

**[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Dunmow R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Great Dunmow (England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1956

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/bp2ucwdm>

**License and attribution**

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

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

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



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

(3)

1 In O'Hara  
2 Leung  
503

HEALTH  
28 JUN 57  
C.R. 23

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DUNMOW  
ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the year  
1956  
together with the  
REPORT  
of the  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR







RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DUNMOW

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

D.F.Cock, Esq., Chairman

G.Crawford, Esq., Vice-Chairman

Mrs. E. Bennett	J. Lanyon, Esq., J.P.
D. H. Burns, Esq.	H. G. Lowe, Esq.
Mrs. L. Burton	J. M. Lukies, Esq., J.P.
O. J. Caton, Esq.	R. W. Marsh, Esq.
P. Coleman, Esq.	A. A. Menhinick, Esq.
Mrs. N. M. Cronin	W. I. Nicholson, Esq.
Mrs. V. G. M. Culf	R. H. Rankin, Esq.
W. Culpin, Esq.	A. A. W. Rogers, Esq.
Mrs. M. R. Davey	Mrs. D. H. M. Romanes
F. W. Dever, Esq.	C. H. Smith, Esq.
H. A. Freeman, Esq.	G. Smith, Esq.
A. J. Gibbons, Esq.	V. H. Stevens, Esq.
Mrs. M. L. Griffith, J.P., C.C.	G. E. Stock, Esq.
F. A. Harris, Esq.	T. T. Streeter, Esq.
J. H. Hawtin, Esq.	H. Trembath, Esq., J.P.
E. W. M. Heale, Esq.	A. G. Turner, Esq.
C. R. Hockley, Esq.	C. A. Walker, Esq.
E. J. Holloway, Esq., J.P., C.A.	J. Winder, Esq.
F. W. Howland, Esq.	H. W. Witney, Esq.
H. W. Juniper, Esq.	E. F. Wright, Esq.



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

C. R. C. RAINSFORD, M. D. , D. P. H. , D. T. M.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

H. B. GARDNER, M. R. S. H. , Cert. R. S. H. and P. H. I. E. B.  
Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

R. P. MAY, Cert. R. S. H. and P. H. I. E. B.  
Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

J. WARD, Cert. R. S. H. and P. H. I. E. B.  
Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Chief Clerk:

G. H. MASON

Clerk/Typist:

Mrs D. E. SANDERS

-----

The Chief Public Health Inspector is also Surveyor to the  
Council.

Public Health Offices,  
Town Hall,  
Braintree.

June, 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the district for 1956. The report of your Chief Public Health Inspector is included and once more I am indebted to the Area Medical Officer for particulars of the work done at the various Public Health Clinics throughout the District.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

332 live births were recorded, giving a birth rate of 16.9 per thousand of the population. The corrected birth rate is 17.7 which compares with the figure of 15.7 for England and Wales.

Deaths numbered 209 giving a death rate of 10.7 per thousand of the population and the corrected death rate of 9.5 is lower than that of England and Wales - 11.7.

The Infant Mortality rate i.e. the death rate of infants dying under one year of age, per thousand live births was 27.1 which is slightly higher than that of England and Wales - 23.8.

Analysis of the general mortality figures reveals the usual pattern of the largest groups being diseases of the cardio-vascular system with 100 and malignant disease with 36.

#### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

In all, 122 cases were notified, a very low figure and 63 fewer than for 1955.

- (a) Measles. The 42 cases of measles were distributed throughout 13 villages. Felsted had 10 and Great Dunmow and Great Canfield 8 each.
- (b) Whooping Cough. There were 25 cases and 7 of these came from Little Hallingbury.



(c) Poliomyelitis. Only one case was reported which was non paralytic.

(d) Food Poisoning and Dysentery. Only 2 cases of food poisoning were reported and it was not possible to trace the cause.

Of the 8 cases of dysentery one was due to infection with salmonella typhi murium and 7 to shigella sonnei.

There has been a considerable increase in some dysentery throughout England and Wales during the past 10 years. It is usually a mild disease which is spread by close personal contact. The odd case in adults has little public health significance but the disease can be a great nuisance if it gets established in a school. It can spread rapidly, especially amongst the younger children. The only preventive measure is strict attention to hand washing after using the toilet and before meals. Unfortunately, facilities provided at some schools are far from perfect. Only 2 of the 7 cases reported were in school children and there was no spread.

(e) Infective Hepatitis. 17 cases were notified compared with 7 last year and 13 came from Little Hallingbury. Five of the patients were from one family and 3 from another. The epidemiology of this disease is still somewhat obscure but it is known that the incubation period is a long one up to four weeks and over, and that the virus is carried in the bowel. Symptomless carriers probably contribute to the spread of the disease but much can be done by good community sanitation and personal hygiene.

#### IMMUNISATION

Vaccination against smallpox, immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough, B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis and now vaccination against poliomyelitis! Admittedly, the list is a formidable one, and the consequent journeys to doctor or Health Clinic may cause the parent some inconvenience. But the inconvenience is small compared to the benefits conferred.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis commenced in May and by the end of the year 61 children in the Dunmow District had completed the course of 2 injections. The numbers were restricted by the availability of the vaccine but it is expected that larger supplies will be available in 1957. It is too soon to say how effective this British vaccine is but there is no reason to suppose that it will be less effective than the American vaccine which gives up to 80% protection.

Poliomyelitis is a serious disease but in this country it has never reached the same proportions as diphtheria. For example, the average annual



notifications for diphtheria totalled 55,125 with 2,783 deaths for the period 1933 - 1942. That was in pre-immunisation days. The comparable figure for 1955 is 155 cases with 13 deaths. The highest total of poliomyelitis notifications was in 1947 when there were 7,776 cases with 707 deaths. Parents, therefore, in their enthusiasm for the new poliomyelitis vaccination should not forget their old and proved friend, diphtheria immunisation.

The subjects of water supplies, housing and sewage disposal have been adequately covered by the Chief Public Health Inspector in the latter part of this report.

It is gratifying to know that a good start has been made on the Upper Chelmer Valley sewage scheme.

The question of Atmospheric Pollution was referred to in my 1955 report and you will note that instruments for recording pollution were in operation by the end of 1956.

The importance of clean food cannot be over emphasised and we welcome the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, which give us greater powers to see that high standards are maintained in food premises. The necessity of adequate protection of open food from dust and flies is stressed and it is now compulsory for hand washing facilities to be provided for persons who deal in 'open' food. Every effort has been made to make these regulations widely known and to see that they are complied with. The response from the owners of food premises has been good.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. Section 47. Persons in need of Care and Attention.

It was not necessary to take any action under the provisions of this Act during the year.

It is appropriate to mention here that a special sub-committee was formed at the end of the year to deal with the housing of old people. This is a growing and somewhat complex question which must be tackled as part of the general housing problem. The special welfare needs of the old folk must be borne in mind and here it is hoped that the Essex County Council will be able to assist.



It is a pleasure to record my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement and support, and to the officers of the Council, with special mention of Mr Gardner, for their unfailing help and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

C. R. C. RAINSFORD

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	72,836
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	...	...	19,610
Number of houses according to rate books (of which 238 were empty on 10th. October)	...	...	6,428
Rateable value	...	...	£179,935
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£740
Number of marriages during the year = 143.			

-----  
VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	316	161	155
Illegitimate	16	13	3

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	16.9
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.05	...	17.7
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population	...	15.7

Still Births:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	4	2	2
Illegitimate	1	1	-

Rate per 1,000 total births	...	14.8
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales	...	23.0

Maternal Mortality

Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	...	...	NIL
------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----

Infantile Mortality:

Deaths of infants under 1 year:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	8	6	2
Illegitimate	1	1	-



Mortality rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	25.3
Total infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	27.1
Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births	...	...	23.8

5 deaths were due to prematurity, 2 to asphyxia and one each to obstructive jaundice and lobar pneumonia.

Deaths:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
	209	117	92	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population				... 10.7
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.89				... 9.5
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales				... 11.7

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar-General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1956

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General and the Classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

		Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	1	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	...	1	-
4. Diphtheria	...	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	...	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	...	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	...	-	-
8. Measles	...	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	2	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	3	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	-	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	14	7
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	1	-
16. Diabetes	...	-	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	14	19
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	17	14
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	3	3
20. Other heart disease	...	10	4
21. Other circulatory disease	...	10	6
22. Influenza	...	1	-
23. Pneumonia	...	8	4
24. Bronchitis	...	4	8
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	1	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	5	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	...	1	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	10	11
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	2	1
34. All other accidents	...	6	1
35. Suicide	...	2	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	-	-
All Causes		117	92



GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:-

i) Clinics were held at the following Centres during the year:-

			<u>Attendances</u>
GREAT DUNMOW - Essex County Health Services Clinic, New Street.			
Child Welfare	Every Friday	2 p.m.	1,021
Ante Natal and Women's Welfare	1st & 3rd Thursdays	10 a.m.	91
Minor Ailments Clinic	2nd, 4th & 5th Mondays	10 a.m.	423
Dental Clinic	Tues. all day Thursday a.m.	10 a.m.	1,833
FELSTED - Memorial Hall			
Child Welfare	2nd Tuesday.	2.15 p.m.	496
GREAT EASTON - Village Hall			
Child Welfare	Last Friday	2.15 p.m.	250
HATFIELD HEATH - Trinity Hall			
Child Welfare	4th Tuesday	2.15 p.m.	349
HIGH EASTER - Village Hall			
Child Welfare	2nd Wednesday	2.15 p.m.	270
HIGH RODING - Women's Institute Weighing Centre			
	1st Thursday	2.15 p.m.	219
MARGARET RODING - The Hut			
Child Welfare	4th Wednesday	2.15 p.m.	214
STEBBING - Congregational Schoolroom			
Child Welfare	2nd Friday	2.15 p.m.	225
TAKELEY - Congregational Church			
Child Welfare	2nd Monday	2.15 p.m.	245
THAXTED - Church Hall			
Child Welfare	1st Friday	2.15 p.m.	317



(ii) Home Help Service:-

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office,  
Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

(iii) Ambulance Service:-

The Ambulance Station is situated in New Street, Dunmow. A full  
24 hour cover is provided.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan  
Regional Hospital Board:-

(i) Chest Clinics:-

These are held at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree; Herts and Essex  
General Hospital, Bishop's Stortford; and Saffron Walden General  
Hospital, and cater for the needs of the Dunmow population.

(ii) Orthopaedic Clinics:-

The Orthopaedic Specialist from the Herts and Essex General Hospital,  
Bishop's Stortford, attends the Dunmow Clinic on 1st. Tuesday of the  
month.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

DISEASES	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Dysentery	8	1	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	17	-	-
Measles	42	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Pneumonia	11	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	6	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	6	4	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	2	-	1
Whooping Cough	25	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>



INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASE	At all ages	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 and over	Age unknown
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	8	1	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	17	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	3	7	1	-	1	-
Measles	42	-	1	3	3	5	23	6	-	1	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	11	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	3	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	6	-	-	1	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Whooping Cough	25	-	2	4	-	3	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	122	1	3	11	4	9	48	9	6	13	5	7	5	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1956

	Total Notified	Aythorpe Roding	Little Bardfield	Barnston	Broxted	Great Canfield	Little Canfield	Chickney	Great Dumow	Little Dumow	Great Easton	Little Easton	Felsted	Great Hallingbury	Little Hallingbury	Hatfield Broad Oak	High Easter	Hatfield Heath	High Roding	Leaden Roding	Lindsell	Margaret Roding	Stebbing	Takeley	Thaxted	Tilty	White Roding
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Dysentery	8	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	17	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	1
Measles	42	1	2	1	4	8	-	-	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Pneumonia	11	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Whooping Cough	25	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	2	-	3	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	-
Totals	122	1	2	1	10	9	2	-	16	3	2	-	18	10	19	2	2	5	-	1	3	1	5	5	4	-	1



INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

DISEASE	Total notified	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	8	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	17	8	3	-	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Measles	42	6	20	3	-	2	2	1	3	5	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	11	1	3	4	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever	6	-	1	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	6	1	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	25	-	-	-	2	3	-	8	5	3	1	-	3
Totals	122	17	29	10	6	12	4	15	12	11	2	1	3

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths				
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Under 1	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 3	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 - 5	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	...	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 35	...	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 65	...	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
65 and over	...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		1	5	2	-	-	-	1	-

Of these cases 1 was a case re-notified on taking up residence in this District.



IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year.		Children who were given a reinforcing injection during the year.	
By General Practitioners	By County Staff	By General Practitioners	By County Staff
240	102	40	177
Total = 342		Total = 217	

(a)

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

Children who completed a full course of immunisation under the County Scheme		Records of combined diphtheria pertussis immunisation received
By General Practitioners	By County Staff	
5	39	(b) 223
Reinforcing injections - 3	-	16

Figure (b) is included in (a)

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

No. vaccinated during the year = 220  
 No. re-vaccinated " " " = 80



Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Dunmow.

May, 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you the annual report of the work of the Department during the year of 1956.

The year was a better one in the erection of houses. The number of private houses erected was the highest for any year since the war and the number of council houses built showed an improvement over the previous year. The total of 32 council houses built, however, compares unfavourably with the peak years of 1953 (111 houses) and 1954 (121 houses). There are no restrictions of the number of houses which may now be built and the Council have agreed a programme of some 120 houses which should mean a higher rate of completion in 1957 and 1958. The building of private houses seems to have settled down to a yearly rate of about 60 houses.

During the year, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government approved the Council's proposals for slum clearance and the work progressed during the year. A total of 16 houses were demolished. Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, were approved for over 100 houses during the year and this improvement of existing dwellings will reflect on the total slum clearance problem.

The new water tower at High Easter came into use during the year and the Council's post-war water scheme was completed. Arrangements were in hand at the end of the year for a new pump to be installed in the Armitage Bridge borehole to double the existing capacity of 180,000 gallons per day.

The year was noteworthy in the fact that at last it was possible for a start to be made on one of the Council's sewerage schemes - the Upper Chelmer Valley scheme. Good progress had been made by the end of the year. The remaining parts of the comprehensive sewerage proposals continued to be deferred.



The heavy meat inspection duties of the department continued during the year although the total number of carcasses inspected again decreased, this time to 58,653 compared with 65,897 in 1955. The work included certification duties at deadweight certification centres at two private slaughter-houses with a possibility of a third one being added.

Atmospheric pollution measurement stations were established during the year and the work of recording started in November.

The duties of the Department increased with the coming into force of the new Food Hygiene Regulations and the Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, and the inspection of food premises and farms proceeded as opportunity permitted.

Since the previous year the title of your Sanitary Inspectors has been changed by law to Public Health Inspectors. This is the third title we have had since the appointment of Inspectors of Nuisances was made obligatory by the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1872. The present description gives a better suggestion of the modern duties of the Public Health Inspector as set out in this Report.

There was no change in the staff of the Department during the year. Details of work carried out are set out in the following pages.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Council for their support 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 Public Health Inspector



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER UNDERTAKING

The water supplies in the area were adequate and were obtained from the Council's boreholes at Mill Lane, Great Dunmow; Borough Bridge, Thaxted, and Armitage Bridge, Thaxted. The pumping plant at Armitage Bridge is to be enlarged to double the existing capacity of 180,000 gallons per day. The parishes of Hatfield Broad Oak, Great Hallingbury and Little Hallingbury were supplied by the Herts and Essex Water Company.

38 samples were taken during the year for bacteriological and chemical examination and these were found to be satisfactory. Reports on three of these samples by the Counties Public Health Laboratories appear below:-

Dunmow Pumping Station Supply

Tap in Dunmow Waterworks 14.11.56

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance:	Clear and bright.	Turbidity:	Nil
Colour:	Nil	Odour:	Nil
pH	7.3	Free Carbon Dioxide:	22
Electric Conductivity:	670	Total Solids:	455
Chlorine present as Chloride:	40	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate:	315
Hardness: Total	320	Carbonate:	315
		Non-carbonate:	5
Nitrate Nitrogen:	0.0	Nitrate Nitrogen:	less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen: <sup>+</sup>	0.15	Oxygen Absorbed:	0.20
Albuminoid Nitrogen: <sup>+</sup>	0.000	Residual Chlorine:	absent
Metals: Iron:	0.04, other metals absent.		

<sup>+</sup>to convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21

Bacteriological Results

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

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a very minute 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. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.



The results are normal for this pumping station and they are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

26th. November, 1956.

Counties Public Health Laboratories.

-----  
Thaxted Pumping Station Supply

Tap in Thaxted Waterworks

14.11.56

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance: Bright with a very few particles.	Turbidity: less than 3
Colour: filtered: 4	Odour: Nil
pH: 7.1	Free Carbon Dioxide: 34
Electric Conductivity: 720	Total Solids: 480
Chlorine present as Chloride: 34	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 300
Hardness: Total 410 Carbonate: 300 Non-carbonate: 110	
Nitrate Nitrogen: 0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen: less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen: <sup>+</sup> 0.18	Oxygen Absorbed: 0.35
Albuminoid Nitrogen: <sup>+</sup> 0.00	Residual Chlorine: absent
Metals: Iron: 0.40, other metals absent.	

<sup>+</sup>to convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21

Bacteriological Results

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

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from the 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. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

The results are normal for this pumping station. They are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes, although softening and reduction of iron content would be advantageous.

26th. November, 1956.

Counties Public Health Laboratories.



Herts and Essex Water Company Supply

Tap over sink, 17 Dell Road, Little Hallingbury. 21.11.56

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance: Very faint opalescence with a few particles.  
 Colour: filtered: 5 Turbidity: less than 3  
 pH: 7.3 Odour: Nil  
 Electric Conductivity: 655 Free Carbon Dioxide: 33  
 Chlorine present as Chloride: 27 Total Solids: 445  
 Hardness: Total: 360 Carbonate: 315 Non-carbonate: 45  
 Nitrate Nitrogen: 0.0 Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 315  
 Ammoniacal Nitrogen:<sup>+</sup> 0.000 Nitrite Nitrogen: absent  
 Albuminoid Nitrogen:<sup>+</sup> 0.000 Oxygen Absorbed: 0.15  
 Metals: Iron: 0.45, other metals absent. Residual Chlorine: absent

<sup>+</sup> to convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21

Bacteriological Results

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

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a 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. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and is of very satisfactory bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

29th. November, 1956.

Counties Public Health Laboratories.

-----

Main Water Supplies

On the following page will be found a schedule showing by parishes the houses and estimated population which have main water supplies. The number of houses supplied by standpipes are also shown. The population is as estimated at mid - 1955.



POPULATION IN EACH PARISH ON MAIN SUPPLY

Parish	No. of houses	Est. Pop. (mid-55)	Houses on main supply	Est. Pop. on Main Supply	Houses with Standpipes	Est. Pop. supplied by Standpipes
Worthington Roding	63	196	43	150	1	3
Little Bardfield	86	231	67	201	1	3
Worthington	99	297	87	276	2	7
Worthington	188	490	165	463	1	4
Great Canfield	129	371	105	332	5	17
Little Canfield	114	338	95	301	3	10
Worthington	11	33	10	30	-	-
Great Dunmow	1204	3674	1105	3507	9	30
Little Dunmow	129	374	100	338	8	27
Great Easton	254	716	211	682	4	12
Little Easton	119	340	84	291	5	17
Worthington	659	2043	564	1940	7	21
Great Hallingbury	266	782	163	564	5	18
Little Hallingbury	282	898	265	834	2	7
Worthington Broad Oak	682	2013	557	1886	6	21
Worthington Easter	211	602	172	518	12	44
Worthington Roding	121	383	107	354	4	13
Worthington Roding	101	281	97	248	2	7
Worthington	75	228	72	212	1	3
Worthington Roding	66	195	62	185	2	6
Worthington	358	1088	296	967	16	40
Worthington	391	1329	343	1291	5	18
Worthington	683	1891	636	1782	2	7
Worthington	24	79	10	34	-	-
Worthington Roding	113	344	94	296	-	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>6428</b>	<b>19216</b>	<b>5510</b>	<b>17682</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>335</b>



## Waterworks Undertaking

### Quantities of Water Pumped:

Dunmow Pumping Station	...	43,526,000 gallons
Thaxted Pumping Stations	...	159,766,000 gallons
		<u>203,292,000 gallons</u>

### Water Consumption:

The water consumption for the last eight years has been as follows:-

		<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Consumption per day - gallons</u>
<u>1949</u>	Total consumption	147,106,700	403,416
	Domestic	101,329,700	277,615
	Metered	45,777,000	125,801
<u>1950</u>	Total consumption	150,402,700	412,496
	Domestic	99,225,700	271,851
	Metered	51,177,000	140,645
<u>1951</u>	Total consumption	165,170,300	452,574
	Domestic	117,659,300	322,354
	Metered	47,511,000	130,220
<u>1952</u>	Total consumption	172,226,600	471,518
	Domestic	128,463,600	351,924
	Metered	43,763,000	119,594
<u>1953</u>	Total consumption	156,276,144	428,153
	Domestic	112,151,144	307,263
	Metered	44,125,000	120,890
<u>1954</u>	Total consumption	180,274,900	496,393
	Domestic	136,916,900	375,114
	Metered	43,358,000	121,279
<u>1955</u>	Total consumption	197,463,000	541,000
	Domestic	151,677,000	416,000
	Metered	45,786,000	125,000
<u>1956</u>	Total consumption	203,292,000	555,697
	Domestic	149,228,000	408,081
	Metered	54,004,000	147,957



### Repairs and connections:

No. of new domestic connections to mains	...	87
No. of new metered supplies	...	21
No. of repaired services	...	100
No. of repaired mains	...	27

### Main extensions:

The following extensions were made to the Council's water mains during the year:-

Ongar Road, Great Dunmow	433 yards (3")
Church Lane, Little Canfield	202 yards (3")
Langthornes, Little Canfield	1119 yards (3")
Bartholomew Green, Felsted	436 yards (3")

### Dunmow and Thaxted Pumping Stations

These two pumping stations worked satisfactorily throughout the year.

Arrangements were in hand at the end of the year for the sale of the disused pump-house and reservoir at Bardfield Road, Thaxted.

### Comprehensive Post-War Water Scheme

#### Armitage Bridge Borehole, Thaxted

Following a report from the Council's Engineers, it was agreed to replace the existing pumping plant with a larger pump capable of producing 360,000 gallons of water per day against the present yield of 180,000 gallons per day. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government gave approval for this work to be done and the new pumping plant was awaited at the end of the year.

#### Poplar Water Tower, High Easter

This new 250,000 gallon water tower was completed and came into use in March, and this has greatly improved the supply pressures in the Southern part of the District.



## Main laying Contract P.L. 17

The remaining mile of mains was laid early in the year at Bartholomew Green, Felsted, and at Langthornes, Little Canfield, and this completed the Council's main laying proposals contained in the comprehensive scheme.

## Water Softening

The Council's proposals for water softening plants at Dunmow and Thaxted Pumping Stations remained deferred at the end of the year in view of the high capital and operating costs.

## Herts and Essex Water Company

During the year the Company commenced erecting a new reinforced concrete water tower in Hatfield Broad Oak. They laid 890 yards of 6" main at Green Hill in the same parish, thereby improving the water supply position in that part of the District.

## Re-grouping of Water Undertakings

A circular was received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on this subject but the Council decided to defer consideration of the matter until the summary of the Survey for Essex had been published. This had not been received at the end of the year.

## Review of Water Undertaking

By the end of 1956 the Undertaking which had started some 50 years earlier now comprised Pumping Plants delivering some 556,000 gallons of water per day through 133 miles of mains to all parts of the District, and four water towers gave storage capacity of 900,000 gallons. The amount of water pumped had risen from 48,000,000 gallons in 1938 to 203,000,000 gallons in 1956.



## Rainfall

The rainfall as recorded at Thaxted Waterworks during the year is given below:-

		<u>inches</u>
January	...	3.31
February	...	0.85
March	...	0.69
April	...	1.17
May	...	0.38
June	...	1.98
July	...	1.88
August	...	4.60
September	...	2.05
October	...	4.27
November	...	0.77
December	...	2.22
		<hr/>
		24.17 inches

The heaviest fall was 2.5 inches on 5th. October.

The longest period without rain was the 19 days from 8th. to 26th.

March.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

### Pollution of Streams

Streams which have been polluted for years continued to be polluted.

The main areas of pollution were:-

#### Chelmer Watershed

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

Barnston Brook at Barnston.

#### Lee Watershed

Pincey Brook at Takeley Street.

With the commencement of the Upper Chelmer Valley Scheme and the expected start of the schemes for Takeley and Barnston it is hoped that stream pollution in these areas will cease.

### Extensions of Sewers

The following extensions were made to the Council's sewer network during the year:-

Windmill Close, Great Dunmow	208 yards
Ongar Road Estate, Great Dunmow	816 yards
Church Lane, Little Canfield	168 yards

### Connections to Sewers

During the year 67 properties were connected to the Council's sewers as shown below:-

Hatfield Broad Oak	12	Felsted	9
Stebbing	6	Hatfield Heath	11
Little Canfield	4	Thaxted	5
Great Dunmow	20		

### Sewage Works

Satisfactory effluents were obtained from Great Dunmow and Felsted



Sewage Works and the sewage works at Hatfield Heath and Hatfield Broad Oak and these installations worked satisfactorily throughout the year.

Thaxted Sewage Works continued to yield unsatisfactory effluents. When the Upper Chelmer Valley Scheme is completed these works will be abandoned.

The sewage treatment plants at Duton Hill, Broxted, Little Canfield and Little Easton worked satisfactorily as did the various housing estate plants. The ex-R.A.F. sewage works at Great Easton were not in use.

The sewage pumping stations at Church End, Great Dunmow; Cage End and Feathers Hill, Hatfield Broad Oak; Bran End, Stebbing and Swards Hall, Felsted, all worked satisfactorily and at the end of the year the Council had agreed to take over the sewage pumping station on the private housing estate at Windmill Close, Great Dunmow.

#### Comprehensive Sewerage Scheme

##### Stebbing Sewerage Scheme - Contract 7

A number of the ventilated manhole covers on the line of the new sewer were filled-in and no further complaints were received regarding smells arising from the covers.

##### Upper Chelmer Valley Scheme - Contract 9

The revised tender for this scheme was approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and work commenced in July. The scheme comprises the laying of the valley sewer from Thaxted Works to Bridgefoot, Great Easton; the sewerage of parts of Monk Street, Duton Hill and Great Easton; the construction of a pumping station at Great Easton; and the laying of a rising main from the pumping station to the ex-R.A.F. sewage works at Great Easton. The value of the Contract is £51,199 and by the end of the year 80% of the sewer between the pumping station site and Duton Hill was complete, and the rising main was also completed. An average of 52 men were engaged on the work and progress was



satisfactory. The contractors were Messrs W. & C. French Ltd.

#### Great Easton Sewage Disposal Works

These works will take the flow from the Upper Chelmer Valley sewer when that scheme is completed and they are in need of extensive repair and modernisation. Before giving authority for the work to be carried out the Ministry of Housing and Local Government required information concerning the question of storm water treatment and the proposed trade waste agreement with Messrs G. Lee & Co. Ltd. of Thaxted. Your Consultant's report on these points was awaited at the end of the year. These works formerly served the R.A.F. Station at Easton Lodge and have been purchased by the Council.

#### Barnston; Bannister Green, Felsted; and Felsted Sewage Works - Contract 10

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government gave their approval to these schemes during the year and said that tenders for the work could be invited. The Council had already obtained a tender for the Barnston scheme and as Felsted is nearby it was considered convenient that the three schemes should be carried out as one contract and the Ministry agreed that a tender should be negotiated with the successful tenderer for Barnston. This was being done and the negotiated price was awaited at the end of the year. Barnston scheme comprises the sewerage of the village and the construction of a disposal works; Bannister Green comprises the extension of the sewer from Bannister Green Villas around part of the green; and the work at Felsted Sewage Works includes the construction of an access road and the erection of a new pump-house and installation of electric motors. The estimated cost of the three schemes is £25,000 and the contractors are St. Mary's (Contractors) Ltd.

#### Takeley and Little Hallingbury - Contract 11

A tender for these schemes was accepted by the Council being that of Messrs J.S. Alderton & Co. Ltd. in the sum of £108,340 and was submitted to the



Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval who replied that the work could not go forward at the time. They said however that no objection would be raised to the work being commenced in the spring of 1957 and arrangements were in hand for this to be done.

#### Causeway End, Felsted

A further approach was made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government concerning this scheme and on 19th. November a reply was received stating that they were unable to agree to the commencement of this work within the foreseeable future.

#### Duck Street, Little Easton

The decision of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on this scheme was received in which it was said that the scheme was approved in principle but in view of the need to curtail public expenditure the work must be postponed for the present.

#### High Easter

The remaining documents for this scheme were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and a visit of investigation was held by an Engineering Inspector in November. His decision was awaited at the end of the year.

#### Willows Green, Felsted; White Roding; Hatfield Broad Oak and Hatfield Heath

The submission of documents for these three schemes to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was completed and a visit of investigation was held by an Engineering Inspector in November. His decision was awaited at the end of the year.

#### High Roding

Details of the Council's scheme for this village were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government during the year except for the District



Valuer's reports on the sites for the pumping station and the sewage works. Negotiations for the purchase of these two pieces of land were still in progress as they had been since the previous year.

#### Broxted

The pumping station site at Woodgates End was purchased during the year and details of the scheme were awaited from the Council's Engineers who had completed their survey.

#### Little Canfield

The scheme for the remaining part of this village remained deferred at the end of the year.

#### Leaden Roding and Margaret Roding

Planning permission for the sites of the proposed sewage works for these two schemes was granted during the year and negotiations were in progress for the acquisition of the land.

#### Lindsell, Little Bardfield, Aythorpe Roding and Great Hallingbury

No further detailed work was carried out on these four schemes during the year.

-----

As envisaged in my 1955 Report only one scheme (Contract 9) was started during the year but this was one of the Council's largest schemes and good progress had been made by the end of the year.

It is expected that Contracts 10 and 11 will be commenced during 1957 and also the scheme for the modernisation of the ex-R.A.F. sewage works at Great Easton.

Further applications will be made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in respect of those schemes which they have refused to approve for commencement, as opportunity permits.



The preparation of the remaining schemes is proceeding so that they are ready for commencement immediately that authority is given.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

### Refuse Collection

The collection of house refuse was maintained during the year. The work was done by a crew of 7 men with three rear-loading compressing vehicles. The oldest vehicle was used as a relief and each vehicle received maintenance on one day each week.

It is a kerbside collection, once weekly in the Lighting Areas of Great Dunmow, Felsted and Thaxted, and once fortnightly in the remainder of the District. 12,636 yards of refuse were collected compared with 11,580 in 1955. There were 82 extra houses to collect from during the year. The refuse was tipped in the disused gravel pits at Merks Hill, Great Dunmow, by arrangement with the owner who arranged for bull-dozing as necessary. During suitable weather a pond at Felsted and the old gravel pit at Braintree Road, Dunmow, were also used for tipping at the request of the owners.

### Salvage

The collection of waste paper was continued during the year and baling was carried out in the garage in the Council Yard. 47 tons 4 cwts of waste paper were collected and despatched to the Mills at Purfleet and credits for £362.6.10 were received. As in 1955 the amount collected is less than in the previous year but no efforts were made to stimulate the collection in view of the fact that Thames Board Mills Ltd. had to impose restrictions on the amount of paper delivered to the Mills. It is hoped that these restrictions will be lifted in 1957 when their new machine comes into operation. A rack to carry paper was fitted to the top of the Dennis Diesel collecting vehicle during the year.



During the year the Council co-operated in the "Keep Britain Tidy" campaign and posters were distributed throughout the district.

Scrap metal; rags and gunny to the value of £99.19.3. was also collected and sold during the year.

-----

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

#### Visits and Inspections

The Council's Public Health Inspectors made 4,067 visits and inspections in the course of the year. Details of these are given below:-

Complaints received	...	127
Inspections under Housing Acts	...	181
Housing applications verified	...	38
Housing applications verified for other Authorities	...	11
Inspections under Public Health Acts	...	1,010
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	263
Places of Amusement	...	1
Schools	...	9
Offensive Accumulations	...	29
Water Supplies	...	118
Drainage	...	69
Sewage Disposal	...	85
Cesspools, Septic Tanks and Pail Closets	...	102
Ditches	...	81
Refuse Disposal	...	15
Infectious Disease Prevention (including Food Poisoning)	...	88



Factories and Workshops	...	85
Shops	...	43
Bakehouses	...	16
Slaughterhouses and Knackers' Yards	...	1,203
Other Meat and Food Visits	...	125
Cafes and Restaurants	...	16
Dairies	...	12
Hotels and Public Houses	...	6
Pet Shops	...	1
Rodent Control visits and re-visits	...	209
Petroleum Acts	...	1
Improvement Grants	...	108
Magistrates Courts	...	2
Atmospheric Pollution	...	9
Land Charge Searches	...	4
<u>Nuisances detected and Notices served</u>		
Nuisances detected	...	70
Informal notices served	...	4
Notices outstanding 1st. January, 1956	...	37
Notices outstanding 31st. December, 1956	...	24
Statutory Notices served	...	3
Legal Proceedings (Public Health Acts)	...	2

## HOUSING

### New Building

New building during 1956 was as follows:-

Number of Council houses completed	...	32
Number of private houses completed	...	65
Number of houses built by other authorities	...	3
Number of Council houses under construction at end of year	...	8
Number of Council houses approved but not commenced at end of year	...	Nil
Number of private houses under construction at end of year	...	36
Number of private houses with plans approved but not commenced at end of year	...	106
Number of conversions completed	...	1
Number of conversions under construction at end of year	...	4

### Total new building since the War

The total number of houses built in the District since the War is :-

Council houses	...	705
Housing Associations	...	12
Private houses	...	381
Essex County Council	...	21
		<u>1,119</u>

### Council Houses

The total number of houses owned by the Council at the end of the year was:-

Pre-War houses	676
Cottages purchased post-war	5
Post-War houses	704
	<u>1,385</u>



4 houses have been sold to tenants (2 post-war houses, 1 pre-war house and 1 pre-war cottage).

#### Housing Act, 1949 (as amended) - Improvement Grants

During the year grants for 108 private dwellings were approved totalling £29,389.

#### Housing (Financial & Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946 (as amended)

During the year, grants were approved for the erection of 12 private houses for agricultural workers.

#### Housing applications

There were 365 applications for Council houses at 31st. December, 1956. During the year there were 29 re-lettings.

#### Requisitioned Properties

There are still 9 properties under requisition by the Council which provide accommodation for 10 families.

#### Housing Programme

The Council considered their future housing programme in the light of the Housing Subsidies Act, 1956, and decided to build 149 houses over two years, 50 a year to be let to persons from slum properties in order to attract the highest rate of subsidy.

#### Housing Acts - Slum Clearance Programme

The Council's slum clearance programme under Section I of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, was approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. This programme envisages the demolition of 767 unfit houses in 10 years from September, 1955. Experience in the first year shows that this total may be considerably less as numbers of unfit houses are being made fit by means of improvement grants and other means.



A total of 16 houses was demolished during the year and 41 houses were represented as being unfit.

I give below the tabular statement under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 (as extended) for the information of members:-

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)	...	266
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	451
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	181
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	261
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	41
(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	...	51

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

		Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	8
--	--	---	-----	---

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

A - Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1)		Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	0
(2)		Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-		
	(a)	By owners	...	0
	(b)	By Local Authorities in default of owners	...	0

B - Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1)		Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	3
-----	--	--	-----	---



(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

- |   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| (a) By owners                                 | ... | 3 |
| (b) By Local Authorities in default of owners | ... | 0 |

C - Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- |   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | 0  |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders    | ... | 6  |
| (3) Number of written undertakings accepted                                   | ... | 38 |

D - Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- |   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made  | ... | 0 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | 0 |

E - Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- |  |     |   |
|--|-----|---|
| (1) Number of houses in confirmed clearance areas demolished | ... | 0 |
|--|-----|---|

F - Proceedings under Housing Act, 1949:-

- |  |     |   |
|--|-----|---|
| (1) Closing Orders made under Section 3(1)   | ... | 0 |
| (2) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3(2) | ... | 0 |

G - Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:-

- |   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| (1) Closing Orders made under Section 10(1) | ... | 2 |
|---|-----|---|

H - Proceedings under Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954:-

- |  |     |   |
|--|-----|---|
| (1) Certificates of Disrepair issued under Section 26(1)     | ... | 2 |
| (2) Licences issued for temporary occupation under Section 6 | ... | 4 |

4. Overcrowding - Part IV, Housing Act, 1936

No action was taken under this Part during the year.



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat Inspection

Slaughtering was carried out regularly during the year at the Dunmow Bacon Factory and at the 8 private slaughterhouses in the District.

Carcases inspected and condemned:

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	2,360	21	272	1,257	54,743 <sup>+</sup>	-
Number inspected	2,360	21	272	1,257	54,743	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	3	71	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	82	2	-	18	5,871	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	3.46	9.9	-	1.67	1.08	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	-	-	-	65	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	33	-	-	-	884	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.5	-	-	-	1.73	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

<sup>+</sup>Pigs which arrived dead or died in lairs were examined for scheduled diseases but were not inspected for food.

No carcase meat was condemned in Butchers' shops during the year.



## Deadweight Certification Centres

The private slaughter-houses at Hatfield Heath, owned by Mr N.G.Reynolds; High Street, Stebbing, owned by Mr H.Barnard; and 10 Watling Street, Thaxted, owned by Mr A.V.Britton, were approved as ordinary deadweight certification centres for pigs and the duties of certification were carried out by the Council's Public Health Inspectors.

## Slaughter of Animals

The number of licences at the end of the year was:-

Private Slaughter-houses	...	9
Knackers' Yards	...	1
Licensed Slaughter-men	...	37

## Knackers' Yards

Improvements were carried out at the knackers' yard at Great Hallingbury during the year under the provisions of the Council's Byelaws for the control and management of Knackers' Yards.

## Jewish Slaughter

After careful consideration of the two sides of this matter the Council decided to withdraw their support of the private member's Bill and to take no further action in the matter.

## OTHER FOOD

During the year the following foodstuffs were found upon inspection in shops to be unfit for human consumption and were condemned:-

Milk	12 tins	Meat	24 tins
Fruit	28 tins	Vegetables	17 tins
Jam and Preserves	9 tins	Fish	3 tins
Fruit Juice	1 tin	Fresh Salmon	2½ lbs.
Bacon	13 lbs.	Other Fish	10 lbs.



## Game

6 persons were licensed to deal in Game during the year.

## Milk

12 inspections were made of the Dairies in the District. 7 samples of milk were taken and these were satisfactory.

There were 17 persons registered in the District as Distributors of Milk and 9 Dairies (not being Dairy Farms) were also registered. Milk Dealers' licences were in force as under:-

to use special designation "Tuberculin tested"	...	9
to use special designation "Pasteurised"	...	10
to use special designation "Sterilised"	...	6

### Supplementary licences

to use special designation "Tuberculin tested"	...	3
to use special designation "Pasteurised"	...	3
to use special designation "Sterilised"	...	2

## Ice Cream

There were 78 premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of ice cream in the District. No samples were taken. No manufacture of ice cream was carried on in the District, and no action was required to be taken under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 - 52.

## FOOD PREMISES

### Bakehouses

The number of bakehouses at the end of the year in operation was 11. No unsatisfactory conditions existed other than occasional neglect of lime-washing which was dealt with as a routine matter.



## Food Premises by type of Business

General provisions	...	32
Bread and Confectionery	...	14
Grocers	...	20
Butchers	...	10
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	6
Fishmongers	...	4
Sweets and Tobacco	...	8
Cafes and Restaurants	...	16
Public Houses and Hotels	...	73
Works Canteens	...	5

In addition to the premises registered for the sale of ice cream, and included in the above list, the following were the premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Fish Frying	...	4
Manufacture or preparation of sausages; pressed, pickled and preserved food	...	16

98 inspections of registered food premises were made during the year and no formal action was necessary.

## FOOD HYGIENE

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into force during 1956 and the occupiers of all food premises were notified of this and sent an abstract of the Regulations. A start was made in getting premises brought up to the new standard.

No Clean Food Campaigns were carried out although posters were distributed to food premises emphasising the need for cleanliness in the handling of food.



The Council adopted Byelaws for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air in 1951.

#### DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

The Bacon Factory at Dunmow disposes of condemned meat by digestion in steam vats to produce inedible fats; beef carcasses are disposed of to Knackers for boiling down for inedible fat or fertiliser; smaller parts are burnt or buried.

It was not necessary to make a special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food.

#### WASTE FOOD

Premises for the boiling of waste food were licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the Diseases of Animals (Licensing of Waste Food Sterilisation Plant) Order, 1954, at Fanns Farm, Takeley, and at Leaden Roding Piggeries, Leaden Roding.

-----

#### SHOPS

The inspection of shops under the Shops Act, 1950, was carried out during the year but no formal action was necessary. There were 173 shops entered in the Council's register. No certificates of Exemption were granted during the year.

#### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Recording stations for the measurement of atmospheric pollution were established during the year at Cutlers Green, Thaxted; Little Canfield; and Bran End, Stebbing, after consultation with the Fuel Research Station. The work of recording commenced in November. The Clean Air Act, 1956, came into force during the year and the Council resolved to make and adopt the amending Byelaw concerning the future installation of appliances to use only gas,



electricity, coke or anthracite.

#### AGRICULTURAL PREMISES

The Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956, came into force during the year and the Council decided to circulate to the 260 farms in the district an abstract of the new regulations which, as far as this Council are concerned, deal with the provision and maintenance of sanitary conveniences. This was being done at the end of the year.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The disinfection of one house was carried out during the year. Over 50 visits of investigation into cases of food poisoning and dysentery were made as well as 7 enquiries into houses occupied by persons suffering from tuberculosis and 2 enquiries into contacts with cases of poliomyelitis. These visits were carried out under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health.

#### VERMINOUS PREMISES

30 visits were made during the year and 8 premises were disinfested. The complaints were mainly of infestation by fleas, bugs, ants or flies. The standard form of treatment was spray with a 5 per cent solution of D.D.T., or Gammexane Smoke Generators. No major problem occurred although a number of complaints regarding an invasion of flies were received late in the year. The increase in the number of flies appeared to be general and may have been due to rotting crops and vegetation following the very wet weather.

Disinfestation of bedding was carried out as required in the plant maintained by Braintree U.D.C. or at the Herts and Essex General Hospital at Bishop's Stortford.



RODENT CONTROL

The following are details of action taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949:-

Details (i)	Type of Property				Total (vi)
	Local Authority (ii)	Dwelling Houses (iii)	Agricultural (iv)	Business premises (v)	
Number of Properties in Area	11	6,428	300 Included in (iii)	491	6,930
Premises inspected as a result of notification	-	73	2	7	82
Premises inspected as a result of survey under the Act	11	5	-	16	32
Total number of inspections (including re-inspections)	41	154	4	10	209
Number of properties found to be infested with rats:					
Major infestations	-	-	-	-	-
Minor infestation	11	40	2	7	60
Number of properties found to be seriously infested with mice	-	6	-	-	6
Number of infested premises treated by the Council's Public Health Inspectors	11	46	1	7	65
Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act	-	-	-	-	-

In addition to the above, treatments were carried out at the refuse tips at Merks Hill, Great Dunmow, which are privately owned.

Sewers

The Council's sewer systems at Little Dunmow, Felsted, Hatfield Broad Oak, Hatfield Heath, Broxted, Little Canfield, Thaxted, Great Dunmow and Stebbing were tested during the year. Great Dunmow and Thaxted are to be treated in 1957 and the remainder are to be left until April, 1958.



## Threshing of Stacks

It was necessary to draw the attention of two farmers to the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks) Regulations, 1950, during the year. The main item was the lack of a fence round the ricks when they were being threshed.

The Council co-operated with the Rodent Research Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, during the year in a Rick survey where details of the number of rats and mice found in selected stacks were taken.

## Rodent Control Course

One of the Council's Public Health Inspectors and two Operators attended a one-day refresher course at Chelmsford in November.

## RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS

There are no premises in the District where rag flock is manufactured or where filling materials are used, under the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

## PET ANIMALS

There was one enquiry during the year regarding the establishment of a Pet Shop under the Pet Animals Act, 1951, but no formal application had been made at the end of the year.



FACTORIES

Particulars of the premises registered by the Council under the Factories Act, 1937, and of the inspections made are to be found as follows:-

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

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of	
			Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	47	70	5	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	74	15	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
Totals	121	85	6	-

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)	3	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperatures (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	4	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	4	-	-	1	-
(c) not separate for sexes	1	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to out-Workers)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	12	-	-	1	-

OUT-WORKERS      There are no out-workers in the District



Means of Escape from Fire

At the request of H.M. Inspector of Factories, the means of escape from fire in factories were investigated and Certificates were issued in respect of 14 factories which came within the provisions of the Factories Acts.

Factory Name	Year	Days	Hours	Minutes	Seconds
Barnston	2	-	1	4	3
Broxton	1	-	-	-	-
Little Carlisle	2	-	-	-	-
Great Carlisle	2	-	-	-	-
Great Burnby	2	-	-	-	-
Little Burnby	1	-	-	-	-
Polstead	4	-	-	-	-
Great Hellingbury	3	-	-	-	-
Hatfield Broad Oak	1	-	-	-	-
Hatfield Heath	2	-	-	-	-
Leaden Roding	2	-	-	-	-
Stebbing	6	-	-	-	-
Takenby	6	-	-	-	-
Thaxted	7	-	-	-	-
White Roding	4	-	-	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>153</b>



MOVEABLE DWELLINGS  
(Tents, Vans and Sheds)

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

Parish	Sites	Vans	Tents	Huts	Adults	Children
Barnston	2	2	-	1	4	3
Broxted	1	1	-	-	1	-
Little Canfield	2	2	-	-	4	-
Great Canfield	2	2	-	-	3	-
Great Dunmow	5	8	-	-	15	2
Little Dunmow	1	1	-	-	1	-
Felsted	4	4	-	-	8	3
Great Hallingbury	3	4	-	-	7	2
Hatfield Broad Oak	1	1	-	-	2	-
Hatfield Heath	3	13	-	2	21	14
Leaden Roding	2	2	-	-	3	-
Stebbing	6	12	-	2	20	15
Takeley	6	118	-	-	230	100
Thaxted	7	9	-	-	16	12
White Roding	4	5	2	4	14	8
Totals	49	184	2	9	349	159

47 of the sites have access to main water supply and 2 sites have water supplies from a well and spring respectively. The sanitary accommodation is mainly chemical or earth closets with water closets on the larger sites.

The bulk of the vans are sited on the three sites adjoining Stansted Airport in the parish of Takeley.



The following table gives the location of those sites which contain

3 or more caravans:-

Caravan Sites

Location	<u>Public Health Act</u>		<u>Planning Acts</u>
	to use land	to use caravans	Planning permission
Mount Coopers End, Takeley	20	14	20
Opins, Coopers End, Takeley	-	25	50
Wagon & Horses, Hatfield Heath	-	5	7
Wagon Farm, Stebbing	3 caravans 1 hut 1 tent	1	-
Wagonspur Green, Little Bardfield	2 caravans 6 tents	-	-
Wagon Wood, Great Dunmow	-	-	6 (Mar. to Oct.)
Wagon, Lindsell	-	-	6 caravans 12 tents
Wagonbridge Meadow, Hatfield Heath	3 caravans 3 tents	5 caravans 2 huts	-
Wagon Waterings, Stebbing	17	-	-
Wagon Bassingbourne Hall, Takeley	50	-	50
Wagon End, Takeley	4	-	-
Wagon Stebbing Green, Stebbing	-	-	-

The numbers shown are those for which the sites are licensed and not the number of caravans which are on the sites at the present time.

Evidence was given to the Rural District Councils Association during the year on the present confusion between Public Health Acts and the Town and Country Planning Acts on the licensing of sites for moveable dwellings and it is hoped that legislation will be passed before long to simplify the present law.



## OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

### Public Conveniences

Public Conveniences owned by the Council are situated in Great Dunmow and Thaxted. An income of some £85 was received from them during the year.

### Burial of the Dead

Arrangements for the burial of an unknown man were made during the year under the provisions of Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. A total of 12 burials have been arranged since the passing of the Act.

The Burial Acts 1852 - 1906 have not been adopted by any parish in the District.

A meeting was held at Chelmsford in January to consider the proposed Crematorium at Chelmsford. It was decided that the project should be deferred for a further twelve months.

### Petroleum and Carbide of Calcium

At the end of the year there were 129 licences issued for the storage of petroleum (including 30 for re-sale), and 5 licences for the storage of Carbide of Calcium.

### Parking Places

The question of 'bus parking in Great Dunmow was discussed but no decision had been reached at the end of the year.

### Naming and Numbering of Streets

Arrangements for the numbering of houses at Windmill Close, Great Dunmow, and Station Road, Felsted, were made during the year.

### Control of Dogs

In December the question of Section 15 of the Road Traffic Act, 1956, concerning the control of dogs on roads, was being discussed and it was decided to make an approach to the Police Authorities in the first instance.



## Street Lighting

Street lighting powers under the Lighting and Watching Act, 1833, are exercised by the parishes of Barnston, Felsted, Great Dunmow and Thaxted.

## Litter

Following complaints of litter in the District the Police were asked to take action against offenders in accordance with the County Council Good Rule and Management Byelaws.

## Byelaws

During the year the Council made Byelaws relating to the Sanitary Conditions and Management of Private Slaughterhouses which came into effect on 1st. September. The Byelaws of 1930 were repealed.

In December the Council submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government draft amending byelaws under Section 17 of the Water Act, 1945, concerning protection of water fittings from frost.

The following is a list of the Council's Byelaws now in force:-

Byelaws for securing cleanliness in premises of hairdressers or barbers.

Byelaws with respect to houses occupied by persons of the working classes.

Byelaws with respect to new streets.

Byelaws for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air.

Building Byelaws.

Byelaws for preventing waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water.

Byelaws relating to sanitary conditions, management and keeping of records for Knackers' Yards.

Byelaws for the sanitary conditions and management of private slaughterhouses.

The Essex River Board's new Land Drainage Byelaws (Main River) 1955, came into force on 21st. September, 1956.



New Legislation

The following Acts, which affect the duties of the Council, were passed in 1956:-

- Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.
- Clean Air Act, 1956.
- Housing Subsidies Act, 1956.
- Road Traffic Act, 1956.
- Sanitary Inspectors(Change of Designation) Act, 1956.
- Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act, 1956.
- Small Lotteries and Gaming Act, 1956.







