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in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk



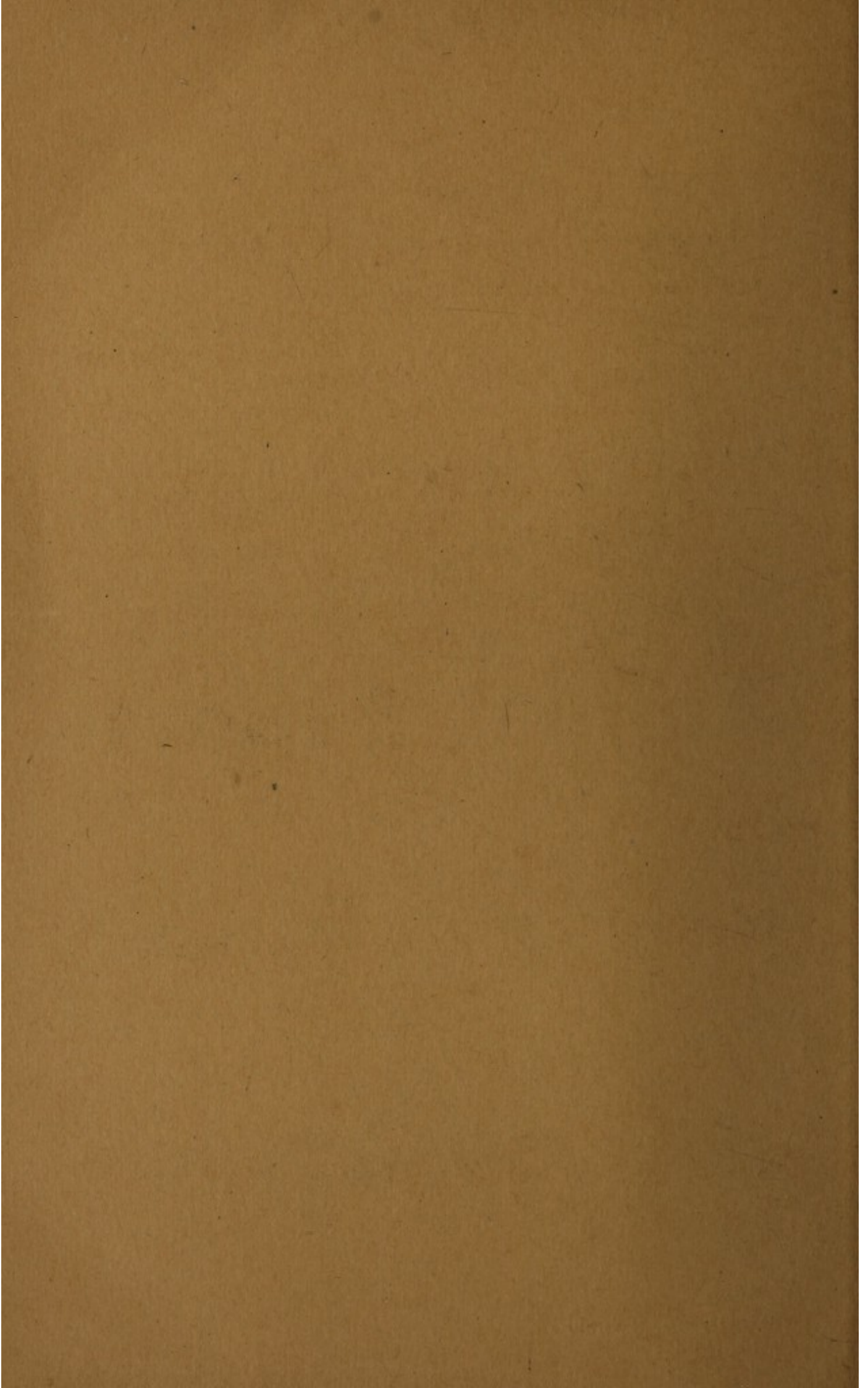
Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1956



To the Chairman and Members
of the
Haverhill Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Haverhill Urban District for the year 1956.

The population of Haverhill again shows the customary steady increase.

The birth rate has increased, the death rate has decreased and both rates compare favourably with those for England and Wales.

Apart from a sharp epidemic of measles there were extremely few cases of notifiable diseases.

Early in the year Mr. P. T. Rake, the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. T. J. P. Hendry, Assistant Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, left the service of the Council. Mr. I. H. Seeley, B.Sc., A.M.I. Mun. E., A.R.I.C.S., commenced duties as the Council's Engineer and Surveyor on 23rd April, 1956, but a Public Health Inspector had not been appointed by the end of the year. By agreement with Clare Rural District Council, an arrangement for the inspection of animals slaughtered in this District was made with their Health Department staff. Other duties were carried out by Mr. Seeley.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their co-operation and encouragement during the year. My sincere thanks are due, too, to Mr. W. C. Blake, the Clerk of the Council, Mr. I. H. Seeley, the Engineer and Surveyor, and to Mr. H. A. Smith and Mr. C. Boulton, Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector respectively to the Clare Rural District Council.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the District	2,530 acres
Rateable Value (as at 31.3.56)	£23,062
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£84 19s. 6d.
Rates	£1 4s. 3d.
(County Rate 14/11, U.D.C. Rate 9/4)	

Number of inhabited houses	1,730
Estimated Population... ..	4,330
Census, 1951	4,096

The industrial activities are varied and comprise the manufacture of ready made clothing, gloves, mats and textile fabrics. The manufacture of tooth and other brushes also provides occupation for large numbers. Other factories produce ploughing and harvesting machinery, plant for sharpening lawn mowers and repairs to harvesting machinery. Rope, tarpaulins and marquees are also manufactured. A firm manufacturing telecommunication equipment are proceeding with the erection of a new factory. A firm of Essence manufacturers are also proceeding with the erection of a new factory. The processing of animal feeding stuffs is also carried out.

SECTION B.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(Figures in brackets refer to the previous year)

Live Births:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	(29) 44	(29) 23	(58) 67
Illegitimate	(2) 2	(3) 1	(5) 3
Totals	(31) 46	(32) 24	(63) 70

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	(14.9)	16.2
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	(15.2)	16.5
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	(15.0)	15.7
Proportion of illegitimate births to legitimate live births	(8.6%)	4.3%

Still Births:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	(1) —	(1) 1	(2) 1
Illegitimate	(—) —	(—) —	(—) —
Totals	(1) —	(1) 1	(2) 1

Deaths :

	Total (59) 54	Male (25) 30	Female (34) 24		
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	(14.0)	12.5
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	(10.6)	10.4
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	(11.7)	11.7
Deaths resulting from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion					Nil.
Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :					

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	(—) 3	(—) 1	(—) 2
Illegitimate ...	(—) 1	(—) 1	(—) —
Totals ...	(—) 4	(—) 2	(—) 2

Prematurity and congenital abnormalities were the main causes of the infants deaths.

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :

Deaths per 1,000 live births ...	(—)	57.1
Deaths per 1,000 live births (England and Wales) ...	(24.9)	23.8

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Cancer (all types) ...	(9) 6	(5) 1	(14) 7
Diabetes ...	(0) 1	(0) 1	(0) 2
Vascular Lesions of the nervous system	(3) 6	(9) 3	(12) 9
Heart Disease ...	(8) 7	(6) 8	(14) 15
Pneumonia ...	(0) 1	(3) 5	(3) 6
Bronchitis ...	(0) 2	(0) 1	(0) 3
Influenza ...	(1) 2	(0) 0	(1) 2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Motor Vehicle Accidents...	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Other Accidents ...	(0) 0	(1) 0	(1) 0
Suicide ...	(0) 1	(0) 0	(0) 1
Homicide and Operations of War ...	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Other and ill-defined diseases ...	(6) 4	(8) 5	(14) 9
Total ...	(27) 30	(32) 24	(59) 54

Adjusted Birth and Death Rates for the last five years :

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Birth Rate	16.4	13.5	19.3	15.2	16.5
Death Rate	15.0	10.8	11.3	10.6	10.4

SECTION C.

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

- (a) Dr. G. P. Barclay, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., whole time Medical Officer of Health (is also M.O.H. to several other local authorities).
- (b) Mr. P. T. Rake, M.B.E., A.M.I.Mun.E., M.R.San.I., Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (Resigned 31 Jan. '56)
- (c) Mr. T. J. P. Hendry, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., R.P., Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Surveyor.
(Resigned 30 April '56)
- (d) Mr. I. H. Seeley, B.Sc., A.M.I.Mun.E., A.R.I.C.S., Engineer and Surveyor (Appointed 23 April '56).

Hospitals:

There are no Hospitals within the area.

Ambulance Facilities:

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance services.

Nursing in the Home:

District Nurses are available for nursing and midwifery duties.

Infant Welfare:

A welfare clinic is held weekly on Fridays and is provided by the West Suffolk County Council.

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply:

The Waterworks are situated in Camps Road on the West side of the Town, the floor level of the old pump house is 279 50 feet above Ordnance Datum, the new pump house floor level is 274 feet above O.D. The supply is obtained from below the chalk stratum and consists of a well 7 feet in diameter, 103 feet deep with two headings each 25 feet long running North and South; there are three boreholes, one 9 inch diameter at the bottom of the well to a depth of 250 feet from the surface level, one through the South heading 10 $\frac{1}{8}$ inch diameter and another 18 inch diameter through the North heading to a depth of 350 and 360 feet respectively from surface level.

A test pump when the 18 inch bore was sunk in 1944 showed an ample yield of water up to 26,500 gallons per hour from a depth of 150 feet below the surface level.

Pumping Machinery:

In 1951 a verticle spindle centrifugal pump was installed in the one borehole, and this raises approximately 11,000 gallons per hour and is powered by a 37 h.p. electric motor.

An order has been placed with Messrs. Harland Engineering Co., Ltd. for the supply and installation of an electrically operated submersible pump capable of pumping 15,000 gallons per hour.

All water is chlorinated either by liquid or gaseous chlorine.

Water from the pumps is conveyed to a 150,000 gallon reservoir with a top water level of 350 feet above O.D. This reservoir is not sufficiently elevated or has sufficient capacity to supply future development and elevated and increased storage will have to be provided in the next few years.

Number of dwelling houses connected with the mains:

(a) Within the U.D.C. area	...	...	...	1722
(b) Outside the area...	...	...	...	19
Length of mains	...	...	...	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles

Number of houses not connected to the mains:

(a) Within reach	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Not within reach	...	...	...	8

The proportion of houses supplied by standpipes (all within the curtilage of the houses) ... 4.4%

Purity of the Water:

Frequent samples are sent for Chemical and Bacteriological examinations. There has been little or no variation from the standard type of report reproduced here. The report shows no tendency to plumbo-solvency.

The following is a copy of a Chemical and Bacteriological examination of a sample of water by the

Counties Public Health Laboratories,
Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

Analysis of a Sample of Water received 13th Nov., 1956 from
Haverhill Urban District Council :—

Labelled—Tap at Council Offices, Haverhill. From mains supply
Date—12th November, 1956 at 9.30 a.m.

Taken by—J. Challis. Witness—J. Whiting. Signed—I. H. Seeley

Chemical Results in parts per million.

Appearance—Bright with few particles. Turbidity—Less than 3.
Colour—Nil. Odour—Nil.
p.h.—7.1. Free Carbon Dioxide—32.
Electric Conductivity—820. Total Solids—640.
Chlorine present as Chloride—44.
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate—280
Hardness : Total 440. Carbonate—280. Non-Carbonate—160
Nitrate Nitrogen—1.6. Nitrite Nitrogen—less than 0.01.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen—0.000. Oxygen absorbed—0.10
Albuminoid Nitrogen—0.000. Residual Chlorine—Absent.
Metals—Iron 0.03 Other metals absent.

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Colonies developing on

Agar per ml....	...	...	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 27°C.	3 days at 20°C.
			0	0	0
			Present in	Absent from	Probable No.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	—	—	—	—	per 100 ml.
Bact. Coli (type 1) ...	...	...	—	—	per 100 ml.
Cr. Welchii Reaction	...	...	—	—

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character but it contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results are indicative of water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

(signed) ROY L. HOATHER,
for Counties Public Health Laboratories.

29th November, 1956.

Water Charges :

The charges for water are 1/5 per 1,000 gallons with reductions for bulk supplies.

1/8d. in the £ on rateable value with a minimum charge of 10/- per annum.

The following show the variations of rest level of the water in the wells 1951 to 1956 inclusive :—

1951	{	Maximum level, May ...	...	208.75ft. above O.D.		
		Minimum level, January	...	197.00ft.	"	"
1952	{	Maximum level, April ...	...	204.34ft.	"	"
		Minimum level, October	...	195.50ft.	"	"
1953	{	Maximum level, March	...	203.40ft.	"	"
		Minimum level, January	...	195.60ft.	"	"
1954	{	Maximum level, May ...	...	204.00ft.	"	"
		Minimum level, January	...	197.50ft.	"	"
1955	{	Maximum level, April ...	...	201.50ft.	"	"
		Minimum level, December	...	190.50ft.	"	"
1956	{	Maximum level, April ...	...	197.00ft.	"	"
		Minimum level, December	...	191.00ft.	"	"

The average daily consumption of water per head was 38 gallons.

Rainfall as registered by the rain gauge at the Waterworks during the last five years, as compared with 1955 :—

	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
JAN.	2.71	2.08	1.23	0.97	1.90	2.07
FEB.	0.76	1.55	1.97	1.39	0.88	3.53
MAR.	0.70	1.15	2.09	0.50	2.80	3.30
APRIL	1.11	0.44	0.25	1.94	1.19	3.07
MAY	0.58	2.71	2.46	1.79	0.94	2.51
JUNE	1.78	2.62	2.26	2.75	1.47	1.57
JULY	1.95	0.86	3.33	2.11	0.88	0.98
AUG.	4.81	0.72	4.17	1.90	3.14	2.88
SEPT.	1.84	2.14	1.27	1.55	2.46	2.78
OCT.	2.11	4.58	2.28	2.87	2.05	1.08
NOV.	0.97	0.64	3.32	1.13	3.79	3.87
DEC.	2.13	1.97	2.28	0.81	2.36	1.56
Totals	21.45	21.46	26.91	19.71	23.86	29.20

Snow or rain was recorded on 146 days. The greatest rainfall was for the 24 hours ending 9 a.m., October 2nd ; when 0.81 inches was recorded. The greatest rainfall for one month was in August when 4.81 inches was recorded. The total rainfall for the year was 21.45 inches.

Open-Air Swimming Bath :

This was constructed in 1930, is well situated in the centre of the town, the dimensions are 75ft. by 30ft. with a maximum depth of 7ft. 6ins. In 1938 a Filtration and Chlorination plant was installed which has worked very efficiently.

The charges are 12/- for Adult Season ticket holders and 6/- for Juniors, 9d. for Adults and 4d. for Juniors admission. 16 Adult and 188 Junior Season tickets were sold. In addition 1,702 Adults and 2,557 Juniors paid for admission.

Morning periods are reserved for the use of schools during the Summer term.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal :

The Sewage Disposal Works are situated on the East side of the Town. The sewage gravitates to the Works through an 18-inch outfall sewer. The system is partially separate. All but a few outlying houses are within reach of the sewers.

The Disposal Works consist of screening, detritus, storm water, two collecting and two settling tanks, and two percolating filters, with final treatment on 7 acres of land, all underdrained ; 3 acres are terraced.

The pumping plant consists of Diesel Oil Engines and centrifugal pumps in duplicate.

The effluent discharges into a small stream which is a tributary of the River Stour.

Number of dwelling houses connected to the sewer ...	1677
Number of dwelling houses not connected to the sewer	53
(None of which is within reach of the sewer).	

House Scavenging :

Collections are made weekly from about 1760 Premises and the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping in a disused pit.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Number of Inspections 294

(The above inspections are divided into)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Inspection of houses under the Housing
Repairs and Rents Act 1954 | 8 |
| (2) Inspection of Food premises | 282 |
| (3) Inspection of Factories | 4 |

There were also a number of inspections made under the Pests Act 1949.

Number of Statutory Notices 1

Number of Informal Notices 10

This has been the first full year since the ending of meat control and has entailed a greater amount of time spent in the inspection of meat. The following is the list of animals killed and inspected:

No. of Pigs	4205
No. of Lambs... ..	66
No. of Calves	14
No. of Cattle	2

The total of food condemned (including tinned food) ... 5300lbs.

Housing:

During the year 13 3-bedroomed houses, 38 2-bedroomed houses, 4 2-bedroomed bungalows, 4 2-bedroomed flats, 2 1-bedroom bungalows, 2 shops and 7 garages were completed.

The Council now own :—

6 4-bedroom houses
33 3-bedroom houses
124 2-bedroom houses
30 2-bedroom bungalows
18 1-bedroom bungalows
36 2-bedroom flats
16 Duplex flats
10 pre-fabricated 2-bedroom bungalows
21 other houses purchased by the Council
2 shops
28 garages
12 1-bedroom flats

Total 614 + 2 shops + 28 garages

SECTION E.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The number of notifications received during the last ten years as compared with 1955 as shown in the following table:—

TABLE I.

	.46	.47	.48	.49	.50	.51	.52	.53	.54	.55	.56
Diphtheria ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	3	—	—	—	4	4	4	1	—	10	15
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pnerperal pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	11	1	251	—	—	31	7	136	28	4	133
Whooping cough	4	1	5	3	44	13	—	1	—	1	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	21	2	256	3	50	49	12	138	28	15	148

No deaths resulted from any form of Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Syphilitic disease, Whooping-cough, Poliomyelitis or Measles.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

	Male	Female	Total
Scarlet Fever	13	2	15
Measles	77	56	133

POLIOMYELITIS

Some children were vaccinated against poliomyelitis under arrangements made by the West Suffolk County Council, but the number who received the treatment was small because of the limited supply of vaccine. No case of poliomyelitis was reported in Haverhill during the year.

SECTION G.

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total all types
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. of cases on register at end of year	10	11	21	1	1	2	23
No. of cases added during the year	1	2	3	—	—	—	3

SECTION H.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART I. OF THE ACT.

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	6				1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	39	4			2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	3	4				3
TOTAL		49	4			

2.—Cases in which *Defects* were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient ...	9	...	...	...	...	...	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	10	...	...	...	...	...	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	...	...	...	...	...	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	12	...	...	...	...	...	12
TOTAL ...	60						60

Sections 110 and 111.

Outwork:

39 persons are recorded as doing out-work. All are employed on the making of wearing apparel. No action was necessary under either section during the year.

SECTION I.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47.—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No case arose during the year calling for action in accordance with this Section of the Act.

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

Medical Officer of Health.



Section 46 and 47.

Quarantine.

39 persons are reported as being out of work. All are employed on the making of gloves in the factory. No action was necessary under any of the provisions of the Act.

SECTION II.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1943.

Section 47.—National Assistance Act, 1943. Persons in need of care and attention.

No case arose during the year calling for action in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

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

Medical Officer of Health.

