

**[Report 1937] / Medical Officer of Health, Rayleigh U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Rayleigh (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1937

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**URBAN DISTRICT OF  
RAYLEIGH.**

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**Annual Report**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH.**

(NORMAN LORRAINE, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.E.)

Including the Report of the

**SANITARY INSPECTOR**

(E. H. LLOYD, C.R.S.I.)

**for 1937.**







# INDEX.

	Page
Acreage ... ..	7
Ambulance Facilities ... ..	12
Bacteriological Examinations ... ..	11, 15, 28
Bed Bugs, Eradication of ... ..	21
Births and Birth Rates ... ..	8, 9
Blindness, Prevention of ... ..	32
Cancer ... ..	8
Closet Accommodation ... ..	16
Committees, Constitution of ... ..	4
Deaths and Death Rates ... ..	8, 9, 10, 11
Diarrhoea ... ..	8
Diphtheria ... ..	29, 30, 31, 32
Drainage and Sewerage ... ..	16, 9
Drainage of Existing Buildings ... ..	19
Enteric Fever ... ..	30, 31, 32
Erysipelas ... ..	30, 31, 32
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces ... ..	19, 20
Food, Inspection and Supervision of ... ..	25-28
Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928 ... ..	27, 28
Ice Cream ... ..	26
Meat Inspection ... ..	26, 27
Milk Supply ... ..	25
Shell-Fish ... ..	29
Unsound Food ... ..	27
Hospitals ... ..	13, 14, 15
Houses erected during the year ... ..	22
Houses, Number of inhabited ... ..	7
Housing Acts, 1925, 1930 and 1936 ... ..	22, 24
Ice Cream ... ..	26
Illegitimate Births ... ..	8
Immunisation against Diphtheria ... ..	30
Infant Mortality ... ..	8, 9
Infectious Diseases, Prevalence of and Control over ... ..	29, 32
Influenza ... ..	30
Inspections... ..	17-28

Laboratory Facilities	...	...	...	...	11
Maternal Mortality	...	...	...	...	8
Measles	...	...	...	...	8, 31
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	26, 27
Milk Supply	...	...	...	...	25
Notifications of Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	31, 32
Notices served	...	...	...	...	23
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	18
Nursing in the Home	...	...	...	...	12
Nutrition	...	...	...	...	29
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	24
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	20
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	30, 31, 32
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	32
Population	...	...	...	...	7, 9
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	30, 31, 32
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	7
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919	...	...	...	...	20
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	16
Rivers and Streams...	...	...	...	...	16
Road Accidents	...	...	...	...	22
Sanitary Administration	...	...	...	...	15-28
Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	...	16
Complaints	...	...	...	...	17
Defects	...	...	...	...	18, 19, 20, 22, 23
Drainage and Sewerage	...	...	...	...	16, 19
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	19, 20
Inspections	...	...	...	...	17-28
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	16
Rivers and Streams	...	...	...	...	16
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	15
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	29, 30, 31, 32
Schools	...	...	...	...	22
Shell-Fish	...	...	...	...	29
Shops	...	...	...	...	21
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	26
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	30, 31, 32
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	21
Social Conditions	...	...	...	...	7

Staff	...	...	...	...	...	4, 5
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	8
Swimming Baths and Pools	...	...	...	...	...	21
Treatment Centres and Clinics	...	...	...	...	...	12
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	12, 32, 33, 34	
Vital Statistics	...	...	...	...	...	8
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	15
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	8



# RAYLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## COMMITTEES, 1937-38.

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### Public Health Committee.

*Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR E. S. HOWE

*Councillors :*

A. J. BARNARD	Rev. H. ISELIN
Mrs. F. M. COTTEE	J. D. MACKENZIE
W. HOLLINGHURST, J.P.	H. REES
W. S. HUXTABLE	M. J. RODWELL

Meeting :—4th Monday each month, 7.30 p.m.

### Composite Public Health Committee

*Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR H. R. TUTT (Benfleet)

BENFLEET U.D.C.	...	Councillor T. J. EVANS, J.P.
		Councillor P. LANDGRAF
CANVEY ISLAND U.D.C.	...	Councillor H. P. FIELDER
		Councillor H. PRICE POWELL
		Councillor C. J. NEWMAN
RAYLEIGH U.D.C.	...	Councillor A. J. BARNARD
		Councillor E. S. HOWE
		Councillor J. MACKENZIE

Meeting :—1st Tuesday every third month

### Public Health Staff

#### *Medical Officer of Health\**

NORMAN S. R. LORRAINE, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E.,  
D.P.H., R.C.P.S.(Edin.) and R.F.P.S.(Glas.) Also Medical  
Officer of Health for Benfleet and Canvey Island Urban  
District Councils and Assistant County Medical Officer  
of Health.

*Assistant Medical Officer of Health—Essex County Council :*

Dr. J. B. RATCLIFFE, J.P.†

*Orthopaedic Surgeon (part-time) :*

B. WHITCHURCH HOWELL, F.R.C.S., (Eng.).

*Obstetric Specialist (part-time) :*

ANDREW McALLISTER, F.R.C.S., (Eng.)

*Ophthalmologist :*

G. A. JAMIESON, M.B., B.S., D.O.M.S.

*Senior Dental Surgeon :*

S. K. DONALDSON, L.D.S., R.F.P.S.

*Specialist—Ears, Nose and Throat (Southend General Hospital—part-time) :*

C. HAMBLIN THOMAS, F.R.C.S.(Eng.)

*Health Visitor :*

Mrs. M. Cassidy, C.M.B., General Training, N. Canterbury Hospital, New Zealand. She takes part in the work of the School Medical Inspection, Tuberculosis and Child Welfare under the County Council Schemes.

*Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health :*

Miss D. GRUDGINGS.

*Sanitary Inspector\* :*

E. H. LLOYD, C.R.S.I. This officer is qualified in accordance with the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Order, 1935, and in addition holds other certificates.

\* One half of the salaries attached to these offices is paid by the County Council from the Exchequer Contribution Fund.

† Part-time, also in private practice.



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1937.

*Public Health Department,  
London Road,  
Hadleigh,  
Essex.*

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Rayleigh.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Eighth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1937.

I desire again to express my gratitude to all members of the staff of the Department for their loyal co-operation and also to officers of other Departments for information and assistance readily given from time to time.

For the sympathetic consideration and assistance received during the year, I should like to express my thanks to the Council.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN LORRAINE,  
*M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H.,  
R.C.P.S.Edin., and R.F.P.S.Glas.*

*May, 1938.*

## SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	5,787
Population :—						
Census, 1921 (Rayleigh)	...	...	...	...	...	3,125
(Rawreth)	...	...	...	...	...	525
Census, 1931 (Rayleigh including Rawreth)	...	...	...	...	...	6,256
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population						
mid-1936.	...	...	...	...	...	7,265
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population						
mid-1937	...	...	...	...	...	7,501
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937)	...	...	...	...	...	2,300
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£48,801
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£180

The Urban District is mainly a residential area. There are no large factories or industrial works. There is one Food Factory in the District, which manufactures a large variety of cooked meats and also carries out pastry cooking.

A great number of residents are engaged in business in London, travelling daily from this District. In the parish of Rawreth, many of the people are engaged in agricultural pursuits.

The District continues to attract a considerable number of elderly retired persons, many of whom are in receipt of a small pension. It is believed that this group, a number of whom are invalids, forms a not inconsiderable percentage of the total population.

There has been no undue prevalence of unemployment in this area.

There are no unhealthy areas in the District.



## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births ...	98	47	51	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion : 13.06
Legitimate	95	46	49	
Illegitimate	3	1	2	
Stillbirths ...	3	3	—	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births : 29.7
Deaths ...	89	52	37	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion : 11.86*

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis ...	—	—
Other puerperal causes	—	—
Total ...	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age ...	5
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	51.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	52.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	21
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	—

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which requires comment.

There were no noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity in this District during the year. There was no evidence that the occupations or environment of the inhabitants of this area had a prejudicial effect on their health.

No statistical or other evidence is available of the effects of unemployment on the health or physique of children or adults.

## COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES DURING THE YEAR 1937.

	Rate per 1,000 resident population		Deaths under one year per 1,000 registered live births
	Live Births	Deaths from all causes	
England and Wales ...	14.9	12.4	58
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London) ...	14.9	12.5	62
148 Smaller Towns with estimated resident population of from 25,000 to 50,000 ...	15.3	11.9	55
London Administrative County ...	13.3	12.3	60
Rayleigh U.D.C. ...	13.1	11.9*	51

\* This figure, to render it comparable with the death rate for the country as whole, has to be multiplied by the "Comparability Factor," 0.89, which has been supplied by the Registrar General as requisite to redress the abnormal constitution of the local population from the point of view of sex and age components. Applying this factor, the corrected death rate is 10.6 as compared with 12.4 for the country as a whole.

## TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

Year	Population Estimated mid-year Registrar General	Births	Rate per 1,000	Deaths	Rate per 1,000	Infant Mortality Annual Report County M.O.H. 1932-36	
						Deaths	Rate per 1,000 livebirths
1932	6,678	102	15.2	73	10.9	7	68
1933	6,827	92	13.4	67	9.8	1	11
1934	7,087	87	12.4	83	10.5	8	92
1935	7,232	97	13.4	85	11.7	3	31
1936	7,265	92	12.7	93	12.8	7	76
1937	7,501	98	13.1	89	11.9	5	51
							Local calculation



# CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF RAYLEIGH.

Registrar-General's Return, 1937.

	Male	Female	Total
All causes ... ..	52	37	89
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fever	—	—	—
2. Measles ... ..	—	—	—
3. Scarlet fever. ... ..	—	—	—
4. Whooping cough ... ..	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria ... ..	1	—	1
6. Influenza ... ..	3	—	3
7. Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	—	—	—
8. Cerebro-spinal fever ... ..	—	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	3	4
10. Other tuberculous diseases ...	—	—	—
11. Syphilis ... ..	—	—	—
12. General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis ... ..	—	—	—
13. Cancer ... ..	15	6	21
14. Diabetes ... ..	—	1	1
15. Cerebral haemorrhage ... ..	1	1	2
16. Heart disease ... ..	14	9	23
17. Aneurysm ... ..	—	2	2
18. Other circulatory diseases ...	1	2	3
19. Bronchitis ... ..	—	—	—
20. Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	1	3	4
21. Other respiratory diseases ...	1	—	1
22. Peptic ulcer ... ..	—	—	—
23. Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	—	—	—
24. Appendicitis ... ..	1	—	1
25. Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	1	—	1
26. Other liver diseases ... ..	—	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases ... ..	1	3	4
28. Acute and chronic nephritis ...	1	1	2
29. Puerperal sepsis ... ..	—	—	—
30. Other puerperal causes ... ..	—	—	—
31. Congenital debility, premature birth, etc. ... ..	2	2	4
32. Senility ... ..	—	—	—
33. Suicide ... ..	1	—	1
34. Other violence ... ..	1	2	3
35. Other defined diseases ... ..	6	2	8
36. Ill-defined, or unknown ... ..	—	—	—

## DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1937.

	Age.	No. of Deaths
Under 1 year ...	...	5
1 and under 2	...	—
2 and under 5	...	3
5 and under 15	...	2
15 and under 25	...	3
25 and under 35	...	3
35 and under 45	...	4
45 and under 55	...	8
55 and under 65	...	13
65 and under 75	...	22
75 and upwards	...	26
Total ...		89

## SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### 1. (i) PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

A list of these will be found at the beginning of this Report.

(ii)

### (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological specimens are sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 91, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4., and every advantage is taken of these facilities particularly for the examination of throat swabs in cases of suspected Diphtheria.

The Bacteriologist for Essex examined the following specimens from the Rayleigh Urban District during 1937 :—

Diphtheria	...	28
Sputa	...	13
Typhoid	...	3
Ringworm	...	—
General	...	1
Milk	...	19
Ice Cream	...	4
Water	...	1
Sewage	...	—
Total		69

45



(b) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**

There have been no changes in the ambulance facilities for this area during the year under review.

(c) **NURSING IN THE HOME.**

The remarks as in my previous reports still apply.

Two midwives practise in the District.

(d) **TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS—UNDER  
ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.**

Department	Address	Hours of attendance each month	Doctor attending session
Maternity and Child Welfare	Wesleyan Church Hall, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	2nd and 4th Tuesdays 2.30 p.m.	Dr. N. S. R. Lorraine.
Ante Natal	Wesleyan Church Hall, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	4th Thursday 10 a.m.	Dr. J. B. Ratcliffe, J.P.
Toddlers' Clinic	Wesleyan Church Hall, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh.	5th Tuesday 2.30 p.m.	Dr. N. S. R. Lorraine.
Weighing Centre	Parish Hall Rawreth	2nd and 4th Wednesday 2.30 p.m.	Dr. J. B. Ratcliffe, J.P. 4th only.

21 sessions during the year were held under the Maternity and Child Welfare Department. The attendance at these sessions was very satisfactory, the average attendance being a total of 103.

**Tuberculosis Dispensary—under Essex County Council  
Tuberculosis Scheme.**

*Address:* Municipal Health Centre, Warrior Square, Southend-on-Sea.

*Hours of attendance :* Wednesday afternoons and by arrangement.

*Dr. attending session :* Dr. N. S. R. Lorraine.

**Venereal Diseases.**

A Clinic is available for Essex patients at Southend-on-Sea Borough Sanatorium under the London and Home Counties

Venereal Diseases scheme. Patients from the administrative County of Essex may attend for advice and treatment at most of the large London Hospitals.

**(e) HOSPITALS—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.**

There have been no changes in the provision of hospitals, public or voluntary.

**Tuberculosis—Under Essex County Council Tuberculosis Scheme.**

Beds at Sanatoria and Hospitals are provided for suitable patients on the recommendation of the District Tuberculosis Officer. Any person in need of institutional treatment should, therefore, apply, preferably through his medical attendant, to the Tuberculosis Dispensary nearest his home. Travelling expenses of necessitous cases and ex-service men to and from Institutions are defrayed by the County Council.

Various Institutions in the County of Essex and elsewhere receive suitable patients by arrangement with and on the recommendation of the Chief Tuberculosis Officer.

**Maternity Hospital.**

There is no Maternity Hospital in the District, but, under the Essex County Council, arrangements are made for cases to be admitted to Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford.

**Children's Hospital.**

There is no Children's Hospital in the area.

**Fever Hospital.**

Patients from this Urban District are admitted to the Sutton Ford Isolation Hospital, Rochford. This Hospital is administered by a joint Hospital Committee with two members from the Rayleigh U.D.C.

There are 24 beds for patients suffering from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever. When no further accommodation is available, arrangements are made for such cases to be admitted to the Billericay Isolation Hospital.

The South-East Essex Joint Hospital Order, 1937, was confirmed by Act of Parliament on the 30th July, 1937, and came into operation on that day.



This Act provides for the Urban Districts of Benfleet, Billericay, Brentwood, Canvey Island and Rayleigh and the Rural District of Rochford to be formed into a united district to be called the South East Essex Joint Hospital District for the purposes of the provision, maintenance and management for the use of the inhabitants of the constituent districts of hospitals for the reception of cases of infectious disease.

The South East Essex Joint Hospital Board consists of two ex-officio members and fourteen elective members as hereunder :—

Ex-officio members : The Chairman of Billericay Urban District Council.

The Chairman of Brentwood Urban District Council.

Elective members : Benfleet Urban District Council—2  
Billericay Urban District Council—3  
Brentwood Urban District Council—3

Canvey Island Urban District Council—1

Rayleigh Urban District Council—2

Rochford Rural District Council—3

Arrangements are being made for the Sutton Ford Isolation Hospital to be transferred to this Board, with a view to the transfer taking place on October 1st, 1938.

### **Smallpox Hospital.**

Accommodation has now been provided by the Essex County Council for patients from this District to be admitted to the Smallpox Hospital adjacent to the Isolation Hospital, situated in Mill Road, Mile End, Colchester.

### **General Hospital.**

The nearest available is outside the District, and is the Southend-on-Sea and District General Hospital. Local residents may subscribe. The total number of beds available for use (during 1937) was 235 for in-patients.

During the year 1936, 94 in-patients were received from this District. (No figures yet available for 1937.)

By arrangement with the Essex County Council, and this Hospital, operative treatment of tonsils and adenoids in children is carried out by Mr. C. Hamblen Thomas, F.R.C.S.(Eng.)

### **Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institutions.**

Arrangements are made under the Essex County Council for admission of these cases to the East Anglian Institution, Gorleston-on-Sea.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children in this district.

There is one registered Nursing Home in the area.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. H. Lloyd, for the bulk of particulars supplied under Sections C. D. & E.

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## **SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

### **1. (a) WATER.**

The Southend Waterworks Company, which provides a piped supply in the district, gave a constant supply throughout the year.

The number of houses connected with the public supply at the end of the year was 2,403, an increase of 120 as compared with the number connected at the end of 1936.

During the year 9 samples of water were taken for analysis with the following results :—

Unfit for drinking and domestic purposes	5
Not unwholesome ... ..	4

Of the 5 samples adversely reported upon, one was connected to a main supply, two are about to be connected, and of the remaining two the owners have been asked to connect to the available main supply.

During the year, the Council entered into an agreement with the Water Company in which they guaranteed a minimum revenue from an Estate containing 41 bungalows. As a result of this, the mains were extended and a piped supply was available to all the houses on the Estate. At the end of the year, 26 properties had been connected to the main.



Prior to the extension of the supply, this Estate had been reliant on a doubtful supply from shallow wells and rainwater.

**(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

There was no extension of sewerage during the year, but arrangements are pending for the sewerage of an Estate in the district, where owing to the closely-built development and the nature of the subsoil, the conservancy system of drainage is quite inadequate and the conditions are such that they are a continual source of nuisance.

**2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.**

The River Crouch forms the Northern boundary of the Rayleigh Urban District. The river receives the effluent from the Western District Sewage Disposal Works.

Nuisances from watercourses and ditches becoming choked frequently arise, and difficulty is experienced in keeping these properly graded and levelled owing to the diversity of ownership.

**3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**

Of the 90 new dwelling houses completed during the year, 79 were connected to the sewer.

6 existing houses were converted from a conservancy system of drainage and connected to the Sewer.

**(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

**Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

The Sanitary Inspector is the officer responsible to the Council for the control of this service. Collection is by two horse-drawn vehicles and 4 men are employed in this service. Refuse is collected once weekly, except from the Rawreth area, where a once fortnightly collection is in operation.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, and this method has been found to be satisfactory. One of the collectors also acts as part-time tip attendant.

**NIGHT SOIL.**

Night Soil is collected from 65 houses in the district, 42 by the Council and 23 by a contractor.

(iii) **SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA—SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.**

Houses inspected and recorded under Housing (Consolidated) Regulation 1925 & 1932	...	...	34
Houses inspected but not recorded under Housing Reg.			73
Re-inspections as to housing defects	...	...	155
Houses measured and other visits relating to the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	267
Houses inspected prior to the removal of the tenant to a Council House	...	...	3
Water Supplies	...	...	200
Water samples taken for chemical and bacteriological examination	...	...	9
Investigations as to nuisances	...	...	70
Re-visits as to nuisances	...	...	116
Ditches and Watercourses	...	...	80
Drainage inspections	...	...	35
Public cleansing visits	...	...	27
Pig keepers premises	...	...	15
Refuse dumps	...	...	46
Sewage disposal works	...	...	4
Moveable dwellings	...	...	1
Rats and Mice	...	...	21
Public Urinals	...	...	24
Storage of petroleum	...	...	20
Infectious Disease enquiries	...	...	55
Shops Act 1934, as to ventilation, heating and Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	14
Factories and Workshops Act 1901 :			
Factories	...	...	16
Workshops	...	...	12
Workplaces	...	...	3
Outworkers premises	...	...	1
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	75
Bakehouses	...	...	4
Butchers premises	...	...	33
Slaughterhouses	...	...	140
Fish Shops	...	...	12
Ice-cream dealers premises	...	...	10
Other food premises	...	...	5
Milk samples taken for bacteriological examination			19
Samples of ice-cream taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	4
Carried forward	...		1,603



	<i>Brought forward</i>	...	1,603
Pasteurised milk samples taken for phosphatase test			3
Interviews with owners, builders, etc.	...	...	20
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	17
			<hr/> 1643 <hr/>

Summary of Nuisances abated and defects remedied after action by Health Department.

### Housing.

Roofs renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Walls of houses rendered damp-proof				...	...	10
Defective walls rebuilt or repaired	...	...	...			5
Gutters and downpipes renewed or repaired—houses						16
New Sculleries provided	...	...	...	...		1
Floors repaired or renewed—rooms	...	...	...	...		9
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...		5
Walls repapered or re-distempered	...	...	...	...		8
Ceilings of rooms re-papered or re-distempered				...		11
Wall plaster repaired—rooms	...	...	...	...		8
Ceiling plaster repaired—rooms			...	...		8
Yards or passages paved or drained	...	...	...	...		4
New chimney pots provided	...	...	...	...		3
Ventilated food stores provided		...	...	...		4
Houses connected to Water Company's main				...		29
Existing water supplies improved	...	...	...	...		1
Water supplies re-connected	...	...	...	...		3
Doors and windows repaired or renewed			...	...		42
Underfloor ventilation improved—houses			...	...		10
Door steps repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...		1
Sashcords renewed	...	...	...	...		9
Coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...		3
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	...		1
Lighting of rooms improved	...	...	...	...		9
Ventilation of rooms improved		...	...	...		6
Verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...		20
New ashbins provided	...	...	...	...		4

### Drainage :

New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Houses with conservancy systems of drainage connected to sewer	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
New gullies provided	...	...	...	...	...	16
Blocked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	11
New W.C's. provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cesspools repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
New flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pail closets renewed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pail closets improved	...	...	...	...	...	5

### General.

Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	5
Ditches cleared	...	...	...	...	8
Nuisance from rats abated or diminished	...	...	...	...	12
Factories and Workshops—W.C's. renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Shops Act—Heating improved	...	...	...	...	1

## FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

### 1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	16	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries) ... ..	12	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises) ... ..	3	—	—
Total ...	31	—	—



## 2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation				
Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s.101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences excluding offences relating to out-work and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921) ...				
Total ...	1	1	—	—

### Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

The Sanitary Inspector acts as Petroleum Inspector for the District. During the year 17 licences were issued to store petroleum and carbide of calcium in respect of premises within the District.

### Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

The Sanitary Inspector administers the provisions of the above Act. The Council, during the year, issued free rat poison to the public and allowed the free use of their smoke machine. This practice has produced very good results, and in many cases premises have been entirely freed from rats and mice and in others the infestation has been very greatly reduced.

(iv) **SHOPS.**

13 visits were made to shops during the year as to temperature, ventilation, and sanitary accommodation. In one instance, the shop was found to be inadequately heated and suitable provision was subsequently made.

(v) **SMOKE ABATEMENT.**

The district is mainly residential and no action was necessary during the year.

(vi) **SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.**

There are neither public nor privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public in this District.

(vii) **ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.**

1. Number of houses found to be infested and subsequently disinfested.

Council Houses	...	5
Other houses	...	1

2. Method employed for freeing houses from bed bugs.

(a) Council Houses—Picture rails of bedrooms and all other woodwork which appears to be infested is either removed or loosened. Parts likely to be infested are sprayed with insecticide and rooms infested are fumigated with a block disinfestator with a sulphur base. This treatment is repeated after 14 days.

(b) Private Houses—carried out by owners or tenants under advice and supervision or by local authority for which service the owner or tenant is charged.

3. Before occupation of a Council House, an inspection is made of the prospective tenant's abode. If evidence of bugs is found the applicant is not accepted as a council house tenant until disinfestation to the satisfaction of the local authority is carried out.

4. The work of disinfestation of Council Houses is carried out by the local authority.

5. After disinfestation the tenants are advised as to means of preventing re-infestation and several subsequent visits are paid to see that the tenants are acting upon the advice given.



#### 4. SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions and the water supplies of the schools are still satisfactory. The routine examination of school children in the district is regularly conducted each year by the School Medical Inspector who is also your Medical Officer of Health. Dental Clinics have been held during the year and fillings completed where necessary.

#### ROAD ACCIDENTS.

I refer to my previous Annual Reports in regard to this subject.

I regret to record that during the year there was one adult death in this district due to a Road Accident.

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### SECTION D.—HOUSING.

(a) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	—
(b) By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	—
(c) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	90

#### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	107
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose					155
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	34
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose					110
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	51

## 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	34
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## 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

### A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1

### B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...	2

### C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	3

### D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	—
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(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	—
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#### 4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING :

A. (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	2
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...					2
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...					15
B. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...		3
C. (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...		9
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases						53
D. Particulars of any case in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	—
E. Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	...	...	...	...	...	

Five licences were granted for temporary use of houses by persons in excess of the permitted number.

Of the 9 cases of overcrowding which were abated during the year, one was re-housed in a Council house, five moved to larger houses other than Council houses, and the overcrowding was abated in the case of three houses by members of the family leaving to live elsewhere.

## SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) MILK SUPPLY.

#### Registration of persons and premises.

The following table shows the number of premises and persons registered by the Council on 31st December, 1937 :—

Producers premises ... ..	17
Dairies (other than place of production)	
where milk is bottled ... ..	2
Retail shops where milk is sold in sealed	
bottles only ... ..	2
Retail purveyors by rounds from premises	
outside the district ... ..	8

75 visits were paid to producers premises and to dairies during the year.

19 samples of milk were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, 16 being of ordinary and 3 of Graded milks. Of these, one ungraded milk was reported as unsatisfactory. In addition to these samples, 18 samples of milk were taken at Accredited farms in the district by the Essex County Council, and of these 6 were reported as unsatisfactory.

3 samples of milk said to be pasteurised, were submitted to the Phosphatase test, and the test indicated that the milk had not been treated by heat.

20 samples of milk for biological examination were taken by the Essex County Council with the following results :—

Found <i>not</i> to contain tubercle bacilli ...	18
Found to contain tubercle bacilli ...	1
Inconclusive ... ..	1

#### Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following licences were issued by the local authority and the Essex County Council for the production and distribution of graded milks.

To produce Accredited Milk ... ..	5
To distribute Tuberculin Tested Milk, bottled outside the	
District ... ..	2
To distribute Accredited Milk bottled outside the district	1
To distribute Pasteurised Milk pasteurised and bottled	
outside the district ... ..	2
To pasteurise, bottle and distribute as Pasteurised Milk	1



## ICE CREAM.

The following is a statement of persons and premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice cream on 31st December, 1937.

Registered as manufacturers and vendors	8
Registered as vendors only	...
	...
	7

4 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination and 2 were reported as not being of a satisfactory standard.

## (b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There is one registered slaughterhouse in the district and this is well conducted. 140 visits both for ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections were paid to the slaughterhouse during the year. The following table shows the result of those inspections :—

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	57	—	14	247	239
Number inspected— ...	57	—	14	230	239
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	1	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis ... ..	3.509	—	—	0.435	1.255
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	19
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	3.509	—	—	—	7.95

The following unsound food was surrendered :—

				No.	Approx. weight lbs.	Disease
Bovine :	Lungs	...	...	1	10	Tuberculosis
	Livers	...	...	1	12	Distomatosis
	Head and Tongue	...	...	1	25	Tuberculosis
	Kidneys	...	...	1	1	Inflammatory condition
	Mesentery	...	...	1	10	Tuberculosis
Pig :	Carcases and Offal...			1	80	Generalised Tuberculosis
	Carcases and Offal...			1	70	Abscesses, mul- tiple and wide- spread
	Head	...	...	11	140	Tuberculosis
	Pluck	...	...	1	7	Pleurisy
	Livers	...	...	4	12	Tuberculosis
	Livers	...	...	1	3	Tuberculosis and Cirrhosis
	Liver	...	...	1	3	Cirrhosis
	Spleen	...	...	1	1	Tuberculosis (?)
	Mesenteries	...	...	5	6	Tuberculosis
Sheep :	Liver	...	...	1	3	Fatty degener- ation
Total approximate weight ...					<hr/> 383 lbs. <hr/>	

Inspections were made from time to time of meat offered for sale in butchers shops and no meat so exposed was found to be unfit.

### (c) ADULTERATION.

The Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act is administered by the Essex County Council. The following information has been supplied by the Sampling Officer of samples taken within the Urban District. All were reported as genuine.



Article	Number taken
Milk ... ..	36
Apricots ... ..	2
Bacon ... ..	5
Beef suet ... ..	3
Beef cubes ... ..	1
Beef (Corned) ... ..	1
Brawn ... ..	1
Butter ... ..	5
Cheese ... ..	5
Cream Cheese ... ..	1
Cocoa ... ..	4
Cocoa essence ... ..	1
Coffee ... ..	1
Chicken and Ham Roll ... ..	1
Currants ... ..	1
Dripping ... ..	2
Fruit Salad ... ..	1
Fish Cakes ... ..	1
Ground Ginger ... ..	3
Ground Almonds ... ..	1
Jelly (Table) ... ..	4
Jelly Crystals ... ..	1
Lard ... ..	4
Margarine ... ..	2
Ox Tongue ... ..	1
Prunes ... ..	1
Pudding Powder ... ..	1
Pepper (white) ... ..	2
Rice ... ..	1
Rice Custard Powder ... ..	2
Sausages (beef) ... ..	3
Sausages (pork) ... ..	1
Sausages (Luncheon) ... ..	8
Tea ... ..	5
Total ...	<hr/> 112 <hr/>

**(d) BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.**

Samples of foodstuffs taken for bacteriological examination are sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories under the Essex County Council Scheme.

(e) **NUTRITION.**

The question of adequate nourishment, especially for children is carefully watched in this District and Medical Officers in charge of Child Welfare Centres and those responsible for School Medical Inspection have every facility under the Essex Council Schemes for obviating the presence of sub-nutrition occurring in this District.

No difficulty should arise in respect of recommendations by those relevant Officers of milk, etc., and the list of articles which may be recommended is an extensive one.

In this reference, in schools, the "free meal" (mid-day dinner) should ensure that school children are not likely to suffer from lack of nutrition owing to economic causes.

Further advantage is being taken of this Scheme and in certain instances it has proved to be a boon.

The question of showing films, etc., as a form of propaganda to bring to the minds of the public the importance of adequate nutrition, especially for children, has been under consideration.

(f) **SHELL-FISH (MOLLUSCAN).**

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in this district.

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## SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

### GENERAL.

During the year 1937, the number of cases of infectious diseases notified showed an increase on those notified during 1936, particularly the number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified.

Fifty-five cases of Scarlet Fever were notified as compared with twenty-nine of the previous year and four cases of Diphtheria were notified as compared with one in 1936. I am pleased to record that there were no deaths from Scarlet Fever, but I regret that a boy, aged 4 years, who was suffering from Diphtheria, died 3 days after being admitted to hospital.

Although the number of notified cases of Scarlet Fever shows an increase, I am glad to state that the majority of these cases



were of a fairly mild character. Cases occurred throughout the year, the peak period being in July. One case was only staying in Rayleigh and was notified as suffering from Scarlet Fever three days after arrival in Rayleigh for a holiday from Belgium. Of the total number seventeen cases, i.e. approx. 31% were nursed at home under the care of their local medical attendants. I am of opinion that there may be some advantage from treating mild uncomplicated cases, such as often occur in this District, at home.

Four cases of Diphtheria were notified during 1937, three of which were removed to hospital and one nursed at home. As already stated, I regret to state that a boy, aged 4 years, died in hospital. The other three cases made satisfactory recovery. One case, a girl aged nearly two years, was notified as a suspected case of Diphtheria, but after investigation at the hospital, no confirmation of the diagnosis was found and the case was denotified.

In regard to artificial immunisation against Diphtheria, this matter is about to be brought to the notice of the Council. I have in preparation, a Scheme for this District. At the time of completion of this Report, I am pleased to say the Scheme is receiving favourable consideration. An adequate supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept in stock for the use by practitioners for the poorer inhabitants of the District.

I am glad to report that no cases of Smallpox, Enteric Fever, Puerperal Fever or Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year.

Two cases of Acute Influenzal Pneumonia were notified at the beginning of the year. One was treated at home and the other removed to hospital and both recovered satisfactorily.

One case of Erysipelas was notified and nursed at home, and made satisfactory recovery.

Of non-notifiable diseases, Influenza seemed to be particularly prevalent at the beginning of the year, but fortunately of a fairly mild character. All ages appeared to be affected in wide distribution. Suitable action to prevent Influenza in the schools was taken and posters were displayed regarding action to prevent Influenza, and Head Teachers received printed notices to this effect from this Department.



Arrangements which were made during 1937 by the Local Authority for patients from this District suffering from complications of Measles to be admitted to the Borough Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases, Balmoral Road, Westcliff-on-Sea for treatment, with my approval, on request from a local medical practitioner, at a cost of two guineas per week, are still in force. No guarantee can be given that an application for admission of a patient can be acceded to, as necessarily the Medical Superintendent must have primary regard to the needs of the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea and, at times, may have no suitable accommodation available. During 1937, no cases from this District were admitted to the Borough Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases suffering from complications of measles.

No local action has been taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, but from time to time, I have advised local medical practitioners as to how this measles serum can be obtained.

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Notifiable  Disease	Cases included in Weekly Returns													Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Sex	
	At Ages															M.	F.
	At all Ages	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over				
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	55	—	—	2	3	2	23	19	1	2	3	—	—	38	—	26	29
Diphtheria ...	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	3	1	3	1
Enteric Fever (in- cluding Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute primary or in- fluenzal) ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	1
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—



## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Year	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid)	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenza)	Erysipelas	Acute Polymyelitis	Tubercu- losis	
										Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1932	—	12	2	—	—	1	4	1	—	3	3
1933	—	12	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	5
1934	—	9	23	1	1	—	—	1	—	5	2
1935	—	8	7	—	—	—	1	1	2	8	2
1936	—	29	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	6	2
1937	—	55	4	—	—	—	2	1	—	4	2

### 4. (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken during the year under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

### (b) TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade.)

No action was taken during the year under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.)

5. During the year 1937, four cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and two cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. Most of these cases had been notified in other Districts and were re-notified on transferring into this District.



It is with regret that I have to report that during 1937 there were four deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis. Two of these were un-notified at the time of death, one a female aged 45 years who had only removed into this district a few weeks prior to her death, and the other, a female aged 49 years, who died in hospital. The latter probably never had a local medical attendant. The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths was 1 : 2.

Particulars regarding the date of notification in this district in relation to the date of death will be found under the table showing age groups in regard to new cases and mortality.

I have investigated the districts from which cases notified as suffering from tuberculosis have come into the districts of Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh—very often on medical advice—in order to continue treatment at home where it is alleged they have a better chance of recovery than remaining in the Metropolitan Districts of London.

It is with difficulty that I have found any cases of local residents who have contracted tuberculosis and it seems a matter of concern that several cases have come to these parts from London when it was known that they were seriously ill, and one case, at least, was removed by ambulance only to die within a month.

I appreciate the difficulties for patient, relatives and the Local Authorities, but it seems to me regrettable that such cases can come to these Urban Districts and simply act as a local source of infection with no consequent benefit to the patient.

I should like to take this opportunity of pointing out that it is an absolute fallacy for persons suffering from advanced pulmonary tuberculosis, particularly of a chronic nature, to come to these districts expecting some miracle cure associated with fresh air, alleged low rents and freedom from economic difficulties.

There are possible advantages in residing in the country when one has the misfortune to contract pulmonary tuberculosis but it seems a pity to me that these districts should have constantly recurring fresh sources of infection imported from the London Metropolitan Districts, where the final result is very often most disheartening, and potential contacts locally are created who may develop the "Captain of the Men of Death."



The standard of notification was satisfactory in this District during the year and any un-notified cases are generally the result of recent transfers into the district, the population of which is constantly changing.

There was no evidence of any cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify, and there was no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the District.

#### New Cases and Mortality during 1937

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	1	—	1	—	1	3	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	1	1	1	1	3	—	—

#### Deaths from Tuberculosis during 1937 and particulars regarding notification.

##### When notified.

No. of Deaths	After death	Within 3—6 months of death	Within 6—12 months of death	Within 1—2 years of death	Within 2—4 years of death	More than 4 years before death	Unnotified
4	—	—	—	1	—	1	2

My thanks are due to Dr. W. A. Bullough, County Medical Officer of Health and to Dr. C. Grant Pugh, Medical Officer of Health of the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea, for their advice and help, which has been much appreciated.

Close co-operation between this Department and general practitioners renders all duties pleasant and productive.

My thanks are due to Miss Grudgings for the assistance she has rendered in the compilation of this Report.









