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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DUNMOW

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

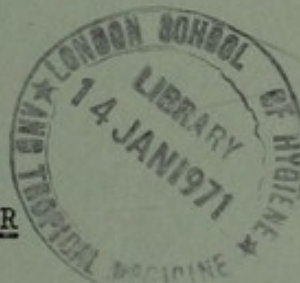
1969

together with the

REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



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NEW YORK, N. Y.
JANUARY 1, 1900

TO THE HONORABLE
COMMISSIONER OF THE LAND OFFICE

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst., in relation to the application of the New York State Land Office for the purchase of the land owned by the New York State Land Office, and in reply to inform you that the same has been referred to the proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours very truly,
J. B. HARRIS,
Commissioner of the Land Office.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

C. R. C. RAINSFORD, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.
(to 22nd September)

E. J. VAUGHAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(from 23rd September)

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

A. J. R. CAWDRON

Office Manager

G. H. MASON

Secretary

Miss I. M. HUME

May 1970

The Chairman and Members of Dunmow Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information the annual report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the Dunmow Rural District in accordance with the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959.

Dr. C. Rainsford retired as Medical Officer of Health on September 22nd 1969. I should like to take this opportunity of recording the appreciation that is felt in the area for his services towards the improved health of the community, and also my own gratitude to him for helping me in the task of taking up my new duties.

I wish to thank Dr. J. A. Slattery, Area Medical Officer, West Essex for providing statistics of the work done at the various Essex County Council clinics in the area.

OBSERVATIONS UPON VITAL STATISTICS

The Registrar General's estimate of population is 23,510, an increase of 20 over 1968.

The corrected birth rate of 16.8 per 1,000 estimated population is slightly above last year's figure of 16.5 and above the national average of 16.3.

Illegitimate births in the area were 11, compared with 21 in 1968.

There were only 5 infant deaths giving an infant mortality rate of 13 per 1,000 live births compared with the national figure of 18. The causes of these deaths were anencephaly, respiratory distress syndrome and prematurity, bronchopneumonia, congenital heart disease and mongolism, respiratory failure and prematurity and asphyxia associated with inhalation of vomit.

OBSERVATIONS UPON NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND ITS PREVENTION

Measles, as in 1968, was the commonest cause of notification of infectious disease. At 125 there were 25 fewer cases reported than last year, and it is to be hoped that in future there will be a greater reduction due to measles vaccination.

Immunisation and vaccination have done much towards the eradication of many types of infectious disease prevalent in Britain, notably poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and tuberculosis. In future, however, constant vigilance will be needed to see that the increasing speed and ease of air travel to and from remote countries do not introduce here more tropical and other types of foreign communicable disease. Travellers to distant parts of the world should enquire well in advance of their journey from the Embassies or Missions of the countries they intend to visit what diseases there particularly require immunisation and vaccination. Vaccination against typhoid and paratyphoid fever is an important precaution, advisable for visits to all countries except North America, Scandinavia and the Low Countries.

STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Staff medical examinations continued to be carried out for Dunmow Rural District Council relating to the Superannuation Act, 1937, and other matters.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47

Action was taken by my predecessor Dr. Rainsford in one case during 1969 when a patient was admitted to St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

REHOUSING ON MEDICAL GROUNDS

Home visits throughout the area have continued to be made by your medical officer for the purpose of deciding the degree of priority in each case.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

A full report on environmental hygiene has been submitted to you by your Chief Public Health Inspector, who referred to the completion of the Lower Chelmer Valley Sewerage Scheme in 1969 and to the decision of the Council to improve the Hatfield Heath and Takeley sewerage schemes.

With regard to your public water supplies, water for the Thaxted (Borough Bridge) area contains 0.45 parts per million of fluoride, which is below the recommended level for the future dental health of the unborn child.

In his Annual Report last year my predecessor Dr. Rainsford predicted that we should soon be running into difficulties with regard to refuse

tipping space and that some other method of disposal might be the answer. It is my view that an alternative method to tipping would be preferable, such as combining with one or more neighbouring Authorities in a joint venture in mechanical refuse disposal, either by pulverisation, incineration, or by a combination of both methods, and this would be a handsome contribution towards European Conservation Year 1970. Although refuse tipping is still an officially accepted system in Britain tips are a potential health hazard especially when they are sited near to houses. Flies, rodents and birds are known vectors of disease and they can spread infection from refuse tips to human beings. Pulverised refuse is unattractive to wild life. Pollution of surface waters draining from refuse tips into rivers is a further potential health hazard requiring consideration.

In 1969, 65 new Council houses were completed and Warwick Close, ^{LITTLE}~~Great~~ Easton came into use for elderly residents in the area.

I have pleasure in recording my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support. I am grateful too to the Officers in other departments for their co-operation, to Mr. Mason for his help in preparing this report and to my secretary Miss Anness for her very considerable assistance.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH J. VAUGHAN

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	72,834
Population (Registrar General's estimate mid-1969)	...	23,510
Number of houses according to rate books	...	8,366
Rateable value	...	£842,914
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£3,360

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	372	203	164
Illegitimate	11	6	5
Total live births	383		

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	16.3
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	...	3.0
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.03	...	16.8
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population	...	16.3

Still Births

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

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	10.0
Total live and still births - 387		
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales	...	13.0

Infant Deaths

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 year			
Legitimate	5	3	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total infant deaths	5		

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	13.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	13.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	8.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	8.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	...	18.0
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	124	112

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	10.0
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.97	...	9.7
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	...	11.9

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1969

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.

		Male	Female
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	...	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	4	-
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	...	2	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	10	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	-	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	...	2	-
Leukaemia	...	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms	...	9	4
Diabetes mellitus	...	2	1
Other endocrine etc. diseases	...	-	4
Anaemias	...	-	1
Other diseases of blood, etc.	...	-	1
Mental disorders	...	-	1
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	...	2	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	...	1	2
Hypertensive disease	...	2	1
Ischaemic heart disease	...	28	22
Other forms of heart disease	...	5	1
Cerebrovascular disease	...	17	12
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	6	16
Influenza	...	1	4
Pneumonia	...	11	7
Bronchitis and emphysema	...	6	2
Asthma	...	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	1	1
Peptic ulcer	...	2	3
Other diseases of digestive system	...	3	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	1	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	...	-	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	...	1	2
Congenital anomalies	...	1	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	...	2	-
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	...	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	...	2	1
All other accidents	...	3	3
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	...	-	1
Total all Causes		124	112

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 1969:-

				<u>Attendances</u>
<u>GREAT DUNMOW</u> - Essex County Health Services Clinic, New Street				
Child Health	1st Friday	10 a.m.)	1,289	
	Every other Friday	2 p.m.)		
Women's Welfare Clinic (discontinued July 1969)	Every 6 weeks (Thursday)	10 a.m.	16	
Cytology Clinic	3rd Friday	9.30 a.m.	20	
School Clinic	2nd and 4th Monday	9.30 a.m.	78	
Dental Clinic	Thursday all day	10 a.m.	602	
<u>FELSTED</u> - Memorial Hall				
Child Health	2nd Tuesday	2 p.m.	265	
<u>GREAT EASTON</u> - Village Hall				
Child Health	Last Friday	2 p.m.	117	
<u>HATFIELD BROAD OAK</u> - Village Hall				
Child Health	2nd Tuesday	2 p.m.	219	
<u>HATFIELD HEATH</u> - Congregational Church Hall				
Child Health	3rd Tuesday	2 p.m.	302	
<u>HIGH RODING</u> - Women's Institute				
Health Visitor's Advisory Clinic	1st Thursday	2 p.m.	98	
<u>STEBBING</u> - Congregational Schoolroom				
Child Health	2nd Friday	2 p.m.)	158	
Health Visitor's Advisory Clinic	4th Thursday	2.30 p.m.)		
<u>TAKELEY</u> - Village Hall				
Child Health	2nd Monday	2 p.m.	366	
<u>THAXTED</u> - Church Hall				
Child Health	1st Friday	2 p.m.	241	

(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.

PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

DISEASES	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	2	-	-
Measles	125	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	2	1	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Totals	132	1	-

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Measles	125	3	15	12	15	11	59	5	1	2	1	-	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	132	3	15	12	16	11	59	5	1	6	3	-	-	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1969

DISEASES										Total Notified
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Aythorpe Roding
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Little Bardfield
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Barnston
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Broxted
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Great Canfield
Infective Hepatitis	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	Little Canfield
Measles	125	-	3	-	9	3	1	-	-	Chickney
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Great Dunmow
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Little Dunmow
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Great Easton
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Little Easton
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Felsted
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Great Hallingbury
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Little Hallingbury
Totals	132	-	3	1	9	3	1	-	-	Hatfield Broad Oak
										High Easter
										Hatfield Heath
										High Roding
										Leaden Roding
										Lindsell
										Margaret Roding
										Stebbing
										Takeley
										Thaxted
										Tilty
										White Roding

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	125	3	1	4	7	47	30	30	1	1	1	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	132	4	1	4	7	49	30	30	1	3	2	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

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

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

<u>Primary Courses</u>	<u>By General Practitioners</u>	<u>By County Staff</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	139	27	166
Diphtheria & Tetanus	1	8	9
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Tetanus	36	-	36
Polio-myelitis	238	34	272
Smallpox	191	-	191
Measles	250	19	269

Reinforcing Doses

Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	126	18	144
Diphtheria & Tetanus	126	7	133
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Tetanus	118	1	119
Polio-myelitis	357	28	385
Smallpox	44	-	44

January 1970

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Following the improvement last year to two major services, viz. the virtual completion of the Lower Chelmer Valley Sewerage Scheme and the institution of a weekly refuse collection service this year has been to a large extent one of consolidation. The sewerage scheme referred to further improved an already comprehensive system serving the major part of the Rural District and the Council can well be proud of its achievements in this branch of public health services. With the completion of this scheme consideration was given to the improvement of the Takeley Sewage Disposal Works and extension of the sewers which had been held in abeyance until the threat of the Third London Airport at Stansted had been lifted. The new refuse collection service settled down to operate smoothly but the disposal of refuse caused grave concern due to the acute shortage of suitable tipping sites and mechanical methods of disposal were investigated which are commented on elsewhere in this Report.

The Housing Act 1969 came into force on 1st August being designed to further encourage the improvement of dwellings by increasing the amount of grant payable and altering the system of fixing rents following their improvement. In view of the close link between Improvement Grants and rents and the shortage of staff in the Engineer and Surveyor's Department this work was transferred to the Public Health Department.

The 23 flats at Wagon Mead, Hatfield Heath were occupied early in the year and the paper sack system of refuse collection proved very successful. The 75 dwellings forming the Waldgroves Estate at Great Dunmow were nearing completion for occupation early in 1970. The modernisation of pre-war Council houses continued and 25 dwellings were improved and a further 35 were in the contract stage.

For the first time for 7 years there were no changes in the technical and clerical staff of the Department and this prevented the disruption of work so evident with staff movement.

As in previous years I wish to express my appreciation to the Council for their continued support and to my Chief Officer colleagues and their staff for their ready assistance. I also wish to express my gratitude to the Department's technical and clerical staff for their help, co-operation and enthusiasm 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

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

Private Water Supplies

Samples of water were taken from 3 private supplies and 2 were found satisfactory. The third although initially being satisfactory gave cause for doubts and was re-sampled after heavy rain when it was found to be heavily polluted. The owner was advised to obtain a supply of mains water but as this proved difficult chlorination of the existing supply was resorted to.

Deep bores were sunk at two Council housing sites to replace polluted wells. The water obtained although chemically and bacteriologically pure had a very high iron content which did not decrease. Consequently it was necessary for filters to be provided, which substantially reduced the quantity of iron.

Swimming Pools

In addition to the pools at the Dunmow Secondary School, Dunmow Primary, Great Easton and Stebbing Schools and the Felsted School new pools were provided at Hatfield Broad Oak School and the new Dunmow Primary School. Regular checks on the chlorine content and acidity of the water were made by the Public Health Inspectors as well as sampling the water for bacteriological examination.

Lee Valley Water Company

Tap over kitchen sink, Wallbury Dell House, Little Hallingbury

Chemical Results in Parts Per Million

Appearance: Clear and bright		Turbidity:	Nil
Colour	Nil	Odour	Nil
pH	7.3	Free Carbon Dioxide	30
Electric Conductivity	700	Dissolved Solids dried at 180°	500
Chlorine present as Chloride	27	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	285
Hardness: Total	3	Carbonate: 3 Non-carbonate	0
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.00	Permanganate Value	0.20
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.00	Residual Chlorine	Absent
Metals: Iron, zinc, copper, lead:	absent		

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is very soft in character and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution is not considered excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results show complete softening by the base exchange process. They indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses, from the aspect of the chemical analysis.

19th March 1969

Counties Public Health Laboratories

POPULATION IN EACH PARISH HAVING MAIN WATER SUPPLY

Parish	No. of Houses	Estimated Population (mid-69)	No. of houses on main supply	Estimated Population on main supply
Aythorpe Roding	79	230	73	213
Little Bardfield	90	237	72	206
Barnston	164	385	128	340
Broxted	200	570	197	560
Great Canfield	138	379	131	346
Little Canfield	116	321	111	310
Chickney	13	40	4	25
Great Dunmow	1,608	4,390	1,559	4,250
Little Dunmow	137	377	131	350
Great Easton	283	724	273	698
Little Easton	146	367	126	312
Felsted	835	2,953	794	2,890
Great Hallingbury	327	920	290	900
Little Hallingbury	423	1,259	408	1,210
Hatfield Broad Oak	966	2,623	943	2,400
High Easter	217	597	202	563
High Roding	148	415	140	340
Leaden Roding	119	344	118	340
Lindsell	79	212	78	205
Margaret Roding	70	205	69	201
Stebbing	415	1,149	395	1,120
Takeley	852*	2,310	844*	2,218
Thaxted	794	2,086	779	2,000
Tilty	21	64	19	56
White Roding	126	353	117	320
	8,366	23,510	7,992	22,061

*includes 229 caravans on mains supply

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 16 sewage disposal works and 19 sewage pumping stations in the district and also 9 sewage treatment plants on Council house estates.

Connections to sewers

During the year 122 new properties were connected to the Council's sewers.

Sewerage Contract

Lower Chelmer Valley Sewerage Scheme

This scheme was finally completed at the beginning of the year and was formally opened by the Earl of Gainsborough on the 24th April.

Future Schemes

The Council considered what future proposals should be put in hand for sewerage and decided that the following two schemes should receive urgent attention.

Hatfield Heath Sewage Works

Following the overloading of these works immediate short term modifications were put in hand during the previous year. The Council's Consultants were preparing a scheme for the improvement and enlargement of the existing works and by the end of the year progress in the preparation of tendering documents had been made.

Takeley

After considering various alternative schemes prepared by the Council's Engineers the Council agreed to proceed with the enlargement and improvements to the Takeley Sewage Disposal Works including the abandonment of the unsatisfactory plant at Little Canfield and the pumping of flows from Little Canfield to the new Takeley Works, and the Council's Consultants were preparing the tendering documents at the end of the year.

(b) Pail Closet Conversion

During the year 3 conversions were carried out at a cost to the Council of £311.

(a) Slum Clearance

One property was demolished and 3 dwellings were, after formal action, made fit for human habitation and the Undertakings which had been previously given were cancelled. The condition of 11 houses was brought to the attention of the Council for formal action, 5 Closing Orders were made, 5 Undertakings not to relet and 1 Undertaking to carry out repairs were accepted. In the case of 2 terraced cottages in Thaxted the Demolition Orders which were operative, were converted to Closing Orders to allow the owner to convert them to a branch library. 2 houses were made fit after informal action.

The problem of unfit houses beyond repair at reasonable expense has now been almost dealt with in this district. This was looked at in December, in order to complete a return for the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the future Slum Clearance programme, when it was considered that there were only 18 properties left in this category. It was known that the owners of a number of them were considering improvements and they were being encouraged to do so. A reappraisal has to be made of the problem from time to time as standards are altered and property falls into decay due to neglect, consequently on completion of a slum clearance programme it cannot be then forgotten but must be kept under constant review.

(b) Remedy of Defects and Disrepair to Private Houses

Following informal action defects or disrepair at 2 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)	... 188
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... 200
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations	... 188
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... 200
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... 11

- (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 ... 2
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 ... 2
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 ... Nil
 (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
 (a) By owners ... Nil
 (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 ... Nil
 (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 1
 (3) Number of written undertakings accepted ... 5
D - Proceedings under Sections 17, 19 and 27 of the Housing Act, 1957:-
 (1) Number of Closing Orders made ... 5
 (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 following information relating to Council and Private Housing has been supplied by the Engineer and Surveyor.

Council Housing

New Building during 1969 was as follows:-

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

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

Pre-War houses	...	673
Cottages purchased post-War	...	21
Post-War houses	...	1,204
		<hr/> 1,898

The houses by types are as follows:-

1-bed houses	...	2
2-bed houses	...	171
3-bed houses	...	1,145
3-bed house/shop	...	1
4-bed houses	...	39
1-bed bungalows	...	93
2-bed bungalows	...	214
1-bed flats	...	10
2-bed flats	...	123

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

Housing Applications

There were 422 applications for Council houses at 31st December.

During the year there were 76 re-lettings.

Private Housing

New Building during 1969 was as follows:-

Number of Private houses completed	...	57
Number of houses built by other authorities	...	Nil
Number of Private houses under construction at end of year	...	62
Number of Private houses with detail plans approved but not commenced at end of year	...	140
Number of Private houses covered by outline approvals other than single houses	...	142
Number of conversions completed	...	7
Number of conversions in progress at end of year	...	3
Number of conversions approved but not started	...	26
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	...	1,097
Housing Associations	...	12
Private houses	...	1,935
Essex County Council	...	30
		<hr/>
		3,074
		<hr/>

Improvement Grants

The Housing Act 1969 altered the Improvement Grant structure by increasing the amount of grant which can be paid and allied it with the provisions for increasing rents. The maximum Discretionary Improvement Grant which can be paid was increased to £1,000 (£1,200 in the case of the conversion of property with three or more storeys) and included in this for the first time are certain repairs which are necessary in order to make the improvements fully effective. The maximum Standard Grant payable is increased to £200 where all standard facilities have to be provided although this grant can be extended to £450 where it is necessary to build a bathroom extension and/or provide a septic tank.

It is interesting to note that the standard facilities under the Standard Grant provisions no longer include the provision of a larder and the provision of a sink is substituted as now ranking for grant, but under the Discretionary Improvement Grant the provision of a larder is still one of the requirements for a fit house in the 12 point standard laid down.

Due to the close link between grants and rents and the fact that the Engineer and Surveyor's Department was understaffed, with the coming into force of the Housing Act 1969 all work relating to Improvement Grants was transferred to the Chief Public Health Inspector's Department.

As it was well known that the new legislation would increase the maximum Grants payable would-be applicants withheld their applications until the new provisions became effective. Persons who had applied but not received approval or who had received approval but not commenced work were given the opportunity to re-apply under the new Act in order to take advantage of the enhanced grants. The following tables give details of applications and approvals separately under old and new legislation.

Period	Discretionary Grants		Standard Grants	
	No.	Value	No.	Value
1st January - 31st August	4	£1,416	18	£3,904
1st September - 31st December	4	£2,748	16	£3,978

Maturity Loans

The Housing Act 1969 gives Local Authorities power to make maturity loans to aged house owners who are unable to afford to carry out major repairs or improvements to their property due to straitened circumstances. This is to assist with such things as major roof repairs and in the case of improvements to cover all or part of the balance between the total cost and the improvement grant. It is gratifying to record that the Council decided to adopt these provisions, although not legally obliged to do so and were considering two applications involving re-roofing of dwellings as the year closed.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Staff

1 Foreman
1 Vehicle Mechanic
5 Driver/Loaders
10 Loaders
1 Tractor Driver
1 Cesspool Emptyer Driver
1 Female Paper Baler

20 Total

Vehicles

2 No. Shelvoke & Drewry 50 cu.yd. Pakanatics
1 No. Shelvoke & Drewry 35 cu.yd. Fore and Aft Tipper
2 No. Karrier 25 cu.yd. 'Dual Tip'
1 No. Dennis 18 cu.yd. Paxit Ram Loader (Reserve)
1 No. Shelvoke & Drewry 1100 gallon Cesspool Emptyer
1 No. Morris 1000 Pick-up Truck
1 No. International B.T.D.8 Drott crawler tractor
with 4 in 1 Bucket

Refuse Collection and Disposal

(i) Refuse Collection

This service continued to improve and complaints received became comparatively rare as the labour force became more static, and the regular weekly collections were maintained. The new agreement and bonus structure undoubtedly helped to this end but one disquieting feature was that only after prolonged negotiation with the National Joint Council (Manual Workers) acting on behalf of the Prices and Incomes Board were we able to obtain authority to pay 20% bonus. Authority to pay the 25% bonus on which the new Agreement was based was withheld on the grounds that the Bonus Scheme was not implemented following Work Study. It appears to be the accepted opinion (particularly nationally) in these enlightened days that the managers of a service are no longer capable of operating it efficiently and economically but that Work Study staff must be employed to do this. In order to avoid a stalemate the Council had no alternative but to agree to a Work Study Officer carrying out an activity sampling. This was done and the Work Study Officer reported that the 25% Bonus was fully justified and he considered that no improvement could be made in respect of the refuse rounds, type of vehicles employed or the size of crew. This satisfied the National Joint Council that the Bonus Scheme was entirely justified and authority was given for payment. It was, however, a costly exercise as far as the Council was concerned as it cost £200 to prove what the Council already knew and prevented the refuse staff from receiving their enhanced pay for almost a year.

In May one of the Karrier 25 cu. yd. Dual Tip refuse vehicles was involved in an accident in which both members of the crew were slightly injured one being off work for two days and one for ten days due to bruising and shock. The vehicle was extensively damaged and the Insurers

taking into account its age 'wrote it off'. It was replaced with a Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Tipper of 35 cu. yd. capacity with power press and this was brought into use on 15th August. The intervening period of 3 months produced its problems in keeping the service going with no spare vehicle, as this, a vehicle 14 years old had to be regularly employed on collection, but fortunately during the entire period no breakdown occurred.

As an experiment to try and clear up the holidays as quickly as possible the refuse service was shut down for a week in August. Considerable publicity was given and whilst inevitably some complaints were received they were exceedingly few. Although this experiment had some advantages the men preferred the normal method of staggered holidays.

After 6 changes in labour in the first part of the year the staff became more static with as stated previously an improvement in the service. Last year I commented on the high rate of absenteeism and I am pleased to be able to record an improvement. 152 days were lost as a result of sickness and 15 days for no reason.

9 men left the Council's employ and 9 replacements were engaged.

(ii) Refuse Disposal

Some $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres where tipping had been completed in 1968 were handed back for agriculture. Before this could be done, final cover was carried out by levelling over 4,500 tons of soil purchased from the local Beet Sugar Factory to give a 2'0" depth of soil. Much is said about the failings of controlled tipping but it must be remembered that in this country most Local Authorities dispose of refuse by this method and as a result, many acres of once derelict land are now growing crops and helping to offset the loss of agricultural land to housing and other development. It should be remembered that the Council from its tipping activities has reclaimed some 16 acres of derelict land at Merks Hill and this is now producing very substantial crops.

Tipping continued in the last acre of land available in the present tip and the lack of any site on which to continue our operations was the cause of grave concern. Unfortunately the site at Folly Mill Lane, Thaxted, could not be obtained and an alternative site at Armigers Farm, Thaxted, did not materialise owing to the failure to extract the sand which had to be done before tipping space was available to the Council. A decision was then made to investigate mechanical methods of disposal. Composting had been considered and discarded in 1966 and it was decided that nothing had arisen since then to cause any change of policy in respect of this method. Pulverisation was considered but tipping space equivalent to some

60% of that required for controlled tipping is required for this method and it was considered that in our present predicament this type of disposal possessed no obvious advantages. It was then decided to investigate the possibility of incineration. This involved discussions with officials of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, inspection of various types of plant suitable for adapting to the needs of this district and discussions with officers of adjoining districts with a view to the provision of a plant which could deal with refuse from several districts. Outline planning permission was obtained to construct a plant on land at the Dunmow Sewage Disposal Works and draft schemes with budget prices were prepared by two manufacturers. However as adjoining Councils were satisfied that they possessed adequate tipping space they were unwilling to take part in a joint incineration scheme. On investigating fully the annual cost of providing and operating an incineration plant for our sole use it was decided with much reluctance that this was a much too costly venture and the project was not proceeded with.

At this time a Tree Preservation Order in respect of land adjoining the Merks Hill Tip was not confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, an offer was made for the Council to tip at Widdington in the Saffron Walden Rural District and the Braintree Rural District Council were considering opening a new tip at Shalford where it was possible to tip refuse collected in the Dunmow area. Detailed costings were made in respect of all three proposals and it was decided to make a planning application to extend for an area of some 6 acres into the woodland adjoining the Merks Hill Tip but if this was not forthcoming to consider taking the refuse to Widdington which would be much more costly involving an extra £7,250 per annum. This is how the problem rested at the close of the year - a lot of effort having been expended, nothing concrete being achieved and only 4 months tipping space left.

It is evident that when the proposals for the future of Local Government materialise refuse disposal will be dealt with on a regional basis and this is in fact what the Ministry are at present encouraging. This will involve long hauls to the disposal point or the provision of transfer loading stations and the use of bulk transporters or containers. Either method will increase haulage costs and reflect in the cost of disposal - costs in the order of 12/6 per ton which now obtain will be but a memory as our investigations show that the cost of transporting refuse to Widdington would result in the cost of disposal being in the order of 37/- a ton.

Salvage

The demand for waste paper was greater than it had been for a number of years, with the Mills constantly exhorting Local Authorities to increase their collections. This we were able to do to some extent as reflected in the following statistics by collecting more off the Monday shops round and bringing in more bundles newsprint off the normal rounds.

78 tons 5 cwts. were sent to the Mills which resulted in a gross income of £746.16.9.

Litter

The collection of bulky domestic refuse continued to be collected free on request and 237 collections were made during the year. It was not possible to carry out the work as expeditiously as we desired due to the necessity of having to employ the staff who would normally do this work on a Friday, on normal collections to ensure that those vehicles were adequately staffed.

5 additional litter baskets were erected and 3 replacements provided. The Council have now erected 98 litter baskets in the district. The provision and replacement of these baskets was often delayed due to the difficulty in obtaining supplies from the manufacturers, periods of 3 and 4 months for delivery being common.

Litter is removed regularly from 8 lay-bys on the public highway on behalf of the County Highways Department from which an income of £33.16.0. was derived.

Abandoned Vehicles

Today's affluence and higher standard of living creates its own problems not only from increased refuse due to the greater amount of packaging but also the increased number of motor vehicles. In addition to the problem of parking there arises the problem of disposal of these vehicles when they become worn out or too decrepit to pass the Ministry of Transport Annual Test. The more responsible members of society take them to the scrap yard for disposal but less scrupulous persons leave them on the side of the highways, in car parks or elsewhere where they think they can dispose of them at no personal expense, usually having first removed number plates, licence disc and other means of identification.

During the year under review 18 vehicles were removed to the scrap yard and broken up after the necessary investigations had been made. This compared with 7 vehicles removed in 1968 but the increase is partly accounted for by a tidying up operation on car parks at Council housing estates in two villages.

Vehicle Maintenance

The number of vehicles maintained by the Department's mechanic increased during the year due to the purchase of the cesspool emptier an additional Land Rover and Thwaites Dumper. Consequently in addition to the vehicles listed at the beginning of the Public Cleansing Section the mechanic also maintains 3 Land Rovers, 1 Ford Transit Van, 1 Morris 1000 Van, 1 David Brown Tractor, 2 Dumpers and numerous mobile pumps and grass cutting equipment operated by the Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

Routine maintenance and servicing, which is most important in an endeavour to obviate breakdowns, now takes up a considerable amount of this employee's time. However, major repairs occur and the following are some of those done during the year.

1. Complete engine overhaul of International Drott.
2. Relining brakes on International Drott.
3. Re-painting two Karrier Refuse Vehicles.
4. Replacing clutch and gearbox repairs on Karrier 3.
5. Renewing final drive in Ford Transit Van.
6. Overhaul of braking system on Karrier 4.

As can be expected, particularly on the refuse vehicles which have to traverse the refuse tip, a considerable number of punctures had to be repaired but the number has been reduced by using vehicles with the conventional corded type with the on-off road tread pattern. At one time all the refuse vehicles were fitted with tyres incorporating a metal insert between the rubber but it was found that after a puncture this metal insert although having been hammered flat rubbed the tube and resulted in more punctures. This does not happen with cotton or nylon corded tyres and consequently the number of punctures is drastically reduced and this has also resulted in longer tyre life and less expenditure. Tyres on refuse vehicles which have to traverse the tip are subjected to treatment much different to that encountered on the highway as considerable "scuffing" takes place on the abrasive materials and together with wheel spin in wet conditions rapid wear takes place and this combined with cuts are reasons enough for frequent replacements of tyres without having to discard them after punctures for the reasons stated previously. Our experiments with the various types of tyres showed our decision to standardise on the corded type well founded as these generally gave over 25% longer life.

Cleanliness of vehicles is considered to be essential as it not only gives the drivers and crew a pride in their equipment but it helps to reduce corrosion and retain the vehicles in a serviceable condition for much longer periods. All vehicles whether they be lorry or van are now regularly washed and consideration was being given to the purchase of power washing equipment to facilitate this. As a number of the vehicles are comparatively new

and two have been repainted, with one exception - the Dennis Paxit Refuse Freighter - the Council has a fleet of which it can be proud. The Dennis Paxit is now 14 years old and consideration will have to be given during the coming year to its replacement.

Cesspool Emptying

The provision of this service was again considered when it was decided not to proceed with the proposal for the time being. At the same time a decision was made to operate a cesspool emptying vehicle for the emptying of cesspools serving Council owned property and also to remove sludge from the sewage disposal works. It was agreed to purchase a Shelvoke and Drewry vehicle with a capacity of 1100 gallons and this was delivered and brought into use on 1st October. After the harvest a considerable amount of sludge was disposed of directly onto the land prior to ploughing, but the majority is taken to a disused airfield where it is used to enrich land where the soil has become impoverished due to having been under concrete for many years.

This new service worked comparatively smoothly although some difficulty was encountered in pumping sludge which had been retained in tanks for over five years.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The Council's Public Health Inspectors made 4,532 visits and inspections in the course of the year. Details of these are given below:-

Complaints received and investigated	... 149
<u>Inspections under Housing Acts</u>	
Housing inspections	... 188
Housing applications verified	... 36
Housing applications verified for other local authorities	... 13
<u>Inspections under Public Health Acts</u>	
Caravan Sites	... 142
Offensive accumulations	... 139
Water supplies	... 25
Drainage, cesspools, etc.	... 261
Ponds, ditches and watercourses	... 41
Refuse Collection and Disposal	... 628
<u>Infectious Disease Prevention</u>	
Visits to private houses	... 70
<u>Factories, Shops and Schools</u>	
Factories	... 24
Schools	... 6
Outworkers	... 11
<u>Food and Drugs Act</u>	
Slaughterhouses	... 60
Bakehouses	... 3
Cafes, restaurants and canteens	... 9
Hotels and Public Houses	... 8
Mobile shops	... 2
Other Food Premises (Grocers etc.)	... 14
Fishmongers	... 3
<u>Sampling</u>	
Water	... 22
Other Foods	... 11
<u>Rodent Control</u>	
Visits	... 389
Treatments	... 348
<u>Clean Air Act</u>	
Visits	... 5

<u>Abandoned Vehicles</u>	...	11
<u>Petroleum Regulations</u>		
Licensing and Pressure and Seepage tests	...	241
<u>Swimming Pools</u>	...	19
<u>Meat Inspection visits</u>	...	1,602
<u>Animal Boarding Establishments</u>	...	15
<u>Offices, Shops and Railway Premises</u>	...	37
<u>Searches</u>	...	750
<u>Nuisances Detected and Notices Served</u>		
Nuisances detected	...	149
Informal notices served	...	31
Notices outstanding 1st January, 1969	...	6
Notices outstanding 31st December, 1969	...	3
Statutory Notices served	...	2
Legal Proceedings	...	2

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat Inspection

The number of animals inspected again showed an increase over the previous year from 134,078 to 141,635. This is again due to increased throughput at the Dunmow Flich Bacon Factory and the Hatfield Heath Abattoir.

The meat inspection staff remained unaltered throughout the year and continued to maintain excellent relations with the management and staff of the various slaughtering establishments. This is essential for smooth and efficient working and it is vital for the Meat Inspector to have the confidence of the slaughterhouse occupier and his staff when condemnation is necessary and, not once to my knowledge has the judgement of any of the Inspectors been challenged.

A new automatic killing and dressing line, was installed at the Dunmow Flich Bacon Factory which enables a throughput of 120 carcasses an hour to be maintained. This to the meat inspection staff is much less tiring than the old system as the carcasses are moved along automatically whereas previously they had to be pushed by hand and whilst the work is continuous there is less chance of build-ups. This is now one of the most modern systems in the country.

3 cases of tuberculosis were found in the 10,183 cattle inspected which involved the condemnation of one complete carcass and part of the carcass or organ of the other two. This goes to show the success of the Tuberculosis eradication undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food as I can well remember when this was one of the more common diseases and it was far from uncommon to find a carcass "riddled" with it. All cases of Tuberculosis in cattle are reported to the Ministry's Veterinary Officers to enable them to trace back the origin of the animals so that the other animals in the herd can be examined. This is instanced in the action taken in respect of the complete carcass condemned for tuberculosis. The Veterinary Officer traced the animal back to Kettering Market having previously been one of a batch of 101 animals imported from Ireland through Birkenhead on 18th September. 35 of the animals went to Rutland and the remainder to Oundle in Northamptonshire and the affected animal was one of the latter. On checking it was found that with the exception of four all animals had been slaughtered and one of these four was affected. This helps to illustrate the measures taken to eradicate the disease and our figures of condemnation shows the measure of success obtained.

Carcases inspected and condemned:

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Slaughtered	10,183	57	65	11,983	119,347	-
No. Inspected	10,183	57	65	11,983	119,347	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	6	-	3	9	144	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2,497	13	6	529	10,915	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	24.5%	22.8%	13.8%	4.4%	9.2%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	1,167	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.02%	-	-	-	0.9%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

Slaughterhouses

The number of private slaughterhouses was reduced by one as the licence of a small premises at Felsted was not renewed as it had not been used for some four years and the owner decided that he would not slaughter there again.

Regular inspection of all premises are made by your Public Health Inspectors and the general hygiene of the premises and the conditions under which animals are kept prior to slaughter continues to show improvement. Visits are made at approximately quarterly intervals by the Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and I am pleased to report that an excellent relationship exists between this Officer and the Department's staff.

In October slaughtering ceased at the premises at Great Hallingbury and in December a prospective purchaser was considering enlarging the premises and if this materializes the kill there will increase by approximately 25 times from the recent total of 2,000 animals per annum to in excess of 50,000 animals per annum. It is proposed that the majority of the animals will be pigs and that line slaughtering will be operated. If this comes into effect it will be necessary to employ 2 meat inspectors in addition to the present staff to cope with the additional inspection.

Last year I reported on the problem caused by the disposal of blood at one large slaughterhouse and that the company were considering the installation of a blood dewatering plant. A decision was made to install this equipment at considerable capital cost but it had not been installed at the end of the year because all of the plant had not been delivered by the manufacturers. When it is installed, the results obtained will be interesting as it is alleged that this will be the only plant of this particular type in Great Britain.

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 41 horses, 361 cattle, and 1,544 pigs, calves and sheep were slaughtered there during the year.

The Meat (Sterilizing) Regulations 1969 which came into force in November resulted in knacker meat no longer being sold from these premises as all meat and offal is now sent to a plant situated outside the district for sterilization.

Licensing

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

Private Slaughterhouses	7
Knackers' Yard	1
Licensed Slaughtermen	36
Game Dealers	6

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

1 x 30 lb. box kidneys
 59 lbs. smoked bacon
 3 x 14 lb. cooked gammons
 1 x 13 lb. 11 oz. tin cooked ham
 1 x 13 lb. 3 oz. tin cooked ham
 1 x 20 lb. halibut
 52 boxes cucumbers
 contents of two shop refrigerators

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	... 1
Manufacture of sausages and preserved food	... 18

Food Processing Premises

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

Claremont, Hatfield Heath - Mr. Anderson

Food Inspection

Complaints were received of the following:

1. Wasp in a loaf of bread.
2. Flour moth in loaf of bread.
3. Ant in tin of fruit cocktail.
4. Mouldy chocolate toffees.
5. Sunflower seed kernels alleged to cause irritation to mouth, throat and ears and result in difficult breathing.
6. Alleged contamination of field of lettuce with pesticide.
7. Mouldy meat pudding.

Warnings were given in respect of Nos. 1, 2 and 4. In the case of No. 3 the British Museum (Natural History) stated that this genus of ant did not occur in this country and must have entered the tin elsewhere so no further action was taken. The sunflower seed kernels were sent to the Public Analyst whose examination showed them to be free from traces of contamination by pesticides and other substances likely to cause irritation and that they caused no irritation when consumed; it was decided that no action was therefore called for in this matter.

Alleged contamination of lettuce came from a market gardener who stated that an adjoining farmer had sprayed beans and contaminated about a quarter of an acre of lettuce with pesticide. We were able to ascertain the chemical used and it was found to be one of the safest systemic sprays on the market, being safe to humans and bees, this being confirmed by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, but it was considered advisable that any crops sprayed should not be eaten for at least 3 weeks. The wind direction at the time of spraying was found to be away from the lettuce crop. Sample lettuce were taken at random from the field and sent for analysis, the tests carried out proved negative to contamination. The market gardener had initially demanded that the whole crop be condemned and this had been refused on the grounds of lack of evidence of contamination and this decision proved well founded in the light of the negative results of the laboratory tests.

Two prosecutions were taken in respect of unsound food. The first was in respect of frozen pork slices which were mouldy. The vendor was found guilty and fined £20 with £4.4.0. costs awarded to the Council. In the second case involving the sale of a meat pudding which was in an advanced state of decomposition, the vendor was fined £25, costs of £3.3.0. being given to the Council.

Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles

During the year two delivery vehicles were found to be operating without displaying the name and address of the person carrying on the business, in each case informal action resulted in prompt compliance. The mobile shops which are a feature of rural trading have shown great improvement in recent years both in conditions and types of vehicles, very largely due to the more stringent requirements of recent Road Traffic Regulations.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Last year comment was made on a nuisance of obnoxious odour from chemical processing in Dunmow and as a result of representations the process was discontinued. Unfortunately there was one recurrence, due to improper use, after the process had been shut down and as it happened at night a quantity of methyl alcohol was discharged to atmosphere. This resulted in the foliage of shrubs and vegetables in an adjoining garden being badly burned. The advice of the Alkali Inspector was sought who visited the premises and advised certain alterations to the plant. The management arranged for these alterations to be carried out and the nuisance was then abated.

Plans of three boiler installations were checked with a view to the height of the chimney being satisfactory and the chimneys proposed were found to be of a satisfactory height.

DISINFESTATION

Three disinfestations were carried out during the year.

SECTION 60 NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 BURIAL OF THE DEAD

During the year arrangements were made for the burial of one person who died in Great Dunmow with no next of kin. This makes a total of 23 burials which have been carried out in this District since the Act was passed.

PETROLEUM

Licences were in force in respect of the following:-

Storage of petroleum spirit	166
Storage of petroleum mixtures	1
Storage of calcium carbide	2

6 new installations were brought into use after passing a pressure test and complying with the Council's licensing conditions. 5 installations were taken out of use and the tanks filled with weak mix concrete.

Pressure testing of tanks which had been installed for between 20 and 30 years was continued and the remaining 9 of the total of 17 involved were completed and all proved satisfactory.

Licence holders with electrically operated pumps were notified in the middle of the year that it would be necessary for them to submit a certificate from a competent electrical contractor, stating that the electrical wiring and equipment complied with the licence conditions, before the licence would be renewed.

The Department was notified by the owner of a petrol filling station of his wish to provide a self-service coin-operated petrol pump. The Council gave consideration to this matter and adopted codes of principles generally based on those recommended by the Home Office.

It has been the practice of the Department to require disused petrol tanks to be filled with weak mix concrete and this has been strictly enforced. A disused garage premises at Thaxted which had two underground petrol tanks was converted to a restaurant. Before opening, an extensive fire occurred and police and forensic experts investigating the outbreak viewed with suspicion the old tanks, but we were able to assure them that the tanks had been seen filled with concrete and all the recognised safeguards taken.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES

Although this Act came into force as long ago as 1964, it is interesting to note that of the 8 newly registered premises during the year, only 3 are genuinely new concerns. The remaining 5 premises consist of 4 which came to our attention through other enquiries and 1 which is an existing office, now within the scope of the Act, due to increased part-time working.

The total numbers of staff employed at registered premises again shows an increase, this year by 46, which is largely due to staff changes noted during re-inspections since either initial or previous general inspections. This increase is in addition to the adjustments which have occurred, due to the introduction of self-service shopping in many of the retail food shops.

During the year 55 premises received one or more general inspections, out of a total of 124 registered premises. The premises inspected included all classes of premises and it was found that the contraventions were of a minor nature, consisting mainly of no abstracts of the Act, no thermometers and incomplete first aid kits.

No accidents were reported during the year.

When plans are submitted to this Council for either the construction or alteration of premises which may be covered by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act by an arrangement with the Engineer and Surveyor these plans are examined in order that any necessary modifications can be incorporated at an early stage. It is now pleasing to see that many Architects and Surveyors are increasingly aware of the main requirements of the Act and are making the necessary allowances for each particular project.

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	5	28	17	109
Retail Shops	2	83	32	388
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	-	-	-	-
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	1	11	5	59
Fuel storage depots	-	2	1	15
	8	124	55	551
			Total Males	213
			Total Females	338

UNITED STATES RAILROAD COMMISSION

Date	Total number of freight cars loaded at end of year
1900	1,000
1901	1,000
1902	1,000
1903	1,000
1904	1,000
1905	1,000
1906	1,000
1907	1,000
1908	1,000
1909	1,000
Total	10,000

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:

Paddocks, Wrights Green, Little Hallingbury
Silver Pines, Little Hallingbury
Simpkins, Lindsell
Apple Tree Cottage, Gaston Green, Little Hallingbury
Whitedale, Canfield Road, Takeley
The Chestnuts, Latchmore Bank, Little Hallingbury
Greenacres, Thaxted
Normandale Farm, Little Hallingbury
Grange Farm, Sparrows Lane, Hatfield Heath

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 16.

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. There were 348 rat and 41 mice infestations notified and inspected and in addition 344 other properties were inspected. 513 packets of poison were issued and 124 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	8,398	250	8,648
Premises inspected as a result of notification	389	-	389
Premises inspected as a result of Survey under the Act	-	-	-
Total number of inspections (including re-inspections and inspections primarily for other purposes)	344	-	344
Number of properties found to be infested with rats (common rats)	348	-	348
Major infestations	-	-	-
Minor infestations	348	-	348
Number of properties found to be seriously infested with mice	41	-	41
Number of infested premises treated by the Council's Public Health Inspectors	389	-	389
Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act	-	-	-

CARAVANS and other MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The caravan population of the District continued to be concentrated on the three large sites at Takeley which are licensed for 140, 92 and 50 caravans respectively. At one the fire fighting arrangements were improved following a visit made by the Public Health Inspector and the Fire Prevention Officer of the County Fire Brigade. On another site progress was made on converting the concrete strips on which the caravans stood to concrete hardstandings covering the entire area beneath the caravans. Considerable work had been done on this site in 1968 including the provision of new water supplies, drainage and access roads. The latter gave rise to concern as the foundation provided proved inadequate to the weight of the Council's refuse collection vehicles and the Site Owners were contemplating laying concrete roads in lieu of the hardcore and gravel at present in use. The third site is the one in which litigation has taken place over the years and the Site Owners were prosecuted in the Dunmow Magistrates Court on 29th January 1969 when the following 7 charges were laid by the Council in respect of contravention of licence conditions.

1. A piped water supply had not been provided to every caravan standing.
2. The access and perimeter roads on the site were not properly maintained and five caravan standings were not connected to a carriageway by a footpath with a hard surface.
3. In respect of 32 caravan standings the ground in between the strips of concrete to take the weight of each van was not covered with concrete blocks properly laid and jointed.
4. Adequate surface water drainage has not been provided for the site.
5. 9 caravan standings were not provided with covered storage space.
6. No satisfactory provision had been made for foul drainage as required by Condition 9 in respect of the disposal of waste water from 38 caravans.
7. One fire point was not provided with a suitable water tank.

The Site Owners pleaded guilty to the first two charges and not guilty to the remainder. The Magistrates found the defendants guilty and imposed fines totalling £210 and awarded the Council £26.5.0. costs.

Following these proceedings steps were taken by the owners to improve the site and make it comply with the licence conditions and work was well advanced by the end of the year.

The question of providing a site for gipsies was pursued and 3 further sites, situated at Barnston, Stebbing and Hatfield Broad Oak were considered. None were particularly suitable for the purpose but the one at Stebbing was

considered by the Council to be the best and was submitted to the Essex County Council Welfare Committee for its consideration as the Authority responsible for the actual development of this type of site and a decision was being awaited.

Parishes	Sites	Caravans	Tents	Huts
Barnston	3	3	-	-
Broxted	1	1	-	-
Little Canfield	1	1	-	-
Great Dunmow	2	3	-	-
Great Easton	1	1	-	-
Felsted	1	1	-	1
Great Hallingbury	1	1	-	-
Little Hallingbury	1	1	-	-
Leaden Roding	1	1	-	-
Lindsell	1	1	-	-
Stebbing	7	7	-	-
Takeley	6	289	-	-
Thaxted	2	2	-	-
White Roding	1	2	-	-
Totals	29	314	-	1

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	8	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authorities	81	16	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authorities (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
	126	24	-	-

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	-	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to out-workers)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	1	-	1	-

Outworkers Section 133 11 notifications of outworkers were received.

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:-

Housing Act 1969



