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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH

(JOHN F. MACDONALD, M.D., D.P.H.)

(Barrister-at-Law)

FOR

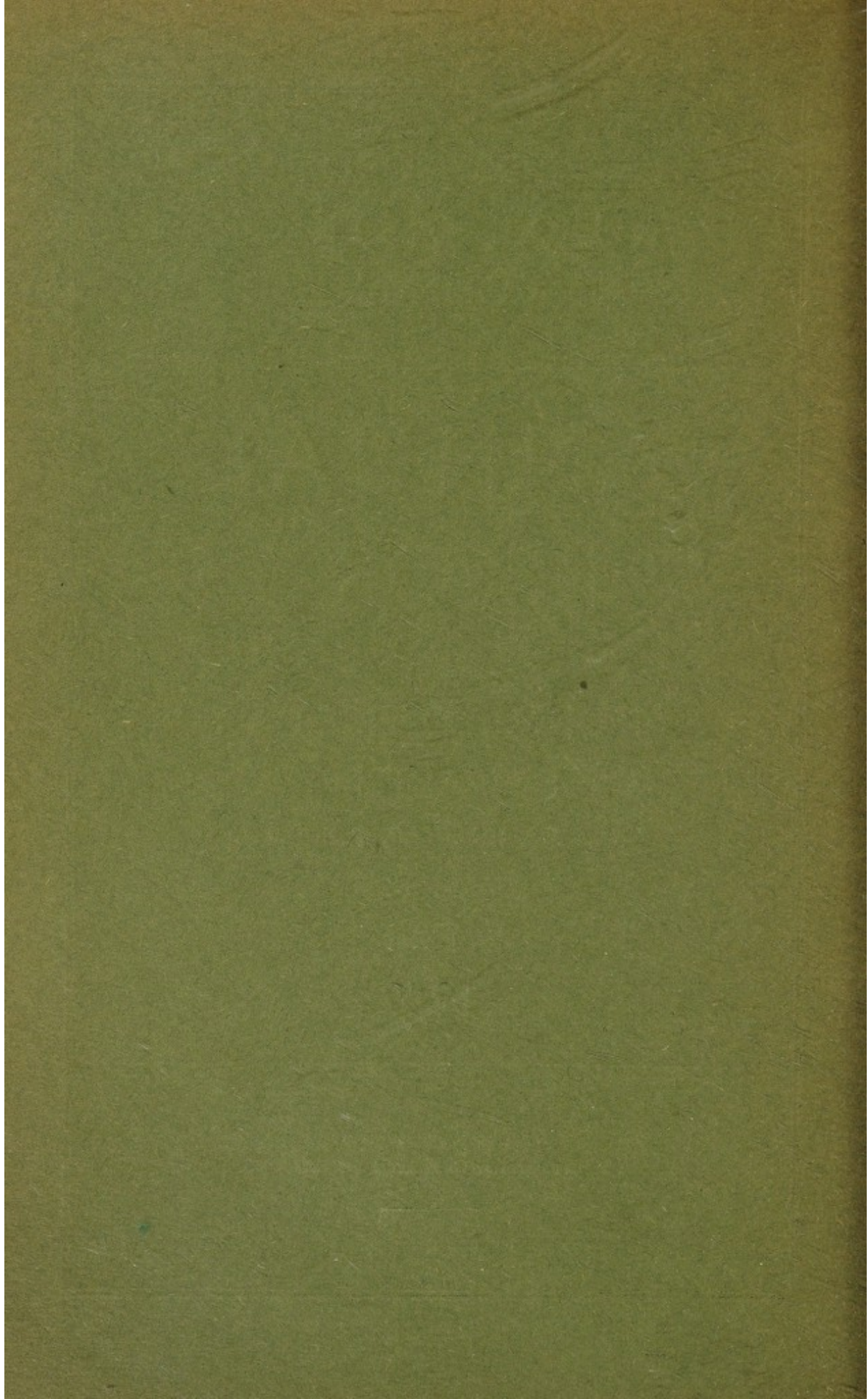
1942

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ROCHFORD AND SOUTHEND :  
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LONDON ROAD,

CHELMSFORD,

10th June, 1943.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Rochford  
Rural District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the year 1942.

As directed by the Minister of Health the report has been curtailed.

Owing to the abnormal conditions since the outbreak of war a great amount of time has had to be given to other than normal public health activities.

In spite of the considerable movement of population into the area no increase in the incidence of infectious disease occurred and the general health of the community was maintained.

To my colleagues I am much indebted for their valuable assistance in the preparation of this Report.

For the sympathetic consideration and assistance received during the year, I beg to thank the Council.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN F. MACDONALD.

## STAFF

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### PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*Medical Officer of Health* : John F. Macdonald, M.D., D.P.H., (also Medical Officer of Health for the Rural Districts of Chelmsford and Maldon.)

*Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health* : M. C. Barton, (in Forces since September, 1939). Mrs. M. Marshall.

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### SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

*Chief Sanitary Inspector*: G. W. Yearsley, M.R.SAN.I. M.S.I.A.

*Assistant Sanitary Inspector* : R. E. Smith.

*Temporary Clerk to the Sanitary Inspector* : D. G. Stripp.

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### ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT

*Engineer and Surveyor* : A. N. Box, M.INST.M.CY.E., M.T.P.I.

*Deputy Engineer and Surveyor* : G. Page.

*Building Inspector* : G. Watson.



## ROCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

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#### Statistics.

Area (in acres)      ..      .. 36,080 (land and inland water-ways)

Registrar General's estimate of  
civilian population, mid-1942 ; 14,880.

Rateable value on 31st March, 1942    £92,809

The Sum represented by a Penny Rate  
on 31st March, 1942    £362 6s. 5d.

#### Social Conditions.

The majority of the adult population is engaged in agriculture. The industrial undertakings are limited and cannot be classed as detrimental to the health of the work-people.

## Extracts from vital statistics of the year.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate ..	238	121	117	Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population—16.7
	Illegitimate ..	11	7	4	
Still Births	Legitimate ..	6	3	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 27.3
	Illegitimate ..	1	1	—	
Deaths	..	220	102	118	Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population.* 14.7.

## Deaths from Puerperal causes :

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 of total (live & still) births
Puerperal and Post abortive sepsis	1	3.9
Other maternal causes	Nil	—
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age :—		
Males 9 (illegitimate 0), Females 7 (illegitimate 0). Total 16		
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		67
Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „		Nil
Total „ „ „ total „ „		64
Death from Measles (all ages)	..	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	1
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	..	Nil

## COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES DURING THE YEAR 1942.

	Rate per 1,000 civilian population.		Deaths under one year per 1,000 registered live births.
	Live Births.	Deaths from all causes.	
England and Wales ..	15.8	11.6	49
126 County Boroughs and great towns including London	17.3	13.3	59
148 smaller towns with estimated resident population of from 25,000 to 50,000 (1931 Census)	18.4	12.1	46
Rochford Rural District ..	16.7	14.7*	64

\* In order to render this figure comparable with the death rate for the country as a whole, it must be multiplied by the "Comparability Factor," or as it is now styled the "Areal Comparability Factor (A.C.F.)," of 0.82 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 age and sex components. Applying this factor, the corrected death rate is 12.0 as compared with 11.6 for the country as a whole.



The following table classifies the deaths according to cause and sex—

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .. ..	—	1	1
Whooping Cough .. ..	1	—	1
Diphtheria .. ..	—	1	1
Influenza .. ..	1	—	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever. .. ..	2	—	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	—	2	2
Syphilitic Diseases .. ..	2	—	2
Cancer .. ..	18	16	34
Diabetes .. ..	—	1	1
Heart Disease .. ..	31	37	68
Intra Cranial Vascular lesions .. ..	8	15	23
Other Circulatory Diseases .. ..	1	2	3
Bronchitis .. ..	6	4	10
Pneumonia (all forms) .. ..	4	7	11
Other Respiratory Diseases .. ..	1	2	3
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum .. ..	3	—	3
Appendicitis .. ..	—	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases .. ..	—	2	2
Nephritis .. ..	1	3	4
Puerperal Sepsis .. ..	—	1	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, ..			
Premature Birth .. ..	4	7	11
Suicide .. ..	—	1	1
Other Violent Causes .. ..	5	3	8
All other causes .. ..	14	8	22
Road Traffic Accidents .. ..	—	4	4
Totals .. ..	102	118	220

#### NUMBER OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE

Age		
Under 1 year .. ..	..	16
1 and under 2 .. ..	..	—
2    "    5 .. ..	..	2
5    "    15 .. ..	..	6
15   "   25 .. ..	..	3
25   "   35 .. ..	..	4
35   "   45 .. ..	..	9
45   "   55 .. ..	..	18
55   "   65 .. ..	..	36
65   "   75 .. ..	..	53
75 and over .. ..	..	73
Total		220



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

**Laboratory Facilities :** Additional facilities to supplement those already available have been provided by the establishment of Emergency Public Health Laboratories, under the direction of the Medical Research Council.

<b>Ambulance Facilities :</b>	}	These all remain the same as last year.
<b>Nursing in the Home :</b>		
<b>Registered Nursing Homes.</b>		

**Treatment Centres and Clinics :** The Combined Treatment Centre, Connaught House, Market Square, Rochford now caters for those clinics previously held at the Combined Treatment Centre, Rocheway, Rochford.

**Hospitals ; Public and Voluntary.** At the end of 1939 the Isolation Hospital at Sutton Ford was closed down. Patients are now sent to Billericay.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water :** Information under this heading as supplied by the Southend Waterworks Company :—

During the year 67 yards of 4" mains was extended in the parish of Ashingdon and by the end of the year 4,916 premises were being supplied with water from the Company's mains as follows :—

Ashingdon, 316; Barling 66; Canewdon, 190; Fambridge (South), 64; Hawkwell, 888; Hockley, 1,015; Rochford, 1,393; Stambridge, 79; Sutton, 53; Wakering (Great), 753; Wakering (Little), 99.

**Rochford Combined Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.** The standard of effluent from the Stambridge Disposal Works into tidal water has been uniformly high and well within the limits of purity required by the standard adopted by the Essex



County Council for inland waterways. A commencement was made on the reconditioning of the sludge beds and two beds were reconditioned with very satisfactory results. A sample of semi-dried sludge was analysed which showed that it possesses valuable land fertilizing properties (approximately equal to farm yard manure weight for weight).

**Waking Sewage Disposal Works.** Except after heavy rains, the standard of effluent has been uniformly high, similar to that of the Stambridge Works. Rectification of the existing defects cannot properly be dealt with during the period of war but it is probable that this matter which is mainly one of over loading will have to receive attention in due course.

The Council's policy is to extend sewers from time to time in areas which appear to them to be insanitary, but no areas were dealt with during the year owing to war-time restrictions.

Difficulties have been experienced with drainage from Council Houses which have been erected in unsewered areas. Attempts to deal with drainage in cesspools, ditches or by means of ground percolation invariably create serious nuisances with consequent litigation risks. It seems most unwise to erect Council Houses except where main drainage is available.

The unsuitability of drainage in the past should be taken as an object lesson to indicate the need for discouraging residential development where main drainage cannot be made available.

**Drainage and Sewerage :** The number of House Drainage Connections made during the year was :—

Parish	Connections
Hockley	4
Great Waking	1
Rochford	1
	—
	6
	—



**Public Cleansing :**

The following are particulars of the House Refuse and Night Soil Collection Services at the end of 1942 :—

Parish	Scheme	House		Night Soil Pails
		Refuse	Bins	
Ashingdon	Direct Labour	135		—
Barling	" "	108		76
Canewdon	" "	181		127
Fambridge, South	" "	54		32
Foulness Island	" "	83		—
Hawkwell (1)	Contract	58		—
Hawkwell (2)	Direct Labour	675		8
Hockley	" "	705		66
Paglesham	Contract	88		—
Rochford	Direct Labour	1138		12
Stambridge	" "	108		86
Sutton	" "	53		—
Wakering, Great	" "	826		71
Wakering Little	" "	155		83
Totals		4567		561

The Salvage scheme inaugurated in 1939 was continued and the following materials were salvaged and returned to industry during the year :—

				Tons	cwts	qrs	lbs
Waste Paper	..	..	..	111	9	—	16
Ferrous Scrap	..	..	..	25	18	—	—
Tins (unflattened)	..	..	..	15	12	1	—
Non Ferrous Metals	..	..	..	1	4	3	12
Textiles (Rags, Sacking, etc.)	..	..	..	6	10	2	—
Bottles and Jars	..	..	..	4	4	3	—
Rubber	..	..	..	6	2	2	—
Bones	..	..	..	6	4	2	—
Total				177	6	2	—

Value : £901 15s. 10d.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table gives details of the inspections carried out and notices served.

### Inspections and Particulars of Notices for the year 1942.

Nature of Inspection	Total Inspections	Notices Served		
		Informal	Formal	Out-standing at end of 1942
Housing .. .. .	110	46	—	6
Caravans .. .. .	27	—	—	—
Verminous or Dirty premises ..	15	2	—	—
Infectious Diseases .. .. .	54	—	—	—
Water Supplies .. .. .	56	4	—	1
Drainage .. .. .	121	16	6	—
Sanitary Accommodation .. .. .	29	5	—	—
Schools (sanitary accommodation)	12	1	—	—
Factories .. .. .	2	1	—	—
Outworkers Premises .. .. .	2	—	—	—
Bakehouses .. .. .	3	—	—	—
Dairy Farms .. .. .	70	10	—	1
Dairies (other than farms) .. ..	8	—	—	—
Food Shops .. .. .	43	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses .. .. .	33	—	—	—
Knackers Yards .. .. .	2	—	—	—
Piggeries .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Watercourses and Ditches .. ..	10	3	—	—
Ponds .. .. .	3	—	—	—
Scavenging .. .. .	55	—	—	—
Dust Bins .. .. .	15	7	—	—
Miscellaneous visits .. .. .	97	—	—	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>



**Smoke Abatement.** No action taken during the year.

**Swimming Baths and Pools.** None in the area but tidal rivers in the district afford facilities for bathing.

**Eradication of Bed Bugs.** Two dwellings were fumigated with sulphur candles and sprayed with Cromessol "Solution B."

**Schools.** There are twelve schools in the area and inspections have been made particularly in respect of drainage and sanitary accommodation.

**Camping Sites.** During the year five licences were granted to use land as sites for Moveable Dwellings and four licences to station and use Moveable Dwellings.

## HOUSING.

The following table gives details of the housing work carried out during the year. It will be seen that the work has been considerably interfered with as a result of other pressing duties and the outbreak of hostilities.

Number of new houses erected during the year ..		Nil
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) .. .. .	73
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	110
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. .. .	3
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	3
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ..	Nil

- (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 .. 46
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 .. .. . 40
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 .. .. . Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
- By owners .. .. . Nil
- (B)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. . Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By owners .. .. . Nil
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners. .. Nil
- (C)—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—



Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..		Nil
4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—		
(a)—(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. .. .	13
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein ..	13
(iii)	„ „ persons (equivalent units) dwelling therein .. .. .	84
(b)—	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. .. .	1
(c)—(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding re- lieved during the year .. .. .	2
(ii)	Number of persons (equivalent units) con- cerned in such cases .. .. .	13½
(d)—	Observation is kept of the records of border-line houses when they become overcrowded due to the increasing ages of the inmates. Owing to the 2 cases relieved, the number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year was decreased to 13.	

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### (a) Milk (Special Designations).

Five supplementary Licences to sell milk under the (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938, were issued during the year—three in respect of “Tuberculin Tested” and two in respect of “Pasteurised.”

There are twenty producers of “Accredited” milk in the District.

### (b) Dairies and Cowsheds.

At the end of the year there were thirty-nine Cowkeepers and in addition sixteen Retail Purveyors of Milk, making a total of fifty-five.

Five new Cowkeepers and Wholesale Purveyors and two Retail Purveyors were registered during the year. Fifteen Cowkeepers, one Wholesale Purveyor and one Retail Purveyor gave up business during the year.

# REGISTRATIONS OF COWKEEPERS AND PURVEYORS OF MILK IN RESPECTIVE PARISHES

Parish	Cowkeepers' premises			Not Cow-keepers	Totals
	Wholesale Purveyors of Milk	Wholesale and Retail Purveyors	Retail Purveyors	Retail Purveyors of Milk	
Ashingdon	2	1	1	2	6
Canewdon	4	—	1	—	5
Foulness	—	—	—	2	2
S. Fambridge	4	—	1	—	5
Hawkwell	1	—	—	—	1
Hockley	4	—	—	7	11
Paglesham	—	2	—	—	2
Rochford	3	1	1	4	9
Stambridge	2	2	—	—	4
Sutton	—	4	—	—	4
Gt. Wakering	2	2	—	1	5
Lt. Wakering	—	1	—	—	1
Totals	22	13	4	16	55

## (c) Meat and other Foods.

Ten private Slaughterhouses and one Knackers Yard were licensed for the year but the Slaughterhouses were little used except for emergency killing and slaughtering of a limited number of pigs under Ministry of Food Permits. There is no Government Slaughterhouse in the District.

The following foodstuffs, after inspection and being found unfit for human food, were surrendered by food retailers in the District :—

Cheese—144lbs; National Butter—28½lbs; Eggs—954; Smoked Bacon—1lb. 6ozs; Condensed Milk (full cream)—54 tins; American Evaporated Milk—34 tins (30lbs. 13ozs); Pork and Sausage Meat—5 tins (19½lbs); Baked Beans—4 tins; Apples—1 tin (6½lbs); Stewed Steak—1 tin and Salmon—1 tin.

## Bakehouses.

There are 9 bakehouses in the district. No action has been taken for infringements during the year.



## PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM LICENCES.

Five licences were issued to store petroleum and one to store Carbide of Calcium.

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

There was no major outbreak of notifiable infectious disease during the year.

The immunisation of children against diphtheria was continued during the year. The prophylactic used throughout was A.P.T.

The percentage of children immunised at the end of 1942 was :—

Aged 1-15	53.8%
Aged 1-5	43%
Aged 5-15	59%

The immunisation is continuing and it is hoped that parents will take full advantage of the facilities provided for protecting their children against such a serious disease as Diphtheria.

The Health Visitors gave valuable assistance.

There was one death due to Diphtheria among the children not immunised. The number of diphtheria cases notified during the year was 4 as compared with 4 the previous year and 6 during 1940.

By the end of the year Measles was introduced into the district by a child who had returned home from outside the district.

**Scabies.** The First Aid Post was equipped for treating cases of scabies. For cases requiring Hospital treatment, arrangements were made with Southend Corporation.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year. (Exclusive of Tuberculosis).

Notifiable Disease	Total Cases Notified	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	20	—	—	1	—	3	7	2	2	5	—	—	—	15	—
Diphtheria ..	4	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Pneumonia ..	18	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	3	2	5	4	1	11
Erysipelas ..	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	2	—	3	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	34	4	4	9	3	4	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Measles ..	36	1	4	5	1	3	14	4	2	—	—	—	—	1	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Polio-myelitis ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Ophthalmia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	135	8	8	15	4	10	36	9	6	16	7	9	7	29	15



## TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age	†New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1—5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5—10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10—15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15—20	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
20—25	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
25—35	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
35—45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45—55	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
55—65	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
65 and over	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
<b>Totals</b>	3	3	1	1	1	2	..	..

Not including cases of Tuberculosis removed into the district during the year which had been previously notified elsewhere.

TABLE SHOWING LOCAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES NOTIFIED  
DURING 1942.

Parish	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Poliomyelitis	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Totals
Ashingdon ..	1	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	5
Barling ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Canewdon ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Fambridge, South	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foulness ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Havengore ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawkwell ..	..	4	..	1	2	7	5	2	..	1	1	..	23
Hockley ..	1	3	..	..	5	6	13	6	2	..	2	1	39
Paglesham ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	5
Rochford ..	..	4	2	..	6	1	10	23	..	2	3	1	52
Stambridge ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	3
Sutton ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
Wakering, Great	..	8	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	10
Wakering, Little	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	2	20	4	1	18	14	34	36	2	4	6	2	143









