

Contributors

Rochford (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1949

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/q7m4ckwn>

License and attribution


You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.

CU411(3) ROCHFORD


ROCHFORD
RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

(W. J. MOFFAT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)



FOR

1949

W. H. HOULDERSHAW, LTD., PRINTERS, 49-55, LONDON ROAD
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.



STAFF

S. C. HARRIS, F.R.V.A., F.C.C.S., *Clerk to the Council*

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health : John F. Macdonald, M.D., D.P.H.,
Barrister at Law (also Medical Officer of Health for the Rural
Districts of Chelmsford and Maldon) (until 19th June, 1949).
W. J. Moffat, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (also Area Medical Officer and
Divisional School Medical Officer South East Essex, Essex County
Council) (from 20th June, 1949).

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods and
Petroleum Inspector : H. Jepson, M.S.I.A.

Clerk and Typist : Miss P. M. Ferguson.

Temporary General Assistant : D. G. Stripp.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

Engineer and Surveyor and Town Planning Officer : A. N. Box,
M.I.Mun.E., A.M.T.P.I., M.R.San.I.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
ROCHFORD.

October, 1950

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration the Annual Report for the year 1949 on the health and sanitary conditions of the Rochford Rural District.

During the first half of the year Dr. J. F. Macdonald had continued as your Medical Officer of Health, an office to which he was appointed in 1914. I commenced my duties as Medical Officer of Health on 20th June, 1949.

In the absence of any reliable statistics relating to the incidence of sickness other than notifiable disease in the District it is difficult to comment on the general level of health of the inhabitants during 1949. It will be observed that the death rate in the District is somewhat higher than that for the country as a whole, but this is due entirely to the higher proportion of the elderly in the local population. When this is taken into account the Rochford Rural District will be seen to compare very favourably with the rest of the country. There was a very slight fall in the birth rate for 1949 as compared with 1948. Apart from measles which was present in epidemic form in the period February to May and several mild cases of scarlet fever at the end of the year, the incidence of the commoner infectious diseases was low during 1949. There was not, unfortunately, any decrease in the morbidity due to tuberculosis nor was there any decrease in the deaths due to that disease.

As in the immediately preceding years the Council's main preoccupation has been to provide housing for the many families in the District who either have no separate accommodation or are living in sub-standard houses. During the year 1949 it was, unfortunately, not possible to make much progress in this direction, but there were signs at the end of the year that 1950 would see some improvement in this position.

The year under review saw a commencement of the extensions of the water mains in implementation of the Council's post-war scheme to extend the mains to all the populated parts of their District, which at present do not enjoy that amenity. There are now few problems of water supply in the District and these are of only a minor character.

The position with regard to the provision of sewerage is, however, not so satisfactory. Apart from extensions to the main sewers to new housing sites no new works of sewerage have been possible in the Rural District since the war. There remain considerable aggregations of houses in areas semi-urban in character, where lack of this facility is a severe handicap.

There also remains the problem of the unmade roads which are so common in certain parts of the District. These are, in the main, also the roads which lack main sewers. In present circumstances the solution of the problem of making up these roads does not appear possible in the near future, but with the powers available under the Town and Country Planning Act there should be no further increase in the number of unmade roads.

After the inception of the several major items of legislation which had a profound effect on local government in 1948, the year 1949 saw few changes. The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, transferred the registration of dairy farms and of dairy farmers, together with the supervision of milk production from local authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as from 1st October 1949. At the same time Sterilised Milk was introduced into the category of designated milks. The publication, by the Ministry of Food, of Model Byelaws for the handling and sale of food gave local authorities an opportunity to adopt these and have more control over food hygiene in their area. The Council had at the end of the year resolved to adopt these bylaws.

I am glad to avail myself of this opportunity to record my thanks for the help and support I have received from the members of the Council and of the ever-willing co-operation of the Council's Officers during the year. I am indebted to Mr. Jepson, Chief Sanitary Inspector, for much help in the preparation of this report.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. J. MOFFAT.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	36,080
Estimate of Resident Population, mid 1949 : Civilian	18,700
Total	18,770
Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books at 31st December, 1949	5,970*
	£ s. d.
Rateable Value 31st March, 1949	105,083 0 0
Product of a Penny Rate at 31st March, 1949	423 10 7

*This includes all properties where the description in the Rate Book indicates that there is structually separate living accommodation. The total is not strictly comparable with that given in previous years under this heading.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

A description of the situation boundaries and topography of the Rochford Rural District was given in the Annual Report for 1947 of my predecessor, Dr. J. F. Macdonald, in his 1947 review of the local government history of the District. There have been no changes in that respect since that date.

The principal industry in the Rochford Rural District continues to be agriculture and its ancillaries. Brickmaking is also carried on to a limited extent, but there are no large factories or works of any kind. There are no occupational risks to health in any occupations within the District.

Many of the adult population find employment either in adjoining districts or in the Greater London area, to which there are good travelling facilities from the greater part of the District.

TABLE I
Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1949 and Previous Years

Year	Population esti- mated mid. year	Births (Nett)			Deaths (Nett)						Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)	
		Number	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Rate, England and Wales	Under 1 year of age			At all ages				
					Number	Rate per 1,000 nett births	Rate, England and Wales	Number	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Standardised Death Rate		Rate, England and Wales
1936	16,250	221	13.6	14.8	17	77	59	146	9.0	7.1	12.1	75
1937	16,650	210	12.6	14.9	18	85.7	58	198	11.1	8.8	12.4	12
1938	16,510	218	13.2	15.1	9	41.3	53	183	11.1	8.8	11.6	35
1939	16,920	251	14.8	14.8	12	47.8	51*	183	10.8	8.4	12.1	68
1940	16,200	215	13.2	14.1	11	50.7	57*	220	13.6	11.1	14.4	5
1941	15,070	238	15.5	13.9	8	32.8	60*	205	13.6	11.1	13.5	33
1942	14,880	249	16.7	15.6	16	64	51*	220	14.7	12.0	12.3	29
1943	14,450	280	19.3	16.2	8	28.7	49*	209	14.4	11.8	13.0	71
1944	14,800	275	18.5	17.7	8	28.5	45*	191	12.8	†	12.7	84
1945	15,240	264	17.3	15.9	14	53	46*	220	14.4	†	12.6	44
1946	16,830	317	18.8	19.2	16	50.5	43*	245	14.6	†	12.0	72
1947	17,480	380	21.1	20.5	10	26	41*	255	14.5	†	12.3	125
1948	18,550	330	17.8	17.8	5	16	34*	218	11.8	†	11.0	112
1949	18,700	323	17.3	16.7†	4	12.4	32*	234	12.5	9.6	11.7‡	89

‡Provisional.

*Rate per 1,000 "related" births.

†No Area Comparability Factor available for these years.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population Birth and Death Rates in 1949 and previous years

In the table on page 5 will be found certain extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Rochford Rural District for the years 1936-1949 inclusive.

It will be observed that, with the exception of the war years, when considerable movement out of the District took place, the civilian population has been steadily increasing and that the net annual increase has been greater than the natural increase or excess of births over deaths. In other words, there appears to be a slightly greater tendency for people to move into the Rural District to live, than there is for them to move out of it.

The pre-war birth rate tended to be slightly below the national rate, but during and since the war that tendency has been reversed and the local birth rate has been greater than that for the whole of England and Wales, although the difference appears to be becoming progressively less.

The crude death rate in the pre-war years compared favourably with the national rate for England and Wales, but since the early war years this rate has been less favourable. As the population of the Rochford Rural District has, like the majority of Rural Districts, a larger proportion of the elderly than other parts of the country more urban in character, the Registrar General calculates each year the Area Comparability Factor with which the crude death rate has to be multiplied in order to secure proper comparison between local death rates and to discount any discrepancies in these rates due to varying proportions of different age groups in the populations. The rate so obtained, and known as the Standardised Death Rate for the District shows that the local rates have, for a number of years, been consistently more favourable than the national rates and that the District maintains its reputation for longevity. No Area Comparability Factor was available for the years 1944-48 inclusive.

In regard to the deaths of infants under one year of age, however, strict comparison between the local and national rates is not possible. With the small numbers of such deaths occurring in the District each year the rate fluctuates in a large degree with one or two additional deaths. Also, the rate for England and Wales is calculated not as so many deaths per 1,000 live births registered in the period, as is the local rate, but as per 1,000 "related" births; the deaths being related to the live births which occurred in the appropriate calendar month.

Causes of Death, 1949

The causes of death of residents of the Rural District in 1949, as supplied by the Registrar General, are set out in Table 2 on page 8. As has been the case for several years now, diseases of the heart and circulatory system formed the most common cause. Cancer was the next most common, although only half as frequent as the former cause. These two causes together accounted for more than half the deaths occurring in residents of the District in 1949.

Tuberculosis unfortunately again caused as many deaths as in the pre-war years.

Ages at Death

The ages at which death occurred among residents of the Rochford Rural District in 1949 were as shown below. These deaths are those which occurred either inside or outside the Rural District, but they do not include the deaths of non-residents occurring in the District.

	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 55	55 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and upwards	At all ages
Male ...	3	2	—	1	5	1	7	5	16	40	61	141
Female ...	1	—	—	1	1	3	7	5	12	23	40	93
Total ...	4	2	—	2	6	4	14	10	28	63	101	234

It will be seen that just over two thirds of all deaths occurred in the age group 65 and over and that a little under half were in the age group 75 and over.

TABLE II

The following table, compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General, classifies the deaths according to cause and sex. The classification is given under the new abridged list of causes of death, as used in England and Wales, contained in the Manual of the International List of causes of Death—

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough... ..	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Influenza	3	1	4
Acute Inf. Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	4	4	8
Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	1	1
Cancer	21	12	33
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intra Cranial vascular lesions	15	7	22
Heart Disease	44	35	79
Other Circulatory Diseases	8	3	11
Bronchitis... ..	7	5	12
Pneumonia (all forms)	14	5	19
Other Respiratory Diseases	5	1	6
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	2	2	4
Nephritis	1	2	3
Puerperal and Post abortive sepsis ...	—	—	—
Other Maternal causes	—	—	—
Malformation, etc.	1	2	3
Premature Birth	1	—	1
Suicide	4	—	4
Road traffic accidents	1	—	1
Other violent causes	2	1	3
All other causes	6	11	17
Totals	141	93	234

Births

The Live Births in the Rural District during the year 1949 were made up as follows :

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Female</i>
Total	.....	.....	173	150
Legitimate	.....	.....	168	145
Illegitimate	.....	.....	5	5

The birth rate for the year was 17.3 per 1,000 of the estimated mid-year resident population. The decline in the rate observed in 1948 has continued, but to a lesser degree. The present rate is still more than three per 1,000 above the average of the immediate pre-war years.

There were five Still Births registered in 1949 and these were made up as follows:—

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Total	.....	.....	2	3
Legitimate	.....	.....	2	3
Illegitimate	.....	.....	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

There were four infant deaths, three male and one female during the year 1949. All were legitimate infants and the causes of death were respectively birth injury and prematurity, inanition, bronchopneumonia and pyloric stenosis.

Marriages

There were 50 marriages registered in the Rochford Rural District during 1949.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers

For list see page 1.

The Medical Officer of Health is also employed by the Essex County Council as Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer for the South-East Area of the County. The agreed allocation of duties is that 20 per cent of his time shall be devoted to the function of Medical Officer of Health. A separate office, in Rochford, is provided for the duties of the latter by the Rochford Rural District Council.

The Sanitary Inspector, in addition to the routine duties of his office, is also responsible for the Council's Refuse and Salvage Collection scheme (including the Night Soil Collection service). He also undertakes the duties of Petroleum Inspector. During 1949 the Sanitary Inspector had only the assistance of an unqualified assistant, apart from clerical staff.

Laboratory Facilities

The recently opened Public Health Laboratory at Westcliff Hospital, Southend-on-Sea has been an important addition to the facilities available to the Rural District. This laboratory, which is provided by the Medical Research Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health, now provides the bacteriological service for the District. The laboratory undertakes the examination of milk and water supplies (bacteriological only), ice cream samples and the bacteriological examination of specimens in connection with outbreaks of food poisoning and infectious diseases.

For the chemical examination of water supplies and sewage effluents the service provided by the Essex County Council through the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W. continued to be available during 1949.

Chemical analysis of foodstuffs is undertaken by Dr. Bernard Dyer and Partners (1948) Ltd. who are Public Analysts to the Essex County Council.

Hospitals

Although, since the inception of the National Health Service Act, 1946, on the 5th July, 1948 local authorities of all categories ceased to have control of, or be responsible for the provision of hospitals, it is of interest to record the changes regarding the hospitals available to residents of this District, before and since the 5th July, 1948.

Before the "appointed day" the voluntary hospitals in Southend and London admitted cases of general sickness. Such cases, by arrangement between the Essex County Council and the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea could also be admitted to the latter authority's hospital in Rochford. Accommodation was also available in Essex County Council Hospitals elsewhere in the County. The Essex County Council also made arrangements for the admission of maternity cases to one of their hospitals or to Southend Municipal Hospital, Rochford. For cases of infectious disease the Isolation Hospital, Billericay was available. This latter hospital was administered by a Joint Hospital Board on which the Rochford Rural District Council were represented. For the tuberculous patient the Essex County Council provided a number of sanatoria throughout the County. For the aged and chronic sick in-patient accommodation was provided by the Essex County Council at their several institutions or, by arrangement with the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea at Connaught House, Rochford.

When the hospitals passed to the Minister of Health the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board took over all such institutions including those mentioned above which had served the residents of this District. Hospital Management Committees were set up for small groups of hospitals but the areas to be served by these groups of hospitals were not clearly demarcated. The Southend Hospital Management Committee has control over the general hospitals in Southend and Rochford and the Westcliff Isolation Hospital which are the institutions now principally available to the residents of this District.

National Assistance Act 1948

By virtue of Section 47 of the above Act the Council may, on a certificate from their Medical Officer of Health, apply to the court of summary jurisdiction for an order for the removal to, and detention in, a suitable hospital or other place, of persons of whom they have been convinced (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease, or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention. The required certificate of the Medical Officer of Health can only be given after due inquiry and consideration, not only of the interests of the person concerned, but also of the risk of injury to the health of, or serious nuisance to other persons.

During 1949 no action was required to be taken by the Council under this Section, although several cases were investigated. These cases came to light on representation from general practitioners, social welfare officers and the like, but the most frequent complaints came from neighbours.

Under Section 50 of the Act the Council have become charged with the duty of arranging burial for deceased persons dying in their area when no other person can be held responsible. As there are two large institutions in the District, one a general hospital and the other a social welfare institution, quite a number of cases have to be dealt with under this section. The Council have made arrangements with a firm of undertakers to do this work and reimbursement is obtained.

Under Part III of this Act the Essex County Council have to provide hostel accommodation for aged persons and others requiring care but not medical treatment. Unfortunately the present demand for such accommodation far exceeds the supply.

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

By Part III of the National Health Service Act the County Council became the Local Health Authority charged with the provision of the following services, Care of Mothers and Young Children, Health Visiting, Midwifery, Home Nursing, Vaccination and Immunisation, Domestic Help, Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care, Ambulance and Mental Welfare. With the exception of the two latter services, the Essex County Council has delegated the day to day administration of these services to the South East Essex Health Area Sub Committee of the County Health Committee. On the Health Area Sub Committee the Rochford Rural District Council in common with other District Councils in the area is represented: so also are voluntary bodies in the area who had previously engaged in work in connection with some of these services.

Care of Mothers and Young Children

For their duties under this Section of the Act, the County Council hold regular Antenatal Clinics at Rochford and Great Wakering and Child Welfare Centres at Rochford, Great Wakering, Hockley, Hullbridge, Canewdon and Barling.

Midwifery and Home Nursing Services

There are six County Council and one independent midwives operating in the Rochford Rural District although one of the County Council's staff has only part of her area in the District. All combine these duties with those of Home Nursing.

Health Visitors

There are two whole time health visitors in the District. In addition the Health Visitor from Rayleigh serves the Hullbridge area. The duties of these officers are mainly in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare and the School Health Services.

Immunisation and Vaccination

Regular sessions are held at County Council clinics in the District for this purpose and in addition a certain amount of this work is done by general practitioners who receive a fee from the County Council for records of such work undertaken.

Ambulance Services

This service has not been decentralised by the County Council to the local Area Health Committee. The Rochford Rural District is served by County Council ambulances from the Depot at Thundersley and, by arrangement by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Southend-on-Sea.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care

Under this section arrangements have been made by the County Council for the provision on loan of sick room equipment, of convalescent facilities for cases not requiring medical or nursing attention, and for measures to prevent the spread of tuberculosis, e.g. by boarding out child contacts, by the provision of extra nourishment and by rehabilitation for tuberculous patients.

Domestic Help Service

The County Council provides the services of a home help in cases of sickness in the home, domiciliary confinement and for the aged and infirm.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA WATER SUPPLY

The Southend Waterworks Company are the statutory water suppliers throughout the Rural District, with the exception of Foulness which is supplied by the War Department. The Waterworks Company have been the sole suppliers of piped main water since 1914. Those of the Company's sources of supply which are used for this District are the Works at Langford, which draw water from the Rivers Chelmar and Blackwater, and the boreholes at South Fambridge, Barling and Great Wakering. The Langford source provides the bulk of the supply to the District but the supply to Canewdon and Paglesham is principally derived from the South Fambridge borehole.

The Secretary of the Southend Waterworks Company has kindly supplied the following information in regard to the water supplied to the Rochford Rural District in 1949.

The Langford supply of river water is softened to within the statutory limit of 15 parts per 100,000 of hardness. This supply is supplemented, particularly in summer, by water pumped from wells and boreholes drawing on tertiary formations which lie deep below the London clay. Of these latter sources, the wells at South Fambridge, Barling, Wakering Wick and Blatches (Nobles Green) are in the Rochford Rural District. All of these produce a typical very soft water of slightly alkaline reaction. Only the first three were used during 1949 as, although the Nobles Green installation was begun in the autumn it cannot be completed until electricity has been brought on to the site.

The Company examines samples of water from their principal source at Langford daily, and from their other sources at frequent intervals. A report on the chemical analysis and bacteriological examination of a sample of water taken from the Company's mains on 5th December, 1949 is set out on page 15.

None of the waters is liable to have any plumbo-solvent action. No action was required in respect of any contamination during the year.

During the year the position was reached where each of the eleven parishes in the Rural District now had a piped main water supply.

WATER ANALYSIS

The following is a copy of the analysis of a recent sample taken from the mains on the 5th December, 1949 :

Chemical results in parts per Million

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Bright with very few mineral particles.
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	...	...	...	...	Less than 5.
Colour (Hazen)	...	...	...	...	Less than 10.
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Reaction pH	...	...	...	...	8.3.
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	Absent.
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	...	...	...	...	640.
Total Solids, dried at 180°C.	...	...	...	...	430.
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	56.
Alkalinity as in Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	20.
Hardness : Total	...	...	...	...	175 carbonate.
Temporary	...	...	...	...	20 non-carbonate.
Parmanent	...	...	...	...	155.
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	...	8.8.
Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	...	...	...	approx. 0.01.
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.010.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C.	...	...	...	...	1.3.
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.13
Residual Chlorine (at time of sampling)	...	...	...	...	0.05.
Metal : Iron	...	...	...	...	0.05.
Other metals	...	...	...	...	Absent.

Bacteriological Results

No. of Colonies developing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in:

		1 day at 37°C.	0
		2 days at 37°C.	0
		3 days at 20°C.	0
Pres. Coliform Reaction	Present in	—Absent from 100 ml.	
Bact. Coli	Present in	—Absent from 100 ml.	
Cl. Welchii Reaction	Present in	—Absent from 100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, faintly alkaline in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The hardness of the water is moderate and it is free from any excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It is of satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

The water is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Signed : ROY C. HOATHER.
The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Only 532 houses out of a total of 5,970 in the Rural District did not have a mains supply at the end of 1949. Details of the numbers of houses and estimated population for each parish in the District and their respective positions with regard to main water supplies were as shown in the table below.

MAIN WATER SUPPLIES

Houses and Population in Each Parish on Main Supply 1949

Parish	No. of houses	Estimated Population	Houses on Main Supply	Estimated Population on Main Supply	Houses Supplied by Standpipe	Estimated Population Supplied by Standpipe
Ashingdon						
Ashingdon Ward ...	301	933	286	858	6	18
S. Fambridge Ward ...	83	357	54	167	6 + 10*	18 + 31
Barling Magna ...	305	950	160	496	22	66
Canewdon ...	237	719	179	554	9	27
Foulness* ...	112	369	107	331	5	15
Great Wakering ...	899	2,806	775	2,402	6	18
Hawkwell ...	981	3,041	922	2,858	9 + 16*	27 + 51
Hockley ...	1,241	3,853	1,212	3,757	25 + 11*	75 + 34
Paglesham† ...	95	295	1	4	—	—
Rochford ...	1,487	4,628	1,393	4,318	67	201
Stambridge ...	142	468	97	300	—	—
Sutton ...	87	283	55	170	1	15
Total	5,970	18,702	5,241	16,215	160 + 37*	596

*Council standpipes on roadside. Others are in curtilage of private properties.

†Main to Paglesham only completed in October 1949.

*War Department Mains.

There were at the end of 1949, 88 per cent of the houses in the District with a water supply piped into the house and altogether 91 per cent have main water supplies available. Of the houses not so far provided with such a supply, the Council's schemes of post war extensions to the mains will make piped main water supplies available to all but 64 houses in the District. These 64 houses are so situated as to render the taking of main water supplies to them unreasonably expensive. Of these 64 houses, 29 rely on shallow wells, the remainder on rain water collected from roofs. The occupiers of the latter can collect water from Council standpipes which are up to 650 yards distant, from the most remote.

Mains Extensions and New Connections

During 1949 the mains extension to Paglesham (Church End and East End) and White Hart Lane, Hawkwell, were completed and work commenced on laying the extensions to Etheldore Avenue and Beckney Avenue, Hockley.

New connections to the mains during the year numbered 103, and these were piped supplies into houses. No additional standpipe supplies were provided either by the Council or by private owners during the year.

Shallow Well Supplies

The year 1949 saw a diminution in the number of shallow well supplies in the District. These shallow wells are unsatisfactory in that, although the yield is fairly reliable in this District the quality of the water is not always of the standard desired and the sources are liable to contamination. The only two such supplies other than private sources, which were in use during 1949, were those at East End, Paglesham and at Stambridge. At Stambridge the water main had been available since pre-war days, but the provision of a link main removed objections to the use of the main supply and the village pump ceased to be used. At East End, Paglesham it is hoped that all houses will soon be connected to the newly laid main.

There remained on the line of the present water mains the following properties dependent on private shallow wells :

Great Wakering	...	...	...	10
Barling Magna	...	...	...	12
Rochford	...	...	...	5
Canewdon	...	...	...	1

Nearly all of the above properties are owner occupied, and in these instances there is some reluctance to have a piped supply inside the house. Samples from these wells have shown some contamination in several instances and consumers have been advised to boil water for domestic purposes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The provision of main sewers in the Rural District has not kept pace with the provision of piped main water supplies. The Council provides a night soil collection system for that part of their district where the condition of the roads makes this possible. Unfortunately, this inadequate substitute is, because of the many unmade roads, only available to about a third of the properties in the district which are not on the line of the main sewers.

Sewage Disposal Works

There are two separate sewerage systems in the District, each draining to one main works, namely those at Stambridge and at Great Wakering. The sewage disposal works at Stambridge treat sewage from Rochford parish and parts of the parishes of Ashingdon, Hawkwell and Hockley, and also, from outside the Rural District, part of Eastwood in the County Borough of Southend and part of Thundersley in the Urban District of Benfleet. The works at Great Wakering treat sewage from the more populous parts of that parish.

I am indebted to Mr. A. N. Box, Surveyor to the Council for the following notes on the operation of the sewage works during 1949.

The Stambridge works are fed from a main pumping station at Rochford, and the outfall is to the tidal waters of the River Roach. During 1949 the standard of the effluent from these works was again uniformly high, and well within the limits of purity required on the standard adopted by the Essex County Council for inland waterways. The disposal of excess raw sludge, by direct application, to fertilise adjacent agricultural land has proved to be successful and economical.

The works at Great Wakering are also fed from a pumping station, and the outfall is again to tidal waters, in this instance Havengore Creek. Except after heavy rains, the standard of this effluent has been uniformly high, as in the case of the Stambridge works. Rectification of existing defects cannot properly be dealt with at the present time, but this matter, which is mainly one of overloading, is now receiving attention.

In addition to the above works there are two small sewage plants, one at Sutton and one at Canewdon, which were originally built for military camps sited there during the war. As these camps are now used in part for temporary housing, these sewage disposal plants have continued in operation. The outfall from the Sutton plant enters a small brook which is a tributary of the River Roach, that from the Canewdon plant is piped to a ditch. The Council are now maintaining the works at Sutton.

New Connections to Sewer

The number and locations of house drainage connections to the main sewers which were made during 1949 were as follows :

EXISTING DWELLINGS					
<i>Parish</i>				<i>No of Connections</i>	
Hawkwell	4
Hockley	5
NEW DWELLINGS					
Hawkwell	17
Hockley	7
Rochford	4
Great Wakering	2

Proposed Extension to Sewer

In connection with the Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, the Council have submitted outline sewerage proposals to the Ministry of Health for consent with respect to the Stambridge Village area, while other schemes are being drafted, for the following areas, Barling Magna; Hullbridge No. 1 area; Hawkwell Park Drive-Victor Gardens area; The Westerings and Hillside Avenue area; Folly Lane; Canewdon (centre and Scotts Hall); Hullbridge No. 2 area and Eastbury Avenue.

The Council has decided that, wherever possible, surface water drainage would best be dealt with on the separate system so as to avoid serious overloading of the soil sewerage pumping systems.

Rivers and Streams

The two rivers in the area, the Crouch and the Roach, are tidal in their course in the Rural District. They are not liable to major pollution from sources within the District. One tributary of the Roach receives the effluent from the Sewage Disposal Works at Rayleigh, and because of the small volume of this stream, pollution can occur when dilution is insufficient in dry weather.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council have three vehicles engaged on refuse collection and one cesspool night soil vehicle which is engaged full-time in emptying pail closets. Eleven men are regularly employed on house refuse collection and its disposal, and three on pail closet collection. House refuse is collected fortnightly throughout the district, apart from 376 properties in the central Rochford area which have a weekly collection. It is of course impossible to collect direct from the 900 odd houses situated on unmade roads. In such cases bins in holders have been provided at the end of 34 unmade roads, from which a weekly collection is made.

As is to be expected, the volume of refuse collected has tended to increase. The problem of refuse disposal continued to give some concern during the year. The old brickfield in Ashingdon Road, Rochford, was filled in by July 1949, and thereafter tipping was recommenced at the Council Depot site. It is estimated that this latter site will have been filled to its maximum height by the end of 1950. The Council, at the end of the year, were considering the requisition of alternative suitable sites, as informal negotiations to that end had proved unsuccessful.

The following table shows the extent of the services of House Refuse and Pail Closet Collections operating in the Rural District during 1949.

Parish	House Refuse No. of Houses Collected		Pail Closet No. of Houses Collected	
	14 day	7 day	Twice Weekly	Weekly
Ashingdon	184	—	36	4
Barling Magna	282	—	158	—
Canewdon	218	—	89	19
Foulness	110	—	—	—
Hawkwell	689	—	11	—
Hockley	959	—	74	16
Paglesham	103	—	68	—
Rochford	1,049	376	14	14
Stambridge... ..	134	—	80	—
Sutton	58	—	26	—
Wakering, Great	870	—	77	—

The cost of these services for the years ending 31st March 1949 and 31st March 1950 respectively was as follows :

	<i>Year ending</i>	
	31-3-50	31-3-49
House Refuse Collection and Disposal	£3,806	£3,689
Pail Closet Collection	£1,572	£1,509

The cost of the pail closet collection service is approximately 5d. for each pail collected.

Salvage

The Council's Salvage Scheme is incorporated with their Refuse Collection Scheme. During the year the demand for salvage fluctuated, bottles and jars were not required, and the quantity of waste paper which could be taken by the mills was restricted. The Council decided to continue the salvage scheme provided that no financial loss was incurred.

The following list gives the particulars of the various items of salvage sold during the year :

					<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Paper	...	...	...	...	66	11	2	7
Bones	...	...	...	...	1	12	—	—
Non-Ferrous Metals	...	...	...	...	—	13	3	20
Heavy Metals	...	...	...	...	4	10	—	—
Textiles	...	...	...	...	3	12	—	—
Bottles	...	...	...	...	1	13	—	—
Gramophone Records	...	...	...	...	—	1	2	—
Total					78	13	3	27

The value of the salvage collected during the year was £503 13s. 9d.

As in the past, 25 per cent of the income from the sale of salvage has been distributed to the refuse collectors in the form of a bonus.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following table gives details of the inspections carried out and notices served during the year 1949 :

Nature of Inspection	Total Inspections	Notices Served	
		Informal	Formal
Housing and Public Health Acts ...	160	108	11
Reinspections	382	—	—
Accommodation and overcrowding ...	58	—	—
Moveable Dwellings	54	1	—
Camping Sites	35	—	—
Verminous or dirty houses	18	5	—
Disinfestations	12	3	—
Infectious disease enquiries	56	—	—
Sanitary accommodation	24	12	—
Water Supplies	232	147	12
House drainage	97	24	—
Cesspool Nuisances	118	27	—
Water Closets	74	32	—
Bakehouses	5	2	—
Dairy Farms	30	4	—
Milk Retailers	33	4	—
Sale of Designated Milk	40	—	—
Slaughterhouses	16	—	—
Knackers Yards	11	—	—
Rodent Control	66	—	—
Watercourses and Ditches	16	4	—
Dustbins	87	87	—
Petroleum... ..	41	1	—
Disinfections	13	—	—
Factories	56	1	—
Ice Cream Premises	57	16	—
Ice Cream Samples	30	—	—
Licensed Premises	4	1	—
Refuse Removal—Access	2	2	—
Smoke Nuisances	5	1	—
Miscellaneous	115	—	—
Food Storage and Preparation Premises	71	8	—
Hairdressers	7	—	—
Shop Acts	3	—	—
Totals	2,028	490	23

Smoke abatement

There was a recurrence of the complaint regarding the portable boiler used for sterilising soil in greenhouses. In this instance the quality of the fuel was the major cause of the complaint. By using the boiler only when the wind was suitable the nuisance was largely abated.

Swimming Pools

There were no swimming pools in operation in the Rochford Rural District in 1949.

Rodent Destruction

The Council continued to utilise the services of the Essex Agricultural Executive Committee's Pest Officer and his staff. The Council received a reimbursement of 50 per cent of this expenditure in accordance with Ministry of Agriculture Circular N.S. 19. This arrangement worked well throughout the year as ready co-operation was obtained from the Pest Officer who was frequently able to treat agricultural land and property, where necessary, at the same time as treatment was being given to property where the Council were responsible for the enforcement of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919. The service also proved economical in operation.

It is to be regretted that with the coming into operation on the 31st March, 1950 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, it is understood that the services of the Pest Officer of the Agricultural Executive Committee will not be available for the treatment of non-agricultural property.

During 1949 the Council's employees, as heretofore, continued to treat sewer and sewage works as well as refuse tips.

Schools

There are thirteen schools in the area and a few inspections have been made in respect of drainage and sanitary accommodation. Close liaison is maintained with the Divisional Building Surveyor of the County Council's Architect's Department.

Cesspools at three of the schools are emptied by the Council as and when requested by the South East Essex Divisional Executive for Education.

Shops

Attention was mainly directed to shops which were engaged in the handling of food. Several improvements were achieved as a result of these visits and consequent informal action.

Insect Pests

There were six cases of infestations by bed bugs during 1949. These were brought to light on complaint from the occupier in each case. In each case both house and furniture were affected. Successful eradication was obtained by the employment of an insecticide containing 5 per cent D.D.T. coupled with fumigation.

Two cases of flea infestation were also dealt with during the year.

Movable Dwellings

With the coming into operation of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, permission to station and use a movable dwelling must be obtained, if usage is to continue for more than 28 days. The original provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, still pertain, whereby a licence has to be obtained from the local authority if the period exceeds 42 consecutive days.

New applicants are now advised to obtain planning consent first and, when that is obtained, to apply for a licence under the Public Health Act, 1936.

During the year 22 licences were in operation to station and use movable dwellings on individual sites in the Rural District. Of these, 12 existed before the commencement of the Town and Country Planning Act.

One camping site situated at Pooles Lane, Hullbridge, continued to be licenced and used during the year. Main water is available, W.C.'s are provided for both sexes, and a drainage system is installed.

Factories

Details of the inspections made during the year to premises in the Rural District under the Factories Act, 1937, and 1948, are given in the table on page 25.

Several visits were also paid to factories in connection with the provision of means of escape in case of fire.

No outworkers are employed by any of the factories situated in the Rochford Rural District.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

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

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	33	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	42	19	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority, (Excluding out-workers' premises)	4	4	—	—
Total	56	56	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Reme'd	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	1	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

In December 1949, the Council resolved to make application for the adoption in their District of the Model Byelaws of the Ministry of Food. These Model Byelaws were received towards the end of the year. It is anticipated that these Byelaws will be operative in the Rochford Rural District in the early part of 1950.

These Byelaws which apply generally to all branches of the food trade contain provisions as to the conduct of persons handling, wrapping or delivering food and lay stress on the cleanliness and other precautions to be observed. Provisions are also included dealing with the sale and exposure for sale of foodstuffs in the open air.

(a) Milk and Dairies

The coming into operation on the 1st October, 1949 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, made under the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, transferred the registration of dairy farms and of dairy farmers, and the supervision of milk production, from the local authority to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The District Council continues to be responsible for the registration and supervision of retail milk purveyors and their premises, and the granting of Supplementary and Dealers Licences to sell designated milks. The Medical Officer of Health of a district has power to exclude from access to milk, persons suffering from or in contact with disease liable to cause infection of milk. He also has power to control the sale of milk when he suspects that milk is infected.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, which also came into operation on the 1st October 1949, and which deal with the special designations of heat treated milk, provided for the new special designation of "Sterilised Milk" as well as re-enacting with amendments the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936 to 1948.

At the 30th September, 1949, there were 45 milk producers in the Rochford Rural District, of which 29 were licenced by the Essex County Council to produce designated milks, 14 of these being tuberculin tested and 15 accredited milk suppliers.

At the end of 1949 there were seven retailers who had premises registered in the Rural District. In addition the Council had granted supplementary licences to retail in their area sterilised, pasturised and tuberculin tested milk to two firms whose premises were outside their District. A further 16 dealers' licences for sterilised milk, eight for pasteurised and five for tuberculin tested milk were granted by the Council.

(b) Meat

As in previous years, there were six private slaughterhouses and one knacker's yard licenced by the Council during the year, but these were again only used for emergency killing and the slaughtering of a limited number of pigs under Ministry of Food Permits for privately owned pigs. There is no Ministry of Food slaughterhouse in the Rural District.

The following table gives details of the animals slaughtered for human consumption in the District in 1949, and of the carcasses or parts of carcasses which, upon inspection, were found to be unfit.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle, ex- cluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	—	—	—	1	29
Number inspected ...	—	1*	—	1	29
All diseases except Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only :	—	—	—	—	—
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—

*Slaughtered outside the District.

Inspection of meat exposed for sale in butcher shops is undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector. In this category the following were condemned during 1949 as unfit for human consumption :

Imported beef	632½ lbs.	Home killed beef	584½ lbs.
Imported mutton	20 lbs.	Offal	6½ lbs.

(c) Other Foodstuffs

Regular inspections are also carried out at other food premises in the District. The table shows the amounts of various foodstuffs found upon inspection to be unfit for human consumption. :

TINNED FOODS				FRESH FOODS			
Meat	...	...	28 tins	Eggs	...	...	445
Milk	...	...	141 tins	Cheese	...	...	4 lbs.
Soups	...	...	23 tins	Fish	...	...	315½ lbs.
Jam	...	...	14 tins				
Fish	...	...	8 tins				
Fruit	...	...	14 tins				
Vegetables	...	...	29 tins				

(d) Bakehouses

There were again ten bakehouses operating in the District throughout the year. The owners of two of the older premises had begun to erect new buildings before the end of the year.

Informal action was taken in two instances during the year to ensure compliance with the Food and Drugs Act.

(e) Ice Cream

In the Rochford Rural District the registration of ice cream manufacturers and vendors and their respective premises is effected under Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act, 1933. Under this section there were registered in 1949, four manufacturers and 44 vendors who have their premises in the Rural District. In addition there are, on occasions, vendors from other districts plying their trade from mobile vans in the area. These latter are registered in adjoining districts in the County of Essex.

The inception of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947, on 1st May, 1947, had the effect of eliminating the somewhat random methods of manufacture hitherto in operation at certain premises in the District. All four manufacturers at that time decided to use a cold mix powder rather than instal the necessary heat treatment plant. One manufacturer has subsequently changed over to using heat treatment plant.

Many visits were paid to ice cream manufacturers' premises during the year to advise on methods of manufacture, storage and handling. As a result of these visits there has been a general improvement in the conditions, and those engaged in the trade are generally aware of their responsibilities in this connection.

It was possible to undertake more frequent sampling of ice cream during the year as the Public Health Laboratory at South-end was by then available to examine such samples. A total of 30 samples were taken for bacteriological examination in the season. The results were reported in terms of the methylene blue test, and graded in the four provisional grades according to the time taken to decolourise methylene blue. Grade I represents the highest standard of bacteriological purity on this test, Grade IV the lowest. The results obtained in 1949 are set out below.

1. FROM MANUFACTURERS

Manufacturer	No. of Samples	Grading on Methylene Blue Test			
		I	II	III	IV
A	9	2	1	4	2
B	4	0	1	2	1
C	10	3	3	2	2
D	2	1	1	0	0
Total	25	6	6	8	5

It has been suggested that, over a period, 50 per cent of samples should fall into Grade I, 80 per cent into Grades I or II and not more than 20 per cent into Grade III, and none into Grade IV. On this basis, there is still room for improvement in the hygienic quality of the ice cream manufactured in the District. The results of samples obtained towards the end of the season were somewhat better than those obtained at the beginning.

2. FROM RETAILERS

Retailer	No. of Samples	Grading on Methylene Blue Test			
		I	II	III	IV
A	2	0	2	0	0
B	1	0	1	0	0
C	2	1	0	1	0
Total	5	1	3	1	0

(f) Food Poisoning Outbreaks

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning in the District in 1949. There were two cases of suspected food poisoning in which the causal agent was thought to be cockles consumed outside the District, but no definite evidence was obtainable.

(g) Clean Food Campaigns

It was not possible to organise any proper campaign during 1949, but fresh interest in this important subject was stimulated by the receipt from the Ministry of Food of the Model Byelaws, which the Council resolved to adopt. It was agreed by the Council that food traders in the District be invited to meetings to be held in 1950, to discuss food hygiene and the application of the byelaws generally.

HOUSING

During the year 17 new houses were completed for the Council and 29 were erected by private enterprise and at the end of the year the Council had 67 houses under construction. The temporary huts at the camps at Home Farm and Crouchmans in Great Wakering, Butlers in Sutton, and Scaldhurst in Canewdon continued to be used for housing, as also did two of the remaining huts at Parker's Farm, Hockley. As many of these temporary hutments are of poor construction and are constantly in need of repair they are not markedly relieving the demand for housing accommodation in the District.

In view of the numbers of families requiring separate housing accommodation it has not been possible to carry out as much work under the Housing Act, 1936 as is desirable. The following table gives details of the housing work carried out in the District in 1949.

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	160
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	382
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	9
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	12
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(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... ..	133

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	68
--	----

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	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : (a) By owners	11
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
(c) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted not to be used for human habitation	Nil

The table set out below shows the location and type of the houses owned by District Council at the end of 1949 :—

Parish	Number of Non-parlour Type	Number of Parlour Type	Totals
Ashingdon	—	—	—
Barling Magna	16	—	16
Canewdon	43	6	49
Foulness	—	—	—
Hawkwell	—	13	13
Hockley (including Hullbridge)	—	6	6
Paglesham	12	—	12
Rochford	110	120	230
Stambridge	28	—	28
Sutton	—	—	—
Great Wakering	106	30	136
Totals	315	175	490

The above table includes ten Agricultural Cottages (Parlour type) six at Canewdon, two at Hockley, two at Great Wakering and three cottages (Non-Parlour type) in Canewdon. The latter were purchased by the Council. There are also included 24 small bungalows for aged persons (Rochford eight, Great Wakering 16) and six ordinary Bungalows at Canewdon.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

A total of 350 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year, as compared with 176 cases during 1948. The increase was almost wholly accounted for by a tenfold increase in the incidence of measles in 1949 as compared with 1948 (260 cases compared with 27). The tables on pages 34 and 35 set out the classification of the notified diseases occurring during the year according to age and locality.

Diphtheria

For the second successive year there were no cases of diphtheria notified in the District.

The arrangements for the immunisation of all the child population in the area against this disease are now in the hands of the Essex County Council. In 1949, a total of 288 children in the age groups 0-4 years completed a full course of primary immunisation. This represents an annual immunisation rate for this age group of 88.7 per cent. In addition 32 children in the age group 5-15 years had primary courses of injections and 181 children had reinforcing or "boosting" doses during the year.

Measles

There was a comparatively high incidence of measles, all cases occurring in the period February to May. The disease was particularly prevalent in the Wakering, Rochford and Hockley areas and all but two of the 260 cases were children of school or pre-school age.

In this District measles continues to exhibit its well known biennial phasing, there having been comparatively few cases in 1948 and a relatively large number in 1947.

None of the cases occurring in 1949 was admitted to hospital and there were no deaths from the disease.

Whooping Cough

The District was relatively free from whooping cough during 1949, there being many fewer cases than in 1948.

Scarlet Fever

There were more than the usual numbers of cases of scarlet fever notified in 1949, and all 42 cases occurred in Rochford or its immediate vicinity. In November there were five cases and in December, 18. The dates of onset in the latter group were spread evenly over a five week period. The remaining 19 cases were scattered sporadically over the remaining months of the year.

Investigations into the cases did not reveal any common source of infection, but did reveal that complaints of "sore throat" in the population were prevalent at that time.

The cases in general were mild in character and admission to hospital was only called for where home conditions did not permit of proper nursing at home.

Puerperal Pyrexia

The apparently undue incidence of puerperal pyrexia is a result of the notifications received from the General Hospital, Rochford. Only one of the 13 cases originated within the Rochford Rural District.

Poliomyelitis

Although this disease was prevalent in other parts of the County there were no confirmed cases in the District in 1949.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1949 (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 or over	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Acute Primary Pneumonia	4	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles	260	5	21	36	26	31	131	8	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis ...	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	10	—	—	—	13	—
Scarlet Fever	42	2	2	5	6	2	22	1	—	2	—	—	—	10	—
Typhoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	22	4	4	4	1	1	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	349	12	28	48	33	34	161	10	3	15	1	2	2	26	—

Table Shewing Local Distribution of Cases of Notifiable Disease (Other than Tuberculosis) During 1949.

PARISH	Acute Primary Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Measles	Meningococcal Meningitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Pyrexia	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid Fever	Whooping Cough	Total
Ashington ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Barling ...	...	1	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	3	19
Canewdon ...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fambridge ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Foulness ...	2	...	...	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Hawkeley ...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	2	...	1	9
Hockley ...	1	...	...	26	...	...	1	...	...	...	29
Paglesham ...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rochford ...	...	...	...	72	2	...	12	31	1	10	129
Stambridge...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sutton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	9
Wakering, Great	1	...	...	89	...	1	...	...	...	8	99
Wakering, Little	...	1	2	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Totals	4	2	2	260	2	1	13	42	1	22	349

Typhoid Fever

The one case notified was a resident of another district who at the time of notification was an in-patient in Rochford Hospital, and had apparently contracted the disease elsewhere.

Tuberculosis

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis reported during the year and of deaths from the disease in the District during 1949 are set out in the table below :

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	1	6	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	1	3	—	—	1	2	—	—
35 — 45	1	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
45 — 55	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
65 and over ...	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	6	14	1	2	5	6	—	—

Four of the deaths recorded above were of patients who had not been notified previously, the diagnosis having been made post-mortem.

A thorough revision of the Tuberculosis Register of the District was undertaken during 1949, in co-operation with the Chest Clinic at Lancaster House, Southend-on-Sea. As a result 157 cases were removed from the Register. The majority of these were found to be no longer resident in the District. At 31st December, 1949 there were 117 cases on the Register and these were comprised as follows :—

Males : Respiratory, 48 ; Non-Respiratory, 14.

Females : Respiratory, 41 ; Non-Respiratory, 14.