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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DUNMOW

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1968

together with the

REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR





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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DUNMOW  
HEALTH, ESTATES AND WORKS COMMITTEE

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Vice-Chairman: W. F. Dorman, Esq.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

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

Chief Public Health Inspector:-

G. L. FIELD, M.A.P.H.I.  
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:-

D. R. JONES, M.A.P.H.I.  
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Additional Public Health Inspector:-

R. M. SECKER, M.A.P.H.I.  
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Meat Inspectors:-

W. G. MOODIE

D. F. M. FREEMANTLE

G. WEBSTER  
(to 27th April)

J. KERNAHAN  
(from 24th June to 27th September)

A. J. R. CANDRON  
(from 18th November)

Chief Clerk:-

G. H. MASON

Secretary:-

Miss I. M. HUME

Public Health Offices,  
Town Hall,  
Braintree.

May, 1969

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report for 1968 on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the district. I wrote my first report in 1956 and this will be my last and at the outset I would like to thank the Councillors past and present for making my period in office such a happy one.

This report follows on the same broad lines as previous ones, I have resisted, as far as possible, the temptation to reminisce but have allowed myself to make a few comparisons when referring to Infectious disease and Sewage.

I have to thank Dr. Slattery the Area Medical Officer for West Essex for providing statistics of the work done at the various Essex County Council Clinics in the district.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

The Registrar General's estimate of population is 23,490 an increase of 240 over 1967.

The corrected birth rate at 16.5 per 1,000 estimated population is down on last year's figure of 19.1 and is close to the national average of 16.9.

There were only 4 infant deaths giving an infantile mortality rate of 11 per 1,000 live births, this figure is well below the national average of 18.0.

Three of the babies that died were premature and the other death was due to brain haemorrhage.

#### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

As usual measles tops the list, there were 150 cases. The largest number came from Great Dunmow in the month of October. One hopes that this figure will be greatly reduced in subsequent years owing to the introduction of the measles vaccine.

Poliomyelitis and diphtheria show a nil return.

One of the most spectacular successes in preventive medicine within recent years has been the control of poliomyelitis by the vaccine.



Our last case occurred in 1957, but I must emphasize that poliomyelitis could come back, the only safeguard is the vaccine. The same applies to diphtheria.

There is really no excuse these days for parents not having their children immunised, it is done by all the family doctors and at the Essex County Council Clinics. The modern triple vaccine protects against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. The measles and poliomyelitis vaccines are given separately.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

Your Chief Public Health Inspector has given you a full and competent report on environmental hygiene. The introduction of a weekly refuse collection scheme is a big step forward but you will note that we may soon be running into difficulties in finding suitable tipping space. Some other method of disposal may be the answer.

The most difficult and the most expensive task of the Public Health Committee is to provide adequate sewerage and sewage disposal facilities and this applies especially in a scattered rural district. The job has to be done bit by bit because there is never enough money to do the lot at one go. Furthermore schemes get held up by Government squeezes and perfectly good completed works seem to become overloaded and out of date in an amazingly short time. Indeed we can say with Alice in Wonderland as she tried to walk up the downcoming moving staircase - We have to walk so fast to keep in the same place. Be that as it may the Dunmow Council by careful planning has achieved a great deal during the past fourteen years. In 1956 I wrote "to some extent the excellence of your water supplies throws into relief the deficiencies in your sewage disposal; there are still a number of villages that have to make do with cesspools and other unhygienic contrivances".

A great deal has been achieved during the last 14 years and of course much remains to be done. The record of the work done is quite formidable and I summarise it below.

- (a) Completion of modernisation of the Great Dunmow works and the complete sewerage of the parish of Stebbing.
- (b) Barnston (new works)
- (c) Takeley (new works)
- (d) Little Hallingbury (new works)
- (e) Little Easton (pump to the Valley Works)
- (f) High Roding (new works)
- (g) White Roding (new works)
- (h) High Easter (new works)



- (i) Causeway End, Felsted to existing works
- (j) Willows Green, Felsted (new works)
- (k) Further extensions in the remaining parts of Great Easton and Duton Hill to Valley Works
- (l) Chelmsford Road, Hatfield Heath and enlargement of works including a pumping station to take Hatfield Broad Oak at a future date
- (m) Little Hallingbury further extensions to existing works
- (n) Broxton remaining parts to new Oxigest Plant
- (o) Leaden and Margaret Roding new works
- (p) Lower Chelmer Valley Scheme with new disposal works at Felsted was near completion by the end of 1968

Plans for carrying on the good work are now being considered e.g. at Great Hallingbury, Mole Hill Green, Hatfield Heath and no doubt others will follow.

On housing there is not much to report although it is gratifying to note that the number of applicants on the housing list dropped from 362 in 1967 to 305 in 1968.

The Council only completed 7 houses during the year but 65 were under construction. The private builders had 53 under construction at the end of the year.

In concluding this preamble I would like to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for the sustained interest and help they have shown in helping us to tackle our problems. I am also grateful to Mr. Field and his staff and indeed the officers in other departments for their full co-operation at all times. A special thank you to Mr. Mason who has done so much to prepare this and previous reports.

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)	... 72,834
Population (Registrar General's estimate mid-1968)	... 23,490
Number of houses according to rate books	... 8,008
Rateable value	... £808,991
Sum represented by a penny rate	... £3,190

## VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	355	176	179
Illegitimate	21	7	14
Total live births - 376			

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	... 16.0
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	... 5.6
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.03	... 16.5
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population	... 16.9

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	5	4	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births ... 13.0			
Total live and still births - 381			
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales ... 14.0			

<u>Infant Deaths</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 year			
Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	1	1	-
Total infant deaths - 4			

## Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	... 11.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	... 8.4
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... 47.6
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	... 11.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	... 11.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still deaths)	... 24.0
Infantile Mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births	... 18.0

## Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	... Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	... Nil

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	236	119	117

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	... 10.0
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.98	... 9.8
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	... 11.9



# DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1968

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the classification is given under the sixty-five headings based on the International Abbreviated List 1968. Only those cause headings with deaths allocated to them are shown, headings with no deaths allocated to them are omitted.

In previous years the 1948 classification with 36 headings was used and all headings were shown whether deaths were allocated to them or not.

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	8	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	...	...	18	11
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	...	...	-	1
Anaemias	...	...	-	1
Mental disorders	...	...	-	1
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	...	...	-	2
Hypertensive disease	...	...	1	3
Ischaemic heart disease	...	...	22	19
Other forms of heart disease	...	...	4	4
Cerebrovascular disease	...	...	15	24
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	10	8
Influenza	...	...	1	1
Pneumonia	...	...	11	11
Bronchitis and emphysema	...	...	6	4
Asthma	...	...	1	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	1	-
Peptic ulcer	...	...	4	-
Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system	...	...	-	5
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	2	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	...	...	1	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	...	...	-	3
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	...	...	3	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	...	...	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	2	1
All other accidents	...	...	4	1
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	...	...	1	1
All other external causes	...	...	-	1
Total All Causes			119	117



# 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  
1st January to 31st December 1968:-

			<u>Attendances</u>
<u>GREAT DUNMOW</u> - Essex County Health Services Clinic, New Street			
Child Welfare	1st Friday	10 a.m.)	1,237
	Every other Friday	2 p.m.)	
Women's Welfare Clinic	Every six weeks		
	Thursday	10 a.m.	36
Cytology Clinic	3rd Friday	9.30 a.m.	48
School Clinic	2nd & 4th Monday	9.30 a.m.	97
Dental Clinic	Tuesday & Wednesday all day	10 a.m.	476
<u>FELSTED</u> - Memorial Hall			
Child Welfare	2nd Tuesday	2 p.m.	219
<u>GREAT EASTON</u> - Village Hall			
Child Welfare	Last Friday	2 p.m.	114
<u>HATFIELD BROAD OAK</u> - Village Hall			
Child Welfare	2nd Tuesday	2 p.m.	229
<u>HATFIELD HEATH</u> - Congregational Church Hall			
Child Welfare	3rd Tuesday	2 p.m.	442
<u>HIGH RODING</u> - Women's Institute			
Weighing Session	1st Thursday	2 p.m.	88
<u>STEBBING</u> - Congregational Schoolroom			
Child Welfare	2nd Friday	2 p.m.)	177
Weighing Session	4th Thursday	2.30 p.m.)	
<u>TAKELEY</u> - Village Hall			
Child Welfare	2nd Monday	2 p.m.	375
<u>THAXTED</u> - Church Hall			
Child Welfare	1st Friday	2 p.m.	295

(ii) Home Help Service:-

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office,  
Moot House Annexe, The Stow, Harlow.

(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.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

DISEASES	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	4	-	-
Measles	150	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	5	3	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	11	-	-
Totals	173	4	-



INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASES	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over	Age unknown
Diphtheria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dysentery	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Encephalitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Enteric Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Infective Hepatitis	4	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles	150	7	18	22	19	17	62	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	11	1	2	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	173	8	21	23	22	18	68	1	1	3	2	3	-	3

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1968

DISEASES	Total Notified	Aythorpe Roding	Little Bardfield	Barnston	Broxted	Great Canfield	Little Canfield	Chickney	Great Dunmow	Little Dunmow	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	150	3	-	9	1	4	3	-	74	7	6	4	14	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	5	13	4	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-
Totals	173	3	-	9	2	4	3	-	78	7	7	4	21	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	6	15	8	-	-



INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

DISEASES	Total Notified	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Measles	150	3	3	9	10	2	1	-	6	12	83	18	3
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	5	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	11	2	3	-	1	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-
Totals	173	7	6	11	12	3	2	4	9	14	83	18	4

# TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 34	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-

Of these, two were cases re-notified on taking up residence in the District during 1968.



# VACCINATION & IMMUNISATION

<u>Primary Courses</u>	<u>By General Practitioners</u>	<u>By County Staff</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	332	47	379
Diphtheria & Tetanus	15	-	15
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Tetanus	15	-	15
Polionyelitis	330	60	390
Smallpox	294	-	294
Measles	345	54	399
<u>Reinforcing Doses</u>			
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	165	21	186
Diphtheria & Tetanus	176	15	191
Diphtheria	2	-	2
Tetanus	73	1	74
Polionyelitis	353	42	395
Smallpox	43	4	47

January, 1969

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is my third annual report on the work of the Public Health Department, and I am pleased to say that it covers a year which has shown considerable improvement in the provision of public health services to the district.

The Council's Refuse Collection service was improved with the provision of a weekly collection to all the district from 1st April and from that date a free collection of bulky domestic refuse was undertaken on request from householders, this not being confined to six weeks in the summer as in the past but being available throughout the year.

The Lower Chelmer Valley Sewerage Scheme was virtually completed by the end of the year and it was anticipated that it would be brought into operation early in January 1969. Trouble was experienced at the Hatfield Heath Sewage Works resulting in an unsatisfactory effluent, which necessitated considerable remedial works including the replacement of the filter media.

Meat inspection continued to account for a large amount of the work done by the Department with again a rise in the number of animals inspected from 115,864 to 134,078. This is twice the number of animals slaughtered and inspected in 1961.

The development of the Wagon Mead Housing Site at Hatfield Heath was being undertaken by the Council and construction of the 23 flats planned for this site was well under way by the end of the year. At the Waldgroves Estate in Great Dunmow the Council planned to provide a mixed development of 75 units of accommodation, comprising houses, bungalows and flats and the Contract had been let for the Contractor to commence work in January 1969. At both sites it is proposed to employ the paper sack system of refuse collection.

The new appointment of Additional Public Health Inspector to which the Council agreed last year was filled by Mr. R. M. Secker who commenced duties on 20th May. On the Meat Inspection staff Mr. G. Webster left the Council's employ on 27th April and was replaced by Mr. J. Kernahan who left three months later on obtaining a more senior post. Mr. A. J. L. Cawdron was appointed to fill the vacancy and commenced duties on 18th November.



I wish to express my appreciation to the Council for their support and to the other Chief Officers and their staff for their assistance. I am also most grateful to the Department's technical and clerical staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

Yours faithfully,

G. L. FIELD

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### (a) Public Water Supplies

Water supplies in the district are provided by the Lee Valley Water Company. During the year supplies were adequate and given on a subsequent page are details of the population served by mains water by parishes.

#### Fluoride

The Fluoride content of the water supply was as follows:-

Thaxted (Borough Bridge) ...	0.45 part per million
Dunmow ...	1.0 part per million

#### Analysis

2 samples of water were taken for analysis and both were found to be satisfactory. A copy of a report on a sample by the Counties Public Health Laboratory appears on a following page.

### (b) Private Water Supplies

Samples of water were taken from two wells serving two pairs of isolated Council houses and in both cases the water proved to be unsatisfactory for drinking purposes. The Council decided to sink deep bores in both cases and tenders had been accepted for this work for an early commencement.

### (c) Swimming Baths

No public swimming baths are provided in the district but the pools at the Dunmow Primary School, Dunmow Secondary Modern School, Great Easton Primary School and Felsted School continued to be used and a new one was provided at Stebbing School and came into use during the summer. These were all inspected regularly and samples of the water submitted for bacteriological examination all of which proved satisfactory. In addition to the daily checks on the chlorine content and acidity of the water by the schools staff a weekly check was made by a Public Health Inspector. High pH readings gave cause for concern at three of the pools, this was due to alkalinity of the water, which above a certain level caused irritation to the eyes of the bathers. The reason for the high level of alkalinity was found to be due to continued use of a particular material for chlorination. It was necessary to increase the acidity by adding sodium bisulphate to secure a suitable pH reading to ensure comfort for the bathers. Where chlorine producing pills were used in the pools this trouble was not experienced.



Lee Valley Water Company

Tap over sink, 11 Magdalen Green, Thaxted

Chemical Results in Parts Per Million

Appearance: Clear and bright		Turbidity:	Nil
Colour	Nil	Odour	Nil
pH	7.4	Free Carbon Dioxide	25
Electric Conductivity	810	Dissolved Solids dried at 180°	540
Chlorine present as Chloride	36	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	290
Hardness: Total	410	Carbonate: 290 Non-carbonate:	120
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.2	Nitrite Nitrogen	approx.0.1
Ammoniacal Nitrogen*	0.01	Oxygen Absorbed	0.20
Albuminoid Nitrogen*	0.00	Residual Chlorine	absent
Metals: Iron, Zinc, Copper: absent			
Lead: Not detected (Less than 0.02)			

\*To convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction slightly on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The water is very hard in character but contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water, from the aspect of the chemical analysis. The high hardness will have disadvantages for uses with soap.

21st June, 1968

Counties Public Health Laboratories

POPULATION IN EACH PARISH HAVING MAIN WATER SUPPLY

Parish	No. of Houses	Estimated Population (mid-68)	No. of houses on main supply	Estimated Population on main supply
Aythorpe Roding	79	230	73	213
Little Bardfield	90	241	72	206
Barnston	134	386	129	340
Broxted	200	577	195	560
Great Canfield	138	365	131	346
Little Canfield	116	345	111	340
Chickney	12	36	5	25
Great Dunmow	1,589	4,394	1,545	4,238
Little Dunmow	137	404	128	350
Great Easton	277	720	265	698
Little Easton	146	342	125	312
Felsted	827	2,937	792	2,870
Great Hallingbury	325	961	287	930
Little Hallingbury	422	1,235	406	1,200
Hatfield Broad Oak	937	2,578	902	2,340
High Easter	217	608	201	563
High Roding	144	419	139	338
Leaden Roding	119	355	118	346
Lindsell	79	207	77	205
Margaret Roding	70	211	69	206
Stebbing	400	1,155	383	1,108
Takeley	621	2,269	614	2,200
Thaxted	783	2,094	778	1,987
Tilty	20	65	19	55
White Roding	126	356	118	320
	8,008	23,490	7,682	22,296



## DRAINAGE AND SANITATION

### (a) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The report on this subject has been prepared by the Engineer and Surveyor who is responsible for this service and I am grateful to him for his assistance.

There are 14 sewage disposal works and 19 sewage pumping stations in the district and also 6 sewage treatment plants on Council House estates.

#### Connections to sewers

During the year 65 new properties were connected to the Council's sewers.

#### Sewerage Contracts

##### Lower Chelmer Valley Sewerage Scheme

This scheme was completed at the end of the year and Phase II which deals with the trade waste from the sugar factory was in progress. The formal opening of these works had to be deferred owing to the waterlogged nature of the site and the formal opening will now take place early in the New Year.

##### Hatfield Heath Sewage Works

Considerable difficulties were experienced at these works and following a report by the sewerage Consultants concerning the overloading of the works, urgent steps were taken to put immediate short term modifications in hand and these were in progress at the end of the year.

##### Sewer, Mill Road, Felsted

The extension of the sewer in Mill Road was completed during the year.

### (b) Pail Closet Conversion

3 applications were made under Section 47 Public Health Act, 1936 for financial assistance in the conversion of pail closets to water closets and in each case the Council agreed to pay half of the reasonable expense incurred. During the year 1 conversion was carried out at a cost to the Council of £50.

### (c) Cesspool Emptying

In 1967 the Council decided as a matter of policy to undertake cesspool emptying in the district. This was considered again when tenders were obtained and at the same time an estimate of the cost of doing the work by direct labour was submitted. In view of the economic situation and the request by Central Government to Local Authorities to curb expenditure the provision of this service was temporarily deferred, but was to be reconsidered early in 1969.



(d) Disposal of Farm Wastes

Intensive farming undoubtedly results in increased crops and numbers of animals reared when compared with the more traditional methods of farming, but it can also, unless very strictly controlled, cause nuisance from the increase in waste materials produced. More animals result in more manure and there is often too little land available on which to dispose of it. This is particularly so where there are intensive poultry and pig rearing units, and very considerable nuisance can be caused if the manure is allowed to go septic before spraying on land. It is difficult to recommend any method of disposal which will not create a nuisance and several methods have been or are going to be tried in this district. They include spraying on an area of land reserved specifically for that purpose by using mobile spraying equipment, retention of solid material in an underground tank and pumping the liquid to an open lagoon for oxidation prior to spraying on the land and the third method of pumping the solid and liquid material to an open lagoon. One of the latter taking piggery drainage gave rise to considerable nuisance from smell and it was arranged that the owner would treat it with chlorine in the form of bleaching powder in an attempt to abate the nuisance. This treatment was carried out just as a spell of cold weather occurred and, whilst the nuisance was abated, we were unable to state if it was because of the chlorination, the change of weather conditions or a combination of both. I am of the opinion that the success of any of these methods of disposal is a gamble as they can be as great a success in some ventures as they can be failures in another. There is no doubt that much more research has to be carried out in this field of waste disposal.



## HOUSING

### (a) Slum Clearance

During the year under review 4 unfit properties were demolished and 4 dwellings made fit for human habitation. Demolition Orders were made in respect of 3 dwellings and Undertakings were accepted in respect of 6 others. In respect of one property the Owner did not comply with the Demolition Order and as he lived away from the district asked the Council to arrange for demolition. Tenders were obtained for this work, the building demolished and the cost made a charge on the property to be defrayed over an agreed period.

Towards the end of the year steps were taken to increase progress in dealing with unfit properties in an endeavour to complete the Council's original slum Clearance Programme at an early date.

### (b) Remedy of Defects and Disrepair to Private Houses

Following informal action defects or disrepair at 4 properties were attended to by the owners.

### (c) Rent Act, 1957

No applications were received for certificates of Disrepair.

Given below are tabulated details of housing action taken during the year:-

#### 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)   | ... 146 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose  | ... 160 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations                           | ... 142 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose  | ... 148 |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation                                    | ... 7   |
| (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 | ... Nil |

#### 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	... 4
---	-------

#### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

##### A - Proceedings under Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961

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



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

- |   |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|
| (a) By owners                                 | ... | 1   |
| (b) By Local Authorities in default of owners | ... | Nil |

B - Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

- |   |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:  |     |     |
| (a) By owners   | ... | 4   |
| (b) By Local Authorities in default of owners   | ... | Nil |

C - Proceedings under Sections 16 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

- |   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | 3 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders    | ... | 4 |
| (3) Number of written undertakings accepted                                   | ... | 1 |

D - Proceedings under Sections 17, 19 and 27 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

- |                                   |     |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of Closing Orders made | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of houses demolished   | ... | Nil |

E - Proceedings under Section 27 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

- |   |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of Demolition Orders revoked | ... | Nil |
|---|-----|-----|

F - Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

- |  |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of Closing Orders revoked and Demolition Orders substituted | ... | Nil |
|--|-----|-----|

G - Proceedings under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

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

H - Proceedings under Sections 34 and 53 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

- |  |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|
| (1) Licences in force for temporary occupation | ... | Nil |
|--|-----|-----|

4. Overcrowding - Part IV, Housing Act, 1957

No action was necessary during the year.

The information contained in the remainder of this section on Housing has been supplied by the Engineer and Surveyor.



## Council Housing

New Building during 1968 was as follows:-

Number of Council houses completed	...	7
Number of Council houses under construction at end of the year	...	65
Number of Council houses approved but not commenced at end of year	...	75

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

Pre-War houses	...	673
Cottages purchased post-war	...	12
Post-war houses	...	1,039
		<hr/> 1,724 <hr/>

The houses by types are as follows:-

1-bed houses	...	2
2-bed houses	...	163
3-bed houses	...	1,131
3-bed house/shop	...	1
4-bed houses	...	39
1-bed bungalows	...	93
2-bed bungalows	...	193
1-bed flats	...	10
2-bed flats	...	92

12 houses have been sold to tenants (7 pre-war and 5 post-war)

## Housing Applications

There are 305 applications for Council houses at 31st December.

During the year there were 71 re-lettings.

## Private Housing

New Building during 1968 was as follows:-

Number of Private houses completed	...	53
Number of houses built by other authorities	...	Nil
Number of Private houses under construction at end of year	...	61
Number of Private houses with detail plans approved but not commenced at end of year	...	212
Number of Private houses covered by outline approvals other than single houses	...	120
Number of conversions completed	...	Nil
Number of conversions in progress at end of year	...	6
Number of conversions approved but not started	...	16
Number of houses under construction by other authorities	...	Nil

## Total building since the War

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

Council houses	... 1,032
Housing Associations	... 12
Private houses	... 1,878
Essex County Council	... 30
	<u>2,952</u>

## Grants

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959

## Housing Acts, 1961/1964

	<u>Discretionary Grant Schemes</u>	<u>Standard Grant Schemes</u>
(a) Number of Applications received	9	25
(b) Number of Applications approved by Council	6	30
(c) Number of Improved dwellings resulting from works at (b)	6	30
(d) Number of Improved dwellings completed	13	22
(e) Total amount involved in Grants approved	£1,336	
(f) Actual amount paid in respect of the Standard Grant Schemes completed at (d)		£4,706

Since the issue of grants began in 1949 the Council have approved applications totalling £271,499 in respect of 1,077 properties.

## Agricultural Dwellings

No applications for agricultural grants were made during the year.



## PUBLIC CLEANSING

### Refuse Collection and Disposal and Vehicle Maintenance

<u>Staff</u>	1 Foreman
	1 Vehicle Mechanic
	5 Driver/Loaders
	10 Loaders
	1 Tractor Driver
	1 Female Paper Baler
<u>Vehicles</u>	2 No. Shelvoke & Drewry 50 cu. yd. Pakamatics
	3 No. Karrier 25 cu. yd. "Dual Tip"
	1 No. Dennis 18 cu. yd. Paxit Ram Loader (Reserve)
	1 No. Morris 1000 Pick-up Truck
	1 No. International B.T.D. 8 Drott crawler tractor with 4 in 1 Bucket

### Collection

For the first three months of the year the old arrangements for refuse collection continued namely a weekly service in Great Dunmow and fortnightly elsewhere. During this period arrangements were being made for the introduction of a weekly service for the whole of the rural district and this came into effect on Monday 1st April. It had necessitated the purchase of 2 No. Shelvoke & Drewry 50 cu. yd. Pakamatics at a capital cost of £10,700 and employing initially 5 additional men. The refuse rounds were completely re-organised to employ the two large vehicles on the larger more built-up villages and two of the Karriers on the smaller and outlying villages. Each Pakamatic was staffed with a driver/loader and 3 loaders, one Karrier with a driver/loader and 2 loaders, and a second Karrier with a driver/loader and a loader. As could be expected the new service was not brought in without some teething troubles what with having new vehicles, new rounds and also a number of new men but despite this every round was completed each day although a considerable amount of overtime was necessary to achieve this. After a month's operation it was found that whilst overtime had been considerably reduced a point had been reached where further reduction was not possible on certain rounds. The solution to this was found by putting one of the two reserve vehicles (the Karrier) on the road full time and staffing the 3 Karriers each with a driver/loader and a loader. Some of the rounds where difficulty was experienced were reduced and this work done by the third Karrier which meant that it was employed full time on normal refuse collection for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  days per week and the remaining  $1\frac{1}{2}$  days it was used to carry out special collections of bulky domestic refuse which was undertaken at the same time as the weekly service was started. With this arrangement the difficulties encountered in completing collections with other than nominal overtime



were overcome and the service settled down for a time to run comparatively smoothly.

On 24th June the men were disgruntled with the bonus payment and went on unofficial strike following which their employment was terminated. After eight days with no refuse collection agreement was reached between the Council and the Trade Union for the men to return to work while discussions took place on a new bonus structure. Negotiations took place and the Council and the Trade Union reached a settlement on a completely new Agreement and bonus structure which was to be submitted to the Prices and Incomes Board for approval.

One disquieting problem on staffing was the amount of absenteeism, particularly evident after the increase in the labour force and more so in the last half of the year. In the period 1st January - 30th June 53½ man days were lost through sickness and 6 days for no reason, but in the period 1st July - 31st December 38 days were lost through sickness and 62 days for no particular reason. As can be imagined staffing the vehicles was at times extremely difficult and was only possible by the good will of the men who went out on lorries undercrewed and worked late to finish the rounds. The staffing establishment allows for "one spare man" to cover for holidays, sickness, etc., and while this was adequate up to 1st April, it is now very apparent that for considerable periods more than one spare man is required and this has been, to some extent, overcome by employing temporary labour.

The new system of collection, whereby a skip collection was dispensed with and the bin collected from the rear of the house, emptied and left just inside the boundary of the property came in for criticism from some householders but this method became generally accepted albeit somewhat reluctantly. Whilst this method does keep down the cost of collection, it is hoped that the Council will in due course look towards a paper sack system for the whole district.

#### Disposal

Controlled tipping continued at Merks Hill, Dunmow and the area in use when the year opened was filled by the end of February and the final area available on this site was brought into use. Very shallow tipping - not more than 3'0" deep - took place in the first section but as we progressed across the area tipping to a greater depth was practicable. To enable tipping to be carried out nearby 2,000 tons of soil which had in previous years been stockpiled on the site had to be moved and it was found possible to excavate a considerable



amount of inert material from the site to act as primary cover. This work, in addition to the levelling of fresh refuse, was carried out by the Council's own crawler tractor which since its purchase in August 1966 has proved to be most satisfactory equipment. 4,500 tons of soil were purchased at a cost of £500 for final cover to the completed tip from the local Beet Sugar Factory. In addition a considerable tonnage of soil was brought onto the tip in use by a Contractor on a nearby Housing Site and by other Contractors at no cost to the Council.

The problem remained that tipping space was only available until early 1970 and to obtain a new refuse tip was a matter of the utmost importance. Planning permission had been refused the previous year in respect of a 25 acre site at Thaxted and the Public Inquiry was deferred. A compulsory purchase order was made in respect of this site so that an inquiry dealing with this and the planning appeal could be heard at the same time, and the Inquiry was to have been held on 12th December. However the landowner applied for and obtained planning permission to extract sand from some 15 acres of land within a mile of the appeal site and offered to allow the Council to refill the excavation with refuse. An application for planning permission to do so was made in November and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was asked to defer the Inquiry until after a decision had been made on the planning application for the alternative site.

#### Salvage

Waste paper continued to be baled as in the latter part of the previous year on piece work at a rate per bale. It is found that with this method loose paper is not allowed to accumulate in the store, it being baled the day after it is brought in.

63 tons 17 cwt. were sent to the Mills resulting in a gross income of £546 15s.9d.

#### Litter

The Anti-Litter Campaign which had been organised in recent years was discontinued with the advent of the weekly collection of refuse. A free collection of bulky domestic refuse is now available on request throughout the year, which should be an improvement over the previous arrangements where accumulations of this material had to be stored until collection was arranged in June or July. During the period the new service was in operation over 100 collections were made.

3 additional litter baskets were erected during the year and 4 replacements provided. There are now 93 litter baskets which have been erected in the district by the Council.



Litter is removed regularly from 8 lay-bys on the public highway on behalf of the County Highways Department which resulted in an income of £33 16s. 0d. for the service provided.

#### Abandoned Vehicles

The arrangements for the removal of abandoned vehicles continued to work smoothly and 5 cars, 1 lorry and 1 caravan were removed and eventually broken up.

It was reported last year that under the Civic Amenities Act 1967 arrangements had been made for residents of the district to dump old cars free of charge at two car breakers yards. Only two enquiries were made of this service however despite the publicity given.

#### Public Conveniences

As in previous years the Council maintain public conveniences at Great Dunmow, Thaxted, Felsted and Hatfield Heath all of which are cleaned by part time staff.

It is strange how certain individuals apparently get enjoyment from damaging these buildings. Windows and door furniture are regularly broken and the polystyrene ceiling tiles, which were used to help reduce frost damage, are melted by holding lighted matches or cigarette lighters under them. Even the letters denoting the men's and women's sections are removed. The interior and exterior of the Hatfield Heath conveniences were redecorated in the Autumn.

#### Vehicle Maintenance

In addition to the vehicles enumerated at the beginning of the Public Cleansing Section the Mechanic is also responsible for the maintenance of 2 Land Rovers, 1 Ford Transit Van, 1 Morris 1000 Van, 1 Fordson Dexta Tractor and miscellaneous mobile pumps and grass cutting equipment operated by the Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

Apart from routine maintenance and servicing the following major work was carried out during the year.

1. Replacement of hopper floor in Dennis Paxit.
2. Overhaul of engine in Karrier 2.
3. Major overhaul of engine, including replacing broken crankshaft, new bearings, replacing cylinder liners and pistons in Karrier 3.
4. Overhauling hydraulic rams and tipping gear on Karrier 3.
5. Renewing electrical system of International Drott following fire from electrical fault.
6. Replacing tracks, rollers, sprockets and idlers on International Drott.
7. Replacing gear box in Karrier 4.
8. Replacing clutch in Karriers 3 and 4 and long wheel base Land Rover.
9. Complete overhaul of two mobile sewage pumps.



The only work carried out by outside contractors are such things as cylinder boring and crankshaft grinding. Sending the Mechanic to Perkins Engines for a one week course on engines has certainly proved most beneficial to the Council in view of the amount of work which had to be done to the engines of the vehicles this year.

One of the time consuming jobs with vehicle maintenance is getting the spares, for whilst we receive very good service on the whole there are the odd parts which have to be obtained from the manufacturer and when we are told that the part cannot be sent for a week because the computer has to be programmed then one wonders how much progress has been made in this electronic age. On one occasion a refuse vehicle was off the road for a week because we were unable to obtain a small part locally, the cost of the part when it came was 12/6d. I must say, however, that the distributors of the majority of our vehicles give a good spares service and they cannot be expected to keep every spare of every type of vehicle for which they are agent.

I must also express my appreciation to certain of the local garages and plant operators who have helped us out, by loaning special tools which we do not possess, on the odd occasions we have required them.

## INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The Council's Public Health Inspectors made 3,696 visits and inspections in the course of the year. Details of these are given below:-

Complaints received and investigated ... 151

### Inspections under Housing Acts

Housing inspections ... 147

Housing applications verified ... 46

Housing applications verified for other  
local authorities ... 16

### Inspections under Public Health Acts

Caravan Sites ... 146

Offensive accumulations ... 67

Water supplies ... 18

Drainage, cesspools, etc. ... 141

Ponds, ditches and watercourses ... 48

Refuse Collection and Disposal ... 500

### Infectious Disease Prevention

Visits to private houses ... 75

### Factories, Shops and Schools

Factories ... 16

Schools ... 10

### Food and Drugs Act

Slaughterhouses ... 46

Bakehouses ... 5

Cafes, restaurants and canteens ... 4

Hotels and Public Houses ... 5

Dairies and Milk Roundsmen ... 1

Other Food Premises (Grocers etc.) ... 23

### Sampling

Water ... 30

Other Foods ... 1

### Rodent Control

Visits ... 155

Treatments ... 142

### Clean Air Act

Visits ... 2



Petroleum Regulations

Licensing and Pressure and Seepage tests .... 94

Swimming Pools ... 63

Swill Boiling Plants ... 1

Meat Inspection visits ... 1,692

Animal Boarding Establishments ... 3

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises ... 48

Searches ... 673

Nuisances Detected and Notices Served

Nuisances detected ... 151

Informal notices served ... 15

Notices outstanding 1st January, 1968 ... 2

Notices outstanding 31st December, 1968 ... 6

Statutory Notices served ... 1

Legal Proceedings ... 4

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Meat Inspection

As in the past slaughtering was carried out at the Dunmow Fitch Bacon Factory, the Hatfield Heath Abattoir and at 5 smaller establishments. At one other licensed slaughterhouse no slaughtering was carried out and it appears doubtful if it will be used again.

The majority of meat inspection was carried out at the Bacon Factory and the Abattoir and to a lesser extent at Messrs. Archer and Low, slaughterhouse in Dunmow.

The number of animals inspected again showed an increase over the previous year from 115,864 to 134,078 which is a rise of 18,214 almost three times the previous years increase. It is interesting to note that twice the number of animals were slaughtered and inspected as in 1961.

Three full time Authorised Meat Inspectors were employed but due to vacancies on the staff for a period of 15 weeks only two were available and assistance was given by Public Health Inspectors in addition to the regular meat inspection which these officers carry out on one day every week.



Carcases inspected and condemned:

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Slaughtered	9,603	102	79	13,019	111,275	-
No. Inspected	9,603	102	79	13,019	111,275	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	-	1	9	84	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,825	20	7	453	8,925	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	19.04	19.61	10.13	3.55	8.1	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	2	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1,058	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.95	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-

Pigs which arrived dead or died in lairs were examined for scheduled diseases but were not inspected.

### Slaughterhouses

All the licensed slaughterhouses are inspected by the Public Health Inspectors at fortnightly intervals, although with the larger premises these visits are often more frequent. The Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food makes advisory visits at quarterly intervals. There has undoubtedly continued to be a general improvement in the standard of hygiene at all the premises due in no small part to the goodwill and co-operation of the slaughterhouse occupiers.

The disposal of blood has caused a problem at one large slaughterhouse. It is collected by cesspool emptier but some smell nuisance was caused during emptying, and the ~~ex~~hauster fumes were passed through a chemical de-odourising compound which alleviated the nuisance. This method of disposal was proving extremely costly and the company operating the slaughterhouse was investigating the possibility of installing a blood dewatering plant, which would reduce the water content of the blood by 75% and so reduce the final amount to be dealt with.

### Knackers Yard

The one knackers yard in use in the district, which is at Little Hallingbury, continued to be run in a most satisfactory manner. The statutory returns under the slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958 showed that 33 horses, 321 cattle, and 1,453 pigs, calves and sheep were slaughtered there during the year.

### Licensing

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

Private Slaughterhouses	8
Knackers' Yard	1
Licensed Slaughtermen	38
Game Dealers	7

### Other Food

#### Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Amendment Regulations 1966

9 inspections were made of delivery vehicles trading in the district and the owners of 6 vehicles were informed of matters which required attention to ensure compliance with the above Regulations. As a result of this action 3 vehicles had been brought up to the required standard.



During the course of the year the following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were condemned.

1 x 28 lb. box currents  
 3 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. tins cooked ham  
 1 x 5 lb. tin corned beef  
 1 x 4 lb. tin jellied veal  
 1 x 10 lb. tin pigs liver  
 1 x 4 lb. tin pork luncheon meat  
 1 x 26 lb. box frozen beef kidneys  
 332 x 12 boxes lettuce  
 1,115 packets various frozen foods

Two prosecutions were taken during the year under Section 2 Food and Drugs Act 1955 in respect of food which was not of the nature, or not of the substance or not of the quality demanded. The first involved the sale of a bread roll which contained a rusty nail and the person eating the roll actually had the nail in her mouth; the second concerned a bottle of soft drink which was found to contain pieces of glass in the bottle. The Court found for the Council in both cases and imposed fines of £10 and £20 plus costs of £2 respectively.

Proceedings were pending at the end of the year in respect of the sale of frozen pork slices which were mouldy and in an unsound condition.

I commented last year on the overloading of deep freeze storage cabinets and this is still evident on occasions. The entire contents of two deep freeze cabinets were condemned but this was the result of breakdowns of the freezing equipment.

#### Ice Cream

There are 128 premises registered under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the storage and sale of ice cream.

#### Food premises by type of Business

Grocers and General Provisions	... 67
Bread and Confectionery	... 12
Butchers	... 13
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	... 4
Fishmongers	... 3
Sweets	... 12
Cafes and Restaurants	... 24
Public Houses and Hotels	... 65
Works Canteens	... 9
School Canteens and Cooking Centres	... 16

Included in the above lists are the following premises as registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955:-

Fish Frying	... 3
Manufacture of sausages and preserved food	... 18

#### Food Processing Premises

Sweet Factory	... 1
Bacon Curing Factory	... 1
Beet Sugar Factory	... 1
Brewery	... 1
Egg Packers	... 2
Banana Ripening Plant	... 1

#### Waste Food

At the beginning of the year the following premises in the district were licensed for the boiling of waste food for animal feeding under the Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order 1957.

Claremont, Hatfield Heath - Mr. Anderson

Bridgefoot Farm, Hatfield Broad Oak - Mr. C. Hockley

The latter premises was removed from the register in December as the boiling of waste food was discontinued.

The owner of one farm considered setting up a swill boiling plant but after he had been advised of the licence conditions and improvements necessary to his premises, he decided not to proceed with his application.



## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Complaints were received of obnoxious odour from chemical processing in Dunmow. The source of the nuisance was found to be the processing of a particular chemical and this only occurred at infrequent intervals. The company concerned appreciated the problem and took steps to alleviate the nuisance but when these proved to be inadequate, they discontinued the process.

Details were submitted to the Department in respect of two proposed boiler installations which involved the heights of the chimneys to be provided. One proposal was found to be satisfactory and in the other the applicant agreed to amend it to meet our requirements.

## CONTROL OF INFECTION

Visits were made as found necessary to private houses following cases of Infectious Disease. In the case of one person suffering from a Salmonella infection it was necessary to submit 60 faecal samples for laboratory investigation over a period of seven months before the required 6 consecutive negative samples were obtained to enable the person to return to employment.

## DISINFESTATION

One case of bed bugs was brought to our attention and disinfestation was carried out.

## NOISE ABATEMENT

Two Public Health Inspectors attended a course of evening lectures at the Mid-Essex Technical College, Chelmsford, which had been arranged following the publication by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of Circular 22/67 on Noise and Industrial Noise.

Complaints were received of a noise nuisance at Little Hallingbury which was found to be caused by an excavator at a gravel working. When traversing the bucket a high pitched squeaking of the swing clutch occurred and this continual noise proved to be unbearable to some nearby residents. Following representations to the owner of the machine, the manufacturers carried out an inspection, discovered the fault and on the owners instructions rectified it, much to the appreciation of the complainants.

## PETROLEUM

At the end of the year the following licences were in force:-

Storage of petroleum spirit	163
Storage of petroleum mixtures	1
Storage of calcium carbide	2

4 new installations were brought into use after passing a pressure test and complying with the Council's licensing conditions.

3 installations were taken out of use when the tanks were filled with weak mix concrete and the pipelines and electrical services disconnected.

Testing of tanks installed for over 30 years which was commenced in 1967 was completed during the year under review and a further 13 tanks were pressure tested 1 of which was found to be leaking and was taken out of use and made safe. This brought the total of tanks so tested to 34 of which 11 were found to be leaking and at 4 more there were leaking suction or ventilation pipes. The results of our investigations being proved justified a start was made on testing tanks which had been in situ for between 20 and 30 years, by the end of the year 8 of the 17 installations involved had been examined and all proved satisfactory.

The Home Office published a revised Model Code of Principles of Construction and Licensing Conditions for Can Stores and Petrol Filling Stations which the Council adopted in November. Whilst some standards are raised a number are, in my opinion, definitely lowered and will prove to be a retrograde step. I particularly refer to the suggestion that tanks may in certain circumstances be set in sand alone and in view of our experience of leaking tanks and the possibility of their lifting due to inadequate anchorage, I had no hesitation in recommending the Council to insist on a 6" sulphate resisting concrete surround which was accepted.

In view of the new Model Code it is proposed to inspect every installation during the coming year to ascertain how they comply with the revised standards, and all licence holders with electrically operated pumps will be required to submit a report by an approved electrician on the electrical installation with their next application for renewal of licence.



## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES

Steady progress continued to be made of the inspection of premises coming within the purview of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963. 7 premises were newly registered during the year bringing the total of registered premises in the district to 117. 24 registered premises received one or more inspections and the total visits made was 48. Of the 117 premises, 114 have received a general inspection. 505 persons are employed on these premises an increase of 45 over the previous year. Contraventions of the Act were of a minor nature.

No accidents were reported.

Proposals were received of the establishment of an unattended coin-operated laundry and dry cleaners. We were concerned about the removal of the fumes given off by the cleaning fluids and that an adequate number of air changes per hour would be provided, also that proper hanging rails would be provided with a positive flow of air over them to remove fumes from the clothes, and that the duct taking fumes to the external air was in one continuous length where it passed through the boiler room. Agreement on these matters was reached with the Surveyors acting for the developer and the proposals were then accepted.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

	Number of Premises Registered During Year	Total Number of Registered Premises at end of year	Number of Registered Premises Receiving General Inspection	Number of Persons employed
Offices	3	23	4	89
Retail Shops	1	82	14	361
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	-	-	-	-
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	3	10	5	40
Fuel storage depots	-	2	1	15
	7	117	24	505
			Total Males	148
			Total Females	357



# STATION, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PROPERTY ACT 1904

Number of Tramways Registered During Year	Total Number of Registered Tramways at end of year	Number of Tramways Registered During Year	
		1904	1905
1	23	68	1
1	82	14	1
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
2	20	24	2
1	2	21	1
1	117	20	7
Total Registered		145	14
Total Tramways		159	21

### ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

The Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963 came into force on 1st January, 1964. Standard conditions were approved by the Council and following a prior inspection premises were licensed as under:

Benhooks Kennels, Oxen End, Little Bardfield  
The Chestnuts, Latchmore Bank, Little Hallingbury  
Whitedale, Canfield Road, Takeley  
Normandale Farm, Great Hallingbury  
Paddocks, Wrights Green, Little Hallingbury  
Appletree Cottage, Gaston Green, Little Hallingbury  
Simpkins, Lindsell.

### SCRAP METAL DEALERS

The Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964 came into force on 1st April, 1965. This requires all dealers to be registered. The number registered is 14.

### RODENT CONTROL

The control of rats and mice was carried out as in the previous year with the Cleansing Foreman acting in a part-time capacity as rodent operator, with the Public Health Inspectors also visiting and giving advice where it was needed. Infestations by both rodents showed a marked decline over 1967. 142 rat and 13 mice infestations were notified and inspected and in addition 147 other properties were inspected. 465 packets of poison were issued and 27 premises were treated by the Council's staff.

The Council's refuse tip was treated when necessary but this was found to be very rarely infested. All the Council's sewage disposal works are regularly treated by the Engineer and Surveyor's staff.



The following details of action taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 are given in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:-

	Type of Property		
	Dwelling Houses (ii)	Agri-cultural (iii)	Total (iv)
Number of properties in Area	8,008	250	8,596
Premises inspected as a result of notification	155	-	155
Premises inspected as a result of Survey under the Act	-	-	-
Total number of inspections (including re-inspections and inspections primarily for other purposes)	147	-	147
Number of properties found to be infested with rats (common rats)	142	-	142
Major infestations	-	-	-
Minor infestations	142	-	142
Number of properties found to be seriously infested with mice	-	-	-
Number of infested premises treated by the Council's Public Health Inspectors	142	-	142
Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act	-	-	-

# FACTORIES

Particulars of the premises registered by the Council under the Factories Act, 1961, and the inspections made are to be found as follows:-

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

Premises	Number on Register			
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	45	6	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authorities	81	10	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authorities (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
	126	16	-	-

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)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to out-workers)	2	2	-	2	-
Totals	2	2	-	2	-

Outworkers Section 133 1 notification of outworkers was received.



### CARAVANS and other MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

I commented last year on the appeal by the owners of a Caravan Site at Takeley to the Magistrates against the Council's Licence Conditions. The Appellants gave notice of Appeal to the High Court and after correspondence over a period of some  $3\frac{1}{2}$  months the Appeal was withdrawn in April, before it reached the Court and the Owners then proceeded to obtain tenders to carry out the work shown on the plans approved in 1967. Progress was however very slow and as no work had commenced by the end of the year the Council agreed to prosecute and summons were served to be heard in January 1969. So the saga of this site continues into another year, but I hope to be able in my next Report to say that the matter has been satisfactorily resolved.

At another large site in Takeley the work necessary to comply with the licence conditions was well advanced and only the completion of the hardstandings by covering the land between the concrete strips with concrete in situ or slabs remained outstanding. New roads, footpaths, sewers, drains, water mains and sanitary accommodation having been provided the site was well equipped and maintained.

Legal proceedings were taken against two land owners for allowing land at Aythorpe Roding and Great Canfield to be used as caravan sites without the requisite licence. In the first case the defendant was given a conditional discharge and the Council awarded costs and the second instance the land owner was fined £10 and costs awarded to the Council. Despite press publicity of these cases, caravans still continue to appear on land in respect of which neither a site licence or planning permission is in force.

The itinerant caravan dwellers continue to be with us, many of whom despoil the countryside with the litter, garbage and offensive material they leave behind. Our efforts to deal with this problem were not helped by the Circular from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government suggesting that these types of dwellers should not be moved on. It is a well known fact that if the itinerant scrap dealer is allowed to settle on a site he soon becomes a permanent



fixture and is very difficult to move. A scrap yard develops which rapidly becomes an eyesore and a source of annoyance to the inhabitants of nearby property and the standards of hygiene leave a great deal to be desired.

Discussions took place between Members and Officers of the Council and Members and Officers of the Essex County Council Welfare Committee relating to the finding of land suitable for development as caravan sites for gypsies. The Rural Council was to suggest possible sites to the County Council which would purchase and develop them the responsibility for their management resting with the Rural Council. Three sites were initially considered at Takeley, Stebbing and Aythorpe Roding but for various reasons were considered unsuitable. Alternative sites were being looked at when the year closed, but the provision of land for this purpose was proving to be extremely difficult.

Parishes	Sites	Caravans	Tents	Huts
Barnston	3	3	-	-
Broxted	2	2	-	-
Little Canfield	1	1	-	-
Chickney	1	1	-	-
Great Dunmow	2	3	-	-
Great Easton	1	1	-	-
Felsted	2	2	-	1
Great Hallingbury	2	3	-	-
Hatfield Broad Oak	1	5	-	-
Leaden Roding	1	1	-	-
Lindsell	1	1	-	-
Stebbing	7	10	-	-
Takeley	10	247	-	-
Thaxted	3	4	-	-
White Roding	2	4	-	-
Totals	39	288	-	1



## BYELAWS

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

Byelaws with respect to new streets.

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

Byelaws for the sanitary conditions and management of private slaughterhouses.

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

Byelaws as to Hairdressers and Barbers.

## NEW LEGISLATION

The following legislation affecting the Council or of interest to them was passed during the year:-

Caravans Act 1968

Clean Air Act 1968

Transport Act 1968

Imported Food Regulations 1968

## OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

### Milk

2 inspections were made of dairies in the District.

There are 23 persons registered in the District as Distributors of Milk and 10 Dairies (not being Dairy Farms) were also registered.

### Burial of the Dead

No burials were arranged during the year under the provision of Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1958. A total of 22 burials has been arranged by the Council since the passing of the Act.

### Bakehouses

The number of bakehouses in operation at the end of the year was 8.

### Massage or Special Treatment

The Essex County Council licensed the following establishments for massage or special treatment in this District:-

R. A. Roper Ltd., 9 High Street, Great Dunmow.

W. S. McConkey, 25 High Street, Great Dunmow.

Miss D. N. Perreau, 23 Stortford Road, Great Dunmow.

These premises are inspected at least once a year prior to licensing.









