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Hatfield R.D.C., Welwyn R.D.C.**

Contributors

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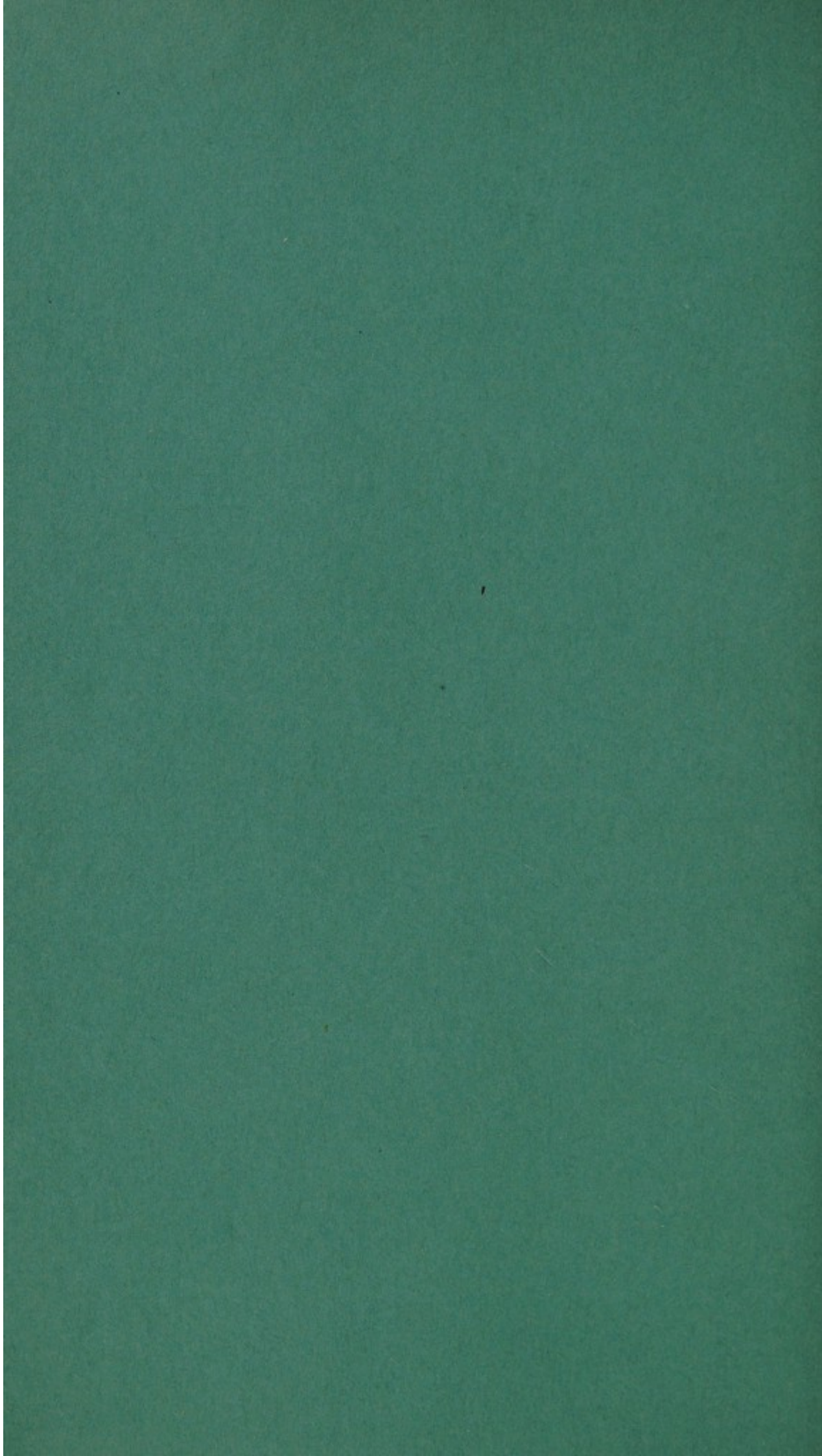
ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspectors of
the Districts

for the Year

1951



**The Chairman and Members of the Welwyn Garden City Urban,
Hatfield Rural and Welwyn Rural Districts.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your Districts for the year 1951. As in previous years the report deals mainly with the environmental health services, but includes a brief account of the related personal health services of the County Council in order to give a comprehensive picture of the development and co-ordination of the work of the Health Departments.

The Death Rates remain low, compared with the country as a whole, while the general fall in the Birth Rates since the war has continued, except in Welwyn Garden City where there were 59 more births than in the previous year. The high Infant Mortality Rate in Welwyn Garden City is mainly fortuitous, being due to an exceptional number of infant deaths from prematurity and congenital defects.

Cancer continues to be the second highest cause of death in each District. How far these deaths could be reduced by increased public awareness of the nature of cancer and the importance of securing early treatment it is difficult to say, but lectures, especially for women, have been given at Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City to emphasise some early symptoms and the importance of seeking skilled advice without delay.

Notifications of Measles and Whooping Cough were high during the first half of the year, but Scarlet Fever and other streptococcal infections have been few and uniformly benign in character. Once again, for the fourth year in succession it is gratifying to record no notifications of Diphtheria, for which credit is due to all who have played a part in ensuring the maintenance of a satisfactory level of immunisation in the children of each District. No cases of Poliomyelitis occurred during the year. The outbreak of Sonne Dysentery at a residential school at Hatfield illustrates the danger of an unsuspected carrier of dysentery or salmonella organisms assisting in the preparation of food, and the effectiveness of prompt diagnosis, segregation of cases and treatment. Apart from this outbreak, few cases of food poisoning were reported throughout the District.

In the field of Tuberculosis it has been an active year in each of the three lines of attack, viz., early diagnosis, examination and protection of contacts and the effective treatment and segregation of open cases as far as practicable. The Mass Radiography Unit visited Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield during the year, the sessions for the larger industrial firms and the Public being well attended. The introduction of B.C.G. vaccination for the protection of child contacts of open cases of tuberculosis in the home marks an important step in the prevention of this disease, while on the treatment side the wider use of new chemotherapeutic preparations now available to the Chest Physicians improves the prospects of those cases with active disease, so that a greater number become sputum negative.

The Clean Food Campaign has continued actively in each District and here I must record the sound work done by the Sanitary Inspectors in the inspection of food premises and examinations of food and the co-operation from the managements and staffs of the industrial canteens and caterers.

The survey of catering establishments commenced during 1950 has been extended to include all school canteens and lecture demonstrations to food handlers arranged. Regular sampling of Ice Cream has raised the standard of this commodity to a high level, but organisers of local fetes and bazaars have yet to appreciate that it is easier and safer to serve pre-wrapped blocks of ice cream from an insulated container, than the older manual service from the ice cream barrel, under conditions where sanitary arrangements may be temporary and washing facilities inadequate.

In conclusion, I must again express my appreciation of the co-operation and assistance given by the Clerks and other Officers of the respective District Councils, and especially the Sanitary Inspectors who have helped me by carrying out much detailed work in addition to their routine duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1952.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL

*Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health and of the
Sanitary Inspector for 1951.*

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

M. STOCKDALE, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

F. W. T. FOWLER, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

(Commenced February 5th, 1951)

Rodent Operative:

D. A. ROSE. (Left January, 1951)

E. J. THOMAS. (Commenced June, 1951)

Clerk:

A. A. W. CALLABY.

**Section A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA**

Area in acres	4,332
Population (mid-year 1951, as estimated by the Registrar-General)	18,330
Number of inhabited houses, 31st December, 1951	5,283
Rateable value of the District, 31st December, 1951	£166,527
Estimated net product of a penny rate	£650

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		Male	Female	Total
Deaths from all causes		85	80	165
Live Births	Legitimate	152	156	308
	Illegitimate	6	6	12
Still Births	Legitimate	2	6	8
	Illegitimate	—	—	—
Deaths of infants under one year	Legitimate	8	4	12
	Illegitimate	—	—	—

Infant Mortality

Twelve infants under one year died during the year.

Male	3 minutes	Prematurity
Female	5 hours	Prematurity
Male	7 hours	Prematurity
Female	9 hours	Prematurity
Female	1 day	Asphyxia
Male	2 days	Jaundice
Female	3 days	Prematurity
Male	3 days	Prematurity
Male	2 months	Pneumonia
Male	3 months	Cirrhosis of liver
Male	3 months	Enlargement of thymus gland
Male	7 months	Asphyxia

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

The following table shows the Death Rates, Birth Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1940.

Year	Death Rate per 1,000 pop.	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop.	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births
1940	10.1	17.2	58.2
1941	7.2	16.3	35.2
1942	7.2	17.4	48.4
1943	7.5	20.0	17.4
1944	7.4	22.8	28.1
1945	7.1	19.9	49.4
1946	6.4 (11.5)*	24.2 (19.1)*	28.1 (43)*
1947	7.5 (12.0)	22.1 (20.5)	19.3 (41)
1948	6.6 (10.8)	21.0 (17.9)	23.7 (34)
1949	6.8 (11.7)	17.4 (16.7)	12.6 (32)
1950	6.8 (11.6)	14.3 (15.8)	19.1 (30)
1951	9.0 (12.5)	17.4 (15.5)	37.5 (30)

* The relative figures for England and Wales.

Deaths

The following table gives an analysis of the causes of all deaths which have occurred—or are required to be treated as having occurred in the town during the year.

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	1	2
Influenza	2	3	5
Cancer, malignant disease	17	18	35
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis	5	10	15
Heart Diseases	23	23	46
Other circulatory diseases	3	5	8
Pneumonia	3	2	5
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	9	—	9
Nephritis	—	1	1
Gastric Ulcer	2	—	2
Gastritis and Enteritis	1	—	1
Road Traffic accidents	—	—	—
Other deaths from violence	1	1	2
Homicide	1	—	1
Suicide	2	—	2
Blood Diseases	1	—	1
Diabetes	2	—	2
Other defined causes	12	16	28
	85	80	165

Section B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The County Council is responsible for the administration of the personal health services in the town mainly through the Divisional Health Office in Howardsgate, which also serves as the office of the Medical Officer of Health thereby ensuring that the services are integrated with the environmental health and sanitary supervision exercised by the District Council. The domiciliary midwifery, child welfare, health visiting, home nursing, home help and day nursery services are administered by the County Council, while the Health Association of the town under the chairmanship of Mrs. R. L. Reiss has continued to render valuable assistance in the staffing of the clinics and on many matters concerning the nurses' welfare.

The responsibilities and functions of the District Nursing Associations were transferred to the County Council as Local Health Authority at the middle of the year.

Attendances at the Ante Natal Clinic have continued to decline during the year as an increasing proportion of women now come under the direct supervision of the Peartree Maternity Hospital or medical practitioner during pregnancy. Every effort is made to encourage expectant mothers to attend the clinic early in pregnancy for full clinical examination and blood tests, and there is as yet no evidence that the declining attendances at the clinic indicates a failure on the part of expectant mothers to obtain satisfactory advice and supervision early during pregnancy.

In view of the increasing demands upon the Peartree Maternity Hospital, it is probable that a system of priorities for admission to the maternity hospital will need to be instituted in the near future in order to avoid overcrowding. There is no doubt that in the hands of an experienced medical practitioner and midwife the risks attendant upon the mother when confined at home are no greater than those experienced in the maternity hospital, and there are many who consider that the home is the proper environment for the birth of the new member of the family establishing sound family ties from the moment of delivery.

Attendances at Child Welfare and Ante Natal Clinics, 1951

	Lawrence Hall	Community Centre
Infant Welfare	2,485	3,393
Ante Natal	—	108
Post Natal	—	7

Attendances at the Child Welfare Clinics have shown a slight fall during the year, but the general standard of child care, nutrition and health observed remains satisfactory. Dr. Flora Shepherd has continued her Child Welfare sessions at the Lawrence Hall on Friday afternoons with their special emphasis upon the emotional development of the young child and early behaviour problems.

Midwifery Services

The Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital at Peartree continues to maintain a very high standard of midwifery in the town, the hospital being recognised as a Part II Training Centre for midwives.

Specialist advice and treatment are readily available at the hospital for difficult or complicated maternity cases, and regular ante-natal and post-natal sessions are held both for women who are subsequently entering the hospital for delivery, and those who are referred back to their own doctor for the continued ante-natal supervision before delivery. A full-time midwife is employed by the Hertfordshire County Council for the town, and the weekly ante-natal and post-natal session is held at the Community Centre for the supervision of domiciliary midwifery cases. In addition to these facilities the Applecroft Nursing Home on the west side of the town is also mainly engaged with maternity cases.

Nursing Services

The nursing staff at present comprises three Health Visitors, three Home Nurses, and one midwife under the control of the Divisional Nursing Officer. In addition to their clinic duties, the nurses provide a complete Health Visiting and Domiciliary Nursing Service for general and maternity cases. Certain nurses undertake work in school at hygiene inspections or routine medical examinations. Valuable assistance is rendered at the clinics by teams of voluntary helpers who keep the registers, weigh and measure the children, sell proprietary infant foods and vitamin preparations, and generally release the doctor and health visitor for more specialised duties. Special efforts at health education for the mother have been made at the Child Welfare Sessions at the Community Centre with varying success. Dressmaking and knitting classes were not well attended in spite of much hard work by

the Health Visitors and voluntary workers, although talks by the Health Visitors on selected health topics and practical instruction in infant care have met with better success.

School Health Service

The medical inspection of children in the maintained schools in the three prescribed age groups namely, 5, 11 and 14 years, and in addition the eight-year-old group, were completed during the year, 1,297 children being examined at routine inspections, and 927 as follow-up examinations. There was a slight decrease in the number of children found with defects requiring treatment and children having to be followed up due mainly to a decrease in the incidence of enlarged tonsils and adenoids and skin defects. The number of children referred for the observation of minor orthopaedic defects was smaller during the year in spite of the continued attention given to these defects and the introduction of remedial exercises in the schools. A school nurse attends the Orthopaedic session for children at the Cottage Hospital which establishes a close link between the School Health Service and the work of the Orthopaedic Surgeon.

With the impending population increase in the New Town it is hoped to be able to establish a case for some Child Guidance treatment facilities in Welwyn Garden City, although the initial diagnostic session may probably still need to be undertaken by the full Child Guidance team at Hill End Hospital.

Sixty-eight children were found during the year to have verminous heads and ten of these required to be issued with cleansing notices. In no case was there a need for a cleansing order and recourse to the Magistrates' Court.

A new development during the year has been the introduction of remedial exercises in the Junior Schools aimed at the prevention of minor foot and postural defects by selected exercises as a part of the school curriculum. In other words this is varying the standard of the physical training curriculum for some of these young children to suit individual physical requirements. There has been a good response from certain schools, and marked improvement in several cases of postural spinal curvature. It is hoped to introduce special supervision of the physical development of asthmatic children in certain schools in the near future.

Unfortunately owing to staffing difficulties the school dental service at the Community Centre was suspended during the year, but I am glad to be able to report that a dentist has since been appointed and is fully engaged in covering the arrears of work which have accumulated during the period when the service was in abeyance.

Immunisation and Vaccination

It is now agreed policy to press for vaccination against smallpox in all children under the age of two years, and over this age only when the child has been or is likely to be, exposed to smallpox. The primary vaccination of an infant should be done before the age of six months, the best age in a healthy infant

being about four months. The need for diphtheria immunisation continues to be as great as ever, although the complete absence of notification of the disease tends to lull parents into a false sense of security. It is therefore the more gratifying to note that the percentage of children immunised is well up to the safety level of 75 per cent, and measurably higher than the average for the country. Full advantage is taken of contact with the parents and homes of the children by the doctors, health visitors and nurses to press home the need for primary immunisation at six months, followed by reinforcing injections on entrance to school at five years, and when the child is aged ten. Following favourable reports upon the American type vaccines for whooping cough prevention, it is probable that parents will have the opportunity of their children being given a combined diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation in the near future.

Home Help Service

This service under the control of the County Council has continued to expand during the year, and is now a major function of the local health authority. Sixteen home helps are employed and assist between thirty and forty households in the town. They are under the supervision of Mrs. E. R. Dawson, the local organiser (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 4144), who is attached to the staff of the Divisional Medical Officer. The great benefits resulting from the work of the home helps in families, with difficulties due to illness or old age, are now fully appreciated and the demand continues to increase. It is through the Home Help Service and the Home Nursing Service that the present heavy burden upon the hospitals in the area can be relieved to a large degree, and there is always a very close link between the Home Helps, Home Nurses, Midwives and the Almoners staff of the larger hospitals in the District.

The charges made to the householder for this service are based upon a scale which is rather more generous than that for National Assistance and special consideration is given to assisting those families where urgent financial difficulties might dissuade a necessitous housewife from applying for a home help. Thus the scale of charges does fall heavily upon a family with children needing a home help for a long period, so that there has been a tendency throughout the year for the service to be used to an increasing degree for the assistance of ageing and necessitous persons in the home, and in cases of chronic illness where the low total income means a higher rate of subsidisation by the County Council. The demands for the service have remained about stationary throughout the year, with little variation between the summer and winter months.

Mental Health Services

The service is administered from County Hall for the County as a whole. The duly Authorised Officer under the Mental Treatment Acts for this area is Mr. W. R. Best, 3 Wellfield Road, Hatfield (Telephone: Hatfield 2239), who is also Divisional Welfare Officer. Several mentally defective children attend the Occupation Centres at Cell Barnes Colony, St. Albans, and at Hertford.

Day Nurseries

There are two Day Nurseries in Welwyn Garden City: (1) Woodhall Lane; Matron, Mrs. B. Squires (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 3692), with fifty places. (2) Church Road; Matron, Mrs. D. Marshall (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 3691), with fifty-two places. The waiting lists for admission to the Day Nurseries have been reduced throughout the year by restricting the priority categories upon which admission to the nursery can be requested. Applications on the grounds of insufficient income or essential employment of the mother are now no longer admissible, the main priority groups being:—

- (1) Children of Widows or Widowers.
- (2) Children of Unmarried Mothers.
- (3) Children of deserted Wives or Husbands.
- (4) Children of Parents in Prison.
- (5) Children of Parents suffering from chronic illness or disablement, i.e., mental illness, tuberculosis, etc.
- (6) Temporary Cases, e.g. Mother's illness or confinement.
- (7) Children recommended by Doctor or Health Visitor for temporary help, i.e. children from problem families, etc.
- (8) Children of Nurses engaged in full-time hospital service.
- (9) Children living in bad housing conditions.

Ambulance Service

Two ambulances of the County Ambulance Brigade are attached to the Welwyn Garden City Station and, operating in conjunction with the Fire Brigade, maintain a 24-hour cover and deal with approximately 2,000 calls annually. Both vehicles are equipped with short-wave radio to conform with the County's Radio Control Scheme and can be mobilised by transmitter stations at St. Albans and Hertford. The value of this communications link with ambulances has already been demonstrated in certain serious road accident cases, where it was possible to intercept vehicles engaged on less important removals and deploy them with the minimum of delay to the scene of these accidents.

Training of ambulance personnel in first aid work is conducted at station level as a part of the conditions of a man's employment in the service, but in addition certain members follow the St. John Ambulance organisation in a voluntary capacity.

The Hospital Car Service, under the direction of the County Council, continues to play an important part in the transport of hospital treatment cases.

Old People's Welfare

Increasing interest is being taken in the welfare of old people in the town. The Women's Voluntary Service plays an active part in the activities of the Old People's Club at the Community Centre each Monday afternoon in arranging home visits and special trips for old people, and a mobile meals service. Here again there is a close link between the voluntary workers in this sphere, and the work of the Health Visitors and Home Nurses.

Hospital Facilities

The hospital and specialist services for the town are administered by the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. In addition to the Cottage Hospital with 17—20 beds, and the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital at Peartree, the town is served by the several large hospitals in the surrounding towns, where full specialist and diagnostic facilities are readily available.

Cases of infectious disease in need of hospital treatment or isolation are usually transferred in the first place to the Sisters Hospital at St. Albans, and in addition the Watford Isolation, Barnet General Hospital, Barnet, and the Spittlesea Hospital, Luton, are available for these cases. The Applecroft Nursing Home is a private establishment taking solely maternity cases.

General Medical Services

The Hertfordshire Executive Council is the body responsible for providing the general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area. The Clerk of the Council (Mr. A. E. Short) has his offices at 156-158 Fore Street, Hertford.

Family Planning

There is an active branch of the Family Planning Association in Welwyn Garden City, holding clinics at the Community Centre, Mill Green Road. Sessions are held on Mondays 6.30-8.30 p.m. and Thursdays 1.30-3 p.m. for advice on birth control, and on Fridays 9.30-11.30 a.m. for advice on childlessness. The sub-fertility clinic on Friday is by appointment only and patients must be referred through their own private doctor. The Family Planning Association is a voluntary body and small charges are made to the patients to cover expenses. Enquiries are welcomed and should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. L. L. Bowmer, 88 Attimore Road, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 270).

Marriage Guidance

The Welwyn Garden City Marriage Guidance Council, Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E. M. Harrison, 28 Elmwood, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 3507), has continued to extend its activities throughout the year, both in an educational sphere to young married couples, and in an advisory capacity by an experienced group of counsellors to whom cases of special difficulty are referred for expert advice and guidance.

Mortuary

Modern mortuary premises are maintained by the Urban District Council, adjacent to the Council Offices. Mr. W. Fletcher took over the part-time appointment of mortuary attendant during the year. All rooms have been completely redecorated and the specialised equipment reconditioned during the year, so that the premises may now be considered to be a model of their kind.

Laboratory

Adequate laboratory facilities exist at the laboratory of Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, and the Regional Public Health Laboratory at Luton for all examinations required by medical practitioners and the

sanitary staff of the District Council. During the year thirty-nine specimens were submitted for examination, and 103 milk samples. Supplies of diphtheria immunisation material, diphtheria anti-toxin and measles immune globulins are available to practitioners in the town on request, although the demand for the last two items has been negligible. The Health Department is also used as a centre to which practitioners may bring in specimens or materials requiring examination.

Section C.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	31
Whooping Cough	...	...	98
Measles	...	...	303
Erysipelas	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	5
Dysentery	...	...	8

Measles

The high incidence of measles reported during the last quarter of 1950 continued throughout the first half of the year under review, a total of 221 cases being notified during the first quarter, and eighty during the second quarter, after which no notifications were received.

The cases were universally scattered throughout the districts of the town, and were mild in character, the incidence of serious complications being low, although one case of post-infective encephalitis was reported. This child recovered completely following observation and treatment at the Sisters Hospital.

Scarlet Fever

No outbreaks of scarlet fever occurred throughout the area, the total notifications being low and due to sporadic mild cases. The home was visited in each case by the Sanitary Inspector upon notification to ensure that essential practical precautions against the spread of infection were being taken, and to offer terminal disinfection at the end of the infective period.

Whooping Cough

The incidence was high during the first quarter of the year when fifty notifications were received, but rapidly declined during the second and third quarters.

Dysentery

A total of eight cases of sonne dysentery occurred during the first quarter of the year, five being members of one family, and the other three sporadic cases. Careful investigation of the family infected failed to disclose the origin of the infection, but all responded rapidly to treatment and were carefully followed up to ensure freedom from infection.

The supervision of industrial canteens, cafés, restaurants, food manufacturing premises and school canteens in the town has been well maintained throughout the year and has undoubtedly played a part in ensuring freedom from any outbreak of food poisoning. A fuller account of the Clean Food Campaign is included in the Sanitary Inspector's Section of this report.

Poliomyelitis

No cases of poliomyelitis were reported during the year.

Diphtheria

It is very gratifying to be able to report another year of complete absence from diphtheria in this town. It is now over four years since a case of diphtheria occurred owing to the satisfactory level of immunisation maintained in the infants and young children.

Tuberculosis

The registers for the year have been carefully checked and brought up to date at the end of the year in conjunction with the records held by the Chest Physicians and the County Medical Officer.

The statistics for the year are as follows:—

	Male		Female		Total
	Pul.	N/Pul.	Pul.	N/Pul.	
On register at 31st December, 1950	75	18	56	10	159
Removals from register during the year	17	2	16	—	35
Added to register during the year	24	3	10	1	38
Cases on the register at 31st December, 1951	82	19	50	11	162

The Tuberculosis Clinic at Osterhills Hospital, St. Albans, undertakes the diagnosis and supervision of all cases in this area, the Chest Physician attending on Monday mornings for the examination of patients from Welwyn Garden City. In each case following diagnosis, home visiting is promptly arranged through the Tuberculosis Health Visitors attached to the Clinic, and a full report is received by the Medical Officer of Health who is thus able to assess the home circumstances of each case brought on to the register. In order to ensure full consideration of the special housing needs of tuberculous persons, each case is specially reviewed where necessary by the Housing Committee upon a detailed report from the Medical Officer of Health.

The improvement in the position regarding hospital and sanatorium accommodation for active tuberculous persons has continued so that the total of active cases remaining in their homes in a highly infective state, in close contact with other members of the family and young children, is now to a large extent avoided by close co-operation between the hospital authorities, chest physicians and Housing Department.

B.C.G. vaccination of infants in close contact with open cases of tuberculosis in the home is an additional safeguard first introduced during the year. In this scheme infants in close contact with cases of tuberculosis diagnosed among the family are Mantoux tested to determine their resistance to primary infection. Children showing a negative response then receive an injection of B.C.G. Vaccine which acts as a sensitising agent, so that they become Mantoux positive after 6-12 weeks, and are then less susceptible to fresh infection from contact with tuberculosis in the home. It is necessary to segregate the child from the infecting member of the family during the initial

six weeks after inoculation, and this is arranged by the Chest Physician in conjunction with the Children's Department when necessary. Close examination of new notifications of tuberculosis have so far failed to confirm any evidence of a high incidence in the newly developing parts of the town.

Mass Radiography

The Mass Radiography Unit of the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board visited the town during March, holding sessions for industrial workers at the Murphy Radio Canteen, followed by a period at the Community Centre for the general public, school children and other selected groups. Sessions were well attended, a total of 5,850 persons passing through the Unit for examination.

Housing

Much time has been devoted to interviewing applicants for special priority for rehousing on medical grounds, visits to the home, and assessment with the Housing Manager for presentation to the Housing Committee. In these cases it is difficult to lay down hard and fast rules regarding priorities to be allocated, and the Committee consider each one upon its own merits following the recommendations of the Medical Officer of Health and Housing Manager. While high priority is given to cases of tuberculosis and other infectious conditions, the practical and emotional difficulties resulting from minor degrees of overcrowding with two or three families in the one house come before the Department each week, many of whom have little chance of early rehousing as they are relatively new additions to the housing list. The Housing Manager has kindly given the following statistical information:—

	1st December, 1951 (including 150 temporary bungalows, plus 24 cottages)
(a) Number of houses owned by the Council	1853
(b) Number of families housed in requisitioned accommodation	8
(c) Number of families housed in temporary huts	11
(d) Number of families housed during the year:	
(i) New accommodation (Temporary)	Nil
(Permanent)	25
(ii) Other accommodation	30
(e) Number of applicants on housing lists	1747

While inclusive rents from the Council's latest housing schemes average £1 17s. 2d. for a three bedroomed house and £1 12s. 6d. for a two bedroomed house, an extensive transfer scheme has operated whereby tenants living upon the older schemes with suitable family incomes may be transferred to the new houses in order to obtain a supply of the cheaper rented houses for younger applicants

with lower incomes. This does mean a great deal of administrative work for the Housing Department, but work which is worth while for the maintenance of satisfactory family budgets. The housing scheme under construction, No. 14 Scheme, consists of 174 houses, which should be completed during the summer of 1953, and plans are well advanced for the next housing scheme in which provision has been made for a block of flats for elderly persons.

Acknowledgment is due to the Housing Department of the Development Corporation who have given considerable assistance by finding accommodation for difficult housing cases on occasions, and for arranging transfers within their properties upon medical recommendations.

Section D.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

The Water Undertaking is owned and operated by the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council.

The supply is obtained from deep bore-holes in the chalk formation in the valley of the River Mimram where the Pumping Station is situated. Six sets of pumping plant raise the water to reservoirs on the Sherrardswood ridge, which provides a storage capacity of 3,000,000 gallons for the town supply.

From the same station, the Council pump water in bulk to the towers and reservoirs of the Welwyn Rural District Council and part of the Rural District of Hertford.

The public supply, subsequent to being raised from the bore-holes, is submitted to no treatment other than chlorination and storage in the reservoir.

During 1951 the water supply of the town has been entirely satisfactory both in quantity and in chemical and bacteriological quality. The major part of the supply is chlorinated before distribution.

Water samples are obtained at regular intervals and a total of twenty samples were obtained during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination; all were found to be of satisfactory quality.

Details of type of Supply

Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the population supplied from public mains are as follows:—

	Dwelling-houses	Population
(a) Direct to houses	5183	18315
(b) By means of stand-pipes ...	5	15

Note.—The figures given include thirty-nine houses added on 1st October, 1951, by the boundary extension and are partly estimated since these houses have not been surveyed.

Laboratory Reports on the Public Water Supply

(a) A sample of water was taken from the tap to the main at 29 Sherrardspark Road, and submitted for chemical examination. The report was as follows:—

“ Analysis of a sample of water received on 21st August, 1951, from Welwyn Garden City U.D.C.

Taken by M. Stockdale. Witness, Mrs. Buxton, at 9.10 a.m. on 20th August, 1951.

	Parts per million
Appearance	Clear and bright
Colour	Nil
pH	7.3
Electric Conductivity	530
Chlorine present as Chloride	16
Hardness: Total	295
Carbonate	240
Non-carbonate	55
Nitrate Nitrogen	5.8
*Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.007
*Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000
Metals	Absent
Turbidity	Nil
Odour	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	17
Total Solids	355
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	240
Nitrite Nitrogen	0.01
Oxygen absorbed	0.00
Residual Chlorine	Absent

*To convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis, these results are normal, very satisfactory and consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

(Signed) GORDON MILES.

For the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

(b) Report on the bacteriological examination of a sample of water received 2nd May, 1951, from Welwyn Garden City U.D.C. Labelled—Tap from rising main No. 4 Pump, Digswell Pumping Station. (Unchlorinated.)

“ Number of Colonies developing on Agar:—

1 day at 37° C.	Nil per ml.
2 days at 37° C.	Nil per ml.
3 days at 20° C.	1 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	Absent from 100 ml.
Bact. Coli (Type 1)	Absent from 100 ml.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	Absent from 100 ml.

This is a very satisfactory sample of raw water. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.”

(Signed) GORDON MILES.

For the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The town is sewered on the separate system. Surface water is drained to the valleys of the Lea and Mimram rivers, which bound the district on the south and north respectively.

Foul water is gathered by tributary sewers to the main trunk sewer which traverses the town from south-west to north-east, and discharges into sewage disposal works in the north-east corner of the district.

Sewage from the southern part of the district is raised by automatically controlled Pumping Stations to the head of the main sewers.

The system of disposal consists of detritus tanks, screens, continuous-flow settlement tanks, dosing tanks and percolating filters fed through revolving sprinklers. The effluent discharges into the River Mimram first passing through a lagoon. The sludge is banked on to adjacent land and ploughed in.

Rivers and Streams

A portion of the River Mimram, half mile (approximately) runs through the northern portion of the district and a portion of the Lea, half mile (approximately) runs through the south portion of the district.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The closet accommodation is on the water carriage system with the exception of those cottages (rural in character) on the outskirts of the district, where the pail system is in operation, and where the occupants arrange to bury the contents in their gardens.

(a) No. of pail closets abolished; water closets installed and connected to a water carriage system during recent years	...	...	...	38
(b) Approximate number of pail closets remaining at the end of 1951	...	...	...	35

Of the thirty-four houses stated as having pail closets, eighteen are the subject of demolition orders.

The precise number of houses having pail closets is not known, due to the houses in Welwyn, Hatfield and Hertford Rural districts and transferred from October 1st, 1951, into the area of Welwyn Garden City, not having been surveyed.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) *Refuse Collection and Disposal.* All premises have iron dustbins for the deposit of refuse. Their provision is enforceable by Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Previously the provision of dustbins was enforced under the Welwyn Garden City Act, 1932. The appropriate section provides for galvanised bins. Since rearmament has caused the prohibition of the sale of galvanised bins for refuse, that section has no application at present. Refuse is collected weekly in covered motor vehicles by the Council's Refuse Collection Service.

All such refuse is tipped at a dump near Stanborough Lane and is disposed of by controlled tipping. Such rats as may gain access to the dump or its surroundings are destroyed with poison or hydrocyanic acid gas by the Public Health Department.

(b) *Street Cleansing.* This is controlled by the Surveyor.

(c) *Gully Cleansing.* All gullies for which the Council are responsible are regularly emptied and flushed by Contract Gully Cleansing, Ltd., who are employed by the Council under contract for this purpose.

(d) *Dustbins.* The Council's Refuse Collection Service notifies the Public Health Department of any defective dustbins they find. Eighty-seven new bins were provided during the year on owners being requested to do so. Details are as follows:—

Urban District Council	...	...	...	...	32
Development Corporation	...	...	...	...	21
Property Companies	...	...	...	...	2
Private Owners	...	...	...	...	30
Other Owners	...	...	...	...	2

5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

(a) Number and nature of Inspections made during the year:—

Inspections of Factories (with mechanical power)	...	197
„ Factories (without mechanical power)	...	19
„ Workplaces	...	5
„ Dairies	...	33
„ Licensed Premises	...	6
„ Infested Premises (rats and mice)	...	3188
„ Shops	...	77
„ re Insect Pests	...	196
„ of Dwellings (excluding Inspections under H.A., 1936)	...	271
„ Schools	...	3
No. of Premises treated for Bed Bugs	...	1
No. of Premises Disinfected	...	5
Inspections of Dwelling-houses under H.A., 1936	...	29

Special Inspections or Visits made re:—

Drainage	...	149
Infectious Disease	...	44
Smoke observations	...	29
Water Supply	...	20
Milk Samples	...	20
Dustbins	...	213
Accumulations of refuse	...	90
Council Property	...	69
Miscellaneous Visits	...	100

(b) (1) Number of Informal Notices served ... 149

(2) Number of Statutory Notices served ... 3

(c) (1) Number of Informal Notices:

130 were complied with and nineteen were outstanding

(2) Number of Statutory Notices:

Three were complied with

6. (a) SHOPS

There are forty-one shops in the district. Seventy-seven inspections of shops have been made.

Plans of new shops are examined by the Health Department before they are approved, and representations made to the proposers where it appears that either the plans do not conform with the Public

Health Act, 1936, or that structural alterations would be necessary on the shop becoming occupied, because the shops did not comply with the Shops Act.

The following action under the Public Health Act, 1936, or the Shops Act, 1950, was taken:—

	Defects Found	Informal Notices	Defects Remedied
Want of Cleanliness ...	5	5	5
Sanitary Defects ...	4	4	4
Other Nuisances or Defects ...	10	10	10

(b) OFFICES

All offices in the district are of modern construction and have a high standard of fitness. Separate sanitary conveniences are provided in all cases where both sexes are employed. The conditions found regarding ventilation, lighting and cleanliness are satisfactory. Basement rooms are not used for clerical employment. All buildings in the town with few exceptions are constructed without basements.

7. CAMPING SITES

There are six occupied caravans which are being controlled under Town Planning procedure.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT

Smoke observations made ...	29
Smoke nuisances ...	3

In each case where smoke was produced so as to be a nuisance, the factories concerned took steps to avoid repetition of the nuisance.

It appears that the atmosphere of Welwyn Garden City is comparatively unpolluted. This may be attributed to the high consumption of electricity. Practically every house is wired for electricity, and domestic consumption in the town is believed to be higher than anywhere else in the country. Factories are wired for electricity, which in all instances provides the motive power. Steam boilers or furnaces are used for heating or trade processes only.

9. SWIMMING POOL

(1) The Lea Valley Open Air Swimming Pool is administered by the Council.

The considerable improvements carried out by the Council prior to the 1950 season, which included the provision of a continuous system of chlorination and filtration, have continued to prove their worth. In spite of heavy bathing loads the pool water was found to be clear and bright and of satisfactory cleanliness, whereas previously its cleanliness had been a matter of concern from the public health aspect.

Tests are made with the Lovibond Comparator, when the pool is inspected, to ascertain if the amount of free chlorine present is adequate; this test gives an immediate result.

(2) During the year five samples of water were obtained from the pool, of which four were submitted for bacteriological examination and one for chemical examination. The laboratory reports indicated that all samples were of a high standard.

The heaviest bathing load immediately before a sample case was obtained was noted in respect of a sample obtained on July 23rd.

The total number of bathers using the pool on July 20th, 21st and 22nd was 3,683. In spite of this heavy load the laboratory report concluded:—

“This sample is clear and bright in appearance and of very satisfactory bacterial purity consistent with a water suitable for swimming bath purposes.”

10. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Only one house was found to be infested during the year. The infestation was cleared with one application of Zaldecide-D.D.T. With the use of insecticides containing D.D.T., the bed bug should become extinct.

Section E.—HOUSING

1. <i>Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—</i>	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	139
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	283
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	7
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	20
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	64
2. <i>Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of formal Notices:—</i>	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	51
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—</i>	
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
(b) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
<i>Note: Eighteen houses are the subject of existing demolition order.</i>	
(c) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil

Section F.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK

(1) *General Control*

There are six milk distributors registered, of whom only three occupy premises in the area. The major part of the milk sold is produced outside the district.

During the year thirty-three inspections were made at dairies.

Twenty-three infringements of the Milk and Dairies Regulations were found. Informal notices were sent to the dealers concerned and complied with by them.

(2) *Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations*

The following licences were issued during 1951:—

Licence in respect of the establishment at which Tuberculin Tested Milk is bottled	1
Licences in respect of other premises from which:—	
(a) Pasteurised Milk is sold	2
(b) Tuberculin Tested Milk is sold	2
(c) Sterilised Milk is sold	2
Licences (supplementary):—	
(d) To sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	3
(e) To sell Pasteurised Milk	2

(3) *Biological Examinations*

The County Council obtains samples from Tuberculin Tested, Accredited and non-designated herds and has them examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and Brucella Abortus. One sample was found to contain the latter. It is estimated that over 90 per cent of the milk sold in the Garden City has been pasteurised before being retailed. Tests of milk in that category obtained from local retailers and examined by the Phosphates test resulted in seventy out of seventy-three samples passing the test. This indicates that seventy samples were virtually free from pathogenic organisms.

(4) *Milk Sampling*

Samples of milk are regularly obtained at least once a month. The majority are taken on the public highway from retailers who are delivering milk to the public. This practice enables the cleanliness of milk as delivered to the public to be ascertained. One hundred and three samples were obtained and delivered to Hill End Hospital for bacteriological examination. The results which follow indicate that the Garden City milk supply is clean and safe.

Tuberculin Tested Milk

Of the twenty-three samples obtained, twenty samples passed the Methylene Blue test and three samples failed to pass this test.

Pasteurised Milk

Of the forty-one samples obtained, forty samples passed the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests and one sample passed the former test but not the latter.

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)

Of the twenty-three samples obtained, twenty-one passed the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests and two samples passed the former test but not the latter.

Sterilised Milk

The seven samples obtained passed the Turbidity test.

Heat Treated Milk

There are no tests legally prescribed for this grade of milk. The Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests are appropriate. The nine samples obtained passed both tests.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no slaughter houses in the district. The system of inspection operated in the district consists of the inspection of premises selling meat and other foods or products. Additional detail is given under the headings Milk Supply, Ice Cream and Clean Food.

A number of meat and other perishable food vendors' vehicles come into the district; these are inspected at intervals.

(c) CONDEMNATION OF FOOD

The food listed was inspected and condemned during the year; the total being 2,505 pounds.

	lbs.
(1) <i>Uncooked Food</i>	
Meat	135
Fish	395
(2) <i>Food in Tins</i>	
Vegetables	118
Meat	666
Fruit (all packages)	487
Fish	171
Milk	7
(3) <i>Miscellaneous Food</i>	526

The above examinations are carried out at:—

- (1) Hill End Laboratory, St. Albans, Herts.
- (2) Counties Public Health Laboratories, 91 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.
- (3) Public Analyst, 17 Gt. Tower Street, London, E.C.3.
- (4) Public Health Laboratory, Town Hall, Luton.

Adulteration

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, regarding adulteration are administered by the County Council. Twenty-three samples of milk were obtained and found to be of genuine quality.

(d) CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

(1) *Propaganda*

An active clean food campaign was introduced during 1950 with the initial inspection of the main food preparing premises in the town and the showing of the Ministry of Food film, "Another Case of Poisoning," to selected industrial and school canteen workers and housewives to bring home to them some common faults and unhygienic practices in the preparation of food. Following this up a system of re-inspection with emphasis on hygiene education has been put into operation during 1951.

During the year no outbreak of food poisoning has been reported. The supervision of industrial canteens, cafes and restaurants and food manufacturing premises has been continued and extended to include the schools and Day Nurseries of the town. The detailed reports on School Canteens have been discussed in detail with the County Organiser of School Canteens and the Divisional Education Officer for necessary action.

The list of defects show that there is still room for improvement in the provision of washing facilities for kitchen staff and adequate

sanitary accommodation. More attention needs to be paid to proper safeguarding of food exposed for sale. On every available opportunity the increased need for care in handling and preparing food has been brought to the attention of the management.

(2) *Premises Inspected*

During the period from February to the end of the year the following inspections and visits have been made:—

School and Day Nursery Canteens	...	...	...	19
Industrial Canteens	...	...	...	25
Non-industrial Canteens	...	...	...	4
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	35
Food Manufacturing Premises	...	...	...	11
Food Shops	...	...	...	31
Mobile vehicles selling food	...	...	...	28
Bakehouses	...	...	...	9

These figures are exclusive of visits paid to premises regarding the distribution of ice-cream, which appear separately. Where contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Council's Clean Food Byelaws have been noted during these inspections informal action has been taken to effect improvements. Twenty-five informal notices have been served upon the occupiers of the premises concerned. Matters referred to therein have either been attended to or are receiving attention.

(3) *Contraventions*

Excluding the school meals service, the following major contraventions were noted:—

	Found	Abated	Outstanding
Defective roofs	4	3	1
Defective floors, walls or ceiling	8	5	3
Insufficient ventilation	10	3	7
Inadequate facilities for taking meals	1	0	1
Washing facilities (including supply of soap and hot water) inadequate or unsatisfactory	11	7	4
Sanitary Accommodation absent, inadequate or defective	9	5	4
Drainage inadequate	2	1	1
Defective sinks	11	5	6
Inadequate or unsatisfactory food storage facilities	12	5	7
Refuse disposal methods unsatisfactory	19	13	6
Exposure of food unsatisfactory	14	12	2
Working surfaces require covering	17	4	13
Redecoration of walls and/or ceilings required	17	9	8
Unsatisfactory cleanliness of premises and/or equipment	19	16	3
Inadequate supply of clean towels	7	7	0
Defective Equipment or Utensils	5	2	3
	<hr/> 166	<hr/> 97	<hr/> 69

Working Surfaces

An effort has been made to persuade occupiers of food preparing premises to cover surfaces with which food comes into direct contact with an impervious and heat resisting material. In two of the larger industrial canteens this has been effected most satisfactorily by the use of laminated plastic materials.

Exposure of Food

Increased attention has been given to the methods of exposing food most liable to contamination, and, where possible, arrangements have been made to minimise undue exposure. Great difficulty is experienced in this respect where a self-service system operates, for to discontinue this system would entail increases in staff already in short supply with a consequent increase in production costs.

Clean Food Byelaws

Clean Food Byelaws were made by the Council under section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and were confirmed by the Minister of Food on 26th October, 1950. The Byelaws came into operation on 27th November, 1950.

In order that firms and persons responsible for handling or preparing food in the town should be made aware of their legal obligations, copies of the Byelaws were printed and sent to them.

The rearmament programme has resulted in a reduction of available materials and equipment and has made more difficult the carrying out of improvements requiring structural alteration.

(e) ICE CREAM

Sampling

The sampling of ice cream was reorganised early in the year so that a comprehensive scheme of sampling has been possible working with the Regional Public Health Laboratory at Luton. The sampling has proved of immediate value in the detection of unsatisfactory specimens due to faults of the manufacturer or retailer. The results are discussed with the retailer in a spirit of co-operation and assistance, and the cause of the unsatisfactory samples are explained. On the whole there has been a definite improvement in the sampling results for the year, the reward of the effort made to ensure closer supervision and education of the retailer.

There are no premises in the town in which ice cream is manufactured. One local factory makes a dry mixture from which ice cream can be subsequently made by the purchaser.

During the year a total of fifty-five samples were obtained from twenty different premises. Of the fifty-five samples, twenty-eight were either partly pre-wrapped and not wrapped, and nineteen were pre-wrapped. The remaining eight samples were of previously opened

wrapped bricks and from the aspect of possible contamination cannot be placed in either category.

Two samples of iced lollies were obtained.

The table shows the grading of the various types of ice cream sampled (including iced lollies):—

Type of ice cream	Satisfactory			Unsatisfactory	Total
	1	Provisional 2	Grade 3	4 Ungraded	
Wrapped other than choc bars	3	5	2	—	10
Wrapped choc bars ...	2	5	2	—	9
Partly wrapped	11	3	—	—	14
Part of previously opened wrapped brick ...	5	1	1	—	8
Part of bulk supply ...	10	2	1	1	14
Wrapped iced lollies ...	2	—	—	—	2
Total Samples ...	33	16	6	1	57

Percentage Results : 57.9% 28.1% 10.5% 1.75% 1.75%

Throughout the season no retailer had more than one unsatisfactory sample of a particular type of ice cream. In the one case where a retailer had two unsatisfactory results one sample was of a wrapped vanilla ice cream, the other of a wrapped choc ice.

Following unsatisfactory samples immediate investigations were carried out at the retailer. In every case "follow up" samples were placed in Provisional Grades 1 or 2.

Inspection of Premises

Fifty-two visits have been paid to premises where ice cream is sold, in addition to visits made solely for the procuring of samples. Where necessary advice has been given on serving methods. Particular attention has been paid to the sterilisation and storage of serving equipment. In addition every retailer has been issued with a leaflet designed to bring to his attention the standards of cleanliness necessary in premises where ice cream is sold. In spite of these efforts four of the eight unsatisfactory samples were almost certainly traced to careless distribution by the retailer. Subsequent action produced satisfactory "follow up" samples.

Mobile Vans

Nine inspections of the four mobile vans known to enter the district have been carried out. These vehicles constitute a difficult problem as their registration with the Authority is not a Statutory requirement. Two of these retailers sell a wrapped product only; two sell loose ice cream.

In the one case washing facilities, including hot water, have been provided as a result of these inspections; in the three other cases it is understood that suitable equipment is on order and should be fitted before next season.

Conclusions

Eighty-six per cent of the samples obtained were placed in Provisional Grades 1 or 2, reaching a satisfactory bacteriological standard.

Eight samples, comprising fourteen per cent of the total, were found to be of a low bacteriological standard. Of these six were placed in Provisional Grade 3, one in Provisional Grade 4, and one was not submitted to the Provisional Methylene Blue Test.

In general, ice cream sold in the district may be regarded as being of a reasonably satisfactory bacteriological standard.

Section G.—GENERAL, INCLUDING SUPERVISION OF FACTORIES AND RODENT CONTROL

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

Premises (1)				Inspections (2)	Number of Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES	with	Mechanical	...	197	37	0
Power	...	...	...
FACTORIES	without	Mechanical	...	19	1	0
Power	...	...	...
OTHER PREMISES	under	the	...	7	2	0
Act	...	...	...
Total				223	40	0

2. DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which pro- secutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):				
Insufficient	2	1	0	0
Unsuitable or defective	31	28	0	0
Not separate for sexes	1	1	0	0
Other offences	4	4	0	0
Total	38	34	Nil	Nil

3. FACTORIES ACT 1937. PART VIII

(a) The occupiers of two local factories distribute work to eleven outworkers in the town. These persons assemble or make up articles in their own homes.

In addition three local outworkers are employed by London firms. The outwork is carried on in clean and satisfactory premises. No cause for complaint has arisen during the year.

(b) FACTORIES—GENERAL INFORMATION

All factories in the town are of modern construction and have been built during the past thirty years. Health conditions are generally satisfactory. Infringements are usually of a minor nature.

Plans for new factories or involving alteration of existing factories are submitted to the Public Health Department before they are approved.

The Council is empowered to reject the plans if they do not comply with section 37, 43 or 59 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Where the plans submitted do not comply, amendments are either informally negotiated with the proposers. If agreement is not secured within the statutory period or the statutory period is insufficient to allow negotiation, the plans are rejected. Plans concerning two factories were rejected during the year.

Where there is no legal authority to reject the plans, but the erection or alteration contained in the plans is likely to give rise to contraventions of the Factories Act, 1937, the Public Health Act, 1936, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, this is pointed out to the proposers.

4. RODENT CONTROL

(a) The Council is responsible for the destruction of rats and mice in the town, under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

A full time Rodent Operative is employed.

From mid-January to June 18th, 1951, the Council were without the services of a Rodent Operative. This put a heavy burden on the Sanitary Inspectors, who were themselves forced to carry out measures for the destruction of rats and mice at 52 Dwelling Houses and at 30 Business or Industrial Premises.

(b) RODENT DESTRUCTION

Rats or rats and mice were found on 200 premises and 2,236 visits were made to destroy them.

Mice only were found on 76 premises and 952 visits were made to destroy them.

In addition 128 premises were surveyed to ascertain if rats or mice were present.

The table shows the number of the various types of premises found infested.

	Local Authority Property	Dwelling Houses	Business & Industrial Premises
No of premises infested by Rats or Rats and Mice ...	2	151	47
No. of premises infested by Mice	1	40	35
Total	3	191	82

Dwelling houses are treated free, but a charge has to be made for treatments of Business and Industrial Premises.

Annual Contracts for the destruction of rats and mice are entered into by the Council in respect of Business and Commercial premises. The charge made depends on the size of and conditions at, the premises concerned.

(c) SEWERS

In November test baiting was carried out by laying bait in the Council's foul sewers. Manholes were selected to give a fair test over the whole town. A partial take was recorded in two manholes, but it is possible these were caused by sewage flow disturbing the bait.

In December a sewer maintenance treatment was carried out in ten manholes in the two areas where the two partial takes had occurred. No takes were recorded. The indication is that the Council's foul water sewers, of which there are about twenty-five miles, are free from rats. This is a very satisfactory result and is a consequence of the maintenance treatments undertaken in previous years.

5. INSECT PESTS

One hundred and ninety-six visits were made during the year to destroy ants, wasps, wood beetles, etc.; 103 premises were affected. Measures necessary to destroy the pests concerned were taken by the Public Health Department.

During 1950 wood beetles were found in nine premises and during the current year they were found in twelve premises. Their presence in the town is a new development, but experience gained so far indicates that they may be readily destroyed at low cost with a synthetic insecticide without the treatment damaging furniture, woodwork or furnishings.

The table gives an analysis of the work carried out.

Pest	No. of premises affected	No. of visits made
Earwigs	2	4
Wood Beetles	12	23
Ants	32	55
Wasps	52	101
Flies	3	5
Bed Bugs	1	7
Total	102	195

6. SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT AFTER INTIMATION TO
THE OWNER OR OCCUPIER

Nuisances and defects dealt with

PREMISES

Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	9
Galvanised dust-bins provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	87
Damp houses	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defective guttering	...	...	...	...	...	6
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dirty premises	...	...	...	...	...	5
New ventilators	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ceilings renewed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective ranges	...	...	...	...	...	1

DRAINS

Defective drains relaid	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Choked drains	...	...	...	...	...	51

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, ETC.

New W.C.s fixed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective W.C. seats	...	...	...	...	...	10
Defective sink and bath waste pipes, traps, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	9
New accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accommodation cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	15
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	...	10

GENERAL

Premises infested by rats and/or mice	...	...	...	...	...	276
Insect infested premises	...	...	...	...	...	103
Defective rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	...	4
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	...	...	26
Paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	...	16
Miscellaneous nuisances and repairs	...	...	...	...	...	61
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective gullies and manholes	...	...	...	...	...	6
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	4

7. RAG FLOCK ACT AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

This Act came into operation on November 1st, 1951.

Infected Premises

8. DISINFECTION

Fifty-eight visits were made to investigate cases of infectious disease.

Disinfection was carried out in five premises.

9. DISEASE OF ANIMALS ACTS

The above Acts are administered by the County Council through the Chief Constable of Hertfordshire.

10. FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The following is a list extracted from the Register of Factories showing the wide range of articles manufactured or dealt with in the town.

FACTORIES

Factories making the following:—

Agricultural Machinery ...	1	Metal Scrapers	1
Automatic Machines	1	Metal Workers	2
Building Requisites	3	Moulding Powders	2
Cattle and Poultry Foods ...	1	Paints and Varnishes	1
Cellulose Acetate	1	Radio Sets	11
Cement Water Proofers	1	Radio Set Accessories	1
Coil and Helical Springs	2	Red Lead	1
Combs and Vulcanite Goods	1	Road Sweeping Machines, etc.	1
Corsets	1	Specialities from Paper and	
Cosmetics and Medicines	1	Textiles	1
Dresses	2	Steel Office Equipment	1
Electrical Appliances	1	Strings for Tennis Racquets ...	1
Electrodes for Welding	1	Sweets	2
Enamels: Raw	1	Theatrical—Make up	1
Felts and Damp Courses	1	Thermal Insulation	1
Grinding Wheels	1	Waterproofers & Stainproofers	1
Hair Brushes	1		
Instruments and Light			
Engineering	7		

FACTORIES

Factories are also used as follows:—

Bakery and Confectionery ...	2	<i>In addition the below-mentioned work is carried out in Factories:—</i>	
Cigarette Manufacturers	1	Boot Repairing	3
Electrical Station	1	Cycle Repairing	2
Food Factories	4	Dressmaking	1
Iron Foundry	1	Engineering: Constructional	1
Laundry	1	Engineering: Heating	2
Lead Mills	1	Gas Apparatus Repairing	1
Manufacturing Chemists	2	General Woodwork	1
Printing Works	2	Motor Repairing	3
		Pasteurisation of Milk	1
		Upholstering	1
		Plastic Moulding	1

HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

*Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health and of the
Sanitary Inspector for 1951.*

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

S. W. WRIGHT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

District Sanitary Inspector:

D. N. FAULKNER, M.S.I.A.

Public Health Assistant and Rodent Operative:

A. FLINTOFF

Clerks:

Miss G. M. GRAY

A. A. W. CALLABY

**Section A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF
THE AREA**

Area in acres	21,899
Population (mid-year 1951, as estimated by the Registrar-General)	24,110
Number of inhabited houses, 31st December, 1951 ...	6,350
Rateable Value of the District, 31st December, 1951 ...	£185,262
Estimated net product of a penny rate for the year ...	£732

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Hatfield Rural District is mainly an agricultural and residential area extending from the middle of Hertfordshire to the borders of Middlesex and the northern perimeter of the Outer Metropolitan area. The ancient town of Hatfield which is the main administrative and social centre of the area has also several large and important industries including the main works of the De Havilland Aircraft Company, Limited.

On the 7th April, 1951, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, Mr. G. S. Lindgren, formally opened the first house built in Hatfield by the Hatfield New Town Development Corporation. By the end of the year 47 of the Corporation's new houses had been completed and occupied in the Roe Green area and further development at the site proceeds with increasing momentum.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Male	Female	Total
Number of deaths from all causes	107	95	202
Number of live births ... { Legitimate ...	173	146	319
{ Illegitimate ...	9	2	11
Number of still births ... { Legitimate ...	7	—	7
{ Illegitimate ...	1	—	1
Number of deaths of infants { Legitimate ...	—	2	2
under one year ... { Illegitimate ...	—	—	—

INFANT MORTALITY

Two infants under one year of age died during the year.

Female ...	11 hours ...	Prematurity
Male ...	8 hours ...	Prematurity

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

The following table shows the Death Rates, Birth Rates and Infant Mortality rates since 1940:—

Year	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births
1940	9.2	18.0	36.0
1941	9.2	15.0	36.6
1942	9.3	18.4	21.0
1943	9.1	15.8	48.8
1944	10.8	20.2	29.4
1945	8.0	15.4	42.1
1946	9.2 (11.5)*	19.0 (19.1)*	24.6 (43.0)*
1947	8.9 (12.0)	19.8 (20.5)	41.1 (41.0)
1948	7.7 (10.8)	17.9 (17.9)	49.0 (34.0)
1949	9.2 (11.7)	16.6 (16.7)	13.3 (32.0)
1950	7.7 (11.6)	14.8 (15.8)	32.2 (29.8)
1951	8.3 (12.5)	13.2 (15.5)	6.0 (29.6)

* The relative figures for England and Wales.

DEATHS

The following table is an analysis of the various causes of all deaths which have occurred or are required to be treated as having occurred in the area during the year.

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	1	3	4
Cancer ...	15	19	34
Diabetes ...	1	3	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis ...	15	11	26
Heart Diseases ...	42	30	72
Other circulatory diseases ...	4	7	11
Pneumonia ...	4	5	9
Bronchitis ...	7	2	9
Influenza ...	1	1	2
Other respiratory diseases ...	2	1	3
Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer ...	1	2	3
Nephritis ...	—	1	1
Blood Diseases ...	1	—	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation ...	1	—	1
Suicide ...	1	2	3
Road Traffic Accidents ...	3	—	3
Other deaths from violence ...	3	1	4
Other defined causes ...	5	7	12
	<hr/> 107	<hr/> 95	<hr/> 202

Section B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The personal health services embracing maternity and child welfare, school health service, health visiting, home nursing and the home help service are administered by the County Council, the local health authority for these services under the National Health Service Act, 1946. Committees of voluntary workers are active in all infant welfare centres, and assist in the local arrangements for the child welfare clinics. The Medical Officer of Health of the District, who is also Divisional Medical Officer, supervises these services.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

Northcotts, Hatfield ...	1.45-4.15 p.m.	} Friday (alternating)
Birchwood Ave., Hatfield ..	.. ..
Brookmans Park Hotel		
Annexe	2.30-4.30 p.m.	Monday (1st and 3rd)
*The Cabin, Cuffley ...	2-4 p.m.	Monday (1st and 3rd)
Village Hall, Essendon	2-4 p.m.	Thursday (2nd and 4th)
Iron Hall, Little Heath	2-4 p.m.	Monday (2nd and 4th)
Scout House, North Mymms	2-4.30 p.m.	Thursday (1st and 3rd)
Welfare Hut, Hockey Lane Estate ...	2-4 p.m.	Wednesday (1st and 3rd)

NORTHCOTTS, HATFIELD

Ante and Post Natal ...	9.30-11.30 a.m.	Friday
†Ophthalmic	1.30-3.30 p.m.	Tuesday (2nd, 3rd and 4th)
†Orthoptic	} 9.30-12 noon 2-4 p.m.	Thursday
		Tuesday
†Speech Therapy ...	2-4.30 p.m.	Wednesday
‡Dental	9.30-12.30 a.m.	Tuesday and Wednesday
	2-5 p.m.	Tuesday (1st and 3rd) and Wednesday
†Orthodontic	a.m.	Wednesday (alternate)
Minor Ailments ...	9.30-10.15 a.m.	Tuesday (2nd and 4th)

* Ante and Post Natal cases are seen between 1.30 and 2.30 p.m.

† By appointment only.

‡ Temporarily suspended.

The attendances at the Child Welfare Clinics have been well maintained during the year and the new clinic opened at the Hockey Lane Estate is especially popular. Both clinics at Hatfield continue to be well attended, although with the new Council development in the Birchwood area, the clinic at Birchwood Avenue is expanding more rapidly than the Northcotts Clinic. Search has continued for a suitable building for Infant Welfare purposes convenient for the New Town development area in Hatfield as the Northcotts Clinic will not be ideally situated to serve the new families arriving. It was hoped to proceed with a scheme for a special health centre annexe to the proposed new junior school on the New Town site, with an approach

from Briars Lane, but unfortunately the original scheme for this school has been delayed. Further discussions regarding the site of a central clinic are continuing with the County Medical Officer.

NURSING SERVICES

Six full-time nurses and one part-time nurse provide a domiciliary nursing service for the district under the general control of the Divisional Nursing Officer. In addition, nurses from Welwyn Garden City, Hatfield and St. Albans assist in some of the outlying districts or where administratively convenient. Most of them undertake school health duties as well as maternity and general nursing and infant health visiting. Voluntary helpers continue to render great assistance to the health visitors in charge of child welfare centres by attending to the more routine duties such as the issuing of cod liver oil, orange and special infant foods.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The routine inspection of children in the three prescribed age groups, i.e. first year attending primary school, final year at primary school, and final year at secondary school, was carried out with additional groups at eight years and thirteen years. There was a decrease in the number of skin complaints and enlarged tonsils reported while the orthopaedic defects noted also tended to fall. Attendances at the specialist clinics held at Northcotts Clinic, viz. ophthalmic, orthoptic, speech therapy and orthopaedic continued much the same as during the previous year. Child guidance cases attend the Psychiatric Clinic at Hill End Hospital, Orthodontic sessions are held fortnightly at Northcotts, but due to staffing difficulties it has not yet been possible to resume the school dental sessions. Forty-two children from 34 families were found during the year to have verminous heads, but in few cases was the infestation heavy. Following energetic action by the school nurses all of these children were rapidly cleansed at home, and in no case was there the necessity for court action.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Vaccination of infants against smallpox while no longer compulsory under the National Health Service is strongly recommended for all infants below the age of two years, the best age in a healthy child being at 4-6 months, before immunisation. The percentage of children immunised against diphtheria remains satisfactory, although continued effort is needed to ensure that this level is maintained, now that the deaths and perils from diphtheria become more remote and parents need to be reminded of the necessity for this simple protective measure. For the fourth year there have been no notifications of diphtheria throughout the district, which reflects great credit upon the efforts of school teachers, parents, medical practitioners, health visitors and voluntary workers concerned in the immunisation campaign. It is probable that whooping cough immunisation on a corresponding scale will be introduced during 1952, when the results of the Medical Research Council's enquiry into the efficacy of the various types of vaccines becomes available.

HOME HELP SERVICE

This service is organised on a local basis from Northcotts Clinic, Hatfield (Telephone: Hatfield 2509). Mrs. L. Pakes, the Organiser, holds office hours from 10-11 a.m. on Monday to Friday of each week. A staff of 20 home helps is maintained, of whom approximately one-half are part-time (20 hours per week) and the other half casual workers employed as required. Over thirty cases are current at any one given time, and one-third of these are old age pensioners, who form a "hard core" of the total cases, in that the necessity for home help does not decrease. The other two-thirds comprise maternity, tuberculosis and short-term cases, due to temporary illness of the mother. The proportion of maternity in relation to other cases varies considerably, but over a long period may be said to approximate to one-third of the total cases.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

One ambulance is maintained at the Fire Station in Batterdale, Hatfield, which is manned during the day time only by a crew of five fully trained ambulance men. Night cover for the district is provided by the larger station at Welwyn Garden City, and other adjoining stations when necessary.

HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE

This service is organised by the St. John Ambulance Brigade on behalf of the Hertfordshire County Council. It is used to transport patients to and from hospitals and clinics, and is a most valuable supplement to the work of the County Ambulance Service. The local organiser is Mrs. B. K. Phillips-Williams, 43 Endymion Road, Hatfield (Telephone: Hatfield 3138).

HERTFORDSHIRE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Clerk of the Executive Council (Mr. A. E. Short) has offices at 156-158 Fore Street, Hertford, and is responsible for the provision of a general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Ignorance of the simple elementary rules of cleanliness, diet and hygiene in the daily life, especially in the upbringing of children, and unfounded superstition and dread of disease are still responsible for much ill-health throughout all sections of the community. The work of educating the public in health matters goes on unceasingly through the advice given by each member of the staff of the Health Department, supplemented by special health talks and lectures with the aid of leaflets, posters, films, etc. As part of the Clean Food Campaign lectures were given to housewives and school canteen staffs, while diphtheria immunisation is pushed at the Infant Welfare Clinics and schools.

Section C.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	19
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	69
Measles	...	...	...	...	369
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	19
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	3
Sonne Dysentery	...	...	...	...	176
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	3
Acute Encephalitis post infective.	...	...	...	...	2

Measles

		AGE INCIDENCE			
Age		1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
0—1	years	1	6	—	—
1—3	„	42	19	9	—
3—5	„	58	18	14	—
over 5	„	128	43	31	—

The increase in notifications in the last three months of 1950 continued during the first half of 1951, the cases being scattered throughout the district and mild in character, the incidence of serious complications being low. The age distribution in these cases shows that only seventy-seven cases occurred in children up to three years of age, the majority being children attending infant school. A close watch was kept on the number of cases in primary schools and advice given regarding placing of desks, ventilation of classrooms, dust prevention, and other practical means of reducing the spread in schools.

Whooping Cough

Forty-four notifications occurred during the first quarter, but the incidence rapidly declined later in the year. The cases were scattered throughout the town of Hatfield and the Rural District.

Scarlet Fever

This was a remarkably good year for throat infections as shown by the small number of cases of scarlet fever notified. No localised outbreaks occurred, and the majority of cases were mild in character without serious complications.

Dysentery

An outbreak of sonne dysentery occurred among the pupils and staff at a residential girls school at Northaw from 15th-29th January, a total of 176 cases occurring. The onset was abrupt and widespread throughout the school, a total of 158 cases occurring during the afternoon of the 25th January. In conjunction with the Medical Officer of the school prompt steps were taken for the isolation and treatment of the affected girls and members of the staff at the school, and help was given in procuring temporary nursing assistance. The standard of cleanliness in the preparation of the food in the kitchens

was found to be satisfactory, there being only a few minor points which needed attention. Examination of the stools of some of the first cases showed the presence of the organism of sonne dysentery in the persons affected so that it was presumed that all the cases showing symptoms were sonne dysentery, and further that owing to the size of the outbreak it was probable that many persons not showing symptoms of the infection might be carriers of the organism. As many of the kitchen staff were included in the initial cases, members of the domestic science staff who had not shown any symptoms assisted in the kitchen, and within a few days it was possible to organise a kitchen staff who were proved free from the organism of sonne dysentery by bacteriological examination.

The school was visited daily and the staff instructed in the personal precautions necessary to limit the infection, all crockery and utensils being efficiently sterilised after washing. All specimens of food examined in the kitchen proved negative to pathogenic organisms, but it was found that one of the occasional assistants in the kitchen was a close home contact of a case of dysentery and it is presumed that infection was introduced to the kitchen through that source. The headmistress and staff of the school co-operated fully in the investigation, segregation of cases and general preventive measures, while the Regional Public Health Laboratory at Luton carried out all bacteriological examination.

The clinical symptoms rapidly responded to treatment and ten days after the outbreak classes were proceeding normally in the school. No fresh cases were detected after the 29th January, but a very careful bacteriological investigation was made of the kitchen staff following treatment to ensure that no carriers were permitted to return to work. The kitchen staff were also examined at the commencement of the summer and autumn terms but all remained free from dysentery organisms.

Credit is due to the staff of the school, the Sanitary Inspectors and the Regional Public Health Laboratory for the prompt and efficient manner in which the number of specimens were examined and reported upon. During this one outbreak, 266 specimens of stool were examined and reported upon by the Laboratory.

Food Poisoning

Three cases of gastro-enteritis occurred in members of a family at Cuffley following a children's party. A full investigation was undertaken, but the laboratory reports failed to disclose the organisms responsible. Recommendations were made regarding the food preparation and general cleanliness in the kitchen and no further cases occurred.

Poliomyelitis

No cases or suspected cases were reported throughout the year.

Ringworm of the Scalp

No further cases of ringworm were diagnosed among school children so that the outbreak during the first six months of the previous year may be considered definitely at an end.

Tuberculosis

A careful check has been made upon the Tuberculosis Register for the area at the end of the year, to ensure uniformity between the registers and the records held by the County Medical Officer and Chest Physician. The Tuberculosis statistics for the year are as follows:—

	Pul.	Male		Female		Total
		N/Pul.	Pul.	N/Pul.	Pul.	
On register at 31st December, 1950	75	13	50	20	158	
Removals from the register during the year	14	2	10	4	30	
Added to the register during the year	22	2	15	3	42	
On register at 31st December, 1951	83	13	55	19	170	

The Tuberculosis Clinic at Osterhills Hospital, St. Albans, undertakes the diagnosis, treatment and supervision of all cases in the district, the Chest Physician attending on Thursday for the examination of patients in this district. In each case following diagnosis home visiting is promptly arranged through the Health Visitors attached to the Clinic and a full report of the home circumstances is received by the Medical Officer of Health, who is thus able to assess the special needs of each case brought on to the register. The necessity for special consideration of the housing needs of tuberculous persons is fully recognised by the Housing Committee of the District Council, and high priority is given to all such cases represented to the Committee by the Medical Officer of Health. There is close integration of the work of the Chest Clinic and the Tuberculosis Health Visitors with the other social services in the district, especially Home Nursing, Health Visiting, and assistance under the Home Help Scheme.

Mass Radiography

The Mass X-Ray Unit 5c of the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board carried out examinations of selected industrial groups in Hatfield and of the general public at open sessions during October. 6,350 employees of Messrs. De Havillands were examined which represented eighty-six per cent of the total staff, and included all the important apprentice group. These high attendances reflect great credit upon the efforts of the management in bringing to the notice of the employees the importance of this simple preventive measure. The sessions held for smaller firms and for the general public at the Memorial Hall, Hatfield, were also well attended, teachers, home helps and secondary school leavers being allocated special times at the public session.

<i>Attendances:</i> De Havillands	6,350
M. Cook & Sons	180
Jack Olding & Co., Ltd.	221

Forty-six persons were referred to the Chest Physician for detailed clinical examination of the chest and re X-ray.

Section D.—HOUSING

The following figures for the year are provided by the Housing Manager:—

	As at 31.12.51
(a) Number of houses owned by the Council	1351
(b) Number of families housed in requisitioned accommodation	59
(c) Number of families housed in temporary huts	173
(d) Number of families housed during the year,	
(i) New accommodation, Permanent	101
(ii) Other accommodation	
Hockey Lane Estate ...	78
Requisitioned property ...	4
(e) Number of applicants on housing lists ...	1157

In spite of the great progress made in the building of new houses and temporary accommodation during the year, it is disappointing to see that the housing lists still stand at 1157, of which ninety per cent are applicants living in the parish of Hatfield, probably largely due to the influx of workers to the major industrial concerns. At the present time it is difficult to foresee how far this number will be reduced when the New Town development is really under way. Eight bungalows for elderly persons have been completed during the year at Birchwood Close, Hatfield, and a further eighteen are nearing completion, and eight in the planning stage. The question of providing a small number of these bungalows at Welham Green is also under consideration by the Committee.

On the question of the type of house now being built, the standard three bedroomed house remains the main stand-by, although there is undoubtedly some need for a smaller percentage of four bedroomed accommodation and two bedroomed house. The latter however does not reflect a great saving in construction costs compared with the three bedroomed house, and as there are still a considerable number of two bedroomed properties on the Council's estates it would appear that the Housing Department rarely has difficulty in arranging for a smaller family to be housed in existing two bedroomed properties, especially as there is an additional need for the transfer of families from two to three bedroomed accommodation with increasing size of family. On the question of rents there is no doubt that occasionally the father of a large family, who is the sole wage earner of the unit, does find the present day rents for the larger houses fall heavily on his weekly wage packet, but these cases are few and when known to the Housing Department can be assisted by transfer to older cheaper rented properties. The standard inclusive rents of 30/- for three bedroomed, and 34/- for four bedroomed houses compares favourably with pre-war rents when compared with the present day income. The effect of providing the best living conditions possible, even at a rent which strains the family budget can be definitely beneficial unless the

housewife reduces the standard of the meals, and I am sure that attractive well designed living and bedroom accommodation are of more lasting benefit to health than smaller rooms with reduced amenities, but more money in the pocket for the cinema and television sets, and other non-essential luxuries.

A total of forty-six cases were considered in detail by the Health Department and recommendation for housing priority from the health point of view submitted to the Housing Manager. Of these a total of twenty-six were for particular medical reasons including tuberculosis, nine living in caravans, huts or other temporary accommodation, five in respect of overcrowding, and six with special matrimonial or social difficulties.

CARAVANS

There are 220 caravans used as temporary dwellings throughout the District of which 153 are grouped in the six largest sites. Conditions vary widely from well sited modern structures with all camping facilities to poorly adapted contraptions in cramped unsuitable spaces with little attempt to provide even the elementary sanitary requirements. The high rents paid for some of these miserable shacks with their degradation of family life, squalor and ill health, is a major evil of the housing shortage.

The lessors of three of the largest sites in the District have effected considerable improvement in restricting numbers, laying out the sites, and providing sanitary amenities during the year, and have co-operated well in meeting the Council's requirements, while slow progress is being made in getting necessary improvements carried out in other smaller sites.

The caravan sub-committee of the Towns and Town Planning Committee is reviewing the policy of the Council regarding controlled siting places adjacent to the town of Hatfield.

Section E.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

The extensions of main water to some of the residents of Newgate Street and Cromer Hyde were completed during the year by the Barnet Water Company following discussions with the District Council, although distribution arrangements have not yet been completed at Cromer Hyde. Only two small private supplies at Stanborough and Ponsbourne Park remain in the Rural District.

Total rainfall for the year at Roe Green Waterworks—34.40 inches.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The maintenance of sewage disposal works was to some extent hampered due to shortage of labour, which is general for work of this class. All essential work was continued and, generally, satisfactory effluents maintained.

The sand filters at Newgate Street were completed during the year and the new works at Northaw were under construction. There was delay in the latter contract due to the difficulty in obtaining cast iron pipes and specials.

SEWERAGE

A considerable length of new sewers to the Nast Hyde and Stonehouse pumping stations through the existing mains, was constructed by the Development Corporation to serve the Roe Green Development area.

A main outfall surface water sewer for this area, draining to the Ellen Brook at Nast Hyde, was constructed on behalf of the Council.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The refuse collection service for the Rural District was on the same basis as previously, the parishes of Hatfield and Essendon being collected by direct labour and Northaw and North Mymms by Contract, a fortnightly service being given.

A trade refuse collection, for which a charge is made was operated throughout the district by direct labour, and special arrangements were made for catering establishments.

So far as the direct labour service was concerned, this was satisfactory during the first half of the year, subsequently nearly half the staff left over a short period, whom it was not found possible to replace.

Only one vehicle could be fully manned and contract assistance had to be hired to try to maintain the collections. These difficulties caused some delays and with the employment of collectors unfamiliar with the district, there were a number of complaints from householders whose premises were missed from the normal collection.

The accelerated growth of the New Town makes the recruitment of adequate staff a matter of prime importance.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

There was a rather greater demand for this service during the past year, 684 cesspools being emptied and it was again necessary to call for assistance on occasions; there was also some increase in the number of earth pails collected.

A system for emptying cesspools at regular intervals by rota was introduced during the year.

GULLEY EMPTYING

This was the first full year that this service for private roads in the district was in operation, the gulleys being cleansed four times during that period.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	565
Inspections under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	1373
Inspections under Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	...	...	541
Inspections under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	42
Enquiries following Infectious Disease (including Food Poisoning)	...	...	...	...	97
Disinfections following Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	10
Inspection re Rodent Control (other than by Operative)	...	...	...	...	79
Disinfestations for Bed-bugs	...	...	...	...	—
Other Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	36
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	27

HOUSING STATISTICS

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

1. Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	65
2. Number of dwelling-houses inspected or recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	6

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	56
--	----

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, ETC.

Inspections of Food Premises	214
„ „ Ice-cream Premises	133
„ „ Milk Retailers	23

RODENT CONTROL

Number of infestations found	146
Number of visits for inspection and treatment	743
Number of inspections for survey purposes	93

The whole of the sewerage system was tested twice during the year with treatment where necessary and the sewage disposal works were given regular attention. The treatment of the sewerage system necessitated the occasional use of part-time labour.

The use, for the first time, of an anti-coagulant poison, gave very encouraging results, both in the saving of labour and in the easier approach to infestations where the use of normal poisons would endanger domestic animals and pets.

FACTORIES ACTS

	Number in Register	Inspections	Written Notices
<i>Inspections</i>			
Factories with mechanical power	85	37	—
Factories without mechanical power	5	2	—
Other premises under the Act	—	—	—
	90	39	—

The factories entered in the register are engaged in 47 different industries.

Defects	Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred	
				By H.M. Inspector	To H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
Insufficient	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
		4	4	—	—

Outworkers (Part VIII of the Act)

The number of outworkers was 60, all of whom were engaged in work connected with wearing apparel and there was no instance of work being carried out in unwholesome premises.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No complaint of smoke nuisance was received and observations did not reveal any unsatisfactory emissions.

ICE-CREAM

A regular programme of ice-cream sampling was commenced in July and during the year eighty-seven samples were taken covering ice-cream made by nine different producers and sold from the premises of thirty-six dealers. The samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Luton for bacteriological examination and were given provisional grades. The grading system is as follows:—

Provisional Grade	Time taken to reduce methylene blue
1	4½ hours or more
2	2½—4 hours
3	½—2 hours
4	0 hours

Note:—Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic qualities of ice-cream and to the experimental error of the laboratory test itself, it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results on any given sample. Judgment should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six monthly period, 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into grade 1, 80% into grades 1 or 2, not more than 20% into grade 3, ~~and none into grade 3~~, and none into grade 4

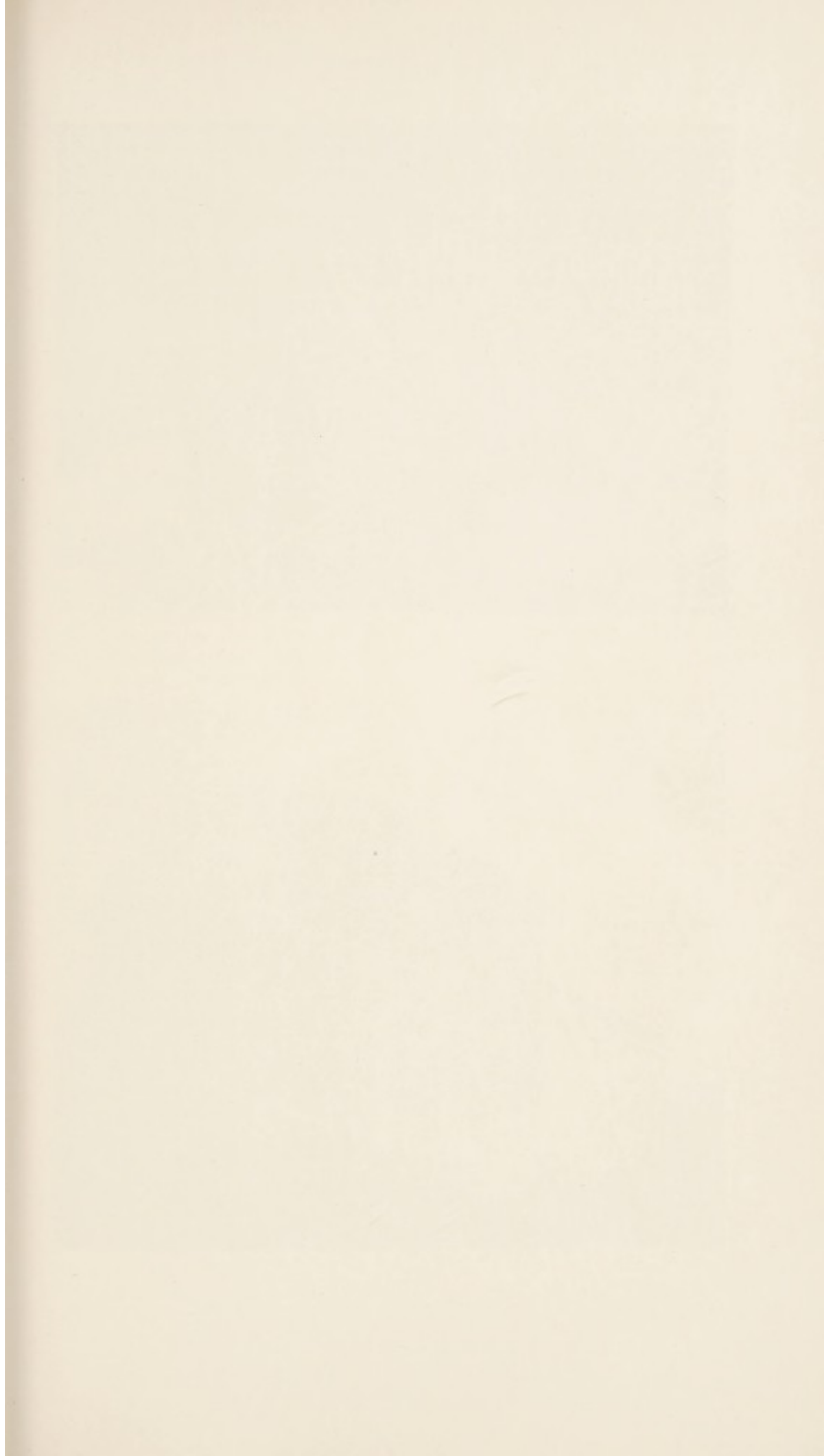
Summary of Results

The results have been summarised in Table 1 under producers. It will be seen that of the eighty-seven samples taken, thirty-nine were placed in grade 1, twenty-seven in grade 2, thirteen in grade 3, and eight in grade 4. Using the provisional grading shown above, the

products of three firms failed by showing samples in grade 4. These same three also failed to secure the suggested percentage in grades 1 and 2. The three producers are well-known firms and there is some justification for attaching blame to the methods of handling by the dealers, particularly in the case of the producers shown in the Table as E and G, which are nationally-known products. The third firm, D, suffered a defect in their machinery which produced bad results in samples taken over a wide area. It is noticeable, however, that the quality of this firm's produce declines during hot weather.

Producer	No. of Dealers	No. of Samples	Grade			
			1	2	3	4
A	1	2	—	2	—	—
B	1	3	2	1	—	—
C	1	1	—	1	—	—
D	8	24	7	6	5	6
E	3	8	2	4	1	1
F	1	1	1	—	—	—
G	14	30	19	6	4	1
H	1	1	—	1	—	—
J	7	17	8	6	3	—
		87	39	27	13	8

It is perhaps unfortunate that only one day per week is allotted to this authority for submitting ice-cream samples for examination. After a time, the dealers tend to expect the sampling officer during the morning of a particular day. It was noticed however, that irregular sampling produced a number of improvements in handling and in the general cleanliness of premises and equipment.





A MODEL VILLAGE SHOP



A MODEL VILLAGE SHOP

During the year attention was turned to the small village shops where conditions are often unsuitable for the sale of perishable food-stuffs. The increasing public interest in food hygiene calls for considerably higher standards and it is pleasing to report that a local shop has received treatment which makes it a model for this type of establishment.

The shop, which was originally opened in the front parlour of a cottage, was provided with a main water supply—a single cold tap for both shop and cottage—and drainage to a cesspool. The lighting was inadequate, the floor, walls and ceiling defective, and an atmosphere of confusion and gloom prevailed.

Under new ownership, drastic steps were taken. The exterior was not touched, except for painting and renewal of the worn doorstep and dilapidated front door. The floor was taken up and destroyed—together with the vermin found underneath. New site concrete and a new oak floor were laid; an old partition demolished, the walls re-surfaced and painted; a new ceiling constructed and electric light and power installed. New shelving and counters were fitted; an adjoining lean-to shed was reconstructed and fitted as a store and preparation room. All cutting, weighing and wrapping is carried out here and not in the main shop. The original scullery has been converted into a small office complete with sink and water heater and a separate W.C. is provided in the yard.

The work cost about £500, the counter and special fittings being extra. It was directed by the owners with the assistance of four building tradesmen and was completed within five weeks, business being carried on throughout from the living room.

The reorganised shop is bright and attractive. An extensive variety of stock is attractively displayed, while the bulk storage is in the shed. The practice of leaving half-used cartons and boxes around is avoided and dust-collecting placards, etc., are not used. Needless to say, there has been a considerable improvement in the business.

The village general store need not be a jumble in the front parlour. In spite of limited space, here is a model which sets a desirable standard.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human food by the Sanitary Inspectors in the course of their inspections of the various food premises in the District.

Butcher's Meat

	lbs. weight	
Beef	212	
Rabbit	60	
Mutton	12	
	<hr/>	284

Tinned Meat

		No. of tins	
Corned Beef	64	(12)	
Ham	252	(38)	
Luncheon Meat	108	(52)	
Stewed Steak	3	(3)	
Sausages	6	(6)	
Pork	3	(3)	
Veal	18	(4)	
Tongue	1	(1)	
Chicken	14	(7)	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	469 (126)

Other Tinned Foods

Fish	9	(16)	
Baked Beans	7	(7)	
Peas	95	(43)	
Other vegetables	82	(65)	
Soups	145	(143)	
Fruit	602	(319)	
Jams, etc.	5	(4)	
Milk	13	(39)	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	958 (636)

Total No. of tins ...

 762

Other Foods

Bacon	135	
Cheese	30	
Chocolates	3	
Eggs		114
	<hr/>	168
Total ...	<hr/>	1879 lbs.

WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

*Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health and of the
Sanitary Inspector for 1951.*

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

C. B. BORTHWICK, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., M.R.San.I.,
Surveyor, Water Engineer and Sanitary Inspector.

Clerk:

A. A. W. CALLABY

Section A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	5,308
Population (mid year 1951 as estimated by the Registrar-General)	5,354
Number of inhabitants, 31st December, 1951	1,544
Rateable Value of the District, 31st December, 1951	£37,894
Estimated net product of a penny rate ...	£150

Social Conditions

The district is mainly agricultural in character, the old town of Welwyn, where the Great North Road crosses the river Mimram, being the natural centre of the area. The two parishes of Ayot St. Lawrence and Ayot St. Peter remain sequestered and remote though only 24 miles north of London, while parts of Digswell, Welwyn and Woolmer Green have developed as residential areas. The District comprises some of the best undulating wooded and agricultural country in Hertfordshire, and fortunately having escaped the urbanising influences of the inter-war years, retains its rural charm.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Male	Female	Total
Number of deaths from all causes	38	36	74
Number of live births ...	{ Legitimate ...	44	40
	{ Illegitimate ...	1	2
Number of still births ...	{ Legitimate ...	—	—
	{ Illegitimate ...	—	—
Number of deaths of infants under one year ...	{ Legitimate ...	—	1
	{ Illegitimate ...	—	—

INFANT MORTALITY

One death occurred of an infant under one year, the small number rendering statistical comparison of death rates with previous years of little significance.

Female ... 1 week ... Pneumonia

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

The following table shows the Death Rates, Birth Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1940:—

Year	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1940	9.7	14.4	27.0
1941	11.9	11.4	32.2
1942	10.5	15.6	66.7
1943	10.2	16.3	12.8
1944	8.9	16.4	—
1945	8.6	14.6	—
1946	12.9 (11.5)*	15.7 (19.1)*	90.9 (43.0)*
1947	10.8 (12.0)	18.8 (20.5)	42.5 (41.0)
1948	9.0 (10.8)	18.1 (17.9)	10.5 (34.0)
1949	12.2 (11.7)	20.1 (16.7)	18.9 (32.0)
1950	10.2 (11.6)	19.6 (15.8)	9.8 (29.8)
1951	13.8 (12.5)	16.2 (15.5)	11.4 (29.6)

* The relative figures for England and Wales.

DEATHS

The following table gives an analysis of the various causes of all deaths which have occurred—or are required to be treated as having occurred—in the district during the year:—

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	—	—	—
Other respiratory diseases	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease	5	6	11
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis	6	4	10
Heart diseases	12	8	20
Other circulatory diseases	5	4	9
Gastric Ulcer	3	—	3
Nephritis	1	5	6
Road Traffic Accidents	3	1	4
Other defined causes	1	6	7
Suicide	—	1	1
Bronchitis	1	—	1
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	—	1	1
	38	36	74

Section B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The Hertfordshire County Council is responsible for the administration of the personal health services throughout the district, much of the day-to-day administration being delegated to the Divisional Health Office at Howardsgate, Welwyn Garden City.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

WELWYN (THE HILL)

Infant Welfare ...	2-4 p.m.	Friday
Ante and Post Natal ...	9-12 noon	Thursday (1st only)
*Dental	{ 9.30-12.30 a.m. 2-5 p.m.	Monday

* Temporarily suspended.

WOOLMER GREEN (VILLAGE HALL)

Infant Welfare ...	2-4 p.m.	Tuesday (2nd and 4th)
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AYOT ST. LAWRENCE

Infant Weighing ...	2.30-4 p.m.	Wednesday (1st only; may vary)
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(Minor ailments are treated daily at 1 The Crescent (Nurse's Residence) between 8 and 9 a.m.).

Attendances, 1951

Infant Welfare	849
Ante Natal	51

The Infant Welfare Clinics have continued at the Welfare Hut, Welwyn Hill, each Friday afternoon, where the very active voluntary committee has continued its most valuable work in the organisation of the clinic, and in assisting in the general Child Welfare work. Following extensive redecoration the previous year the clinic may now be

regarded as a model of what a rural centre should be, and great credit is due to the voluntary committee, doctor, nurse and other helpers who maintain an active interest at the clinic. Child welfare attendances have been well maintained throughout the year, although the numbers attending the ante natal clinic are still low. This does not, however, reflect any failure to seek prompt ante natal supervision, as many expectant mothers prefer to attend their own doctor or hospital.

NURSING SERVICES

Miss I. A. Green, 1 The Crescent, Welwyn, the home nurse/midwife, assisted by Mrs. Womack, carried out the domiciliary nursing, midwifery and health visiting for most of the Rural District, although nurses from Tewin, Wheathampstead and Codicote assist in the outlying parishes. Their work is supervised by the Divisional Nursing Officer.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

During the year children in each of the prescribed age groups were medically examined at the maintained schools in the district, namely, three primary, one secondary, and one nursery school, and those with defects followed up to ensure that treatment is obtained.

Facilities for speech therapy and ophthalmic treatment are available at the Community Centre, Welwyn Garden City, and at Northcotts Clinic at Hatfield. Children for orthoptic treatment attend the clinic at Hatfield and Child Guidance cases are seen at Hill End Hospital, St. Albans. Minor ailments are treated by the District Nurse between 8 and 9 a.m. daily at 1 The Crescent.

Dental facilities were unfortunately in abeyance during the year owing to staffing difficulties, but it is hoped to be able to extend facilities from Welwyn Garden City in the near future. Orthodontic treatment may be obtained at the Dental Clinic held ~~fortunately~~ at Northfortnigcotts, Hatfield, by special arrangement. Examination of the results of school medical inspections show that the health of the children has been well maintained, although the school experienced a heavy attack of chicken pox during the first quarter, mainly affecting the younger children. Plans have now been completed for improvements to the Welwyn Primary School building, including the provision of a more adequate sanitary block.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The percentage of infants and young children immunised against diphtheria has been maintained thanks to the continued efforts of the Infant Welfare Clinic, School Teachers and Medical Practitioners. Approximately 69% of the pre-school child population being fully protected.

OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

The activities of the Welwyn Old People's Club, Hon. Secretary Mrs. P. Maidment, reflected great credit upon the small band of voluntary workers who have given much time to the consideration of the special needs of the elderly folk in the district. Ideal club premises opened during the year in the High Street illustrate what can be done by local effort to form a centre for the old folk where regular meetings

and recreation can be arranged and assistance given in their special problems. These facilities are of great value in a rural community, especially when transport and living costs are rising, and yet so much assistance can be obtained through the National Health Service and National Assistance and the Welfare Department of the County Council, provided someone helps the old people to take advantage of the facilities available.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The local organiser for Welwyn Rural District is Mrs. E. R. Dawson, Divisional Health Office, Howardsgate, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 4144). The service has been well maintained throughout the year, although at times difficulties have been experienced in finding suitable home helps within the Rural District. While it has usually been possible to cover all demands on the service, there is a need for women in each parish who would be willing to be registered for casual home help work in this essential service. It is difficult to employ full time home helps in a scattered district, where the demand fluctuates considerably, apart from the small number of old persons and chronic invalids receiving help.

HOSPITALS

The district is served by its own hospital, the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, which has 40 beds for general medical and surgical cases. Within reach are the larger hospitals at Hitchin, Hertford and St. Albans, where full diagnostic and specialist facilities are available. The majority of maternity patients needing hospital confinement are admitted to the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital, but maternity beds are available also at Hitchin and St. Albans.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Hertfordshire Executive Council is responsible for providing a general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area. Mr. A. E. Short is the Clerk of the Council, and has offices at 156-158 Fore Street, Hertford.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Since the Hertfordshire County Council assumed control of the Ambulance Brigade, the staff and ambulances attached to Welwyn Garden City Station cover all calls in the Welwyn Rural District, and are assisted by the Hospital Car Service.

Section C.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year:—

Scarlet Fever	3
Whooping Cough	7
Measles	14

There was a high incidence of chicken pox in Welwyn during the first quarter of the year, especially affecting the infants and juniors at St. Mary's School, but apart from this the incidence of infectious disease has been remarkably low.

No cases of poliomyelitis or suspected poliomyelitis were reported during the year, and no cases of gastro-enteritis or food poisoning.

TUBERCULOSIS

A complete check was made of all cases of tuberculosis on the registers of the district during the year, in order to bring the records up to date, and as correct as possible. The Tuberculosis statistics for the year are as follows:—

	Male		Female		Total
	Pul.	N/Pul.	Pul.	N/Pul.	
On the register at 31st Dec., 1950	15	1	11	5	32
Removals from the register during the year	5	—	3	—	8
Added to the register during the year	7	—	4	—	11
On the register at 31st Dec., 1951	17	1	12	5	35

The Tuberculosis Clinic at Osterhills Hospital, St. Albans, undertakes the treatment of cases in Welwyn, and the southern part of the District, while cases from the Mardley Hill/Woolmer Green area attend Letchworth Clinic. Home visiting of all cases is maintained through the Tuberculosis Health Visitors and the Home Nurses, and the special housing needs of each case is fully investigated.

Section D.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

(a) *Public Supply*

A very small dose of chlorine has been continuously applied to all public water supplies throughout the year.

Samples taken from the various storages in turn have been submitted monthly for analysis and/or bacteriological examination. The reports have been consistently satisfactory.

Public supply is available throughout the Parish of Welwyn and the greater part of the Parish of Ayot St. Peter.

The average weekly consumption during the twelve months ended 31st March, 1952, was:—

(i) From Welwyn Garden City Waterworks (including 538,692 galls. per week supplied in bulk to Hertford R.D.C.)	1,815,192 galls.
(ii) From Welwyn Waterworks	280,269 ..
(iii) Total from the two sources consumed in Welwyn Rural District	1,556,769 ..

(b) *Private Supplies*

The parish of Ayot St. Lawrence remains, as before, dependent upon private supplies, but a scheme for providing a piped supply has been approved by the Ministry of Health. The necessary pipes and fittings have been ordered but there is still no certainty as to a date when all of these together with necessary reinforcement steel for proposed Water Tower will be available.

2. DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The number of cesspools or sewage tanks emptied by the Council's Cesspool Emptier during the year was 661 (722 loads, average 1.09 loads per emptying).

In addition, the sewage tanks at Oaklands, for which the Council is responsible, was emptied 76 times (442 loads—average 5.81 loads per emptying), and in addition the undermentioned Council properties were emptied:—

Council Offices (Sewage Tank)	1 time	2 loads
Woolmer Green Sewage Pumping Station (Screening Chamber)	6 times	3 „
Burnham Green Cottages (Sewage Tank) ...	2 „	2½ „
Station Road Cottages (Sewage Tank) ...	4 „	3½ „
Danesbury Camp (Sewage Tank)	3 „	2½ „
Digswell Camp (Sewage Tank)	1 time	¾ load

The average daily flow at Welwyn Sewage Disposal Works was 111,243 gallons.

The lowest daily flow was 80,000 gallons on 22nd December, 1951, on which day there was no rain. The highest daily flow was 222,000 gallons on the 26th May, 1951, on which day there was a rainfall of 0.875 inches.

A scheme of main sewerage for the Mardley Hill, Oaklands, Canonsfield and Danesbury area is still under consideration by the Ministry of Health. The intention was to abandon the Sewage Disposal Works at Woolmer Green and lay a Trunk Sewer to bring all sewage down to the works at Welwyn which were to be enlarged to deal with it. The Minister has now intimated that he will not agree to the enlargement of the Sewage Disposal Works but will require the Council to take advantage of the main sewer proposed to be laid down the Mimram Valley in connection with the Lee Valley Main Sewerage Scheme, for the disposal of all the sewage from Welwyn Rural District and to abandon the existing Disposal Works at Welwyn. The Council are still awaiting information as to the financial implications of such an arrangement. During the year the Council received from the Lee Conservancy Catchment Board a complaint regarding an unsatisfactory effluent reaching the River Mimram. After consultation with the Ministry and the Lee Conservancy Catchment Board arrangements were made for extending and enlarging the effluent trenches and the formation of lagoons to serve as humus tanks as a temporary measure for securing a better standard of effluent.

3. RAINFALL

The total rainfall recorded at Welwyn Sewage Disposal Works during the year was 34.490 inches.

The average annual rainfall for the five years 1947-1951 was 25,224 inches.

During 1951 there was a measurable fall of rain on 197 separate days, the heaviest daily fall being 1.31 inches on the 6th September, 1951. The wettest month was November with 4.965 inches of rain and the driest month was July with 0.685 inches of rain.

4. HOUSE REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTION

A house-to-house weekly collection of house refuse and salvage was carried out by direct labour throughout the year.

The quantity of salvage of various types which was sold during the year ended 31st March, 1952, was 77 tons, 2 cwts., 0 qrs., 20 lbs., and the payment received for this was £816 3s. 5d.

The grand total of salvage disposed of since a separate collection of salvage was started in March, 1940, is 1,158 tons, 13 cwts., 2 qrs., 1 lb., and this has been sold for £4,948 9s. 6d.

5. SANITARY INSPECTIONS AND VISITS FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES

Premises visited	...	...	...	88
Number of visits	...	...	...	174

The purpose of these visits was as follows:—

	Premises	Visits
Housing defects	9	18
Cesspools and drains	11	23
Restaurants	8	16
Food	16	37
Disinfections following infectious disease	4	4
Keeping of animals	2	3
Bakehouses	2	5
Smoke and Fumes	4	9
Dirty Premises	3	8
Manure and Other Deposits	3	8
Miscellaneous	3	4
Rodent Control	12	16
Factories	11	23
	<hr/> 88	<hr/> 174

The cases of infectious disease were as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	3
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1

6. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS—PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 269

Fifteen licences to station caravans on various sites were operative during the year. It is the Council's custom to issue such licences for twelve months at a time only.

7. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS, ETC.

No new cases came under notice during the year.

8. HOUSING

(i) *New Houses.* Eight new houses were completed and four additional units of accommodation provided in other ways by private enterprise; 21 houses and four bungalows were completed by the Council making a total of 37 additional separate dwellings during the year.

(ii) *Council's Housing Programme.* During the year contracts for the erection of forty-four houses at Hawbush Common were made and at the close of the year 24 houses and 20 flats (total 44 dwellings) were under construction.

(iii) *Erection of Houses by Private Enterprise.* During the year the Council issued five building licences for the erection of dwellings by private persons, and of these, two were transferred from Hatfield Rural District.

(iv) *Requisitioned Property.* At the close of the year the Council held three dwellings under requisition and four separate families and/or tenants living alone, were housed therein.

(v) *Hutted Camps.* Thirty-two families are still housed in ex-service huts (originally occupied by squatters) in two Camps, viz., 26 at Danesbury Park and 6 at Digswell.

9. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

(A) Food as detailed below was inspected and certified unfit for human consumption and either destroyed, disposed of as pig food or returned to the suppliers for salvage. Certificates were issued in all cases to the persons by whom the food was held at the time of inspection, in accordance with the emergency arrangements agreed with the Ministry of Food and Ministry of Health.

(i) *Food in tins or other containers*

Description	No. of Containers	Weight		
		cwts.	lbs.	ozs.
Meat	28	1	54	2
Milk	7		5	12
Fruit and Vegetables ...	36		46	11½
Preserves	3		4	8
Soup	1		1	0
Fish, miscellaneous	1		1	0
	76	2	1	1½

(ii) *Loose Foods*

Bacon			22	0
Fish			7	4
Butter			56	0
Sausages			42	0
			1	15 4

Total weight of all foods condemned: 3 cwts., 16 lbs., 5½ ozs.

(B) "*Clean Food*" *Byelaws.* In the course of inspection made during the year the attention of occupiers of food shops has been drawn to any failures to comply with Byelaw requirements and in each case compliance has been secured on informal request.

10. RODENT CONTROL AND PEST DESTRUCTION

In order to carry out their duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the Council have entered into an agreement with Hitchin Rural and Royston Urban District Councils for the operation of a Joint Scheme.

The Scheme has worked smoothly and satisfactorily throughout the year and the following table gives a record done in Welwyn Rural District during the year:—

Sewers	Number of hours worked				Total	No. of Rats and/or Mice picked up	
	Refuse Tips, etc.	Private dwellings	Business premises	Block inspection		R.	M.
10	93½	228	35½	1¼	368¼	586	36

