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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH

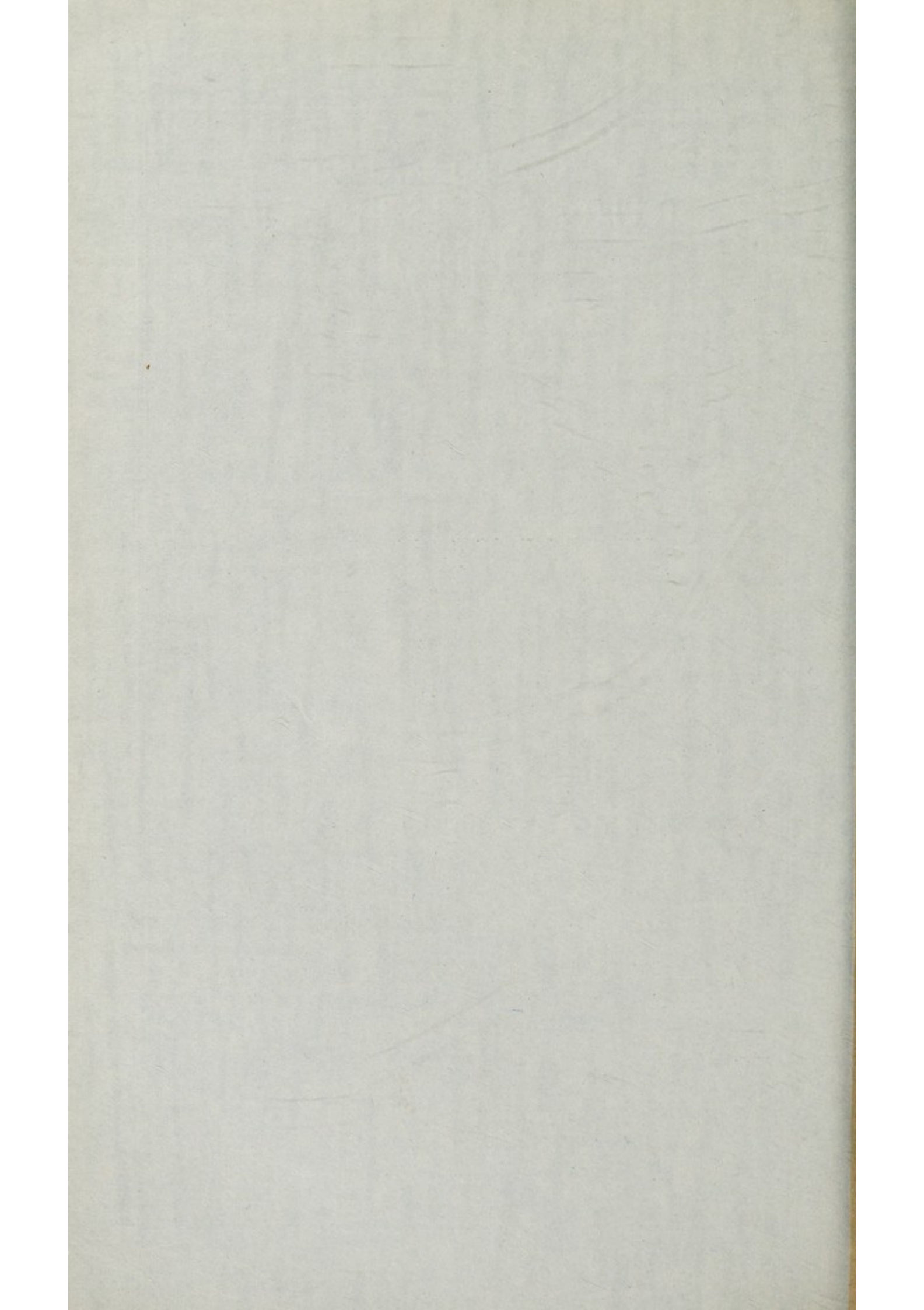
(W. J. MOFFAT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

FOR

1954

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





## 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.,  
(also Inspector of Meat and Other Foods), until 28th  
April, 1954. C. H. M. Hazlewood, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,  
from 8th June, 1954.

*Clerk and Typist :* Mrs. Z Sargent.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
COUNCIL OFFICES,  
ROCHFORD.

*June, 1955.*

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Rochford Rural District for the year 1954.

The population of the District has continued to increase and this has been due to the movement into the area of new residents from other areas. The birth rate for the year was very slightly lower, and the death rate a little higher, in 1954 than in previous years, but in view of the greater than the average proportion of the elderly in the local population, these trends have not been unexpected. The incidence of infectious disease in the District was low during 1954.

There was a noticeable spurt in the rate of building of private houses, while the number of new houses completed for the Council fell considerably, as compared with the previous few years. It was possible to eliminate a few more of the worst of the remaining sub-standard houses by demolition. Properties in the sub-standard category are generally in such poor condition structurally that they do not qualify for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949. A more concise and up-to-date picture of the extent of the problem of unfit housing in the District will be available in 1955 when the Council will consider the proposals they will then be submitting to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for dealing with slum clearance and unfit houses in the five years thenceforth.

As to those other fields of environmental hygiene, little remained to be done in providing satisfactory main water supplies throughout the length and breadth of the District, and some further progress was made in laying main sewers. This progress up to the present was, however, insufficient to result in any



significant decrease in the number of houses dependant on cesspools for house drainage, as the total of already existing dwellings connected to the sewer during the year was exceeded by the number of new houses built on sites which are without any immediate prospect of access to a main sewer. ~~The~~ The difficulties which are inevitably inherent in cesspool drainage in an area such as this, where the sub-soil is largely composed of clay, are by now well known. Frequent emptying of these cesspools would be financially crippling to occupiers; generally there is insufficient ground available to permit of any simple but effective system of irrigation, with the result that nuisances are constantly occurring. While for properties such as smallholdings or which otherwise have sufficient land available, the cesspool may often be the only answer, it can never be other than an insufficient and most unsatisfactory installation in building development of average density. In the light of past experience it is most disturbing to find that planning permission was given during the year to the building of groups of houses remote from the main sewers.

There has unfortunately been no progress to record since the war in the making up of any of the numerous unmade roads, which are mainly situated in the Western part of the District. It is to be hoped that the difficulties in the way of getting something done will soon be resolved. Apart from the inconveniences to the residents an additional burden is placed on all who have to serve the inhabitants of these areas, such as doctors, nurses, as well as tradesmen.

Advantage was taken by the Council of the provisions of the Essex County Council Act, 1952 to deal with the problem of the houseboats, which was becoming acute on the foreshore at Hullbridge on the River Crouch. There seems a fair prospect that this problem will be virtually solved in the course of the next twelve months.

One of the notable features of 1954 was the re-opening of private slaughterhouses. This resulted in a great increase in the amount of time, over and above normal duty hours, which often had to be spent by the Council's staff on the work of meat inspection. The change over from centralised slaughtering was effected without any dislocation of the service, through the co-operation of the traders concerned.

Although several visits had to be paid to elderly persons who were in need of care and attention, no formal action was called for in the course of the year, under Section 47 of the National



Assistance Act, 1948 to effect the removal of anyone in that category to suitable premises. With the aid of the home nursing and, particularly, the home help service, the necessary care and attention could be provided in most cases, except where hospital treatment was required. Generally, the most difficult and time consuming cases to deal with have been found to be the retired professional worker living the life of a recluse in some of the more remote spots, and whom it is most difficult to persuade to accept any necessary help. In some cases it is apparent that the reluctance to accept the proffered help stems from the knowledge that declining physical powers have led to a grave lowering of the standards of personal and household hygiene and the dread of revealing the deterioration to strangers. The preventive approach to these problems must be to ensure as far as possible that the elderly must not also be the lonely.

For such helpful assistance in the preparation of this report I am indebted to Mr. Jepson, Chief Sanitary Inspector and to the other officers who have supplied information.

I would also like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their consideration during the year.

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 General's estimate of Resident population at mid-year, 1954	...	...	...	...	...	20,150
Number of Habitable Houses according to Rate Books at 31st December, 1954	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,809
					£	s. d.
Rateable Value at 31st March, 1954	.....	.....	.....	.....	118,248	0 0
Product of a Penny Rate at 31st March, 1954	.....	.....	.....	.....	480	8 8

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## SOCIAL CONDITIONS

There has been no substantial change in the social conditions of the area. The rapid expansion of private house building in certain localities, as commented on last year, has continued in increasing measure during 1954. This increase in building continues to be accompanied by an increased influx of population into the area.

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## 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 1954 inclusive.

### Deaths

In Table II on page 9 are given the causes of death of the 274 residents of the Rochford Rural District who died in 1954, whether death occurred in the District or elsewhere in England and Wales. The total of 274 deaths for the year in the District is the highest recorded for some years, but because of the higher proportion of the aged in the population the standardised death rate at 9.7 per thousand still compares favourably with the rate of 11.3 per thousand for the whole country. Included in the total of deaths of residents of the District are 26 deaths which occurred in an institution providing accommodation under Part



III of the National Assistance Act, all of whose inmates come originally from an area outside this District.

The principal causes of death in 1954 were diseases of the heart and circulatory system and these accounted for 40.9 per cent of the total deaths, the highest proportion so far recorded in any year. Next in importance as a cause of death was malignant disease (cancer etc.) accounting for 16 per cent of the total followed by diseases of the respiratory system (other than tuberculosis) and vascular lesions of the nervous system which were respectively responsible for 11.3 and 10.9 per cent.

Of the eight accidental deaths, two were industrial accidents but the remaining six occurred in elderly persons who had simple falls, either in the home or in that vicinity and died from ensuing complications. One child and one adult were victims of motor vehicle accidents.

### Ages at Death

The various ages at which the deaths of residents of the Rural District occurred in 1954 were as shown in the table below.

Age at Death					Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
1 and under 5	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
5 and under 15	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
15 and under 25	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
25 and under 45	...	...	...	...	6	4	10
45 and under 65	...	...	...	...	33	28	61
65 and under 75	...	...	...	...	37	31	68
75 and upwards	...	...	...	...	57	70	127
Totals					135	139	274

The deaths of persons aged 65 and upwards accounted for 71.2 per cent. of all deaths, while the deaths in the group 75 and upwards accounted for 46.4 per cent of the total. The corresponding figures for these two age groups in the preceding year were 77 and 44.5 per cent respectively. In 1954, 22.1 per cent of all deaths occurred in the age group 45 and under 65 as compared with 15 per cent in the previous year and 10.9 in 1952.

### Births

Despite the rise in the population of the District, the total of 267 births to residents of the District during 1954 was four



fewer than in the previous year and was comprised as follows :

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Total ...	...	...	132	135
Legitimate ...	...	...	126	129
Illegitimate ...	...	...	6	6

The illegitimate births were two less than in the previous year. There were three still births recorded in the District during the year, one male and two 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, was, in 1954, slightly below the national rate.

#### **Deaths of Infants Under One Year**

The number of deaths of infants under one year old was four, one male and three females, all of whom were legitimate. All of these infant deaths occurred in the first four weeks of life, one being due to prematurity, two to congenital causes, and the fourth to broncho-pneumonia.



**TABLE I**  
Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1954 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, 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	17.5	8	45.4	191	12.8	†	11.6	84
1945	15,240	264	17.3	16.1	14	46	220	14.4	†	11.4	44
1946	16,830	317	18.8	19.2	16	42.9	245	14.6	†	11.5	72
1947	17,480	380	21.1	20.6	10	41.4	255	14.5	†	12.0	125
1948	18,550	330	17.8	17.9	5	33.9	218	11.8	†	10.8	112
1949	18,700	323	17.3	16.7	4	32.4	234	12.5	9.6	11.7	89
1950	19,900	261	13.7*(15.1)	15.8	9	29.6	255	13.4	10.3	11.6	6
1951	19,010	241	12.7*(13.8)	15.5	5	29.7	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
1954	20,150	267	13.3*(14.6)	15.4‡	4	25.5‡	274	13.6	9.7	11.3‡	—7

†Provisional.

‡No Area Comparability Factor available for these years.

\*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.



TABLE II

## Causes of Death of Residents 1954

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 ... ..	2	1	3
Tuberculosis, Other ... ..	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease ... ..	0	1	1
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	4	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	12	0	12
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ... ..	0	5	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ... ..	0	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ... ..	7	13	20
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ... ..	1	1	2
Diabetes ... ..	1	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	16	14	30
Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..	25	25	50
Hypertension with heart disease ...	4	5	9
Other heart disease ... ..	13	21	34
Other circulatory disease ... ..	7	12	19
Influenza ... ..	0	0	0
Pneumonia ... ..	8	8	16
Bronchitis ... ..	10	5	15
Other diseases of Respiratory System	1	2	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	3	1	4
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	0	4	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	5	0	5
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations ... ..	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	9	20
Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	1	1	2
All other accidents ... ..	4	4	8
Suicide ... ..	1	0	1
Homicide and operations of War ...	0	0	0
Totals	135	139	274



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

### Public Health Officers

The officers of the health department during 1954 are shown on page 1 of this report.

The post of the Medical Officer of Health for the District is a combined one. By agreement with the Essex County Council the duties are apportioned as one-fifth of full-time as Medical Officer of Health and four-fifths as Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer for South-East Essex.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector in addition to the statutory and routine duties of his office, is also the officer responsible for the Council's Public Cleansing Services, for their duties under the Petroleum Acts and for the fire provisions of the Factories Acts.

In the course of the past few years there has poured forth a continuing stream of minor legislation and the administration of quite a few of these enactments has fallen to the staff of the Health Department. The Protection of Birds Act 1954, is the latest addition in this series.

### 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 those listed above, the Rural District Council is represented on the following committees or bodies which are concerned, directly or indirectly with public health matters :  
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 are also undertaken 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.

Dental services for school children and mothers and young children are provided at the County Council's Health Services Clinics at Rochford and Rayleigh.

The County Council had begun the construction of a new Health Services Clinic at Great Wakering by the end of the year and it is anticipated that this will come into service in the autumn of 1955.

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

There has been no change in the hospital services available to residents of the District.



## Public Health Laboratory Services

The bacteriological examination of water supplies, milk, ice cream and for purposes of food hygiene generally continued to be undertaken as in previous years, by the Medical Director of the Westcliff Laboratory, Public Health Laboratory Services.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS 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 16 new cases were notified among residents of the District, and 10 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 — 5 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10 ... ..	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
10 — 15 ... ..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15 — 20 ... ..	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
20 — 25 ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 — 35 ... ..	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
35 — 45 ... ..	1	2	1	1	1	1	—	—
45 — 55 ... ..	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 — 65 ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	6	3	1	6	8	2	—	—

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



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

At the end of the year there were 111 names on the Tuberculosis Register as compared with 110 at 1st January, 1954. These cases were classified as follows :

	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1st January, 1954	59	42	3	6
31st December, 1954	56	39	4	12

### **Poliomyelitis**

There was one case of poliomyelitis, in the non-paralytic form, in a school child in 1954. The onset in this case was in early October. It was not possible to trace any contact between the case and any other cases or contacts in neighbouring areas. Although the patient had many contacts among children in the vicinity no further cases occurred. These contacts were kept to house and garden quarantine for three weeks.

### **Infective Hepatitis**

For the past two years this disease has been prevalent in the District, having then re-appeared after an interval of several years. Whereas in 1953 the disease was virtually confined to Canewdon parish, in 1954 four cases occurred in Rochford and its vicinity in the first quarter of the year. Thereafter no further cases were notified until late July and August, and these were from the Hockley and Hawkwell areas, and later a few cases occurred, by extension, in Rochford parish.

In regard to the four cases notified in Paglesham, these were all members of the same family and had no contact with any of the other cases in the District. The dates of onset in all cases were within the space of one week. All had been contacts of visitors from another part of Essex to their household, and it subsequently transpired that these visitors had developed the disease shortly after taking their departure from Paglesham.

Apart from the Paglesham cases there were three other instances of multiple cases in affected households, but by reason of the widely spaced dates of onset it appeared that one member of the family had infected another in all instances.



### **Scarlet Fever**

All but three of the twenty notified cases of scarlet fever occurred in the first four months of the year, whereas thirty cases out of a total of thirty-three in 1953 occurred in the last quarter. The cases were uniformly distributed over the area and were virtually confined to school children. All cases were mild in character.

### **Whooping Cough**

In 1953 the Essex County Council made available free immunisation against whooping cough either at their child welfare clinics or through the medium of those general practitioners willing to co-operate in the scheme. Only a plain suspension vaccine is employed.

Of the 70 cases of whooping cough notified in 1954, all except three had their onset in the period January to April, and the maximum incidence was in Rochford and Hockley. Children of school age were those most affected.

### **Dysentery**

One notified case of dysentery was not confirmed bacteriologically, the others were all Sonne dysentery. One group of four cases occurred in April in hospital and another group of three also occurred in hospital in July.

### **Food Poisoning**

There were three sporadic cases of salmonella infection in patients in hospital notified during the year.

### **Diphtheria**

The District continued to enjoy an immunity from diphtheria throughout the year. This fortunate position can only be maintained if parents of young children will continue to take advantage of the facilities for immunisation against diphtheria which are available to them at the clinics in the District or from the family doctor.







Table Shewing Local Distribution of Cases of Notifiable Disease (Other than Tuberculosis) During 1954.

PARISH or part of Parish	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	Meningococcal Infection	Dysentery	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Food Poisoning	Erysipelas	Infective Hepatitis	Malaria	Total
Ashington	3	8						1			1		13
Barling		3											3
Canewdon	1	3						1					5
Foulness													
Hawkwell		2									6		8
Hockley	7	25	4			1	1				2	1*	41
Paglesham													4
Rochford	6	27	1	1	1	7	74	7	3	1	4		135
Stambridge								1			7		1
Sutton													
Great Wakering	3	2	1										6
TOTAL	20	70	6	1	1	8	75	10	3	1	20	1	216

\* Contracted abroad.



## HOUSING

In accordance with the instructions contained in Ministry of Health Circular 28/54 of 15th December, 1954, the following table has been compiled to give the required information for the year 1954 regarding certain aspects of the housing situation in the Rochford Rural District, in accordance with Article 31 of the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.

(1) The number of houses which, on inspection, were considered to be unfit for human habitation	62
(2) The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ... ..	19
(3) The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders ... (a)5 (b)4	
(4) The number of notices served requiring the execution of works, 5 (formal) and 62 (informal)	67
(5) The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ... ..	5
(6) The number of closing or demolition orders made	3
(7) The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section (3) of section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	—
(8) The number of houses demolished ... ..	13

### New Buildings

The lifting of the restriction on private building has had a marked effect on the number of new houses built in the District. In 1954 there were 318 new houses completed for private owners, compared with 184 in 1953 and 35 in 1952. It is to be noted that the vast majority of these new houses are being occupied by newcomers to the District. Also in 1954 the Council built 22 new houses, including 16 two-bedroomed flats in Rochford parish.

The Council had an additional 32 new houses under construction at the end of 1954, all of which it is anticipated will have been completed by the end of 1955. The rate of private



development was, if anything, on the increase at the end of the year.

### 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 1954.

Parish	Houses		Bungalows		Flats	Totals
	3 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	
Ashingdon ...	36	—	—	—	—	36
Barling Magna	24	—	—	—	—	24
Canewdon ...	49	—	6	—	—	55
Foulness ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hawkwell ...	26	—	—	—	—	26
Hockley ...	10	—	1	—	—	11
Paglesham ...	12	—	—	—	—	12
Rochford ...	330	28	30	34	16	438
Stambridge ...	38	12	—	—	—	50
Sutton ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Wakering	148	12	18	22	—	200
Totals	673	52	55	56	16	852

### Housing Repairs and Improvements

Under the Housing Act, 1949, fifteen applications for improvement grants in respect of twenty-five dwellings, were approved by the Council during the year.

### Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

With the passage into law of the above Act on 30th August, 1954 it was anticipated that many applications would be received from occupiers of rented dwellings for certificates against an owner's notice of rent increase. To the end of the year no such applications had been received. It is doubtful if any owners have so far taken advantage of Section 23 of this Act, whereby they are permitted to ask for increased rents on the grounds of expenditure incurred in repairs.

The new Act has also imposed a duty on local authorities to submit their proposals for dealing with slum clearance and unfit houses in their districts to the Minister of Housing and Local



Government by 30th August, 1955. As the Housing Survey of the District carried out in 1946/47 was only of a preliminary nature and many changes have taken place in the meantime, a considerable amount of re-inspection work will be necessary on the part of the Council's staff in order to furnish the necessary information, for the Council's consideration by the appropriate time.

## 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 1954 no new major water mains were laid in the District but various small lengths, totalling 2 miles, 1,315 yards were laid to serve the several new housing estates then being developed. There were 261 new connections made to the water mains in the District during the year, of which 24 were made to existing properties. The total length of the water mains in the District at the end of 1954, was 94 miles 1,434 yards.

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 in supply taken on the 30th July, 1954 from the Southend Waterworks Company's mains is set out on page 22.

There was no instance of any 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 18 shows, for each of the eleven parishes of the Rochford Rural District, the number of houses therein and the estimated population served by the main water supplies at the end of the year 1954.

From the table it will be noted that 96.8 per cent of all houses in the Rochford Rural District have their own piped main water



supply, while a further 1.16 per cent obtain main water from standpipes 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 99.06 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.

### Shallow Well Supplies

There was a further decrease during 1954, in the number of shallow wells in the District which were still being used for domestic supplies. Apart from a few houses, beyond the ends of the water mains, which are dependent 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	...	...	...	3
Barling Magna	...	...	10	Canewdon	...	...	...	1
Stambridge	...	...	8	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 to serve their properties.

### WATER ANALYSIS

Copy of a report by Counties Public Health Laboratories on a sample of water taken from mains of the Southend Waterworks Company, 30th July, 1954.

#### Chemical results in parts per Million

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear and Bright
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	Nil
Colour	...	...	...	...	12
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Reaction, pH	...	...	...	...	8.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	Absent
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	...	450
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	300
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	...	...	...	54
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	15



Hardness :	Total	...	...	125
	Carbonate	...	...	15
	Non-carbonate	...	...	110
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	3.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.007
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.091
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	1.0
Residual Chlorine (at time of sampling)	Absent			
Metals :	...	...	...	Absent

### Bacteriological Results

No. of Colonies developing on  
Agar :

1 day at 37°C.	0 per ml.
2 days at 37°C.	0 per ml.
3 days at 20°C.	1 per ml.

	<i>Present</i> <i>in</i>	<i>Absent</i> <i>from</i>	<i>Probable</i> <i>number</i>
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes	—	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Reaction	—	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1)	—	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
C1. welchii Reaction	—	100 ml.	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, faintly alkaline in reaction and free from metals. The hardness of the water and its content of mineral and saline constituents are very moderate. It is of satisfactory organic quality and it conforms to the highest standard of bacterial purity.

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

Signed : ROY C. HOATHER,

11th August, 1954

*The Counties Public Health Laboratories.*



# MAIN WATER SUPPLIES

Houses and Population in Each Parish on Main Supply, 1954.

Parish	Acreage	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 Farnbridge)	2,503	442	1,326	403	1,209	4 + 10*	12 + 25
Barling Magna (including Little Wakering)	2,747	311	933	289	867	9	27
Canewdon ...	6,845	265	795	251	753	6	18
Foulness†	7,235	109	327	109	327	—	—
Great Wakering ...	3,314	925	2,775	905	2,715	—	—
Hawkwell ...	1,408	1,041	3,123	1,035	3,105	5 + 6*	15 + 18
Hockley (including Hullbridge)	3,631	1,624	4,883	1,601	4,803	13 + 3*	39 + 9
Paglesham ...	1,687	114	342	80	240	6	18
Rochford ...	2,988	1,755	5,277	1,711	5,133	27	81
Stambridge...	2,202	157	471	149	447	—	—
Sutton ...	1,520	66	198	64	192	—	—
	36,030	6,809	20,450	6,597	19,791	70 + 19*	210 + 52

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

†War Department Mains.



## Sewerage

Main sewers were laid in Hawkwell Park Drive (West) and Golden Cross Road, Ashingdon during the year. In the case of these two roads the Council undertook the work as a part of their general scheme for sewage extensions in the District, instead of invoking the cumbersome procedure of the Private Streets Works Act.

The continuing private development in the District required the laying of considerable new lengths of sewer during the year. The total length laid to serve the several sites was 1,682 yards, 1,253 yards of which were in the parish of Hockley, 268 in Hawkwell and 161 in Rochford parish.

Details of the new connections made to the sewers in 1954 were as follows :—

<i>Parish</i>						<i>No. of Connections</i>
(a) To existing dwellings :						
Ashingdon	...	...	...	...	...	19
Hawkwell	...	...	...	...	...	45
Hockley	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rochford	...	...	...	...	...	7
(b) To new dwellings :						
Great Wakering	...	...	...	...	...	6
Hawkwell	...	...	...	...	...	25
Hockley	...	...	...	...	...	161
Rochford	...	...	...	...	...	47

As to the Council's further proposals for sewer extensions, the Hullbridge No. 1 Sewage Scheme was put out to tender towards the end of the year, but as the commencement of the work is dependent, inter alia, on alterations being made to the Rayleigh U.D.C.'s Disposal Works, no further progress had been achieved by the end of the year. Among the Council's other intended sewer extensions is that for Canewdon, which scheme was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and subsequently approved in principle. Schemes are also being prepared for Barling Magna and Fountain Lane and Folly Lane, Hockley, and it is anticipated that these, if approved, will be undertaken in 1956/57.



Whilst it may appear that some progress is being made towards extending the sewers to the built up parts of the District it is unfortunately the case that the built up areas are themselves extending at an almost equal rate. In 1954 the new main sewers laid will serve 118 existing houses but at the same time no fewer than 101 houses built in that year have been erected on sites where no sewer is available, or is likely to be available for some years to come. As in some instances, this new housing development has been of urban density and cesspools have been the only possible alternative, the conditions cannot be regarded as satisfactory and many complaints have naturally been received regarding the inevitable nuisances which occur in these circumstances.

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## PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES

The continuing growth of the District throughout the year taxed the resources of the service. In the course of 1954, a further 340 new houses were added to the number of those from which refuse was already collected. It is evident that additional labour and transport will be required in 1955.

It was not possible for the Council to make any progress towards acquiring a refuse tip of their own during the year and the previous arrangements continued whereby refuse is deposited at a brickfield in Hawkwell or a sandpit in Rochford.

Despite some progress being made with the laying of new sewers in the District only three houses could be eliminated from the pail closet collection during the year.

The increasing demand for waste paper has resulted in improved financial returns to the Council from their salvage collection. During the year salvage collected was as follows :—

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Waste Paper ...	109	—	3	—
Other Salvage ...	5	9	3	4
Total	114	10	2	4

The amount received for this total was £781 3s. 10d., of which £409 15s. 7d. was available for the relief of rates.

The following table gives the particulars of the house refuse and pail closet collection at the end of 1954 :—

Parish	House Refuse No. of Houses Collected		Pail Closet No. of Houses Collected	
	14 day	7 day	Twice Weekly	Weekly
Ashingdon ...	221	—	39	4
Barling Magna ...	302	—	164	—
Canewdon ...	250	—	92	19
Foulness ...	107	—	—	—
Hawkwell ...	891	—	11	—
Hockley ...	1,338	—	106	16
Paglesham ...	109	—	74	—
Rochford ...	1,356	387	14	29
Stambridge...	153	—	44	—
Sutton ...	66	—	28	—
Wakering, Great ...	923	—	78	—
TOTALS	5,726	387	650	68



## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The table below shows for the year 1954 the number and nature of the inspections made by the Council's Inspectors, and the number of notices, formal and informal, served under the relevant enactments, and as a result of those inspections, except where such inspections are shown under a particular heading, e.g. Inspections of Food Premises, see page 34, Factories, page 28, Damage by Pests, page 29.

Nature of Inspection	Total Inspec- tions	Notices Served	
		Informal	Formal
Camping Sites ... ..	21	—	—
Disinfections ... ..	6	—	—
Disinfestations ... ..	3	—	—
Drainage and Cesspools ... ..	230	53	—
Drainage (Essex County Council Act, 1952) ... ..	5	—	5
Hairdressers' Byelaws ... ..	4	—	—
Heating Appliances (Fireguards Act, 1952) ... ..	2	—	—
House Refuse Removal ... ..	70	22	—
Housing and Public Health Acts ... ..	297	62	5
Houseboats ... ..	144	—	3
Infectious Disease ... ..	94	—	—
Knackers Yards ... ..	10	—	—
Licensed Premises ... ..	3	—	—
Miscellaneous ... ..	190	—	—
Moveable Dwellings ... ..	88	9	—
National Assistance Act, 1948 ... ..	9	—	—
Nuisances, Public Health Act ... ..	44	3	—
Outworkers (Factories Act, 1937) ... ..	8	—	—
Pet Animals Act, 1951 ... ..	11	2	—
Petroleum Acts ... ..	30	—	—
Rag, Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951 ... ..	1	—	—
Rehousing Enquiries ... ..	50	—	—
Schools ... ..	13	—	—
Smoke Abatement ... ..	4	—	—
Shops Act ... ..	12	—	—
Water Courses ... ..	2	2	—
Water Samples ... ..	4	—	—
Water Supplies ... ..	69	2	—
Totals	1,424	155	13



## **Shops**

In view of the staffing position and other pressing demands on the Inspector's time, it was only possible to carry out a few routine, as opposed to special, visits to shops during the year. Conditions in the premises visited were generally satisfactory.

## **Houseboats**

Following on the coming into force of Part VII of the Essex County Council Act, 1952 in 1953, and the subsequent consideration given by the Council to the conditions to be imposed on houseboats in their District, it was resolved, early in 1954, that no houseboats be permitted within the boundaries of the Rural District.

Arising from this decision, the Council served the required notices on the owners of the houseboats where these were known, otherwise the notices were served on the craft. Twenty-three craft were by this time involved, and only two of these were used for full-time habitation. In the case of each of the two latter, the period specified in the notice for removal of the craft was 31st December, 1954. In all other cases the period was three months from the date of service of the notice. Five owners appealed against the notices they had received, and one of these appeals was allowed by the justices, the others being dismissed. In the successful appeal the circumstances were that the owner also owned the land adjoining the foreshore opposite his mooring, and both the land and the craft had been very well looked after. The permission to remain was granted on a year to year basis and to that particular owner only.

At the end of the year thirteen craft still remained pending enforcement action being taken by the Council.

It is to be noted that the work involved under this heading necessitated no fewer than 144 visits on the part of the Council's Inspectors.



## 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	14	16	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	56	26	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority, (Excluding out-workers' premises)	14	9	2	—
Total	84	51	6	—

### 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) ...	2	2	—	—	—
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	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	2 (Sec. 34)	4	—	1	—
Total	6	8	—	1	—



# PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1955

	TYPE OF PROPERTY									
	Non-Agricultural									
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (including council Houses)	(3) All Other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	(5) Agri- cultural					
Number of properties in Local Authority's District ...	16	6,592	609	7,217	433					
Number of properties in- spected as a result of :										
(a) Notification ...	—	63	10	73	3					
(b) Survey under the Act	Daily	Premises treatmen	checked i ts carried	n vicinit out	y of					
(c) Otherwise ...	—	450	145	595	5					
Number of properties in- spected which were found to be infested by :	(a) (b)	(a) (b)	(a) (b)	(a) (b)	(a) (b)					
Rats (a) Major (b) Minor	16 14	— 60	— 8	16 82	— 3					
Mice (a) Major (b) Minor	— 3	— 3	— 3	— 9	— —					
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority ...	7	60	6	—	3					
Total treatments carried out —including re-treatments	33	60	6	—	3					
Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act :	—	None	—	—	—					
Number of cases in which de- fault action was taken fol- lowing the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act.	—	—	—	—	—					
Number of "Block " control schemes carried out ...	—	2	—	—	—					



### **Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites**

At the end of the year planning permission was given to establish a sixth caravan site in the District. Only one site so far, has been limited to summer occupation. As the new site was not then operating the number of caravans in permanent occupation was about the same as in the previous year.

In addition to the caravans on these sites, there were a further 31 on individual sites also licenced and in permanent occupation at the end of the year. Some of these caravans are only being occupied pending the erection by their owners of permanent housing on the site.

In the past, considerable problems have arisen in the summer months by reason of an influx of itinerant caravan dwellers to one part of the Rochford parish. Due to the Council buying a considerable number of the vacant plots on this land and to the subsequent development of some of these plots the problems should diminish, but further troubles may be anticipated as long as the major portion remains undeveloped.

### **Factories**

On the table on page 28 are shown the details of inspections undertaken by the Council's Officers at factories in the District during the year.

In 1954, three certificates for means of escape in case of fire were granted and three other factories were being dealt with. In all cases, other than the very minor ones, close co-operation is maintained with the Chief Fire Officer of the Essex County Council.

There are no outworkers employed by any of the factories in the District, but in 1954, factories elsewhere were sending work to 30 outworkers living in the District.

### **Damage by Pests Act**

The table on page 29 shows the incidence of infestations notified or otherwise brought to light during the year. The Council continued their policy of giving free treatment in the case of private dwellings. Generally all agricultural properties in the District have contracts with the County Agricultural Committee or with private firms, for this work to be undertaken for them as required. With this fact, combined with the general awareness that a free treatment is available for private dwellings, there is no need for the Council to conduct regular surveys of their District for the purpose of ascertaining infestation.



## FOOD

### Meat

The year 1954 saw the return of slaughtering to private hands after an interval of fourteen years, during all of which period the Ministry of Food had been operating the Government scheme of centralised slaughtering.

In the early part of the year Circulars M.F. 4/54 and M.F. 5/54 from the Ministry of Food had advised local authorities of the impending decontrol of meat and livestock by that Ministry. The Council thereafter considered reports made on the inspections of the six existing slaughterhouses in their district. It was discovered that five of these premises, three in Rochford and one each in Great Wakering and Foulness, would be required by their owners who would be re-entering the business of private slaughtering, in which they had been engaged in pre-war days. All five of these slaughterhouses are small and of limited capacity. None are of modern design, and four out of the five are situated in comparatively densely built up areas.

In view of the Government's declared policy of achieving a moderate concentration of slaughtering facilities within the succeeding few years, no radical alteration to the existing structures could well be asked for, but certain essential repairs to these premises were obtained where necessary.

As the nine other butchers with premises in the District had arranged to obtain their supplies of meat from wholesalers in other districts and could have, if required, the use of the slaughtering facilities at the former Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses in the Rayleigh or Benfleet Urban Districts, the question of the Council providing public slaughtering accommodation did not arise at this stage.

The arrangements for the great increase in the amount of meat inspection involved under the new regime were unnecessarily handicapped by reason of the fact that, although an Additional Sanitary Inspector who was also a qualified Meat Inspector left in the spring of the year, the Council, when appointing his successor just before decontrol had taken place, did not insist on the need for the new officer to be the holder of a Meat Inspector's certificate. An unduly heavy burden was thereby placed upon the Chief Sanitary Inspector. Despite these handicaps a com-



menably high percentage of all animals slaughtered in the district were inspected as will be shown by the table below :—

### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	567	27	75	575	1,378
Number inspected ... ..	567	27	75	552	1,368
<i>All diseases except T.B.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	65	8	—	2	16
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis ... ..	11.46	29.62	—	0.36	1.17
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	71	—	—	—	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	12.52	—	—	—	.58

The extent of the change brought about in the District by the decontrol of meat and livestock will be realised when it is known that in the previous year only 1 sheep and 19 pigs were slaughtered, while the totals shown above relate only to a six months period. Comparison with the corresponding figures for the pre-war years shows that, if the present rate of slaughtering continues, as it seems likely to do, then some ten or twelve times as many carcasses are now being inspected as compared with the years up to 1939. Some indication of the additional work which had devolved on the officers concerned is obtained by noting that there were 458 visits paid to slaughterhouses and meat premises in 1954. Meat inspection accounted for 440 of these visits, 18 were to butchers' shops and in connection with the Slaughter of Animals Act, and the remaining five were concerned with the service of informal notices.

In addition to the meat listed in the table above as being condemned, the following amounts were condemned in retail premises :—

Beef ... ..	654½ lbs.	Liver ... ..	51 lbs.
Mutton ... ..	9½ lbs	Pigs Heads ... ..	2 lbs.
Pork ... ..	38 lbs.	Chickens ... ..	3 lbs.



## Milk

A survey of the area was undertaken in the autumn of 1954, by the Area Milk Officer of the Ministry of Food with a view to specifying the Rochford Rural District, under the terms of the Food and Drugs (Milk Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act 1950, as an area within which the retail sale of milk would be restricted to the special designated milks, but, so far, no intimation as to when the declaration will be made has been received.

The Regulations made under the Pasteurised Milk Regulations and effective from 1st October 1954, requires all pasteurised milk to be put into the containers for delivery to the consumer at the premises at which it is treated and also requires an overlapping cap to be fixed over the container. The effect of this Regulation in this District has been to eliminate the custom of bottling pasteurised milk bought in bulk on the retailer's premises. This had hitherto been the practice at two retail premises.

There is now only one firm of producer-retailers of milk operating in the District, and registered as such by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In addition, there are four distributors of milk operating from two premises in the District. In each instance the milk is purchased from a licenced establishment outside the District and is already bottled when received.

The Council granted licences during 1954 to twenty-nine dealers to sell sterilised milk from premises in the District. These are mainly shops. There has been, in recent years, a steady increase in the number of shop-keepers who have taken up the sale of sterilised milk only. Other licences were granted by the Council to seven milk dealers to sell pasteurised milk and to a further five for tuberculin-tested milk. Two supplementary licences were granted to distributors whose dairies are situated elsewhere.

## Ice Cream

In 1954 the one remaining manufacturer of ice cream in the District ceased production. In this instance the cold mix method had been employed, and manufacture had been on a very limited scale. As there are now no manufacturers of ice cream, even on a small scale, in the Rural District the retail trade from shops is now limited to the sale of the pre-packed article and the only loose ice cream sold in the area is by vendors plying from motor vehicles. The latter are of course registered in the District under the Essex County Council Act, 1933.



## Other Foods

Apart from the meat condemned as unfit for human consumption, and which is listed under that heading, the following tinned foodstuffs were also similarly condemned during the year :—

Meat 28 tins ; Fish 4 tins ; Vegetables 14 tins ;  
Milk 14 tins ; Fruit 23 tins ; Soup 1 tin.

Of fresh foodstuffs 42 lbs. of fish had to be condemned.

## Clean Food Campaigns

The following list is comprised of all premises in the District engaged in the handling of food in some form or other, at the end of the year :—

Catering Premises	...	...	32
Licenced Premises...	...	...	30
General Stores	...	...	71
Confectionery Shops	...	...	19
Butchers	...	...	15
Greengrocers	...	...	9
Fishmongers	...	...	7
Bakehouses	...	...	10

There are no premises registered in the District under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, but under the Essex County Council Act 1933, which is the operative enactment in this District, 59 premises and 5 vendors from vehicles are registered for the sale of ice cream. Under the new provisions contained in the Essex County Council Act 1952, one hawker of food (shell-fish) was registered during the year. A few new lock-up shops engaged in food handling were opened during the year in Hockley parish, and the plans of all of these were examined by the Department before planning permission was granted.

The opportunity was also taken to see all applicants personally to advise them in the requirements of the Food Handling Byelaws and the Food and Drugs Act, and generally to emphasise the need for the maintenance of a high standard of Food Hygiene.

As stated above, the only registered food premises in the District are those of the ice cream vendors, and 27 visits of inspection were paid in the course of the year to these premises. Of the 21 samples of ice cream taken for subjection to the Methylene



Blue Test, the results were reported upon as follows by the Public Health Services Laboratory, Westcliff :—

Grade	I	II	III	IV
No. of Samples ...	12	7	1	1

These results are the best that have so far been obtained in any annual series.

Mainly with the object of focussing the attention of kitchen and canteen staffs on the observance of good technique, a series of swabs from crockery in use at all school canteens in the District was taken for bacteriological examination. In the main the results were satisfactory but in a few instances there was room for improvement, and the appropriate authorities were advised.

### Disposal of Condemned Food

In accordance with the recommendations contained in Ministry of Food Circular M.F. 10/54, the practice of first colouring with an approved indelible dye all meat which is condemned as unfit for human consumption, has been followed at all slaughterhouses in the District. The condemned meat after colouring is collected for industrial purposes by firms engaged in such industries.

All other condemned food is collected and disposed of by the Council.



