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HEALTH  
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ANNUAL REPORT  
on the  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
and  
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES  
of the  
Halstead Rural District

for the Year 1956

by



Dr. J. S. RANSON  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health

and

HAROLD NIELD  
A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

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HALSTEAD

# Halstead Rural District Council

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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The REVD. E. POWELL (Chairman)  
COMDR. J. A. LOWE (Vice-Chairman)  
BRIGADIER R. L. BROWN  
BRIGADIER J. T. de H. VAIZEY  
MISS E. M. GOODCHILD  
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R. B. HUNT, ESQ.  
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M. SPRINGETT, ESQ.  
J. T. STOCK, ESQ.  
F. St. G. UNWIN, ESQ.

Report on the  
**PUBLIC HEALTH OF THE HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT**  
for the year 1956

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By DR. J. S. RANSON  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting this, my last report, I wish to make a few observations on my work for the Council during the last 34 years.

Firstly, I regret that the day has now come for me to give up this work. I have had the good fortune to serve during a period of years when changes have been great and progress most marked.

Think first of the year 1923.

The Council had only those houses known as the Addison houses in Alexandra Road, Sible Hedingham, and Burrows Road, Earls Colne. The only piped water scheme in the District was at Earls Colne. There was no sewage disposal works in the District. There was no supply of electricity in the District. School medical work had only just started and some of the Welfare Centres had not been opened. The by-roads had not been taken over by the County Council and only the main roads were in fair condition. Housing generally was much below a satisfactory standard, chiefly owing to the inability to pay adequate rents. Treatment of tuberculosis was almost negligible and X-ray of the chest of little value. No immunisation against any disease had been started, except of course, that by vaccination against smallpox. Education was very elementary. The problem for some teachers in small schools with children aged from 5 to 14 years was indeed difficult.

Now, as you know, the District has its piped water scheme. Plans for the installation of sewage disposal works for the larger villages are in hand. The building of many Council houses, and other private houses, together with large numbers of houses reconstructed with and without state aid has entirely altered the

housing question. Education is vastly improved by the provision of modern secondary schools. The roads are now in an excellent state. There is a supply of electricity to most of the villages. School medical work is adequate and complete. Modern methods of treatment and the improvement of X-ray technique have immensely increased the chances of the arrest and cure of all forms of tuberculosis. B.C.G. vaccination protects the younger members of the population against tuberculosis infection. Other forms of immunisation have abolished diphtheria and reduced the number of cases of whooping cough. Immunisation against poliomyelitis has been started. Its results remain to be seen. Modern drugs and antibiotics have revolutionised the treatment of pneumonia, puerperal pyrexia, cerebro-spinal meningitis, erysipelas and scarlet fever.

My work in the schools and at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres shows me that the health and physique of the children in the District are now both excellent. If this result is in part due to my efforts, I am well repaid, but of course credit must be given to their parents for their keen desire to do their best for their children, and for their ready co-operation in accepting advice.

My appreciation and greatest thanks are due to all members of the Council, both past and present, and to their Staff for their help and consideration in my work during the past 34 years.

My special salutation must go to Mr. Frank Nott and Mr. Arthur Gardiner who alone remain of the Councillors of 1923.

My special thanks are due to Mr. H. E. P. Stokes, the Clerk, for his consideration and help during the last few years with their many changes.

For ten years I have worked with Mr. Harold Nield, as Chief Public Health Inspector. This has been a most happy association and I can say that no two people could have worked together with better accord. I have the greatest appreciation of his work and hope that he may continue to serve the Council for many years.

Although, of course, I can no longer take an active part, I can assure the Council that I shall take the greatest interest in the progress which you now are so anxious to promote.

I have the honour to have been,

Your sincere servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. S. Hanson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name of the Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Officer of Health.

## 1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) ... ..	76,637
Population (Registrar General's estimate) ... ..	16,550
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956) according to the Rate Books ... ..	5,768
Rateable Value (at 1.4.56) £133,047 (at 1.4.57) ... ..	£133,729
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£537 4 11

		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	Legitimate:— ... ..	218	98	120
	Illegitimate:— ... ..	10	6	4
Still Births	... ..	4	1	3

Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population ... ..	13.7
Birth rate (corrected by comparability factor) ... ..	16.0
Birth rate per 1,000, England and Wales ... ..	15.6
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 (live and stillbirths) ... ..	17.2
Deaths (Registrar General's estimate) ... ..	227
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population ... ..	13.7
Death rate (corrected by comparability factor) ... ..	11.2
Death rate, England and Wales ... ..	11.7
Death of infants under one year of age ... ..	3
Death rate of infants under one year of age (per 1,000 live births) ... ..	13.1
Death rate of infants under one year of age, England and Wales	23.8

### Deaths at Various Age Groups

(Registered and Transferred)

Age Group	Registered	No. of Deaths Transferred
Under one year ... ..	1	2
1 and under 2 years ... ..	—	—
2 and under 5 years ... ..	1	—
5 and under 15 years ... ..	—	2
15 and under 25 years ... ..	—	—
25 and under 35 years ... ..	1	1
35 and under 45 years ... ..	1	4
45 and under 55 years ... ..	8	8
55 and under 65 years ... ..	13	10
65 and under 75 years ... ..	30	16
75 years and upwards ... ..	84	52
<b>Totals</b> ... ..	<b>139</b>	<b>95</b>

## DEATHS FROM VARIOUS CAUSES

(Registrar General's Figures)

	Male	Female
Influenza ... ..	—	1
Syphilitic disease ... ..	—	—
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ... ..	1	—
Tuberculosis (Non-respiratory) ... ..	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	—	—
Cancer ... ..	21	12
Leukaemia ... ..	1	—
Diabetes ... ..	—	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	17	17
Coronary disease ... ..	19	13
Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	4	2
Other heart disease ... ..	21	24
Other circulatory disease ... ..	2	3
Pneumonia ... ..	1	6
Bronchitis ... ..	6	3
Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	3	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	2	1
Gastritis and diarrhoea ... ..	—	1
Nephritis ... ..	—	3
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	1	—
Congenital malformation ... ..	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	14	11
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	1	—
All other accidents ... ..	4	3
Suicide ... ..	2	1
Homicide ... ..	—	—
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>106</b>

## 2. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Infectious Disease—Cases Notified:

	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital
Infectious Jaundice ... ..	2	—
Measles ... ..	291	—
Pneumonia ... ..	1	—
Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	5	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	1	—
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>Nil</b>

Tuberculosis—New Cases Notified:

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5 years	—	1	—	—
5 and under 10 years	—	—	—	—
10 and under 15 years	—	—	—	—
15 and under 20 years	—	1	—	—
20 and under 25 years	1	—	—	—
25 and under 35 years	—	1	—	—
35 and under 45 years	1	—	—	—
45 and under 55 years	1	—	—	—
55 and under 65 years	—	—	1	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Nil</b>

Transfers from other District: 3.

Deaths from Tuberculosis: Nil.

Food Poisoning Notifications: Nil.

Report on the  
**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES**  
**OF THE HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT**  
for the year 1956

By HAROLD NIELD,  
A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.,  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF  
HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

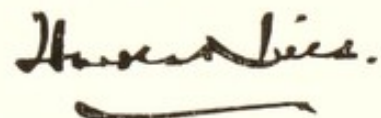
I have the honour to submit this report which consists mainly of statistics regarding your Public Health Inspector's duties during the year required by various Acts and Statutory Instruments. Explanatory comment necessary to make the report more easily intelligible has been drastically minimised for the sake of brevity.

The report indicates how the duties have rapidly increased, details the improvements secured during the year, and also shows what has had to be neglected on account of other more pressing work and staff shortage.

My thanks are due once again to members of the Public Health Committee for their confidence and interest in my work and the pleasant relationship enjoyed during the year, and also to officers of the Council for their courteous helpful co-operation. Special appreciation should also be recorded to my staff for their hard work and loyalty in carrying out our onerous duties in a tactful and impartial manner.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant



Chief Public Health Inspector.

**1. STAFF.**

Chief Public Health Inspector

HAROLD NIELD,  
A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.  
Incorporated Public Health  
Engineer.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

WILLIAM L. C. PROUD (To 30.11.56).  
M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.  
MONTAGUE E. ROUSELL (To 28.7.56).  
M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.  
BRIAN A. J. TURNER (From 5.11.56).  
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Part-time Rodent Operative

ALFRED LAUGHLIN.

Clerk Typist

MISS MARY A. BECKWITH

General Assistant

DAVID W. HARPER (To 30.4.56).

TREVOR T. G. HARDY (From 1.8.56).

## 2. FOOD.

### (a) Food Premises Inspections

Details of food premises in the District, and of inspections made by the Public Health Department regarding the food therein, the hygiene of the processes, and the structure and cleanliness of the premises were:—

Type of Food Premises	No. in District	No. of Inspections
Bakehouses	10	7
Egg Packing & Liquid Egg Preparation Premises	3	10
Fish Fryers	2	4
Game Dealers' Premises (Licensed)	1	1
General Provision Shops	77	34
Ice Cream Premises (Registered)	60	19
Meat Products Premises (Registered)	15	52
Meat Shops	14	222
Public Houses and Inns	71	41
Restaurants and Cafes	9	35
Slaughterhouses	3	152
Street Vendors	—	22
Miscellaneous	—	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>603</b>

Food premises fully surveyed	Nil
Food poisoning investigations	Nil
Informal notices served	9
Food premises improved	10
Food vehicles improved	Nil

All food traders were supplied with an explanatory pamphlet on the new Food Hygiene Regulations.

### (b) Food Premises Improvements

	Structural Works	Decorations and Cleaning	Lighting and Ventilation	Cold Water Supply	Hot Water Supply	Washing Facilities	Refuse Storage Facilities	Drainage	Sanitary Accommodation	Total
Bakehouses	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	3
Dairies	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Egg & Poultry Packing Premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fish Shops and Fish Fryers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Provision Shops	—	—	—	3	4	3	—	—	1	11
Ice Cream Premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meat Products Premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meat Shops	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	5
Public Houses and Inns	—	—	1	3	3	2	—	1	4	14
Restaurants and Cafes	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	3
Slaughterhouses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Vehicles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>37</b>

(c) **Unsound Food**

It was not necessary to make any seizures of Food. Vendors co-operated satisfactorily in reporting suspected food, which resulted in the following commodities being voluntarily surrendered.

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	120lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	89lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	109lbs.
Tinned Foods	...	...	...	...	...	73lbs.
Total						351lbs.

(d) **Post-mortem Inspection of Animals**

Three slaughterhouses licensed by the Council were used for meat supplies to a number of local butchers during the year. Slaughtering was carried out on five days per week including Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. Two slaughterhouses licensed by the Ministry of Food as Deadweight Certification Centres under the Ministry of Food Fatstock Guarantee Scheme continued in use and the Council's Chief Public Health Inspector acted as Certifying Officer therefor.

Details of post-mortem inspection of animals were:—

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Goats	Pigs
No. Killed (Estimated) ...	332	Nil	24	339	Nil	329
No. Inspected ...	165	Nil	2	183	Nil	208
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned ...	9	Nil	Nil	14	Nil	17
(c) Percentage of number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	5.4	Nil	Nil	8.2	Nil	8.1
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned ...	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
(c) Percentage of number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ...	1.2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.96

The figures in the above tables are in respect of animals inspected during or shortly after slaughter. Where such inspection was impossible on account of pressure of other work, attempts were made to examine as many carcasses as possible in butchers' shops later. This, of course, was only possible in respect of meat slaughtered in the District and sold by local butchers.

Licensed Slaughtermen 13

(e) Milk and Dairies

	No. in District	No. of inspections
Registered Dairy Premises ... ..	6	26
Registered Distributors of Milk ... ..	6	14
Licensed Dealers of Tuberculin Tested Milk	5	11
Licensed Dealers of Pasteurised Milk ...	6	12
Licensed Dealers with Supplementary Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	13	12
Licensed Dealers with Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk ... ..	13	12
Totals ... ..	49	87

Grade of Milk	Number of Samples	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ...	6	5	1
Tuberculin Tested ...	—	—	—
Pasteurised ... ..	6	5	1
Undesignated ... ..	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	12	10	2

The unsatisfactory samples were followed up and subsequent samples taken were satisfactory.

(f) Ice Cream

Ministry of Health Provisional Grade	No. of Ice Cream Samples	Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Cream Samples
I	21	Excellent	11
II	—	V. Satisfactory	6
III	—	Satisfactory	4
IV	—	Fair	—
		Unsatisfactory	—
	Total 21		Total 21

(g) The County Council as Food and Drugs Authority were responsible for the taking of samples for Chemical analysis of food and drugs, milk, ice cream, etc., but details of such sampling were not notified to the Rural District Council.

### 3. WATER.

None of the existing supplies were treated by softening, but the District Water Scheme was chlorinated and chlorinating apparatus was available for use as necessary at the Council's Earls Colne Undertaking.

As a routine procedure samples of the District Water Scheme Castle Hedingham and Earls Colne mains water supplies were submitted for laboratory examination monthly, and samples of all other mains water supplies quarterly.

During the year the following work was carried out by the Public Health Department:—

(a) Inspections regarding water supplies	... ..	152
(b) Statutory Notices served re water supplies	... ..	1
(c) Informal Notices served re water supplies	... ..	21
(d) Premises connected to water mains following informal action	... ..	52
[In addition 1,335 premises were voluntarily connected to the new District Water Scheme mains]		
(e) Wells improved following informal action	... ..	6
(f) Samples of water submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. Details of these are given in the following table	... ..	113

Source	No. of Samples	Wholesome	Below Standard
Public Water Mains	43	43	—
Private Water Mains	27	24	3
Public Wells, etc.	2	—	2
Private Wells, etc.	10	4	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>11</b>

The unsatisfactory samples from the private water mains were investigated and sources of contamination determined. Remedial action taken resulted in the supplies being made satisfactory.

Constructional work on the Council's Comprehensive District Water Scheme, which commenced in May, 1953, continued during the year, and the water supplied from the Scheme was subject to serious complaints regarding excessive hardness and iron content.

#### 4. HOUSING

##### (a) Housing Inspections

(1) Inspections regarding disrepair and sanitary defects ... ..	606
(2) Houses fully surveyed and recorded ... ..	91
(3) Inspections regarding re-conditioning ... ..	920
(4) Inspections regarding overcrowding ... ..	11
(5) Investigations of Applications for Council house tenancies ...	4

##### (b) Housing Notices

(1) Informal Notices served requiring remedy of disrepair and sanitary defects ... ..	13
(2) Statutory Notices served under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	4
(3) Statutory Notices served under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring remedy of housing disrepair ... ..	1
(4) Certificates of Disrepair granted ... ..	Nil
Property owners responded satisfactorily to informal procedure requesting the repair and improvement of dwelling houses and their co-operation was appreciated.	

##### (c) Unfit Houses

(1) Houses Officially Represented under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	40
(2) Demolition Orders made ... ..	51
(3) Undertakings accepted (a) to repair or recondition ... ..	1
(b) not to use for human habitation	19
(4) Accumulated total of outstanding Demolition Orders (December, 1956) ... ..	103
(5) Accumulated total of outstanding Undertakings (Dec., 1956)	
(a) to make fit for human habitation	14
(b) not to use for human habitation	70

##### (d) Slum Clearance Proposals

Details of the Council's Slum Clearance Proposals are given in the following tables:

## SLUM CLEARANCE PROPOSALS

Unfit Houses—Position at 31st December, 1956

Parish	Total Houses in Slum Clearance Proposals 31st December, 1955	Unfit Houses Considered by Council and subject to			Unfit Houses Awaiting Consideration by Council			Grand Total
		Undertakings	Dem. Orders	Action Pending	Cat. 4	Cat. 5	Total	
Alphamstone	3	—	—	—	3	—	3	3
Ashen	17	9	4	—	2	—	2	15
Belchamp Otten	7	2	1	—	—	—	—	3
Belchamp St. Paul	6	4	—	—	2	—	2	6
Belchamp Walter	17	—	11	—	5	—	5	16
Birdbrook	18	—	—	1	11	6	17	18
Borley	5	—	2	—	1	2	3	5
Bulmer	21	—	—	—	11	6	17	17
Bures Hamlet	3	—	1	1	1	—	1	3
Castle Hedingham	42	6	8	2	16	9	25	41
Colne Engaine	9	2	2	—	4	1	5	9
Earls Colne	29	3	7	4	9	5	14	28
Foxearth	11	2	—	—	5	2	7	9
Gestingthorpe	26	3	1	3	17	2	19	26
Gosfield	11	1	—	—	7	3	10	11
Great Henny	15	—	—	—	11	4	15	15
Great Maplestead	11	—	4	—	5	2	7	11
Great Yeldham	28	2	—	—	16	10	26	28
Halstead Rural	14	—	4	—	5	2	7	11
Helions Bumpstead	32	8	10	1	7	6	13	32
Lamarsh	6	—	—	—	4	2	6	6
Liston	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Little Henny	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
Little Maplestead	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Little Yeldham	13	1	—	—	8	3	11	12
Middleton	8	1	—	2	1	4	5	8
Ovington	5	—	—	—	3	2	5	5
Pebmarsh	15	1	9	—	5	—	5	15
Pentlow	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Ridgewell	24	1	8	2	8	5	13	24
Sible Hedingham	47	5	11	2	14	12	26	44
Stambourne	18	3	3	—	8	4	12	18
Steeple Bumpstead	22	4	4	—	6	3	9	17
Sturmer	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tilbury-juxta-Clare	18	3	2	—	7	6	13	18
Toppesfield	34	2	6	—	17	9	26	34
Twinstead	10	4	—	1	3	2	5	10
White Colne	12	5	1	—	3	1	4	10
Wickham St. Paul	25	11	4	1	6	—	6	22
Totals	587	84	103	23	231	114	345	555

## SLUM CLEARANCE PROPOSALS

Progress 1956

Parish	Houses Represented	Undertakings Accepted	Demolition Orders Made	Houses Made Fit	Houses Demolished	Council Houses granted to displaced persons
Alphamstone	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashen	3	2	1	—	2	—
Belchamp Otten	—	2	3	1	3	—
Belchamp St. Paul	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belchamp Walter	—	—	6	—	1	1
Birdbrook	1	—	—	—	—	—
Borley	—	—	2	—	—	1
Bulmer	—	—	—	2	2	—
Bures Hamlet	2	—	1	—	—	—
Castle Hedingham	1	—	2	1	—	1
Colne Engaine	—	—	—	—	—	—
Earls Colne	10	3	7	1	—	2
Foxearth	—	—	—	—	2	—
Gestingthorpe	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gosfield	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Henny	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Maplestead	—	—	2	—	—	—
Great Yeldham	—	—	—	—	—	—
Halstead Rural	—	—	—	—	2	—
Helions Bumpstead	5	4	4	—	—	1
Lamarsh	—	—	—	—	—	—
Liston	—	—	—	—	—	—
Little Henny	—	—	—	—	—	—
Little Maplestead	—	—	—	—	—	—
Little Yeldham	—	—	—	—	1	—
Middleton	2	—	—	—	—	—
Ovington	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pebmarsh	2	—	8	—	—	—
Pentlow	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ridgewell	—	—	1	—	—	—
Sible Hedingham	2	1	4	—	3	2
Stambourne	3	—	3	—	—	—
Steeple Bumpstead	1	—	1	2	3	1
Sturmer	1	1	—	—	—	—
Tilbury-juxta-Clare	—	—	—	—	—	—
Toppesfield	6	2	4	—	—	2
Twinstead	—	4	—	—	—	1
White Colne	1	—	1	—	2	—
Wickham St. Paul	—	1	1	—	3	—
Totals:	40	20	51	7	25	12

(e) **Housing Improvements**

(1) Houses reconditioned or repaired following informal action by the Public Health Department	96
(2) Houses fully reconditioned to the "Twelve Points Standard"	43
(3) Houses repaired following Statutory notices under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	—
(4) Houses repaired following Statutory notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936	1
(5) Houses repaired or reconditioned following Statutory undertaking under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	7
(6) Houses reconstructed and demolition orders served	1
(7) Houses demolished following Statutory Demolition Orders under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	25

(f) **Housing Improvement Grants**

Applications for Improvement Grants	49
Improvement Grants approved (for £13,322)	48
Loans made by Council for Repairing or Improving Houses	4

(g) **Housing Overcrowding**

Overcrowded houses existing December, 1955	7
Overcrowded houses found during 1956	1
Overcrowded houses relieved 1956	Nil
Overcrowded houses existing December, 1956 (Including 2 Council houses)	8

(h) **Moveable Dwellings**

Licensed Camping Grounds (for 58 trailer caravans)	1
Inspections of Camping Grounds	8
Licensed Moveable Dwellings	37
Inspections of Moveable Dwellings	57
Informal Notices served re Moveable Dwellings	6

Every caravan on the licensed camping ground is provided with piped mains water supply and main drainage to a camp disposal plant.

**5. WORKPLACES**

(a) **Inspections and Notices**

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of	
			Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	2	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	8	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>

Certificates of Means of Escape in case of fire granted ... Nil

(b) Defects found and Remedied

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total:</b> ...	—	—	—	—	—

(c) Out-Workers

Nature of Outwork	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel —Making, etc., ...	10	—	—	—	—	—

(d) Miscellaneous

Premises	No. in district	Inspections
Places of Entertainment ...	28	3
Shops ...	105	291
Workplaces ...	10	2
Schools ...	23	2

Certificates of Exemption granted (shops) ... Nil

## 6. WASTE MATTERS.

### (a) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Public Sewerage and Sewage Disposal was part of the duties of the Council's Surveyor's Department.

Of the 39 Parishes in the District seven (Castle Hedingham, Colne Engaine, Earls Colne, Foxearth, Sible Hedingham, Steeple Bumpstead and part of White Colne) had public sewers, and three public sewage disposal works served Earls Colne, Sible Hedingham, Steeple Bumpstead and part of White Colne.

Schemes for the Parishes of Castle Hedingham, Halstead Rural, Gosfield, Great Yeldham, Pebmarsh, Sible Hedingham, Toppesfield and Wickham St. Paul have been prepared and a scheme for Colne Engaine is in course of preparation by the Council's Consulting Engineers. The following Parishes have been given priority regarding their need for sewerage and sewage disposal schemes in the near future: Ridgewell, Belchamp St. Paul, Foxearth, Sturmer, and schemes are also proposed for Ashen, Birdbrook, Great Maplestead, Gestingthorpe, Helions Bumpstead, with extensions at Earls Colne, White Colne and Steeple Bumpstead.

Constructional work on the joint sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the Parish of Bures Hamlet with Bures St. Mary (Melford Rural District Council) continued during the year.

Twenty-nine inspections were made by the Public Health Department of public sewers and sewer ditches following complaints, and certain unsatisfactory conditions such as blockages, need of cleansing, etc., were remedied.

### (b) Drainage.

Drainage was part of the duties of the Public Health Department.

There was no scheme for emptying cesspools or sewage tanks in the District (except at Council houses), and householders made their own arrangements with private contractors.

Details of drainage to properties in the District are:—

Total Properties	Properties drained to:			Properties without drainage
	Sewers or Highway Drains	Sewage tanks or Cesspools	Ditches etc.	
6296 (100%)	1872 (29.7%)	1874 (29.8%)	1319 (20.9%)	1231 (19.6%)

(i) Drainage Duties

1. Plans examined regarding drainage proposals	...	...	...	...	174
2. Drainage investigations and advisory visits	...	...	...	...	225
3. Drainage inspections	...	...	...	...	577
4. Inspection of ditches	...	...	...	...	23
5. Drainage smoke tests	...	...	...	...	208
6. Informal notices served	...	...	...	...	30
7. Statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	—

(ii) Drainage Improvements

As a result of informal action by the Public Health Department, the following improvements were effected:—

1. Premises drained to public sewers	...	...	...	...	25
2. Premises drained to septic tanks	...	...	...	...	56
3. Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	14
4. Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	9
5. Ditches cleansed	...	...	...	...	12

(c) Sanitary Fittings

There is a need in the District for the conversion of earth closets into water closets, and for the provision of sinks and baths to dwellings.

Details of sanitary fittings of properties in the District are:—

Total Properties	Properties with :					
	Sanitary Conveniences				Sinks	Baths
	W.C's.	E.C's.	Privies	None		
6296 (100%)	2770 (43.9%)	3438 (54.6%)	11 (0.17%)	77 (1.2%)	4960 (78.7%)	2273 (36.1%)

During the year 56 inspections regarding sanitary conveniences were carried out and 12 informal notices served.

As a result of informal action by the Public Health Department the following improvements were effected:—

1. Privy conversions	...	...	...	...	...	—
2. Sanitary conveniences reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	4
3. New sanitary conveniences provided	...	...	...	...	...	116
4. Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	101
5. Baths provided	...	...	...	...	...	87

#### (d) Refuse Storage and Disposal

Public cleansing was part of the duties of the Council's Surveyor's Department. The Council possessed two refuse collecting vehicles and undertook the removal of house refuse at fortnightly intervals in the Parishes of Castle Hedingham, Earls Colne, Sible Hedingham and White Colne, and contracted for the removal of night soil and refuse in the Parish of Bures Hamlet. In the remaining Parishes the Council removed tins and salvage at approximately monthly intervals. Refuse and tins were disposed of on refuse dumps at Great Yeldham, Sible Hedingham, Steeple Bumpstead and White Colne, and by making up land at the request of farmers, etc., in various parts of the District.

Eight inspections of refuse tips, and 12 inspections regarding refuse accumulations were made. Three informal notices were served regarding refuse accumulations and 12 regarding the provision of dust bins.

As a result of action by the Public Health Department, eight accumulations of refuse were removed, and twelve dust bins provided.

## 7. PESTS

The District continued to be comparatively free from insect pest infestation. No premises were found with bed bug infestations. A total of 33 inspections were made by the Public Health Department in connection with insect pests, and 23 premises were disinfested in respect of ants, carpet beetles, fleas, flies, mosquitoes, mites and wasps. Four informal notices were served.

There was also no unduly high incidence of rat and mice infestations in the District. The Council's public sewers and refuse dumps were rat disinfested as a routine measure in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food requirements.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year were:—

		Type of Property				
		Non-Agricultural				5 Agricultural
		1 Local Authority	2 Dwelling Houses (Inc. Council Houses)	3 All other (Inc. Business Premises)	4 Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
I.	Number of properties in Local Authorities District ... ..	16	5674	363	6053	450
II.	Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
	(a) Notification	Nil	11	5	16	2
	(b) Survey under the Act ... ..	16	25	22	63	8
	(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose) ...	Nil	289	49	338	Nil
III.	Total inspections carried out — including re-inspections ... ..	25	250	250	525	25
IV.	Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by					
	(a) Rats Major	3	1	1	5	Nil
	Minor	7	15	12	34	Nil
	(b) Mice Major	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
	Minor	Nil	Nil	2	2	Nil
V.	Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ...	10	10	13	33	1
VI.	Total treatments carried out — including re-treatments ... ..	10	16	15	41	2
VII.	Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act					
	(a) Treatment	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil
	(b) Structural work	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
VIII.	Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
IX.	Legal proceedings ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
X.	Number of "Block" control schemes carried out.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

## 8. MISCELLANEOUS

The following miscellaneous duties were also carried out by the Public Health Department during the year:—

(a) Plans deposited under Building Byelaws examined	...	...	174
(b) Smoke and dust nuisance investigations	...	...	2
(c) Keeping of animals and poultry nuisance investigations	...	...	5
(d) Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) investigations	...	...	23
(e) Notifiable disease investigations	...	...	18
(f) Premises disinfected following notifiable diseases	...	...	Nil
(g) Visits regarding miscellaneous sanitary matters	...	...	12
(h) Bathing pool water samples taken	...	...	Nil
(i) Pet Shop licences granted	...	...	Nil
(j) Rag Flock Act inspections	...	...	Nil

The following special report was submitted to the Council by the Chief Public Health Inspector during the year:—

### 1. Slum Clearance.



