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# **REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

**A. P. KALRA**

M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.

FOR THE YEAR

# **1951**

TOGETHER WITH THE

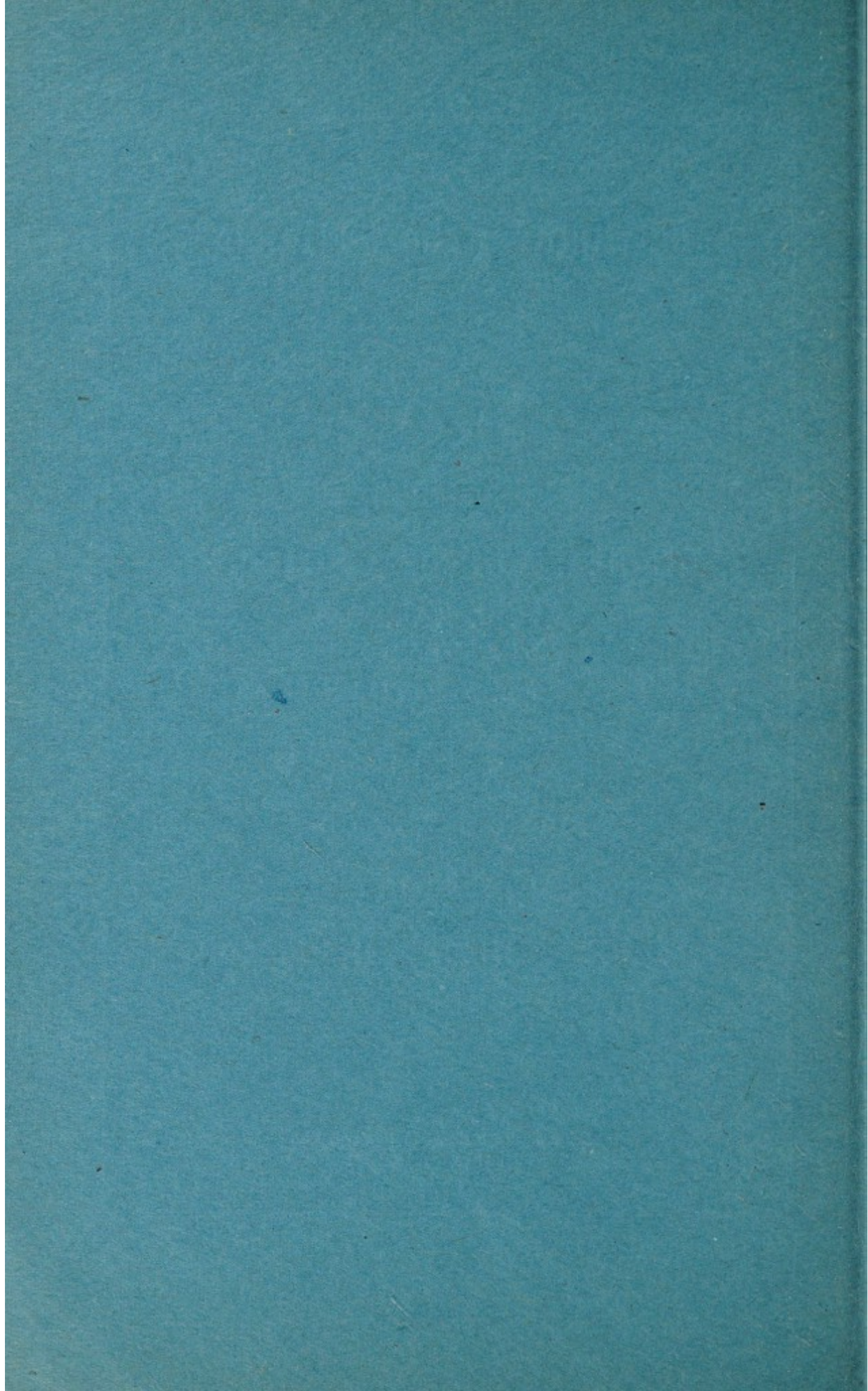
**Report of the**

**Chief Sanitary Inspector**

Witham :

J. H. Clarke & Co., (Chelmsford) Ltd.

High Street



# Witham Urban District Council

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

*Chairman :* T. R. MOTT, ESQ.

*Members :* MRS. J. N. PELLY.

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D. C. BRIGHT, ESQ.

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M. F. STRUTT, ESQ., J.P., M.C. (ex officio).

## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS**

### **Medical Officer of Health**

A. P. KALRA, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.

### **Chief Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods**

E. H. C. WADHAMS, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.

### **Additional Sanitary Inspector**

H. R. D. SCOTT, M.S.I.A.

### **Clerical Assistant**

R. G. CHAPMAN.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,

TOWN HALL,

BRAINTREE.

July, 1952.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1951 on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Witham Urban District.

The birth rate was 14.5 and the death rate 8.1 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

The incidence of infectious disease was lower than that of the previous year, with measles and whooping cough as the two most prevalent diseases. Encouraging results have been published by the Medical Research Council on whooping cough vaccination and it is to be hoped that the vaccine will be made available in the County Council Clinics in the near future. No cases of poliomyelitis occurred during the year.

The section on the General Provision of Health Services sets out the Services provided by the Essex County Council, the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board and the Essex Executive Council.

The report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector deals with the Sanitary Circumstances, Housing and Meat and Food Inspection.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the members of the Council, the Council's Officers, and, in particular, the staff of the Public Health Department for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. P. KALRA,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNCIL OFFICES,  
WITHAM.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Witham.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit, in conjunction with the report of the Medical Officer of Health, my report upon the sanitary circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1951, with details of the public services administered by my Department.

It is gratifying to report that the sanitary condition of the Urban District has remained satisfactory during the year, and that no major menace to the public health has been encountered in any section of the Department's work. Progress has been maintained in housing, food control, public cleansing, river pollution prevention and sewage disposal. Infectious disease has been conspicuously absent, and the district has been kept comparatively free from vermin of all kinds.

Two aspects of the year's work are especially noteworthy. The first was the intensification of the salvage recovery scheme during a seller's market, with very gratifying financial results. Secondly, the very heavy and prolonged peak killing period at the local Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse made unduly heavy calls on your Inspectors' leisure hours for some months.

The extent and varied nature of the Department's work and the additional duties involved in the extension of the cleansing and salvage services, together with the many problems associated with the present and proposed rate of development of the district, have proved something of a strain upon the office staff, and much desirable work has had to be deferred in favour of essentials. I think that some consideration must be given to this matter at an early date.

I would like to express once again my appreciation of the encouragement and support I have received from the Council, and I would also like to thank the Clerk and other Officers for their very ready co-operation at all times.

Lastly, I must acknowledge the assistance I have received from the Medical Officer of Health, and pay tribute to the loyal and unremitting support of the staff and workmen of my Department, without whose efforts such a satisfactory report would not have been possible.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. H. C. WADHAMS,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) ... ..	7,239
Population (estimated mid-year) ... ..	8,548
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books ... ..	2,606
Rateable Value (March, 1951) ... ..	£47,136
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£180

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Area has two minor industrial centres in the town of Witham and the garden village of Silver End. The remainder of the area is almost entirely agricultural.

## VITAL STATISTICS

On page 7 are set out extracts of the Vital Statistics of the District for the ten-year period 1942-51 in regard to the estimated mid-year populations and the local and national birth and death rates for each year during that time.

### BIRTHS

In the year 1951 there were 124 live births in the Urban District and these were as follows :—

	Male	Female
Total	64	60
Legitimate	59	57
Illegitimate	5	3

The birth rate was 14.5 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population and was lower than that of the previous year.

### STILL BIRTHS

There were only 2 still births registered in 1951 and these were as shown below :—

	Male	Female
Total	—	2
Legitimate	—	2
Illegitimate	—	—

## DEATHS

The number of deaths relating to the Urban District during 1951 was 76, of which 37 were males and 39 were females.

The death rate was 8.9 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, the rate being lower than that of last year. The details of the nett deaths in the district in 1951 are given on page 5.

It will be seen that the percentage of deaths occurring in the age group from 65 upwards was approximately 75% and that diseases of the heart and circulatory system accounted for over half of the total deaths in the district in 1951 are given below and on page 6.

## INFANT DEATHS

There was only one death of an infant under 1 year of age and it died during the first 4 weeks of life.

The infant mortality rate was 8.1, which is considerably lower than that of the last year.

The cause of infant deaths was cerebral haemorrhage due to birth injury.

### DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING THE YEAR 1951

All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 55	55 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and upwards
76	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	14	22	34



## CAUSES OF DEATH

The Table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General and the classification is given under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries & Causes of Death, 1948.

Cause of Death	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	3	—
2. Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease ... ..	—	—
4. Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
5. Whooping cough ... ..	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—
8. Measles ... ..	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	1	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	2	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	3	1
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	—	—
16. Diabetes ... ..	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	1	11
18. Coronary disease, angina ... ..	12	3
19. Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	1	1
20. Other heart disease ... ..	5	7
21. Other circulatory disease ... ..	—	2
22. Influenza ... ..	—	2
23. Pneumonia ... ..	1	3
24. Bronchitis ... ..	2	—
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	1	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ... ..	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	4	2
33. Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	—	—
34. All other accidents ... ..	—	1
35. Suicide ... ..	1	2
36. Homicide and other operations of war ... ..	—	—
All causes	37	39

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1951 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

Year	Population estimated mid-year	BIRTHS			DEATHS							Natural Increase (excess of Births over Deaths)		
		NETT			Total Number Registered in District	TRANSFERABLE		NETT			At all ages			
		Number	Rate	Rate England & Wales		Of non- registered in District	Of residents not registered in District	Number	Rate per 1000 net births	Rate England & Wales	Number		Rate	
1942	7,781	124	15.9	15.6	52	11	26	3	24.2	x51	67	8.6	12.3	57
1943	7,949	114	14.3	16.2	53	10	28	2	17.5	x49	71	8.9	13.0	43
1944	7,735	128	16.6	17.7	61	14	27	8	63.5	x45	74	9.6	12.7	54
1945	7,619	145	19	15.9	71	18	28	10	68.9	x46	81	10.6	12.6	64
1946	7,960	170	21.5	19.1	66	6	25	6	35.3	x43	85	10.7	12.0	85
1947	8,144	149	18.3	20.5	57	7	28	5	33.6	x41	78	9.6	12.3	71
1948	8,252	143	17.3	17.9	50	8	26	1	7.0	x34	68	8.2	10.8	75
1949	8,363	131	15.7	16.7	65	12	38	6	45.8	x32	91	10.9	11.7	40
1950	8,457	124	14.7	15.8	53	12	41	2	16.1	x29.8	82	9.7	11.6	42
1951	8,458	124	14.5	15.5	56	13	33	1	8.1	x29.6	76	8.9	12.5	48

x Rate per 1,000 related births.

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS**

For list see page 1.

The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Braintree and Bocking, and for the Rural Districts of Braintree and Dunmow, and Assistant Medical Officer for the Essex County Council.

The Braintree and Bocking Urban District Council, by arrangement with the Authorities concerned, provide office accommodation for the Medical Officer of Health in the prefabricated annexe of the Town Hall, Braintree.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector, in addition to his ordinary duties and meat inspection, continues to be responsible for the Council's Refuse and Salvage Collection Scheme, for the management of the Council's Disposal Works, including the farming of the land at the Witham Sewage Works.

### **SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

#### **CARE OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS**

Regular ante-natal clinics are held, with a lady doctor in attendance at the Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street, Witham.

#### **CARE OF YOUNG CHILDREN UP TO SCHOOL AGE**

Child Welfare Clinics are held fortnightly at the Essex County Health Services Clinic in Witham and also at the Village Hall in Silver End. Injections for Diphtheria Immunisation are given with the parents' consent. Children requiring treatment are referred to the local general practitioners, hospitals, or special arrangements made at the Essex County Health Services Clinic.

#### **DAY NURSERY**

The Essex County Council have a Day Nursery at Brookcote, Chipping Hill, Witham, for some 30 children whose mothers are engaged in industry.

#### **CARE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN**

Regular school medical inspections are carried out and the children with defects are referred for treatment. Boosting doses of diphtheria prophylactic are given to increase the resistance of the children to diphtheria.

#### **HEALTH VISITING**

The Health Visitors visit the homes of young children, act as school nurses and help at the clinics at the Essex County Health Services Clinic, Witham, and the Village Hall, Silver End.

## **HOME NURSING AND DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY**

These services are carried out by the District nurse midwives resident in the area.

## **DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE**

Applications for domestic help should be made to the Area Medical Officer, 195, Springfield Road, Chelmsford. This service is not provided free of cost.

## **AMBULANCE FACILITIES**

The ambulance service continued to function satisfactorily throughout the year.

## **CARE OF THE AGED AND INFIRM**

Residential accommodation is provided at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree, and Stisted Hall.

## **LABORATORY SERVICES**

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analyses of water samples, the chemical analyses of sewage effluents, and the examination of other food for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Examination of milk samples from the District are also arranged by the Essex County Council and the service is provided by the Essex Institute of Agriculture at Writtle, near Chelmsford.

Chemical examination of foodstuffs are undertaken by the Public Analyst to the Essex County Council.

## **SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE NORTH-EASTERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD**

The hospitals are managed by the Regional Hospital Board and provide medical, surgical and special treatment. The hospitals which serve the Witham population are those in Chelmsford, Colchester and Braintree. A Chest Clinic is held weekly at the Combined Treatment Centre, Braintree, and treatment for Venereal Disease is available in Chelmsford and Colchester.

## **SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ESSEX EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, this Council provides the general Medical, Dental, Pharmaceutical and Supplementary Ophthalmic services through the family doctors, dentists, chemists and opticians in the area.

## **PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

The number of infectious disease cases notified was 89 and less than half that of the previous year, measles and whooping cough being the most prevalent diseases. Particulars as to numbers and ages of the cases, other than tuberculosis, for the year are given on page 12. A few brief comments are made on some of the infectious diseases.

### **POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS)**

The Urban District was entirely free from poliomyelitis during 1951. During the summer months, the Central Public Health Laboratory carried out an investigation in Witham, using a new technique to isolate the poliomyelitis virus from 30 selected sewer points in Witham and Silver End. It was pleasing to note that from none of the samples taken were they able to demonstrate the presence of the organism.

### **WHOOPING COUGH**

This was the second most prevalent disease and one case required removal to hospital. Encouraging results have been published by the Medical Research Council on the use of whooping cough vaccine in infancy and it is to be hoped that parents will get their children adequately protected against the disease. The Ministry of Health have so far not advocated universal whooping cough vaccination and, so in turn, the Essex County Council have not made it generally available in their clinics. This gives rise to a farcical position where, as the clinic doctor, one immunises the child against diphtheria and then advises that the child be taken to the family doctor for whooping cough vaccination, perhaps this anomaly will be rectified in the near future.

### **DIPHTHERIA**

For the fourth year running there were no confirmed cases of diphtheria in the district. The state of diphtheria immunisation in infants and school children is being well maintained.

### **DYSENTERY**

The seven cases reported were mild cases of Sonne dysentery. Three occurred in children at the Day Nursery and four in adults. The children were excluded from the nursery and the adults isolated from work until they were free from infection.

### **FOOD POISONING**

There were no cases of food poisoning notified in 1951.

## NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

A number of cases of German Measles and Chicken-pox were notified by the Head Teachers in the District during 1951.

## TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of the new cases of tuberculosis reported during the year and of deaths from the disease in the District are set out below:—

Age Periods (Years)	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
20—25	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
	14		2		6		—	

At the end of the year there were 78 cases on the Tuberculosis Register of the District, and these were as follows:—

Males		Females	
44		34	
Respiratory	Non-respiratory	Respiratory	Non-respiratory
36	8	26	8

The Council take into consideration the circumstances of families in whom there are cases of tuberculosis and, within their resources, endeavour to provide housing accommodation when existing housing conditions are prejudicial to the health of members of such families.

## TUBERCULOSIS CARE ASSOCIATION

In the early part of the year the Braintree, Witham and District Tuberculosis Care Association was formed to assist necessitous patients suffering from tuberculosis and their families. It was felt that while a patient was awaiting hospital treatment or had been discharged home and was still unable to work, that the Association could help by providing extra milk, groceries and, in some instances, clothing. During the year the Association was able to help twelve such patients and their families.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED IN 1951**

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified													Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Number of Deaths		
	At all Ages	Under 1 year	At ages—years										65 and over				
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65					
Scarlet Fever ...	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles ...	46	1	10	4	9	1	18	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	24	1	3	4	7	1	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dysentery ...	7	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ac. Pneumonia ...	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Infective Hepatitis ...	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>89</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

## HOUSING

The Council continued its building programme throughout the year, during which a further 37 houses were completed at Western Road, Boars Tye Road and Highfields Road. In the same period, four houses were erected by private enterprise. At the end of December, there were 16 Council houses and 5 private enterprise houses under construction. The number of new houses erected in the Urban District since the end of the war is as follows :—

By the Local Authority	287 (includes 84 prefabricated bungalows).
By private enterprise	63.

The number of applicants for Council houses was 271 at the end of 1951, compared with 317 at 31st December, 1950. In addition, there were 60 applications for aged persons' bungalows. It is therefore apparent that considerably more houses are required to satisfy the local demand. For this purpose, the Council's immediate programme includes the completion of the new estate in the Spinks Lane/Highfields Road area, which will contain a total of 44 houses. The Council also has in hand the erection of a housing estate in the Maldon Road area, as part of the development plan for the district. A further scheme of development, comprising 50 houses at Rivenhall Oak, cannot be completed until the sewerage of that area has been effected, but progress on both sewer and housing schemes is expected during 1952.

Progress with regard to sub-standard houses continues to be limited. Of the condemned houses still occupied at 31st December, 1950, four became vacant when the tenants were re-housed. Clearance proceedings were undertaken in respect of a block of dilapidated shop premises and one detached cottage, and a Compulsory Purchase Order was sealed in respect of this property and an adjoining derelict Clearance Area. After Inquiry, the Compulsory Purchase Order was confirmed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The purpose of the Council in acquiring the land in question, is to demolish all the defective and unsightly buildings thereon and to re-develop the site as a small shopping centre with flats and maisonettes as living accommodation. The Council have approved a draft re-development scheme prepared by their Architect, incorporating features which will be in keeping with the attractive character of the neighbourhood. One further house was the subject of a Demolition Order made by the Council during the year, and was demolished by the owner, leaving 19 condemned houses still in occupation at the end of 1951. While there are undoubtedly a further number of houses which warrant condemnation, the housing shortage precludes such action at the present time.

A certain amount of reconditioning was carried out during 1951, and although work in this direction is still limited by the continuing demand on building labour and materials, some progress in this direction



is being made. The amount of repair and reconditioning work now possible, however, is insufficient to prevent much existing property from rapidly deteriorating, and the provision of new houses cannot have the desired effect upon housing requirements generally, if such property is allowed to reach a stage at which it would be uneconomic to carry out repair and modernisation.

The following table gives a summary of action taken in connection with the inspection of houses during 1951 :—

<b>1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year :—</b>	
(a) Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	72
(b) Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	10
(c) Number (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading (b) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	36
<b>2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice :—</b>	
(a) Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its Officers ... ..	18
<b>3. Action under Statutory Powers : Housing Act, 1936 :—</b>	
(a) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	Nil
(b) Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notice ... ..	Nil
(c) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil
(d) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	1
(e) Number of written undertakings accepted ... ..	4
<b>4. Action under Statutory Powers : Public Health Act, 1936 :—</b>	
(a) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	2
(b) Number of houses in which defects were remedied under service of formal notice ... ..	1
<b>5. Number of dwellinghouses demolished : in pursuance of action under Secs. 25-33 Housing Act, 1936 (Clearance Orders)</b>	
	3
<b>6. Clearance Areas :</b>	
(a) Number of Orders made by the Council ... ..	1
(b) Number of Orders confirmed by Ministry of Housing and Local Government ... ..	1
(c) Number of dwellings scheduled therein ... ..	3

## WATER SUPPLY

There was no change in the sources of the Public supply in the Urban District: the Council's Braintree Road Waterworks supply (deep bore); the South Essex Water Company's supply from the Abberton impounding reservoir; and the Bradwell Springs supply (deep spring) operated by the Crittall Manufacturing Co. Ltd. Silver End and Rivenhall are fed by the Bradwell Springs undertaking, while the remainder of the district receives a mixture of all three supplies. All supplies undergo chloramination at the source.

Quality and quantity have been uniformly satisfactory throughout the year, though inadequate capacity and high demand on parts of the mains system caused serious loss of pressure in some parts of the area. The Council is carrying out a trunk mains extension scheme for improving and maintaining the pressure in the area concerned. As a temporary improvement pending completion of this scheme, a subsidiary supply was obtained from the private supply of Messrs. Lord Rayleigh's Farms Incorporated, in the Braintree Rural District. This helped to avoid complete loss of pressure in the area most adversely affected.

During the latter part of the year the Council's Braintree Road Waterworks supply was out of action, owing to pump defects, and the district's requirements were met by augmented supplies from the South Essex Water Company, with whom the Council have a reservation ensuring ample water for the present and expected needs of the urban district.

Samples are submitted periodically for bacteriological and chemical examination. The results, detailed below, showed that all supplies at the source, both before and after treatment, were satisfactory.

**Source : BRADWELL SPRINGS. Date of sample, 29th November, 1951.**

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

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

**Source : BRAINTREE ROAD WATERWORKS. Date of sample, 4th January, 1951.**

"This sample is almost clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is soft in character but has a high content of mineral and saline constituents in solution. It is of very satisfactory organic quality and bacterial purity, consistent with a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes."

**Source : SOUTH ESSEX WATER COMPANY TRUNK MAIN. Date of sample, 31st October, 1951.**

“This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It is of very satisfactory organic quality and bacterial purity.

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

For a short period, this supply was subject to abnormal taste and odour. On investigation this was found to be due to work on the Company's reservoir and samples showed the water to be wholesome and fit for drinking and domestic purposes. The abnormality was of short duration.

The number of well supplies in the Urban District has been reduced by the connection of a further house in the Maldon Road area. Some wells, of unsatisfactory quality, exist in the neighbourhood of Blue Mills and the Council is considering the extension of the mains service in this direction.

#### **HOUSE CONNECTIONS, ETC.**

Number of separate dwellings in the Urban District ... ..	2,606
Number of separate dwellings having internal piped mains supply	2,500
Estimated population so served ... ..	8,196
Number of separate dwellings connected during the year :	
New	41
Existing	1
Number of separate dwellings served by standpipe ... ..	55
Estimated population so served ... ..	186
Remaining houses, served by shallow wells, springs or cartage ...	51
Estimated population so served ... ..	166

There has been no extension to the Council's mains during the year.

#### **WATER CONSUMPTION AND FUTURE REQUIREMENTS**

Total water supplied by :—

1. Braintree Road Waterworks ... ..	12,667,000 galls.
2. Bradwell Springs :	
(a) To Silver End (estimated) ... ..	45,625,000 galls.
(b) To remainder of Urban District ...	47,091,000 galls.
3. South Essex Water Company Trunk Main ...	45,706,710 galls.
4. Lord Rayleigh's Farms Incorporated ... ..	966,000 galls.
	<hr/>
Total Consumption ... ..	152,055,710 galls.
	<hr/>

Average consumption per head per day :—

Domestic demand	...	...	...	...	...	28.50 galls.
Trade demand	...	...	...	...	...	20.78 galls.
Average total consumption per head per day	...	...	...	...	...	48.73 galls.

The average consumption per head per day in the district continues to increase. This gradual increase is to be expected with the continuous development of modern housing estates, and there are signs that average domestic consumption for the district has not yet reached its peak. In addition, the trade consumption is high in relation to the size of the area.

### SAMPLING

The following Table shows the number of samples submitted for examination.

			Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
<b>1. Mains Water :</b>					
Chemical	...	...	8	—	8
Bacteriological	...	...	32	—	32
<b>2. Other Supplies :</b>					
Chemical	...	...	1	—	1
Bacteriological	...	...	2	1	3
			43	1	44
			43	1	44

The unsatisfactory sample was from a well supply and the house was subsequently connected to the Council's main.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The following Table shows the drainage facilities in use in the district at 31st December, 1951 :—

Houses with—	Drainage to—						Totals
	Sewer	Septic Tanks	Cesspools	Ditches via Cesspools	Direct to Ditches	No Drainage	
W.C.s, Sinks & Drains	2402	5	29	9	—	—	2445
W.C.s, Gulley Drains, No Sinks	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Pail Closets, Sinks and Drains	—	—	57	30	36	—	123
Pail Closets & Sinks	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Pail Closets and Gulley Drains only	—	—	—	—	8	—	8
Privies and Gulley Drains only*	—	—	—	—	6	—	6
Pail Closets, no Sinks or Drains	—	—	—	—	—	13	13
Privies, no Sinks or Drains	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Total	2409	5	86	39	50	17	2606

\*Property already condemned under the Housing Act, 1936.

Of the 197 properties not at present connected to the sewer, 8 are capable of immediate connection, and the proposed sewerage scheme for Rivenhall will provide for the connection of 80 existing dwellinghouses. Prospective future development along the lines at present suggested should allow for the serving of another 20-30 existing houses. There will then remain 80-90 agricultural and isolated properties for which no economic sewerage scheme appears to be possible.

The existing sewer systems at Witham and Silver End are both liable to surcharging at times of heavy rainfall. At Witham, where a combined system of soil and surface water drainage predominates, building development has so taken up the available sewer capacity that the marginal capacity available for storm water is inadequate. In addition, certain lengths are known to be in poor structural condition, lacking correct falls, and silted to a considerable extent. At Silver End, where a totally separate system was designed, storm water nevertheless gains access to the sewers, not only causing serious surcharge and flooding, but increasing the flow to proportions far beyond the capacity of the sewage works.

No extensions to the main sewers were made during the year.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There are three major sewage disposal plants in the Urban District, two owned by the Council and one administered by the Ministry of Works for the National Assistance Board. The Urban District Sewage Works serve the communities of Witham and Silver End, and the third plant treats sewage from the Board's Hostel for Displaced Persons at Rivenhall Aerodrome Camp. The Council proposes to instal a third disposal plant to deal with flows from the proposed Rivenhall Sewerage Scheme.

### WITHAM SEWAGE WORKS

Details of the layout and capacity of this plant have been given in previous reports. No major alteration or improvement has been made and the flow to the works continues to increase with the development of the town. The plant remains, therefore, inadequate for present needs and overloaded by more than 40%. Once again almost 50% of effluent samples failed to achieve the required standards of the Essex County Council and the Southend Waterworks Company.

The inadequate and defective condition of the plant has been a source of concern to the Council for a considerable time, and early in 1949 Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare improvement proposals. This scheme, the preliminary layout of which has received the Council's approval, provides for immediate enlargement of the works to cope with 25% increase on present population and for a two or three stage future expansion, should the development of the district require it. It is hoped to commence to put this scheme into operation as soon as the Rivenhall sewerage undertaking is in progress.

Little difficulty was experienced with trade constituents in the sewage during the year. The plant installed by the Crittall Manufacturing Co. Ltd., in June, 1949, continued to operate satisfactorily.

### Farmland :

For the first time since the Council commenced to cultivate this farmland in 1947, the year's income failed appreciably to cover the allocated cost of the work involved. A crop of mangold seed, undertaken as an experiment, proved costly in labour and emphasised previous experience that to farm this land with present sewage disposal staff, who are not of course skilled agricultural workers, crops are required which need only normal cultivation and little expert care during their growth. The wet season and the lack of bees resulted in the failure of 10 acres of clover to produce a second crop either for seed or hay purposes, though the spring cut had been very satisfactory. On the remaining 7½ acres of land, flax was grown and 13 tons were harvested. This was a profitable crop but failed to offset the loss on the remaining land.

During the year the Council purchased a tractor and farm implements, and the benefit of these in enabling easy cultivation at the right time, and in avoiding a large proportion of hiring charges, was already obvious towards the end of the year.

At the close of the 1952 crop season, when five years' cultivation will have been completed, it is proposed to examine and report on the results over this period. It is confidently expected that this scheme will show to financial advantage in comparison with the previous letting of the land to a tenant farmer.

### **SILVER END SEWAGE WORKS**

This plant, described in detail in previous reports, serves the community of Silver End, a population of about 2,000. The plant is well designed, except for the siting of the secondary filters, which were added after completion of the original design, and are situated below the humus tanks, thus allowing no facility for removal of secondary humus. In addition, the smaller capacity of the secondary system, involving higher rates of flow, becomes overloaded more easily than the primary section. This is accentuated by the addition of certain trade discharges to the normal sewage flow. The Council's Consulting Engineers are preparing a scheme of extension and improvement to cope with present flows and expected development during the next few years.

The average dry weather flow to the works is estimated to be over 100,000 gallons daily, which indicates a somewhat higher domestic water consumption than in other parts of the Urban District. This rate of flow involves a theoretical settlement period of 12-13 hours retention, with dosage to the primary filters of 105 gallons and to the secondary filters of 320 gallons per cubic yard per day. The resulting standard of purification is very satisfactory.

It has not yet been possible for the Council to house the attendant near the works to facilitate supervision and control, but arrangements have been made for the purchase of a plot of land for this purpose.

### **RIVENHALL CAMP SEWAGE WORKS**

This plant, constructed during the war to serve the Aerodrome, now treats the sewage from some hundreds of displaced persons occupying the camp under the control of the National Assistance Board.

The plant is not working to capacity and has maintained an efficient standard of treatment.

## RIVENHALL END SEWERAGE SCHEME

This scheme, which the Council have desired for many years to put into operation, has now been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. It will provide for the sewerage of the largest remaining unsewered area in the Urban District, and will not only allow the abolition of cesspools, pail closets and privies, but the development of a housing site at Rivenhall Oak, which has been held up for lack of essential services.

It is hoped that work on both the sewer scheme and the housing site will commence during 1952.

## SAMPLING OF SEWAGE, EFFLUENTS, ETC.

Fifty-nine samples of effluent were submitted for analysis, and the results were as follows :—

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Witham Sewage Works ...	28	23	51
Silver End Sewage Works ...	7	1	8
	—	—	—
Totals ...	35	24	59
	—	—	—

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

The rivers Blackwater and Brain, with tributary streams, pass through the Urban District and contribute appreciably to its natural beauty. The Council is anxious that these water courses shall not become fouled, and my Department maintains constant supervision to discover and remedy any pollution which may occur. This work is done in close co-operation with the Southend Waterworks Company which draws river water for its supply, and is therefore equally anxious to prevent pollution.

Of the two rivers, the Brain is the lesser, and receives larger quantities of sewage effluent and road surface water on its course. It is also the more liable to trade waste pollution. Its purity is therefore of a lower standard than that of the Blackwater, but is nevertheless sufficient to support a certain amount of fish life in the length within the Urban District. It is necessary, however, to ensure that no further general deterioration can occur.



## **SAMPLING**

The following pollutions were discovered and remedied during the year. In no case was formal action necessary.

<b>River affected</b>	<b>Polluting substance</b>
Brain.	Iron, sulphate, zinc and copper (6 times). Offensive solid matter (once).
Blackwater.	Organic wastes from fruit processing plant.

In the above cases, action was taken to stop further pollution, and the managements of the industries concerned co-operated with the Council in taking preventive measures against recurrence.

## **PUBLIC CLEANSING**

Of the Public Cleansing services, that of street scavenging, including sweeping, road gritting and snow clearing, is carried out by the Essex County Council and the Urban Council's Highways Departments.

The remaining services, refuse collection and disposal, and salvage recovery, are administered by the Council's Public Health Department. Details are given on page 24.

## **REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

### **Collection :**

The re-organised collection of house refuse for the whole of the Urban District has been maintained during the year, providing a weekly collection from all parts of the area.

There are now two vehicles operating this service : the 8 cubic yard S.D. freighter, which has now completed its fifth year of continuous service without major breakdown or repair, and the 11 cubic yard S.D. "W" type vehicle, which is used for 1½ days per week on collection.

### **Disposal :**

Tipping has continued throughout the year on the Council's land adjoining the river Blackwater, where marshland is being made up. It is hoped by tipping in this area to add some 10 acres of useful agricultural land to that now farmed at the adjoining sewage works. Tipping capacity here will satisfy disposal requirements for the next five to ten years, according to the rate of development of the district, but if development takes place at the rate and to the degree envisaged in the present Town Planning proposals, a large scale disposal scheme will have to be prepared shortly to provide for the needs of the enlarged town.

## SALVAGE

Collection of salvage is effected in conjunction with house refuse collection. The improved collection schedules allowed by the use of the second vehicle, brought about an increase in salvage collection, and this, with higher prices ruling at the end of the year, and the Council's participation on the National Drive for scrap metal, enabled the Department to show an annual income of more than £2,000 for the first time. Details are as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper ...	1565	15	8
Bones ...	42	11	3
Rags ...	92	2	1
Sacking ...	68	4	9
Scrap Iron ...	234	18	2
Metal ...	62	0	3
Bottles and Jars	44	14	7
Miscellaneous ...	2	5	10
Collection Bonus	10	0	0
Total	£2122	12	7

This total represents an increase of £1001 3s. 8d. over receipts during 1950/51. Costs of collection and disposal of salvage amounted to £1455 0s. 10d., an increase of £577 11s. 7d. on the previous year, leaving a profit of £667 11s. 9d. It is anticipated that salvage collection will continue to be a profitable undertaking, as well as a very effective means of lessening refuse disposal work and reducing the proportion of combustible material in the tip itself.

## COSTS

Total net cost of refuse collection and disposal, and salvage (detailed in the Table below), rose during the year by £105.

### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL, AND SALVAGE

Table showing Costs for year ending 31st March, 1952 :—

	Total collection & disposal costs with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded					
	Included			Excluded		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
A. Gross Expenditure ... ..	5123	7	1	4603	5	0
B. Gross Income ... ..	2194	1	7	2194	1	7
C. Net Cost ... ..	2929	5	6	2409	3	5
<i>Unit Costs—</i>						
D. Net Cost per ton ... ..	1	9	11	1	4	7
E. Net Cost per 1,000 population ...	342	13	8	281	16	9
F. Net Cost per 1,000 houses or premises from which refuse is collected ... ..	1121	1	0	924	9	5
<i>Rate Poundage—</i>						
G. Net Cost, equivalent rate in £	16.273d.			13.384d.		
H. Percent. of G. to total rate in £	5.85			4.81		

1. Total refuse collected and disposed of in tons (estimated)	1954
2. Population ... ..	8548
3. Area (statute acres) ... ..	7329
4. Weight in cwts. (per 1000 population) per day (365 days to year) ... ..	12
5. Number of houses and premises ... ..	2606
6. Rateable value ... ..	£47,136
7. Produce of a penny rate ... ..	£180
8. Total rates in £1 ... ..	23s. 2d.
9. Method of collection—mechanical vehicles ... ..	2
10. Method of Tipping. Controlled tipping, i.e. on lines of Ministry's precautions ... ..	100%
11. Average length of journey ... ..	7 miles
12. Percentage of refuse collected ... ..	100

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

A total of 4,357 visits and inspections were made during the year as follows :—

Housing Act ... ..	277
Public Health Acts ... ..	153
Verminous Premises :—	
Visits ... ..	2
Disinfestations ... ..	12
Complaints (other than dwelling houses) ... ..	45
Slaughterhouse ... ..	897
Butchers' Shops ... ..	8
Fish Shops ... ..	3
Licensed Premises ... ..	3
Restaurants ... ..	2
Ice Cream Vendors ... ..	25
Food Preparation Premises ... ..	62
Dairies ... ..	1
Cowsheds ... ..	1
Milkshops ... ..	3
Sampling :—	
Ice Cream ... ..	46
Milk ... ..	3
Water ... ..	34
Sewage Effluent ... ..	30
Shops ... ..	7
Factories ... ..	32
Infectious Disease Prevention :—	
Visits ... ..	253
Disinfections ... ..	5
Water Supplies ... ..	12
Streams and Watercourses ... ..	23
Drains and Sewers :—	
Inspected ... ..	263
Tested ... ..	53
Cesspools, Septic Tanks and Pail Closets ... ..	4
Refuse Tips ... ..	114
Sewage Works ... ..	207
Salvage ... ..	93
Rodent Control ... ..	1470
Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..	70
Offensive Accumulations ... ..	3
Stables and Pig Styes ... ..	4
Schools ... ..	4
Places of Amusement ... ..	3
Miscellaneous ... ..	103
Council House Applicants ... ..	27

In addition, 1,333 interviews were given to owners, builders, tenants, and other interested parties.

**Nuisances, etc., on Books, with number of Notices served**

Number of Notices outstanding 31st December, 1950 ...	18
Number of Intimation Notices served during the year ...	54
Number of Statutory Notices served during the year ...	2
Number of Notices complied with during the year ...	51
Number of Notices on books, 31st December, 1951 ...	23

The following list classifies the nuisances and defects dealt with :—

Dampness: Rising and penetrative ... ..	8
Defective Brickwork, pointing, rendering, etc. ... ..	8
Defective roofs, parapets, gutters, R.W.P.s, etc. ... ..	14
Defective walls and ceilings ... ..	16
Defective doors, floors, windows, etc. ... ..	8
Defective staircase ... ..	1
Defective cooking ranges, register stoves ... ..	5
Defective back boiler ... ..	1
Defective sinks and waste pipes ... ..	6
Defective W.C. flushing pipe and cistern ... ..	1
Defective and choked drainage systems ... ..	8
Defective gulleys ... ..	3
Defective yard paving ... ..	6
Overflowing cesspools ... ..	3
Offensive accumulations ... ..	1
Filthy conditions of rooms ... ..	2
Keeping of animals ... ..	2
Vermin Infestation :—	
Wasps ... ..	2
Centipedes ... ..	1
Ants ... ..	2
Woodworm ... ..	5
Mites ... ..	1
Cockroaches ... ..	1
Absence of/Defective condition of dustbins ... ..	26

**FACTORIES ACT, 1937**

During the year, 32 visits were paid to factories and workshops throughout the district, which figure does not include visits to Food Preparation Premises also classified as factories, as these are dealt with under another heading. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory. New sanitary accommodation has been erected to my Department's requirements at one factory during the year. At the end of 1951, the number of outworkers on the register was 234, comprising :—

	Witham U.D.C.	Other local authorities
Glove Manufacturers ...	45	185
Seed Merchants ...	4	—

Notification of outworkers employed in other districts was made to the 24 local authorities concerned.

Details of the inspections made during the year to premises in the Urban District under the Factories Act, 1937, are given in the Table below :—

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTION for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	36	28	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	3	—	—	—
Total	47	32	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperatures (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to outworkers)	5	3	—	5	—
Total	9	7	—	5	—

## SHOPS ACTS

Seven visits were paid to shops, apart from those dealt with under other headings. No action was taken under the Shops Acts, 1912-1938. The major part of the Shops Act administration is enforced by the Essex County Council.

## MOVABLE DWELLINGS

On several occasions during the year, caravans were stationed on sites within the district. As distinct from previous years, when mainly gypsy-type vans were involved, some of the van dwellers are people lacking housing accommodation, temporarily occupying mobile dwellings while unable to find houses. Residence in a caravan within the district cannot be allowed, of course, automatically to qualify for priority allocation of a Council House, and these people therefore present a long-term problem. In some cases, water supply and waste disposal facilities are absent or primitive in the extreme, and the sites available are not always satisfactory. The Council has approved the provision of a properly equipped caravan site, with plots to let at an economic rent.

Under the Witham Urban District (Movable Dwellings and Camping Grounds) Order, 1950, there were five vans licensed on three sites at the end of the year.

A number of prosecutions were undertaken during the year against one van occupier, for offences under Sec. 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as applied to the Urban District by the above Order. The Court found the occupier guilty in each case, but the fines imposed did not deter him from continuing the offence, and the Court did not see fit to impose the daily penalty clause. At the end of the year, therefore, the van occupier had been able successfully to resist, at little cost to himself, all the efforts of the local authority to enforce his removal.

In all cases before licences are issued, the Council has to be satisfied with facilities for water supply, hard standing, refuse disposal and sanitary accommodation. The number of defects of this nature dealt with was as under :—

Defective or inadequate sanitary accommodation	2
Inadequate or inaccessible water supply ... ..	2
Lack of dustbin ... ..	5
Lack of waste water disposal ... ..	2
Lack of satisfactory hard standing ... ..	4

## INSECT PESTS

Pest infestation, other than by rodents, was not encountered to any serious extent during the year. The following cases were dealt with :—

Wasps ... ..	2	Ants ... ..	2
Woodworm ... ..	5	Centipedes ... ..	1
Cockroaches ... ..	1	Mites ... ..	1

In addition, the Council's refuse tips are periodically treated to destroy crickets and other insects. Insecticides used are D.D.T. (5%) and gammexane, both in liquid and powder form, and cyanide preparations. The latter are only used in cases where the safety of human beings and domestic animals can be ensured. Also for minor household infestations, chiefly by flies of various kinds, a pyrethrum compound giving a quick "knock-down" effect is used.

## RODENT CONTROL

The Council conducts its own Rodent Control service, employing a specially trained operative for the purpose. Systematic inspection and treatment routine over a number of years has succeeded in limiting the rodent population of the district to a minimum. The work has been carried out in co-operation with the pest control department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Details of the year's work are as follows:—

Inspections made	...	...	...	918
Treatment visits	...	...	...	634
Infestations found:				
		Minor	...	99
		Major	...	6
Bodies recovered: Rats	...	...	...	347
Estimated kill: Rats	...	...	...	1028

The whole of the District sewer system was twice treated with satisfactory results. The following details of the treatments show that sewer infestation was light:—

	Witham		Silver End	
	1st treatment	2nd treatment	1st treatment	2nd treatment
Manholes, test baited	6	22	12	20
Manholes, test baited showing takes	2	2	3	3
Manholes, poison baited	6	6	6	7
Manholes, poison baited showing takes	2	2	3	3

A free domestic treatment service is now in operation and is of great assistance in ensuring that my Department is informed of infestations at a very early stage, when they are, of course, much easier to deal with.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MEAT INSPECTION

7,888 animals were killed at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse during the year, an increase of 902 on 1950. This increase comprised cattle (596), pigs (747) offset by a decrease of 338 sheep and 102 calves killed. As sheep and calves normally require very much less detailed



inspection than other food animals, the differences involved considerably more inspection work. The present figures compare with those of the pre-war year 1938, as follows :—

	1938	1951	Increase	Decrease
Cattle, excluding cows ...	710	2249	216%	—
Cows ... ..	12	460	3733%	—
Calves ... ..	135	903	568%	—
Sheep and Lambs ...	2438	2860	17%	—
Pigs ... ..	2266	1415	—	38%

It must be remembered, of course, that the 1938 figures apply only to animals killed in the Witham Urban District, whereas those for 1951 represent home killed meat supplied to Witham and four adjoining local authority districts. As, however, much killing for the wholesale market was done in Witham during pre-war years, the figures do not give an accurate indication of comparative consumption, and are useful only as a guide to comparison of inspection work, and to trends in livestock production for meat purposes.

All inspection is carried out on the lines of Memo 62 Foods, issued by the Ministry of Health, with the exception that ante-mortem inspection is not always possible. The high proportion of casualty animals and cows now killed accounts largely for the post-war increase in condemnation.

The following Table sets out the particulars of the animals slaughtered and of inspection and condemnation :—

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Goats	TOTAL
Number killed	2249	460	903	2860	1415	1	7,888
Number inspected	2249	460	903	2860	1415	1	7,888
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</b>							
Whole carcasses condemned	3	9	24	10	25	—	71
Weight in lbs. condemned	1360	4574	1072	462	3217	—	10,685
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1079	223	46	250	601	—	2,199
Weight in lbs. condemned	25041	5008	336	618	2466	—	33,469
Percentage affected	48.08	50.43	7.74	9.09	44.24	—	—
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>							
Whole carcasses condemned	6	7	2	—	3	—	18
Weight in lbs. condemned	3693	4183	151	—	641	—	8,668
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	232	125	4	—	114	—	475
Weight in lbs. condemned	13488	6814	54	—	1247	—	21,603
Percentage affected	10.37	28.69	.77	—	8.24	—	—

In addition, 54 cases (1.99%) of *Cysticercus Bovis* were detected and in these cases the Ministry of Food's recommended procedure was adopted, i.e. condemnation of parts known to be affected and refrigeration of the remainder for at least three weeks before issue. It is a noticeable feature of this disease that it most frequently occurs in young well-fattened cattle, and is rarely encountered in old animals.

## MILK AND DAIRIES

The local sanitary authority is now responsible only for the supervision of distribution and the registration and licensing of dairies, distributors and dealers. The following local registrations and licences are in force under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 :—

	Tuberculin Tested	Pasteurised
Dairies ... ..	—	3
Dealers ... ..	5	5
Supplementary Dealers ... ..	2	1

### Bacteriological Examination of Samples

As only two main distributors are concerned, very little sampling has been carried out. Three samples, one each of Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised, were found to be satisfactory.

## ICE CREAM

The registration of manufacturers and vendors, and their premises, is effected by the Urban Council under the Essex County Council Act, 1933, and supervision is exercised to ensure compliance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947. Although 3 persons are registered as manufacturers within the Urban District, no ice cream is at present made in the area. The numbers of registrations at 31st December, 1951, were as follows :—

Manufacturers/Vendors ...	3
Vendors only ... ..	24
Registered Premises ...	27

In addition, many vendors registered in other areas operate within the Urban District.

Every make of ice-cream is sampled periodically to ascertain its standard of bacterial purity. 53 such samples were taken during the year and the results are given below :—

Bacteriologist's description	Ministry of Health's Provisional Grading				
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	Totals
Satisfactory ... ..	26	6	1	—	33
Passable ... ..	—	5	5	3	13
Unsatisfactory ... ..	—	2	1	4	7
<b>TOTALS ... ..</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>53</b>

Of the above, one sample was of fruit-ice and was satisfactory. Of those classified as unsatisfactory, 4 contained organisms of faecal origin and may be regarded as the worst. Sample reports are sent, for information and action, to manufacturers and vendors and local authorities of the district of origin. By co-operation with these authorities, and further sampling at stages of production and distribution, it has usually been possible to detect and remedy the faults responsible for unsatisfactory reports.

During the year, the Food Standards (Ice-Cream) Order, 1951, came into force, laying down standards for fat, sugar and milk solids not fat content of ice-cream. Three samples were taken under this Order and the results in each case proved very satisfactory.

#### HYGIENE OF FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES

The number of premises where food is prepared, stored or retailed is 95, as follows :—

Restaurants ... ..	10
Factory and School canteens	9
Manufacturing Butchers ...	7
Bakehouses ... ..	6
Fried Fish Shops ... ..	3
Retail Butchers' Shops ...	7
Other Retail Food Shops ...	32
Retail Wet Fish Shops ...	3
Licensed Premises ... ..	18

All are subject to inspection and generally found to satisfy the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. 106 visits of inspection were made during the year. In several cases it was necessary to issue warnings concerning lack of cleanliness and other unsatisfactory conditions. Subsequent improvements rendered it unnecessary to consider formal action in these cases. The Table below shows defects required to be remedied during the year :—

Re-design and modernisation of :

(a) Bakehouses ... ..	1
(b) Restaurants ... ..	1
(c) Fish Shops ... ..	1

Structural defects ... ..	27
Inadequate supply of constant hot water ...	2
Sink and drainage defects ... ..	4
Lack of cleanliness ... ..	5
Defective/Inadequate sanitary accommodation ...	1
Defective/Inadequate washing facilities ...	1
Defective/Inadequate food storage facilities ...	2
Defective/Inadequate refuse storage facilities ...	3

The erection of a new bakehouse to replace an old inadequate one was completed.

Interest in food hygiene among food handlers has been maintained and every effort has been made to foster it.

### Clean Food Byelaws

Following a warning concerning offences under the Byelaws, involving the delivery of groceries in a dirty condition, one firm was prosecuted for a subsequent offence. Unfortunately, a period of six weeks elapsed between the offence and the Court hearing, and the Magistrates dismissed the summons on the grounds that it had not been sufficiently established that the condition of the food when exhibited in Court was as originally delivered.

### CONDEMNATION OF FOOD (other than MEAT)

As a result of inspections carried out at food shops and food preparing premises in the District, and following surrender by local retailers, the items listed below were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

	cwts.	sts.	lbs.
Fresh Fish ... ..	1	1	—
Fried Fish ... ..		1	—
Tinned Fish ... ..		1	5
Tinned Vegetables ... ..		5	6
Tinned Jam ... ..		1	1
Tinned Fruit ... ..	1	3	7
Tinned Milk ... ..		2	9
Tinned Pudding ... ..			1
Tinned Soup ... ..		3	2
Tinned Meat ... ..		5	12
Tinned Ham ... ..	5	7	1
Cereals ... ..		1	5
Peanut Butter ... ..			8
Flour ... ..			3
Blancmange Powder ... ..			8
Coffee ... ..			2
Semolina ... ..			1
Biscuits and Cakes ... ..		1	2
Icette ... ..			4
	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>

It will be noted that a large quantity of imported tinned cooked ham was condemned. This commodity featured very largely in condemnations throughout the country during the year, to such an extent that the Ministry of Food carried out special investigations in the European countries of origin, in an effort to reduce the wholesale wastage which was being incurred in the importation of the ham.

### FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION)

The Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Essex County Council, has kindly supplied the following details of food sampled in the Urban District during 1951, for the detection of adulteration :—

Commodity	No. of Samples	Genuine
Milk ... ..	65	65
Beef Suet ... ..	2	2
Blancmange Powder ... ..	1	1
Custard Powder ... ..	1	1
Dessert Mould ... ..	1	1
Gelatine ... ..	1	1
Ice-Cream ... ..	2	2
Jelly Crystals ... ..	1	1
Table Jelly ... ..	3	3
Mixed Peel ... ..	1	1
Saccharin ... ..	2	2
Saxin ... ..	1	1
Soup ... ..	2	2
Soup Powder ... ..	3	3
Whisky ... ..	4	4
	—	—
Totals ... ..	90	90
	—	—

## **STAFF**

Several changes occurred amongst the manual staff during the year. Details of the Department's Staff at 31st December, 1951, were as follows :

### **Office :**

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.  
Additional Sanitary Inspector.  
Clerical Assistant.

### **Cleansing :**

1 Foreman-driver.  
1 Tip-chargehand.  
1 Driver/Loader.  
3 Refuse Loaders.  
1 Refuse Loader/Gully Emptier Attendant.  
2 Tiphands.

### **Sewage Disposal :**

1 Works' Manager.  
4 Labourers.  
3 Labourers (Part-time).

### **Other :**

1 Disinfector/Rodent Operative (part-time).

The average age of the permanent outside staff is approximately 42 years.

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