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Braintree Rural District



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

W. J. MOFFAT

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

TOGETHER WITH THE

**Report of the
Chief Sanitary Inspector**

FOR THE YEAR

1947



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Braintree Rural District

Public Health Committee

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LT.-COL. W. F. PARSONS, D.S.O., *ex officio*.

Public Health Officers

W. J. MOFFAT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

W. FAIREY, M.S.I.A., Certificate R.S.I., Meat and other Foods
(until 12th November, 1947)

C. ORGAN, M.S.I.A., Certificate R.S.I., Meat and other Foods
(from 13th November, 1947)

Deputy Sanitary Inspector

C. ORGAN, M.S.I.A., Certificate R.S.I., Meat and other Foods
(until 12th November, 1947)

Sanitary Inspector's Assistant

W. R. GAGE.
(from 13th November, 1947)

Clerks

W. R. GAGE.
(until 12th November, 1947)
R. F. TWITCHETT.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
TOWN HALL,
BRAINTREE.

August, 1948.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1947 on the health and sanitary conditions of the Braintree Rural District.

The Death Rate for the District has again been low. The Birth Rate, while still well above that of pre-war years, appears to have reached its peak in this District in 1946. There was no undue prevalence of infectious disease in the Rural District during 1947.

The provision of additional houses in the Rural District has naturally been the principal preoccupation of the Council throughout the year. Although comparatively good progress has been made in this direction and more is to be looked for in 1948 it is doubtful whether even then, the rate of new building will be high enough to affect the ever-increasing demand for housing accommodation from families at present compelled to share dwellings, from those living in unfit houses, and for agricultural workers.

No new works of water supply were engaged upon during the year but the Council considered proposals for the extensions of the water mains into the more sparsely populated portions of their District, which have not so far got main water supplies, and are desirous of proceeding with this work as soon as possible. This will result in the elimination of many more of the existing shallow well and spring supplies, several of which yield a water of very doubtful quality.

The Council's Consultant Engineers were instructed to proceed with plans for that part of the Northern Area Sewerage Scheme which will serve the parishes of Great Bardfield, Finchingfield and Wethersfield, with a view to submitting the proposals to the Ministry of Health as soon as possible. The necessary Local Inquiry might be held early in 1948. The implementation of this scheme will be instrumental in abating the insanitary conditions prevailing in these comparatively thickly populated parts of the District.

The extension of the system of house-to-house collection of household refuse to every parish during the year was a much needed improvement in the amenities of the District.

The extension of the service of night soil collection in the course of the year to cover all the populous areas not yet provided with sewage disposal facilities, can only be regarded as

temporary and partial amelioration of somewhat primitive conditions which will eventually be solved by the provision of modern sewage disposal plant.

I am grateful for this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the help and support given by the members of the Council and of the ever ready co-operation of the Council's Officers during the year 1947.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. MOFFAT.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	59,569
Estimated Resident Population at mid 1947	...	...	...	...	...	17,560
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	...	...	...	...	...	5,438
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£60,286
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£246

SOCIAL CONDITIONS. The Rural District remains for the most part agricultural in character. There is one clothing factory and one iron works in the District. A considerable number of the inhabitants are employed in factories in adjoining Urban Districts.

One new feature has been the establishment of a large Polish families camp at a former airfield in the District.

There was no lack of employment during 1947.

VITAL STATISTICS

In Table I on page 4 are set out extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Rural District for the years 1938 to 1947 inclusive, relating to estimated populations, Birth Rates and Death Rates, both local and national for these years.

In the absence of an Area Comparability Factor for recent years, it is not possible to draw any direct comparison between the local and national Death Rates. It does appear that the age distribution of the population of the Rural District is similar to that of pre-war years, when there was an increase in the older age groups compared with the age distribution of the population of England and Wales as a whole. If this is the case at present, the local Death Rates compare favourably with those for the country as a whole.

In Table II on page 5 are given details of deaths throughout the year, the information having been supplied by the Registrar General. The main cause of death was again diseases of the heart and circulatory system, while cancer was next in importance.

TABLE I.

Extract from Vital Statistics for 1947 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated mid-year.	BIRTHS			DEATHS										Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)
		NETT			Total Number Registered in District	TRANSFERABLE		NETT							
		Number	Rate	Rate England & Wales		of non- residents registered in District	of residents not registered in District	Under 1 year of age			At all ages				
								Number	Rate per 1000 net births	Rate England & Wales	Number	Rate	Rate England & Wales		
1938	15,580	168	10.8	15.1	155	11	91	7	41.0	53	235	15.1	11.6	-67	
1939	(a) 15,580 (b) 16,210	165	10.6	14.8	168	26	83	5	32.7	x 50	225	13.9	12.1	-60	
1940	17,600	205	11.6	14.1	212	34	84	9	42.5	x 57	261	14.8	14.4	-56	
1941	18,770	202	11	13.9	205	43	67	5	24.3	x 60	229	12.2	13.5	-27	
1942	18,230	247	13.5	15.6	179	34	72	4	16.2	x 51	217	11.9	12.3	30	
1943	18,000	266	14.7	16.2	182	24	85	12	45.1	x 49	243	13.5	13.0	23	
1944	17,530	275	15.6	17.7	216	84	81	14	50.9	x 45	213	12.1	12.7	62	
1945	16,680	251	15.1	16.1	208	79	75	7	27.9	x 46	204	12.2	12.7	47	
1946	17,170	302	17.6	o 19.1	259	107	84	6	19.9	x 43	236	13.7	o 11.5	66	
1947	17,560	292	16.6	o 20.5	240	77	60	13	44.5	x 41	223	12.7	o 19.0	69	

The ages at death of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the Rural District were as shown below.

All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 55	55 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and upwards
223	13	3	—	—	1	4	4	13	34	48	103

There were 292 births in 1947 compared with 302 in 1946. The respective rates per thousand of the estimated mid-year population were 16.6 for 1947 and 17.6 for 1946.

The 1947 births were made up as follows:—

<i>Live Births</i>	Male	Female	<i>Still Births</i>	Male	Female
Total	160	132	Total	3	6
Legitimate	152	125	Legitimate	3	5
Illegitimate	8	7	Illegitimate	-	1

The still birth rate was 29.9 per 1000 total (live and still) births, the legitimate still birth rate being 28 per 1000 total legitimate births and the illegitimate still birth rate being 62.5 per 1000 total illegitimate births.

There were 13 deaths of infants under one year of age in 1947 and these were as follows:—

	Male	Female
Total	8	5
Legitimate	6	3
Illegitimate	2	2

The death rate for infants under one year of age in the District in 1947 was as given below:—

All Infants per 1000 Live Births	...	...	44.5
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Births			32.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Births			267

Of the deaths of infants under one year of age, nine were due to conditions peculiar to infancy, such as premature birth, congenital disease, etc., two to respiratory conditions, one to toxæmia and one to intussusception.

TABLE II.
CAUSES OF DEATH.

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

Cause of Death	Male	Female
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	2
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—
Syphilitic disease	2	1
Influenza	—	2
Measles	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—
Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	—	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	4	1
Cancer of breast	—	1
Cancer of all other sites	14	9
Diabetes	2	—
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	14	18
Heart disease	36	31
Other diseases of circulatory system	9	2
Bronchitis	3	7
Pneumonia	2	4
Other respiratory diseases	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—
Other digestive diseases	1	2
Nephritis	2	4
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	1
Premature birth	1	1
Congenital malformation, birth injury, infantile disease	4	3
Suicide	1	1
Road traffic accidents	—	—
Other violent causes	2	1
All other causes	17	12
All causes ...	118	105

General Provision of Health Services Public Health Officers

For list see page 1.

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

Office accommodation is provided for the Medical Officer of Health, under arrangements made by the Braintree and Dunmow (United) Sanitary Districts Committee, at the Braintree and Bocking Urban District Council Offices in the Town Hall, Braintree.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector resigned his appointment as from November, 1947, from which date the Deputy Sanitary Inspector was appointed to the post. No steps had been taken to fill the post of Deputy Sanitary Inspector by the end of the year.

Laboratory Facilities

The bacteriological laboratory which is available for the Rural District is that at the Essex County Hospital, Black Notley. This service is, under arrangements made by the Ministry of Health, under the control of the County Medical Officer.

The Essex County Council provide a service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analyses of water samples, the chemical analyses of sewage effluents, and the bacteriological examination of milk and ice cream and the examination of other foods for pathogenic bacteria. These examinations are carried out by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

Examinations of milk samples from the District are also arranged by the Essex County Council and the service is undertaken by the Essex Institute of Agriculture at Writtle, near Chelmsford.

Chemical examinations of foodstuffs are carried out by the Public Analyst to Essex County Council.

Ambulance Facilities

The Rural District Council have never operated an Ambulance Service of their own, as the District has always been adequately served in this respect from other sources in close proximity.

For cases of general sickness and accident a motor ambulance is provided at the William Julien Courtauld Hospital, Braintree, and this serves that part of the Rural District adjacent to Braintree. A similar service for the south-eastern part of the Rural District is provided by the motor ambulance owned by Witham Urban District Council and stationed at Witham. In addition, the Braintree Branch of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade has an ambulance based on Braintree, which is also available for the conveyance of cases of general sickness and accident.

For the transport of cases of infectious disease, the motor ambulance of the Braintree Joint Hospital Board, stationed at the Isolation Hospital, Cressing Road, Braintree, has been available.

The ambulance services as outlined above have generally been adequate for the needs of the Rural District. On the rare occasions when it has been necessary to call on other facilities, these supplementary services have been available.

Nursing in the Home

This service in the Rural District has been provided by the District Nurses of the Essex County Nursing Association and has proved very satisfactory.

Treatment Centres and Clinics

These have been provided by the Essex County Council and the main centres are at the Combined Treatment Centres at Braintree and Witham, where there are available Ante Natal, Womens' Welfare, Dental, Orthopaedic and Eye Clinics and a Tuberculosis Dispensary.

Child Welfare Centres are held at fortnightly or monthly intervals in the larger villages in the Rural District.

Provision for the treatment of Venereal Disease is made at Clinics at Chelmsford and Colchester.

Hospitals

The William Julien Courtauld Hospital, Braintree, provides 25 beds for cases of general sickness and accident and a further 10 beds for maternity cases, and is available for part of the Rural District.

The general hospitals at Chelmsford and Colchester and the Essex County Council Hospital at Black Notley have also admitted patients from the Rural District.

For cases of infectious disease, hospital accommodation has been provided at Colchester and Chelmsford, as the Braintree Joint Hospital Board's Isolation Hospital has continued to remain closed during 1947 owing to staffing difficulties.

St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree, which is under the control of the Social Welfare Department of the Essex County Council has continued to provide accommodation for cases of chronic sickness and senility from the Rural District. There is an ever growing demand for institutional accommodation for this type of case.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Water

An outline of the provision of public main water supplies throughout the Rural District was given in my Annual Report for 1946. There were no new works of water supply or mains extensions other than to new housing sites during 1947, but the Council took over from the Service Departments the main serving the Marks Hall and Earls Colne airfield sites with water from the South Essex Water Company's supply.

The main public water supply generally has been satisfactory during the year as regards quantity and quality, although the Terling supply was subject to slight contamination when a small amount of flood water gained access to the collecting chamber. None of the waters is liable to have any plumbo-solvent action.

The quality of the raw water from the Council's sources of supply and of the water passing into supply is controlled by regular bacteriological examinations. Regular chemical analyses are also made of water from the respective sources. Twelve samples of main water supplies were taken during 1947. Copies of typical reports on the analyses of the water from the four sources, Terling Waterworks, South Essex Water Company, Coggeshall Waterworks and Petches Bridge Waterworks will be found on pages 14 to 17.

All of the main water supplies in the District are subject to chlorination at the respective sources. In the case of the Council's undertakings, gaseous chlorine is employed at Petches Bridge Works and hypochlorite solution at Coggeshall and at Terling.

Notes on the functioning of each of the undertakings during 1947 are given below. I am indebted to the Council's Surveyor and his staff, who have supplied the data in regard to the amounts of water pumped in each area for the year to 31st March, 1948. It has not been possible to obtain separate statistics as to trade and domestic consumption for the year under review.

Petches Bridge Waterworks

These works functioned on the whole satisfactorily during the year. There has been a slight increase in the total hardness of the raw water from the boreholes over the past few years, which is, of course, discounted by the softening process which the water undergoes before passing into supply. The average

total hardness of the water in supply is 110 parts per million compared with the 405 parts per million of the raw water.

During the year ended 31st March, 1947, there were 41,637,000 gallons pumped from these works, on an average day's pumping of 8.7 hours. The overall rate for domestic consumption on this supply was 46.05 gallons per head per day of the population supplied. The demand from Service Departments has decreased considerably on previous years, when it was about half of the total pumped.

In the course of the year 52 new connections were made to the water mains in the Northern Area of the District which is supplied with main water from these works.

Coggeshall Waterworks

There was again a slight decrease in the rate of output from this well. The pumping level has now receded to 53 feet below the surface. The area supplied by these works has now to call on increasing supplementary supplies from the South Essex Water Company, despite the fact, as witness the relatively high proportion of stand-pipe supplies, that consumers on this supply are probably the worst off in regard to facilities for the use of water in the whole of the Rural District.

The average daily pumping hours over the year were 15.8 and the yield was 39,512,000 gallons. This had to be augmented by 17,200,000 gallons from the South Essex Water Company's supply. The overall consumption was at the rate of 23.96 gallons per head per day.

Twenty-eight new connections were made to the mains on this system during the year.

Terling Waterworks

Here also an increasing demand for water is being experienced. The contamination of the water supply by flood water has again shown how necessary is the employment there of some means of continuous treatment such as by chlorination.

The thaw which followed the severe winter of 1946-7 came suddenly on Thursday, March 13th, and the flood water in the River Ter rose rapidly in the vicinity of these works.

Some of this flood water entered the collecting chamber at the pumping station, but only for a short time. The chlorine dosage had been stepped up in anticipation of such an eventuality, and tests made throughout this period at the ends of the distribution system showed a constant residuum of free chlorine after contact periods of an hour or more. As an additional precaution boiling of water was advised.

The bacterial contamination of the collecting chamber consequent on the accession of the flood water was slight and short lived. Subsequent examinations showed very slight persisting bacterial contamination in the water from both springs which are the sources of supply, but there was no evidence of serious pollution and, with precautionary chlorination, a pure and wholesome water was readily obtained.

An experience such as that recorded, taken into consideration with the past history of this particular water supply, emphasises the desirability of the Council's seeking an alternative supply for this part of their District. An additional reason for investigating the possibilities of another supply such as could be obtained from the South Essex Water Company, is that the output from the works has had to be increased to meet the ever increasing demand for water and that the time is probably approaching when the demand may exceed the supply.

The output for the year from Terling Waterworks was 24,254,000 gallons to achieve which, the average daily pumping hours had to be increased to seven. The rate of consumption for all purposes was 33.47 gallons per head per day. An increasing proportion of this demand is for agricultural, principally dairy, purposes.

Eleven new connections were made to the mains on this system during 1947.

South Essex Water Company

A total of 104,306,000 gallons was obtained by the Council from the Company during the year ending 31st March, 1947. Of this amount, 17,200,000 went to augment the supply from Coggeshall Waterworks and 15,374,000 gallons to Witham Urban District Council, pending the latter Council obtaining a direct connection to the Company's trunk main.

The rate for water consumption in this area cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy because consumption figures

for such large consumers as the Essex County Council Hospitals at Black Notley and Stisted Hall, and the Polish Families Camp, Kelvedon, are not available for the period in question.

In this area there were 31 new connections made to the mains during the year.

Main Domestic Water Supplies

Particulars in regard to the number of houses and the approximate number of inhabitants who obtain main water supplies, either piped into houses or by means of a standpipe, are given in the table on page 13. The details are given separately for each parish and are based principally on the recent Housing Survey carried out in the District.

Shallow Well Water Supplies

There are still several localities in the District which have to depend on shallow wells and springs as their only source of water supply. Each year, fortunately, sees more and more of these unsatisfactory supplies being eliminated as the public water mains continue to spread throughout the District.

Two of these sources at Ranks Green and Fuller Street, Fairstead, showed bacterial impurity, including the presence of *B. coli* in appreciable numbers in the water during the summer months. On this information, the public were advised to boil the water from these two supplies while the wells were cleaned out and certain reconstruction carried out. Improvement in the quality of the water was apparent after a time, but although of satisfactory quality it has not been of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

As soon as the laying of water mains, now being undertaken in the adjacent Chelmsford Rural District, has progressed sufficiently, the Braintree Rural District Council will lay connecting mains to serve the Ranks Green and Fuller Street areas of the parish of Fairstead and these two particularly unsatisfactory sources will cease to be used.

During 1947, a further eleven shallow well supplies were discontinued and there are now remaining in use the following nineteen such sources in the respective parishes.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Wells and Springs</i>
ressing ...	2 wells at Tye Green and Hawbush Green.
irstead ...	3 wells, 2 at Fuller Street, 1 at Ranks Green.
ulkbourne ...	1 well at Pump Bungalow.
nchingfield ...	2 wells at Hawkins Harvest and at Ost End.
hite Notley ...	1 well at The Green.
nfield ...	2 wells at Shalford Road and The Village.
attiswick ...	1 well at Council Houses.
ardfield Saling ...	1 well at Pollards Villas.
reat Saling ...	1 well at Blake End.
alford ...	1 well at Jaspers Green.
isted ...	1 well opposite Bridge Hall.
ethersfield ...	3 wells at Blackmore End, Beazley End, and Brick Kiln Green.

Main Water Supplies

Provision of Main Supplies in Houses, Standpipe Supplies and estimated population served in each Parish in the Braintree Rural District as at 31st March, 1948

Parish	Total in District		Main Supply in House		Standpipe Supply	
	No. of Houses	Est. Pop'n	No. of Houses Served	Est. Pop'n Served	No. of Houses Served	Est. Pop'n Served
reat Bardfield ...	292	943	103	333	21	68
adwell ...	71	229	33	107	7	23
reat Coggeshall ...	790	2552	465	1502	298	963
ttle Coggeshall ...	108	349	68	220	31	100
ressing ...	248	801	136	439	4	13
irstead ...	81	262	11	36	2	7
ulkbourne ...	40	129	—	—	—	—
ering ...	310	1001	254	820	19	61
nchingfield ...	395	1276	213	688	15	48
atfield Peverel ...	669	2161	470	1518	29	94
elvedon ...	578	1867	434	1402	102	329
arks Hall ...	25	81	15	48	—	—
ack Notley ...	206	665	80	258	9	29
hite Notley ...	125	404	38	123	3	10
nfield ...	103	333	70	226	5	16
attiswick ...	74	239	23	74	9	29
ayne ...	227	733	66	213	3	10
ardfield Saling ...	70	266	24	78	5	16
reat Saling ...	100	323	42	136	13	42
alford ...	199	643	117	378	—	—
isted ...	196	633	110	355	31	100
erling ...	244	788	112	362	25	81
ethersfield ...	327	1056	109	352	14	45
Totals ...	5478	17,734	2993	9668	645	2084

WATER ANALYSES

Sample from TERLING WATERWORKS

Date of Sample 11.6.47.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

<i>Appearance</i>	Bright with a few particles of mineral debris.		
<i>Colour</i>	Less than 10	<i>Turbidity (Silica Scale)</i>	
<i>Odour</i>	Nil		Less than 5
<i>Electric Conductivity</i>		<i>Reaction pH.</i>	Neutral 7.0
at 20°C	690	<i>Total Solids dried</i>	
<i>Chlorine in Chlorides</i>	29	at 180°C	460
<i>Hardness Total</i>	360	<i>Alkalinity as Ca CO₃</i>	250
<i>Temporary</i>	250	<i>Free Carbon Dioxide</i>	37
<i>Permanent</i>	100	<i>Nitrogen in Nitrates</i>	6.4
<i>Metals: Iron: Less than</i>	0.03	<i>Nitrogen in Nitrites</i>	Absent
<i>Other Metals</i>	Absent	<i>Free Ammonia</i>	0.008
<i>Fluorine Less than</i>	0.1	<i>Albuminoid Ammonia</i>	0.048
		<i>Oxygen absorbed in</i>	
		4 hrs. at 27°C	0.20

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per ml. in

1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
2	5	-

Presumptive Coliform Reaction

† Present in 10 ml.	† Absent from 1 ml.
* Present in 50 ml.	* Absent from 10 ml.

Bact Coli Present in — Absent from 100 ml.

† *False Presumptive Reaction.*

* *Due to coliform bacteria of Intermediate Type 1.*

REPORT: This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of salinity and mineral constituents in solution are not excessive. It is of very satisfactory organic quality. The water is considered wholesome in character, although the very slight bacterial contamination, which includes small numbers of coliform organisms, indicates that it is not quite of the standard desirable where a public supply is concerned. Indeed, if chlorination has been applied, the presence of these coliform organisms is inconsistent with efficiency of this process. ‡

Signed G. J. LAWS.

‡ This sample was taken at the intake (i.e., before the water had been subjected to routine chlorination.

Sample from SOUTH ESSEX SUPPLY

Date of Sample 11.6.47.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million.

<i>Appearance</i>	Bright with very few particles of mineral debris.		
<i>Colour</i>	Less than 10	<i>Turbidity</i> (Silica Scale)	
<i>Odour</i>	Nil		Less than 5
<i>Electric Conductivity</i> at 20°C	560	<i>Reaction</i> pH. On the alkaline side of	
<i>Chlorine in Chlorides</i>	37	neutrality	8.0
<i>Hardness</i> Total	275	<i>Total Solids dried</i>	
Temporary	195	at 180°C	375
Permanent	80	<i>Alkalinity as Ca CO₃</i>	195
<i>Metals: Iron</i>	0.03	<i>Free Carbon Dioxide</i>	3
Other Metals	Absent	<i>Nitrogen in Nitrates</i>	1.4
<i>Fluorine</i>	0.15	<i>Nitrogen in Nitrites</i> approx	0.1
		<i>Free Ammonia</i>	0.006
		<i>Albuminoid Ammonia</i>	0.042
		<i>Oxygen absorbed in</i> 4 hrs. at 27°C	1.05

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per ml. in			
1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C	
0	4	-	

Presumptive Coliform Reaction Present in — Absent from 100ml.

Bact Coli Present in — Absent from 100ml.

REPORT: This sample is clear and bright in appearance, almost neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is hard in character, but not unduly so, and its content of salinity and mineral constituents in solution is not excessive. It is of a high standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Signed G. J. LAWS.

The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Sample from **COGGESHALL WATERWORKS**

Date of Sample 7.7.47.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million.

<i>Colour</i>	Nil	<i>Turbidity (Silica Scale)</i>	
<i>Odour</i>	Nil		Less than 5
<i>Electric Conductivity</i>		<i>Reaction pH</i>	7.6
at 20°C	1700	<i>Total Solids dried</i>	
<i>Chlorine in Chlorides</i>	384	at 180°C	1130
<i>Hardness Total</i>	140	<i>Alkalinity as Ca CO₃</i>	315
<i>Temporary</i>	140	<i>Free Carbon Dioxide</i>	12
<i>Permanent</i>	0	<i>Nitrogen in Nitrates</i>	0.0
<i>Metals: Iron</i>	0.05	<i>Nitrogen in Nitrites</i>	Absent
<i>Other Metals</i>	Absent	<i>Free Ammonia</i>	0.000
		<i>Albuminoid Ammonia</i>	0.000
		<i>Oxygen absorbed in</i>	
		4 hrs. at 27°C	0.15

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per ml. in			
1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C	
0	0	-	

Presumptive Coliform Reaction Present in — Absent from 100ml.
 Bact Coli Present in — Absent from 100ml.

REPORT: This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water has a very moderate hardness and a high, though not excessive content of salinity and mineral constituents in solution. It is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

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

Signed GORDON MILES,
 for the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Sample from PETCHES BRIDGE

Date of Sample 25.3.47.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million.

<i>Appearance</i>	Slight opalescence with very few particles of mineral debris.		
<i>Colour</i>	Nil	<i>Turbidity (Silica Scale)</i>	
<i>Odour</i>	Nil		Less than 5
<i>Electric Conductivity</i> at 20°C	850	<i>Reaction pH.</i>	Neutral 7.1
<i>Chlorine in Chlorides</i>	84	<i>Total Solids dried</i> at 180°C	570
<i>Hardness Total</i>	405	<i>Alkalinity as Ca CO</i>	310
<i>Temporary</i>	310	<i>Free Carbon Dioxide</i>	35
<i>Permanent</i>	95	<i>Nitrogen in Nitrates</i>	0.0
<i>Metals: Iron</i>	0.22	<i>Nitrogen in Nitrites</i>	
<i>Other Metals</i>	Absent		Less than 0.01
		<i>Free Ammonia</i>	0.29
		<i>Albuminoid Ammonia</i>	0.000
		<i>Oxygen absorbed in</i> 4 hrs. at 27°C	0.15

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per ml. in

1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
0	0	-

Presumptive Coliform Reaction Present in — Absent from 100ml.

Bact Coli Present in— Absent from 100ml.

REPORT: This sample is slightly opalescent in appearance. It is neutral in reaction and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is very hard in character, although its hardness and its contents of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It is of a high standard of organic quality and bacterial purity. The very appreciable content of free ammonia needs to be taken into consideration with reference to the dose of chlorine and the time of contact for precautionary treatment.

These results are indicative of a pure and whole some water suitable for public supply purposes, apart from the disadvantages of the high hardness.

Signed ROY C. HOATHER.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The general position with regard to the sewerage of the Rural District was not improved during 1947, although, because of decisions then taken by the Council it is to be hoped that conditions, as far as the Northern Area is concerned at least, will be much less unsatisfactory in the near future. Consideration was given to the report by the Council's Consultant Engineers on the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal works to serve the several well populated villages in the District, which so far have not had such amenities. The proposals, as far as the villages of Great Bardfield, Finchingfield and Wethersfield were concerned, seemed to be capable of realisation within the present financial limits of such schemes, and the Consultants were asked to prepare the details for submission to the Ministry of Health, with a view to the Council asking for approval for a loan to execute the necessary works.

This proposed scheme when it matures, will have dealt with what is, in the aggregate, the largest insanitary area in the Rural District at present. There are an unknown number of old sewers in these three villages, and particularly in Great Bardfield, which from sources obvious and otherwise, find their way to the streams, there to discharge their considerable content of sewage, perhaps partially treated, but more frequently untreated. An additional feature of the proposal is the intention to make use of the sewage disposal plant, constructed for the service of the former R.A.F. Station at Wethersfield, to which it is proposed that all three villages shall drain.

There remain to be dealt with the villages of Rayne, Stisted and Bradwell combined, and Terling, as being next in urgency from the point of view of density of population and resulting insanitary conditions. The possibility of Rayne draining to the Braintree and Bocking Urban District Council's Sewage Works has been taken up with the latter Council. Terling will, it is hoped, drain to the Hatfield Peverel Works and a scheme is being prepared by the Council's Consultants, who are also engaged on preparing a scheme for the Stisted and Bradwell area.

In connection with the functioning of the Council's four existing sewage disposal plants, the Surveyor has kindly supplied the information given under the heading of each works.

Coggeshall Sewage Disposal Works

These works are now overloaded to a considerable extent and will soon require adaptation to deal with the ever increasing flow, as still more premises are connected to the main sewers.

There were three samples of the effluent from the outfall sewer taken by the Essex County Council in 1947 and two of these were reported unsatisfactory.

Further surcharging of the main sewers in Coggeshall occurred on occasions with consequent flooding from sewer manholes.

Kelvedon Sewage Disposal Works

Because of the detrimental effect on the plant, the trade waste from the Gas Works was excluded from these Works. The plant had recovered by the end of the year, and negotiations were in progress between the Council and the Gas Works Company for the admission of the effluent from the latter's premises to the Sewage Works under certain conditions as to chemical composition and rate of emission in accordance with the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937.

Analyses of the effluent from this Sewage Works by the Essex County Council during the year showed that two out of three samples taken were satisfactory. The unsatisfactory sample was taken when the trade waste referred to was flowing to the works.

Hatfield Peverel Sewage Works

The plant here is now having to work beyond its designed capacity and proposals are being considered for the enlargement of the Works in order to deal with the sewage from Terling as well as the estimated future flow from Hatfield Peverel.

One out of three samples of the effluent in 1947 was reported as satisfactory and another was on the borderline.

White Notley Sewage Works

These works continued to function satisfactorily. Because of the war, many connections to the sewers draining to them have only recently have been made and others have still to be made, but even so, there is still a wide margin between the present-day flow and the designed capacity of the plant to allow for future building development in this area.

The effluent continues to be well within the standards prescribed for a good effluent.

Each of the two samples taken at these works was satisfactory.

Other Sewage Disposal Works

The Service establishments at Marks Hall and Earls Colne, and Wethersfield were virtually closed down by the end of the year, and those at Great Saling and Finchingfield were greatly reduced. Reports on the analyses of effluents taken in 1947 from the Sewage Disposal Works serving these sites were as follows:—

Works	Sample Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Earls Colne Aerodrome	2	2	—

Rivers and Streams

Pollution of streams flowing into, and of the River Pant itself, continued to occur in the villages of Great Bardfield, Finchingfield and Wethersfield. The implementation of the scheme for the sewerage of these villages will result in the cessation of such pollution.

Similar pollution by old sewers draining directly into the river occurs on the River Ter at Terling, and here again, the provision of the proposed sewage disposal scheme for the area will do away with the pollution.

Public Cleansing

Refuse Collection

During the year progressive extension of the service of refuse collection took place and the ultimate aim of providing a house to house collection to cover the whole District was expected to be realised in 1948. The Chief Sanitary Inspector is responsible for this service and details of the scheme will be found in his report.

Night Soil Collection

The obsolescent amenity of a night soil collection peculiar only to certain parts of the unsewered areas of the District became still more unreliable and the Council had recourse to an outside firm with whom they contracted for a service to be provided to the centres of population in the unsewered portions of the District.

This, it is hoped, is to be regarded only as a temporary amelioration until such localities can be provided with water carriage sewage systems. There can be no doubt about the increasing public demand for such facilities in the Rural District, a demand which is the more confident as awareness grows of the standard in this respect achieved in the post-war houses erected nearby.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The work done during the year by the Sanitary Inspectors' Department is set out in detail in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. As is to be expected under present day conditions, the bulk of complaints received are in respect of housing defects, and other housing matters since, in this instance, this Department deals with housing lists and applications.

Shops

No routine inspections of premises in the District in regard to the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, could be made. Special attention has been given to premises used for the preparation, sale and storage of food.

Tents, Vans and Sheds

Although itinerant van dwellers pass through the District in considerable numbers at such times as the peapicking season, they do not linger for long in any one spot.

There have been recently several applications granted to persons to station caravans on single sites, pending the owners being granted permission to build a permanent house for themselves, on such sites. There has been no difficulty experienced in obtaining satisfactory hygienic standards in these instances.

Vermin Infestation

There were again no instances of premises being found infested by beg bugs.

Factories

Particulars of premises in the Rural District coming within the scope of the Factories Act, 1937, and of inspections made there, will be found in the table on page 22.

There were 52 outworkers notified as being employed in the District in February, 1948, many of whom work for local industries. The principal types of such employment are in the manufacture of wearing apparel and lampshades.

Schools

All schools in the Rural District have piped main water supplies available.

One voluntary school whose fate, under the rationalisation scheme of the Essex Education Committee is uncertain, is still not connected to the sewer, although the latter has been available immediately in front of the premises for nearly ten years.

Rodent Control

The Ministry of Food N.S. 12 scheme for the free treatment of residential properties ended in 1947, having run very successfully for a year. Details of the operation of the scheme will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

Factories Act, 1937

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

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	28	11	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	63	18	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	1	—	1	—
	92	29	4	—

II. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of case in which defects were found				Num case wh prose w insti
	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					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	2	1			
(b) unsuitable or defective		1		1	
(c) not separate for sexes				1	
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Totals	2	2	—	2	—

HOUSING

There was a considerable increase in the available housing accommodation in the Rural District in 1947. In all 77 new dwellings were occupied during the year and these were comprised as follows:—

New Council Houses	32
Private Enterprise Houses	11
Temporary Dwellings	30
Reconditioned Private Dwellings	3
Converted Buildings	1
	—
Total	77

This total is considerably less than the annual demands for separate housing accommodation. At the present time the marriage rate in the Registration area of which the Rural District forms a part, is 8.97 per 1000 of the population and the annual number of marriages in the District is some 150. It is very exceptional for newly married couples to find separate housing accommodation within one year of marriage, and the majority have to wait for considerably longer. Even if the marriage rate decreases somewhat, as it probably will in future, there will be a net demand for housing accommodation from this source of some 100 houses annually, which might be reduced by anything up to half if, and when, homes were available in nearby Urban Districts, where many residents of the Rural District are employed.

The balance of housing applications which totalled 773 at 31st December, 1947, are in the main from families living in sub-standard houses, often overcrowded as well. The post-war Housing Survey of the District was completed in 1947 by bringing the pre-war housing records up-to-date. The result of the investigations showed that 453 houses have already been condemned or can only be considered as fit for demolition, while 575 will require extensive reconditioning. (The complete table of the Housing Survey will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector). At the year's end there were 64 requisitioned properties in the District occupied by families rendered homeless by enemy action, either in the Metropolitan Area, or locally, and by families who had been very inadequately housed. Of the requisitioned properties 45 had already been scheduled for demolition under the Housing Acts, and are included in the 453 houses mentioned above.

Overcrowding has existed in many instances, even on the meagre standards of the Housing Act, although the worst cases have since been relieved. Very real overcrowding, if not within the legal definition, continues to exist by reason of two or more families having to share the same dwelling.

There are signs that the rate of construction of new Council Houses will increase still further in 1948 and that further dwellings will be made available by the conversion of buildings at airfield sites in the District. By this means it is hoped that some reduction will be made in the requirements of the District for new housing accommodation.

In the meanwhile, as far as conditions permit, action is taken to ensure that the occupied houses do not deteriorate and fall below the present day minimum standard.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

There was a reduction to 104 in the number of premises registered in the Rural District for the production and/or sale of milk at the end of 1947. Eleven were registered as retailers only.

The producers licensed by the Essex County Council under the Milk (Special Designations) Order for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk rose from 26 in 1946 to 31 in 1947, while in the same period licences to produce Accredited Milk fell from 29 to 19.

Particulars of inspections made at premises concerned with the sale and production of milk and of the action taken are given in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

Ice Cream

It has been necessary to devote increasing attention to conditions in premises used for the manufacture and sale of ice cream, as there continues to be a steady demand for new registrations and to ensure that the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations are being complied with. These advisory visits have generally been well received.

Registrations increased by seven over the previous year and were in respect of three manufacturers and fourteen retailers only. Of the manufacturers, two employed the hot mix process, while the other used the cold mix method only.

Conditions generally were fairly satisfactory. Improvements in premises are difficult to achieve with present day restrictions, although what has been possible has usually been effected by the co-operation of the traders who are, themselves desirous of improving their facilities.

Eight samples were taken during the season, with the following results in terms of the Provisional Grading of the Ministry of Health applicable to the Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

Manufactured locally		Manufactured outside District	
1 in provisional Grade	II	1 in Provisional Grade	II
2 in Provisional Grade	III	2 in Provisional Grade	IV
2 in Provisional Grade	IV		

Of the locally manufactured samples the two in Grade IV did not show the presence of Bact. coli and it appeared that the fault lay in the cooling process, and advice was given accordingly. Information was passed on to the local authorities concerned in the case of the samples manufactured outside the District.

Meat

The continuance of the Ministry of Food's scheme for centralised slaughtering in this area has precluded the use of premises in the Rural District whose fresh killed meat supplies come from the Ministry's slaughterhouses at Braintree and Witham.

Meat supplies in the District are inspected in butchers' shops.

Other Foods

Inspection of other foods is made in shops, frequently upon complaint. Particulars of the foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption after such inspections are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of cases of notifiable diseases, other than Tuberculosis, in the Rural District throughout 1947 is set out in the Table on page 29. Details of new cases and deaths from Tuberculosis are given below under that sub-heading. Features of the occurrence of various notifiable diseases are commented upon briefly below.

Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis

There were no confirmed cases of poliomyelitis or polioencephalitis in the District when the disease was present in epidemic form in the whole country in the Summer and Autumn, and when cases were occurring in nearby Districts. Since the local epidemic of 1938, there have been two cases in the Rural District, one in 1942 and one in 1943.

Diphtheria

Of the three confirmed cases of diphtheria, two were children from one family. One, aged 9 years, had been immunised in infancy, the other aged 4 years had not. Both made a good recovery. The third case was that of an infant of $1\frac{1}{2}$ years, who had not been immunised.

Particulars are given below of children in the District under fifteen years of age on 31st December, 1947, who had been immunised against diphtheria under the scheme operating in the District by the Essex County Council and the Rural District Council. In addition to these figures there have been in recent years, an increasing number of children, particularly in the 0-4 years of age group, who are immunised privately by general practitioners in the District. It has not been possible to obtain particulars of the children so dealt with, and these are, therefore, not included in the figures given.

Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947

Age at 31.12.47 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5-9 1938-42	10-15 1933-37	Total up to 1937
Number immunised	—	69	88	129	140	603	862	1891
Estimated mid-year Child population 1947	1263					1922		3185

Measles

A considerable number of cases occurred in 1947. Most of these were notified during the months of February, March and April, and the Coggeshall area was the part principally affected. No case required admission to Hospital.

Whooping Cough

Once again the incidence of whooping cough in the District was low.

Scarlet Fever

One of three cases of scarlet fever was admitted to hospital because conditions for nursing at home were bad. It was not necessary to remove the other two cases.

Puerperal Pyrexia

The two notifications of puerperal pyrexia were in respect of patients in the Maternity Block at Black Notley Hospital.

Ineffective Hepatitis

Of the five notified cases two were in one family, the onset in the second case being fourteen days after that of the first. The remaining three cases all occurred in Hatfield Peverel but with no apparent connection.

Non-notifiable Disease

There were a few sporadic cases of chicken-pox and mumps among the school children in the District, but otherwise there was nothing of any note.

Tuberculosis

Particulars of the new cases of tuberculosis reported during the year and of deaths from the disease in the District are set out in the Table below:—

Age periods (Years)	New Cases				Deaths			
			Non-				Non-	
	Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	3	2	1	—	1	1	—	—
35—45	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	7	6	3	1	2	3	—	—
	13		4		5		—	

At the end of the year there were 92 cases on the Tuberculosis Register of the District. These were as follows:—

Males		Females	
Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
32	19	32	9

Although the net increase in new cases for the year was 12, there was a reduction of 17 in the cases on the Register at 31st December, 1947, compared with the same date in 1946. The reductions were accounted for by seventeen cases removing from the District, eight being declared as recovered, and four being removed from the Register as the diagnosis had not been confirmed.

On the death or removal to hospital of an 'open' case of tuberculosis, the Council offer disinfection of premises and bedding. No charge is being made for this service.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified in 1947

	Number of Cases Notified													Cases admitted to Hospital	Total number of Deaths
	At ages—years														
	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever ...	3	1	2	—	2	3	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	8	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Diphtheria ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	8	13	12	20	9	12	3	3	2	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	167	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Ac. Pneumonia ...	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
Totals ...	198	8	11	14	15	23	94	13	5	4	5	4	2	5	2

Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector for the Year, 1947.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report on the work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department for the year 1947. It will be appreciated that this report covers a period, for the larger part of which, my predecessor Mr. Fairey was responsible; therefore, it will follow the lines of previous years.

The anticipated return to more normal working conditions has not materialized, in fact, in some ways conditions have become more abnormal and it is still therefore, impracticable to return to any fixed routine of duties. Whilst every endeavour has been made to maintain adequate and thorough inspections of all controlled premises, the acute Housing position in the District has inevitably meant that priority has had to be given to work in this connection, while other not so important duties have been to a certain extent neglected.

Every available opportunity has been taken of acquiring temporary housing accommodation and further schemes for converting hutments which have become redundant to military requirements have been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval. At the end of the year, 30 such temporary dwellings had been brought into occupation and it is anticipated that others will be forthcoming during 1948.

The housing survey as required by Ministry of Health Circular 64/44 was completed towards the end of the year. A separate table showing the classification of all the properties surveyed is given later. It will be seen that throughout the District, a considerable number of cottages are suitable only for complete reconditioning and that nearly 500 are considered to be past repair and can only be dealt with satisfactorily by demolition. The final figures to be dealt with under these categories depends, to a large extent, on the attitude of the owners and it may well be that some properties earmarked for re-conditioning, may be demolished owing to the unwillingness of the owners to spend any money on this work; and other property considered only suitable for demolition, may ultimately be re-conditioned.

Whilst it is obvious that the time is not yet opportune for

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large scale slum clearance work, I do commend to the Council the suggestion that as opportunities occur, certain properties which have by now outlived their usefulness should be appropri-

tely dealt with and that a certain priority in re-housing should be given to families living in cottages on which there are Demolition Orders, made, in some cases, before the war.

Nature and Number of Visits, Inspections, etc.

Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	184
Visits to investigate complaints	...	...	...	234
Revisits and inspections of work in progress	...	...	...	199
Interviews with owners, builders and architects	...	...	...	110
Infectious disease enquiries	...	...	...	8
Disinfections carried out	...	...	...	2
Disinfestations carried out	...	...	...	1
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	148
Visits to Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	36
Inspections of Knacker's Yard	...	...	...	7
" " Bakehouses	...	...	...	36
" " Fish Friers' premises	...	...	...	18
" " Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	32
" " Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	29
Water samples taken	...	...	...	25
Drains tested	...	...	...	33
Attendances in Court	...	...	...	5
Schools inspected	...	...	...	10
Visits to requisitioned premises	...	...	...	129
" to temporary dwellings	...	...	...	67
" to camping and caravan sites	...	...	...	19
" in connection with refuse collection and salvage	...	...	...	101
" to refuse tips	...	...	...	40

Controlled Premises

Details of Inspection, etc.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.	No. Registered	No. Inspected	Total No. of Inspections	Informal Notices Served	Notices complied with	Legal Proceedings
Common Lodging Houses	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	24	24	36	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cowsheds	104	102	148	15	15	Nil
Other Dairies and Milkshops						
Slaughterhouses	16	16	28	Nil	Nil	Nil
Knacker's Yards	1	1	7	2	2	Nil
Offensive Trades	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Fish Friers	4	4	18	3	3	Nil
Ice Cream Premises	17	17	32	7	7	Nil
Factories and Workshops	92	17	29	4	4	Nil

Notices and Letters sent out

Informal Notices	...	...	...	142
Letters	...	...	...	997
Formal Notices	...	...	...	11

Meat Inspection

There have been no changes in the arrangements for supplying meat to the butchers in the District and all meat so supplied continues to be drawn from slaughterhouses outside the District and is inspected at the time of slaughter. Whilst the quality of the meat issued to the public may leave much to be desired very little of a diseased or unsound condition has been found or reported and it was only necessary to condemn 112 lbs. meat. Frequent formal visits to butchers premises are maintained and I am pleased to say that a high standard of cleanliness pertaining in pre-war years has generally been maintained.

Other Foods

Periodical visits were paid to other food premises and the following were condemned as unfit for human consumption, where possible being disposed of for animal feeding stuffs:—

- 2251 tins of food of various types.
- 100 lbs. Bananas.
- 31 lbs. Sultanas.
- 64 lbs. Bacon
- 348 lbs. Fish.
- 351 Imported Eggs.

Cowsheds and Dairies

Total number of premises registered—31st December, 1947	104
Premises registered for Production and Wholesale	65
Premises registered for Production and Retail	28
Premises registered for retail only	11
Premises licensed for production of Tuberculin Tested Milk	31
Premises licensed for production of Accredited Milk	19

It is interesting to note that of the 104 premises registered, almost 50% are licensed under the Milk (Special Designations) Order and of these 31 out of 50 are for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk. The standard of premises from a structural point of view generally showed an improvement during the year and there were occasions when farmers themselves sought advice on structural alterations which would bring their premises at least up to the standard required by the Milk and Dairies Order.

On the other hand there appeared to be a noticeable decline in the standard of cleanliness and whilst the labour position may have been to a certain extent responsible for this, it was necessary on several occasions to draw the attention of the persons responsible to this important aspect of the work. Verbal instructions were mostly sufficient and in no case was it necessary to resort to Statutory Proceedings.

Housing

Whilst routine work under the Housing Act has of necessity been suspended owing to the demand for housing accommodation almost irrespective of its condition, and the fact that the Control of Civil Buildings Order places a certain restriction on the work which can be carried out at the present time, maintenance of premises at least in a wind and weathertight condition was secured wherever necessary. In addition, the Council gave careful and sympathetic consideration to schemes submitted by owners for completely re-conditioning their property and whilst only three such cases were actually completed during the year further schemes were approved, which it is anticipated, will be carried out during 1948.

Where cases of unoccupied dwellings came to light, investigations were carried out and as a result 6 were brought into occupation by the owners and 7 were requisitioned by the Council under the Defence Regulations. After repair and re-decoration the latter were allocated to families on the Council's waiting list for housing accommodation.

Rural Housing Survey

Summary of Housing Classification—1946-47

	Total No. of Houses	Classification			
		A & B	C	Cx	D
Great Bardfield	292	186	31	43	32
Bradwell	70	44	10	9	7
Gt. & Lt. Coggeshall	886	617	79	130	60
Cressing	237	163	4	28	42
Fairstead	81	62	4	9	6
Faulkbourne	40	26	4	3	7
Feering	303	255	9	25	14
Finchingfield	395	276	25	53	41
Hatfield Peverel	657	572	19	25	41
Kelvedon	570	473	34	44	19
Marks Hall	12	7	2	3	—
Black Notley	197	182	1	10	4
White Notley	125	87	10	5	23
Panfield	103	70	9	10	14
Patiswick	74	41	6	8	19
Rayne	226	199	8	9	10
Bardfield Saling	69	44	3	5	17
Great Saling	77	53	2	9	13
Shalford	191	120	21	34	16
Stisted	196	152	14	18	12
Terling	242	177	20	25	20
Wethersfield	323	186	31	70	36
Totals	5366	3992	346	575	453

Interpretation of Classifications.

A & B—Fit or Requiring minor repairs.

C—Unfit, requiring major repairs, structural alteration or improvement.

Cx—Unfit, suitable for re-conditioning and re-planning.

D—Only fit for demolition.

Public Cleansing

Refuse Collection

Further re-organization of the Cleansing Service took place during the year and as a result of the amalgamation of Refuse and Salvage collections and the basing of all vehicles and personnel at the Bocking Depot, it was possible to further extend the area previously covered. At the end of the year only Great Saling, Bardfield Saling, Great Bardfield and Finchingfield were without direct labour service and of these the last two were dealt with by contract.

Difficulties have of course been experienced, one being the slowness with which proper bins can be supplied, but generally the scheme is working reasonably satisfactorily. The Council appreciated the difficulty in attracting the right type of men for this work and approved a small bonus scheme on bottles and jars and the provision of additional protective clothing, but in spite of this several quite good men left the service during the year for more lucrative and congenial employment.

There is one matter to which I must again draw the Council's attention, that of obtaining suitable sites for tipping. Those available at the end of 1947 were situated at Coggeshall and Terling, nothing being available in the whole of the Northern Area. This naturally means considerable wastage of time in haulage, and I would again stress the desirability of considering as a long term policy, some alternative method of disposal, say, by destruction, at a site more centrally situated.

Salvaged materials to the value of just over £1,200 were collected and disposed of during the year.

Night Soil Collection

The difficulties experienced during 1946 in maintaining a reasonably satisfactory service of night soil collection in those Parishes to which this facility had been afforded, worsened considerably during the year under review and at times the position bordered on complete breakdown. As a result, the Council decided to terminate all existing local contracts and to make a new contract for the whole of the areas served with Messrs. Tovey Transport of Cambridge, who undertake this and allied work over a wide area. At the same time the opportunity was taken to include part of the Parish of Shalford, that part of Rayne not previously covered and parts of Bradwell and Pattiswick where the Council was satisfied that there was a

genuine need for a collection. The new scheme was to come into force on the 1st January, 1948 and it was anticipated that it would be a considerable improvement on the old, at least as a temporary measure until water carriage schemes can be provided, which will be the only really satisfactory way of dealing with this problem.

Shop Act, 1934

No action has been taken under this Act during the year.

Smoke Abatement

Observations taken on the few factory chimneys in the District showed little cause for complaint, although in one instance it was necessary to give a verbal warning, which resulted in a considerable improvement being made.

Ice Cream Premises

There were 17 premises registered for the storage, manufacture and sale of ice cream in the District, an increase of 7 over the previous year.

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations which came into force on the 1st May, laid down conditions to be observed in the handling of ice cream, but although these Regulations provided control which had not been available previously, it is still felt that the legislation for dealing with this commodity leaves much to be desired.

Routine visits were paid as frequently as possible, particularly during the summer months, to ascertain that the requirements of the new Order and other legislation were being carried out. Temperature checks were made and 8 samples were taken for analysis, of which two were unsatisfactory and one only passable. Difficulty in obtaining the necessary freezing material for transmission of the samples to the laboratories restricted the number of samples which could be taken, but it is hoped that by the provision of a more suitable sampling outfit, the number which can be taken during 1948 will be considerably increased.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919

There were no important changes in the arrangements made by the Ministry of Food for exercising Rodent Control, during the year. As a result of the house to house survey commenced in 1946 and completed during 1947, 13 major infestations (20-100 rats); 51 minor infestations (1-20 rats) and 10 cases of mice infestation were located and dealt with. Coggeshall sewers were given a maintenance treatment and also the two refuse tips and various sewage beds.

Close co-operation was again maintained with the Pest Section of the County Agricultural Committee which carries out similar work on agricultural lands and property.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the co-operation of all other Departments of the Council; the support and interest of Councillors; and the zeal and loyalty of my own Staff, who have carried out their duties throughout a difficult year in a manner which leaves little to be desired.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. ORGAN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

