

**[Report 1949] / Medical Officer of Health, St Albans City & R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

St. Albans (England). City & Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1949

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ST. ALBANS CITY  
AND  
ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

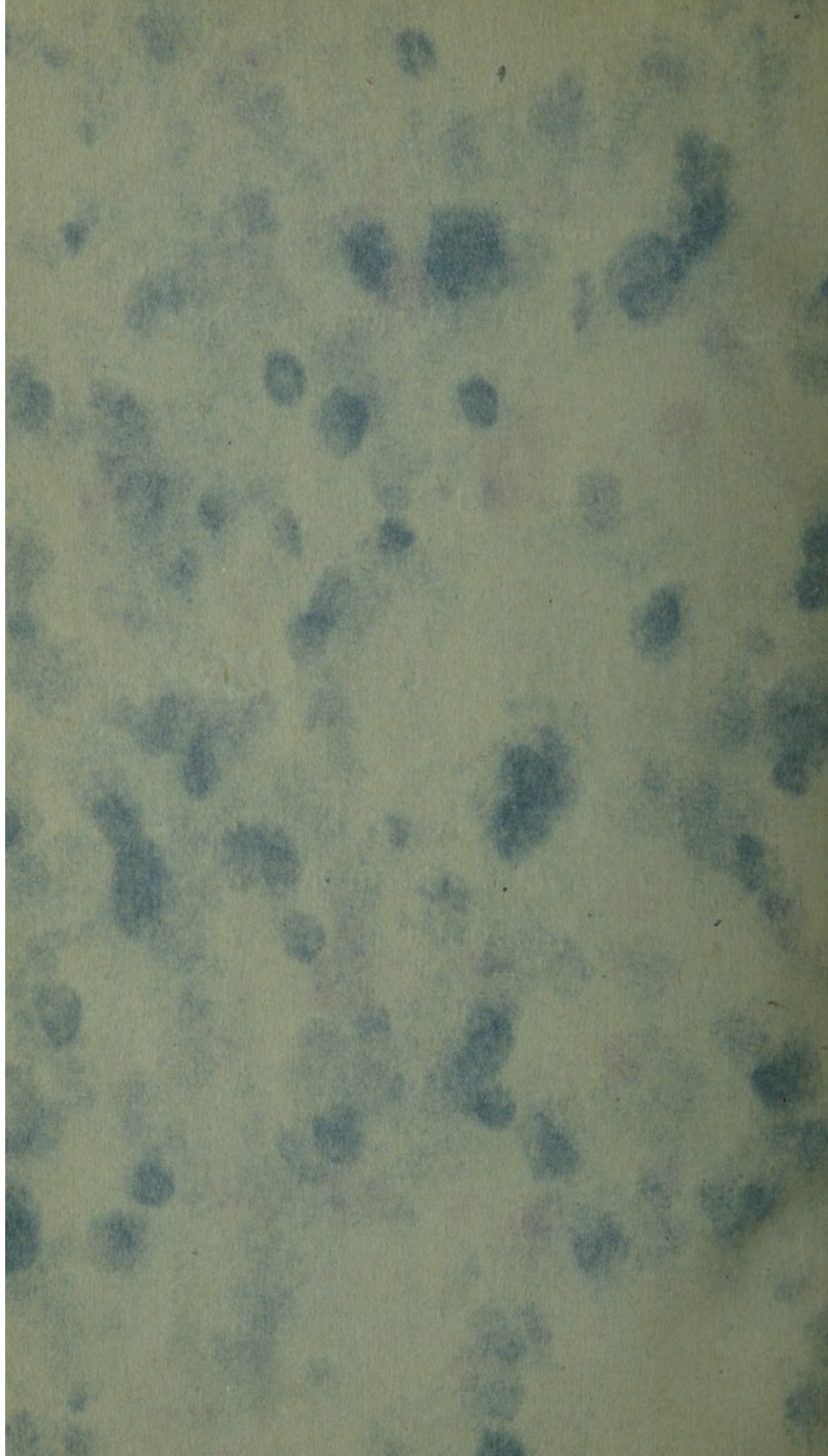
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND SANITARY INSPECTORS OF  
THE DISTRICTS

FOR THE YEAR

1949





CITY OF ST. ALBANS  
ST. ALBANS  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

CITY OF ST. ALBANS

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I.,

AND

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.,

FOR THE YEAR

1949



## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES.

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### ST. ALBANS CITY.

Councillor Miss M. Barnard (*Chairman*)  
Alderman J. Baum  
Alderman R. G. Thompson  
Councillor A. C. Brooks  
Councillor Mrs. S. E. Dunham  
Councillor The Rev. A. M. Fergusson, M.A.  
Councillor T. T. Jarman (*Vice-Chairman*)  
Councillor W. J. Lomas  
Councillor S. J. Tacchi

### ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT.

Mr. J. V. Smith (*Chairman*)  
Mrs. M. V. S. Cory-Wright (*Vice-Chairman*)  
Miss G. V. Peake  
Mrs. M. Young  
Mr. E. G. Bishop  
Mr. C. L. Daniels  
Mr. Harborough  
Mr. J. Harding  
Mr. A. J. Hopkins  
Mr. J. Pearce  
Mr. P. J. Wood  
Mr. T. Sparrow (*Ex-officio*)

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

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JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

### ST. ALBANS CITY : *Staff.*

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.  
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

C. A. BAILEY, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,  
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector.  
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

H. D. SMITH, M.S.I.A.,  
Sanitary Inspector.  
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

F. H. A. BURTON, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,  
Sanitary Inspector.  
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Miss P. M. CURRY,  
Secretary.

### ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL : *Staff.*

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,  
Senior Sanitary Inspector.  
Cleansing Superintendent.

E. J. LEWIS, M.S.I.A.,  
Sanitary Inspector.

A. G. PAINE,  
Chief Clerk.

Mrs. J. L. WILLIAMS,  
Assistant Clerk.

ARTHUR HOWE,  
Cleansing Foreman.



*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. Albans  
and the Chairman and Members of the St. Albans Rural  
District Council.*

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the City of St. Albans and the St. Albans Rural District for 1949.

In accordance with your decision this is a joint report to the two authorities. It has, however, been impossible to present a joint report of the Sanitary Inspectors. These are therefore given separately for the two districts.

In dealing with the vital statistics I have, where it appeared to be worth while, combined those for the two districts. This gives a better over-all picture than vital statistics for separate areas. In particular I would refer to the infantile death rate where, owing to the small numbers involved, the rate is apt to bump about rather violently from year to year. The combined infantile death rate per thousand live births is 16.2 per thousand—a very satisfactory rate indeed. It represents actually 19 deaths and the individual rates might vary very considerably depending on which side of a purely arbitrary boundary the child lived.

I should like to refer to the National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47, whereby the Medical Officer of Health on becoming aware of a person requiring care and assistance has to firstly report to the Public Health Committee of his area who must then, assuming they have powers to do so delegated by the Council, give notice to a hospital that they propose to appear before the local magistrates for an order removing that person to the hospital. It is, in my opinion, an unnecessarily complicated procedure. The compulsory removal of any person to hospital must be properly safeguarded to prevent abuse, but I would submit that a sufficient safeguard would be contained if the Medical Officer of Health applied direct to the magistrates, notifying the hospital authority concerned, of course, and so speed up the process considerably. On three occasions I have had to consider using Section 47 but before the necessary steps could be completed the patient had died.



It must be borne in mind that with the present appalling waiting list for admission to hospital by old or chronic cases one must use this Section very cautiously otherwise we are going to get into hospital, against their will, cases which are by no means in a worse condition than many others who are only too anxious to get in but find there are no vacant beds. Every case sent in under Section 47 automatically means that one of the others anxiously awaiting a bed is put back for an unknown period of time.

I should like again to put on record the great help and consideration I have received at all times from the County Medical Officer, Dr. Dunlop, and am more convinced than ever on the evidence of my colleagues that in Hertfordshire we have the best set up under the National Health Service Act in England.

To you, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to record my sincere thanks for all consideration and help you have at all times shown to me, and to my staff I wish to record my sincere thanks for their able and conscientious performance of their duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. SLEIGH,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*



## SECTION A.

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population ... ..	42,130	27,340
Area (in acres) ... ..	5,129	32,084
Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books :—		
Dwelling Houses ... ..	11,859	6,314
Shops with living accommodation ...	575	91
Licensed Premises with living accom- modation ... ..	88	60
Total ... ..	12,522	6,465
Rateable Value ... ..	£413,261	£176,312
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£1,640	£709

## Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	St. Albans City			St. Albans R.D.C.		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Live Births—Legitimate ...	366	364	730	194	190	384
Illegitimate ...	18	17	35	8	13	21
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the esti- mated population ... ..			18.2			14.8
Stillbirths ... ..	12	5	17	3	6	9
Deaths ... ..	238	245	483	106	117	223
Death Rate per 1,000 of the esti- mated resident population ...			11.5			8.2

## Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Deaths Stillbirths)		Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Deaths Stillbirths)	
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes ... ..	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	—	—	—	—

## Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of age.

	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate ... ..	5	4	9	6	2	8
Illegitimate ... ..	1	—	1	—	1	1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age. All Infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	13.1			22.2		
Combined Rate ... ..	16.2					



## Causes of Death.

ALL CAUSES	St. Albans City			St. Albans R.D.C.		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1 Typhoid Fever, etc. ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
2 Cerebro-spinal Fever... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
6 Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	8	4	12	3	3	6
7 Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	2	—	2	2	1	3
8 Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	2	1	3	—	1	1
9 Influenza ... ..	2	2	4	—	—	—
10 Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
11 Ac. polio-myel : and polio-enceph. ... ..	—	—	—	—	2	2
12 Ac. inf : enceph. ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
13 Cancer of buc : cav : and oesoph ; (M) uterus (F) ... ..	2	2	4	1	2	3
14 Cancer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	4	4	8	3	1	4
15 Cancer of breast ... ..	—	6	6	—	7	7
16 Cancer of all other sites ... ..	29	18	47	17	12	29
17 Diabetes ... ..	2	3	5	—	1	1
18 Intracranial vascular lesions ... ..	30	37	67	11	13	24
19 Heart diseases ... ..	66	81	147	27	40	67
20 Other diseases of circ. system ... ..	3	11	14	4	7	11
21 Bronchitis ... ..	12	11	23	9	2	11
22 Pneumonia ... ..	5	13	18	4	3	7
23 Other respiratory diseases ... ..	5	1	6	2	—	2
24 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... ..	6	1	7	—	—	—
25 Diarrhoea under 2 years ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
26 Appendicitis ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—
27 Other digestive diseases ... ..	2	8	10	1	2	3
28 Nephritis ... ..	11	8	19	2	1	3
29 Puer : and post-abortion : sepsis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
30 Other maternal causes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
31 Premature birth ... ..	1	1	2	2	1	3
32 Con : mal : birth inj : infant : diseases ... ..	5	4	9	2	1	3
33 Suicide ... ..	5	2	7	2	—	2
34 Road traffic accidents ... ..	3	4	7	2	—	2
35 Other violent causes ... ..	6	4	10	3	3	6
36 All other causes ... ..	26	18	44	9	14	23



**Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1949. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.**

	England and Wales	126 County Borough and Great Towns (including London) at 1931 Census	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
<b>Births</b>	<b>Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population</b>			
Live births ...	16.7(a)	18.7	18.0	18.5
Still births ...	0.39(a)	0.47	0.40	0.37
<b>Deaths</b>				
All Causes ...	11.7(a)	12.5	11.6	12.2
Typhoid and paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough ...	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ...	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52
Influenza ...	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ...	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia...	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59
<b>Notifications (Corrected)</b>				
Typhoid fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid fever ...	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Scarlet fever ...	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46
Whooping cough ...	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70
Diphtheria ...	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07
Erysipelas ...	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles ...	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54
Pneumonia...	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55
Acute poliomyelitis ...	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18
Acute polioencephalitis ...	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Food poisoning ...	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</b>			
All causes under 1 year of age ...	32(b)	37	30	29
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7
<b>Notifications (Corrected)</b>	<b>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births</b>			
Puerperal fever and pyrexia ...	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82

**Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.**

<i>International List No. and cause</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births</i>	<i>Rates per million women aged 15-44</i>
140. Abortion with sepsis	0.11	8
141. Abortion without sepsis ...	0.05	
147. Puerperal infections ...	0.11	
142-146, 148-150. Other maternal causes ...	0.71	

a) Rates per 1,000 total population.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

## ANALYSIS OF INFANT MORTALITY.

(Combined figures for two authorities).

Cause of Death.	AGE AT DEATH.									
	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity ... ..	7	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	7
Gastro Enteritis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Atelectasis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations ... ..	6	—	1	1	8	—	—	—	—	8
Marasmus ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. Meningitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infectious Diseases ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other Causes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
All Causes ... ..	13	—	1	1	15	1	2	—	1	19

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births ... .. 16.2

It will be noted that of the 19 deaths, 13 were under one week old. They were all due to Prematurity (7) or Congenital Malformations, conditions which at present we have little control of. It is obvious however that the solution will be on the antenatal side rather than child care.



**SECTION B.**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

**Welfare Centres and Clinics.**

Place	Address of Centre and Telephone No.	A.M. or P.M.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Brieket Wood</b>	The Social Club, Oak Avenue.	a.m.						
"		p.m.		Infant Welfare 2nd & 4th (Dr. attends 2nd) 2-4				
"	Nurses' Cottage, Mount Pleasant Lane (Garston 2183).							
<b>Colney Heath</b>	The Pavilion.	a.m.						
"		p.m.		Infant Welfare 1st & 3rd 2.30-4				
"								
Minor Ailments treated between 8.30 and 9 a.m.								
Minor Ailments—children treated in own homes or at local school								

**WELFARE CENTRES AND CLINICS—continued.**

Place	Address of Centre and Telephone No.	A.M. or P.M.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Harpden</b>	Memorial Hospital (Harpden 3696)	a.m.		Ophthalmic (1st & 3rd) 9.30-12	Minor Ailment 9-1 (Dr. attends)	Speech Therapy 9.30-12.30		Orthopaedic (once monthly Surgeon attends).
			Ante-Natal 2-4		Infant Welfare 1.45-4.30			
<b>London Colney</b>	Primary School, King's Head Lane.	a.m.					Minor Ailment 9.30-12 Dr. attends (2nd & 4th)	
				Infant Welfare (1st & 3rd) 1.45-4.30				



## WELFARE CENTRES AND CLINICS—continued.

Place	Address of Centre and Telephone No.	A.M. or P.M.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Redbourn	Congregational Hall	a.m.						
		p.m.		Infant Welfare (3rd & 4th) 2.30-4.30				
"	18 Bettespol Meadows (Nurse's residence, Redbourn 251)		Minor Ailments treated 8.15—8.30 and 6.15—6.45.					
St. Albans	The Village Hall, Park Street.	a.m.						
		p.m.	Infant Welfare (2nd & 4th) 1.30-4.0					
"	St. Luke's Hall, Camp Road.	a.m.						
		p.m.					Infant Weighing (2nd & 4th) 2.0-4.0	

## WELFARE CENTRES AND CLINICS—continued.

Place	Address of Centre and Telephone No.	A.M. or P.M.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
St. Albans (continued)	Wellington Court, Bricket Road (St. Albans 4926).	a.m.	Immunisa- tion and Min or Ailments 9-11 Doctor attends 9.30	Dental 9.30-12.30  Orthoptic 10.0-12.30  Ophthalmic 10.0-12	Dental 9.30-12.30  Ante-Natal 9.30-11.30  Speech 9.30-12.30	Dental 9.30-12.30  Speech 9.30-12.30	Orthoptic 9.30-12.30  Dental 9.30-12.30	Dental 9.30-12
		p.m.	Speech 1.30-4.30  Dental 2.0-5	Dental 2.0-5  Infant Welfare No Doctor Foods Issued 1.30-4 Speech 1.30-4.30 Ophthalmic 1.30-3.30 (1st, 3rd & 5th week)	Infant Welfare. No Foods Issued 1.30-4  Dental 2.0-5 Speech 1.30-4.30	Dental 2.0-5  Orthoptic 2.30-4.30  Speech 1.30-4.30	Infant Welfare 1.30-4  Orthoptic 2.30-4.30	
"	Bricket House, Bricket Road. (St. Albans 5431).	a.m.	Orthopaedic		Orthopaedic		Orthopaedic	
		p.m.	Orthopaedic		Orthopaedic (Surgeon attends 3rd)		Orthopaedic (Surgeon attends 2nd)	



## WELFARE CENTRES AND CLINICS—continued.

Place	Address of Centre and Telephone No.	A.M. or P.M.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
St. Albans (continued)	Osterhills Hospital, Normandy Road (St. Albans 2211)	a.m.			Post-Natal 11.0			
		p.m.		V.D. (women) 5.0-7	V.D. (men) 2.0-4		V.D. (women) 2.0-4 Men 5.0-7	
"	Chest Clinic, Osterhills Hospital.	a.m.		Children 11.0				
		p.m.	St. Albans Patients 2.0					
"	The Clinic, Hill End (St. Albans 5555)	a.m.	Child Guidance	Child Guidance	Child Guidance	Child Guidance	Child Guidance	
		p.m.	Child Guidance	Child Guidance	Child Guidance	Child Guidance	Child Guidance	
"	Fifield House, Manor Road, Lemford Road (St. Albans 266).		Ophthalmic cases referred to Doctor at his surgery between 9 and 10 a.m. or 6 and 7 p.m., except Tuesday evenings and alternate Saturday evenings. (Cases which cannot be received at his consulting rooms can be seen at Wellington Court Ophthalmic Clinic.					
"	St. Albans & Mid Herts Hospital, Verulam Road.	a.m.				Child Guidance		
		p.m.						



WELFARE CENTRES AND CLINICS—continued.

15

Place	Address of Centre and Telephone No.	A.M. or P.M.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sandridge</b>	The Parish Hall, Sandridge.	a.m.						
		p.m.		Infant Weighing (2nd & 4th) 2.30-3.30				
	2 Reynold's Crescent, (Nurse's residence) Sandridge.		Minor Ailments treated 4—5 p.m. or in children's own homes, if necessary.					
<b>Shenley</b>			Minor Ailments treated at school. Nurse's address—"Elsyna," Main Road, London Colney. (Telephone—London Colney 3189).					
<b>Wheathampstead</b>	Inez Cottage, Luton Road (Nurse's Residence) Wheathampstead 3123.		Minor Ailments treated 8.30—9 a.m.					
	Mead Hall, East Lane.	a.m.						
		p.m.					Talks to Mothers (1st week) 3 Infant Welfare (2nd & 4th week) 2.30-4. Dr. attends 3 Ante-Natal (4th week) combined with above	



### **National Health Service Act.**

The arrangements made by the Hertfordshire County Council for the implementation of this Act, and especially the scheme of Divisional Medical Officers, has, in my opinion, proved a very great success. The figures for maternal and infantile mortality certainly bear this out and I have no hesitation in saying that from enquiries of my colleagues in other parts of the country the Hertfordshire scheme is the best in England. The taking away of maternity and child welfare, and school medical services, from the small local authorities has caused many heart burnings, but the Act is an act and Hertfordshire have applied that Act in the way that secures the greatest possible benefit to all. The appointment of your Medical Officer of Health as Divisional Medical Officer is intended to give you as close a link as is possible under the Act with the "personal services" provided by the "Local Health Authority," i.e., the County Council, and I am at all times only too pleased to answer questions on such County Health Services as you may wish to ask.

You, the members of the two councils, are obviously in close touch with the people for whom these services are provided and incidentally paid for. If you hear of something going apparently wrong please tell me, either in Committee or elsewhere and I shall do my utmost to deal with the complaint.

Some of the other aspects are, however, not quite so satisfactory. The separation of the Infectious Diseases Hospital from the Medical Officer of Health has undoubtedly had a most unfortunate effect. The Medical Officer of Health still remains the person in charge of the control of Infectious Diseases, but he has no control over where most of the cases are—that is, the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The outbreak of Smallpox in the early part of 1950 in Glasgow where the hospital in which the first case arose was, as elsewhere, not under the control of the Medical Officer of Health, emphasises this very serious defect in the National Health Service Act.

Circular RHB(50)75 of the Ministry of Health appears to me to be no more than a pious hope that things will improve.

I have received every possible co-operation from Dr. Stammers, the Medical Officer, and Miss Gordon, the matron of the hospital, and this has mitigated the disadvantage to a very large extent, but Miss Gordon has gone and what the future may hold I do not know.



### **Ambulance Service.**

This, under the Act, comes under the Hertfordshire County Council. The calls on the service have remained very high—three or four times what they were before the war—possibly because it is free.

A further complication arises owing to the fact that Hill End Hospital is a branch of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. Now St. Bartholomew's Hospital is the main hospital for the North East Metropolitan Division, stretching right up to Norwich and beyond. Many cases from the Eastern counties who come in the first instance to St. Bartholomews in London, are transferred to Hill End and then have to be taken home by ambulance to the Eastern counties. It is the duty of the authority in whose area the patient actually is at the time of requiring an ambulance, to provide that ambulance. We have, therefore, to provide many journeys to Norwich and that district.

It has always appeared to me to be an unfair provision of the Act requiring local health authorities to provide the ambulance service. I regard ambulances as an essential part of the hospital service, and in my opinion they should come under the Hospital Board who could arrange for the transfers between hospitals in their areas on a much more economical and certainly a much fairer basis than that Hertfordshire, for instance, should have to pay for the transport of Norfolk cases from Hill End to their homes. Each case requiring an ambulance to travel for more than fifty miles from St. Albans requires my personal consent and this consent is by no means freely given. I have had requests for an ambulance to take a case to Largs in Scotland, and Holyhead in Wales to journey on to Ireland, but we are able to make arrangements for such long distance cases to be taken to a London terminal railway station, a compartment booked, and an ambulance to meet them at the other end of their journey. In most cases for long distance journeys this is by far the most satisfactory scheme.



*I am indebted to Divisional Officer R. Hughes for the following information :—*

### **General Organisation.**

The Service continues to operate on the lines described in the last Annual Report, though improvements in administration and control have made it possible to deal with a very large increase in calls without any increase in Staff. The improvements include the setting up of a "key" ambulance system intended to provide ambulances for emergency cases without undue delay even when the Brigade is under very heavy pressure of work. For this purpose, "Key" ambulances are kept at St. Albans, Watford, East Barnet and Hemel Hempstead in the West Division of the County and these vehicles are not allowed to leave their stations except for emergency cases or accidents.

### **Vehicles.**

The complement of vehicles is now as follows :—

- 1 Austin "Welfarer" Ambulance'
- 1 Austin Ambulance (ex St. Albans City Ambulance Service).
- 1 Austin War Dept. Ambulance rebuilt for civilian use.
- 1 Austin A.40 Sitting Case Car.
- 1 Ford Prefect Sitting Case Car.

An additional Austin Ambulance is held at St. Albans as a reserve ambulance for all stations in the Division.

### **Personnel.**

Whilst the number of staff has remained unaltered, new duty rotas are now operated which secure the greatest possible availability of personnel at the time of peak demand for transport ; and at the same time reduce the number of men on duty during slack periods (e.g., on Sundays and after 11 p.m. at night). All men have to qualify for the Certificate of the St. John Ambulance Association and receive training (partly by means of a film) in emergency maternity work. They are encouraged also to take the examinations of the Institute of Certified Ambulance Personnel.

### **Calls.**

The following schedule shows weekly statistics of calls for the whole of 1949. It will be remembered that the total number of calls received during the ten months covered by the last report was 2,480, so the calls have this year increased at the rate of 53 per cent.



ST. ALBANS		Accidents	Sudden Illness	Removals	Removals Maternity	Totals
January	8th	10	8	41	5	64
	15th	9	3	40	10	62
	22nd	5	5	27	5	42
	29th	6	3	32	10	51
February	6th	6	4	32	10	52
	13th	10	8	48	6	72
	20th	1	9	46	11	67
	27th	3	2	44	7	56
March	6th	4	4	45	6	59
	13th	3	5	43	12	63
	20th	7	2	38	12	59
	27th	7	5	66	5	83
April	2nd	4	2	44	9	59
	10th	4	3	65	15	87
	17th	8	5	42	12	67
	24th	7	1	57	10	75
May	1st	5	4	55	8	72
	8th	8	2	57	9	76
	15th	7	4	69	11	91
	22nd	9	9	68	15	101
June	29th	9	2	73	6	90
	5th	8	4	63	10	85
	12th	7	2	49	7	65
	19th	4	5	57	16	82
July	26th	6	3	60	9	78
	3rd	9	4	51	8	72
	10th	1	2	56	4	63
	17th	7	5	57	7	76
August	24th	6	4	67	5	82
	31st	12	3	63	10	88
	7th	7	2	50	6	65
	14th	5	1	82	7	95
September	21st	10	2	80	17	109
	28th	9	2	81	14	106
	4th	6	4	86	5	101
	11th	8	7	82	7	104
October	18th	14	5	81	11	111
	25th	4	5	99	7	115
	1st	7	2	99	8	116
	8th	8	5	103	10	126
November	15th	15	6	86	7	114
	22nd	9	4	92	14	119
	29th	15	6	75	5	101
	5th	8	1	94	9	112
December	12th	7	4	128	8	147
	19th	10	4	92	5	111
	26th	5	3	101	11	120
	3rd	10	3	88	7	108
	10th	5	4	75	3	87
	17th	9	4	96	6	115
	24th	13	2	100	9	124
	31st	4	5	73	10	92
		380	203	3,498	456	5,537



### Hospitals.

*I am indebted to F. Stanford, Esq., Secretary, Mid Herts Group Hospital Management Committee for the following information :—*

The allocation of beds is as follows :—

				Oster- hills Unit	Sisters' Unit	Mid Herts Unit	Bricket House
General	...	...	...	65	—	95	14
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	60	—	—	—
Fever...	...	...	...	—	72	—	—
Sick Children	...	...	...	25	—	15	—
Tuberculosis...	...	...	...	—	22	—	—
Mental	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Maternity	...	...	...	44	—	—	8
Others	...	...	...	6	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	...	*200	94	110	22

\*In addition to these beds, accommodation is also provided for 179 aged and infirm persons for and on behalf of the Hertfordshire County Council.

I have been elected a member of the St. Albans Area Medical Advisory Committee of the Mid Herts Group Hospital Management Committee.

### School Medical Service.

The health of the school children in the area has been very good indeed and the general standard of nutrition considerably higher than I have noticed in other parts of the country where I had the honour to serve. The area has been fortunate in having such a large proportion of new up-to-date schools built shortly before the war. There are a few schools, but they are comparatively few, which fall very far short of modern standards, but it is expected that these will be replaced within a measurable period of time.

All school medical record cards are now kept at the central office, and after explaining the need for this to the head teachers I found them only too willing to agree to this proposal.



### **Nursing in the Home.**

The District Nursing Sisters are available for all cases of domiciliary nursing which includes Midwifery and General Nursing and in all cases where there is illness in the home where a request is made personally or at the request of the Doctor in attendance.

All notifications of measles and whooping cough ; and diseases where skilled nursing is particularly necessary are passed on at once to the District Nurses so that if she has not already been called in they can offer her services.

### **Domestic Help Service.**

This service is administered by the Herts County Council and provides domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age, within the meaning of the Education Act, 1944.

### **Day Nurseries.**

At the beginning of the year there were four Day Nurseries in St. Albans Division ; two in the City of St. Albans, one in Redbourn in the Rural District and one in Elstree. The Nursery at Redbourn in the Rural District did not appear to fulfil any marked need and early in 1950 it was closed.

The other three, however, are very full and have long waiting lists ; so much so that the County Council had to make a definite priority scheme for admission of children to Day Nurseries. This scheme, in so far as it affects St. Albans Division, is as follows :—

**PRIORITY NO. 1.** Children of mothers who are the sole support of the family, e.g., illegitimate children, widows, or where the husband is more or less permanently disabled.

**PRIORITY NO. 2.** Where the income of the husband is below a certain scale laid down by the County Council. This scale is rather stringent but it has to be when it is borne in mind that for the three Nurseries at present in the Division it is barely possible to accommodate all the children falling in priority groups 1 and 2. However hard it may appear to be to a mother whose husband is just earning more than the scale, it cannot be denied that those who are under the scale require to go out to work more than those who are above and there are no more places available.



## SECTION C.

**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.****Water Supplies.**

In the City the water supply has been at all times very satisfactory. Even in the very dry summer no serious curtailment had to be considered and the water was at all times of a very high quality. Certain parts of the Rural District, on the other hand, suffered severely. Wells ran dry and water had to be carted—a very expensive proceeding. Arrangements have, however, been made for most of these areas to be supplied with piped water but considerable delay has occurred owing to the shortage of the necessary pipes. The cost of supplying water to outlying colonies of two or three houses is very high and even with the assistance provided by the government imposes a rather heavy rate on the Rural District. Yet the provision of wholesome drinking water is probably the first essential of any Public Health scheme.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**

Drainage and sewerage presents still a very great problem especially in the Rural District. The main Colne Valley sewer is making substantial progress and the local authorities are doing all that is possible to drain and sewer as much of their area as can be connected to the main sewer when it arrives.

Many parts of the Rural District are very flat and several very definite nuisances have arisen through lack of drainage in this area. Every effort has been made during the year to keep the Park Street sewerage works, belonging to the City, in as high a state of efficiency as possible, but it is known to be grossly overloaded and the only real cure is connection to the main Colne Valley sewer. The fact that it is overloaded has made me very chary of insisting on additional properties being coupled up to the main drainage, but this will have to be tackled whenever we can be assured that the sewage can be effectively dealt with—that is when the main sewer becomes available.

**Disposal of Household Refuse.**

It is understood that proposals are in being for the production of gravel for building purposes from an area of about ten thousand acres in the county, much of it within the Rural District. This opens up a very difficult problem. We certainly cannot afford to lay derelict ten thousand acres in the county, but how to bring them back to proper use without affecting other installations, in particular the water supply, is by no means easy.

Controlled tipping on a large scale, and by controlled tipping I mean controlled tipping, which can in practice only be carried out by a large contractor with the necessary machinery at his disposal would appear to be the most satisfactory solution. The water companies in the area are not unnaturally concerned over the tipping of household refuse in gravel pits with no impervious layer



between the refuse and the underground water which is their main source of supply. The danger of disease germs thereby getting into the water is not by any means the whole problem. As you are aware many things go into household refuse and it may well be that some poisons, metallic or otherwise, could get into the water. These are much more difficult to eliminate than bacteriological contamination.

On the other hand, if these gravel pits are simply left they will be used for the uncontrolled disposal of all sorts of things and this might well prove to be more dangerous to the water than properly controlled tipping under proper supervision. The whole matter is engaging the earnest attention of the higher authorities and a final decision may take some time.

Personally I have had considerable experience of controlled tips situated within half a mile of a main pumping station deriving its water from the chalk—chalk which is known to be badly fissured—but I have had no evidence of any danger to the water from these tips, either bacteriologically or chemically.

#### **Disposal of Household Refuse—Pigbins.**

The use of pig bins whereby material suitable for conversion into pig food is put in these bins which are placed over a wide area of the City had led to very many serious, and I think justified, complaints. Every endeavour has been made by the City Surveyor to mitigate the nuisance but the fact remains that these pig bins are insanitary and in my opinion a nuisance.

The alternative of having small bins, one to each household, would be expensive, though it would probably result in a greater collection, but with the present difficulty in obtaining workmen to deal with the ordinary refuse I am convinced it would be quite impossible to operate any such system in St. Albans.

The City Council have, in fact, made representations to the Ministry that the obligation to collect pig swill should be cancelled but I very much regret to have to report that this very reasonable request has been turned down.

#### **Swimming Baths.**

The public swimming baths in the area—one in the City and two in the Rural District—have at all times been well maintained. Continuous filtration and chlorination is carried out at all three and the bacteriological results which are checked frequently throughout the summer, have proved very satisfactory.

#### **Mortuary.**

The following bodies were removed to the mortuary :—

Adult—Males	...	...	...	40
„ Females	...	...	...	31
Children—Males	...	...	...	2
„ Females	...	...	...	1
No. of Post Mortems	...	...	...	74



**SECTION D.****HOUSING.**

Rehousing is still the greatest problem confronting the two Councils. Both use a points scheme and in addition all certificates from medical practitioners requesting priority for any of their patients are submitted to me as Medical Officer of Health. I have the power to allocate additional points on medical grounds without disclosing my reasons for doing so. In extreme cases I also have the power of giving absolute priority but this power I am very unwilling to use as, of course, if this power were abused it would ruin the whole points scheme with which I am completely in favour.

The duty thus imposed on me is a very difficult one and I have no doubt that on occasions I shall make mistakes but I can assure both Councils that I shall do my utmost to make their housing scheme work as fairly as is humanly possible, bearing mind the very large and urgent demand for houses.

Points are allotted independently of me for such conditions as overcrowding. I therefore never give points for conditions which already attract points under the housing points scheme.

**SECTION E.****INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.****Food Poisoning Outbreaks.**

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during 1949.

**Clean Food Campaign.**

Several meetings have been held with lectures by myself and sanitary inspectors and outside lecturers to try to impress on those who have the handling of food the absolute necessity of personal cleanliness.

Frankly the results have been very disappointing ; the attendances being nothing like they ought to be. These meetings have so far been held in the evenings and I have come to the conclusion that the only method of getting a satisfactory attendance is to hold such meetings during ordinary working hours when I am reasonably satisfied I should get the co-operation of the managements in sending during working hours a reasonable proportion of their staff.

Both Councils have adopted the model bye-laws of the Ministry of Health. These bye-laws are by no means strong enough and will require very considerable amendment in the light of experience but I have no doubt these amendments will be brought in when we can produce the necessary evidence that such amendment is required.



## SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1949.

Diseases	St. Albans City		St. Albans R.D.C.	
	Noti- fied	Deaths	Noti- fied	Deaths
Diphtheria ... ..	4	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	70	—	22	—
Pneumonia ... ..	20	—	4	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	8	—	5	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ... ..	7	1	10	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	1	—	1	—
Malaria ... ..	1	—	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ... ..	1	1	1	—
Meningococcal Meningitis ... ..	—	—	1	—
Cerebro spinal Meningitis ... ..	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	6	—
Measles ... ..	305	—	168	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	62	1	33	—
Infective Hepatitis ... ..	9	—	4	—

## Infectious Diseases (Ages), St. Albans City.

Age Periods	Whooping Cough	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Poliomyelitis	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Malaria	Dysentery	Infective Hepatitis
0 —	2	19	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
1 —	13	62	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
3 —	21	59	13	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
5 —	24	133	41	2	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	4
10 —	2	15	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1
15 —	...	7	1	...	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
25 —	...	4	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
45 —	...	...	...	...	4	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Age Unknown	...	6	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	62	305	70	4	8	20	1	1	1	7	...	1	...	9



**Infectious Diseases (Ages), St. Albans Rural District Council.**

Age Period	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Typhoid & Paratyphoid	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Dysentery	Measles	Whooping Cough	Infective Hepatitis
0 —	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	1	4	1	...
1 —	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	53	10	...
3 —	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	10	...
5 —	...	11	1	1	3	...	...	...	2	70	10	2
10 —	...	6	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	4	2	...
15 —	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	1
25 and over	1	1	1	2	3	...	...	...	1	4	...	1
TOTALS ...	1	22	4	5	10	1	1	1	6	168	33	4

**Poliomyelitis.**

On referring to the table on page 26 it will be seen that we had a total of 17 cases of Poliomyelitis. Each one was very fully investigated but one could not definitely say there was any connection between any of them.

There would appear to be no doubt that this disease was infinitely more widespread than we knew. In several cases several members of a family had all the preliminary symptoms but no paralysis subsequently developed. I have little doubt that these were true cases which recovered completely, and without paralysis it was impossible to give a definite diagnosis. It is equally certain that there were other cases in other families which showed no paralysis. Quite likely they did not even call in their own doctor and no one has any knowledge of how many there were. It might be said that all cases with the slightest suspicion should have had a lumbar puncture done, but this minor operation is not entirely without risk and to lumbar puncture everyone who had apparently a cold in the head with a little bit of temperature could not possibly be justified.

Yet in all probability this is the method of spread—that is, cases which we know nothing about are capable of infecting others and some of the others develop the typical paralysis. What the proportion is we do not know but I would estimate that there are at least ten cases which show no signs of paralysis and are therefore not diagnosed, for each case which comes to our notice for official



notification. Three cases died. The others have all made very good recoveries, thanks largely to the very skilled attention they received from the Medical Officer in charge and the staff at Sisters' Hospital, coupled with the after care and rehabilitation which we were able to arrange by courtesy of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital at Stanmore.

### Smallpox.

There were no cases during 1949.

### Vaccination.

The number of primary vaccinations of infants was 438. Compared with the total births for the two areas this represents only 37.4% of children born in 1949. It is likely, however, that the number actually vaccinated was somewhat higher as owing to the dispute over vaccination fees with the general practitioners some were vaccinated but not reported to me.

I wish to make it clear that there is no obligation on the part of the practitioner to notify vaccinations but the notification on the official card is the only means whereby he can receive payment from the Public Purse.

The following figures relate to the St. Albans Division of the Herts County Council. No separate figures are available for St. Albans City and Rural District, but the figures give a general idea of the number of persons who are being vaccinated in the St. Albans area.

Number of Persons Vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during 1949.

Age at 31st December, i.e., born in years	Under 1, 1949	1 to 5 1945- 1948	5 to 14 1935- 1944	15 or over before 1935	Total
Number vaccinated ...	438	16	15	23	492
Number re-vaccinated ...	—	—	6	66	72

Number of Cases specially reported during period (age group as above).

(a) Generalised Vaccinia ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Post-vaccinal Encephalomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Death from Complica- tions of vaccination other than (a) and (b) ...	—	—	—	—	—



**Diphtheria.**

Only five cases were notified, none of whom died. All were mild cases and two of them only had been previously immunised against the disease.

Immunisation is carried out by private practitioners and assistant County Medical Officers. No separate figures are available for St. Albans City or Rural District, but the following figures which relate to the St. Albans Division of the Herts County Council which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C., obtained from the Divisional Health Office will be of interest.

Number of Children who completed a Full Course for Primary Immunisation in the Authorities Area (including temporary residents) in 1949.			Total Number of Children who were given a secondary or reinforcing injection (i.e., subsequent to complete full course)
Age at date of Final Injection		Total	
Under 5	5 to 14		
1086	81	1167	968

**Cancer.**

The facilities for diagnosis are general practitioners and hospitals. The total number of deaths was 108 allocated as follows :—

	St. Albans City		St. Albans R.D.C.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Buc : Cav : and Oesoph (M) Uterus (F)	2	2	1	2
Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	4	4	3	1
Breast ... ..	—	6	—	7
All other sites ... ..	29	18	17	12

**NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS.**

The number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of 1949 was as follows :—

	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
St. Albans City	117	69	39	33	258
St. Albans R.D.C.	82	70	22	23	197



REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY  
INSPECTOR  
ST. ALBANS CITY

Public Health Department,  
38 St. Peter's Street,  
St. Albans

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report on the work carried out by the Department during 1949.

Although there was some improvement in effecting repairs to properties during the year nevertheless, as has been stated in previous reports, many houses are below a reasonable standard of fitness and cannot be rendered fit at reasonable expense. During the continuing acute shortage, however, efforts are made to retain and improve these houses.

Considerable attention has been paid to all aspects of food hygiene and I am pleased to report that there has been an improvement generally in the standard of cleanliness in food premises. A course of lectures, sponsored by the Public Health Committee, was given to persons engaged in the handling and distribution of food by Dr. Pitt Evans of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

On October 1st new milk regulations dealing with the production, treatment and distribution of milk came into force. These regulations transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries the duty of supervising milk production, but St. Albans City, being a "Food and Drugs Authority" continues to be responsible for the treatment and distribution of milk. Regular inspection of dairies and pasteurising plants, of which there are four within the City, continued and there was a considerable increase in the work of sampling and testing.

During the year the City Council became the Authority responsible for the administration of the Rats and Mice Acts, etc., and a full time Rodent Operator was engaged. Details of the work carried out will be found in a later section of the report.

In conclusion, I should like to express appreciation of the loyal co-operation of the staff and to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for the support received throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. E. C. GODDARD,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*

*April, 1950.*



**SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.**

The following is a summary of inspections made during the year :—

Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	765
Complaints reported to department	...	...	...	...	407
Complaints re rats and mice	...	...	...	...	166
Complaints re flies, woodworm, etc.	...	...	...	...	143
Infectious diseases and contacts	...	...	...	...	94
Disinfestation of Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	215
Council houses sprayed prior to occupation	...	...	...	...	237
Fumigation of verminous premises (H.C.N.)	...	...	...	...	2
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	27
Factories	...	...	...	...	163
Cinemas	...	...	...	...	9
Vacant lands and dumps	...	...	...	...	20
Schools	...	...	...	...	42
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	12
Drains examined and/or tested	...	...	...	...	58
Cesspools receiving attention	...	...	...	...	25
Stables and piggeries	...	...	...	...	13
Tents, vans, sheds and caravans	...	...	...	...	28
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	22
Food Premises (See later Section)	...	...	...	...	1,336
Interviews	...	...	...	...	710
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	852
Revisits to premises under notice	...	...	...	...	964
Revisits to work in progress	...	...	...	...	633
					<hr/> 6,943 <hr/>

**SANITATION.**

During the year a number of improvements were carried out regarding sanitation of various premises within the City. In twenty-one cases cesspools were abolished and the houses connected to the main sewer and at five others conversion of pail closets was carried out.

**DEFECTS REMEDIED AND SANITARY  
IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT.**

The defects and nuisances remedied or abated were 1,479 and 343 preliminary notices were served in connection therewith.

In addition to these notices the abatement of insanitary conditions is effected by an interview with those directly concerned,



The following summary gives particulars of work carried out as a result of inspections :—

Damp walls	...	...	...	...	108
Defective roofs, spoutings and downpipes	...	...	...	...	246
Defective floors, walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	248
Defective window frames and sash cords	...	...	...	...	91
Defective fireplaces/cookers	...	...	...	...	58
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	15
Sinks and waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	62
Drains cleared and/or repaired	...	...	...	...	76
Drains connected to sewer	...	...	...	...	4
New W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	15
W.C. compartments repaired	...	...	...	...	94
W.C. pedestals provided	...	...	...	...	22
W.C. cisterns provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	69
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	41
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	19
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	311

#### DISINFECTION.

Enquiries are made with regard to infectious diseases and to contacts from other infected areas.

Disinfection of rooms is carried out following cases of infectious diseases and in connection with cases of Tuberculosis and Cancer.

Sixty-eight cases of infectious diseases were inquired into and the houses or rooms connected therewith fumigated. Thirty three houses in connection with tuberculosis and cancer were also fumigated.

#### DISINFESTATION.

##### (1) Eradication of bed bugs.

During the year two hundred and fifteen treatments with an effective insecticide were carried out and in addition two houses were fumigated with liquid H.C.N. gas. Of the premises infested eighty-eight were private dwellings, sixteen were requisitioned properties, and five were Council houses.

##### (2) Other Vermin.

###### (a) *Ants, Woodworm, etc.*

One hundred and forty-three premises infested with ants, woodworm, etc., were reported to the department and treated with an insecticide.

###### (b) *Investigation of flies (Anisopus-(Ryphus)-Fenistralis).*

Further complaints were received during the year regarding infestation by flies at Park Street, although not so numerous as in 1947 and 1948.

Investigation proved that the flies were breeding at the Sewage Works and free supplies of D.D.T. solution were made available to residents in the area affected.

As the result of steps taken by the City Engineer and Surveyor at the works the nuisance was considerably abated.



### RATS AND MICE.

As from the 1st July, 1949, the Department became responsible for the administration and execution of all duties of rodent control, except on agricultural land, within the City.

Since that date, 122 complaints of rat and mice infestation have been received and 95 private dwellings, and 21 commercial and business premises were treated. Treatments were also carried out at the Council's Sewage Disposal Works and Refuse Works.

The first maintenance treatment of the soil sewers within the City was also completed. This involved the test baiting of 117 soil manholes and the subsequent pre-baiting and poisoning of 202 manholes.

The test baiting showed that the sewers infested were those in older parts of the City, mainly in the area south-west of Waverley Road, Carlisle Avenue and Hatfield Road as far as the railway line. In consequence, this area received 100% treatment and the observation of "take" at all the 64 manholes where poison bait was laid indicated that the treatment was a considerable success.

### COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are three registered Common Lodging Houses in the City and these have been well conducted during the year.

### MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

Several applications for permission to maintain caravans on sites within the City have been received during the year and licences were granted in three instances. In all, twelve caravans have been licensed in the City. These are all satisfactorily sited as regards water supply, sanitary accommodation, town planning, etc.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

The following table shows the number of Factories excluding bakehouses, registered in the City at the end of the year.

(a) Factories with mechanical power	...	...	161
(b) Factories without mechanical power	...	...	22

Many of these are small factories where only a few persons are employed.

The following defects were dealt with :—

Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	...	3
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	...	2

Sanitary conveniences :—

Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	...	3
Unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	...	26
Insufficient	...	...	...	...	1



### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Three classes of offensive trades are carried on in the City, namely, Marine Store Dealer, Edible Fat Refiner and Frying of Fish.

The trade of fish frying is carried on at nine establishments, that of rag and bone merchant at three and fat refining at one establishment. In addition, four fish frying vans have been granted licences by the Ministry of Food.

Regular inspections have been made and in most instances the premises were found to be well maintained. Necessary cleansing was carried out as a result of verbal intimation in three cases.

### SWIMMING BATH.

Periodical inspection of the Corporation Swimming Bath at Cotton Mill Lane has been carried out and samples of the water have been submitted for bacteriological examination. Satisfactory reports were received from the laboratory.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### Premises.

The following table shows the visits paid to food preparing premises during the year :—

Grocery and provision shops ... ..	231
Bakehouses ... ..	101
Cooked food premises (including restaurant kitchens and cafes) ... ..	220
Fish Shops (including fried fish premises) ... ..	113
Slaughterhouses and butcher shops ... ..	217
Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops ... ..	265
Ice Cream premises ... ..	78
Other food premises ... ..	111
	<hr/>
	1,336
	<hr/>

#### Bakehouses.

At the end of the year there were thirty-one bakehouses on the register. The use of one underground bakehouse was discontinued during the year.

A number of the bakehouses have painted walls and ceilings and at several the walls are tiled.

Periodical limewashing was regularly carried out at the remainder.

#### Manufacture of Preserved Foods, etc.

Inspections have also been made of premises where food is prepared or manufactured, e.g., sausages. Structural alterations were carried out at ten of these premises and redecoration at sixteen.



### **Cafes and Restaurant Kitchens.**

Cleansing and redecoration has been carried out at a number of refreshment premises, and in all two hundred and twenty visits have been made to see that the kitchens and utensils are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

### **Grocery and Provision Shops.**

Regular visits are made to grocery and provision shops in the City and in addition frequent requests for the examination of articles of food are received from retailers.

A list of food condemned at these and other premises is included in a later paragraph.

### **Ice Cream Premises.**

Ice cream premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are as follows :—

Manufacture and sale of ice cream	...	...	8
Sale of ice cream	...	...	66

Regular inspection was made of these premises and at a number structural alterations and improvements have been carried out.

The premises used by retailers are all provided with portable cabinets for storage of Ice Cream which is received in bulk from the manufacturers.

### **Hotels and Public Houses.**

A number of visits were made to these premises at ten of which structural improvement and works of redecoration were carried out.

### **Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops.**

Regular inspections of butchers' shops have been carried out throughout the year.

All slaughtering of meat for St. Albans is carried out at the central slaughterhouse at Sandridge and assistance is given to the staff of the St. Albans Rural District Council in the inspection of meat at this slaughterhouse.

### **Market Stalls.**

The Saturday Market was visited regularly and inspections made of fish and other foods exposed for sale.

### **Merchandise Marks Act.**

Legal proceedings were instituted against a street vendor for selling and exposing for sale "Imported" tomatoes as "English Produce."

The defendant was found guilty and fines totalling £11 were imposed together with £4 4s. costs.



**Milk and Dairies.**

*Registered Cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	6
Registered Purveyors for Sale of :—					
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	6
Tuberculin Tested Milk (Certified)	...	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	6
Ungraded Milk	...	...	...	...	1
Sterilised Bottled Milk	...	...	...	...	19
*Control and Registration of milk production transferred to Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on 1st October, 1949.					

**Milk (Special Designations) Order.**

The following licences were issued during 1949 :—

**TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK.**

Establishments at which milk is bottled	...	6
Establishments at which milk is sold in bottles as supplied by wholesaler	...	2
Supplementary	...	1

**TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK (CERTIFIED).**

Supplementary	...	1
---------------	-----	---

**ACCREDITED MILK.**

Establishments at which milk is bottled	...	1
---	-----	---

**PASTEURISED MILK.**

Establishments employing Holder Process	...	3
Establishments employing H.T.S.T. Process	...	1
Dealers' Licences (including T.T. (Pasteurised) )	...	9
Supplementary	...	1

As a result of new legislation the following applications were reviewed and new or renewed registrations and licences prepared for issue in the New Year.

**Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.**

Registration as Dairies	...	9
Registration as Distributors	...	28

**Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.**

Dealer's Licences authorising the use of the special designation " Tuberculin Tested "	...	8
Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation " Tuberculin Tested "	...	1
Dealer's Licences authorising the use of the special designation " Accredited "	...	1

**Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.**

Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licences	...	4
Dealer's Licences authorising the use of the special designation " Pasteurised "	...	4
Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation " Pasteurised "	...	2
Dealer's Licences authorising the use of the special designation " Sterilised "	...	19



The following table shows the results of the bacteriological examination of samples of "Designated" milk during 1949. In the course of these examinations "Tuberculin Tested" and "Accredited" milks are submitted to the Methylene Blue Test and "Pasteurised" and "Heat Treated" milks to the "Methylene Blue" and "Phosphatase" Tests.

Designation	No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Passed	Methylene Blue Failed	Phosphatase Passed	Phosphatase Failed
Tuberculin Tested	76 (72)	70 (68)	6 (4)	—	—
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	49 (30)	46 (24)	3 (6)	45 (24)	4 (6)
Accredited ...	8 (8)	7 (8)	1 (—)	—	—
Pasteurised ...	139 (114)	134 (104)	5 (10)	129 (108)	10 (6)
Heat Treated (after 1st October results included in "Pasteurised")	25 (35)	24 (34)	1 (1)	22 (34)	3 (1)
TOTALS ...	297 (259)	281 (238)	16 (21)	196 (166)	17 (13)

The figures in brackets refer to the corresponding results in 1948

### FOOD AND DRUGS.

#### (a) Samples.

During 1949 one hundred and eight samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis. These included fifty-nine samples of milk; two each of lime juice cordial, vinegar, salad cream and custard powder; and one each of castor oil, epsom salts, bicarbonate of soda, "Gee's Linctus," friars balsam, camphorated oil, peppermint drops, tincture of iodine, boracic crystals, meat pie, savoury roll, black pudding, rissols, lime marmalade, lemon squash, orange squash, grapefruit squash, coffee, "Sweet Spread," Worcester sauce, tomato extract, horseradish cream, self-raising flour, cinnamon flavouring, vanilla flavouring, gelatine, blancmange powder, dessert powder, "Cafe Vierge," liquid paraffin, hydrogen peroxide, aspirin tablets, potassium bromide tablets, dyspepsia tablets, tomato juice cocktail, pineapple crush, "Parmino," crab paste, pie crust mix, mango chutney and "Onion X."

Of the milk samples, all of which were reported as genuine, forty-nine samples were obtained during the normal course of delivery by the retailer to the consumer and ten in course of delivery from the producer to the retailer.



It will be seen that a wide range of miscellaneous samples was submitted for analysis all of which were satisfactory with one exception—the sample of peppermint drops which in its composition was deficient in oil compared with the statement on the label. In consequence, a letter of caution was sent to the manufacturer.

(b) **Ice Cream.**

Twenty-eight samples of ice cream were obtained from manufacturers and submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these sixteen were placed in Grade 1 ; eight in Grade 2 ; three in Grade 3 ; and one in Grade 4.

When samples are reported in Grades 3 and 4, investigation is carried out ; advice is given and further samples are obtained with a view to securing improvement in the bacteriological standard.

In addition, nine samples were submitted for chemical examination and the Public Analyst reported that these were of a satisfactory nature.

### INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS,

The amount of unsound food condemned during the year at wholesale and retail premises, etc., was as follows :—

Tinned meat	...	...	...	...	435 tins
Corned Beef (6 lbs.)	...	...	...	...	55 "
Corned Beef (12 ozs.)	...	...	...	...	19 "
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	...	128 "
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	...	958 "
Miscellaneous tins	...	...	...	...	1,408 "
Beef (Imported)	...	...	...	...	501 lbs.
Mutton (Imported)	...	...	...	...	157 "
Beef (Home killed)	...	...	...	...	44 "
Danish Pork	...	...	...	...	22 tins
Pigs' feet (Imported)	...	...	...	...	3 cases
Suet	...	...	...	...	28 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	59 stones
Bacon	...	...	...	...	278 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	192 "
Fish cakes	...	...	...	...	32 doz.
Crumpets	...	...	...	...	64 "
Eggs	...	...	...	...	100
Meat Pies	...	...	...	...	343
Fowls	...	...	...	...	92 lbs.



Venison	...	...	...	...	168 lbs.
Liver	...	...	...	...	120 "
Brawn	...	...	...	...	10 "
Sausages	...	...	...	...	18 "
Dried Peas	...	...	...	...	142 "
Lentils	...	...	...	...	28 "
Dried Eggs	...	...	...	...	11 "
Macaroni	...	...	...	...	43 "
Flour	...	...	...	...	14 "
Arrowroot	...	...	...	...	15 "
Butter	...	...	...	...	11 "
Dates	...	...	...	...	3 "
Mushrooms	...	...	...	...	26 "
Rhubarb	...	...	...	...	28 "
Chestnuts	...	...	...	...	12 "
Grapes	...	...	...	...	9 "
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	14 "
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	51 "
Cake	...	...	...	...	46 "
Ginger Pudding Mixture	...	...	...	...	8 cwt.
Cake Flour	...	...	...	...	3 "
Barley Flour	...	...	...	...	18 lbs.
Mixed Sweets	...	...	...	...	22 "
Crest Bars	...	...	...	...	51 "
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	6 gallons
Synthetic Cream	...	...	...	...	2 "
Miscellaneous Packets	...	...	...	...	318
Miscellaneous Jars	...	...	...	...	612
Miscellaneous Bottles	...	...	...	...	536
Sauce	...	...	...	...	52 bottles
Gherkins	...	...	...	...	36 jars
Salad Cream	...	...	...	...	49 "
Tomato Puree	...	...	...	...	1,342 tins



# ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

Council Offices,  
43 Upper Lattimore Road,  
St. Albans,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1949.

## **Water Supplies.**

The water supplies of the area received close attention and a total of 67 samples were sent to the Public Health Service Laboratory at Luton for bacteriological examination.

Early in the year local mains were extended to Horseshoes Village in the Parish of Colney Heath and in October work was put in hand in connection with a further extension to serve the properties in Sandpit Lane, Smallford.

A scheme for a mains supply to serve Colney Heath Lane in the Parish of Colney Heath was approved.

At the somewhat isolated hamlet of Coleman Green on the border of the Parishes of Sandridge and Wheathampstead the Well serving a group of dwellings failed, and from the 14th July onwards the Council delivered drinking water to the dwellings for the use of the occupants. It is probable that the Well will not recover to a sufficient extent to enable supplies to be drawn therefrom until probably the end of March, 1950. Although the cost will prove rather excessive the Council have decided that a mains supply for Coleman Green is essential, and it is hoped that it will be installed in 1950.

The Christmas Estate, Bricket Wood, comprising 103 houses was, until June, 1949, served by the Estate supply, but the water level in the bore gradually fell and it was found impossible to maintain an adequate supply. An arrangement was entered into and came into operation on the 13th June whereby the St. Albans Waterworks Company afforded a metered bulk supply from their mains, the water being distributed to the various properties on the estate through the existing privately-owned storage tank and mains. Proposals are in hand for the Water Undertakers to lay new mains as necessary and take over full responsibility for the service.

Of the 6,465 dwellings in the district 5,762 or 89.13% are supplied from Waterworks. Of these 94.22% are supplied from water mains direct to the houses and the remaining 5.78% by means of standpipes. The quality of the mains waters is satisfactory and the supplies are constant. There is no evidence of liability to plumbo-solvent action.

In Appendix "A" to this Report details are given regarding the number of dwellings served by each Water Undertaking supplying in the St. Albans Rural District, and in Appendix "B" figures are furnished with respect to dwellings in each Parish which are supplied from Water works.



# APPENDIX A.

## List of Water Suppliers operating in the St. Albans Rural District and Number of dwellings supplied by each.

SUPPLIER	Number of Dwellings Supplied		Total
	DIRECT TO THE HOUSES	BY MEANS OF STAND-PIPES	
St. Albans Rural District Council :—			
Redbourn ... ..	812	30	842
Tyttenhanger Green Main (Water drawn from Hill End Hospital Supply) ... ..	33	14	47
St. Albans Waterworks Company ... ..	2676	67	2743
Harpenden Water Company ... ..	783	146	929
The Barnet District Water Company ... ..	388	16	404
The Colne Valley Water Company ... ..	228	60	288
Borough of Hemel Hempstead ... ..	31	—	31
Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company ... ..	35	—	35
Hill End Hospital and Cell Barnes Colony Estates ... ..	122	—	122
Napsbury Hospital Estate ... ..	49	—	49
Middlesex Colony Estate ... ..	32	—	32
Gorhambury Estate and adjacent Crown Property (Plant operated by Crown Commissioners)	69	—	69
Christmas Estate, Bricket Wood ... ..	103	—	103
Childwickbury Estate, St. Albans ... ..	68	—	68
Totals ... ..	5429	333	5762



**APPENDIX B.**

**WATER SUPPLIES.**  
Details of dwellings in each Parish supplied from Waterworks.

Parish	Water Undertakers supplying in Parish.	Number of dwellings supplied		Total number of dwellings supplied by each Undertaker.	Total number of dwellings in Parish supplied from Waterworks	Percentage of dwelling houses in Parish supplied from Waterworks
		Direct to the Houses.	By means of Standpipes.			
Sandridge	St. Albans Waterworks Company ... Childwickbury Estate Supply ...	515 6	55 —	570 6	576	92.16
Wheathampstead	Harpenden Water Company ... Childwickbury Estate Supply ...	726 5	129 —	855 5	860	84.98
Harpenden Rural	Harpenden Water Company ...	57	17	74	74	67.27
Redbourn	St. Albans Rural District Council ... Gorhambury Estate Supply (Crown) ... Borough of Hemel Hempstead ... Childwickbury Estate Supply ...	812 25 8 7	30 — — —	842 25 8 7	882	91.30
St. Michael's Rural	Borough of Hemel Hempstead ... St. Albans Waterworks Company ... Childwickbury Estate Supply ... Gorhambury Estate Supply (Crown) ... Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Co. ...	23 33 50 44 17	— — — — —	23 33 50 44 17	167	75.23
St. Stephen's	The Colne Valley Water Company ... St. Albans Waterworks Company ... Christmas Estate, Bricket Wood ... Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Co. ... Middlesex Colony Estate Supply ...	188 1078 103 18 15	43 12 — — —	231 1090 103 18 15	1457	94.92
London Colney	St. Albans Waterworks Company ... The Colne Valley Water Company ... Middlesex Colony Estate Supply ... Napsbury Hospital Estate Supply ... Hill End Hospital Supply ...	944 40 17 49 22	— 17 — — —	944 57 17 49 22	1089	95.53
Colney Heath	Tytenhanger Green Main (Water drawn from Hill End Hospital Supply) ... St. Albans Waterworks Company ... The Barnet District Water Company ... Hill End Hospital Supply ...	33 106 388 100	14 — 16 —	47 106 404 100	657	76.84



### **Swimming Baths.**

There are two swimming baths not under the Council's management which are open to the public and in respect of which a charge is made for admission. Under an arrangement between the Education Authority and the Proprietors they are used extensively by the schools. At each the system of continuous circulation and purification of the water is operated. Close supervision was exercised throughout the season and samples were taken at regular intervals.

A pool which is maintained in connection with a private Recreation Club and used by a considerable number of the members was the cause of considerable concern because of the very slow rate at which the water is changed and the inadequate arrangements for purification.

### **Housing.**

Eleven houses which had been the subjects of Demolition Orders or of confirmed Clearance Orders prior to the outbreak of war were demolished. Eight of these had been occupied under licence.

Demolition Orders under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, were made in respect of twenty-four houses, viz. : twenty-three in the Parish of Redbourn and one in the Parish of London Colney. By the end of the year nine of these had been vacated and the families re-housed, and one had been demolished.

Because of economic factors and because of the concentration of almost all available resources on the provision of new houses, little was done in connection with the repair and improvement of existing houses and so a large and ever increasing amount of important work is being deferred. It is, I think, true to say that because of the prevailing high building costs in relation to the level at which rents have been pegged there is little inclination on the part of property owners to embark on works of repair and improvement. The improvement grants now available under the Housing Act, 1949, were brought to the notice of the owners of quite a number of dwellings which are considered suitable for re-conditioning, but up to the end of the year no application for grants had been received. There is, in my view, a strong case for the acquisition by the Local Authority of those houses which are unfit for human habitation and which, in order to render them fit, require the expenditure of substantial sums which the owners cannot reasonably undertake but which, nevertheless, could be brought up to a good standard of fitness and at a cost which would make it possible to let them at a moderate rental.

At the 31st December, 1949, thirty-five houses which are the subjects of confirmed Demolition or Clearance Orders were being used under licence for human habitation.



I am indebted to Miss C. I. Sharpe, the Council's Housing Welfare Officer, for the following Housing statistics :—

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE COUNCIL UP TO DECEMBER 31ST, 1948.				ANALYSIS SHOWING HOUSING PROGRESS FROM JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31ST, 1949.					
Parish.	Pre-war houses	Post-war houses	Req. and acquired and Temporary Hutments	Total	New houses completed in 1949	Req. Hutments converted in 1949	No. of properties vacated in 1949 other than by transfer	No. of families re-housed in 1949	No. of agriculture workers from out- side areas housed in Parishes
London Colney...	100	40	4	144	24	—	—	34	3
Redbourn ...	128	40	7	175	22	—	1	24	1
St. Stephens ...	34	55	1	90	44	—	—	29	2
Colney Heath ...	108	20	4	132	—	—	1	10	—
Sandridge ...	54	58	1	113	10	—	—	9	1
Wheatthampstead ...	90	65	16	171	12	—	—	10	—
St. Michaels ...	16	—	27	43	—	10	1	—	—
Harpenden Rural ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Totals ...	530	278	60	868	112	10	3	118	7



## **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

### **Registrations under Section 14—**

#### **Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

Thirty-seven premises are used in connection with the manufacture or sale of ice-cream or preserved food, etc. Of these twenty nine are registered for the sale of ice cream and three are registered for both the manufacture and sale of ice cream.

#### **Other Food Preparing Premises.**

In the district there are nine bakehouses, four fish-frying premises and fourteen cafes.

Of the fourteen cafes ten cater in the main for road transport workers. One Road Transport Cafe was modernised and sleeping accommodation for thirty-six men provided thereat, and in the case of another Transport Cafe new premises were erected alongside the old unsatisfactory premises and upon completion the old building was demolished.

#### **Bye-Laws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

In December the Public Health Committee decided to recommend the adoption of Bye-Laws for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly practices and conditions in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air.

## **WORK UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.**

### **Nuisances.**

Two hundred and twenty-four complaints of alleged nuisances were received, and of these 181 were satisfactorily dealt with by informal action, leaving 43 outstanding at the end of the year. Two Abatement Notices were served under Section 93 in respect of nuisances outstanding at the beginning of the year, and both were complied with.

### **Provision of Dust Bins.**

Fourteen informal notices were served on owners of buildings requiring the provision of standard-type dustbins thereat and in three cases it was found necessary to serve Statutory Notices under Section 75. Two of the Statutory Notices were complied with but in the third case the owner appealed to the Court where the requirement of the Local Authority was upheld.

The question as to whether the owner or the occupier of any particular building shall be held responsible for the provision of "a covered dustbin for the reception of house refuse of such material, size and construction as the authority may approve" is most difficult to determine. It is the practice of the Council in each case



to send a fairly comprehensive questionnaire to the occupier of the building concerned, and in the light of all available information a decision is reached as to whether any required Notice shall be served on the owner or on the occupier.

#### **Replacement of Pail Closets by Water Closets.**

Twenty pail closets were replaced by water closets of which eighteen were in response to informal notices and the remaining two as a result of the service of Statutory Notices.

Arising out of the provision of sewerage facilities at Luton Road, Kinsbourne Green, and the scheme for the provision of sewerage facilities to serve the Luton Road area of Wheathampstead, the Council gave careful consideration to the policy which should be pursued with respect to the replacement of pail closets by water closets and resolved :—

- (i) that the owners of properties which are within easy access of the sewers and which have pail closet sanitation be asked to submit proposals and estimates for the replacement of such pail closets by water closets ;
- (ii) that the owners be advised that the Council are prepared to make a financial contribution, not exceeding one-half of the approved cost, incurred in such replacements.

#### **Disinfestation.**

Sixteen houses were treated for the eradication of bed-bugs by the application of D.D.T. preparations.

#### **Rodent Control.**

By agreement between the two Authorities, the Hertfordshire County Council delegated their powers under the Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, to the St. Albans Rural District Council, and the transfer took effect on the 1st April, 1949. For quite a considerable period prior to the transfer the work had, by arrangement, been carried out by the Hertfordshire Agricultural Executive Committee on behalf of the County Council.

The preparation of a scheme which would ensure effective rodent control and which would at the same time be economical in operation presented considerable difficulty as there was little available data on which to estimate the volume of work which would be involved, particularly as we were concerned with non-agricultural properties only. It was clear that any scheme adopted at the outset would be subject to considerable adjustments as experience was gained. It was recognised that the initial organisation should be reasonably elastic in order that adjustments could be made with smoothness and ease, and it was decided that these conditions could best be met if the work was allied to some extent with the work of the Cleansing Department. Accordingly the Cleansing Foreman was appointed to act also as supervising rodent operator and a rodent operator who would also assist in carrying out disinfection and disinfestation work was engaged.



The question of whether a charge should be made for treatments of infestations at private dwellings was considered, and it was decided that no charge should be made for the following reasons :—

- (i) the collection of monies due for the service would involve considerable work and would present many difficulties ;
- (ii) an infestation might, and in very many cases would, be common to several properties and it would often be difficult to assess the charge equitably ;
- (iii) the knowledge that a charge would be made for the service would deter many occupiers from reporting the presence of rats and mice.

It was decided further that it would be desirable in certain cases to give assistance in connection with rodent destruction measures at industrial and commercial premises, and that where such assistance was sought the minimum charge per treatment shall be £1 in the case of rats and 7/6d. in the case of mice.

In order that the service provided should be widely known a circular letter was distributed to all householders in June emphasizing the importance of early treatment and inviting them to report immediately when there were any signs of rats or mice on their premises.

The work has proceeded satisfactorily and up to the end of the year 223 treatments were carried out at domestic premises and 23 at industrial and commercial premises. In addition the Council's sewers, sewage disposal works and refuse tips were inspected at regular intervals and treatments carried out as necessary.

#### **Movable Dwellings.**

On the 31st December, 1949, forty licences issued under the provisions of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were in operation, being an increase of four over the figure at 31st December, 1948.

Owing to the continued serious housing shortage there has been a tendency for quite a number of newly married couples to acquire caravans as a solution to the problem of their immediate housing needs. The number of movable dwellings thus tends to show a marked increase and in the interests of the health and amenities of the district strict supervision is essential. The valuable provisions in the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 make it possible to exercise considerable control, but it is desirable that all Authorities within the County should pursue a common policy in the application of these provisions. In present circumstances there is a case for the establishment of well-equipped camping sites within the area of each Authority to meet exceptional temporary needs, on the understanding that the Local Authority would have an overriding voice in the selection of the families to be accommodated. Probably accommodation for a number of movable dwellings equal to not more than 1% of the total dwellings in the district would be sufficient to meet all likely requirements and with such facilities a firm stand could be taken against all unauthorised camping.



### SEWERAGE.

Early in the year a sewer of approximately 390 yards in length to serve properties at Luton Road, Kinsbourne Green, was completed. This sewer discharges into the sewerage system of the Harpenden Urban District Council.

On 1st October, the Contractors commenced work on the scheme to serve the Lower Luton Road area of Wheathampstead, and by the 31st December good progress had been made.

Towards the end of the year detailed plans and drawings in respect of the very important scheme to serve the Parish of St. Stephens were received from the Consulting Engineers.

The question of the desirability of providing sewerage facilities to serve the more isolated communities, and particularly those which have a piped water supply, received consideration. Many of the dwellings in these communities have no drainage facilities whatsoever and, while the provision of soil drains discharging into cesspools would effect a substantial improvement, cesspools are seldom completely satisfactory and the cost of cleansing imposes a heavy rate burden. Again, there is the further and more serious point that, as the law stands, a Local Authority cannot require the replacement of a pail closet by a water closet unless a sufficient water supply and sewer are available, and the elimination of the pail closet is of first-rate importance as a public health measure. The whole matter is to be the subject of a report by the Council's Officers working in conjunction with the Local Planning Officer.

### MILK.

Under the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944 (Appointed Day) Order, 1949, made on the 25th August, 1949, the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, came into operation on the 1st October, 1949. In order to give effect to the administrative changes required under the Act, the following Statutory Instruments also become operative on the 1st October, 1949 :—

- (i) The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 ;
- (ii) The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 ;
- (iii) The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

A fundamental change in the administration of the law relating to the supervision of milk production, processing, distribution and sale has thus been effected, the most noteworthy being that whereby the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries become responsible for the registration of Dairy Farms and of persons carrying on or proposing to carry on the trade of Dairy Farmer and for the execution and enforcement of the provisions respecting Dairy Farms excepting in so far as they relate to diseases communicable to man.



The following table gives particulars regarding farms in the district which were registered in respect of milk production at 30th September, 1949 :—

(1) <i>Parish</i>	(2) Total Number of farms registered in respect of <i>milk production.</i>	(3) Farms included in column 2 which were licensed by the Herts County Council for the production of <i>Tuberculin Tested Milk.</i>	(4) Farms included in column 2 which were licensed by the Herts County Council for the production of <i>Accredited Milk.</i>
Harpenden Rural	3	2	—
Redbourn ...	11	4	3
St. Michael's Rural	6	2	1
London Colney ...	2	2	—
Colney Heath ...	5	2	—
St. Stephen's Rural	10	2	3
Sandridge ...	9	3	3
Wheathampstead	9	5	2
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>

The following tables give details of registrations effected under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and of licences granted under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

#### Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Dairy Premises other than Dairy Farms.	Persons carrying on the trade of Milk Distributor elsewhere than at or from a Dairy Farm.		
	From shops in the St. Albans Rural District.	From premises within the St. Albans Rural District not being shop premises.	From premises outside the St. Albans Rural District.
8	3	5	10

#### The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested."	Supplementary Licences authori- sing the use of the Special Desig- nation "Tuber- culin Tested."	Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Accredited."	Supplementary Licences authori- sing the use of the Special Designation "Accredited."
2	6	1	1



**The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.**

Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised."	Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised."	Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised."	Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised."
4	7	4	1

**Biological Samples of Milk for Tubercle Bacilli.**

Under the provisions of Section 25 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Hertfordshire County Council operate a comprehensive scheme whereby representative milk samples are taken at regular intervals for biological examination from all Accredited and non-designated herds in the County and are extending the scheme to cover Tuberculin Tested herds.

**Meat Inspection.**

During the year 10,495 animals were slaughtered by the Ministry of Food at the Government Slaughterhouse, Sandridge. Details are as follows :—

	Cattle				
	excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Carcases inspected	2,293	944	1,276	5,647	335

**CONDEMNATIONS.**

	Car-cases	Qtrs. of Beef	Heads	Lights	Livers	Liver Trim-mings (-lbs.)	Plucks	Miscel-laneous Pieces of Beef, Mutton and Pork
								lbs.
Beasts ...	52	47	350	520	632	4,315	—	
Calves ...	2	—	2	—	1	—	1	1,588
Sheep ...	8	—	—	—	68	—	5	
Pigs ...	11	—	8	—	2	—	11	

I am grateful to Mr. R. E. C. Goddard, Chief Sanitary Inspector, City of St. Albans and his Staff for their co-operation in these onerous duties.



# **FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**

## **1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.**

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	20	13	1	Nil.
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	63	46	7	Nil.
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ... ..	•8	•—	Nil.	Nil.
Total ... ..	91	•59	8	Nil.

• The eight "other premises" were Council sites on which building operations and works of engineering were in progress. All were under the regular and close supervision of the Council's Officers.



## 2.—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
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 ... ..	3	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	3	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>



## **PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

Public cleansing is carried out by direct labour. The work includes refuse collection, night soil collection and cesspool emptying.

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

Five side-loading vehicles were operated, four being in regular service and one held as a spare machine. Each vehicle is fitted to haul a salvage trailer.

A 10 cubic yard Austin 5-ton vehicle with Eagle body was ordered in October to replace, in due course, the Thornycroft Refuse Vehicle which has been in service since August, 1934. Delivery is expected in March or April, 1950.

Although the man-power position has eased considerably, difficulty was experienced in maintaining an adequate labour force and this, together with a rather high sickness rate towards the end of the year, tended to delay collections. In order to meet these contingencies and to ensure a more regular service, it will be necessary to slightly increase the number of men engaged on this important work.

All refuse is dealt with by controlled tipping, the number of sites in use being three, namely, the gravel pit at Nomansland, Sandridge taking refuse from the north eastern and north western parts of the district, the chalk pit at Hedges Farm, Harper Lane, near Radlett taking refuse from the south western part of the district, and the gravel pit at Tyttenhanger Green taking refuse from the south eastern part of the district.

Each district is cleared in turn by the collectors and the tip-man moves from tip to tip according to the district in which the vehicles are operating. All the tips are readily accessible, dry, and within easy range of the collecting points, and so disposal costs are low.

With no mechanical equipment available at the tips the problem of obtaining sufficient covering material to ensure effective control is a very difficult one. Unauthorised tipping at two of the three sites has caused some concern from time to time. One effective solution to all these problems would be controlled tipping on a large scale and with full mechanical equipment which in practice can be carried out only by a large contractor, but this method would probably lead to some increase in cost. An alternative would be the provision of some mechanical equipment at one central tip under the entire control of the Council and operated and used solely by them.



**Salvage.**

The following salvage was disposed of during the year ended 31st December, 1949 :—

		Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	62	11	3	14	325	19	8
Rags	...	1	6	—	14	26	2	6
Bottles	...	9	1	3	6	21	3	5
Totals	...	72	19	3	6	£373	5	7

**Night Soil Collection.**

A once weekly collection is made wherever the service is required. One vehicle operated by one man is engaged on the work and the night soil is deposited on agricultural land. In all the pails at 598 dwellings are dealt with as follows :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Pails</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
St. Stephen's Rural	123	—
London Colney ...	31	—
Colney Heath ...	192	—
Sandridge ...	31	The service was extended on request to eleven outlying cottages.
Wheathampstead...	156	—
Harpenden Rural...	13	—
Redbourn ...	50	—
St. Michael's Rural	2	—
	598	

**Cesspool Emptying.**

A fleet of five Dennis cesspool emptying machines is operated. All cesspools excepting those serving properties which are within 100 ft. of a public sewer and which are at a level which makes it reasonably practicable to construct a drain to connect with the public sewer are cleansed free of charge.

Unfortunately, a very high percentage of the cesspools are not watertight and so the nature of the sub-soil, the level of the sub-soil water and the prevailing weather conditions have an important influence on the rate at which the cesspools fill up. In these circumstances, and particularly whenever there is a prolonged period of wet weather, the task is a most formidable one.

The cesspool contents are discharged into sewers or on to agricultural land at selected sites, but in the Parish of St. Stephens, through the goodwill of Mr. Wadlow, a field of 15 acres on Holts Farm, has been used solely for the purpose. At the request of the Agricultural Executive Committee and by arrangement with Mr. Wadlow it has been agreed to give up one half of this field to allow of cropping in 1950.



# APPENDIX C.

## STATISTICS RESPECTING CESSPOOLS IN THE DISTRICT WHICH ARE CLEANSED BY THE COUNCIL. ANNUAL REPORT, 1949.

Parish	Number Cleansed on request	Number Cleansed at regular intervals	Totals	Cesspools already included in Column 4 but in respect of which a charge is made for cleansing because they are within 100 feet of a Sewer or for other reasons	Cesspools already included in Column 4 which although within 100 feet of a Sewer are, for various reasons, cleansed free of charge
(1) St. Stephen's ... ..	(2) 886	(3) 12	(4) 898	(5) Nil	(6) Nil
London Colney ... ..	26	4	30	4	Nil
Colney Heath ... ..	183	7	190	4	Nil
Sandridge ... ..	28	—	28	5	Nil
Wheathampstead ... ..	198	4	202	11	1
Harpenden Rural ... ..	35	Nil	35	2	Nil
Redbourn ... ..	52	Nil	52	3	3
St. Michael's ... ..	76	Nil	76	Nil	Nil
<b>Grand Totals</b> ... ..	<b>1,484</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>



**Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935. Section 26.**

Under consents granted by the Hertfordshire County Council and the St. Albans Rural District Council four sites in the Rural District were used for the disposal of refuse collected outside the Rural District as follows :—

Land on the south side of Codicote Road, Wheathampstead, known as Black Bridge Tip and owned and operated by Messrs. Inns & Company of London.

An old gravel pit at North Orbital Road, Smallford, in the Parish of Colney Heath, owned by Messrs. Inns & Co. of London.

A disused gravel pit at Broad Colney, in the Parish of London Colney, owned and operated by Messrs. Inns & Co. of London.

A gravel pit off Smallford Lane, Smallford, in the Parish of Colney Heath, owned and operated by St. Albans Sand and Gravel Company.

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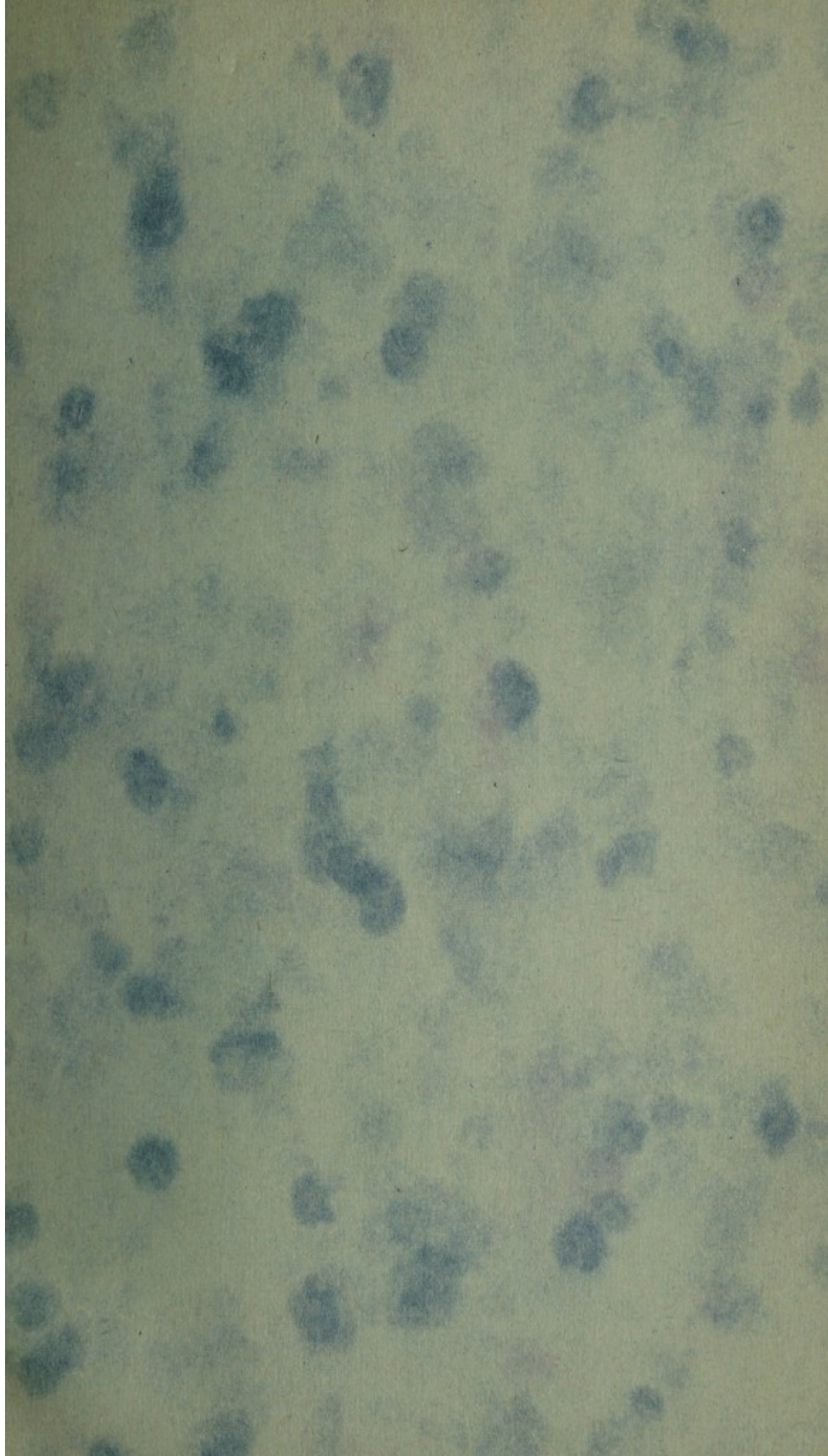
Your obedient servant,

/ DAVID J. GRAHAM,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*

*June 1950.*







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