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Contributors

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BOROUGH OF MALDON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. LESLIE R. PHILIP, M.B., Ch.B.,

including the

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

F. A. IRVING, D.P.A., M.R. San.I.

for the year

1 9 4 8.

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1948.

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor W. Binder, J.P.)

Chairman: Councillor W.A. Gibbins.

Deputy Chairman: Councillor J.E. Bonner.

Alderman Cowell. Alderman Dines.

Councillors: Mrs. Brewster.

Mrs. Clarke.

Free. Matthams. Oliver.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH.

Town Clerk & Solicitor:

K. C. Robertson.

Acting Medical Officer

of Health:

J. Leslie R. Philip, M.B., Ch.B., (Also engaged in private practice)

Sanitary Inspector :

F.A. Irving, D.P.A(Lond)., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Qualified Sanitary Inspector. Qualified Inspector of Meat & Foods. Royal Sanitary Institute Diploma in Sanitary Science as applied to buildings and Public Works.

Qualified Housing Manager.

BOROUGH OF MALDON.

To the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Maldon.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough for the year 1948, in the form prescribed by the Minister of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS. The Birth and Death Rates per 1,000 of the population are given below:

	1948.	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.
Birth Rate:	16.8	21.7	19.8	17.1	19.8
Death Rate:	12.6	12.6	12.8	11.7	13.8

It has not been possible for the Registrar General to give a "Comparability Factor" to enable comparison to be made between local death rates.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	1948.	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.
Notifications	355	200	227	434	166
Deaths from	5	5	5	1	3

There is nothing here of importance to which to draw your attention. The total notifications were 355. Measles, Whooping Cough and Chickenpox accounted for 311 of these. Only 2 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

This continues to be satisfactory though "re-inforce-ment" figures at age 5 could be much improved.

Many Parents are anxious to include immunisation against Whooping Cough in the A.P.T. (Diphtheria) Immunisation and some local practitioners give this. Official countenance has, however, so far been withheld on the ground that medical opinion is divided as to its efficacy.

BOROUGH OF MALDOW.

To the Mayor; the Aldersen and Councillons of the Boroum or Kuldon.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen.

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MERCETOUS DISEASE.

| 1948. 1947. 1946. 1949

your strention. The total notifications were 355. Measies, which to drew your strention is total notifications were 355. Measies, whooping fought of the interest sever second for it of the control of second gover were notified.

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ment" flaures at age 5 gould be much improved.

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NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

With the exceptions of the Ambulance Service, the local Nursing Associations and the Heybridge Isolation Hospital, this Act has had but few impacts upon the Borough Health Services. Such exceptions are dealt with briefly later in this Report.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

There has not been any increase in the number of cases of venereal disease coming to the notice of the local medical practitioners.

HOUSING.

Housing conditions are summarised on page 14 of the Report.

This subject is dealt with extensively in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, and I agree entirely with his conclusions. I am strongly of opinion that the overriding Priority should be that of the re-housing of the persons living in houses upon which Demolition Orders have been placed by your Authority and approved by the Ministry of Health, subject only to review in the light of special cases necessary for health reasons.

The following figures are of interest:

No.	of	Occupied Houses under Demolition Order Families rehoused from these houses		19
No.	of	New Lettings during the year (Excluding Transfers)	• • •	37

It is surely obvious that Demolition Orders are placed upon those houses which the Council consider the most insanitary and incapable of repair at reasonable cost.

In default of the general survey of property in the Borough, suggested by myself and rejected by the Council, which I suggest would have given an over-all picture of our needs, we have no other course than to accept the view that these houses, already declared unfit, are the worst in the Borough.

It is obvious that their condition grows steadily worse, and the fact that your Council fails to re-house these people gives little encouragement to my Department to report further properties, almost equally bad, for demolition.

MARINE LAKE.

The condition of the water has given me a good deal of anxiety in view of varying reports as to its purity, none of which, however, called for extreme action.

CONSERVANCY AND WATER SUPPLIES.

These are dealt with later in the Report.

Camping Grounds are dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

PREVENTION OF FOOD POISONING.

Regular inspection of bakehouses, food distributors shops etc. is carried out and good health propaganda carried on. The subject is full of difficulties, and the only satisfactory solution seems to be on an educational basis. Further Governmental legislation or advice is expected in the near future.

BOROUGH SEWERAGE.

The twin problems of borough sewerage and cleansing of the River are perhaps, equally, with housing, the most urgent matters before your Council, and I should be most happy to see some start made in this matter. Time neither improves the present imperfections nor the ultimate cost.

I wish to thank the Council for the help given to me during the year and to acknowledge the assistance given to me by the officers of your Council. I wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. F.A. Irving, the Sanitary Inspector, in the preparation of this Report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. LESLIE R. PHILIP,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

JANYAGE TER PERSON THEY

REPORT

of the

Acting Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1948.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Inland Tidal W	cres) as extende Water ater		13
		Total	6645
	sus 1931, Origin Estimate, 1948		
Number of Inhab	ited houses (End	of 1948)	2886
Rateable Value.			•••£53,505
Sum represented	by a Penny Rate		£215
Social Condition	engineering,		nd flour milling.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Births	(Legitimate (Illegitimate (Total		Males. 79 5 84)Birth rate per 1,000)of estimated resident)population 16.8.
	(Legitimate (Illegitimate Total)Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) 12.4.
Deaths		121	64	57	Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 12.6.

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For the Year 1945.

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Borough 9570				
			Lucia Vittel	
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JULIANUT BUTTON THE THE				
JULIANUT BUTTON THE THE				
population 12.6.				
JULIANUT BUTTON THE THE				

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

Number of Deaths under one year of age All Infants per 1,000 live births Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate	
live births Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	There was one

Deaths Classified by Age.

Age.	Number in district.	Outward transfers.	Inward transfers.	No. which apply to district.	
Under 1 year	2	1	2	3	
1 and under 2	-	-	_	_	
2 " " 5	-	-	-		
5 " " 15		_	_	_	
15 " " 25	-	-	2	2	
25 " " 35	3	. 1	2	4	
35 " " 45	3		3	6	
45 " " 55	6	2	4	8	
55 " " 65	9	3	5	11	
65 " " 75	44	18	6	32	
75 and upwards	76	32	9	53	
TOTALS	143	57	33	119 ^x	

x This is 2 less than in R.G's Returns.

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This is 2 loss then in 2.0's Returns.

Deaths Classified by Cause and Sex.

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) Cancer of Buc: cav: & oesoph(M); uterus(F) Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum Cancer of all other sites Intracranial vascular lesions Heart Disease Other diseases of circulatory system Bronchitis Pneumonia Other Respiratory Diseases Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum Other digestive diseases Nephritis Congenital Malformations, birth injuries or infantile diseases Syphilitic Disease Road Traffic Accident Other violent causes All other causes	1117683-411-1 126	1231425111-21 2 - 12	2348034151122 21138
Totals	64	57	121

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(i) Ambulance Facilities. Since July 5th, 1948, Ambulance Services have been the responsibility of the County Council. This service includes the provision of "sitting case" cars, which has proved a boon and which has been much in demand.

It can be said that the new Ambulance Service now provides amply for the needs of the local people.

(ii) Hospitals.

(a) Infectious Diseases. Cases of infectious disease have been received and treated in the Isolation Hospital at Heybridge, Maldon, by arrangement with the Maldon Joint Hospital Board. As from 5th July, 1948, the responsibility for this Hospital has been transferred to the North Eastern Metropolitan Hospital Board, whose powers of management are delegated to the Chelmsford Hospital Management Committee upon

which the Borough Council is only indirectly represented. Some beds have been reserved for convalescent and chronic non-infectious cases requiring skilled nursing. It is probable that eventually all infectious cases from this area will be admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Chelmsford.

- (b) Smallpox. Arrangements have been made with the County Council for the treatment of patients suffering from smallpox.
- (iii) Tuberculosis. The County Council provide a number of sanatoria throughout the County. The Tuberculosis Dispensary at Maldon is situated in the Combined Treatment Centre in Wantz Chase, Maldon, where sessions are held on the second and fourth Thursdays in each month at 10.0 a.m.
- (iv) Maternity and Child Welfare. The County Council is the responsible authority for these services and full use can be made of the facilities offered through the County Scheme. Adequate provision for hospital treatment and specialists' services are similarly available where necessary.

Various clinics in the above connection are provided at the Combined Treatment Centre, Wantz Chase, Maldon, where sessions are held as follows:-

Womens Welfare 1st Monday in each month at 2.0 p.m.

Child Welfare Clinic Fridays at 2.0 p.m.

Ante Natal Clinic 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 9.30 a.m.

Minor Ailments Clinic Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10.0 a.m.

Dental Clinic By appointment.

Orthopaedic Clinic When necessary.

Speech Therapy By appointment.

Diphtheria Immunisation 3rd Friday in each month at 10.0 a.m., Wantz Road Clinic.

2nd Tuesday in each month at 3.0 p.m., Heybridge Clinic.

The County Council took over the functions of the Maldon and Heybridge Nursing Associations on 5th July, 1948. These Associations have functioned for many years, and the Borough owes its gratitude to its many citizens who have, from time to time, given voluntary service to the great advantage of the community.

There is one private nursing home in the town, which is registered by the Essex County Council.

- (v) School Children. The County Council is the Education Authority for both secondary and elementary schools in the Borough. Minor ailments, Orthopaedic, After-Treatment, Dental and Eye Clinics for school children are arranged by the County Council at the Combined Treatment Centre, Wantz Chase, Maldon.
- (vi) Venereal Diseases. Facilities exist for diagnosis and treatment in Chelmsford, Colchester and Southend.
- (vii) Physio-therapy. There are two physio-therapists in the Borough who are registered by the Essex County Council, as follows:-

Mrs. J.W. Bentall, "The Bower", London Road, Maldon; Mr. H.A. Whitehall, 1a, Butt Lane, Maldon.

(viii) Chiropody. There is one chiropodist in the town who is registered by the Essex County Council, as follows:-

Miss Dorothy Hanson, 75a, High Street, Maldon.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER.

The Borough, with the exception of a few outlying houses, is served by a piped water supply which is in the hands of the Corporation.

The water is supplied from two deep wells, but owing to the insufficient yield the supply is inadequate (800,000 gallons per week) and is supplemented by an average of 800,000 gallons per week taken from the mains of the Southend Water Company. The maximum consumption of water during the year was 1,850,000 gallons per week.

Routine chemical and bacteriological examination of the water from the Wantz Road and Spital Road wells have been carried out, and samples have also been taken from the supply mains. Typical reports on these samples are given below:-

A. Wantz Road Well.

"ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received on 21.10.48
from MALDON BOROUGH per Essex County Council
Labelled Tap on pumping main at head of well, Wantz Road
Pumping Station. Water direct from well.
Untreated. Date 20.10.48. 10.0 a.m.
Taken by: F.A.Irving. Witness: Mr. Pitman. Signed: F.A.Irving.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance Bright with a few particles of mineral debris.

Reaction pH 8.2 Electric Conductivity at 20° C	Turbidity (Silica Scale). Less than 5 Odour
Nitrogen in Nitrates0.0 Free Ammonia0.000	Nitrogen in Nitrites. Less than 0.01 Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C
	Residual Chlorine
MetalsIron:0.04	Other metals absent.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

(Bacteriological sampling bottles are treated to remove residual chlorine if this is present at the time of sampling)

1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C. 3 days at 20°C.

Number of Colonies (
developing on Agar (
per cc. or ml. in (

Presumptive Coliform Present in - Absent from 100 ml. Reaction

Bact. coli. Present in - Absent from 100 ml.

Cl. welchii Reaction Present in - Absent from -

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron and is very faintly alkaline in reaction. The water is soft in character and is normal with regard to its high content of saline and mineral constituents in solution. It is of very satisfactory organic quality and bacterial purity.

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

29th October, 1948."

B. Spital Road Well.

"ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received on 21.10.48.

from MALDON BOROUGH per Essex County Council
Labelled Tap on Pumping Main at head of well - Spital
Road Pumping Station. Water direct from well untreated. Date 20.10.48. 9.15 a.m.

Taken by: F.A. Irving. Witness: Mr. Pitman. Signed: F.A. Irving.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance Clear and bright.

Appearance Clear and bright.
Turbidity (Silica Scale)
Colour (Hazen)
Reaction pH8.3 Free Carbon DioxideAbsent
Electric Conductivity Total Solids, at 20° C
Chlorine in Chlorides360 Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate385
Hardness: Total 25. Carbonate (Permanent) 0
Nitrogen in Nitrates O.O Nitrogen in Nitrites Absent
Free Ammonia
Albuminoid Ammonia O.000 Residual Chlorine
MetalsIron:0.06 Other metals absent.

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BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

(Bacteriological sampling bottles are treated to remove residual chlorine if this is present at the time of sampling)

1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C. 3 days at 20°C.

Number of Colonies(

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0

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Presumptive Coliform Present in - Absent from 100 ml.

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

29th October, 1948."

Reaction

C. Heybridge Basin Standpipe.

Bacteriological samples from Heybridge Basin have proved to be uniformly satisfactory.

The water is chlorinated and daily records are maintained of the operation of the chlorination plants.

The question of the improvement of the arrangements for the chlorination of the water and of steps to reduce the fluorine content of the water (by improved mixing with the water from the Southend Water Company's Mains) should be borne in mind as should the possibility of increased demands for water which may follow upon an improved sewerage scheme.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A scheme for the improvement of the main drainage and disposal of sewage has been lodged with the Minister of Health. It is to be emphasised that the need for these improvements is steadily increasing with the erection of additional houses. The increased consumption of water (from approximately 1,200,000 gallons per week in 1938 to 1,600,000 gallons per week at present) is reflected in the increased quantity of untreated sewage and foul waste water which is being discharged into the river.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The rivers and streams repeat the story of the unsatisfactory drainage and sewerage of the Borough.

On every hand, throughout the Borough, there are sewers and drains discharging untreated sewage into the Rivers Chelmer and Blackwater and Heybridge Creek.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

A very large proportion, practically one quarter, of the town is dealt with under the conservancy system. This is yet another urgent reason for carrying out the improved sewerage scheme. There are approximately 750 pail closets, 16 earth closets and 165 cesspools in the area. W.C's are connected to 59 of the cesspools and a number of W.C's appear to be piped to open ditches. Many of the cesspools are cesspools in name only and are of too small a capacity; leak into the sub-soil or adjacent ditches or are pumped out by the tenants themselves on to their gardens.

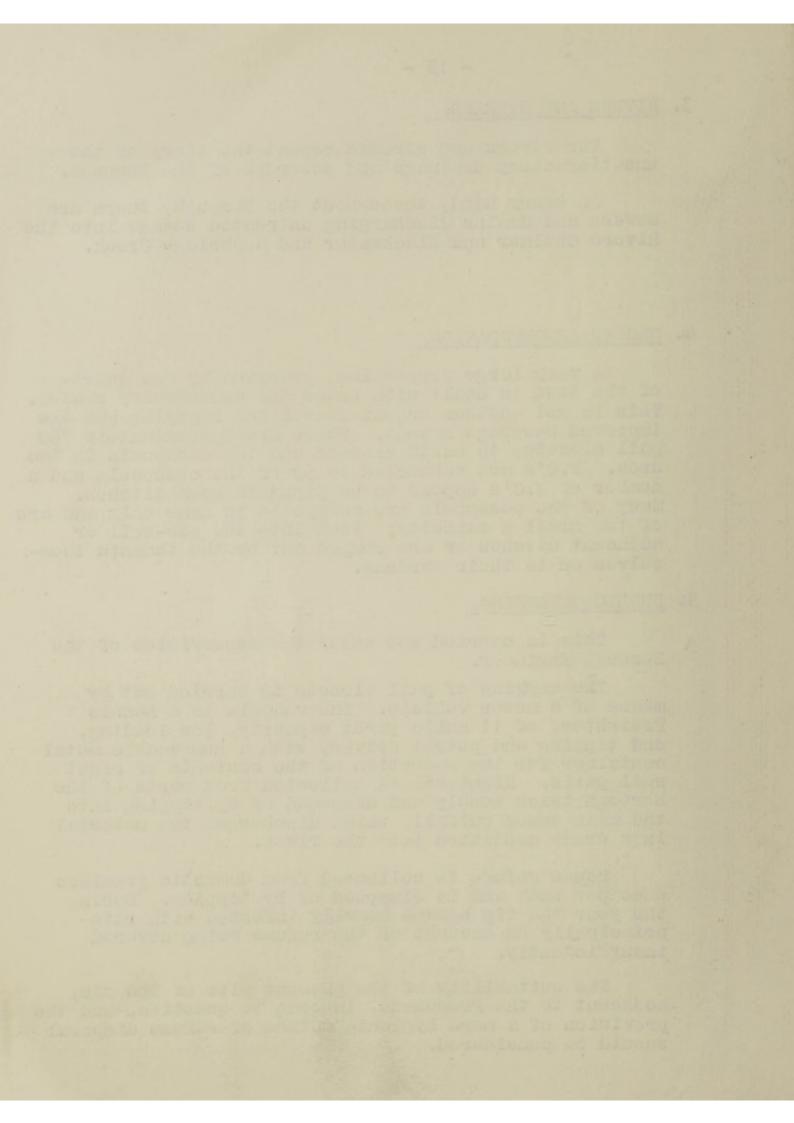
5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is carried out under the supervision of the Borough Engineer.

The emptying of pail closets is carried out by means of a motor vehicle. The vehicle is a Dennis Freighter, of 11 cubic yards capacity, low loading, end tipping and petrol driven, with a removeable metal container for the reception of the contents of night soil pails. Nightsoil is collected from parts of the Borough twice weekly and disposed of by tipping into the main sewer outfall, which discharges the material in a crude condition into the river.

House refuse is collected from domestic premises once per week and is disposed of by tipping. During the year the tip became heavily infested with rats principally on account of the refuse being covered insufficiently.

The suitability of the present site of the tip, adjacent to the Promenade, is open to question, and the provision of a more hygienic method of refuse disposal should be considered.



6. HOUSING.

The following figures show the trend of the average number of persons per house in the Borough over a period of years:-

Year	Average number	
1901 1911 1926 1936 1946 1947 1948	4.28 4.35 4.06 3.32 3.29 3.28 3.31	to unextended Borough (Pre 1934).

During the year the Mill Lane and Fullbridge (Moldon) Clearance Order, 1948, was made for the demolition of five houses as follows:-

No. 17, Fullbridge Nos. 3,4,5 and 6, Mill Lane, Fullbridge.

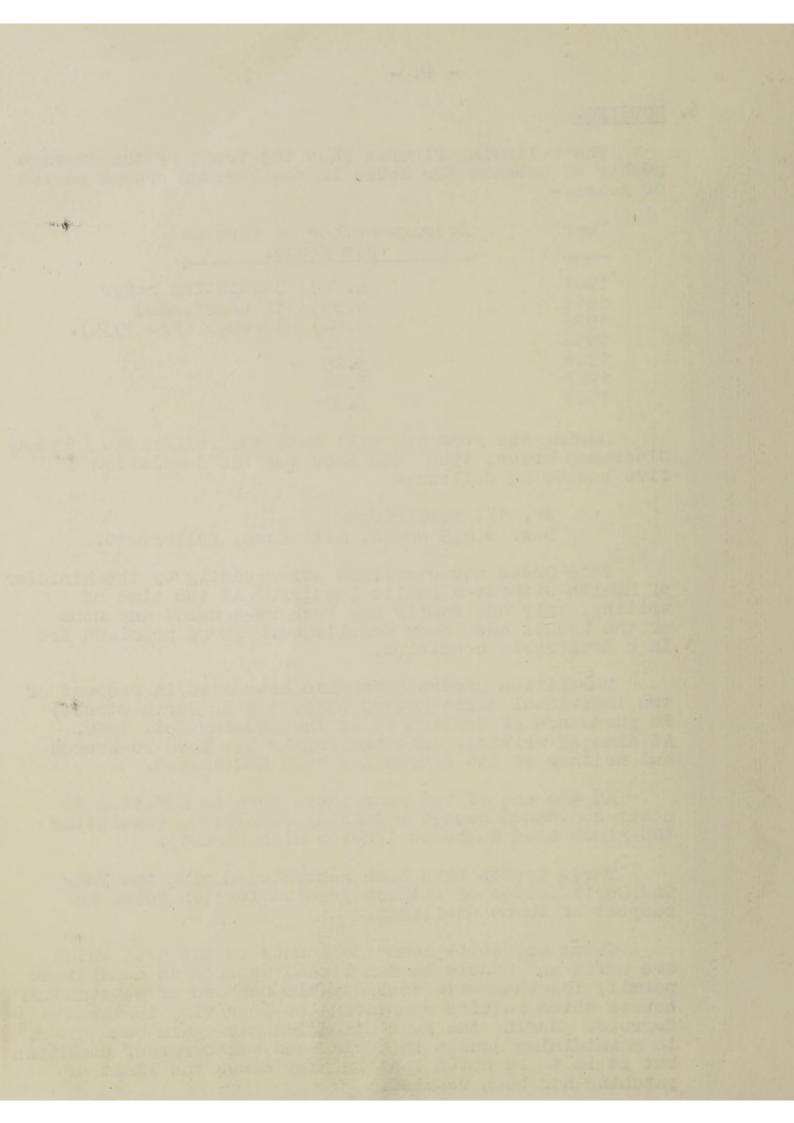
This Order was confirmed subsequently by the Minister of Health without a Public Inquiry. At the time of writing, only one family has been re-housed, and none of the houses has been demolished. These premises are in a deplorable condition.

Demolition Orders have also been made in respect of two individual unfit houses (Nos. 1 & 3, North Street) in pursuance of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. At time of writing, only one family has been re-housed and neither of the houses has been demolished.

At the end of the year there were in addition 18 other condemned houses requiring demolition (excluding the Almshouses Numbered 178-186 High Street).

Three houses have been renovated during the year and Certificates of Fitness granted for ten years in respect of these dwellings.

There are still some 150 houses in the area which are unfit and should be demolished as soon as conditions permit, together with considerable numbers of substandard houses which require renovating or improving in various degrees. During the year attention has again been given to maintaining houses in a wind and weatherproof condition but it is to be noted that in many cases the limit of patching has been reached.



7. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The Corporation owns a large open air salt water swimming pool of about 2½ million gallons capacity. This pool is situated alongside the river estuary into which it is emptied at low tide and refilled on the flood, as necessary. Samples of water taken from this swimming pool have continued to give rise to doubts as to the hygienic condition of the pool and special chlorination has been carried out to render the water as safe as possible.

8. SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary conditions and water supply of the schools in the district are as satisfactory as circumstances permit.

Contacts of infectious disease are excluded from school. No closure of schools on account of infectious illness has been required.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

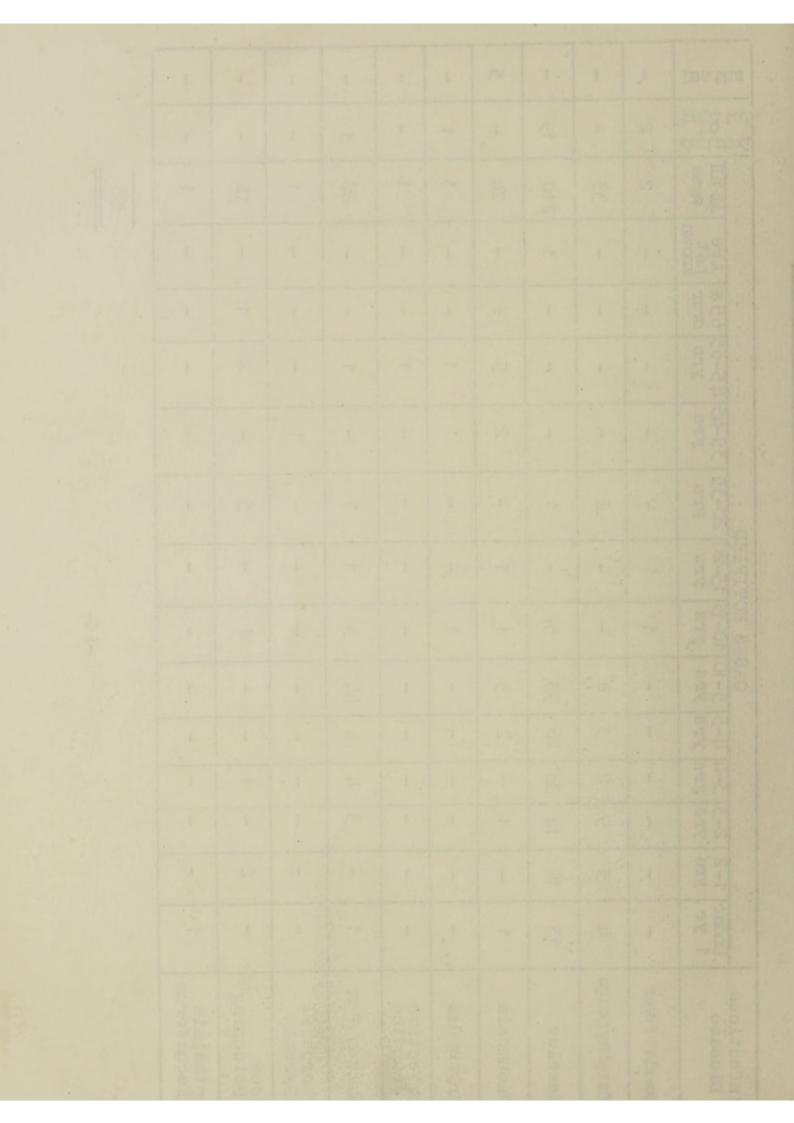
School actifications of suspected infectious disease or or contacts are regularly received.

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease notified:

necessary. Samples of water taken from this swimming .e.Idlasog

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1948.

			-									
ST	Deatl	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	
bed tall	nimbA fqaoH	2	1	19	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	
	At all ages	2	33	210	77	3	~	68	1	12	4-	35
	Age not known	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	65 & over	1	1	1	9	1	1	1	1	~	1	
	45-05 yrs	ı	1	1	5	-	-	-	1	2	1	
	35-45 yrs	1	1	1	2	7	1	1	~	1	1	
	20-35 yrs	1	2	-	1	1	1	7	1	5	1	
NOTIFIEL	15-20 yrs	~	1	1	~	1	1	-	1	1	1	
S	10-15 yrs	-	1	5	7-	-	1	3	1	77	1	19
CASES	5-10 yrs	1	8	66	5	1	ı	17-7-7	1	1	1	
	4-5 yrs	1	N	8	N	1	1	77	1	1	1	
	3-4 yrs	1	2	23	1	1	1	4	1	7-	1	
	2-5 yrs	1	0	14	-	1	1	2	1	1	1	
	1-2 yrs	1	5	8	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	
	Under 1 yr	1	7	13	-	1	1	-	ı	1	-	
Two one i too day		Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Infective	Chicken Pox	Puerperal Pyrexia	Food	Opthalmia Neonatorum	



FOOD POISONING.

Twelve cases of food poisoning have been notified during the year. These were all sporadic cases and bacteriological findings were all negative. There were no deaths. Under the circumstances it was not possible to implicate any particular food(s) as the cause.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The immunisation against diphtheria of children in this area has been continued, and the figures for the year for children under 5 years of age are better than for 1947. Although the figures for the over fives are satisfactory, very few of these children have also received the reinforcing dose which it is recommended they be given. The ascertainable figures for the year show the number of children immunised to be as follows:-

(a) Number of children who completed full course of immuni-sation in the area during 1948

Age under 5 years.	Age 5 years and over, but under 15 yrs.	Total.	
158	2	160	

	estimated number in the area at
--	---------------------------------

(c)	Percentage	of the	child
	Wite the same of t		under above
	considered		
	at 31st Dec	ember,	1948.

Under 5.	Between 5 and 15
805	1,185
60%	86%

Under the National Health Service the responsibility for Diphtheria Immunisation has been transferred to the Essex County Council as from July, 1948.

The dates and times of Immunisation Sessions at Clinics are:-

Wantz Road Clinic: 3rd Friday in each month at 10.0 a.m.

Heybridge Clinic: 2nd Tuesday in each month at 3.0 p.m.

IN THE PARTY AND THE THE THE THE PARTY OF TH to me laws to be confirmed the posite and recording ,

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been found necessary for the prevention or treatment of blindness.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, has been necessary.

A summary showing the new cases of, and mortality from tuberculosis during 1948, is as follows:-

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases of, and Mortality from Tuberculosis During 1948.

-									
TO STREET FOR	Ne	w Case	s.	Deaths.					
Age Periods.	Respi:	ratory	Non-Re	spirator	y Respi	ratory	Non-Res	Non-Respiratory	
no to anve th	M .	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1 - 5	1	-	1		-	-	-	-	
5 - 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
15 - 25	1	-	_	-	-	1	-	-	
25 - 35	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
55 - 65	1	-	101-01	-	1 1 -	-	-	-	
65 & over	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Totals	3	2	2	1	1	1	-01	-	

PREVENEUR OF BLINDWESS.

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TUBBERCULOSIS.

To notinevers) in Last subjection of the Police Health (Prevention of the Tholice Health of the Public Health Act, 1925, on Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, and been necessary.

A summary showing the new conces of, and mertality

THE RECUMBERS.

New Cases of, and Mortality from Tuberculosia

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REPORT ON THE SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA BY F.A. IRVING, D.P.A., M.R.San.I.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

The following is a report on and summary of my work:-

(a) With regard to the proposed sewerage scheme it is considered that the provision of the new sewers would do more to improve the sanitary condition of the town, abate nuisances from the discharge of sewage into ditches, abolish pail closets, enable sinks to be provided in existing houses, clean up the river, and the like, than any other single thing which the Council could do.

This question has been under discussion for so many years that the ultimate construction of the scheme is regarded by many as illusory. Accordingly, I recommend that this matter be pressed forward relentlessly in order to get the work carried out (in whole or in part) before prices increase any further or in the alternative, if approval to proceed immediately cannot be obtained, so as to have the scheme ready for instant execution when the Ministry of Health do give approval.

(b) I am being approached constantly by unsuccessful applicants for council houses to whom it is very difficult to give satisfaction. I feel that it would help considerably if a statement could be made describing in principle the method of allocating houses to those in greatest need, such as is recommended in the Third Report of the Housing Management Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee - "Selection of Tenants" (H.M.S.O. 1949)(Chapter II. Paragraph 28).

If applicants were so assured that allocations are being made in accordance with an agreed plan; that no one with a real need is forgotten, and that every genuine applicants turn will come in due course, then I feel that these unfortunate people would be more contented in making themselves comfortable where they are, until such time as they obtain alternative accommodation.

Great forbearance has been exercised in commencing any proceedings which may lead to a demolition order being placed on a house. Accordingly, it is recommended that where a demolition order is made on an unfit house, a special effort should be made to rehouse the occupants without delay, as soon as the order is operative.

Obtaining repairs to houses continues to be a very slow process even with the raising of the Building Licence free limit to £100 and where the owners are willing and able to spend on repairs. More repairs, etc., are required than there is labour or material to do the job. With building costs at their present level, very few people can afford to have "unnecessary" work carried out. There are many houses subject to the rent restriction acts and in the case of all the lower rented houses it is not an economic proposition for owners to spend large sums of money on repairs to which there would be no objection in pre-war days. From some of the complaints which I receive I do not think that tenants always appreciate the benefit which they derive from the rent restriction acts - if they do, they do not always remember that in addition to their rights they also owe a duty to their landlord to look after the house in which they are living. In the long run, five shillings worth of rent will buy only five shillings worth of comfort.

It is desired to place on record my appreciation of the co-operation, assistance and encouragement given to me by Dr. J.L.R.Philip, the Acting Medical Offocer of Health, in connection with my duties.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

F. A. IRVING,

Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES

1. Inspections.

Notices.

Nature.	No.	infor mal.	For-	Total complied with.	Outstarend of Infor -mal.	nding at year. For -mal.
Houses Inspected Re Overcrowding	9	_	_			_
Re Dirty Conditions and Vermin	33	4	3	4	-	-
Re Structural Defects and Nuisances	120	35	15	39	6	1
Re-inspections in con- nection with above House Drainage (including	230	-	-		00-	-
Nuisances from Drains and Ditches	75	13	-	11	2	-
Water Supply(Sampling and Inspections)	51	1	-	-	1	-
Food Shops(Including Ice- Cream Premises, Cowsheds, Dairies etc	371	1	-	1	_	-
Offensive Accumulations Factories	12 151	2 2	-	2 2		-
Gas Works	45	1	-	1	-	-
Camping Grounds Holiday Accommodation.	44	4	-	4	-	-
Disinfections		-	2	2		-
Infectious Disease Inquiries	23	-	-	-	-	-
Swimming Pool (Sampling and Inspections). Miscellaneous complains	47	-	-	-	-	-
dealt with departmentally	13	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous and Advisory visits	61	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1310	61	20	66	9	1

Proceedings were taken and Orders obtained for the abatement of two Nuisances.

2. SHOPS.

No formal action under the Shops Acts has been taken as it seems advisable not to divert building labour from housing repairs.

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3. CAMPING GROUNDS.

The Council have adopted Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

During the year a licence was granted in respect of the Millbeach Camping Ground. One block of W.C's has been erected on this site and this is a great improvement except for the cesspools which were made of much smaller size than recommended and consequently have been very expensive for the owners to maintain. This latter aspect will have to receive attention at an early date.

Plans have been approved for four blocks of W.C's on the Osea Road Camping Grounds and during the year work has commenced on the erection of three of these buildings. This work was carried out in order to comply with the conditions upon which the Council indicated (to the owners) as being a necessary precedent to the licensing of the camping sites.

Several dilapidated bus bodies have been removed from these camping sites during the year and others have been reconstructed at the instigation of the Council.

There still remains much to be done at these camping sites but with the co-operation of the owners it should be possible to make these sites into a real asset and above all criticism.

4. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Several factory chimneys are noted to be causing intermittent atmospheric pollution and although no action has been taken, the position is kept under review.

5. COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the town.

6. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

- (a) Number of Council Houses found to be infested... 3
 Number of Other Houses found to be infested.... 21
 Number of Houses Disinfested.... 24
 All these premises were disinfested without the service of any notices.
- (b) Disinfestation is carried out by means of an insecticide containing 5% D.D.T. (Manufactured by Messrs. Cooper, McDougall & Robertson, Ltd) together with an insect powder containing 10% D.D.T. Normally the liquid insecticide is applied by means of a spray to the walls, floor and ceiling in each bedroom; to the bedsteads, mattresses and to the walls and ceiling of the staircase. In addition, mattresses and any upholstered furniture are impregnated with the 10% D.D.T. insect powder, by means of a hand blower. The materials used are not offensive and the rooms treated are re-occupied after a short period of airing, thus avoiding the difficulty of finding the tenant the alternative accommodation necessary when disinfestation is carried out by Hydrogen Cyanide.
- (c) Houses of prospective Council House tenants are inspected for the presence of bedbugs.
- (d) The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority, free of charge.
- (e) Measures taken to prevent re-infestation of houses include instruction by the Sanitary Inspector and periodic re-visits. The most effective measure against re-infestation lies in the technique of disinfestation applied which in itself has proved capable of preventing re-infestation for long periods. Careful examinations of houses disinfested have not brought to light any case where disinfestation has been unsuccessful or where re-infestation has occurred during the year.

7. CONTROL OF OTHER INSECT PESTS.

Preparations containing D.D.T., or Gammexane have been used in dealing with Flies, Cockroaches, Crickets, Wasps and Ants. abelies and notification of medical to all back to the particular to the second to the

8. RODENT CONTROL.

The sewers in the Borough have been treated for the destruction of rats twice during the year. Infestation usually appears to occur in the parts of the sewers which connect directly with the river. The tip has been treated at intervals in order to keep the rat population down. The Council have one trained operative who works on the tip.

A few minor infestations of rats have been reported and dealt with.

The methods of rodent control used are based on the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

9. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply. Premises used as Cowsheds or Dairies within the jurisdiction of the Local Authority:-

Number	of	Milk Producers Wholesale Producers	16
Number	of	Retail Purveyors	3
		Farms at which Accredited Milk is produced	7
Number	of	Dealers' Licences in Pasteur- ised Milk	4

Close co-operation is effected between the County Council and the Local Sanitary Authority in the granting of licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936/46.

The Divisional Veterinary Inspector also notifies the local Medical Officer of Health of any action under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Samples of Accredited Milks are taken by the County Council for examination.

(b) Ice Cream. All persons manufacturing or selling ice cream in the Borough are Registered in accordance with the provisions of the Essex County Council Act, 1933. All the premises have been inspected from time to time. Much of the ice cream on sale is pre-packed and manufactured outside the district.

A few samples of ice cream have been taken experimentally in order to ascertain whether they can be transported to the Counties Public Health Laboratory in London sufficiently quickly to ensure the reliability of the results. The results have been encouraging and it is hoped to take increased numbers of samples of ice cream in the future.

(c) Inspection of Meat and Other Foods. There are approximately 109 premises (including 10 butchers' shops) in the Borough where food is prepared or handled in one form or another.

The slaughtering of food animals in this area was discontinued under the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, and fresh meat is supplied from a central slaughter-house at Witham.

A small number of pigs belonging to "self suppliers" have been slaughtered and inspected in the district.

The undermentioned foodstuffs have been found unfit for human consumption during the year:-

Item.	No. of Tins.
Evaporated Milk. Peas. Beans. Tomatoes. Apricots. Pineapple Juice. Orange Juice. Grapefruit. Pears.	39 30 18 6 3 1
Plums. Apples. Beetroot. Potatoes. Sweet Corn. Jam. Marmalade.	3 6 (bottles) 1 1 1
Spinach. Piccalilli. Spaghetti. Vegetable & Tomato Soup. Meat Soup. Stewed Steak. Chopped Ham. Minced Beef Loaf. Pork.	1 (jar) 1 (jar) 1 (jar) 1 (jar) 1 (jar) 1 (jar)
Corned Beef. Pilchards. Pate de Foie. Cod Liver Roe Paste. Fish Paste. Crawfish. Whitings. Sardines. Salmon. Silver Hake.	7 3 4 2 (jars) 1 96 6 4
Herrings	11 (jars)

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Ttem.

	Section of a
Eels Kippers. Cod Plaice. Skate. Haddock. Pork. Beef (Boneless). Beef (Imported Argentine) Dried Egg. Tea Self Raising Flour. Sugar.	37 Stones 3 Stones 6 Stones 5 Stones 6 Stones 2 Stones 2 Stones 34 lbs 5½ lbs 1 x 5 oz packet, 3 lbs 3 lbs.
Self Raising Flour. Sugar Sultanas	8½ lbs.

Quantity.

Prepared food premises, including restaurant kitchens, bakehouses and sausage making rooms and the like are inspected as often as possible.

As was mentioned last year there is a need for improvement in the hygiene of food handling.

- (d) Adulteration. The Local Authority is not the Food and Drugs Authority for this area, the County Council being responsible for this work.
- (e) Shellfish (Molluscan). The only shellfish gathered in important quantities in the district are winkles of which several hundred stones are gathered annually by hand picking on the estuarial mud flats at low water.

These shellfish are sent to Billingsgate Market. The gathering grounds are at a considerable distance from any sewage outfall and appear not to be liable to pollution.

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PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

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	Premises.	M/c line	Number	Number of				
		No.	Register	Inspections	Written	Occupiers prosecuted		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	notices (5)	(6)		
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1,2,3 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	74	151	2	-		
	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	1	-	-	-		
(iii)	Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding out- workers premises)	3	-	-	-	-		
To a	TOTAL		75	151	2			

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2. Cases in which defects were found.

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7	M/C line	Nume	er of cas defects v	Number of		
Particulars.	No.	Found	Remedied	Refe	erred	cases in
				To H.M.	By H.M.	which pros-
				Inspect or	Inspector	ecutions were instituted.
						TIS OT CAPE OF.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of Clean-	1					
liness (S.1)	4	-	-	-	-	-
O'crowding(S.2)	5	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable	1					
Temperature (S.3)	6	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate vent- ilation (S.4)	7					
Ineffective	1	-	-	-	-	-
drainage of						
floors (S.6)	8	-	_	_		1
Sanitary Conv-						7
eniences (S.7)						
(a)Insufficient	9	-	-	_		-
(b)Unsuitable						
or defective	10	1	1	-	-	-
(c)Not separate	2.7					
for sexes	11	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences	10					
against the Act	12	-	-	-	-	-
(Not incl. offences						
relating to Outwork).						
OGOWOIK),						
TOTAL		2	2	_	_	_

OUTWORK.

Nature of	M/C	S	ection 1	10	Section	n 111	
work.	4410	list reqd. by Sect.	cases of default in sending	prosecu- tions for failure to supply	instances of work in unwhole—	Notices served	Prose- cutions.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Wearing apparel Making etc	13	56	-	-	-	-	-
Reather sorting	37	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL .		57	-	-	-	-	-