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~~ST. ALBANS CITY~~

AND

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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

AND

THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

FOR THE YEAR

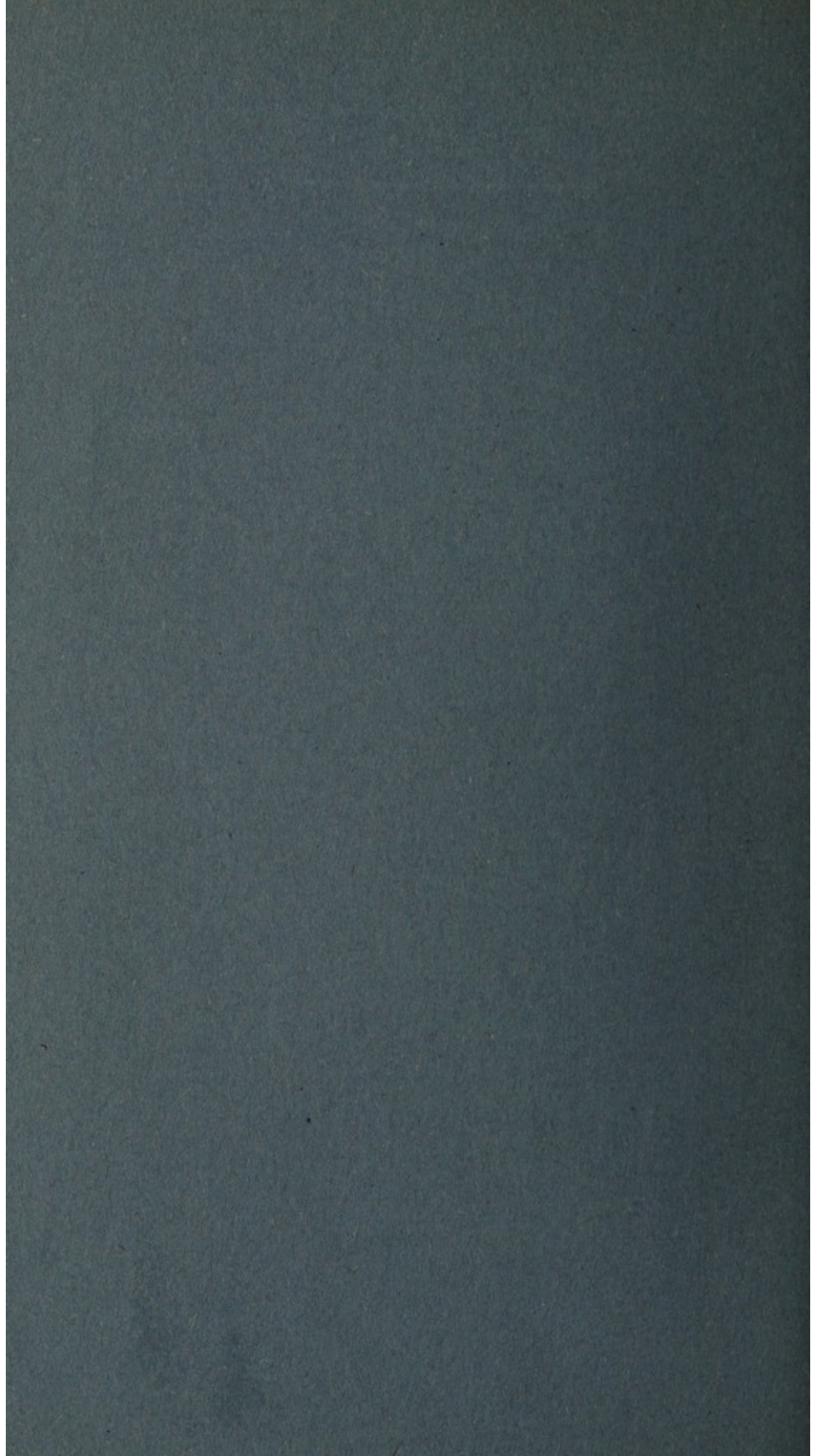
1954



ST. ALBANS:

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES

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### ST. ALBANS CITY

Alderman R. E. Holdham (*Chairman*)  
Councillor T. T. Jarman (*Vice-Chairman*)  
Alderman J. Baum  
Councillor G. F. Burrell  
Councillor H. Child  
Councillor Mrs. S. E. Dunham  
Councillor The Rev. A. M. Ferguson, M.A.  
Councillor P. W. Hall  
Councillor Mrs. I. E. Stebbings

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### ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

Councillor Mr. A. G. Cutmore (*Chairman*)  
Councillor Mrs. M. V. S. Cory-Wright (*Vice-Chairman*)  
Councillor Mrs. I. E. Bellchambers  
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Councillor Mr. P. J. Wood

## 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.

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

D. A. McLAREN, M.S.I.A.  
Sanitary Inspector.  
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

C. W. McHUGO, F.R.I.C.  
Public Analyst (Part Time).

MRS. K. F. JAMES  
Secretary.

MISS I. V. YOUNG  
Clerk.

R. H. FOX  
Sanitary Assistant.

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

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

W. A. BEERE, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.  
Sanitary Inspector.

A. G. PAINE  
Chief Clerk.

MRS. D. G. BURTON  
Shorthand Typist.

ARTHUR HOWE  
Cleansing Foreman.

Health Department,  
15 Hatfield Road,  
St. Albans.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. Albans, and the Chairman and Councillors 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 1954.

Generally speaking, I am pleased to report that the health of the City and Rural District remained at a high level throughout the year. Details of the various diseases notified and deaths are in the statistical section of the report.

The death rates were lower in both areas and birth rates about the same, whilst the infant mortality rate was well down from a combined rate of 29.43 for 1953 to 17.81 for 1954.

The method of allocating beds in the St. Albans City Hospital for maternity cases set forth in my report for 1951 continues, and, I believe, is working very satisfactorily.

To you, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to record my sincere thanks for the 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 am also deeply indebted to the chief clerk, secretary and staff of the Divisional Health Office for their assistance in preparation of the statistics for this report and for the many extra duties carried out by them during the year, which were actually outside their Divisional Health Office 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 ...	45,430	29,150
Area (in acres) ... ..	5,129	32,084
Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books :—		
Dwelling Houses ... ..	13,199	7,077
Shops with living accommodation ... ..	572	83
Licensed Premises with living accommodation ... ..	88	64
TOTAL ... ..	13,859	7,224
Rateable Value ... ..	£452,609	£199,308

**Extracts from Vital Statistics**

	St. Albans City			St. Albans R.D.C.		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate ...	371	298	669	203	199	402
Illegitimate ...	14	18	32	13	7	20
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ...		15.43			14.48	
Stillbirths ... ..	10	9	19	5	5	10
Deaths ... ..	280	212	492	222	295	517
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion ... ..		10.83			17.74	

**Deaths from Pregnancy,  
Child Birth, Abortion**

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths)	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths)
<b>Death of Infants under 1 Year of Age</b>				
Legitimate ... ..	9	3	12	6
Illegitimate ... ..	—	1	1	1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age. All infants per 1,000 live births ...		18.54		16.59
Combined Rate ... ..			17.81	
Neonatal Death Rate ...		14.26		14.22

The following Table gives the Death, Birth and Infant Mortality Rates since 1947.

Year	DEATH RATE		BIRTH RATE		INFANT MORTALITY RATE	
	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.
1947	12.6	9.2	17.9	16.5	33.0	54.0
1948	10.2	6.98	17.2	14.54	19.2	18.1
1949	11.5	8.2	18.2	14.8	13.1	22.2
1950	11.3	7.7	16.3	13.2	33.3	22.5
1951	12.0	7.7	16.4	13.3	27.6	29.1
1952	10.6	6.8	16.5	12.8	27.1	8.1
1953	11.52	18.05	15.60	14.46	29.87	28.64
1954	10.83	17.74	15.43	14.48	18.54	16.59
1902	10.9		21.4		67.4	
1901	13.0		21.6		135.4	



## Causes of Death

	St. Albans City		St. Albans R.D.C.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	3	2	2	—	
2. Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	—	1	1	
3. Syphilitic diseases ... ..	2	—	2	—	
4. Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	
5. Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—	—	
6. Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—	—	—	
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	
8. Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	1	—	
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	6	4	3	2	Cancer 155
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	15	—	11	6	
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	9	—	9	
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	3	—	2	
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	25	23	21	16	
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	1	1	1	—	
16. Diabetes ... ..	1	3	—	1	
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	30	43	19	40	Heart Disease 311
18. Coronary disease, angina ... ..	55	22	36	14	
19. Hypertension ... ..	3	7	8	20	
20. Other heart disease ... ..	25	28	17	76	
21. Other circulatory disease ... ..	18	14	16	20	
22. Influenza ... ..	—	—	1	2	
23. Pneumonia ... ..	18	8	20	37	
24. Bronchitis ... ..	11	5	14	10	
25. Other diseases of respiratory system...	7	3	5	3	
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	2	3	2	4	
27. Gastritis and enteritis, diarrhoea ... ..	1	2	2	1	
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	4	3	4	3	
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	6	—	3	—	
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	—	—	—	—	
31. Congenital malformations ... ..	4	3	3	1	
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	23	17	15	20	
33. Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	5	2	7	1	
34. All other accidents ... ..	9	4	4	5	
35. Suicide ... ..	5	2	3	1	
36. Homicide and operations of war ... ..	—	—	1	—	
TOTALS ...	280	212	222	295	1,009

Once again the greatest single cause of death was, excluding heart disease, cancer. "Heart Disease" was chiefly a normal termination of life in old age—something which is inevitable, and most of the 311 cases would be more reasonably classified as "Old Age."

### Vital Statistics, 1954—England and Wales

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General.

#### Births

Live Births (per 1,000 total population) ... ..	15.2
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) ... ..	23.4

#### Deaths

All Causes (per 1,000 total population) ... ..	11.3
Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births) ... ..	25.5
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) ... ..	0.69
Neonatal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births) ... ..	17.7

This table is included to enable comparisons to be made between local rates and national rates, but in dealing with the relatively low numbers from which local rates are calculated, one must be very cautious about drawing conclusions.

## ANALYSIS OF INFANT MORTALITY

(Combined figures for two authorities)

Cause of Death	AGE AT DEATH										Total under 1 year
	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		
Prematurity ... ..	5	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Gastro Enteritis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations ... ..	5	2	1	1	9	2	—	—	—	—	11
Marasmus ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Difficult Labour ... ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other Causes (accident) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
All causes ... ..	12	2	1	1	16	3	1	—	—	—	20

Congenital Malformation and Prematurity therefore accounted for 80 per cent of the deaths of children under one year of age. Much research is going on to discover the cause of these two conditions, but so far the causes appear to be very obscure, though certain lines of enquiry seem to be promising.

**Section B****GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES  
FOR THE AREA****Welfare Centres and Clinics****Bricket Wood—The Social Club, Oak Avenue**

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 2—4 p.m.  
(Dr. attends 2nd.)

Minor Ailments treated between 8.30 and 9 a.m. at Nurse's Cottage.  
Mount Pleasant Lane. (Telephone Garston 2183.)

**Colney Heath—The Pavilion**

Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2.30—4 p.m.

Minor Ailments treated in children's own homes or at local school.

**Harpenden—Memorial Hospital (Harpenden 3696)**

Ante-Natal - - Mondays, 2—4 p.m.

Orthopaedic - - Saturdays, a.m. (Once monthly surgeon attends.)

**40 Luton Road (Harpenden 40)**

Ophthalmic - - 1st and 3rd Mondays, 9.30 a.m.—12 noon.  
(By appointment.)

Minor Ailments - Wednesday, 9 a.m.—12 noon (Dr. attends).

Speech Therapy - Thursdays, 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.

Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 1.45—4.30 p.m.

Dental - - Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 2—4 p.m.

**Batford J.M.I. School, Pickford Hill**

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 1.45—4.30 p.m.

**London Colney—Primary School, Alexander Road**

Minor Ailments - Fridays, 9.30 a.m.—12 noon.  
(Dr. attends 2nd and 4th.)

Infant Welfare - Thursdays, 1.45—4.30 p.m.

**Redbourn—Congregational Hall**

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2.30—4.30 p.m.

Minor Ailments treated 8.15-8.30 a.m. and 6.15-6.45 p.m. at nurse's  
residence, 18 Bettespol Meadows. (Telephone Redbourn 251.)

**St. Albans—The Village Hall, Park Street**

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Mondays, 1.30—4 p.m.

**St. Luke's Hall, Camp Road**

Infant Weighing - 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2—4 p.m.

**Mandeville School**

Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 2—4 p.m.

**Margaret Wix Health Annexe, High Oaks (St. Albans 6994)**

Infant Welfare - Wednesdays, 1.30—4 p.m.

Speech Therapy - Mondays, 9.30—12.30 p.m.

**Wellington Court, Bricket Road (St. Albans 5002 and 4926)**

- Immunisation and Minor Ailments - Mondays, 9 a.m.—12 noon.  
Doctor attends 9.30 a.m.
- Dental - - - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 9.30—12.30 p.m.  
Saturdays, 9.30 a.m.—12 noon.  
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 2—5 p.m.
- Orthoptic - - - Mondays, 9 a.m.—12 noon as required.  
Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.—12 noon.  
Wednesdays and Thursdays, 2—4.30 p.m.
- Ophthalmic - - - Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m.—12 noon.  
Mondays, 1.30—3.30 p.m.
- Speech - - - Tuesdays and Fridays, 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.  
Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1.30—4.30 p.m.
- Ante-Natal - - - Wednesdays, 9.30—11.30 a.m.
- Infant Welfare - Tuesdays and Fridays, 1.30—4 p.m.  
Doctor attends Fridays.  
Foods issued Tuesdays and Fridays.

**Bricket House, Bricket Road (St. Albans 5431)**

- Orthopaedic - - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays all day.  
Surgeon attends 3rd Wednesday and 2nd Friday p.m.

**Osterhills Hospital, Normandy Road (St. Albans 2211)**

- V.D. (Women) - Tuesdays, 5—7 p.m. and Fridays, 2—4 p.m.
- V.D. (Men) - Tuesdays, 5—7 p.m. and Fridays, 10 a.m.—12 noon.
- Post Natal - - Wednesdays, 11 a.m.
- Chest Clinic - Tuesdays, 10.30 a.m. (children).  
Mondays, 2 p.m. (St. Albans patients).

**Hill End Hospital (St. Albans 5555)**

- Child Guidance - Mondays to Fridays, a.m. and p.m.

**Sandridge—The Parish Hall**

- Infant Weighing - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2.30—3.30 p.m.
- Minor Ailments treated between 4 and 5 p.m. at nurse's residence, 2 Reynolds Crescent (St. Albans 4985) or in children's own homes if necessary.

**Shenley**

- Minor Ailments treated at School.

**Wheathampstead—Mead Hall, East Lane**

- Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.30—4 p.m.  
Doctor attends 3 p.m.
- Minor Ailments treated 8.30-9 a.m. at nurse's residence, Inez Cottage, Luton Road. (Wheathampstead 3123.)

## National Health Service Act

The Divisional Administration of the Health Services administered by the Local Health Authority, the County Council, continues to work very smoothly and an increasing amount of detailed administration is being passed out to Divisional Health Offices from Hertford. I need only mention the Home Help Service, Ambulance Service and supervision of County Council Cars.

The records available in the Divisional Health Office on Local Health Authority work are of the greatest value to me in my Local Sanitary Authority (Medical Officer of Health) work, especially in what is my most difficult job, assessing medical points for housing applications.

Every ambulance journey exceeding 50 miles outwards has to be sanctioned by me as Divisional Medical Officer, and I can assure you that the case is investigated very carefully indeed before consent is given.

## Ambulance Service

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

### Districts of St. Albans and Harpenden Year ending 31st December, 1954

Appended are the details of calls dealt with during the last year. Substantial increases are again evident.

	Ambulance	Utilicon	Total	Increase and Decrease over 1953
Accidents ... ..	573	11	584	+ 41
Sudden Illness ... ..	184	—	184	+ 36
Maternity ... ..	388	2	390	- 25
Removals ... ..	8,937	7,591	16,528	+ 3,170
Vehicle journeys ... ..	3,884	2,690	6,574	+ 794
Mileage ... ..	53,992	68,381	122,373	+ 20,774

These figures once again show a very considerable increase in the demand made on the Ambulance Service, being approximately 22 per cent above last year, which was 22 per cent above the previous year.

I feel that something definitely must be done to limit this continued increase in calls on the Ambulance Service, but cannot see any effective means of doing so except by making a charge to the patients. The great bulk of the increase is due to cases going to

and from hospital and it might be represented that this is due to earlier discharge of patients as in-patients and bringing them up to the hospitals as out-patients.

Now the decision as to whether the patient requires ambulance or can travel to and from the hospital by ordinary public transport rests with, as a rule, a junior medical officer on the hospital staff. In the nature of things he cannot be familiar with the transport systems available. He is very busy, and the patient asks for an ambulance. He has no knowledge of local conditions to say in many cases that the patient could quite well travel by public transport, and even if he had, he is only liable to get himself into serious trouble by refusing ambulance calls. In fact, he is very liable to be blackmailed into ordering an ambulance.

Now if the patient had to pay, shall we say, 50 per cent above the cost of him travelling by public transport, this would give a definite incentive to the patient to ask the doctor "Would it not be possible for me to travel by bus or train?" and I feel certain that the calls on the Ambulance Service if this system were instituted would be considerably less.

### Hospitals

I am indebted to Mr. E. J. Burgess, Secretary, Mid-Herts Group Hospital Management Committee, for the following information:—

The allocation of beds is as follows:—

	St. Albans City Hospital
Surgical ... ..	85
Medical ... ..	64
Orthopaedic ... ..	20
Paediatric ... ..	25
Chronic Sick ... ..	76
Maternity ... ..	22
Gynaecological ... ..	28
Chest ... ..	30
Infectious Diseases ... ..	18
<i>Private Wing:</i>	
Section 5 Patients ... ..	4
Section 4 Beds ... ..	6
Others ... ..	6
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>384</b>

### School Medical Service

This service continues to work very smoothly, due largely to the help and co-operation received from Head Teachers. I have been very impressed by the interest taken by parents and in about 75 per cent of the examinations, one of the parents has been present.

The innovation of calling parents up when their children are re-examined following a defect found at a previous examination has proved to be very valuable and is, I believe, thoroughly appreciated by the parents. The attendance of parents at such examinations is very good indeed. It was considered that this might overload the School Medical Officers in that it would possibly take more time to deal with each individual case, but in practice we find that by calling the parents we do not have to call the children so often and this fully balances the apparent disadvantage.

### **Milk and Meals in Schools**

These are of very high standard and a well worth while investment. Washing facilities appear adequate in most cases and food preparation rooms and kitchens clean, though space is often limited.

### **Health Visiting**

There are 17 nurses doing health visiting in the St. Albans Division of Hertfordshire. They are employed for the visiting of persons in their homes for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, old persons, persons suffering from illness and expectant or nursing mothers, and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

### **Nursing Homes and Old People's Homes**

There are 5 Registered Nursing Homes in this area, and 9 Registered Old People's Homes. All are regularly inspected.



**Section C****SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA****Water Supplies**

See Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

**Drainage and Sewerage**

See Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

**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.

**Public Baths**

These have been going now for over three years and undoubtedly provide a much-needed service. I have always emphasised that this service is a Public Health service and cannot be expected to be financially self-supporting but the increasing numbers using the baths suggest that the gap between income and expenditure will decrease but it will, I am sure, never close. To put up the charges would, I feel sure, increase, not decrease the gap.

**Mortuary**

The following bodies were removed to the mortuary :—

Adult—Males	...	...	...	...	57
Females	...	...	...	...	21
Children—Males	...	...	...	...	3
Females	...	...	...	...	—
Number of Post Mortems	...	...	...	...	81

**General Nutrition**

Poor nutrition is rare and often is the result of fussing parents indulging in food fads. Underweight children often are of small birth weight or have small parents.

### **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.

### **Home 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 school age, within the meaning of the Education Act, 1944.

The Organiser, who is a member of the Divisional Health Department Staff, receives requests from doctors, health visitors, midwives, hospital almoners and welfare organisations. No one is denied help on financial grounds and every case can be assessed according to the family income.

The service is proving extremely popular. So much so, in fact, that we are unable to provide all the home help that is desired, because we cannot get sufficient numbers of Home Helps. This is particularly difficult in the period Christmas—Easter when, of course, illness is at its height and one must remember that illness affects Home Helps as well as other members of the community.

In the St. Albans Division of the Hertfordshire County Council 618 persons availed themselves of this service.

### **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 in 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.

Surveys have been carried out under the 1954 Housing, Rent and Repairs Act, and certain figures will be laid before the Minister during August, 1955.

I am afraid the Act, like many other Acts, may well produce results by no means intended by Parliament. In this area there are a great number of houses let at rents, including rates, of anything from 5/- to 10/- per week, with a gross annual value of under £10. Now the maximum increase in rent permitted under the Act, after full repairs have been carried out, is up to twice the annual gross rateable value and no more. Taking the instance of a house with an annual gross rateable value of £10, this means that the rent can only be increased to a maximum of £20 per annum, whereas the cost of repairs to bring the house up to the necessary standard may well amount to £200.

It is not difficult to see that owners are, to put it mildly, reluctant to spend a sum even approaching such a figure when they would not get it back within a reasonable time. They, not unnaturally, reply to the request for carrying out such repairs, "Make a Demolition Order—I am not going to spend any more money on this house!" yet such houses are by no means always impossible of repair. Many, however, are in such a condition that it would be physically impossible to carry out these repairs whilst the tenants are in occupation. It is necessary, therefore, for the Councils to re-house such people whilst the repairs are being carried out. The owner then has vacant possession. He carries out the repairs plus, in some cases, improvements, and can then sell the house with vacant possession at a reasonable profit to himself. This may sound unfair to the Local Authority, but I would point out that by doing so, they still have the house instead of a Demolition Order which would require re-housing in any case.

**Section E****INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD****Food Poisoning Outbreaks**

Total No. of Outbreaks	Number of Cases	Number of Deaths	Organisms or Other Agents Responsible with number of Outbreaks of each	Foods involved with Number of Outbreaks of each
—	5	—	Salmonella Typhimurium (3) Salmonella Montivideo (2)	— —

After most careful investigation it was impossible to trace the cause of these cases contracting food poisoning. This is only to be expected in dealing with such small numbers.

**Section F****PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES****Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1954**

	St. Albans City		St. Albans R.D.C.	
	Notified	Deaths	Notified	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ... ..	24	—	17	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	136	—	83	—
Measles ... ..	39	—	6	—
Pneumonia ... ..	11	—	9	—
Erysipelas ... ..	9	—	1	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	3	—	2	—
Infective Hepatitis ... ..	15	—	4	—
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	1	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	1	—	19	—
Acute Encephalitis ... ..	1	—	—	—

**Tuberculosis****Cases on Register at 31st December, 1954**

	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
St. Albans City ...	176 (151)	103 (93)	22 (27)	19 (18)	320 (289)
St. Albans R.D.C....	129 (109)	97 (82)	15 (14)	19 (17)	260 (222)
Totals ... ..	305 (260)	200 (175)	37 (41)	38 (35)	580 (511)

Figures at 31.12.53 are in brackets.

The increases are, I believe, due to more intensive search for cases, e.g., Mass Radiography, and the better co-operation of other Local Authorities in notifying to us their cases moving into our district. I do not think the disease is, in fact, increasing.

**Smallpox**

There were no cases during 1954.

### Vaccination

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C. Number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during 1954 :

Age at 31st December —	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 & over	Total
Number vaccinated ...	837	50	27	10	34	958
Number re-vaccinated ...	—	—	7	13	43	63
Number of cases specially reported during period (age groups as above) ...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Number of births registered for the St. Albans Division						1,792
Primary vaccination rate per 100 births ...						53.5

Of the total number of vaccinations (958), 492 were done at County Council Clinics.

The primary vaccination rate of 53.5 per 100 births is quite good, but it could be better.

I strongly advocate vaccination before the age of 1 year when the risks involved are negligible. Many people in later life find they must be vaccinated either to travel abroad or take up some employment where vaccination is insisted upon. The risks in vaccination in later years are much greater, except when the primary vaccination has been done in infancy.

The great increase in air travel has also increased the risk of smallpox being brought into the country as a case may be infected in, say, Egypt or India, and be here before the onset of the disease, whereas previously, by surface transport the time involved in the journey ensured that the disease became apparent before landing in the United Kingdom.

### Diphtheria

There were no cases notified during 1954.

### Immunisation against Diphtheria

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of children who completed a Full Course for Primary Immunisation in the Authorities' Area (including temporary residents) in 1954 :		Total	Total number of children who were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection (i.e. subsequent to complete full course) :
Age at date of final injection			
Under 5	5 - 15		
1,612	63	1,675	1,289
Number of births registered for the same area ...		...	1,792
Primary immunisation rate per 100 births ...		...	93.5

The numbers shown above include 462 children who received primary combined Whooping Cough-Diphtheria immunisation

injections from general practitioners and 184 children who received re-inforcing combined injections.

The Primary Immunisation Rate of 93.5 is very good indeed. It has been obtained by personal contact by General Practitioners, Health Visitors and Nurses with no recourse to general propaganda by newspaper advertisements, posters or cinema slides. The public have had so much propaganda on all subjects, both from Central and Local Government sources that they are largely immune to it.

### Whooping Cough

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of children who completed a full course for Primary Immunisation in the Authorities' Area (including temporary residents) in 1954 :

Age at date of final injection		Total
Under 5	5 - 15	
1,475	32	1,507

These figures include 462 children who received a primary immunisation with a combined Whooping Cough-Diphtheria vaccine.

Several cases of Whooping Cough have occurred in children who have been immunised, but all such cases have been very mild indeed. We do not claim that whooping cough immunisation prevents whooping cough to anything like the extent that diphtheria immunisation prevents diphtheria, but it will prevent altogether the disease in many cases and in others, turn what is a very long, distressing and sometimes fatal disease into what could fairly be called a "Minor Ailment."

We are now satisfied that the combined vaccine (Whooping Cough-Diphtheria) is safe and effective. In fact, in that it is given subcutaneously instead of intramuscularly, I believe it to be safer.

I think it might be profitable for me to set down the recommended periods for all immunisation procedure, including vaccination. They are as follows :

Primary vaccination against Smallpox at 3 months of age.

First combined injection against Whooping Cough and Diphtheria at 4 months of age.

Second injection at 5 months, and third at 6 months.

The third combined injection may be postponed to 12 months.

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

COUNCIL OFFICES,  
43, Upper Lattimore Road,  
St. Albans.

*May 1955.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1954.

**WATER SUPPLIES**

The water supplies of the area continue to receive close attention and a total of 43 samples were sent to the Public Health Service Laboratory at Luton for bacteriological examination.

Of the 7,224 permanent dwellings in the district, 7,008 or 97.01 per cent. are supplied from waterworks. Of the 7,008 supplied from waterworks 6,849 or 97.73 per cent. are supplied from water mains direct to the houses and the remaining 2.27 per cent. by means of standpipes. The supplies are constant in every case and there is no evidence of liability to plumbo-solvent action.

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

SUPPLIER	Number of dwellings supplied		Totals
	Direct to the Houses	By means of Standpipes	
St. Albans Rural District Council :—			
Redbourn Undertaking ... ..	902	24	926
Tyttenhanger Green Main (Water drawn from Hill End Hospital Supply) ...	41	10	51
St. Albans Waterworks Company ... ..	3,627	19	3,646
Harpenden Water Company ... ..	1,110	85	1,195
The Barnet District Water Company ... ..	482	19	501
The Colne Valley Water Company ... ..	291	2	293
Borough of Hemel Hempstead ... ..	36	—	36
Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company ... ..	30	—	30
Hill End Hospital and Cell Barnes Colony Estate ... ..	119	—	119
Napsbury Hospital Estates ... ..	49	—	49
Harperbury Hospital Estate ... ..	35	—	35
Gorhambury Estate and adjacent Crown Property (Plant operated by Crown Commissioners) ... ..	69	—	69
Childwickbury Estate, St. Albans ... ..	58	—	58
<b>TOTALS</b> ... ..	<b>6,849</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>7,008</b>



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

PARISH	Water Undertakers supplying in each Parish	Number of dwellings supplied		Total No. of dwellings in each Parish supplied from Waterworks	Total No. of dwellings in each Parish (excluding temporary buildings)
		Direct to the Houses	By means of Standpipes		
Sandridge	St. Albans Waterworks Company ...	613	19	648	692
	Harpenden Water Company ...	15	1		
Wheathampstead	Harpenden Water Company ...	999	78	1,078	1,100
	Childwickbury Estate Supply ...	1	—		
Harpenden Rural	Harpenden Water Company ...	94	6	105	118
	St. Albans Rural District Council ...	5	—		
Redbourn	St. Albans Rural District Council ...	897	24	967	993
	Gorhambury Estate Supply (Crown) ...	25	—		
	Borough of Hemel Hempstead ...	13	—		
	Childwickbury Estate Supply ...	8	—		
St. Michael's Rural	Borough of Hemel Hempstead ...	23	—	167	210
	St. Albans Waterworks Company ...	34	—		
	Childwickbury Estate Supply ...	49	—		
	Gorhambury Estate Supply (Crown) ...	44	—		
	Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Co. ...	17	—		
St Stephen's	The Colne Valley Water Company ...	236	—	1,802	1,822
	St. Albans Waterworks Company ...	1,537	—		
	Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Co. ...	13	—		
	Harperbury Hospital Estate Supply ...	16	—		

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

PARISH	Water Undertakers supplying in each Parish	Number of dwellings supplied		Total No. of dwellings in each Parish supplied from Waterworks	Total No. of dwellings in each Parish (excluding temporary buildings)
		Direct to the Houses	By means of Standpipes		
London Colney	St. Albans Waterworks Company ...	1,266	—	1,410	1,416
	The Colne Valley Water Company ...	55	2		
	Harperbury Hospital Estate Supply ...	19	—		
	Napsbury Hospital Estate Supply ...	49	—		
	Hill End Hospital Supply ...	19	—		
Colney Heath	Tytenhanger Green Main (Water drawn from Hill End Hospital supply) ...	41	10	831	873
	St. Albans Waterworks Company ...	179	—		
	The Barnet District Water Company ...	482	19		
	Hill End Hospital Supply ...	100	—		

### 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 a total of 30 samples of the waters were sent to the Public Health Service Laboratory at Luton for bacteriological examination.

By agreement with the manager a swimming pool which is maintained in connection with a private recreation club and used by a considerable number of members was sampled regularly throughout the summer.

### HOUSING

1.	Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of demolition or closing orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
2.	Number of Statutory Notices served requiring the execution of works	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
3.	Number of demolition or closing orders made:—							
	(a) demolition orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
	(b) closing orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
4.	Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section 3 of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
5.	Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

On the 31st December, 1954 the following eight houses which are the subjects of demolition or clearance orders were being used under licence for human habitation:—

- 28, High Street, Sandridge.
- 30, High Street, Sandridge.
- 32, High Street, Sandridge.
- 56, High Street, Sandridge.
- 58, High Street, Sandridge.
- 9, Park Lane, Colney Heath.
- Two wooden cottages at Lower Gustard Wood, Wheathampstead.

In four of these cases the houses are no longer fit for human habitation and arrangements are in hand for the occupants to move into alternative accommodation early in 1955.

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

### ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PARISH	NUMBER OF PROPERTIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE COUNCIL AT 31st DECEMBER, 1954.				ANALYSIS SHOWING HOUSING PROGRESS FROM JANUARY 1st TO DECEMBER 31st, 1954.		
	Pre-war houses	Post-war houses	Acquired Properties	TOTAL	New houses completed in 1954.	No. of properties vacated in 1954 other than by transfer	No. of families re-housed in 1954.
LONDON COLNEY ...	100	356	3	459	6	5	41
REDBOURN ...	128	120	—	248	—	10	12
ST. STEPHENS ...	34	198	—	232	69	8	33
COLNEY HEATH ...	108	50	—	158	10	4	20
SANDRIDGE ...	54	94	—	148	18	4	27
WHEATHAMPSTEAD ...	90	151	4	245	20	8	26
ST. MICHAELS ...	16	—	—	16	—	1	3
HARPENDEN RURAL...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
CITY AREA ...	—	—	3	3	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,509</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>163</b>

Table showing the number of occupied moveable dwellings in the District at December, 1954, other than moveable dwellings on common lands, the number of sites used by them and the services available thereat

PARISH	Total number of occupied moveable dwellings stationed in the district at December, 1954	Number of sites on which these moveable dwellings are stationed	Maximum number of occupied dwellings on any site	Number of sites with main drainage	Number of sites where foul drainage is disposed of in cesspools	Number of sites provided with watercloset sanitation	Number of sites served by a readily accessible mains water supply
London Colney ...	29	9	20	2	2	3	9
St. Stephens ...	94	39	26	5	—	6	37
St. Michaels ...	1	1	1	—	—	—	1
Redbourn ...	24	6	16	3	1	3	6
Harpenden Rural ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wheathampstead ...	20	11	4	1	1	1	7
Sandridge ...	2	2	1	—	—	—	1
Colney Heath ...	52	18	13	—	7	3	12
TOTAL ...	222	86	—	11	11	16	73

## NUISANCES

One hundred and twenty complaints of alleged nuisances were received and suitable action taken in each case. In no instance was it found necessary to serve statutory notices to secure abatement.

### **Public Health Act, 1936—Section 50— Overflowing or Leaking Cesspools**

Eighty-three informal notices and fifty-two formal notices were served in relation to cesspools the contents of which were overflowing or which were known to soak. The cesspools concerned serve buildings which are within easy reach of a public sewer and most of the owners have taken or are taking the necessary measures to connect the properties to the sewer.

### **REPLACEMENT OF PAIL CLOSETS BY WATERCLOSETS**

The Council continued their policy of making contributions under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936 towards the expenses reasonably incurred by owners of buildings in the execution of necessary works in connection with the replacement of pail closets by waterclosets.

During the year 37 pail closets were replaced. Replacements during each of the preceding three years were as follows :—

1953	...	...	...	75
1952	...	...	...	54
1951	...	...	...	52

**RODENT CONTROL**  
**(Period 1st April, 1954, to 31st March, 1955)**

	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (2)	Agricultural (3)	All other (including business premises) (4)	Total (5)
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District ... ..	5	7,077	230	229	7,541
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the three months ended 31st March, 1955 as a result of					
(a) notification ... ..	(a) —	318	—	24	342
(b) survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 ...	(b) 4	293	203	75	575
(c) otherwise e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose ... ..	(c) 1	323	—	100	424
III. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by rats ... ..	3	402	33	25	463
IV. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be seriously infested by mice ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
V. Number of infested properties (see Sections III and IV) treated by the Local Authority ... ..	3	402	Nil	14	419

## REGISTRATIONS UNDER SECTION 14 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Fifty premises are used in connection with the manufacture or sale of ice cream and preserved food, etc. Of these, forty-three are registered for the sale of ice cream and two are registered for both the manufacture and sale of ice cream

### Other Food Preparing Premises

In the district there are six bakehouses, four fish frying premises and nineteen cafés. Of the nineteen cafés, nine cater in the main for road transport workers

## MILK

The following table gives details of current registrations under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

### Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Premises registered.	Persons carrying on the trade of Milk Distributors elsewhere than at or from a Dairy Farm		
	Dairy Premises other than Dairy Farms.	From shops in the St. Albans Rural District.	From premises within the St. Albans Rural District not being shop premises.
12	6	6	9

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

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

Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested."	Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested."
4	12

### 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."
6	11	7	7



## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

### 1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of			Occupiers prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	6	3	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	67	39	6	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ... ..	5	2	—	—	—

## 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)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	1	1			
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	—	—			
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ... ..	—	—			
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	—	—			
Ineffective drainage of floor (S.6) ... ..	—	—			
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :					
(a) insufficient ... ..	3	2			
(b) unsuitable or defective ... ..	3	1			
(c) not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—			
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ... ..	—	—			
TOTAL ... ..	7	4	Nil	Nil	Nil

### MEAT INSPECTION

Slaughtering by the Ministry of Food at the Sandridge Slaughterhouse at High Street, Sandridge terminated on the 29th June, 1954. From the 1st July, 1954 the premises were leased to Messrs. Sandridge Slaughter House Ltd., a company formed by local butchers, and are licensed by the Local Authority for a period of five years. The slaughterhouse premises of Mr. W. R. Simons of Station Road, Wheathampstead were similarly licensed for a period of five years.

Details of the numbers of animals slaughtered for human consumption in the St. Albans Rural District during the year and of the condemnations are given in the following tables. A one hundred per cent inspection was maintained throughout.

### Animals Slaughtered

Premises	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Sandridge Slaughterhouse: By Ministry of Food ... ..	1,219	379	598	4,997	1,770	8,963
By Messrs. Sandridge Slaughter House Ltd. Slaughterhouse at Station Road, Wheathampstead in the occupation of Mr. W. R. Simons	1,019	257	224	1,720	1,738	4,958
TOTALS ... ..	2,596	636	861	7,670	3,990	15,753

### Condemnnations

Class	Carcasses and all offal thereof	Qtrs. of Beef	Heads	Lights	Livers	Liver Trim-mings (lbs.)	Plucks	Misc. pieces of Beef, Mutton & Pork
Beasts ... ..	16	8	126	192	377	1,897	—	1,225
Calves ... ..	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	lbs.
Sheep ... ..	10	—	1	9	308	56	5	
Pigs ... ..	14	—	41	29	97	9	9	

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

## 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

A fleet of four vehicles is operated, viz., one 25-cubic yards Dennis "Paxit Major" and three side-loaders and a once-weekly collection is maintained.

Careful consideration has been given to the question of adjustments, if any, which may be necessary in the fleet to meet the needs of an increasing population and, as a result of trials carried out in November, it has been decided to introduce another 25-cubic yards Dennis "Paxit Major" vehicle in replacement of two side-loaders.

All household refuse is disposed of by tipping and a good standard of control is achieved by one man with suitable mechanical equipment.

### Nightsoil Collection

Nightsoil emptying equipment is fitted to one of our Dennis cesspool emptiers and the work is carried out during normal daylight working hours with a driver-loader and one mate. The men engaged on it are paid a plus rate of one shilling per hour in respect of the hours engaged thereon.

Pails are cleansed at 321 dwelling houses. This figure shows a reduction of 42 or 13.08 per cent compared with the figure at 31st December, 1953 and a reduction of 322 or 50.08 per cent compared with the figure at the 31st December, 1947.

### Cleansing of Cesspools and the Disposal of Cesspool Contents

As will be noted from the statistical table in the Appendix on page 35 the number of cesspools which were being cleansed by the Council at the 31st December, 1954 shows a reduction of 153 or 18.98 per cent on the number at the 31st December, 1953. The reduction is 927 or 58.67 per cent on the number at the 31st December, 1950.

With few exceptions cesspool contents are discharged into sewers or at sewage disposal works.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

DAVID J. GRAHAM,  
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

**APPENDIX**  
**Statistics respecting Cesspools in the District which were being cleansed by the Council at 31st December, 1954**

Parish (1)	Number cleansed on request (2)	Number cleansed at regular intervals (3)	Totals (the figures in brackets indicate the number at 31st December, 1953) (4)	Cesspools already included in Column 4 but in respect of which a charge is made for cleansing or the owners have been notified of the date from which a charge for cleansing will be made because they are within 100 feet of a sewer or for other reasons (5)	Cesspools already in- cluded in Column 4 and serving properties which are unlikely to be con- nected to a public sewer for many years to come because of their distance therefrom or for other reasons (6)
St. Stephen ...	114	—	114 (265)	52	45
London Colney ...	19	5	24 (26)	1	3
Colney Heath ...	197	13	210 (201)	2	23
Sandridge ...	22	—	22 (25)	1	19
Wheathampstead	132	4	136 (139)	2	119
Harpenden Rural	27	—	27 (29)	1	26
Redbourn ...	64	—	64 (62)	2	61
St. Michael's ...	55	1	56 (59)	—	40
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>653 (806)</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>336</b>

