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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH

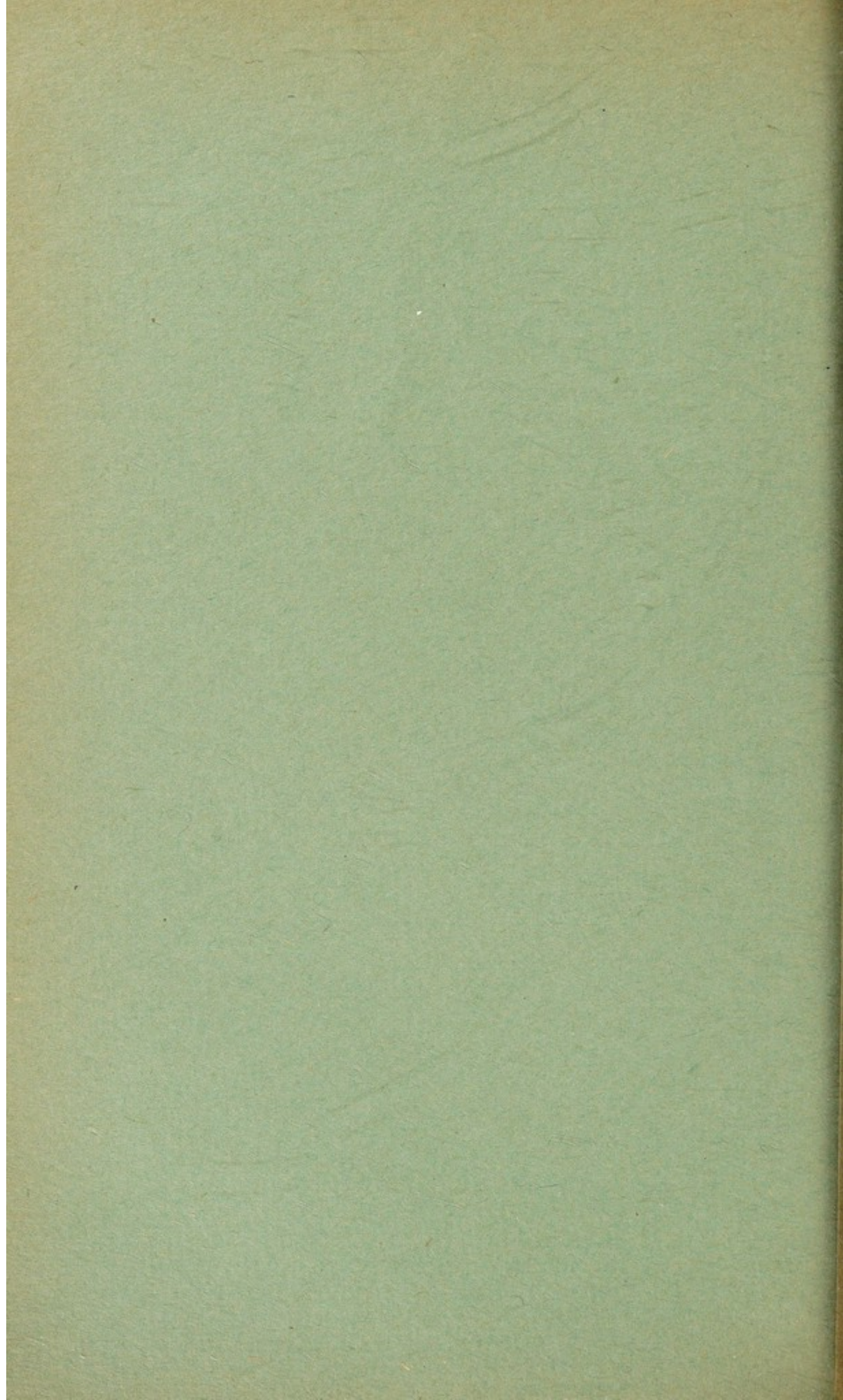
(W. J. MOFFAT M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

FOR

1953

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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA. ESSEX.





## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

*Chairman* : Councillor T. W. Bysouth

*Vice Chairman* : Councillor W. Robertson

All members of the Council wishing to serve on the Committee.

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

### **Staff**

*Medical Officer of Health* : W. J. Moffat, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (also Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Officer, South East Essex, Essex County Council).

*Chief Sanitary Inspector* : H. Jepson, M.S.I.A. (also Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, Petroleum Inspector etc.).

*Additional Sanitary Inspector* : E. R. Shepherd, Cert.R.S.I.

*Clerk and Typist* : Mr. K. C. Gason (until 11th February, 1953).  
Mrs. Z. Sargent (part-time, from 12th February, 1953).



November 1954

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present herewith for your consideration my fifth Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions prevailing in the Rochford Rural District.

A perusal of the vital statistics of the District will show that the population continues to increase, principally by immigration into the area. The birth rate is a little lower than in the previous year but still remains above the lowest post-war level. The death rate remained low. With the exception of measles, the incidence of infectious disease during 1953 was low.

Progress continued to be made, both by the Council and privately in providing increased housing accommodation in the District. It is a measure of the success in that direction so far to find that, probably for the first time in the history of the Rural District the average number of occupants of each inhabited house is now less than three. The available evidence, from housing enquiries, inspections regarding rehousing and the like, supports the inference to be drawn from this housing index that there is very little real overcrowding now. There are still, of course, instances where two families, generally relatives, are sharing the same house, and are subject to the concomitant discomforts inevitable in such a situation.

There still remains the problem of dealing with the older sub-standard type of house property. It will be seen from the figures submitted in the section on Housing in the body of the report that a few of these properties, which were beyond redemption, were eliminated during the year, and that some repairs were done to other houses, most of which were also in a low category of fitness.

All major problems of main water supply in the District have been solved in the past few years and it is also now possible and pleasurable to be able to record some progress in extending the main sewers to other of the more populated parts, where such an



amenity, desirable in any circumstances, has become a necessity by reason of the proximity of dwellings to one another and the clay content of the sub-soil of the greater part of the District. It is also satisfactory to be able to look forward to the immediate prospect of further similar sewer extensions being available in succeeding years, in very similar, but perhaps less densely populated areas, where the need is every whit as great. Unfortunately it is not possible to record that any tangible steps could be taken during the year towards making up of the unmade roads.

The Essex County Council Act 1952, has given to the Council some new powers and extended some existing ones. In so far as the health committee are concerned, the new enactment affects, *inter alia*, the measures which may be taken to control infectious disease, to require the connection of houses to the water main, to control houseboats, to require the registration of hawkers of food and their premises and the prior notification of intention to use premises for the sale, storage or preparation of food. The relevant sections were adopted by the Council during 1953.

No formal action was required during the year under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948. An increasing number of visits has to be paid each year to aged and infirm persons, to ensure that they are receiving, or more often, that they be persuaded to accept, adequate care and attention.

One of the most outstanding events of the year in the District was the flooding on the night of January 31st, February 1st. Large tracts of the District, in common with many other areas on the East Coast, suffered on that night. Twelve lives were lost, eight in Great Wakering, two each in Foulness and Wallasea Island. Just under one hundred families had to be moved from their homes immediately, and over one hundred others had to be evacuated from Foulness in the following two days. Such was the measure of the disaster which so swiftly descended and for which there was no preconceived organisation to deal with. Nevertheless, the essential factors to alleviate and remedy the situation were quickly in operation.

The Home Farm Camp and the low-lying parts of Great Wakering were the worst affected and rescue of the marooned survivors from these parts was organised by volunteers in small boats as soon as the nature of the disaster was known. The work of rescue continued well into the daylight hours. Of the rescued, those who did not require to be sent to hospital were taken to the reception centre which was set up in the Church Hall. Emergency feeding arrangements were put in hand by the school meals service of Great Wakering School before daylight and with the handicap of no electricity.



Of the eight or so families in Great Wakering who had to leave their homes, all had been received into other homes in the village by the afternoon. There were more offers of accommodation than there were homeless families to accept these. Of the other necessities for the homeless, blankets were provided by the military authorities at Shoeburyness, by the County Council Welfare Department, the W.V.S. and others. Clothing of all kinds and sizes arrived spontaneously at the reception centre and in such quantity that there was more than enough by the afternoon. The homeless from Foulness were similarly catered for in the following two days, and once again the hospitality and good neighbourliness of the residents of Great Wakering was more than ample despite the unprecedented strain it was put to.

Fortunately the main services in the area were comparatively little affected. Only the sewerage system in Great Wakering gave rise to some anxiety for the first few days, until the pumps could be overhauled and until the level of the flood water had receded sufficiently to allow pumping to recommence. In the interim, cess-pool emptying vehicles had been employed to relieve the pressure on the sewers by pumping out from the manholes.

Following upon the immediate emergency, efforts were concentrated on the rehabilitation of flood damaged houses, all of which had to be inspected in a short space of time, and in the reclamation and replacement of lost or damaged furniture and utensils. The dwellings which were permanently lost were confined to the Home Farm Camp, Great Wakering, and thirty-seven families lost their homes there. The Council, having decided to rehouse these families as soon as possible, made available some new Council Houses in Great Wakering then approaching completion and were able to rehouse the others elsewhere. All this was accomplished in under two months, without a major dislocation of their housing programme. With the return of the residents to Foulness Island after a period of six weeks, the incident may be said to have ended.

In conclusion I would express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support during the year and to the officers of the Council for their co-operation. I would in particular like to express my appreciation of the help given by Mr. H. Jepson, Chief Sanitary Inspector, in the preparation of this report and otherwise.

I am.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
W. J. MOFFAT.  
Medical Officer of Health



## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	36,080
Registrar Generals estimate of Resident population at mid-year, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,540
Number of Inhabited Houses, according to Rate Books at 31st December, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,604
						£	s. d.
Rateable Value at 31st March, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	113,902	0 0
Product of a Penny Rate at 31st March, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	456	16 2

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Last year comment was made on the progressive decline, over the previous few years, in the ratio of the average number of persons dwelling in each inhabited house in the District. The year 1953 saw a further slight decline in this ratio, which has now fallen for the first time to under 3 persons per house ; the actual figure being 2.95.

Although there has been some further increase in the number of smaller factories in the District engaged on various light industries, and employing predominantly female labour, agriculture and brickmaking continue to be the principal industries carried on in the area.

The past year has seen what appears to be the beginning of a considerable expansion of private building in the District. This is most noticeable now in the Hockley area. The majority of the occupiers of these new houses are newcomers into the District, and in some cases no doubt they are attracted by the travel facilities actual and prospective to the metropolitan area, where many are employed. The relatively large proportion of the population who travel daily to places outside the District is thus being constantly added to.

## VITAL STATISTICS

In Table I on page 8 will be found certain extracts relating to population, births and deaths of residents of the Rochford Rural District for the years 1939 to 1953 inclusive.

### Deaths

In Table II on page 9 are given the causes of death of the 245 residents of the Rochford Rural District who died in 1953, whether the death occurred in the District or elsewhere in England



and Wales. These figures have been supplied by the Registrar-General. It should be noted that the Registrar-General's office now considers that deaths occurring in accommodation provided under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948, are non-transferable. As such accommodation exists in the District exclusively for the reception of persons from outside the Rural District the effect of this change in policy is that a few more deaths of persons in the upper age groups are now recorded as deaths of residents than was formerly the case. Thus there were nine such deaths in 1952 and eight in 1953.

In 1953 the principal causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulatory system, which accounted for 36.7 per cent of the total. These causes were followed by vascular lesions of the nervous system and cancer. Each of these latter causes accounted for 15 per cent of the total.

The steep rise in the number of deaths due to accidental causes other than motor vehicle accidents is accounted for by the flooding in Great Wakering, Foulness and Canewdon parishes in January, 1953. Over and above these accidental deaths five residents of Foulness Island died in the third and fourth weeks following the flooding and evacuation of their houses. Three others died within the following three months.

The death rate over the last three or four years has compared very favourably with the national rates when allowance has been made for the difference in the constitution of the local population and the national one.

### Ages at Death

The various ages at which the deaths of residents of the Rural District occurred in 1953 were as shown on the table below.

Age at Death					Male	Female	Total
Under 1 Year	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
1 and under 5	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
5 and under 15	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
15 and under 25	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
25 and under 45	...	...	...	...	6	4	10
45 and under 65	...	...	...	...	22	15	37
65 and under 75	...	...	...	...	42	35	77
75 and upwards	...	...	...	...	52	57	109
Totals	...	...	...	...	128	117	245

The deaths of persons aged 65 and upwards accounted for 77 per cent of all deaths, while the group 75 and upwards accounted for 44.5 per cent of the total. The corresponding figures for 1952 were 72.3 and 42.1 per cent respectively.



## **Births**

The total of 271 births to residents of the District during 1953 was 19 fewer than in the previous year and was comprised as follows :

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Total	...	...	...	150	121
Legitimate	...	...	...	143	114
Illegitimate	...	...	...	7	7

The illegitimate births were five more than in the previous year.

There were five still births recorded in the District during the year 1953, two males and three females. None of these still births was illegitimate.

The birth rate of the Rural District, when allowance has been made for the difference in age and sex distribution of the local population as compared with that for England and Wales as a whole, is keeping in step with the national rate, and over the past few years has levelled out, after the sharp post-war rise and subsequent decline.

## **Deaths of Infants under One Year**

The number of deaths of infants under one year old was six, two males and four females, all of whom were legitimate. Five of these infant deaths occurred in the first four weeks of life, one being due to prematurity, one to birth injury and the other three to congenital causes. The sixth infant death was due to respiratory infection in a two-month-old baby.

## **Other Child Deaths**

Two male children, in the age group 1 - 5 years lost their lives in the flooding of Home Farm Camp, Great Wakering. Of the two female deaths in that age group one was due to a congenital malformation, the other to tuberculous meningitis. Of the deaths in the 5 - 15 age group, the two males were attributable to accidental causes and the female to a broncho-pneumonia supervening on a congenital defect.



**TABLE I**  
**Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1953 and Previous Years**

Year	Births (Nett)			Deaths (Nett)					Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)		
	Population esti- mated mid-year	Number	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Rate, England and Wales	Under 1 Year		At all ages				
					Number	Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 "related" births.	Number	Rate per 1,000 estimated population		Standardised Death Rate	Rate, England and Wales
1939	16,920	251	14.8	14.8	12	51	183	10.8	8.4	12.1	68
1940	16,200	215	13.2	14.1	11	57	220	13.6	11.1	14.4	5
1941	15,070	238	15.5	13.9	8	60	205	13.6	11.1	13.5	33
1942	14,880	249	16.7	15.6	16	51	220	14.7	12.0	12.3	29
1943	14,450	280	19.3	16.2	8	49	209	14.4	11.8	13.0	71
1944	14,800	275	18.5	17.7	8	45	191	12.8	+	12.7	84
1945	15,240	264	17.3	15.9	14	46	220	14.4	+	12.6	44
1946	16,830	317	18.8	19.2	16	43	245	14.6	+	12.0	72
1947	17,480	380	21.1	20.5	10	41	255	14.5	+	12.3	125
1948	18,550	330	17.8	17.8	5	34	218	11.8	+	11.0	112
1949	18,700	323	17.3	16.7	4	32	234	12.5	9.6	11.8	89
1950	19,000	261	13.7*(15.1)	15.8	9	29.8	255	13.4	10.3	11.6	6
1951	19,010	241	12.7*(13.8)	15.5	5	29.6	227	11.8	9.0	12.5	14
1952	19,310	290	15.0*(16.4)	15.3	4	27.6	242	13.0	9.9	11.3	48
1953	19,540	271	13.9*(15.3)	15.5	6	26.8	245	12.5	8.9	11.4†	26

\*The figures in brackets represent the birth rate when allowance is made for the differing age and sex distribution of the population of the District as comparable with that of England and Wales.

‡Provision.

†No Area Comparability Factor available for these years.



TABLE II

## ROCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT

## Causes of Death of Residents, 1953

The following table, compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, is classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ... ..	1	0	1
Tuberculosis, Other ... ..	0	1	1
Syphilitic Disease ... ..	0	0	0
Diphtheria ... ..	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ... ..	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	0	0	0
Measles ... ..	0	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	4	0	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ... ..	0	6	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ... ..	0	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ... ..	9	13	22
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ... ..	0	0	0
Diabetes ... ..	0	0	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	18	19	37
Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..	26	17	43
Hypertension with heart disease ...	7	1	8
Other heart disease ... ..	16	17	33
Other circulatory disease ... ..	0	6	6
Influenza ... ..	6	0	6
Pneumonia ... ..	6	3	14
Bronchitis ... ..	7	5	12
Other diseases of Respiratory System ...	3	2	5
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	0	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	2	0	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	1	0	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations ... ..	0	4	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	9	18
Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	2	0	2
All other accidents ... ..	7	6	13
Suicide ... ..	0	0	0
Homicide and operations of War ...	0	0	0
Totals	128	117	245



## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES**

### **Public Health Officers**

The list of these officers is set out on page 1 of this report.

The Medical Officer of Health of the District acts in that capacity for 20 per cent of his time, the remainder being devoted to the duties for the Essex County Council.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector, apart from the duties imposed upon him by the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, is the officer responsible for all the Council's Cleansing services, for their obligations under the Petroleum Acts and for the Council's responsibilities for the fire provisions of the Factories Act. In addition, the administration of those recent enactments, the Pet Animals Act, 1951, and the Fire Guards (Heating Appliances) Act, 1953, have fallen to him.

The Public Health Department has also its share in the Civil Defence Services, directly or by delegation, administered by the Council.

### **Committees of the Council**

The following standing committees of the Council are concerned directly or indirectly with public health matters :

- Public Health Committee
- Sewerage Committee
- Housing Committee
- Pleasure Grounds Committee
- Town Planning and Plans Committee
- Civil Defence Committee

In addition to the above, the Council is represented on the following committees or bodies which are concerned with public health matters in some way :

- Rural District Councils Association — two members
- South-East Essex Health Area Sub-Committee — three members
- South-East Essex Tuberculosis Association — one member
- Essex Boroughs and District Councils Association — two members
- East Central Essex Area Planning Sub-Committee — two members

### **LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES**

These services, which are provided by the Essex County Council under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are, for day to day administration, the concern of the South-East Essex Health Area Sub-Committee of the Health Committee of the County Council, and the administrative centre is at 153, High Street, Rayleigh.



The services provided include a weekly child welfare clinic at Rochford Health Services Clinic ; similar child welfare clinics held twice monthly in hired premises at Hullbridge, Hockley and Great Wakering, and monthly at Canewdon, Barling and Foulness. Vaccination and immunisation facilities are also available at these clinics. Ante natal clinics are held weekly at Rochford and fortnightly at Great Wakering, while a weekly clinic at Rayleigh serves part of Hockley and Hullbridge.

Weekly clinics for school children's minor ailments are also held at Rochford, Great Wakering and Rayleigh and such auxiliary services as speech therapy and physiotherapy are available.

The midwifery and home nursing services are provided by seven home nurse midwives resident in the District. Three health visitors serve the Rural District except for Hullbridge which is within the area covered by the health visitor from Rayleigh.

The ever growing and most useful Home Help Service is maintained by the employment of part-time Domestic Helps.

Among other facilities provided by the Local Health Authority are the provision of convalescence for patients not requiring medical or nursing care, the loan of sickroom equipment and the provision of additional nourishment and shelters, if required, for tuberculous patients.

### **Hospital Services**

The Southend Group Hospital Management Committee is responsible for the general hospitals in Southend and Rochford, for Westcliff Hospital and for Lancaster House Chest Clinic, Southend, which are available to the residents of this District.

### **Laboratory Services**

The Southend laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Services has continued to be available for the bacteriological examination of ice cream, milk samples, water supplies, etc.

## **PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

Certain modifications and additions to the infectious disease provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, have been incorporated in the Essex County Council Act, 1952. These provisions, which were optional so far as a rural district would be concerned, have now been adopted by the Council.

The principal addition to the powers previously exerciseable is one which enables the Council to compensate persons discontinuing their employment on the written request of their medical



officer, with a view to preventing the spread of a notifiable disease, a milk borne disease, or of food poisoning.

Another provision enables the medical officer to request a person suffering from respiratory tuberculosis in an infectious form to discontinue any occupation concerned with the cooking preparation or handling of food for persons outside his household. The other additional powers have to do with the obtaining of information from occupiers of premises, restriction in attendance at public places and entry into premises where notifiable disease has occurred.

### Notifiable Disease

In the tables on pages 15 and 16 the notifications of infectious disease, except tuberculosis which is detailed separately below, which were received during the year are listed according to age and locality of residence.

### Tuberculosis

During the year 13 new cases were notified among residents of the District, and 9 patients already suffering from the disease moved into the District for the first time. Particulars of these additions to the Register, as to age and sex are set out below :

Age	New Notifications				Transfers			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1 — 5 ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20 ...	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
20 — 25 ...	1	—	—	—	1	3	—	—
25 — 35 ...	1	3	—	—	1	1	—	—
35 — 45 ...	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
45 — 55 ...	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 — 65 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	5	5	1	2	4	5	—	—

There were two deaths from tuberculosis during the year, one male suffering from the respiratory form of the disease and one female, an infant, from the non-respiratory form.

During the year the names of twenty persons were removed from the Tuberculosis Register. Fourteen of these had recovered from the disease, and six others, in whom the disease was still active, had gone to live elsewhere.



At the end of the year there were 110 names on the Tuberculosis Register as compared with 114 at 1st January, 1953. These cases were classified as follows :

	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1st January, 1953	68	39	2	5
31st December, 1953	59	42	3	6

Generally the housing conditions of tuberculous families in the District are now of adequate standard. Where existing accommodation has been insufficient the loan of an open air shelter by the County Council has enabled the requisite degree of isolation to be obtained for a patient.

### **Poliomyelitis**

Of the two cases of poliomyelitis which occurred in the District during the year, the first was a boy who suffered from the paralytic form of the disease. He had been in hospital with another complaint just prior to the onset of the symptoms of poliomyelitis and there had been a case among the medical staff there. The second case was a man who had the non-paralytic form. In his case no contact with other cases or contacts, here or elsewhere, could be traced.

### **Measles**

As will be seen from the number of notifications, 1953 was a "measles year". All of the cases occurred in the period from January to May, with the peak of the notifications in the month of March. The great majority of the cases notified were in the 5 - 6 year old group, i.e. the new entrants to school, but several adolescents and adults showed that they too were not immune.

The incidence of the disease was more or less uniform throughout the District and no one part was affected before the other. Other parts of the County seem to have been affected before notifications began to be received in this District.

### **Infective Hepatitis**

All but one of the cases of infective hepatitis were either residents of Canewdon, or contacts of cases from there. It appeared on investigation of the outbreak there, that there had been a mild unrecognised case for whom medical advice was not sought. This case was a child attending the local school and by the time that the existence of the disease was known, there had been quite a number of contacts of the second generation of cases, and it was among these that the subsequent cases occurred.



## **Scarlet Fever**

Thirty of the thirty-three cases of scarlet fever occurred in the last quarter of the year. School children attending schools in Rochford and this immediate vicinity were principally affected. All cases were mild in character.

## **Diphtheria**

Although no case of diphtheria has occurred in the Rural District for over six years and the relationship between this fact and the campaign for immunisation against the disease which has been established since the early years of the war is undoubted, there can be no complacency in this regard so long as a considerable number of parents fail to have their young children immunised. By their failure to take this simple precaution they are not only exposing their own children to needless risk, but are also hindering the raising of the general level of immunity in the community, which level should be as high as possible if the ground already gained is to be held and as we hope, extended.



NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1953 (EXCLUSIVE OF TUBERCULOSIS)

Notifiable Disease	Total Cases Notified	Age Groups										65 or over	Cases admitted to or notified from Hospital	Total Deaths
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65		
Paratyphoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever ...	33	1	1	2	1	24	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	29	3	3	7	5	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles ...	315	8	19	23	31	53	171	7	1	—	2	—	6	—
Pneumonia ...	20	2	—	—	—	—	7	—	1	2	1	3	14	—
Polio-myelitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	103	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	84	8	—	99	—
Dysentery ...	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Infective Hepatitis	32	—	—	—	—	3	14	7	1	4	3	—	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>—</b>



TABLE SHEWING LOCAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE  
(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1953

PARISH or part of Parish	Paratyphoid Fever	Meningococcal Infection	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Measles	Pneumonia	Poliomyelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia	Dysentery	Infective Hepatitis	Malaria	Total
Ashington ...	—	—	11	—	—	16	—	—	2	—	—	—	29
Fambridge ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Barling ...	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Little Wakering ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Canewdon ...	—	—	2	3	—	4	—	—	—	—	30	—	39
Foulness ...	—	—	—	—	—	10	1	—	—	—	1	—	12
Hawkwell ...	—	—	1	1	—	14	1	—	—	—	—	—	17
Hockley ...	—	—	2	4	—	20	1	—	—	—	—	—	27
Hullbridge ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paglesham ...	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Rochford ...	1	1	16	14	1	163	15	1	100	2	1	1	316
Stambridge ...	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Sutton ...	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Great Wakering	—	—	—	5	—	67	2	1	1	—	—	—	76
Total	1	1	33	29	1	315	20	2	103	2	32	1	540



## HOUSING

The following statement summarises the work of the Department as regards housing during the year 1953.

### Demolition and Closing Orders

#### *Housing Act, 1936*

Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section II ... 8

Houses closed in pursuance of undertakings given by owners under Section II (and still closed) ... 3

#### *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953*

Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1) i.e. whole buildings ... 5

### Repairs

#### *Informal Action*

Unfit or defective houses rendered fit by informal action under Housing or Public Health Acts ... 72

#### *Action under Statutory Powers*

Number of houses in which defects were remedied by owners after service of notice under Public Health Acts ... 8

Number of houses made fit by owners after service of informal notices under Housing Act 2

### New Buildings

During the year 106 new houses were completed for the Council and a further 184 for private owners.

The Council had an additional 38 new houses under construction at the end of 1953, all of which it is anticipated will have been completed by the end of 1954. There was also very considerable private development proceeding.

### Council-owned Houses

The table below shows the number and type of dwellings owned by the Rochford Rural District Council in each parish in the District at the end of 1953.

Parish	Houses		Bungalows		Totals
	3 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	1 Bedroom	
Ashingdon ...	36	—	—	—	36
Barling Magna ...	24	—	—	—	24
Canewdon ...	49	—	6	—	55
Foulness ...	—	—	—	—	—
Hawkwell ...	26	—	—	—	26
Hockley ...	10	—	1	—	11
Paglesham ...	12	—	—	—	12
Rochford ...	328	26	28	34	416
Stambridge ...	38	12	—	—	50
Sutton ...	—	—	—	—	—
Great Wakering ...	148	12	18	22	200
<b>Totals</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>830</b>



## **Building Byelaws**

Revised building byelaws for the Rochford Rural District were confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government and came into operation on 21st November, 1953. From the public health point of view, the main differences in the new byelaws, as compared with those now superseded are the reduction in the minimum height required for rooms from eight feet to seven feet six inches, the omission of a standard for natural lighting of rooms based on the ratio of window to floor area and the deletion of the requirement that a cesspool shall be sited fifty feet from any dwelling house.

## **Housing Repairs and Improvements**

An approval was given during the year, under the Housing Act, 1949, and with the consent of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, to an improvement grant in respect of three agricultural cottages in Canewdon, although the work was not commenced before the end of the year.

The position with regard to effecting the repair of unfit houses remained materially the same as in previous years. The factors militating against successful achievement in this field were as before, the relatively high cost of repairs as compared with the income from the rents of premises which are controlled under the Rents Restrictions Acts.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

### **Water Supply**

An outline of the then existing provision of main water supplies in the Rochford Rural District was given in my Annual Report for 1949, and all subsequent extensions have been noted in the appropriate years. In 1953, no new major water mains were laid in the District but various small lengths were laid to serve the several new housing estates being developed. There were 300 new connections made to the water mains in the District during the year and, in addition, 3 houses which previously relied on standpipe supplies were provided with a piped water supply inside the house. The total length of the water mains in the District at the end of 1953 was approximately 90 miles.

Frequent samples of the raw water supplies and of the main water as supplied to consumers, are taken by the statutory water undertakers, the Southend Waterworks Company, for examination in their own laboratory. In addition, from time to time, samples are submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories for examination. A copy of a report from the Counties Public Health Laboratories on the chemical analysis and bacteriological examination of a sample of main water taken on the 20th July, 1953, from the Southend Waterworks Company's mains is set on page 20.

There was no contamination of the main water supply during



the year. The waters forming the main supply are not liable to have any plumbo-solvent action.

### Main Water Supplies in the District

The table on page 22 shows, for each of the eleven parishes of the Rochford Rural District, the number of houses and the estimated population served by a main water supply at the end of the year 1953.

From the table it will be noted that 96.4 per cent of all houses in the Rochford Rural District have their own piped main water supply, while a further 1.5 per cent obtain main water from stand-pipes which are either within the curtilage of the property, or which have been erected by the Council in the roadside at the ends of the existing water mains. A main water supply is now available to 99.1 per cent of all dwellings in the District, although some owners have not yet connected their houses to the mains. Only 64 houses are out of reach of main supplies.

Section 108 of the Essex County Council Act, 1952, which was adopted by the Council and became operative in their District from 1st October, 1953, gives the Council power to require a connection to be made to the water main, by the owner of a property, if the main be available up to a cost of £40, as compared with the maximum cost of £20 permitted by Section 138 of the Public Health Act 1936, which previously governed such circumstances.

### Shallow Well Supplies

There was a decrease during 1953 in the number of shallow wells in the District which were still being used for domestic supplies. In the flooding which affected Great Wakering, six of these wells, supplying eight houses, were grossly contaminated by flood water and their use ceased from that time. The affected houses were subsequently connected to the water main.

Apart from a few houses, beyond the ends of the water mains, which are dependant on shallow wells for their supplies, there were, at the end of the year the following house properties on the line of the existing water mains which still relied on shallow wells for their supply.

Great Wakering ...	...	4	Rochford ...	...	5
Barling Magna ...	...	10	Canewdon ...	...	1
Stambridge ...	...	3	Sutton ...	...	2

The majority of the above properties are owner occupied, and in such cases the owners have been reluctant to connect to the main water supply because of the expense involved and the lack, up to the present, of a main sewer.

In the period of the flood emergency and afterwards, several samples were taken from the affected shallow wells. Contamination



by salt was demonstrated up to nine months after the original flooding. Samples from other shallow wells were also taken during the year and three out of four of these were unsatisfactory, showing varying degrees of pollution. The users of these wells were given the usual warnings in regard to the use of untreated water therefrom.

### WATER ANALYSIS

Copy of a report by Counties Public Health Laboratories on a sample of water taken from mains of the Southend Waterworks Company, 20th July, 1953.

#### Chemical results in parts per Million

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear and bright
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	Nil
Colour	...	...	...	...	3
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Reaction, pH	...	...	...	...	8.6
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	Absent
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	...	425
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	285
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	...	...	...	48
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	20
Hardness : Total	...	...	...	...	130
Carbonate	...	...	...	...	20
Non-carbonate	...	...	...	...	110
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	3.6
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.072
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.067
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	...	1.0
Residual Chlorine (at time of sampling)	...	...	...	...	Absent
Metals : Iron	...	...	...	...	0.4
Other Metals	...	...	...	...	Absent

#### Bacteriological Results

No. of Colonies developing on			
Agar :			
1 day at 37°C.		10 per ml.	
2 days at 37°C.		Minute colonies	
		270 per ml.	
3 days at 20°C.		4 per ml.	
	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Probable</i>
	<i>in</i>	<i>from</i>	<i>number</i>
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes			
Reaction	—	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I)	—	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	—	100 ml.	

This sample is 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 and its content of mineral and saline constituents are very moderate and it is of satisfactory organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Signed : ROY C. HOATHER

30th July, 1953

*The Counties Public Health Laboratories*



# **MAIN WATER SUPPLIES**

Houses and population in each Parish on Main Supply, 1953

PARISH	No. of Houses	Estimated Population	Houses on Main Supply	Estimated Population on Main Supply	Houses Supplied by Standpipe	Estimated Population Supplied by Standpipe
Ashington (including South Fambridge)	445	1,335	397	1,191	4 + 10*	12 + 25
Barling Magna (including Little Wakering)	316	948	266	798	13	40
Canewdon	275	823	255	765	6	18
Foulness†	114	342	109	327	5	15
Great Wakering	969	2,907	953	2,659	—	—
Hawkwell	1,005	3,015	997	2,991	6 + 6*	18 + 12
Hockley (including Hullbridge)	1,425	4,225	1,383	4,149	13 + 3*	40 + 9
Paglesham	114	342	80	240	2	6
Rochford	1,699	4,902	1,630	4,890	30	90
Stambridge	165	475	145	435	—	—
Sutton	77	226	75	225	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,604</b>	<b>19,540</b>	<b>6,290</b>	<b>18,670</b>	<b>79 + 19*</b>	<b>239 + 46</b>

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

†War Department Mains.



## SEWERAGE

The year 1953 saw the completion of the first part of the long awaited sewer extensions in those parts of the District where built-up but unmade and unsewered roads are a feature. These first tangible results were confined to the parts of the parish of Hawkwell sewerred by the new sewers, which were laid as follows :

1. From Victor Gardens to Thorpe Road.
2. From Main Road to Sunny Road.
3. From Hawkwell Chase to Belchamps Way.
4. From Tudor Way to Hillside Avenue.

The total length of these four extensions is 1,800 yards. A further 185 yards of new sewers were laid during the year in private building estates being developed in Hockley parish.

As a result of work carried out in Hawkwell parish, a beginning was made in connecting existing houses to the sewer, and thereby giving some easement to the awkward situations which constantly had arisen in this part of the District, due to the use of cesspools and the difficulties consequent in such use in a closely built-up area having a clay sub-soil.

Schemes for soil sewerred Hawkwell Park Drive (West) Hawkwell and Golden Cross Road, Ashingdon (the latter by an extension of the Spencer Close sewer) have been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The outline sewerred proposals for Canewdon, including the Village and Scotts Hall Cottages has also been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and a local enquiry into these is to be arranged.

With the construction of the new extensions to the main sewers and the subsequent connections thereto the Council have begun to make frequent use of Section 19 of the Public Health Act, 1936, whereby they have required owners, in making these connections to lay them so as to form part of the general sewerred scheme. The owners have been reimbursed, in accordance with this section of the Act, the additional expenses to which they have been put.

### New Connections to Sewers, 1953

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

Existing Dwellings					No. of Connections
Parish					
Hockley	...	...	...	...	11
Hawkwell	...	...	...	...	13



### New Dwellings

Rochford	...	...	...	...	92
Hawkwell	...	...	...	...	9
Hockley	...	...	...	...	137
Great Wakering	...	...	...	...	38
Ashingdon	...	...	...	...	2
Stambridge	...	...	...	...	12

### Sewerage Disposal Works

Except for the provision of a sludge lagoon at Great Wakering works, there were no major alterations or additions during the year to the Council's Sewerage Disposal Works at Stambridge or Great Wakering and conditions remained substantially the same as outlined in my report for 1951. The two small plants at Sutton and Canewdon continued in operation during the year, but in each case the number of premises draining into them decreased.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES

The rapid growth of the number of houses in the District in recent years has tested the organisation of the house refuse collection service. In 1953 there was an increase of no fewer than 350 houses from which refuse was collected, as compared with the previous year. It was consequently found necessary in November, 1953, to engage one additional refuse collector thus bringing the total number of men engaged on this service to 12. The Council now have 3 ten cubic yard refuse collection vehicles, and all are more or less continuously employed.

During the year the Council gave consideration to the extension of the weekly refuse collection service to the whole of the area served by made-up roads. This extension was not proceeded with because of the greatly increased costs which would have been incurred.

The problem of the disposal of refuse in the District continued to give rise to some concern because the Council have no tip of their own and a Compulsory Purchase Order, in respect of some land in Rochford, which was confirmed in 1952, has not yet been followed up because of difficulties which have arisen. Recourse continued to be had to a brickfield in Hawkwell and a sandpit in Rochford. In neither of those sites has the Council any security of tenure.

The cost of house refuse collection in the District for the year ending 31st March, 1954, was £5,306; this sum being approximately equivalent to a 11½d. rate.

The pail closet collection service continued on similar lines to those of previous years. The cost of this service for the year was £1,825.

The collection of salvage was continued also during the year.



The total amount collected was 93 tons 7 cwts. 2 qrs. 11 lbs., and 87 tons 2 cwts. consisted of waste paper. The value of the total collection was £588 1s. 11d., of which £304 0s. 2d. was available for the relief of rates.

The following table gives the particulars of the house refuse and pail closet collection as at the end of 1953 :

Parish	House Refuse No. of Houses Collected		Pail Closet No. of Houses Collected	
	14 day	7 day	Twice Weekly	Weekly
Ashingdon ... ..	231	—	39	4
Barling Magna ... ..	302	—	164	—
Canewdon ... ..	260	—	92	19
Foulness ... ..	110	—	—	—
Hawkwell ... ..	855	—	13	—
Hockley ... ..	1,139	—	103	16
Paglesham ... ..	109	—	74	—
Rochford ... ..	1,305	387	14	29
Stambridge ... ..	159	—	48	—
Sutton ... ..	75	—	28	—
Wakering, Great ... ..	928	—	78	—
TOTALS	5,473	387	653	68

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The table below shows the number and nature of the inspections made by the Council's Inspectors, and the notices, formal and informal, served under the relevant enactments during the year, following on those visits, except where such visits are shown under a particular heading, e.g. Inspections of Food Premises, see page 33, Factories, page 21, Damage by Pests, page 30.



Nature of Inspection	Total Inspec- tions	Notices Served	
		Informal	Formal
Camping Sites ... ..	31	—	—
Disinfections ... ..	9	—	—
Disinfestations ... ..	10	—	—
Diseases of Animals Acts ... ..	6	—	—
Drainage and Cesspools ... ..	202	43	—
Drainage (Essex County Council Act, 1952) ... ..	2	—	1
Flooded Properties ... ..	111	—	—
Hairdressers' Byelaws ... ..	3	2	—
Heating Appliances (Fireguards Act, 1952) ... ..	3	—	—
House Refuse Removal ... ..	51	16	1
Housing and Public Health Acts ... ..	582	65	10
Houseboats ... ..	47	5	—
Infectious Disease ... ..	149	—	—
Knackers Yards ... ..	12	—	—
Licenced Premises ... ..	1	1	1
Miscellaneous ... ..	254	—	—
Movable Dwellings ... ..	75	5	—
National Assistance Act, 1948 ... ..	1	—	—
Nuisances, Public Health Act ... ..	62	1	—
Outworkers (Factories Act, 1937) ... ..	4	—	—
Pet Animals Act, 1951 ... ..	12	—	—
Petroleum Acts ... ..	36	—	—
Rag, Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951 ... ..	2	—	—
Rehousing Enquiries ... ..	61	—	—
Schools ... ..	15	—	—
Shops Act ... ..	6	—	—
Water Courses ... ..	2	—	—
Water Samples ... ..	9	—	—
Water Supplies ... ..	79	28	—
Totals	1,837	166	13

## Shops

As from 1st December, 1953, the Essex County Council, with the agreement of the District Council have delegated their powers under Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950. The provisions with which this section deals are those concerning lighting, washing facilities and facilities for taking meals. These powers are in addition to those previously possessed by the District Council under the 1934 Act, relating to sanitary accommodation, heating and ventilation. There is still a lingering anomaly, however, in that the requirement in Section 37 of the 1950 Act, as to the provision of seats for female shop assistants is still administered by the County Council.

All plans for new shops intended to be opened in the District are referred to the Health Department for scrutiny before being approved by the Council's Planning Committee.



## **Houseboats**

For many years there have been a few houseboats stationed within various rivers and creeks in the District. Of recent years there has been a tendency for the numbers of these houseboats to increase, although not so markedly as in other nearby Districts. The presence of these houseboats over which the Council had little control, gave rise to several problems and they therefore gave their support some years ago to the inclusion of a clause in the Essex County Council Bill to give them a measure of control over these houseboats. These sought after powers are now contained in Part VII of the Essex County Council Act 1952, and as from 1st April, 1953 the Council have been able to require that no houseboat shall be moored within their District without their consent.

Later in the year the Council gave consideration to the conditions with which owners of houseboats would have to comply before consent to mooring within the District would be given. To this end, a comprehensive survey of the houseboats in the District was undertaken by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors. At the end of the year there were eighteen houseboats and three wrecks, all in the Hull-bridge area. Only two of the houseboats were in continuous occupation, the others being only occupied casually.

## **Drainage**

Considerable trouble has been experienced in the past in connection with stopped-up drains because of the failure of the owner or occupier concerned to remedy the condition with appropriate speed. Power to overcome these delays has now become available in Section 72 of the Essex County Council Act, 1952, whereby the local authority may, if the defect be not remedied within forty-eight hours, themselves carry out the work and charge the cost to the owner or occupier concerned, unless they decide to remit the charge.

## **Movable Dwellings and Camping Sites**

The medium sized camping site would appear to be becoming a permanent feature of this District. Originally the demand for this type of accommodation arose from the general housing shortage but, although the housing situation is easing the popularity of these caravans for all-the-year round occupation is apparently increasing. At the end of the year there were approximately 165 caravans in permanent occupation, as compared with 140 at the end of the previous year on the five licenced sites in the District. The great majority of families on these sites are newcomers to the area.

All the sites are supplied with main water from standpipes and ablution blocks. Three of the sites also provide baths with hot water. Drainage in one instance is to the sewer in the others to



cesspools. All caravans on these sites have their own refuse bins and are served by the normal house refuse collection.

In addition to the above sites the Council during the year issued annual licences, under the Public Health Act, 1936, to 29 individual applicants, to enable them to station movable dwellings on various single sites throughout the District. In all such instances the provision of an adequate water supply and satisfactory sanitary accommodation has been insisted upon, as a condition of the issue of the licence.

### **Factories**

The table on page 29 gives details of the inspections made by the Council's Officers at factories in the Rochford Rural District during the year. As will be seen, there are comparatively few factories without mechanical power; i.e. factories where the local authority is responsible for certain health provisions, such as heating, lighting, water supply and ventilation, as well as for sanitary accommodation, with which latter they are concerned in all cases. The few factories without mechanical power, comprise in the main, the smaller bakehouses and garages.

Inspections were also made at factories in the District and of plans of new factories proposed to be built, with regard to the provisions necessary for means of escape in case of fire. The Council have designated their Sanitary Inspector to carry out this work. Close co-operation is maintained with the Chief Fire Officer of the Essex County Council in respect of these matters.

None of the factories situated in the Rural District, employ any outworkers. From lists supplied by other local authorities it appeared that there were 36 outworkers employed in the District, nearly all of whom were engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

Attention was drawn during the year, by the owners of a factory in the District engaged in the dyeing of sea moss, to several cases of dermatitis among their staff.

Investigation showed that those affected were engaged in handling the dye and that with the wearing of protective clothing, particularly gloves, there would be no further trouble.

### **Damage by Pests Act**

As in the past few years, the Council continued to give a free treatment service to householders, and to make a charge for treatments given to business premises. In order to enable owners and occupiers to carry out their obligations under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the Council have made the services of one of their employees available to undertake this work.

Sewage works, and refuse tips have, as in previous years, been treated by the Council's employees as the occasion demands.

In the table on page 30 are given details of the number of inspections and treatments carried out during 1953.



## 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		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	12	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	56	51	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	6	12	—	—
Total	74	72	1	—

## 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 ... ..	—	3	—	4	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	6 (Sec. 34)	2	—	1	—
Total	<del>56</del>	5	—	5	—



# PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 15 months ended 31st March, 1954

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial premises)	
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District ... ..	16	6,182	422	556	7,176
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the 15 months ended 31st March, 1954 as a result of	(a) —	56	2	23	81
(a) notification (b) survey	(b) 5	—	—	—	5
under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 (c) otherwise e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose	(c) —	675	10	329	1,014
3. Number of properties inspected (See section 2) which were found to be infested by rats ... ..	Major 4	—	—	—	4
	Minor 14	56	2	23	95
4. Number of properties inspected (See section 2) which were found to be seriously infested by mice	—	Nil	Nil	—	—
5. Number of infested properties (See sections 3 & 4) treated by the Local Authority ... ..	18 Treatments	56	2	3	79
6. Number of notices served under Section 4: (1) Treatment ... ..	—	Nil	Nil	—	—
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	—	Nil	Nil	—	—
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4	—	Nil	Nil	—	—
3. Legal Proceedings ...	Nil	—	—	—	—
9. Number of "block" control schemes carried out ... ..	Five				
10. Threshing Regulations	Nine visits were made and in two cases warnings were necessary for failing to provide a fence around the rick.				



## FOOD

### Meat

The Ministry of Food's arrangements for Centralised Slaughtering which had been in operation since the war years, continued to function as formerly during 1953. As there was no slaughterhouse being used by the Ministry of Food in the District during the year, the only killings which took place were those of privately owned pigs or sheep, or of casualty animals. The following table summarises the extent of those operations during the year ; and of the inspections carried out :

**Carcases Inspected and Condemned**

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	—	—	—	1	19
Number inspected ...	—	—	—	1	19
All Diseases except Tuber- culosis :					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis ...	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	2

The inspection of meat exposed for sale in butchers' shops is undertaken by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors during their routine visits to these shops, and also when they are specially called in by traders. As a result of these inspections the following meat was condemned in the District during 1953 as unfit for human consumption :

Beef 334 lbs.    Mutton 31 lbs.    Pork 32½ lbs.    Offals 31 lbs.

### Milk

No action was called for during the year under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, to require the cessation of sale, or use without treatment, of milk suspected or capable of causing disease in man. In one instance with the co-operation of the milk producer concerned and without recourse to formal action, a milk supply normally retailed as raw milk was subjected to precautionary pasteurisation for a few days because of the pos-



sibility of a milk handler having been a contact of a case of infectious disease.

Apart from producer-retailers, who are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, there were four milk distributors registered in the District, although only two different premises were involved. In addition to the registration of these milk distributors the Council granted licences during 1933 to twenty-three dealers for sterilised milk to two for pasteurised milk and to a further two for tuberculin tested milk to be sold from shop premises. A further three supplementary licences were granted to distributors whose dairies were situated outside the District.

There has been a gradual increase during the last few years in the proportion of designated, as compared with non-designated or raw milk sold in this District. Although there are some thirty dairy farms in the District, at the present time, with one exception, all milk produced on these goes to large dairies situated in adjoining districts, and a proportion returns to the consumer here in the form of designated milk.

### **Ice Cream**

The general effect of the coming into operation of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations of 1947 and subsequently has been to render the manufacture of this article on a small scale an uneconomic proposition, and the result has been in this District that in 1953 there was no person using the heat treatment process, and only one used the cold mix method.

### **Bakehouses**

As a result of a complaint from a member of the public who purchased a cake from a baker in the District, and which was found to have a piece of wire in its substance, investigations were made at the bakery concerned, and as a result a successful prosecution was taken.

### **Other Foods**

Apart from the foodstuffs which had to be condemned following the flooding of premises on Foulness Island, and which are detailed separately later, the following foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :

<i>Tinned Foods</i>		<i>Fresh Foods</i>	
Meat	25 tins	Beef (Imported)	311 lbs.
Milk	66 tins	Sausage Meat	112 lbs.
Fish	13 tins		
Fruit	141 tins		
Vegetables	42 tins		



## Clean Food Campaigns

There were 187 food premises in operation in the District at the end of 1953, and these were comprised as follows, according to the principal function carried out in the premises :

Catering Premises	...	...	33
Licenced Premises	...	...	30
General Stores	...	...	68
Confectionery	...	...	18
Butchers	...	...	14
Greengrocers	...	...	9
Fishmongers	...	...	6
Bakehouses	...	...	9

Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act is not in operation in the Rochford Rural District owing to the provisions of the Essex County Council Act, 1953, which is operative. This latter enactment requires only the registration of manufacturers and vendors of ice cream, and of these there were in 1953 one manufacturer and 65 vendors on the register. Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, there were two dairies, not being dairy farms, registered by the Council during 1953. One of these dairies was used by three different distributors, the other was used solely by one distributor.

Sections 103 and 105 of the Essex County Council Act, 1952, were adopted by the Rural District Council and came into force on 1st October, 1953. The former section requires the registration of hawkers of food and of their premises, provided these premises are not used for retail trade. Section 105 requires fourteen days notice to be given of an intention to open food premises where these have not previously been used for that purpose. No applications for registration under the Act were received up to the end of the year, nor were any notifications received in respect of any intended new premises.

During the year 16 visits of inspection were paid to ice cream premises in the District and 7 visits to dairies. In the case of ice-cream, 17 samples were taken from vendors, and submitted to the Methylene Blue Test.

The results were as follows :—

<i>Grade</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>III</i>	<i>IV</i>
No. of samples	3	6	6	2

All of this ice cream was supplied to the vendors by manufacturers outside the District. Generally the product is ready wrapped for sale, but vendors sometimes obtain the larger blocks for cutting up, and these produced the two Grade IV and the six Grade III samples. The vendors concerned were warned about the apparent deficiencies in their handling technique. Follow-up samples in some of these instances have shown improvement.

Routine visits continued to be paid to all types of food premises, with the particular aim of maintaining the standard, or



where necessary, obtaining an improvement in the standard of food handling. School canteens were included in this survey and tangible improvement was noted by such criteria as the bacteriological counts obtained from swabs taken of washed crockery and tea cloths, with and without the use of detergents.

Another type of food premises which was found to need some supervision was the bakehouse. Staffing difficulties are in some cases preventing these premises being adequately cleansed, although the buildings themselves are now generally of a good standard structurally and as far as equipment is concerned.

Inspections were made at the ten bakehouses in the District and three informal notices were served as a result.

In the past year or so there has been an observable improvement in the standards of food hygiene in premises in the District. Particularly in such matters as the wrapping and protection of foodstuffs, the results of a series of advisory visits are now apparent. The use of servers in handling unwrapped food, however, is not nearly such a common practice as it should be. On the whole, co-operation between the Department and food traders in the District is reasonably good and has been steadily improving recently as more and more of those engaged in the business realise that it is to their ultimate advantage to do so. The public's growing appreciation of the problems involved is also a factor towards this end.

### **Disposal of Condemned Food**

As regards food condemned as unfit for human consumption, all fresh meat so considered is coloured with an indelible dye and collected by recognised merchants. In the case of tinned foods and other smaller items, these when condemned are disposed of as refuse.

The only special examination of food necessary during the year was as a consequence of the flooding, which affected stocks at three shops on Foulness Island. The quantity condemned in this instance was as follows :—

Tinned Foods	117 tins
Butter	57 lbs.
Cheese	24 lbs.
Bacon	22 lbs.
Sugar	56 lbs.
Packeted	
Foodstuffs etc.	378 lbs.

It was found possible to salvage a certain amount of the foodstuffs and the following were despatched to the Warehousing Division, Ministry of Food, for that purpose :—

Margarine	82 lbs.
Sugar	180 lbs.
Cooking Fat	79 lbs.







1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem of the origin of life. It is shown that the problem is one of the most important and interesting in the history of science.

2. The second part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the various theories of the origin of life. It is shown that the most plausible theory is the one which assumes that life originated from non-living matter.

3. The third part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the various experiments which have been conducted in order to test the various theories of the origin of life. It is shown that the most successful experiments are those which have shown that life can be produced from non-living matter.

4. The fourth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the various conclusions which can be drawn from the various experiments. It is shown that the most plausible conclusion is that life originated from non-living matter.

5. The fifth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the various implications of the various conclusions. It is shown that the most plausible implication is that life is not unique to the earth.

6. The sixth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the various methods which can be used in order to test the various theories of the origin of life. It is shown that the most successful methods are those which have shown that life can be produced from non-living matter.

7. The seventh part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the various results which have been obtained from the various experiments. It is shown that the most successful results are those which have shown that life can be produced from non-living matter.

8. The eighth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the various conclusions which can be drawn from the various results. It is shown that the most plausible conclusion is that life originated from non-living matter.

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