ca CO₃</i>	310
<i>Hardness Total</i>	415	<i>Free Carbon dioxide</i>	36
<i>Temporary</i>	310	<i>Nitrogen in Nitrates</i>	0.0
<i>Permanent</i>	105	<i>Nitrogen in Nitrites</i>	Less than 0.01
<i>Metals Iron</i>	0.70	<i>Free Ammonia</i>	0.18
<i>Other metals</i>	Absent	<i>Albuminoid Ammonia</i>	0.000
		<i>Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C</i>	0.00

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
<i>Number of Colonies developing on</i>			
<i>Agar per ml. in</i>	0	0	—
<i>Presumptive Coliform Reaction*</i>	Present in 10	Absent from 10	Absent from 1 ml.
<i>Bact. Coli</i>	Present in —	Absent from 100	Absent from 100 ml.

Report: This sample contains an appreciable trace of iron but is not unduly turbid and is free from other metals. The water is neutral in reaction, very hard in character though not to an excessive degree and contains no excess of saline or mineral constituents in solution. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are satisfactory.

These results are consistent with a water which is suitable for treatment for public supply purposes.

*False presumptive reaction.

Sample from HERTS & ESSEX WATERWORKS COMPANY

Date of Sample 8/3/49

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance: Very faintly opalescent with a few particles.

Colour	Less than 10	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Less than 5
Odour	Nil	Reaction pH	Neutral 7.3
Electric Conductivity at 20°C	640	Total Solids dried at 180°C	430
Chlorine in Chlorides	26	Alkalinity as Ca CO ₃	305
Hardness Total	355	Free Carbon Dioxide	22
Temporary	305	Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.0
Permanent	50	Nitrogen in Nitrites	Absent
Metals Iron	0.08	Free Ammonia	0.000
Other Metals	Absent	Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000
		Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C	0.15

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
Number of Colonies developing on			
Agar per ml. in	18	28	—
Presumptive Coliform Reaction*	Present in 100	Absent from 50 ml.	
Bact. Coli	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.	

*Due to coliform bacteria of Intermediate Type I.

Report: This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction, and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is hard in character, though not to an excessive degree, contains no excess of saline or mineral constituents in solution and is of very satisfactory organic quality. It shows slight bacterial impurity inasmuch as coliform organisms are present in minimal numbers, but this condition is not considered unusual for a sample taken from a kitchen tap.

The water is considered wholesome in character and suitable for drinking purposes.

(Signed) G. J. LAWS,
Counties Public Health Laboratories

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year 110 premises were connected to the sewer: —

Dunmow	3	Hatfield Heath	20
Thaxted	15	Little Dunmow	48
Hatfield Broad Oak	8	Broxted	16

On the 18th February, 1949, the Minister of Health indicated his approval in principle to the suggestions contained in your Consultant Engineer's report of 1945. In the approval the following table of priority was set out, and the Council instructed their engineers to prepare the detailed schemes so that tenders could be invited.

1. Reconstruction of Great Dunmow and Thaxted Sewage Disposal Works.
2. Stebbing.
3. Broxted.
4. High Easter.
5. Barnston.
6. Bannister Green area of Felsted.
7. Willows Green.

It is regretted that none of these schemes were sufficiently advanced to obtain tenders during the year under review, so that no marked diminution occurred in the pollution of the streams reported to you in 1948, as below:

Chelmer Watershed.

Chelmer at Thaxted, Duton Hill, Great and Little Easton and Great Dunmow.

Barnston Brook at Barnston.

Stebbing Brook at Bran End, Church End and Town Mill.

Lea Watershed.

Pincey Brook at Takeley Street.

The work at Little Canfield, Broxted and Little Dunmow commenced in 1948 was completed.

The existing works at Dunmow and Thaxted continue to yield very unsatisfactory results. At Felsted the results were unsatisfactory, but after completion of the additional humus tank capacity, results were satisfactory. Hatfield Broad Oak and Hatfield Heath continued to yield satisfactory samples, as did Dunmow Aerodrome and Stansted Mountfichet (Coopers End). No change took place in the area served by these latter two works.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal for Isolated Houses, Sites, etc.

This matter continues to cause concern, as, with increasing availability of main water, so the problem of dealing with the sewage disposal is accentuated. It is imperative that sites for development be carefully selected in order that sewage disposal can be properly carried out.

Public Cleansing

The collection was maintained during the year: —

Weekly in the Lighting Areas.

Fortnightly in the Non-lighting areas.

Merks Hill Refuse Tip

During the year the Minister resumed the Enquiry on the Council's application to acquire land for use as a refuse tip. As the result of these proceedings the Minister did not confirm the Order. At the end of the year tipping was being carried out in some disused pits at Barnston.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The Council's Sanitary Inspectors made 3,269 visits and inspections in the course of the year. Details of these are given below.

Housing and Public Health Acts	...	...	...	662
Complaints (other than Dwelling Houses)	...	...	...	115
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	209
Other Meat and Food Visits	...	...	...	44
Shops Acts	...	...	...	28
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	204
Factories	...	...	...	26
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	137
Places of Amusement	...	...	...	1
Schools	...	...	...	14
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	9
Infectious Diseases Prevention	...	...	...	36
Water Supplies	...	...	...	27
Drainage	...	...	...	50
Cesspools, Septic Tanks and Pail Closets	...	...	...	35
Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	60
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	99
Rodent Control	...	...	...	165

Nuisances and Notices Served.

Nuisances detected	110
Informal Notices Served	...	...	...	49
Notices outstanding 1st January, 1949	...	...	...	53
Notices outstanding 31st December, 1949	...	...	...	50
Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	63
(Includes 47 for dustbins)				
Legal Proceedings	...	...	...	0

Shops: No formal action was necessary during the year.

Tents, Vans and Sheds

At the end of the year, in addition to seasonal workers in agriculture, sites were used at:

PARISH	Type of Dwelling						Total No. of Occupants	
	No. of Sites	No. of Sites in use pre-war	Caravans	Tents	Huts	Buses	Adults	Children
Takeley ...	4	1	7	4	1	—	12	11
Great Dunmow ...	1	—	2	—	1	—	4	—
Great Canfield ...	2	1	3	—	—	—	5	—
Hatfield Broad Oak ...	4	1	10	2	3	—	19	16
Stebbing ...	7	3	12	3	7	5	40	15
Great Hallingbury ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Felsted ...	9	3	13	—	—	—	22	4
Leaden Roding ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	2
Barnston ...	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
Lindsell ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Thaxted ...	3	—	3	—	3	—	11	—
White Roding ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Total	35	9	55	9	16	5	121	50

Thirty-four of the Sites have access to main water supply and lavatory accommodation is Pail Closets in each case.

The increase in the number of static caravan dwellers noticed in last year's Annual Report has been maintained and continues to reflect the shortage of housing accommodation.

Factories

Particulars of the premises registered by the Council under the Factories Act, 1937, and of the inspections made are to be found on page 24.

Rodent Control

The Council's officers dealt with some 35 complaints regarding infestations by rats. No complaints regarding mice were received during the year. Contracts with the Agricultural Executive Committee were entered into by the Council in respect of refuse tip and sewage disposal works.

The sewerage systems of Great Dunmow, Felsted, Hatfield Broad Oak, Hatfield Heath and Thaxted were tested for the presence of rats with negative results in all except Thaxted and Dunmow systems. These were dealt with by the Council's officers. Agricultural land was dealt with by the Agricultural Executive Committee as before.

Vermin

Ten premises were disinfested during the year, two for ants, seven for fleas and one for bugs. The standard form of treatment was spray with a 5% solution of D.D.T. No major problem occurred.

HOUSING

During the year 339 houses were inspected and recorded, and work was mainly confined to the parishes of Aythorpe, High, Leaden and Margaret Roding and part of High Easter. Four houses were demolished and undertakings under the Housing Act, 1936, were accepted in respect of 6 houses.

The number of Council Houses completed during 1949 was 78. Those built by Private Enterprise numbered 23 and there were also 21 conversions by Private Enterprise.

At the close of the year, there were 67 houses actively under construction. A further 30 were authorised but not under construction. The number of applications for Council Houses at 31st December, 1949 was 468.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk

The year was noteworthy in that on 1st October, 1949, the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Act, 1944, came into operation. As a result, the work of supervision of the production of milk at the farms and dairies attached to the farms passed from the officers of the Local Authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and, as a result, the Local Authority is now responsible for the supervision of retail distribution only.

Samples taken during the year gave the following results: —

	<i>Samples Satisfactory</i>		<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Bacteriological Examination	59	55	1 Positive T.B.

(3 Guinea pigs died prematurely)

Meat Inspection

No change took place in this branch of Public Health work. The Dunmow Bacon Factory continued to kill and the inspections were carried out by the Council's Meat and Food Inspectors.

Amount of Carcase Meat condemned in Butchers' Shops 148 lbs.

Also condemned in Butchers' Shops: Pigs' Heads 5; Pigs' Lungs 1; Pigs' Mesenteries 4.

Factories Act, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	38	49	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	78	84	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	116	133	5	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	5	4	—	4	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	1	1	—	1	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient	1	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	4	2	—	3	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	1	—	1	—
Total	13	8	—	9	—

Carcases inspected and Condemned: —

		Dunmow Bacon Factory Pigs	Pigs	Private Slaughterhouses Sheep	Calves
Number killed	...	45,729*	401	7	3
Number Inspected	...	45,729	401	7	3
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	...	28	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		5,237	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	...	11.5%	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	...	118	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		1,477	10	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis		3.49%	2.5%	—	—

*Does not include Pigs which arrived dead or died in Lairage.

Other Food

During the year the following foodstuffs were found upon inspection in shops, etc. to be unfit for human consumption.

Fish	15 stones	Tinned Milk	48 tins
Bacon	23 lbs.	Tinned Fish	9 tins
Cheese	10 lbs. 4 ozs.	Tinned Meats	28 tins
Dried Fruit	30 lbs.	Tinned Fruit	3 tins
Cereals	11lbs. 8 ozs.	Miscellaneous Tinned Foods	30 tins

Bakehouses

The number of Bakehouses in operation at the end of the year was 16. No unsatisfactory conditions existed other than occasional neglect of limewashing which was dealt with as a routine matter.

RAINFALL

The Rainfall as recorded at Thaxted Waterworks is given below:

January	1.15	
February	1.17	
March	1.20	
April	1.72	Heaviest Fall: 0.84 inches
May	1.96	24th May, 1949
June	0.69	
July	1.50	
August	1.00	Longest period of drought:
September	1.09	2nd September—22nd September
October	4.44	(inclusive) 21 days
November	2.05	
December	1.57	
	—	
	19.54 inches	
	—	



Barometer

The number of Barometer is recorded in the column on the right of the page. No observations were made on the 14th day of the month as the weather was too stormy to permit of any observations.

RAINFALL

The Rainfall is recorded in the column on the right of the page.

January	1.73	
February	1.77	
March	1.20	
April	1.72	Heavy Rain 0.34 inches
May	1.96	2.00 inches
June	0.98	
July	1.70	
August	1.00	1.00 inches
September	1.03	2.20 inches
October	0.94	1.20 inches
November	1.04	
December	1.57	

1.56 inches



