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Contributors

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ROCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

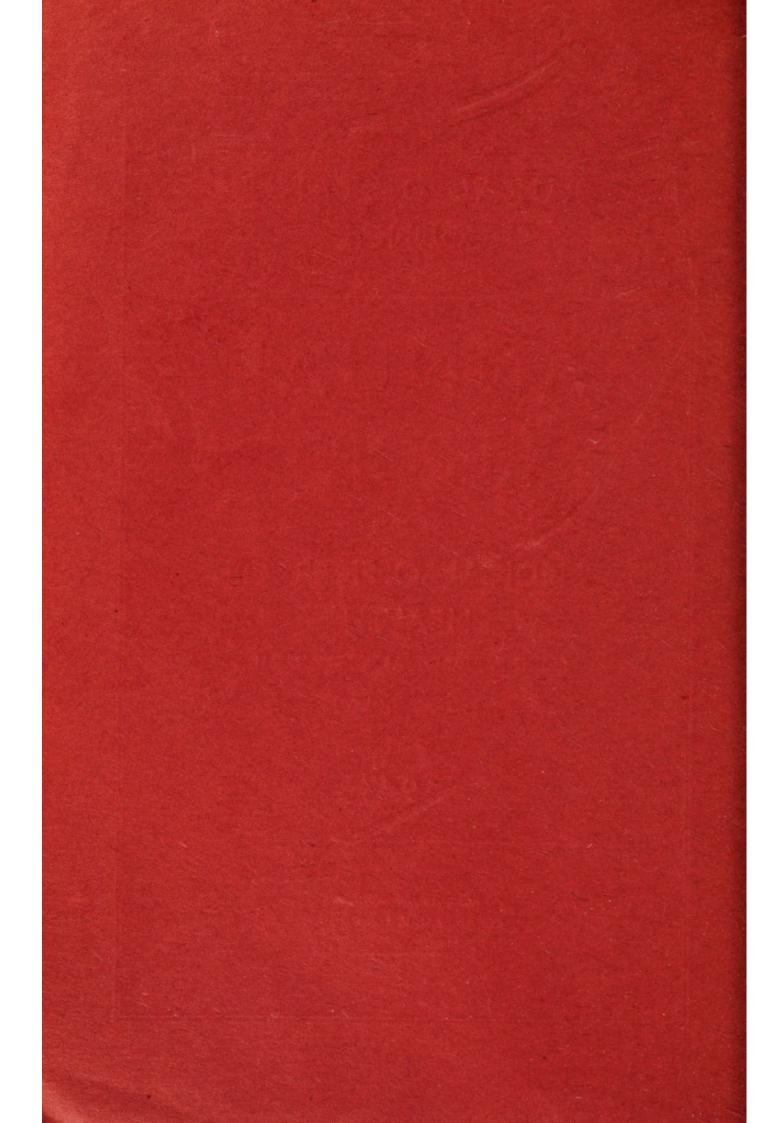
(JOHN F. MACDONALD, M.D., D.P.H.)

(Barrister-at-Law)

FOR

1943

ROCHFORD AND SOUTHEND:
PRINTED BY H. F. LUCAS AND CO.



LONDON ROAD,

CHELMSFORD,

5th June, 1944.

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 1943.

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.

With the exception of Measles there was no increase in the incidence of infectious diseases.

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

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.

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 Sanitory Inspector: D. G. Stripp.

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

Statistics.

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

Registrar General's estimate of civilian population, mid-1943; 14,450.

Rateable value on 31st March, 1943 £92,726

The Sum represented by a Penny Rate on 31st March, 1943 £363 3s. 8d.

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.

Live Legitimate Births Illegitimate		Total 257 23	129	F. 128 12 }	Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population—19.3
Still Legitimate Births Legitimate	::	9	6		Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 31.1
Deaths		209	IIO	99	Death-rate per 1,000 of
					the estimated civilian population.* 14.4.

Deaths from Puerperal causes:

Deaths	Rate	per 1, (live of births	& still)
Puerperal and Post abortive sepsis —		_	
Other maternal causes I		3.4	
Number of deaths of infants under I year	of age	:	
Males 3(illegitimate 2), Females 2(illegit			otal 8
Deaths of infants under I year of age-		1	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate liv	e birth	S	19.4
Illegitimate ,, ,, ,, illegitimate			
Total ,, ,, ,, total			28.5
Death from Measles (all ages)			I
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil
" ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)			

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

stall vens		per 1,000 n population.	Deaths under one year per 1,000
	Live Births.	Deaths from all causes.	registered live births.
England and Wales	16.5	12.1	49
126 County Boroughs and great towns including London	18.6	14. 2	58
148 smaller towns with estimated resident population of from	161.8	military its	ing of T
25,000 to 50,000 (1931 Census)	19.4	12.7	46
Rochford Rural District	19.3	14.4*	28

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 11.8 as compared with 12.1 for the country as a whole (the factor for 1942 is taken).

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

	la l		C	auses	of Death	1			Males	Females	Total
Typhoi	d and	Pa	raty	phoio	l Fever						_
Measles										1	1
Scarlet !	Fever									1	1
Whoopi									-	-	-
Diphthe	eria								-	1	1
Influenz			1 1						5	1	6
Acut In									-	-	-
Cerebro Tuberci	logie	of a	Doo	er	er Cunt				-	7	-
Other T	uberc	nle	res	Dicea	ry aysu				5	5	10
Syphilis				···						1	1
Cancer,		ma	nt I	Diseas	е	11			15	19	34
Diabetes	S	,		10043					1	1	2
Diabetes Intra Cr	anial	vas	cula	ir lesi	ons				12	10	22
Heart D	isease								27	31	58
Other C			y D	isease	s				4	2	6
Bronchit	tis								5	7	12
Pneumo	nia (a	ll fe	orm	s)					10	6	16
Other R	espira	tor	y D	isease	es				1	_	1
Ulcer of	stoma	ach	of l	Duod	enum				1	1	2
Diarrhoe	ea (un	de	r 2 y	ears)					1	_	1
Appendi	citis								_	_	_
Other D	igesti	ve !	Dise	eases					1	-	1
Nephriti	S								3	3	6
Puerpera	il and	Po	st a	bortiv	e sepsis				-	-	-
Other M									-	1	1
Malform	ation,	, et	c.						1	2	3
Prematu	re Bir	th							3		3
Suicide Road trai	G								1	-	1
Other vic	lence	CIU							2	-	2
All other	Called								2		2
III OTHER	cause						5.5		10	6	16
				То	tals				110	99	209
lge			ER	OF I	DEAT	HS A	CCOF	RDIN	G TO	AGE	
Under											8
I and u	nder	2									-
2 ,,		5									I
5 ,,		15					45			1 -10.	
-										1000	3
		25									I
5 ,,		35	• •								3
5 ,,		45									4
5 ,,		55									21
5 ,,		65									
pri		-			10000					•	32
		75								•	45
5 and o	ver										91
								Tota	al		200

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.

Ambulance Facilities: Nursing in the Home: Registered Nursing Homes. These all remain the same as last year.

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.

The following table classified according to parish gives details of the piped water supply (under pressure) throughout the district.

			Percentage		
	Paris	sh		with piped water supply	with Mains within 100 yards but not connected
Ashingdon				89.9	10.1
Barling				56.3	
Canewdon				91.3	-
Fambridge So	outh			69.3	_
Foulness				92.7	Total or
Havengore				_	
Hawkwell				91.8	5.4
Hockley				. 88.7	3.6
Paglesham				_	
Rochford				97.9	2.1
Stambridge				50.3	26.8
Sutton				73.8	9.2
Wakering Gt.				91.2	8.0
Wakering Lt.		**		62.3	30.8
				87.8	5.5

Water: The Southend Waterworks Company was supplying mains water, at the end of the year, to a total of 4,925 premises:—

Ashingdon, 317; Barling 65; Canewdon, 189; Fambridge (South), 63; Hawkwell, 888; Hockley, 1,018; Rochford, 1,394; Stambridge, 82; Sutton, 53; Wakering (Great), 756; Wakering (Little), 100.

There are quite a number of premises used for human habitation in this district which depend on rain water collected from the roofs and stored in underground tanks. The supplies give out during the summer months or during periods of drought. Little help can be given since it is most uneconomic to lay long lengths of main for scattered dwellings away from made roads and which are in many instances of the cheapest possible form of construction. "Shack" development is encouraged when amongst other things the requirement of a suitable and sufficient water supply is not enforced.

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. The programme for the reconditioning of the Sludge beds was continued with very satisfactory results.

Wakering 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.

Drainage and Sewerage: The number of House Drainage Connections made to the main sewers during the year were:—

Hockley	3
Great Wakering	I
Rochford	I
	5

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 and regular expense 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.

Public Cleansing:

The following are particulars of the House Refuse and Night Soil Collection Services at the end of 1943:—

Parish	Scheme	House Refuse Bins	Night Soil Pails
Ashingdon	Direct Labour	135	alla magari
Barling	" "	108	76
Canewdon	,, ,,	181	127
Fambridge, South	,, ,,	54	32
Foulness Island	,, ,,	83	
Hawkwell (1)	Contract	58	-
Hawkwell (2)	Direct Labour	675	8
Tockley	,, ,,	705	66
Paglesham	Contract	88	-
Rochford	Direct Labour	1338	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:—

the are are but			Tons	cwts	grs	lbs
Waste Paper			65	I	I	16
Ferrous Scrap			44	-	I	7
Tins (unflattened)			35	18	3	
Non Ferrous Metals			I	7	I	22
Textiles (Rags, Sacking,	etc.)		8	I	I	_
Bottles and Jars			II	16		_
Rubber			9	7	2	
Bones			9	7	3	6
Batteries		.,	 I	-	-	
Gramophone Records			 _	4	2	-
		Total	183	4	3	23

Value: £704 13s. 2d.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table gives details of the inspections carried out and notices served during the year 1943:—

	m . 1		Notices	Served	LARL
Nature of Inspection	Total Inspec- tions	Informal	Formal	Outstar end of Informal	f 1943
Housing	156	34	6	3	6
Caravans	14	-	_	-	_
Verminous or dirty premises	11	1	-		_
Disinfestations	4	-	-	-	-
Infectious Diseases	37	-	-	_	-
Fumigations	4	-	-	-	-
Scabies	14	-	-	-	-
Water Supplies	14	6	-	2	-
Drainage	44	16	2	2	2
Sewage Disposal (Army Camps)	7	-	-	-	-
Factories	7	-	-	-	-
Bakehouses	6	1	-	-	-
Dairy Farms	43	9	_	2	-
Dairies (other than farms)	10	-	-	-	
Food premises (unsound food)	29	-	-	-	_
Slaughterhouses	8	-		-	-
Knacker's Yards	2			-	-
Piggeries ·	5	-	-	-	-
Rats and Mice	166		-	-	
Watercourses and Ditches	16	2	-	1	-
Nuisances (miscellaneous)	13	7	-	2	-
Refuse Tip	6	-	100		-
Dust Bins	8	8	-	-	-
Petrol Storage	3	-	_	-	
Miscellaneous visits	138	-		-	
Totals	765	84	8	12	. 8

Smoke Abatement. No action taken during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools. None in the area but the tidal rivers in the district are used for this purpose.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. Two dwellings were fumigated with sulphur candles and sprayed with "Zaldecide."

Schools. There are thirteen school in the area and a number of inspections have been made in respect of drainage and sanitary accommodation.

Camping Sites. During the year four licences were granted to station and use Moveable dwellings.

HOUSING.

Ten Agricultural Cottages were alloted to the district (Canewdon 6, Hockley 2, Great Wakering 2). The erection of these had not been commenced by the end of the year.

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.

	Nu	mber	of new houses erected during the year	Nil				
t.	Insp	Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :-						
	(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	131				
		(b) I	Number of inspections made for the purpose	156				
	(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consoli- dated Regulations, 1925	62				
		(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	77				
	(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	39				

(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	34
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses ren- dered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	(0)
a Astin 1 Common assay and garatile	31
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 :-	A ARREST OF
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring	
defects to be remedied	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects remedied after service of formal notices :—	were
(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	1
4.	Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding:— (a)—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end	
	of the year	12
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein (iii) ,, ,, persons (equivalent units)	12
	dwelling therein	$77\frac{1}{2}$
	(b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported	
	during the year	Nil
	(c)—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding re-	
	lieved during the year	1
	(ii) Number of persons (equivalent units) con-	
	cerned in such cases	$6\frac{1}{2}$
		7

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk (Special Designations).

Six 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 three in respect of "Pasteurised."

There are eighteen producers of "Accredited" Milk and two producers of "Tuberculin Tested" milk in the District.

(b) Dairies and Cowsheds.

At the end of the year there were forty-one Cowkeepers and in addition seventeen Retail Purveyors of Milk, making a total of fifty-eight.

Two new Cowkeepers and Wholesale Purveyors and one Cowkeeper Wholesale and Retail Purveyor were registered during the year. One Cowkeeper and Retail Purveyor discontinued keeping cows but retained business as a Retail Purveyor.

REGISTRATIONS OF COWKEEPERS AND PURVEYORS OF MILK IN RESPECTIVE PARISHES

Parish	Cowkeep	ers' premi	Not Cow- keepers	Totals			
1 alisti	Wholesale Purveyors of Milk		Retail Purveyors	Retail Purveyors of Milk			
Ashingdon	2 5	1	1	2	6		
Canewdon Foulness	5	-	1	_	6		
S. Fambridge	4		1	2	5		
Hawkwell	1		_		1		
Hockley	5	_	_	7	12		
Paglesham	The Post American	2	- 13	7.00	2		
Rochford	3 2	2	IGOT DO	5	10		
Stambridge Sutton	2	2 2 2 4 2		Toronto.	4		
Gt. Wakering	2	2		1	4		
Lt. Wakering	3 -	1		- DOWN	1		
Totals	24	14	3	17 .	58		

(c) Meat and other Foods.

Eight 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 were inspected and found unfit for human food. This list includes a quantity of Rest Centre emergency stock which had been stored too long. The Ministry of Food Salvage Department was notified in accordance with Food Salvage Regulations:—

Fish—2,008 lbs; Beef—317 lbs; Smoked Bacon—82\frac{3}{4}lbs; Tea—26\frac{1}{4}lbs; Cooked Ham—15lbs; Cocoa—10\frac{3}{4}lbs; Boiled Sweets—2\frac{1}{4}lbs.

Tinned Foods. Corned Beef—169lbs; Jam—154½lbs; Boiled Mutton—78lbs; Soup—73½lbs; Baked Beans—16lbs; Peas—11½lbs; Fish—10¾lbs; Pork Meat—8lbs; Evaporated Milk—6¼lbs; Stewed Steak—1lb; Minced Beef—¾lb.

Bakehouses.

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

PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM LICENCES.

Four 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 1943 based on estimated population of Registrar General was:—

Aged 1-15	71.1%
Aged 1-5	80.7%
Aged 5-15	77.4%

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 case of Diphtheria during the year among the children immunised. The number of diphtheria cases notified during the year was 2 as compared with 4 the previous year and 4 during 1941. One death from Diphtheria credited to the district, was of a child. The death occurred outside the area but under regulations was transferred to the area of residence.

The epidemic of Measles which commenced at the end of 1942 continued throughout the first half of 1943.

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

Throughout the year 59 cases were treated at First Aid Posts.

Males under 15 years	 	 31 cases
Males over 15 years	 	 I case
Females under 15 years		 18 cases
Females over 15 years		 9 cases

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

Total Deaths	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	19
Cases admitted to hospital	21 28	26
-65 65 and over	& -	4
45 45 - 65	11100121111	17
	-	5
-1010151520203535	2	6
15—20	1111111111	13
10—15	4	45
5—10	1109	227
5 +	-1111121111	33
4	0 - - - -	48
2—3	1 % #	38
1-2	111111111111111111111111111111111111111	16 38
Under	1	6
Total Cases Notified Under 1-2 2-3 3-	28 11 11 11 12 12 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13	464
Notifiable Disease	Scarlet Fever Diphtheria Puerperal Pyrexia Pneumonia Erysipelas Whooping Cough Measles Cerebro-Spinal Fever Dysentery Ophthalmia Neonatorum Hepatitis	Totals

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age		†New	Cases	Deaths						
	Pulmo	onary		Non- onary	Pulme	onary	Non- Pulmonary			
initing that	М	F	М	F	М	F	М	F		
Under 1 1—5 5—10 10—15 15—20 20—25 25—35 35—45 45—55 55—65 65 and over	1 2 2	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1 2 1 1 	1 1 1 	··· ·· ·· 1 ·· 1 1 ·· 2	··· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ··		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Totals	7	3	5	4	5	5		1		

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

17

Table Showing Local Distribution of Cases Notified during 1943.

Parish	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Dysentery	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping	Measles	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Jaundice	Totals
Ashingdon Barling	::	1	::	::			1 7	16			1	3	1	23
Canewdon Fambridge, South		2	••		1 2			12						22
Foulness	::			::		::	::		::	::		::	::	
Havengore		.:			.:			::					. ;	
Hockley	i	4	2	::	5 4	2 4	::	95 74	::	::	3	1 2	1	113 92
Paglesham		2						25	0.5		1 2			28
Rochford Stambridge	1	11		1	5	3	9	115	i	1	2	2		151
Sutton	::	1	::	::	::	::		3				::		23
Wakering, Great		2						19				1		22
Wakering, Little								2						22 2
										1 3				
Totals	2	28	2	1	17	9	18	383	1	1	10	9	2	483

TABLE SHOWING LOCAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES NOTHERD

		Laponen's		No. of Particular				danes, .
20 - 20 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 -								

Not including cases of Peterculosis removed duto the discus-





