Contributors

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ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

AND

THE SENIOR HEALTH INSPECTOR DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1958



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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

Councillor Mrs. W. E. Connell (Chairman) Councillor A. G. Cutmore (Vice-Chairman) Councillor Mrs. E. Bishop Councillor E. Fricker Councillor N. J. Masters Councillor M. M. Morrison Councillor C. J. Saunders Councillor T. Sparrow Councillor Mrs. S. Williams

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

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

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. Senior Public Health Inspector Cleansing Superintendent

W. A. BEERE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. Additional Public Health Inspector

N. CUTHBERTSON, M.A.P.H.I. Additional Public Health Inspector Resigned 31.8.58.

A. G. PAINE Chief Clerk

MRS. A. ECKSTEIN Shorthand-Typist/Clerk Resigned 15.1.58.

MRS. G. D. STEELE Shorthand-Typist/ Clerk Commenced 21.4.58.

Health Department, 15 Hatfield Road, St. Albans.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of 5t. Albans and the Chairman and Councillors of the St. Albans Rural District Council.

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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 1958.

The general health of the area was good throughout the year. I have dealt, in the body of the report, with the very difficult and exasperating problem of Winter Sickness.

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 in 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

	S	t. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population		47,880	34,480
Area (in acres)		5,129	32,084
Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books	-	14.020	0.012
Dwelling Houses	•••	14,838	9,013
Shops with living accommodation		321	85 57
Licensed Premises with living accommodation		75	
		15,234	9,155
Rateable Value		£851,055	£431,064

Extracts from Vital Statistics

	St. A	lbans	City	St. A	lbans I	R.D.C.
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Live Births : Legitimate	393	386	779	322	256	578
Illegitimate	15	15	30	9	9	18
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			16.90	india.	18 10	17.29
Stillbirths	$14 \\ 269$	11	25	8	5	13
Deaths		234	503	209	261	470
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			10.51			13.63

Birth and Death Rates

Obviously the birth rate in any community will be affected by the percentage of women of childbearing age and marital status in that community, compared with the average of the country as a whole.

Especially or even more so, a community with a high proportion of elderly people must have a higher death rate than one with few old people and many young ones.

In order to make comparisons between the rates in different areas and the country as a whole, the Registrar General has supplied "Comparability Factors" to be applied to these two rates so that comparisons can be made.

Applying these two factors to the City and R.D.C. gives the following results :---

City	Rate	Comparable Birth Rate 16.56	Crude Death Rate 10.51	Comparable Death Rate 10.30
R.D.C	. 17.29	18.33	13.63	8.86

Deaths from Pregnancy

Child Birth, Abortion

	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and		Rate per 1,000 (Total live and
Deaths	Stillbirths)	Deaths	Stillbirths)
-	-	1	1.64

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age

St. A	lbans	City	St. A	lbans]	R.D.C.
M. 10	F. 7	Total 17	M. 5	F. 6	Total 11
1	-	1	-	-	-
		22.25	20.64		18.46
		21.01	20.01		16.78
	M.	M. F.	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	M. F. Total M. F. 10 7 17 5 6 1 - 1 22.25 20.64

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

	Death Rate			Rate	Infant Mortality Rate			
Year	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		
1955	10.32	19.10	15.93	15.16	15.23	15.28		
1956	10.99	19.31	16.31	14.43	15.77	19.78		
1957	10.87	16.00	15.48	15.31	15.03	17.79		
1958	10.51	13.63	16.90	17.29	22.25	18.46		
1902	10.9		21.4		67.4			
1901	13.0		21.6		135.4			

Causes of Death

			Albans City		lbans D.C.	
		M.		M.	F.	
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1	2	1	
2.	Tuberculosis, other	_			1	
3.	Syphilitic disease	2		1	2	
	Diphtheria			-	_	
4. 5.	Whooping Cough					
6.	Meningococcal infections			-	-	
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	
8.	Measles		-	-	-	
9.	Other infective and parasitic	-		~		
10	diseases	2	-	3	-	
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	3	_ 4	3,	
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung,	12			.1	
12	bronchus	13	1	12	1	~
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	9 5		7	Cancer
13. 14.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus Other malignant and lymphatic	-	2		31	154
14.		34	19	15	18	
15.	Toula and a laute and	54	19	1	10 1	
16.	Diabetes	_	3	1	1	
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous		5		1	
	system	35	36	20	37	
18.	Coronary disease, angina	50	37	29	281	Heart
19.	Hypertension	6	9	8	9	Disease
20,	Other heart disease	31	35	27	45	314
21.	Other circulatory disease	11	10	10	26	
22.	Influenza	2	1	3	2 27	
23.	Pneumonia	8	10	21		
24.	Bronchitis	25	7	11	4	
25.	Other diseases of respiratory				-	
26	system	4	4	3	53	
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	3	1	3	
27. 28.	Gastritis and enteritis, diarrhoea	2	1	1	3	
29.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	6	3	
30.	Hyperplasia of prostate Pregnancy, Childbirth and	1		0		
50.	abartion		-		1	
31.	Congenital malformations	3	2	3	2	
32.	Other defined and ill-defined	•	-		-	
	diseases	18	28	17	23	
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	4		3		
34.	All other accidents	4	2 6 2	6	17	
35.	Suicide	4	2	2	-	
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	1	
	dia .				244	0.72
	TOTALS	269	234	209	261	973

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 314 cases would be more reasonably classified as "Old Age."

Vital Statistics, 1958 - England and Wales

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General.

BIRTHS

Live Births (per 1,000 total population) Stillbirths (per 1,000 total live and still births)	 16.4 21.6
Deaths	
All Causes (per 1,000 total population)	 11.7
Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births)	 22.50
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	 0.43
Neonatal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	 16.20

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.

Number of Deaths and Death Rate from Tuberculosis and Cancer, 1958

The provisional numbers of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year 1958 are as follows:

		Number	r		Rate	
Respiratory Tuberculosis Other Tuberculosis	and the second second	Females 1,050 222	Persons 4,000 480	Males 136 12	Females 45 10	Persons 89 11
Cancer of lung and bronchus	17,030 33,702	2,779 42,288	19,809 75,990	783 1,550	119 1,810	439 1,685

ANALYSIS OF INFANT MORTALITY (Combined figures for two authorities)

	calaW ba						PR			12	Int		
	Total under 1 year	11.40		1	5	80	1	!	1	i	00	29	nd many
	9 and under 12 months			(10)	1					1		1	week, a
	6 and under 9 months										1	1	inder one
	3 and under 6 months								11 1			1	fact 23 1
AGE AT DEATH	1 and under 3 months												f age, in
AGE /	Total under 1 month	16			1	8	1		1	1	5	27	It will be noted that all but two of the deaths occurred under one month of age, in fact 23 under one week, and many
	3 and under 4 weeks										1	1	inder one
	2 and under 3 weeks	c	4								17	2	ccurred u
	1 and under 2 weeks										1	1	deaths o
11-	Under 1 week	F			1	8						23	vo of the
			:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:			but tv
			:		:	;	:	:	:			:	at all
	Death			·									ed th
	of I		:	:	:	matio	:	:	:	:	:	:	e not
	Cause of Death			ritis		Malfor			Cough	bour	S	:	will b
			nun	Enter	onia	iital 1	snu	:	ing C	lt Lal	Cause		
		Dromoturitu	TCIIIdi	Gastro Enteritis	Pneumonia	Congenital Malformations	Marasmus	T.B	Whooping Cough	Difficult Labour	Other Causes	All Causes	
		-		-	-	-		-		-		4	

of these occurred only a few minutes after birth. Premature birth and congenital malformations accounted for 24 and on Page 5 it will be seen that there were 38 stillbirths. There is a good deal to be said for comparing the stillbirths and deaths under one week with other areas as the conditions causing stillbirths and deaths under one week must be similar.

Section B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Welfare Centres and Clinics

Bricket Wood-The Scout Hut, Black Boy Wood Infant Welfare ... 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m.

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. (Surgeon attends once monthly)	

40, Luton Road (Harpenden 40)

Ophthalmic	 1st and 3rd Mondays, 10 a.m12 noon. (By appointment.)
Minor Ailments Speech Therapy	 Wednesdays, 9 a.m12 noon (Dr. attends). Tuesdays, 9.30 a.m12 noon; 2-4 p.m. (By appointment.)
Infant Welfare Dental	 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 1.45-4.30 p.m. Tuesdays, 10.30 a.m12 noon. Thursday, 10.30 a.m12 noon; 2-4 p.m. Fridays, 10.30 a.m12 noon; 2-4 p.m. (By appointment.)

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.m12 noon.
Infant Welfare	 (Dr. attends 2nd and 4th.) 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, Bettespool Meadows (Redbourn 251).

St. Albans--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 J.M.I. School Infant Welfare ... 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 2-4 p.m. Margaret Wix Health Annexe—High Oaks (St. Albans 56994) Infant Welfare ... Wednesdays, 1.30-4 p.m. Speech Therapy ... Mondays, 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. Dental ... Tuesday a.m. (2nd and 4th in month).* Wednesday a.m. (1st and 3rd in month).* Thursday p.m. (weekly).* Friday a.m. and p.m. (weekly)* Saturday a.m. (alternate).* * By appointment.

Wellington Court, Br. Immunisation and	icke	t Road (St. Albans 55002 and 54926)
		Mondays, 9 a.m12 noon. (Dr. attends 9.30 a.m.)
Dental		Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9.30 a.m12.30 p.m. Saturdays, 9.30 a.m12 noon (alternate). Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 2-5 p.m.
Orthoptic		Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m12 noon; 2-4.30 p.m.
Ophthalmic		Tuesday and Friday, 10 a.m12 noon.
Speech		Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9.30 a.m12.30
Auto Matel		Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 1.30-4.30 p.m.

Ante-Natal ... Wednesday, 9.30-11.30 a.m.. Monday, 2—4.30 p.m. (Midwives session). Infant Welfare ... Tuesday and Friday, 1.30-4 p.m.

(Dr. attends Friday.) Foods issued Tuesday and Friday.

Bricket House, Bricket Road (St. Albans 55431)

Orthopaedic	 Monday, Wednesday, Friday, all day. Surgeon attends 3rd Wednesday and 2nd p.m.	Friday.

Osterhills Hospital, Normandy Road (St. Albans 52211)

V.D. (Women)	 Tuesday, 5-7 p.m.; Friday, 2-4 p.m.
V.D. (Men)	 Tuesday, 5-7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m12 noon.
Post Natal	 Wednesday, 11 a.m.
Chest Clinic	 Tuesday, 10.30 a.m. (children). Monday, 2 p.m. (St. Albans Patients).

Hill End Hospital (St. Albans 55555)

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.

Shenley

Minor Ailments treated at school.

Wheathampstead-Mead Hall, East Lane

Infant Welfare ... 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.30-4 p.m. (Dr. attends 3 p.m.)

Minor Ailments treated 8.30-9 a.m. at nurse's residence, 5, Brewhouse Hill. (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.

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 have omitted the figures for ambulance journeys, etc. The service is at full stretch and whether a St. Albans case is serviced from St. Albans or Harpenden or even further afield depends on the urgency of the case, availability of vehicles, etc. County ambulances are under wireless control and an ambulance bringing a case to St. Albans from, say, Hertford, may be detailed to take a St. Albans case home to, say, Smallford.

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 :--

ne anotation of o	0.04101				St.	Albans City Hospital
Surgical						87
Medical						66
Orthopaedic						20
Paediatric						25 78
Chronic Sick				•••		23
Maternity						26
Gynaecological					••••	31
Chest						18
Infectious Diseases			•••			10
Private Wing-						4
Section 5 Patie	ents	••••				6
Section 4 Beds	• • • •	•••				
			Total			384

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% 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 a 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 21 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 3 Registered Nursing Homes in this area, and 7 Registered Old People's Homes. All are regularly inspected.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

See Public Health Inspector's Report.

Drainage and Sewerage

See Public Health 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 five years and undoubtedly provide a much needed service. I have always emphasized 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		 	54
Females		 	32
Children-Males		 	1
Females		 	2
Number of Post Mo	ortems	 	74

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 and 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 Office staff, receives requests from doctors, health visitors, midwives, hospital almoners and welfare organisations, but these requests must be backed up by a medical or a nurse's certificate. 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.

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 reason 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.

Section E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

There were no food poisoning outbreaks but isolated cases were reported as follows :---

ST. ALBANS CITY	St. Albans R.D.C.
1 case Salmonella Typhi-murium.	3 cases Salmonella Typhi-murium.
askes a second first subsection break in which	1 case Salmonella Thompson.

Section F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1958

			St. Alba	ns City	St. Albans	R.D.C.
			Notified	Deaths	Notified	Deaths
Scarlet Fever			14	_	7	-
Whooping Cough			24	-	5	-
Measles			134	_	183	-
Pneumonia			12	_	1	-
Erysipelas			6	-	1	-
Food Poisoning			1	-	4	-
Infective Hepatitis			1.100-1000	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia			1	-	3	-
Meningococcal Infe	ction		-	-	-	
Poliomyelitis (Paral	ytic)		1		-	-
Poliomyelitis (Non	Paral	ytic)	-	-	52	
Dysentery			2	(117 CTT 117 1	52	100
Acute Encephalitis			-	_		_

Poliomyelitis

We were fortunate in this area in having only 1 case of paralytic Poliomyelitis with no deaths and 1 non-paralytic.

The diagnosis in the non-paralytic form is usually highly doubtful and several other cases were quite rightly admitted to hospital as suspects. Even the laboratory examination of the Cerebro spinal fluid gives in some cases doubtful results, and experience so far of laboratory examination of stools seems quite untrustworthy.

All close contacts of definite and doubtful cases who have to deal with food or children are kept away from work for 3 weeks. This, of course, means that contacts of doubtful cases which subsequently turn out to be not Polio may be kept away from school or work for 3 weeks.

Winter Sickness

This condition has been common in the area for some time.

It affects chiefly young children especially the 5—7 age group but also adults. Epidemics have occurred all over the country and it is by no means a new disease—my own first experience of it was a very severe outbreak in Chatham in 1940-43. In spite of many laboratory examinations no infecting organism has been found though the disease is certainly infectious with an incubation period of 1 to 7 days.

I am indebted to Miss Webb, the Headmistress of Bernards Heath School, for the following clinical symptoms of the disease.

Usually the illness is characterized by :---

- (1) Lethargy and irritability for a day or two followed by;
- (2) Feeling of chilliness immediately preceding and during.
- (3) Sudden explosive vomiting and/or diarrhoea. In about 2/3 of the cases this happens during the night. In children the vomiting is the most marked feature whereas in adults diarrhoea is most common.
- (4) During the period of the illness, including the day or two before the onset of vomiting, a silvery pallor (yellowish behind the ears and sometimes over the temples) is most noticeable.
- (5) Pains and "wind" in the abdomen precedes, accompany and often follow the vomiting/diarrhoea.
- (6) Motions are yellow often with slime, urine usually dark coloured.
- (7) Phlegm and colourless slime is typical in the vomit.
- (8) Lethargy and irritability last, in many cases, for a month or more. The general noise and "joie de vivre" of children during "break" at a school with many cases is noticeably lower.
- (9) Repeat attacks are by no means unusual and generally occur within 21 days. These are usually, but by no means always, milder than the initial attack.

Careful investigation has shown no connection of cases with school meals, school milk, crowded classrooms, ventilation of school buildings, whether children are seated in the modern way around tables or at the older-fashioned school desks, modern or older schools, sex, drains, dustbins, lavatories, home conditions or general state of health, and the epidemic though possibly most marked in the autumn goes on throughout the year.

In one school where it was particularly prevalent I even tried a gieger counter to see if somehow or other radiation sickness had anything to do with it, needless to say with negative results.

I have had the help of Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education Medical Officers to try to solve the problem but so far with no result whatever.

Cases on Register at 31st December, 1958

		PULM	MONARY	Non-Pulm	IONARY	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
St. Albans City		234 (219)	135 (124)	23 (25)	17 (19)	409 (387)
St. Albans R.D.		174 (168)	134 (125)	12 (13)	19 (19)	339 (325)
TOTALS		408 (387)	269 (249)	35 (38)	36 (38)	748 (712)
	1	Figures at	31.12.57 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 1958.

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 I	Re-vacci	nated)	during 1	958 :
Age at 31st December—Under 1 Number vaccinated 1,563 Number Re-vaccinated —	$\frac{1}{70}$	2-4 29 8	35	15 & over 34 137	
Number of cases specially reported above)	St. A	lbans Div	vision .		Nil 2,198 78.75

Of the total number of primary vaccinations (1,731), 729 were done at County Council Clinics.

The primary vaccination rate of 78.75 per 100 births is up on last year (73.3).

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 reported in 1958.

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 Im-munisation in the Authorities' Area given a secondary or re-inforcing injection (*i.e.*, subsequent to a com-(including temporary residents) in 1958 :

Total number of children who were plete full course):

Age at date of final injection-

Under 5 1,706	5-15 45	Total 1,751	867	
Number of 1	hirtha radio	tored for the same area	2	108

Number of births registered for the same area 79.7 Primary immunisation rate per 100 births ...

The numbers shown above include 1,084 children who received primary combined Whooping Cough-Diphtheria immunisation injections and 294 children who received re-inforcing combined injections.

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 of Primary Immunisation in the Authorities' Area (including temporary residents) in 1958:

Age a	at date of	final	injection-	
	Under		5-15	Total
	1,630		20	1,650

These figures include 1,084 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 We do not claim that whooping cough immunisation indeed. prevents whooping cough to anything like the extent that diphtheria immunisation prevents diphtheria, but it will prevent altogether the disease in most cases and in others, turn what is a very long, distressing and sometimes fatal disease into what could fairly be called a "Minor Ailment."

Programme of Protective Inoculations

The following should be the routine procedure for young children :---

Month and Age

3rd month	 Pertussis Vaccine 1 c.c.
4th month	 Pertussis Vaccine 1 c.c.
$4\frac{1}{2}$ months	 Smallpox Vaccine
6th month	 Poliomyelitis Vaccine 1 c.c.
7th month	 Poliomyelitis Vaccine 1 c.c.
8th month	 Diphtheria Formol Toxoid 1 c.c.
9th month	 Diphtheria Formol Toxoid 1 c.c.
12th month	 Pertussis Vaccine 1 c.c.

Booster

Diphtheria 1 c.c. Formol Toxoid or T.A.F. immediately before or after the child starts school.

Poliomyelitis Vaccine

The only contraindications considered to be valid at present are the same as those applying to the other types of immunising procedures, viz., acute or intercurrent illness, poor or indifferent general health, acute constitutional disturbance, etc. If a child is to have tonsils or adenoids removed and is also due for the vaccine, it should be given at least two weeks before the operation if possible in the hope that the child may develop some immunity.

B.C.G. Vaccine

If this vaccine is to be—or has been—given to a young child contact, there should be no immunising injections within six weeks before or after the B.C.G. vaccine.

REPORT OF SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Council Offices,

43, Upper Lattimore Road,

St. Albans.

May, 1959.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1958.

WATER SUPPLIES

The water supplies of the area continue to receive close attention, and a total of ninety-one samples were sent to the Public Health Service Laboratories at Luton for bacteriological examination.

Seven Water Undertakers supply in the St. Albans Rural District, namely :---

The Barnet District Water Company

The Colne Valley Water Company

The Harpenden Water Company

Borough of Hemel Hempstead

Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company

St. Albans Rural District Council

St. Albans Waterworks Company

In addition, each of the following seven bodies provide an efficient piped supply to the dwelling houses on their Estate :----

All Saints Convent, London Colney

Childwickbury Estate

Gorhambury and adjacent Crown Lands (plant operated by the Crown Commissioners)

Hanstead Estate, Bricket Wood

Harperbury Hospital (supplied from Shenley Hospital) Hill End and Cell Barnes Hospitals

Napsbury Hospital

The seven Water Undertakers and seven Estates supply all the dwellings in the district excepting 184. These 184 dwellings take their supplies from private bores or wells and are located as follows :—

Parish of Colney Heath	 	22
Parish of Harpenden Rural	 	11
Parish of London Colney	 	2
Parish of Redbourn	 	27
Parish of Sandridge	 	43
Parish of St. Michael's	 	9
Parish of St. Stephen's	 	37
Parish of Wheathampstead	 	33

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 62 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 mad with a view to the making			
	orders	 		 22
2.		rders n 	nade – 	 17
		 		 3
	part premises	 		
3.	Number of houses demolished	 		 21

COUNCIL HOUSES

Statistics prepared by Miss Sharpe, the Council's Housing Officer, are shown in Appendix I.

Moveable Dwellings

A Statistical Table in respect of moveable dwellings in the district is given in Appendix II.

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

IG HOUSING JANUARY 1st 31st 1958	No. of Families re-Housed in 1958.	26	38	16	19	13	19	3	1	1	1	135 *
SHOWIN FROM	Number of properties vacated in 1958 other than by transfer.	5	5	8	2	5	8	1	1	1	1	33
ANALYSIS S PROGRESS TO DEC	New Houses completed in 1958	1	74	1	14	1	12	1/-	1	1	1	100
JF THE	TOTAL	523	386	232	251	184	299	16	14	I	æ	1908
CONTROL OF THE R, 1958.	Acquired Property	3	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	3	11
THE	Post-war Houses	420	258	198	142	130	205	I	14	1	1	1367
ERTIES UN IL AT 31st	Pre-war Houses	100	128	34	108	54	06	16	1	I	1	530
NUMBER OF PROPERTIES UNDER COUNCIL AT 31st DECH	PARISH	LONDON COLNEY	REDBOURN	ST. STEPHENS	COLNEY HEATH	SANDRIDGE	WHEATHAMPSTEAD	ST. MICHAELS	HARPENDEN U.D.C.	HARPENDEN RURAL	CITY AREA	TOTALS

22

Table showing the number of Moveable Dwellings in the District at December, 1958, the number of Sites used by them and the Services available thereat.

APPENDIX II

		-					
PARISH	Total number of occupied moveable dwellings stationed in the district at December 1958	Number of sites on which these moveable dwellings are stationed	Maximum number of occupied moveable dwellings on any one 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	4	20	3	1	3	4
T. STEPHENS	81	20	23	9	1	9	18
ST. MICHAELS	22	3	20	I	1	1	3
REDBOURN	36	11	16	3	2	3	6
HARPENDEN RURAL	I	1	1	I	1	1	I
WHEATHAMPSTEAD	15	10	4	1	1	73	5
SANDRIDGE	4	2	3	1	1	1	1
COLNEY HEATH	44	6	31	1	1	2	7
TOTALS	231	59	1	14	4	16	47

23

Nuisances

Sixty-six complaints of alleged nuisances were received and suitable action taken.

Under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936 and Section 15 of the Mines and Quarries Act, 1954 a Statutory Notice was served requiring a quarry to be provided with an efficient and properly maintained barrier so designed and constructed as to prevent any person from accidentally falling into the quarry by reason of its accessibility from the highway.

REPLACEMENT OF PAILCLOSETS 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 the owners of buildings in the execution of necessary works in connection with the replacement of pailclosets by waterclosets.

During the year, 25 pailclosets were replaced. Replacements during each of the preceding five years were as follows :---

1957	0		27
1957		 	37
1956		 	84
1955		 	32
1954		 	37
1953		 	75

RODENT CONTROL

In May 1958 the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food intimated that it had been decided that the Rat and Mouse Contract Service, formerly operated by the Agricultural Executive Committees and later by the Ministry's organisation, should be run down over the following twelve months. The Ministry sought the help of local authorities in order to ensure a smooth adjustment to the new conditions and expressed the hope that local authorities would seize the opportunity to review, and, if necessary, strengthen their organisation for the treatment of infestations of rats and mice in the rural areas. At the time that the Ministry decided to allow their Rat and Mouse Contract Service to run down they had in the St. Albans Rural District twenty-six contracts of a total value of $\pounds 369$ 6s. 0d.

In June the Council resolved to operate a Rat and Mouse Contract Service in respect of agricultural holdings, but it was found that, as the Ministry's contracts ran out, a considerable number of farmers made arrangements with private operators. However, by 1st April, 1959 the Council had entered into fifteen contracts of a total value of $\pounds 143$ 6s. 0d. and the indications are that the number of contracts will steadily increase.

Statistics in respect of rodent control work for the year ended 31st March, 1959 are shown in Appendix III.

	reriou ist	While Tron	While The to other than				
		Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (2)	Agricultural (3)	All öther (including business premises (4)	TOTAL (5)	
Ι.	Total number of properties in Local Authority's district	ŝ	9,209	230	278	9,722	
п.	Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the three months ended 31st March, 1959, as a result of :						-
	(a) Notification	1	248	-	1	248	500
	(b) Survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	5	178	110	62	355	
	(c) Otherwise, e.g., when visited primar- ily for some other purpose		150	I	80	230	
III.	Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be in fested by rats	3	217	23	15	258	
IV.	Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by mice	I	24	I	5	26	
۷.	Number of infested properties (see Sections III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	e	241	12	ũ	261	

RODENT CONTROL Period 1st April, 1958 to 31st March. 1959 25

APPENDIX IV

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

APPENDIX V.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

2. Cases in which defects were found

		17.0			Number	Number of cases in which defects were found	ich defects we	ere found	Number of cases in
Particulars	ulars				Found	Remedied	to H M	Referred A Bv H.M.	which prosecutions were
(1)		9103 9293			(2)	(3)	Inspector (4)	Inspector (5)	instituted (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	:	:	:	:	I	1	I	I	1
Overcrowding (S.2)	4	:	:		1	1	1	1	1
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	:	:	:		I	1	1	I	I
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	:	:	:		1	1	I	1	1
Ineffective drainage of floor (S.6)	:	:	::	:	1	1	I	1	1
Sanitary conveniences (S,7) (a) insufficient (b) unsuitable or defective (c) not separate for sexes		:::	:::	:::	861		111	111	111
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	t includ	ling offen	ices rela	ting to	1	1	1	1	1
	T	TOTAL	:	:	4	1	I	1	I

27

REGISTRATIONS UNDER SECTION I. OF THE FOODS AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

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

From the figures in Appendix VI of this report, it will be noted that the total number of food premises in the district is 199.

MILK

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

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

Premises registered	Persons carryin elsewhere	ng on the trade of than at or from a	Milk Distributors Dairy Farm
Dairy premises other than Dairy Farms	the St. Albans	From premises within the St. Albans Rural District not being shop premises	outside the St.
10	6	4	8

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 Supplementary licences authorising of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested" "Tuberculin Tested" authorising Designation

E I	4		8
THE MILK	(SPECIAL DE	SIGNATION)	(PASTEURISED
AND S	TERILISED MI	LK) REGULA	TIONS, 1949
Dealers'	Supplementary	Dealers' licence	es Supplementary

Dealers' licenses authorising the use of the Special Designation	Supplementary licences authoris- ing the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised"	Supplementary licences authoris- ing the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised"
"Pasteurised " 7	Pasteurised	8	Sterilised 6

e District.
the
within
Premises
Food
of
Summary

																1	1
	TOTAL	47	1	8	00	ŝ	~	2	14	-	20	ŝ	16	6	1	56	199
	Harpen- den Rural	1	1	1	I	I	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	73
-	St. Michaels	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	-	4
	Sand- ridge	ß	1	1	1	1	I	1	1	1	1	1	£	1	1	3	14
-	Red- bourn	11	1	1	4	1	1	2	4	1	2	1	3	1	1	11	40
	Wheat- hamp- stead	7	1	I	1	2	7	3	2	1	4	61	2	1	1	14	40
-	Stephens	10	1	I	1	1	1	1	63	1	4	1	3	4	1	00	36
-	Colney Heath	7	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	2	1	6	24
	London Colney	8	I	2	1	1	63	1	4	I	2J	1	4	e	1	2	39
		:	ner	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	÷	:	:	:
	Type of Food Premises	Grocery and Provision Stores	Grocery, Provisions and Butcher	Grocery, Provisions and Cafe	Butchers	Bakers' Shops	Bakeries	Sweets and Confectionery	Greengrocers and Fruiterers	Wet and Fried Fish	Cafes, including Clubs and Licensed Restaurants	Factory Canteens	Schools and Institutions	Hospitals and Nursing Homes	Food Factory	Licensed Houses	TOTALS
			61	З.	4.	5.	ø.	7.	8.	6	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	

WATERCRESS

There are two watercress beds in use in the district, namely, one in the Parish of Wheathampstead and one in the Parish of Redbourn. The growers concerned have made arrangements for the treatment of the cut cress with a hypochlorite solution before despatching to market.

MEAT INSPECTION

The slaughter of cattle, calves, sheep and pigs for human consumption is carried out at three licensed slaughterhouses and details of the total number of animals slaughtered thereat during the year and of the condemnations are given in the following table. A one hundred per cent inspection was maintained throughout.

I am indebted to Mr. R. E. C. Goddard, Chief Public Health Inspector, City of St. Albans, and his staff for co-operating in these duties.

The slaughter of horses for human consumption is carried out at a licensed slaughterhouse at London Colney.

ED
CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART FOR THE YEAR 1958
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				16			
	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	
Number killed	1575	175	446	3470	5017	4	
Number inspected	1575	175	446	3470	5017	2	
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci Whole carcases condemned	1	1	5	1	00	I	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	150	27	1	39	190	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	9.59	16.0	1.21	1.12	3.95	14.29	
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	I	5	I	1	I	I	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	29	5	I	I	35	1	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.84	4.0	Nil	IIN	0.70	IiN	
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	1	1	I	I	I	I	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	1	I	I	1		
Generalised and totally condemned	1	1				_	

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Public Cleansing is by direct labour. The work includes refuse collection, nightsoil collection and cesspool emptying.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Throughout the year refuse collection was carried out by three teams of collectors. Two of these teams operated with two 25-cubic yards Dennis Paxit Major vehicles in the more built-up parts of the district and the remaining team used a 10-cubic yards Side-Loading vehicle and covered the more sparsely populated parts of the district. Reserve vehicles were maintained to permit of regular servicing and to meet emergencies.

An incentive bonus scheme operated most successfully throughout the year and has been a prime factor in attracting and holding the necessary labour force and has ensured that each vehicle has been employed with maximum effect.

At the beginning of the year a collection was being made from 9,094 premises but, owing to building development, this had increased to 9,636 at the end of the year. In the case of 9,592 of these 9,636 premises, the organisation was on the basis of a once weekly collection and in the case of the remaining 44 premises, the organisation was on the basis of a fortnightly collection.

Nightsoil Collection

Nightsoil emptying equipment is fitted to one of our Dennis cesspool emptiers. The work of nightsoil collection is carried out during normal daylight working hours by one man who is paid a plus rate of one shilling per hour in respect of the hours engaged thereon.

Pails are cleansed at 76 houses. This figure shows a reduction of 46 or 37.7 per cent compared with the figure at the 31st December, 1957.

Nightsoil pails at two caravan sites are also cleansed, and, in the case of one of these sites, the service is given twice weekly.

Cleansing of Cesspools and the Disposal of Cesspool Contents

As will be noted from the statistical table in Appendix VII the number of cesspools which were being cleansed by the Council at the 31st December, 1958 was 478 which shows a reduction of 16 or 3.24 per cent on the number at the 31st December, 1957.

The loads totalled 3,904 as follows :---

ST. ALBANS DISTRICT

From cesspools cleansed on request	2,911 loads
From cesspools cleansed at regular	
intervals	863 ,,
HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT	130 "

With few exceptions cesspool contents are discharged into sewers.

I am,

Your obedient Servant, DAVID J. GRAHAM, Senior Public Health Inspector.

APPENDIX VII.	Cesspools already included in Column 4 but in respect of which a charge is made for all cleansing because they are within 100 feet of a sewer.	(5)	10	2	I	1	2	1	I	7	22
hich were ber, 1958	Totals (the figures in brackets indicate the number at 31st December, 1958)	(4)	71 (69)	5 (8)	67 (64)	28 (27)	62 (66)	28 (28)	167 (172)	50 (60)	478 (494)
the District w at 31st Decemb	Number cleansed at regular intervals	(3)	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	4	10
Cesspools in the Council	Number cleansed on request	(2)	71	5	65	27	62	28	164	46	468
Statistics respecting Cesspools in the District which were being cleansed by the Council at 31st December, 1958	Parish	(1)	St. Stephens	London Colney	St Michaels	Sandridge	Redbourn	Harpenden Rural	Wheathampstead	Colney Heath	TOTALS







