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WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year

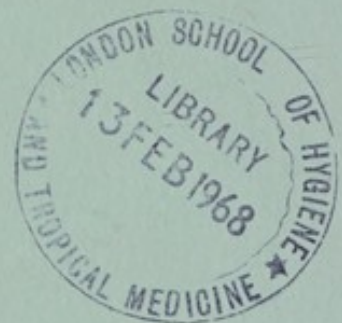
1961

together with the

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.





WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman:

Cllr. T.R. Mott, C.C.

Members:

Cllr. R.C. Bartlett.

Cllr. R.S. Brown.

Cllr. Mrs. E.M. Clarke.

Cllr. J. Dalley.

Cllr. Miss A.K. Gaze.

Cllr. J. Howe.

Cllr. T.C. Jennings.

Cllr. W.A. Marsh.

Cllr. Mrs. H.M. Stock.

Cllr. S.J. Soar, J.P. (ex officio).

Cllr. S.E. Smith (ex officio).

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health:

C.R.C. RAINSFORD, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

E.H.C. WADHAMS, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

D. STEIMAN, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Assistants:

R.G. CHAPMAN (Senior).

M.G. BLIZZARD (Junior). (from March 1961).

Mrs. B.E. Franklin (Part-time Shorthand-Typist) to June 1961.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Braintree.

October, 1962.

To the Chairman and Members of Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report for the year 1961 on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the urban district. The general form of the report is as laid down by the Ministry of Health and once again I am indebted to Dr. Miller Wood for providing information with regard to the clinics and other personal health services run by the Essex County Council.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar General's estimated population is 9,490, an increase of 420 over 1960.

The birth rate and the death rate are very similar to those recorded for the previous year.

Only 3 infant deaths occurred compared with 7 for 1960 but still births numbered 4 as against 1 in 1960.

The causes of the infant deaths were - Prematurity 1, Congenital abnormalities 1 and Polycythaemia 1.

There were no maternal deaths.

Looking at the table of deaths from all causes we find that out of a total of 104, 45 were in the category of heart or vascular disease and 23 from malignant disease (including leukaemia).

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

157 cases were reported compared with the very low figure of 37 for 1960.

The increase is entirely due to the 141 notifications of measles.

It is satisfactory to report nil returns for dysentery, food poisoning, infective hepatitis and poliomyelitis.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and poliomyelitis was carried out as in other years by general practitioners and at the Essex County Council Clinic at Witham.

You will find details of the work done in the table given later in this report. You will note that 636 fourth injections against poliomyelitis were given, these were to children between 7 and 12 years of age.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

This section of the report has been prepared by your Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff and I will content myself with pinpointing some of the most noteworthy features.

1. Water Supply

The big demand for water by local industry is brought out in the table of comparative figures for water consumption. It shows that of the 55.17 gallons per head per day used in Witham 22.5 gallons are supplied on meter. This figure is higher than in any of the neighbouring districts.

2. Housing.

The number on the housing waiting list dropped from 195 to 165. Private enterprise built 71 houses and the Council completed 23 houses started in 1960.

The Council's plans for building 77 houses for sale were well advanced by the end of the year.

3. Sewage Works.

The existing plants, with a few exceptions, produced satisfactory effluents throughout the year. The need for enlarging their capacity became apparent and steps were taken to achieve this end.

The deodorising apparatus which was installed during the year proved reasonably satisfactory.

4. Slaughterhouse.

The only slaughterhouse in the district was closed during the year. It had been unsatisfactory for some time.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47.

It was not necessary to move anyone under the provision of this Act.

I have pleasure in recording my thanks to the Chairman and all members of the Public Health Committee for their support during the year and to all Officers of the Council for their assistance.

My special thanks goes to Mr. Wadhams and his staff for their loyal co-operation at all times.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C.R.C. RAINSFORD.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Collingwood Road,
Witham.

October, 1962.

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present, in conjunction with the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, details of the work of your Public Health Department during 1961.

Steady progress was maintained in most branches of the Department's work. The cessation of slaughtering brought a welcome relief from meat inspection overtime, and to some extent allowed for more attention to other matters during office hours. Hygiene of food premises and preparation, including poultry packing, becomes increasingly important, and it is pleasing to report a generally high standard of food hygiene within the district.

Water supply remained adequate and of a high standard of purity. The Council continued negotiations with other authorities concerning the future administration of the district water undertaking, having regard to the anticipated requirements of the Urban District in the event of extensive development.

Although maintaining consistently good records, the three district sewage works were all operating at or beyond their designed capacity. Towards the latter part of the year it became necessary to implement the main plant at Witham to allow for further development during the period required for extension of the works. By December, good progress had been made towards the provision of an effluent polishing lagoon of about 1,000,000 gallons capacity. This has subsequently come into operation and has proved highly successful.

Public cleansing has been satisfactory, though handicapped to some extent by difficulty in obtaining labour. However, the weekly collection service has been maintained, together with a high rate of salvage recovery. Controlled tipping at the marshland tip is approaching the limit of capacity available and the Council have approved a scheme for the acquisition of further marshland for this purpose in the vicinity of the proposed Witham by-pass. One 9-10 cu. yard refuse freighter, 15 years old, was replaced by a modern 16 cu. yard fore-and-aft tipping vehicle.

Atmospheric pollution recording was continued throughout the year. A survey of 4 years' recording indicated a generally satisfactory level of cleanliness of the air of the district. Nevertheless, figures for periods of fog and high humidity under static conditions indicate that a considerable amount of combustion products are still discharged.

Major items of new legislation during the year were the Housing Act, 1961, dealing mainly with houses in multiple occupation, improvement grants, and housing subsidies; and the Public Health Act, 1961, which amends and extends the Public Health Act, 1936. The new Public Health provisions include a number of useful powers for local authorities, the most important for Witham being that of bringing under control the discharges of trade effluent to public sewers which were previously exempt. The Council proposes to utilise the new Act in a general review of trade waste reception and disposal.

In conclusion, I would like to record my thanks to the Clerk, the Engineer and Surveyor, and the other Officers of the Council for their continued help and co-operation, and to my own staff for their loyalty and hard work during the year.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Council and the members of the Public Health Committee for the support and encouragement they have accorded me.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. H. C. WADHAMS.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Area (in acres) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7,329 |
| Population (Registrar-General's estimate) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9,490 |
| Number of inhabited houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,093 |
| Rateable Value | ... | ... | ... | ... | £130,609 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | £504 |

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--|
| Legitimate | 152 | 91 | 61 | |
| Illegitimate | 6 | 4 | 2 | |

Total live births - 158

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|------|
| Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population | ... | ... | 16.6 |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births | ... | ... | 3.8 |
| Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.09 | ... | ... | 18.1 |
| Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population | ... | ... | 17.4 |

STILL BIRTHS

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--|
| Legitimate | 4 | 4 | - | |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - | |

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|------|
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births | ... | ... | 24.7 |
| Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales | ... | ... | 18.7 |
| Total live and still births - 162 | | | |

INFANT DEATHS.

Deaths of infants under 1 year -

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--|
| Legitimate | 3 | - | 3 | |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - | |

Total infant deaths - 3

INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|------|
| Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births | ... | ... | 19.0 |
| Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births | .. | .. | 19.7 |
| Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births | | | Nil |
| Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) | ... | ... | 19.0 |
| Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) | ... | ... | 19.0 |
| Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) | ... | ... | 43.3 |
| Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births | | | 21.4 |

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion).

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number of deaths | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |

DEATHS.

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | |
|---|--------------|-------------|---------------|------|
| | 104 | 57 | 47 | |
| Death rate per 1,000 estimated population | ... | ... | ... | 10.9 |
| Death rate corrected by comparability | ... | ... | ... | 11.6 |
| Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales | ... | ... | ... | 12.0 |

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1961.

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

| <u>Cause of Death</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory | - | 1 |
| 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 | - |
| 11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | 4 | - |
| 12. Malignant neoplasm, breast | - | 3 |
| 13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus | - | - |
| 14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 7 | 6 |
| 15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia | 1 | 1 |
| 16. Diabetes | 1 | 1 |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system | 3 | 12 |
| 18. Coronary disease, angina | 12 | 2 |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease | - | - |
| 20. Other heart disease | 6 | 5 |
| 21. Other circulatory disease | 3 | 2 |
| 22. Influenza | 1 | - |
| 23. Pneumonia | 5 | 1 |
| 24. Bronchitis | 1 | 2 |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory system | 1 | - |
| 26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | 1 | - |
| 27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | - | - |
| 28. Nephritis and nephrosis | 1 | - |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate | 1 | - |
| 30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | - | - |
| 31. Congenital Malformations | - | 1 |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 8 | 7 |
| 33. Motor vehicle accidents | - | - |
| 34. All other accidents | - | 3 |
| 35. Suicide | - | - |
| 36. Homicide and operations of war | - | - |
| All Causes | <hr/> 57 | <hr/> 47 |

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:-

(i) Clinics were held at the following centres during the year:-

WITHAM Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street.

| | | | <u>Attendances</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Child Welfare | 1st & 3rd Wednesdays | 2 p.m | 1,098 |
| School Clinic | 1st & 3rd Thursdays | 9 a.m | 130 |
| Dental | Thursday & Friday | (10 a.m (By Appt.)) | 1,145 |
| Ante-Natal | 1st Thursday | 10 a.m (By Appt.) | |
| Speech Therapy | Every Friday | 10 a.m | 310 |

SILVER END Garden Village Hall.

Child Welfare 1st Friday 2 p.m 144

RIVENHALL Church Hall.

Child Welfare 3rd Monday 2 p.m 217

(ii) Home Help Service

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office, 75, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

(iii) Ambulance Service

The Essex County Council Ambulance Station is situated at Guithavon Street, Witham. There is one ambulance and one car for sitting cases. A full 24-hour cover is provided.

(iv) Laboratory Services

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1., or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board

(i) Chest Clinics Held twice weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

(ii) Orthopaedic Clinics These are held every 4th Tuesday afternoon at the Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street, Witham. Orthopaedic patients who need special advice are referred to Black Notley Hospital.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

| DISEASE | TOTAL NOTIFIED | ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL | TOTAL DEATHS |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Diphtheria | - | - | - |
| Dysentery | - | - | - |
| Encephalitis | - | - | - |
| Enteric Fever | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | 1 | - | - |
| Food Poisoning | - | - | - |
| Infective Hepatitis | - | - | - |
| Measles | 141 | - | - |
| Meningococcal Infection | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | - | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1 | - | - |
| Paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - |
| Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 5 | - | - |
| Tuberculosis, Pulmonary | 4 | 1 | - |
| Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary | 2 | 2 | - |
| Whooping Cough | 3 | - | - |
| Totals | 157 | 3 | - |

| DISEASE | Total Notified | Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|---|---|
| | | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May. | June. | July. | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | | |
| Diphtheria | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Typhoid | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Encephalitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Enteric Fever | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Food Poisoning | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Infective Hepatitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Measles | 141 | 3 | 10 | 47 | 38 | 5 | 10 | 28 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Meningococcal Infection | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Paraperal Pyrexia | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 5 | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tuberculosis, Pulmonary | 4 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | 3 | - | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 157 | 5 | 13 | 49 | 38 | 7 | 14 | 28 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE.

| DISEASE | AGE | | | | | | | | | | | Totals | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|---|----|----|----|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|
| | At all ages | Under 1 year | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 - 9 | 10 - 14 | 15 - 19 | 20 - 34 | 35 - 44 | | 45 - 64 | 65 & over |
| Diphtheria | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dysentery | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Encephalitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Enteric Fever | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Food Poisoning | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Infective Hepatitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Measles | 141 | 5 | 7 | 16 | 19 | 18 | 64 | 8 | 3 | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Meningococcal Infection | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Purpurral Pyrexia | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 5 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tuberculosis, Pulmonary | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | - | - | - |
| Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | 3 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 157 | 5 | 7 | 16 | 21 | 19 | 69 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | - | - |

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Table gives particulars of the 4 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year.

| | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---|---------------|---|-----------|---|---------------|---|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-pulmonary | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Under 1 year | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 year | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 3 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 4 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 - 9 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 10 -14 years | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 -19 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20 -34 years | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35 -44 years | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 45 -64 years | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 65 and over | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - |

Of these, 3 cases were re-notified on taking up residence in this district.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

| Children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year. | | | | Children who were given a reinforcing injection during the year. | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|--|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| By General Practitioners | | By County Council Staff. | | By General Practitioners | | By County Council Staff. | |
| <u>1961</u> | <u>1960</u> | <u>1961</u> | <u>1960</u> | <u>1961</u> | <u>1960</u> | <u>1961</u> | <u>1960</u> |
| (a) 134 | (a) 136 | 46 | 52 | 51 | 52 | 149 | 176 |
| Totals: 1961 - 180 1960 - 188 | | | | Totals: 1961 - 200 1960 - 228 | | | |

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

| Children who completed a full course of immunisation under the County Scheme. | | | | Records of combined diphtheria pertussis immunisation received. | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| By General Practitioners | | By County Council Staff | | | | | |
| <u>1961</u> | <u>1960</u> | <u>1961</u> | <u>1960</u> | <u>1961</u> | <u>1960</u> | <u>1961</u> | <u>1960</u> |
| 46 | 116 | 16 | 14 | (b) 58 | (b) 56 | | |
| <u>1961</u> | <u>1960</u> | <u>1961</u> | <u>1960</u> | <u>1961</u> | <u>1960</u> | <u>1961</u> | <u>1960</u> |
| Reinforcing injections 2 | 3 | 1 | - | 5 | 32 | | |

Note: Figure (b) is included in Figure (a)

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

| | <u>1961</u> | <u>1960</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number vaccinated during the year | 117 | 93 |
| Number re-vaccinated during the year | 29 | 30 |

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

| | <u>1961</u> | <u>1960</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Number of persons who have received 2nd injection | 491 | 908 |
| Number of persons who have received 3rd injection | 558 | 1,085 |
| Number of persons who have received 4th injection | 636 | - |

HOUSING.

The 23 Council bungalows under construction at the end of 1960 were completed but no new Council houses were commenced. The Council has proposals in hand for the erection of 3 aged persons' bungalows at Silver End and for the completion of the Howbridge Estate which is expected to provide a further 20 bungalows. 71 houses were built by private enterprise and a further 44 were in course of construction on December 31st. The year saw the completion of the Foxmoor Estate, Rivenhall, the Retreat and St. Nicholas Road estates. On the Moat Farm estate, scheduled to take some 280 properties, 101 had been commenced by the end of the year and of those 63 were completed.

The number of new houses erected in the Urban District since the end of the war is as follows:-

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| By the local authority: | 717 (including 84 prefabricated bungalows) |
| By private enterprise: | 307 |

The number of applicants for Council Houses was 165 at the end of 1961, compared with 195 at December 31st, 1960. This figure included the following categories:-

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Ordinary list | 93 applicants. |
| Aged persons | 39 |
| Single persons | 5 |
| Supplementary list | 2 |
| Exchange list | 3 |
| Engaged Couples list | 21 |
| Industrial Workers list | <u>2</u> |
| | <u>165</u> |

The Council's plans for building 77 houses for sale on a site laid out in Howbridge Road was held up during 1961 but it was hoped to make a start early in 1962. It is expected that the great majority of these houses will be bought by Council House tenants, actual or prospective, and so they will make a real contribution to relieving the housing shortage.

Private estate building maintained its increased momentum during the year, the trend towards extensive residential development again being apparent in 1961. This trend cannot materialise, however, until either the land (or some of it) now zoned for "overspill" development is released or further land not yet included in the development plan is made available. An Appeal against the Planning Authority's refusal to grant planning permission for a large residential estate in the Rickstones Road area was heard by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Inspector and his decision in the matter was awaited at the end of the year.

Pre-War Council Houses: The Council continued with schemes for the modernisation of these. 6 houses and 3 old persons' bungalows were provided with hot water systems, bathrooms and kitchen improvements and 3 bungalows were fitted with new electrical installations.

Within recent years the following improvements have been effected:-

| | |
|---|------------|
| Pail closet conversions to W.C's and sewer connections: | 52 houses. |
| Hot water systems to baths, sinks and new lavatory basins: | 52 houses. |
| Back addition kitchens with hot water systems and bathroom conversions: | 15 houses. |
| Back addition bathrooms with hot water systems: | 12 houses. |
| Kitchen and bathrooms additions with hot water systems: | 12 houses. |
| Internal W.C's, hot water systems and improved cooking and washing arrangements: | 39 houses. |
| Internal W.C's, hot water systems, and improved cooking and washing arrangements with bathrooms: | 9 houses. |
| Complete electrical circuit installations: | 10 houses. |

The Council's programme covering over 200 pre-war houses aimed at their complete modernisation was in hand at the end of 1961.

Housing and Public Health Acts.

Progress with regard to sub-standard private houses was continued and the following data shows the work undertaken during the year:-

| | |
|--|--|
| (a) Clearance Orders: | 6 houses vacated. 10 houses demolished. |
| (b) Demolition Orders: | 1 Order made. 1 Order recommended. |
| (c) Closing Orders: | 1 Order in respect of an Underground Room. |
| (d) Voluntary undertakings by owners: | 1 house demolished. |

The following was the state of condemned and closed properties at the end of the year:-

| | | |
|---|-------------------|------|
| Houses in Clearance Areas awaiting demolition: | occupied | Nil. |
| | vacant | 2. |
| Houses subject to Demolition Orders still occupied: | | 2. |
| Houses and Flats subject to Closing Orders: | | 4. |
| Parts of houses subject to Closing Orders: | Flats | 1. |
| | Underground rooms | 9. |
| Houses and flats subject to undertakings not to re-let: | | 9. |

In 1955 the Council submitted its Clearance Programme for the next five years to the Minister of Housing and Local Government. At that time a total of 57 houses was listed as unfit and suitable for clearance. Since then 48 properties have been demolished.

The position as reported to the Minister of Housing and Local Government as at 31/1/1961 was as follows:-

Part I. The total problem.

- (i) Estimated number of houses remaining unfit for habitation 47.
- (ii) Period of years considered necessary to secure demolition of all houses in (i) 5.

Part II. Action already taken.

Number of houses demolished or closed since 1/1/1956 55.

Part III. Further Proposals for action in next FIVE years.

- (i) Number of houses to be demolished in Clearance Areas ... 33.
- (ii) Number of houses to be demolished elsewhere ... 9.
- (iii) Number of houses to be patched or retained for temporary accommodation ... Nil.

Improvement Grants: Housing Acts, 1949-59.

During the year a further 20 applications for grant aid were received and dealt with.

Details of applications for Discretionary Grant received during the past 7 years are as follows :-

| | <u>1955.</u> | <u>1956.</u> | <u>1957.</u> | <u>1958.</u> | <u>1959.</u> | <u>1960.</u> | <u>1961</u> |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Submitted | 13. | 6. | 7. | 1. | 1. | 7. | ∓. |
| Granted | 12. | 6. | 6. | 1. | 1. | 7. | ∓. |
| Refused | 1. | -. | 1. | ∓. | ∓. | ∓. | -. |
| Withdrawn | -. | -. | 1. | -. | -. | ∓. | 2. |
| Schemes completed | -. | 12. | 4. | 8. | 1. | -. | 5. |

There were no schemes outstanding at the end of 1961.

Details of applications received and dealt with under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 (Standard Grants) are as follows:-

| | <u>1959.</u> | <u>1960.</u> | <u>1961.</u> |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Submitted | 10. | 11. | 20. |
| Granted | 10. | 11. | 20. |
| Withdrawn | -. | 1. | -. |
| Schemes completed | -. | 12. | 13. |

At the end of the year 15 schemes were outstanding.

The following table summarises action taken in connection with the inspection of dwellinghouses during the year 1961:-

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:

| | |
|---|------|
| (a) Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 124. |
| (b) Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 8. |
| (c) Number (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading (b) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 44. |

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:

| | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority (or its Officers) | 46. |
| (b) Number of other defective conditions remedied after informal action by Local Authority (or its Officers) | 16. |

3. Action under Statutory Powers - Housing Acts, 1936-1957:

| | |
|---|------|
| (a) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 1. |
| (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 | 1. |
| (d) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 1. |
| (e) Number of Undertakings accepted | Nil. |

4. Number of Dwellinghouses demolished:

| | |
|--|------|
| (a) In pursuance of Clearance Orders | 10. |
| (b) In pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil. |
| (c) Voluntarily by owners | 1. |

5. Overcrowding:

| | |
|---|------|
| (a) Houses found to be overcrowded | Nil. |
| (b) Overcrowding abated | Nil. |

WATER SUPPLY.

As in previous years, the Witham water came from the South Essex Water Company's Abberton reservoir and from the Council's supply at Bradwell Springs. Periodic sampling was done throughout the year and the quality of the water was always entirely satisfactory. Generally the quantity was adequate but in parts of Silver End the pressure was low and complaints frequent, especially at week-ends. The installation of a booster pump was under consideration.

As usual, a check was kept on the quality of the water by sending samples for analysis at frequent intervals. A summary of the reports is given below:-

| | <u>Satisfactory.</u> | <u>Unsatisfactory.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| <u>Mains Water.</u> | | | |
| Chemical | 6. | -. | 6. |
| Bacteriological | 22. | -. | 22. |
| <u>Other Supplies.</u> | | | |
| Chemical | -. | 2. | 2. |
| Bacteriological | 12. | 7. | 19. |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| | 40. | 9. | 49. |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- |

The unsatisfactory samples were from 2 farm wells. The use of one of these wells was discontinued and the water from the other was purified by chlorination.

Typical reports of the chemical water analyses are given below.

Bradwell Springs (4/10/1961).

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance, almost neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is very hard in character and contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It is of a high standard of organic quality.

These results indicate a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes apart from the disadvantage of the hardness for some domestic uses".

Signed: Roy C. Heather.

South Essex Supply (4/10/1961).

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

These results indicate a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes".

Signed: Roy C. Heather.

At the request of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government a sample of Bradwell Springs water, taken before treatment, was submitted for full chemical and mineral analysis. The report showed no abnormality.

Further consideration of proposals arising out of the Spens Report for the establishment of Joint Water Undertakings in the County was undertaken and it became apparent that the Council's suggestion for Witham to be included in the proposed North Essex Joint Water Board would have to be revised. The matter was still under consideration at the end of the year.

House Connections etc.

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Number of separate dwellings in the Urban District | ... | ... | ... | 3093. |
| Number of separate dwellings having internal piped mains supply | ... | ... | ... | 3050. |
| Estimated population so served | ... | ... | ... | 9373. |
| Number of separate dwellings connected during the year | ... | ... | ... | 83. |
| Number of separate dwellings served by standpipe | ... | ... | ... | 9. |
| Estimated population so served | ... | ... | ... | 22. |
| Remaining houses served by shallow wells or springs | ... | ... | ... | 30. |
| Estimated population so served | ... | ... | ... | 95. |

The following extensions to the Council's mains were made during the year:-

| | | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| 3" | ... | ... | ... | ... | 232 yards. |
| 4" | ... | ... | ... | ... | 247 yards. |
| 6" | ... | ... | ... | ... | 600 yards. |

All new mains are super-chlorinated by the Council's staff before being put into use.

Water Consumption and future requirements.

Total water supplied by:-

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------------------------------------|
| 1. Bradwell Springs: | | | | |
| (a) To Silver End (estimated) | ... | ... | ... | 42,349,220 gallons. |
| (b) To remainder of Urban District (estimated) | ... | ... | ... | 98,830,280 gallons. |
| 2. South Essex Water Company | ... | ... | ... | 50,629,000 gallons. |
| 3. ex Braintree R.D.C. main (Bradwell) | ... | ... | ... | <u>23,500</u> gallons. |
| Total consumption | ... | ... | ... | <u><u>191,832,000</u></u> gallons. |

Average consumption per head per day:

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|
| Domestic demand | ... | ... | ... | 33.56 gallons. |
| Trade demand | ... | ... | ... | 21.61 gallons. |
| Total consumption per head per day | ... | ... | ... | 55.17 gallons. |

The average consumption per head per day shows a reduction of 2.34 gallons over the previous year. Details obtained during the year from 15 local authorities in Essex show that Witham's total consumption per head per day is the highest. Whilst the domestic demand appears to be in keeping with most of the other authorities, the trade demand is the highest of them all.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A further 94 properties were connected to the Council's sewers during the year. Drainage facilities in use in the Urban District at 31/12/1961 were as follows :-

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Houses connected to main sewer systems | 2959. |
| Houses drained to septic tank systems, cesspools etc. | 116. |
| Houses drained to ditches | 12. |
| Houses without drainage | 6. |
| | <u>3093.</u> |

Of the 134 properties not connected to the sewer, very few are capable of connection. Almost all of them are outlying private and agricultural properties for which no economic sewerage scheme appears to be possible. Of the houses in the last two categories, 12 are condemned and some of the remainder scheduled for demolition or improvement to cesspool drainage. There will then remain about 130 dwellings permanently in need of the Council's cesspool emptying service. This provides free emptying three times annually for domestic cesspools, with additional emptying when required, on repayment. The rechargeable emptying service is also available to industrial and agricultural premises not connected to the sewer system.

Sewer systems:

The following extensions to the Council's sewers were made during the year:-

| | | |
|--------------|-----|--------------|
| Soil sewers: | 6" | 630 yards. |
| | 9" | 649 yards. |
| | 12" | 445 yards. |
| | 15" | 1,527 yards. |

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----|------------|
| Surface water sewers: | 6" | 673 yards. |
| | 9" | 194 yards. |
| | 12" | 191 yards. |
| | 24" | 88 yards. |
| | 30" | 208 yards. |

There was also a 64 yards length of 36" surface water sewer laid at the Maldon Road Sewage Disposal Works as an effluent pipe to pass under the future by-pass.

With the exception of one small section, all the systems operate by gravitational flow to the respective sewage works, though most of the sewage has then to be pumped to the head of the treatment plant. The Witham and Silver End systems are both liable to surcharge at times of heavy rainfall. The Witham low level system, to which has been connected the greater part of the post-war estate development, suffers especially in this respect and the Council's Consulting Engineers' report upon their survey of this system is awaited.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There are four major sewage disposal plants in the Urban District, three owned by the Council and one administered by the Ministry of Works. The three Urban District Sewage Works serve the communities of Witham, Silver End and Rivenhall. The fourth works was not in use during the year, the Camp for Displaced Persons at Rivenhall Aerodrome having been closed.

WITHAM SEWAGE WORKS.

The need for enlarging the existing works was noted in last year's report and during 1961 the Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare plans for the second stage development of the works.

To relieve the immediate overloading of the works, construction of the effluent lake of some 1½ million gallons capacity was put in hand. The work was undertaken by Departmental labour and good progress was made by the end of the year. It was expected that the lake would be in operation by the Spring of 1962.

The deodorising equipment was installed early in 1961. This consists of a series of fine spray jets mounted about six feet above ground level, strategically sited around the sludge drying beds, so as to deodorise the vapours given off. The deodorant, which has a complex chemical structure, is held in an ordinary galvanised storage cistern and is fed, as required, to the jets by switching on a small pump unit. The deodorant is fed to the jets through polythene pipework. The equipment is used only intermittently at such times as occupants of certain nearby houses might be inconvenienced by smells peculiar to the natural sludge drying process. This occurs through about 120° of the compass but mainly in association with a south-easterly wind. Results of using this equipment have so far proved to be satisfactory.

SILVER END SEWAGE WORKS.

This plant functioned well throughout the year although for some time during the last quarter its efficiency was seriously affected by trade effluent from a local factory. This trouble was rectified before the end of the year.

RIVENHALL SEWAGE WORKS.

This plant worked satisfactorily throughout the year.

RIVENHALL CAMP SEWAGE WORKS.

This plant was not used during 1961.

SAMPLING OF SEWAGE EFFLUENT.

| | <u>Satisfactory.</u> | <u>Unsatisfactory.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Witham Sewage Works | 67. | 6. | 73. |
| Silver End Sewage Works | 9. | 4. | 13. |
| Rivenhall Sewage Works | <u>7.</u> | <u>—.</u> | <u>7.</u> |
| | <u>83.</u> | <u>10.</u> | <u>93.</u> |

In each case, the unsatisfactory samples from the Witham Works contained excess suspended matter. In other respects they satisfied the Royal Commission standard and also showed good nitrification.

Reports on the Silver End effluent were consistently good for the first nine months of the year. The unsatisfactory reports occurred during the last quarter when the works had been adversely affected by heavy discharge of trade effluent from a local factory. By the end of the year the works were operating normally once again. At Rivenhall, the results were satisfactory throughout the year.

FARMLAND.

The Council continued its farming operations at the Maldon Road sewage works. Uncertainty about the commencement of work on the proposed by-pass which will cut the farmland in two, curtailed the scope of the operations somewhat but in the event, the two crops grown, wheat and runner beans, were harvested without interference. Only 14³/₄ acres were cultivated during the year, 3 acres of runner beans and the remainder being winter wheat. Prolonged drought during the spring followed by inclement weather at harvest time resulted in low yields being harvested under some difficulties and as a result a loss of £45 was made on the season's operations. Nevertheless, it is felt that cultivation of the land in this way has a considerable value in that it enables ready disposal of large quantities of sewage sludge produced. In view of the lack of demand for raw sewage sludge in the district, it not being looked upon with favour by local farmers because of its slow fertilising action and its content of weed seeds, the storage and subsequent disposal of this sludge could prove a costly item without the readily available agricultural land which the Council has.

The financial return for this farmland since the Council resumed cultivation of it in the Autumn of 1947 is as follows:-

| Season. | Crops. | Profit. | Loss. |
|---------|---|--------------|---------------|
| 1947-48 | Wheat, potatoes | 63. 7. 10. | -. -. -. |
| 1948-49 | Barley, potatoes | 294. 1. 4. | -. -. -. |
| 1949-50 | Wheat | 2. 19. -. | - - - |
| 1950-51 | Clover, mangold, flax | - - - | 58. 7. 7. |
| 1951-52 | Flax, wheat | 128. 19. 3. | -. -. -. |
| 1952-53 | Wheat, clover, flax | 335. 3. -. | -. -. -. |
| 1953-54 | Wheat, flax | 212. 19. 10. | -. -. -. |
| 1954-55 | Wheat, flax | 229. 14. 5. | -. -. -. |
| 1955-56 | Wheat, runner beans | 279. 4. 4. | - - - |
| 1956-57 | Wheat, runner beans, sugar beet, marrows | - - - | 193. 3. 5. |
| 1957-58 | Wheat, runner beans, sugar beet, marrows | 104. 15. 8. | - - - |
| 1958-59 | Wheat, barley, runner beans, broad beans, lucerno | 67. 13. 9. | - - - |
| 1959-60 | Wheat, barley, runner beans, wallflower, lucerno | - - - | 11. -. -. . |
| 1960-61 | Wheat, runner beans | - - - | 45. 3. -. . |
| | | 1718. 18. 5. | 307. 14. -. . |

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Net profit | £1,411. 4. 5. |
| Net annual profit | £100. 16. -. . |
| Annual rental prior to 1947 | £33. 12. 6. |

DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES.

The control of trade discharges from local industries has been described fully in previous reports and has been maintained throughout 1961. For the size of the district, large quantities of different chemical and organic wastes are discharged to the sewer systems. The new Industrial estate sewer has been designed to receive further trade effluents, some new and some now discharging to land drainage ditches.

Liaison is maintained with factory managements, the Essex River Board and the Hammingfield Water Joint Managing Committee and joint investigations of the problems have led to mutually satisfactory solutions. A review of the whole question of trade waste reception and treatment is being undertaken to bring all trade effluents under control by agreement or direction under the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937, as extended by the Public Health Act, 1961. Two new agreements were put into effect during the year, and one agreement was extended pending review. It is hoped in this way to provide for adequate reimbursement of the Council of the heavy cost of providing for the reception and disposal of large quantities of industrial sewage.

Samples of trade effluent are regularly submitted for laboratory examination and reports were received on 24 such samples during the year. In addition, samples of raw sewage showing any marked abnormality are also submitted. During 1961, a few infringements of agreed limits were found and rectified. In one case the use of a trichlorobenzene cleansing agent had to be brought under strict control as it was found to have an adverse effect on sewage purification.

The types of trade wastes being discharged to the local sewers and which are now to be brought under control are as follows:-

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Metal Processing: various: | 3 main discharges. 1 minor discharge. |
| Dairy wastes: | 2 discharges. |
| Poultry Packing: | 1 discharge. |
| Maltings' Waste: | 1 discharge. |
| Fruit pulping and concentrate: | 1 discharge. |

Of these, four are already controlled by agreements allowing a total daily discharge of 120,000 gallons. The remainder are thought to contribute as much again to the district sewage flows. Except in the case of small discharges it is the Council's policy to instal flow recording instruments at the premises concerned, a factor to cover the cost of installation and maintenance being incorporated in the agreed charges for reception and disposal of the wastes. The Council also maintain a tanker disposal service, on repayment, for the use of firms producing trade wastes and sludges not acceptable into the sewer systems.

The total income from trade waste charges in the financial year 1961/62 was £2408.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Street sweeping, road gritting and other highway cleansing services are maintained respectively by the Essex County Council Highways Department and the Council's Works Department on the county and district roads.

The remaining services, refuse collection and disposal, salvage recovery, cesspool and gully emptying and sewer flushing, are administered by the Council's Public Health Department.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Collection:

The collection of house refuse for the whole of the Urban District was maintained during the year, providing a weekly collection from all parts of the area.

Two vehicles were employed on the collection of refuse. A side-loading freighter of 8 cubic yards capacity, which had been in use since 1946, was taken out of service mid-way through the year and replaced by a new 16 cubic yards capacity fore-and-aft tipper. The side loading freighter of 11 cubic yards capacity was still in use.

Disposal:

Controlled tipping was continued throughout the year on the Council's land adjoining the River Blackwater, where marshland is being made up. Tipping in this area will add up to 10 acres of useful agricultural land to that now farmed at the adjoining sewage works. This tip area is now almost full but much additional covering material will be required before final levelling and cultivation can take place. The acquisition of further marshland meadow, liable to flooding, has been agreed and the Council has obtained planning approval for its use for the purpose. Operation of the new tip site cannot commence, however, until alterations in the river Brain valley are completed in connection with the Witham by-pass. For use in the meantime, permission has been obtained to fill a small disused gravel pit adjoining the sewage works. The mechanical digger/loading machine which the Council purchased in 1960 has been used for refuse disposal purposes and the efficiency of the service has been fully maintained with a drastically reduced labour force.

SALVAGE.

Collection of salvage is effected in conjunction with house refuse collection, with the exception of a special collection which is made weekly from trade premises. Figures for the 1961/62 financial year, given in the following Table, show a decrease of £19 in income. A profit of £64 was made, after payment of bonus amounting to £483. 9s. 1d. to the staff.

| | 1960-61. | | | | | | 1961-62. | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| | Weight. | | | Value. | | | Weight. | | | Value. | | |
| | tons | cwts | qrs. | £. | s. | d. | tons | cwts | qrs. | £. | s. | d. |
| Waste Paper | 222. | 18 | 2½ | 1852. | 4. | 10. | 220. | 0. | 2½ | 1917. | 15. | 8. |
| Rags | 7. | 1. | 2½ | 125. | 8. | 11. | 5. | 12. | 0. | 83. | 19. | 10. |
| Sacking | 1. | 1. | 1. | 5. | 6. | 2. | 15. | 1¼ | | 3. | 19. | 10. |
| Scrap Iron | 26. | 14. | 0½ | 84. | 16. | 4. | 34. | 5. | 1. | 81. | 12. | 10. |
| Non-ferrous Metal | 1. | 13. | 1. | 109. | 11. | 0. | 1. | 5. | 3. | 95. | 15. | 8. |
| Jars and Bottles | 2. | 10. | 0. | 37. | 10. | 6. | 1. | 4. | 0. | 21. | 11. | 6. |
| Miscellaneous | | | | 10. | 18. | 0. | | | | 2. | 3. | 0. |
| TOTALS | 261. | 18. | 3½ | 2225. | 15. | 9. | 263. | 2. | 3¾ | 2206. | 18. | 4. |

The fall in value of rags, sacking and sorted metals which has been noted in the last two years continued during 1961 and income from these has suffered accordingly. Paper prices showed a very slight increase. Costs of collection, sorting and baling and despatch continued to rise. Nevertheless the salvage scheme still managed to show a small profit and from this and the aspect that it prevents a great quantity of light bulky material from having to be disposed of at the refuse tip is considered to be worthwhile. The rate of collection continues to compare most favourably with the national average, but much salvageable material still goes into the household dustbins.

Cesspool, Gulley Emptying and Sewer Flushing.

The following work was performed by the Council's cesspool emptier during the year:-

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Domestic emptyings (free service) | 154 cesspools, | 180 loads. | 180,000 gallons. |
| Rechargeable work | 358 cesspools, | 664 loads. | 664,000 gallons. |
| Trade waste removal | | 881 loads. | 881,000 gallons. |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | 512 cesspools, | 1,725 loads. | 1,725,000 gallons. |

The amount of work performed by this vehicle continues to increase. The above figures indicate an increase of 26% over those for 1960 and the amount of rechargeable work carried out more than paid the full cost of running and maintaining the machine for the full year together with the wages of the two men employed on it.

The liquid wastes removed are disposed of at the Council's refuse tip by the adoption of a special tipping routine to form large lagoons on the tipland, as previously described. This has proved to be both satisfactory and economic.

In addition to the above work, the sewer systems of the district were flushed on three occasions and the road gullies on all district roads were cleansed on three occasions. The vehicle is also used on any required emergency work on sewers and sewage disposal.

The vehicle, which has now completed 12 years' work, has almost reached the end of its useful and economic life. After due consideration, the Council approved the placing of a provisional order for a replacement vehicle.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

A total of 3,654 visits and inspections were made during the year as follows:-

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Housing Acts | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 590. |
| Public Health Acts | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 255. |
| Verninous Premises: Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7. |
| Disinfestations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4. |
| Complaints | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 68. |
| Slaughterhouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 161. |
| Butchers' Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16. |
| Fish Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12. |
| Bakchouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16. |
| Restaurants | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 45. |
| Ice-Cream Vendors | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28. |
| Licensed Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25. |
| Food Preparation Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 61. |
| Dairies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8. |
| Poultry Packing Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18. |
| Samplings: Ice-Cream | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18. |
| Water | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 54. |
| Food | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9. |
| Sewage Effluents and Trade Waste | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 56. |
| Shops Acts | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27. |
| Factories and Workshops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 107. |
| Infectious Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6. |
| Water Supplies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 69. |
| Streams and Watercourses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16. |
| Drains and Sewers: Inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 166. |
| Tested | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22. |
| Cesspools, Septic Tanks, Pail Closots | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27. |
| Refuse Tips | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 82. |
| Sewage Works | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 145. |
| Salvage | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 63. |
| Rodent Control | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1174. |
| Tents, Vans and Sheds | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 61. |
| Schools | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2. |
| Atmospheric Pollution | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 38. |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 178. |
| Council House Applicants | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20. |

In addition, a total of 1,004 interviews were given to tenants, landlords, builders and other interested parties.

Nuisances etc., on Books, with Number of Notices Served.
Public Health Acts only.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of Notices outstanding | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Number of Intimation Notices served during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 57 |
| Number of Statutory Notices served during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Number of Notices complied with during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 56 |
| Number of Notices outstanding on Books, 31st December, 1961 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |

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

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Dampness, rising and penetrative | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Defective brickwork, rendering and pointing etc | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Defective roofs, parapets, gutters, R.W.P's etc | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Defective ceilings and walls | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Defective doors, windows and floors | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Defective cooking ranges, firegrates and flues | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Defective W.C structures | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Defective fuel stores | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Drainage defects | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| Inadequate means for disposal of surface water | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Defective yard surface | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Defective water service pipes, inadequate or polluted supplies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Absence/defective condition of dustbins | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 38 |
| Offensive accumulations and conditions | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Offensive smells/noises/fumes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Nuisance from keeping of animals, poultry or pigeons | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Infestations: Rats and mice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 320 |
| Vermin and insects | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 - 1959.

During the year, a total of 107 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. At the end of 1961, the number of outworkers on the register was 217 comprising

| | <u>Witham U.D.C.</u> | <u>Other Local Authorities.</u> |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Glove Manufacturers | 23 | 183 |
| Seed Merchants | 7 | - |
| Feather Processors | 4 | - |

Notification of outworkers employed in other districts are sent to the Local Authorities concerned.

Pre-War Council Houses: The Council continued with schemes for the modernisation of these pre-war houses by provision of hot water systems, bathrooms and kitchen improvements.

Within recent years the following improvements have been effected:-

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Pail closet conversions to W.C.s and sewer connections: | 52 houses. |
| Hot water systems to baths, sinks and new lavatory basins: | 117 houses. |
| Back addition kitchens with hot water systems and bathroom conversions: | 80 houses. |
| Back addition bathrooms with hot water systems: | 12 houses. |
| Kitchen and bathrooms additions with hot water systems: | 12 houses. |
| Internal W.C.s, hot water systems and improved cooking and washing arrangements: | 39 houses. |
| Internal W.C.s, hot water systems, and improved cooking and washing arrangements with bathrooms: | 9 houses. |
| Complete electrical circuit installations: | 10 houses. |

The Council's programme covering over 200 pre-war houses aimed at their complete modernisation was in hand at the end of 1962.

Housing and Public Health Acts.

Progress with regard to sub-standard private houses was continued and the following data shows the work undertaken during the year:-

- (a) Clearance Orders: Nil houses vacated
2 houses demolished.
- (b) Demolition Orders: 1 Order made.
Nil Orders recommended.
- (c) Closing Orders: Nil Orders.
- (d) Voluntary undertakings by owners: Nil houses demolished.

The following was the state of condemned and closed properties at the end of the year:-

| | | |
|---|-------------------|-----|
| Houses in Clearance Areas awaiting demolition: | occupied | Nil |
| | Vacant | 2 |
| Houses subject to Demolition Orders still occupied: | | Nil |
| Houses and Flats subject to Closing Orders: | | Nil |
| Parts of houses subject to Closing Orders: | Flats | 1 |
| | Underground rooms | 9 |
| Houses and flats subject to undertakings not to re-let: | | 9 |

In 1955 the Council submitted its Clearance Programme for the next five years to the Minister of Housing and Local Government. At that time a total of 57 houses was listed as unfit and suitable for clearance. Since then 51 properties have been demolished.

The position as reported to the Minister of Housing and Local Government as at 31st January 1962 was as follows:-

| | | |
|----------|--|-----|
| Part I | <u>The total problem.</u> | |
| | (i) Estimated number of houses remaining unfit for habitation | 46 |
| | (ii) Period of years considered necessary to secure demolition of all houses in (i)... | 4 |
| Part II | <u>Action already taken.</u> | |
| | Number of houses demolished or closed since 1/1/56 | 56 |
| Part III | <u>Further Proposals for action in next Four Years.</u> | |
| | (i) Number of houses to be demolished in Clearance Areas.. | 33 |
| | (ii) Number of houses to be demolished elsewhere..... | 8 |
| | (iii) Number of houses to be patched or retained for temporary accommodation..... | Nil |

Improvement Grants: Housing Acts, 1949-59.

During the year a further 9 applications for grant aid were received and dealt with.

Details of applications for Discretionary Grant received during the past 7 years are as follows:-

| | <u>1956</u> | <u>1957</u> | <u>1958</u> | <u>1959</u> | <u>1960</u> | <u>1961</u> | <u>1962</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Submitted | 6 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 7 | - | 1 |
| Granted | 6 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 7 | - | 1 |
| Refused | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Withdrawn | - | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| Schemes completed | 12 | 4 | 8 | 1 | - | 5 | - |

There was 1 scheme outstanding at the end of 1962.

Details of applications received and dealt with under the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 (Standard Grants) are as follows:-

| | <u>1960</u> | <u>1961</u> | <u>1962</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Submitted | 11 | 20 | 8 |
| Granted | 11 | 20 | 8 |
| Withdrawn | 1 | - | - |
| Schemes completed | 12 | 13 | 14 |

At the end of the year 9 schemes were outstanding.

The following table summarises action taken in connection with the inspection of dwellinghouses during the year 1962:-

| | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 1. | <u>Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:</u> | |
| | (a) Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 191 |
| | (b) Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 4 |
| | (c) Number (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading (b) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.... | 24 |
| 2. | <u>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:</u> | |
| | (a) Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority (or its Officers) | 25 |
| | (b) Number of other defective conditions remedied after informal action by Local Authority (or its Officers) | 20 |
| 3. | <u>Action under Statutory Powers - Housing Acts 1936-1957.</u> | |
| | (a) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 2 |
| | (b) Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notice | 2 |
| | (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 Undertakings accepted | 1 |
| 4. | <u>Number of Dwellinghouses demolished:</u> | |
| | (a) In pursuance of Clearance Orders | 2 |
| | (b) In pursuance of Demolition Orders | 1 |
| | (c) Voluntarily by owners | Nil |
| 5. | <u>Overcrowding:</u> | |
| | (a) Houses found to be overcrowded | Nil |
| | (b) Overcrowding abated | Nil |

WATER SUPPLY

As in previous years, the Witham water came from the South Essex Water Company's Abberton reservoir and from the Council's supply at Bradwell Springs. Periodic sampling was done throughout the year and the quality of the water was always entirely satisfactory. Generally the quantity was adequate, but in parts of Silver End the pressure was low. The installation of a booster pump is now in hand.

As usual, a check was kept on the quality of the water by sending samples for analysis at frequent intervals. A summary of the reports is given below:-

| | <u>Satisfactory</u> | <u>Unsatisfactory</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <u>Mains Water</u> | | | |
| Chemical | 9 | - | 9 |
| Bacteriological | 39 | - | 39 |
| <u>Other Supplies</u> | | | |
| Chemical | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Bacteriological | 13 | 12 | 25 |
| | <u>64</u> | <u>16</u> | <u>80</u> |

Typical reports of the chemical water analyses are given below:

Bradwell Springs (5/12/62)

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance and is of a high standard of bacterial purity. These results are indicative of a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes."

Signed: Roy C. Hoather.

South Essex Supply (12/12/62)

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction slightly on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The water is very hard in character but it contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. The water is of satisfactory organic quality and of a high standard of bacterial purity. These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses."

Signed: Roy C. Hoather.

House Connections, etc.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number of separate dwellings in the Urban District | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3148 |
| Number of separate dwellings having internal piped mains supply | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3107 |
| Estimated population so served | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9763 |
| Number of separate dwellings connected during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 57 |
| Number of separate dwellings served by standpipe | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Estimated population so served | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| Remaining houses served by shallow wells or springs | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Estimated population so served | ... | ... | ... | ... | 91 |

The following extensions to the Council's mains were made during the year:-

| | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| 3" | ... | ... | ... | 330 yards |
| 4" | ... | ... | ... | 300 yards |
| 6" | ... | ... | ... | 810 yards |

All new mains are super-chlorinated by the Council's staff before being put into use.

Water Consumption and future requirements.

Total water supplied by:-

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------------|
| 1. Bradwell Springs: | | | | |
| (a) To Silver End (estimated) | ... | ... | ... | 40,434,310 gallons |
| (b) To remainder of Urban District (estimated) | ... | ... | ... | 97,250,950 gallons |
| 2. South Essex Water Company | ... | ... | ... | 68,719,000 gallons |
| 3. ex Braintree R.D.C. main (Bradwell) | ... | ... | ... | 17,000 gallons |
| | | | | Total consumption |
| | | | | ... <u>206,421,260</u> gallons |

Average consumption per head per day:

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
| Domestic demand | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32.534 gallons |
| Trade demand | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27.82 gallons |
| Total consumption per head per day | ... | ... | ... | ... | 60.354 gallons. |

The average consumption per head per day shows an increase of 5.18 gallons over the previous year. It appears that the water consumption for the urban district is considerably higher than the average consumption in neighbouring districts. Compared with the domestic demand for 1961 there is a reduction of 1.03 gallons per head per day, which must be added to the increase in average consumption to reflect the true increase in trade demand during 1962. Exploratory discussions on the grouping of the district's water undertaking have produced suitable guarantees so far as future anticipated water requirements are concerned.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A further 55 properties were connected to the Council's sewers during the year. Drainage facilities in use in the Urban District at 31st December 1962 were as follows:-

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-------|
| Houses connected to main sewer systems | ... | ... | 3014 |
| Houses drained to septic tank systems, cesspools, etc. | ... | ... | 117 |
| Houses drained to ditches | ... | ... | 12 |
| Houses without drainage | ... | ... | 5 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | 3148 |
| | | | <hr/> |

Of those properties not connected to sewer, there is gradual improvement in existing drainage arrangements brought about with grant and/or coincidental to improvement grant schemes.

As a direct result of the construction of the Witham By-Pass, it was possible to achieve improved treatment of septic tank effluent in one instance. As an improvement it is numerically insignificant, but the flow from this single septic tank is equivalent to the drainage flows from 23 households and is therefore worthy of note.

Sewer Systems:

No extensions to the Council's sewers were made during the year.

With the exception of one small section, all the systems operate by gravitational flow to the respective sewage works, though most of the sewage has then to be pumped to the head of the treatment plant. The Witham and Silver End systems are both liable to surcharge at times of heavy rainfall. The Witham low level system, to which has been connected the greater part of the post-war estate development, suffers especially in this respect.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There are four major sewage disposal plants in the Urban District, three of which are owned by the Council. The three Urban District sewage works serve the communities of Witham, Silver End and Rivenhall. The fourth works, which originally served Rivenhall Aerodrome and latterly the camp for displaced persons, has now passed into private hands.

WITHAM SEWAGE WORKS.

Overload of the works beyond design capacity was again increased, but this was offset by the effluent polishing lagoon which was brought into use at the end of March. Samples from the lagoon outlet showed considerable reduction in suspended solids and biochemical oxygen demand when compared with sample reports of the treated sewage at the lagoon inlet.

The Water Pollution Research Officers of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research have shown interest in the functioning of the lagoon and a 12 months period of tests have been started by them. The value of effluent polishing is recognised in so far that an increase in lagoon capacity is envisaged in order to maintain the satisfactory quality of the effluent until extensions to the sewage works are carried out.

SILVER END SEWAGE WORKS.

This sewage works continued to function satisfactorily, although overloaded in some sections. The capacity of this works to deal with additional flows was the subject of a special report submitted at the end of 1962.

RIVENHALL SEWAGE WORKS.

This plant worked satisfactorily within its design capacity throughout the year.

RIVENHALL CAMP SEWAGE WORKS.

This plant was used for about 10 weeks by a pea vining company for the reception and treatment of liquor from the pea separation process prior to discharge to stream. Advice was given regarding the operation of the works and final effluents were satisfactory.

SAMPLING OF SEWAGE EFFLUENT.

| | <u>Satisfactory</u> | <u>Unsatisfactory</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Witham Sewage Works | 122 | 18 | 140 |
| Silver End Sewage Works | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| Rivenhall Sewage Works | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| | — | — | — |
| | 142 | 20 | 162 |
| | — | — | — |

At the Witham Works, 10 of the unsatisfactory reports were due to samples taken prior to the operation of the effluent polishing lagoon, 4 were due to samples taken at the humus tanks before entry to the lagoon, and the remainder were unsatisfactory because of excess suspended solids which were due to algal growth and not to suspended matter derived from sewage. At each of the three sewage works sample reports indicate effective sewage purification.

FARMLAND.

Cultivation of sewage works land was increased to $19\frac{1}{4}$ acres compared with $14\frac{3}{4}$ acres in 1961. The crops grown were runner beans (3 acres) and winter and spring wheat ($16\frac{1}{4}$ acres), but the bean crop, which was affected by frost, was abandoned. The resultant profit for the season was £6.5.8d.

It is necessary to underline the valued relationship between farming operations and sewage disposal lest the profit margin reduces the sewage farm to apparent insignificance. Cultivation provides a means of disposal for ever increasing quantities of sewage sludge which is not acceptable to farmers because of the slow release of fertilising agents and its weed potential. The current method thus provides savings over alternative means of sludge disposal.

| <u>Season</u> | <u>Crops</u> | <u>Profit</u> | <u>Loss</u> |
|---------------|---|---------------|--------------|
| 1947-48 | Wheat, potatoes | 63. 7.10. | |
| 1948-49 | Barley, potatoes | 294. 1. 4. | |
| 1949-50 | Wheat | 2.19. 0. | |
| 1950-51 | Clover, Mangold, flax | - . - . - . | 58. 7. 7. |
| 1951-52 | Flax, wheat | 128.19. 3. | |
| 1952-53 | Wheat, clover, flax | 335. 3. - . | |
| 1953-54 | Wheat, flax | 212.19.10. | |
| 1954-55 | Wheat, flax | 229.14. 5. | |
| 1955-56 | Wheat, runner beans | 279. 4. 4. | |
| 1956-57 | Wheat, runner beans, sugar beet, marrows | - . - . - . | 193. 3. 5. |
| 1957-58 | Wheat, runner beans, sugar beet, marrows. | 104.15. 8. | |
| 1958-59 | Wheat, barley, runner beans, broad beans, lucerne | 67.13. 9. | |
| 1959-60 | Wheat, barley, runner beans, wallflower, lucerne | - . - . - . | 11. - . - . |
| 1960-61 | Wheat, runner beans | - . - . - . | 45. 3. - . |
| 1961-62 | Wheat, runner beans | 6. 5. 8. | |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | £1725. 4. 1. | £307.14. - . |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Net Profit | £1417. 10. 1. |
| Annual net profit | £94. 4. 8. |
| Annual rental prior to 1947. | £33. 12. 6. |

DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES.

An increase in the volume of trade waste discharged to sewer was due largely to the opening of a new galvanising factory. Estimation of flow rates, separation of flows and sampling of trade wastes formed the pattern of investigations preparatory to drafting of agreements under the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937 as extended by the Public Health Act, 1961. By the end of the year two new agreements had been drafted and three agreements were in process of being formulated. In the same period 74 samples of trade waste had been submitted for analysis.

The types of trade wastes being discharged to the local sewers are as follows:-

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Metal Processing: various: | 3 main discharges 1 minor discharge. |
| Dairy wastes: | 2 discharges. |
| Poultry Packing: | 1 discharge. |
| Maltings' Waste: | 1 discharge. |
| Fruit pulping and concentrate: | 1 discharge. |

Income from trade waste charges for the financial years 1961/62 - £2,408.
1962/63 - £3,830.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Street sweeping, road gritting and other highway cleansing services are maintained respectively by the Essex County Council Highways Department and the Council's Works Department on the county and district roads.

The remaining services, refuse collection and disposal, salvage recovery, cesspool and gulley emptying and sewer flushing are administered by the Council's Public Health Department.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Collection:

The collection of house refuse for the whole of the Urban District was maintained during the year, providing a weekly collection from all parts of the area.

A study of the paper sack system of refuse collection as operated by a Local Authority in Hertfordshire was made with a view to adopting this method locally. Whilst the commendable aspects of the system outweighed the few disadvantages, the cost factor proved to be insurmountable at the time it was considered. It is hoped that some future assessment will permit a trial scheme in a selected area.

Disposal:

Controlled tipping was carried out at a temporary site on land adjoining the sewage works. This became necessary because the existing tip was made inaccessible by the construction of the Witham By-Pass. Acquisition of 15 acres of marshy farmland adjacent to the Southern boundary of the sewage works was made by the Council to meet future requirements for refuse and other waste disposal. The anticipated life of this land for controlled tipping is dependant upon the increase in population, but a period of 15-20 years would be a fair estimate of its tipping life.

The efficiency of the refuse disposal service is considered to be satisfactory. This is achieved by the use of mechanical aids provided by the digger/loading machine which releases labour from the unpleasant task of spreading and covering refuse.

SALVAGE

The recovery of waste materials from domestic and trade premises was continued, but the margin between salvage costs and salvage income is narrowing to the point where collection of salvageable waste from trade premises is barely economical. In addition to visible profit, the collection of salvage from domestic premises keeps these bulky materials out of the refuse bins and this in turn cuts down disposal costs at the tip face.

Figures for the financial years 1961/62 and 1962/63 are set out in the following table:-

| | 1961-62 | | | 1962-63 | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------|------|-----|---------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-------|-----|-----|
| | Weight | | | Value | | | | | | | | |
| | Tons | cwts | qrs | £. | s. | d. | | | | | | |
| Waste Paper | 220 | 0 | 2½ | 1917. | 15. | 8. | 210 | 10 | 0 | 1721. | 0. | 10. |
| Rags | 5 | 12 | 0 | 83. | 19. | 10. | 5 | 8 | 2½ | 81. | 8. | 2. |
| Sacking | | 15 | 1¼ | 3. | 19. | 10. | | 13 | 2¼ | 4. | 1. | 3. |
| Scrap Iron | 34 | 5 | 1 | 81. | 12. | 10. | 12 | 6 | 0 | 34. | 0. | 0. |
| Non-Ferrous Metal | 1 | 5 | 3 | 95. | 15. | 8. | 18 | 0 | | 38. | 10. | 2. |
| Jars and Bottles | 1 | 4 | 0 | 21. | 11. | 6. | 1 | 1 | | 1. | 0. | 0. |
| Miscellaneous | | | | 2. | 3. | 0. | | | | 3. | 16. | 0. |
| TOTALS | 263 | 2 | 3¾ | 2206. | 18. | 4. | 229 | 17 | 1¾ | 1883. | 16. | 5. |

During the year 1962-63 a bonus amounting to £321.17.7d. was paid to the staff.

CESSPOOL, GULLEY EMPTYING AND SEWER FLUSHING.

The following work was performed by the Council's cesspool emptying vehicle during the year:-

| | <u>Cesspools</u> | <u>Loads</u> | <u>Gallons.</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Domestic emptyings (free service) | 261 | 285 | 313,500 |
| Rechargeable work | 312 | 617 | 678,700 |
| Trade Waste removal | | 1507 | 1,649,900 |
| | --- | --- | ----- |
| | 573 | 2309 | 2,649,900 |
| | --- | --- | ----- |

These figures show an increase over 1961 of 3% for domestic work and 71% for trade waste removal. This has resulted in a good profit for the year, despite repair costs incurred in keeping this old vehicle in roadworthy condition.

An order has been placed for a new cesspool/gulley emptying vehicle for delivery in the 1963-64 financial year.

In addition to the work performed on cesspool emptying and trade waste removal, the sewer systems are flushed regularly.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

A total of 3,541 visits and inspections were made during the year, as follows:-

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Housing Acts | 437 |
| Public Health Acts | 325 |
| Verminous Premises: Visits | 44 |
| Disinfestations | 12 |
| Complaints... | 71 |
| Slaughterhouses... | 6 |
| Butchers' Shops... | 27 |
| Fish Shops | 1 |
| Bakehouses... | 20 |
| Restaurants | 29 |
| Ice-Cream Vendors | 18 |
| Licensed Premises | 18 |
| Food Preparation Premises... | 71 |
| Dairies | 21 |
| Poultry Packing Premises | 26 |
| Sampling: Ice-Cream | 10 |
| Water | 59 |
| Food... | 13 |
| Sewage Effluents and Trade Waste | 73 |
| Shops Acts... | 21 |
| Factories and Workshops | 141 |
| Infectious Disease | 16 |
| Water Supplies | 62 |
| Streams and Watercourses | 9 |
| Drains and Sewers: Inspected | 303 |
| Tested | 15 |
| Cesspools, Septic Tanks, Pail Closets | 9 |
| Refuse Tips | 74 |
| Sewage Works | 189 |
| Salvage | 51 |
| Rodent Control | 1073 |
| Tents, Vans and Sheds | 20 |
| Schools | 1 |
| Atmospheric Pollution | 58 |
| Miscellaneous | 192 |
| Council House Applicants | 26 |

In addition, a total of 914 interviews were given to tenants, landlords, builders and other interested parties.

Nuisances etc., on Books, with Number of Notices Served.
Public Health Acts only.

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of Notices outstanding | 12 |
| Number of Intimation Notices served during the year... | 42 |
| Number of Statutory Notices served during the year ... | 3 |
| Number of Notices complied with during the year ... | 48 |
| Number of Notices outstanding on books, 31st December 1962 ... | 9 |

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

| | |
|--|-----|
| Dampness, rising and penetrative | 12 |
| Defective brickwork, rendering and pointing etc. ... | 6 |
| Defective roofs, parapets, gutters, R.W.P's etc. ... | 8 |
| Defective ceilings and walls | 7 |
| Defective doors, windows and floors | 8 |
| Defective cooking ranges, firegrates and flues... .. | 3 |
| Defective W.C. structures | 6 |
| Defective fuel stores... .. | - |
| Drainage defects... .. | 40 |
| Inadequate means for disposal of surface water... .. | 8 |
| Defective yard surface | 1 |
| Defective water service pipes, inadequate or polluted supplies ... | 4 |
| Absence/defective conditions of dustbins | 41 |
| Offensive accumulations and conditions | 3 |
| Offensive smells/noises/fumes | 71 |
| Nuisance from keeping of animals, poultry or pigeons | 4 |
| Infestations: Rats and mice | 264 |
| Vermin and insects | 41 |

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959.

During the year, a total of 90 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. At the end of 1962 the number of outworkers on the register was 141, comprising:-

| | <u>Witham U.D.C.</u> | <u>Other Local Authorities.</u> |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Glove Manufacturers | 19 | 115 |
| Seed Merchants | 7 | - |

Notification of outworkers employed in other districts are sent to the Local Authorities concerned.

Details of the inspections made during the year of premises in the Urban District under the Factories Acts are given in the Table below:-

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959.

1. INSPECTION for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

| | Number on Register | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
|--|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities | 2 | 4 | Nil | Nil |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority | 52 | 86 | 2 | Nil |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers). | 4 | 2 | Nil | Nil |
| | 58 | 92 | 2 | Nil |

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found:

| | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted |
|---|---|----------|-------------------------------|--|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred to by H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of Cleanliness (S.1) | - | - | - | - |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | - | - | - | - |
| Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) | - | - | - | - |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | - | - | - | - |
| Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6) | - | - | - | - |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):- | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | - | - | - | - |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 2 | 2 | - | - |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers). | - | - | - | - |
| TOTALS | 2 | 2 | - | - |

Laborious checking of complaints into noise, smell and dust alleged to come from an animal feeding stuffs factory was maintained. Those complaints which were confirmed could not be classified as Public Health nuisances but with the ready co-operation of the Company, conditions were considerably improved.

SHOPS ACTS

In addition to the normal duties of the local authorities under the Shops Act, 1950, the Council has accepted delegation from the Essex County Council (the major Shops Acts authority) of powers of enforcement of sub-sections 3, 4 and 5 of Section 38.

19 visits were paid to shops during the year, apart from purposes other than Shops Act administration. The following matters were dealt with:-

| | |
|--|----|
| Routine inspections | 19 |
| Structural defects | 2 |
| Washing facilities | 2 |
| Sanitary accommodation | 3 |
| Drainage | - |
| Shop reconditioning and modernisation | 6 |
| Redecoration | - |
| New shops equipped to requirements | 6 |

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

With the lease of the Council's caravan site due to expire in 1963, there was some uncertainty regarding its future use for this purpose.

The site has space for 12 trailer caravans, and in addition to the proper basic amenities of hard standing, water supply, W.C. accommodation, drying ground and waste disposal facilities, electricity supply is now available to each occupier.

Frequent enquiries are made for plots on the site, but these are limited to persons either living or working in the Witham district.

At December 1962 site licences were in force in respect of 4 caravans.

On two sites, members of the Showman's Guild stationed their caravans during the permitted winter months, and I am pleased to record the high standards observed by these persons.

INSECT PESTS.

The following cases of infestation were dealt with:-

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Wasps | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Cluster Flies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Bed Bugs | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Ants, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |

Bed bugs made a surprising reappearance in the district following a long period during which there has been little suspicion of their presence. Three of the infestations were attributed to the purchase of second-hand articles, including a caravan, outside of Witham. Efforts were made to trace the origin of these articles, and in one instance the local authority for the exporting area was notified.

Cluster flies, which gave rise to complaints at Rivenhall, were dealt with by the occupiers following advice on methods of eradication.

RODENT CONTROL.

During 1962 the Council's rodent control service was arranged so that its part-time operative dealt with infestations in the Witham locality, whilst the Braintree/Halstead/Witham Joint Committee's operative dealt with infestations at Silver End and Rivenhall.

The number of contracts with owners of Agricultural holdings was increased by 2 to a total of 15. The free domestic treatment service is unaltered.

Details of the year's work are as follows:-

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Inspections made | 88 |
| Treatment visits | 910 |
| Infestations found: Mice | 32 |
| Rats (Major) | 3 |
| (Minor) | 183 |
| Bodies recovered | 769 |
| Estimated killed | 933 |

With the very close co-operation of the Pest Control Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, rodent control at the Council's Refuse Tip was tackled for a trial period by using the poison Fluoracetinide. This substance, which is highly toxic, requires great care in handling, and for this reason it is normally used in the confines of sewers and the like. It is believed that this was the first occasion that Fluoracetinide had been used outside of sewers, and the results were very encouraging, the total pick-up of rats after two treatments being 569.

The draw back to the use of this poison in the manner described is the necessity to provide safeguards in the area being treated against entry of unauthorised persons and straying animals. The necessary safeguards outweighed the advantages of using this toxic material, and a return to routine methods was made after the trial period.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Slaughterhouses:

There were no slaughterhouse licences in operation within the Urban District at 31st December 1962.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The local Council is the registering authority for milk distributors and premises (not being dairy farms) used as dairies.

Licensing of premises from which milk is produced, processed, bottled or sold is the responsibility of the Essex County Council.

The following registrations were in force at 31st December 1962:-

| | <u>Tuberculin Tested</u> | <u>Pasteurised</u> | <u>Sterilised.</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Dairies (3) | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Dealers (5) | 5 | 5 | 3 |

Samples of milk retailed in the district were reported by the laboratory to be satisfactory. One prosecution was taken in respect of foreign matter in a pint bottle of milk. The dairy company responsible for bottling of the milk was given a conditional discharge. Costs were awarded to the Cour

ICE CREAM.

The registration of manufacturers and vendors and their premises is carried out in the Urban District under the Essex County Council Act 1933, and supervision is exercised to ensure compliance with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-59. The number of registrations at 31st December 1962 was:-

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Manufacturers | Nil |
| Vendors only | 45 |
| Registered Premises | 45 |

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

Ice-Cream is sampled periodically to ascertain its standard of bacterial purity. 19 such samples were taken during the year, and the results were as follows:-

| Bacteriologist's description | Fruit Ices | Ministry of Health's Provisional Grading | | | | Total |
|------------------------------|------------|--|----|-----|----|-------|
| | | I | II | III | IV | |
| Satisfactory | - | 15 | - | - | - | 15 |
| Passable | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Unsatisfactory | - | - | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| Totals | - | 15 | 1 | - | 3 | 19 |

HYGIENE OF FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES.

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

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Restaurants | 10 |
| Factory and School Canteens | 12 |
| Manufacturing Butchers | 7 |
| Bakehouses | 2 |
| Fried Fish Shops | 2 |
| Retail Butchers' Shops | 8 |
| Other Retail Food Shops | 53 |
| Retail Wet Fish Shops | 3 |
| Licensed Premises and Clubs | 21 |
| Egg Packers | 1 |
| Fruit Juice Concentrates | 1 |
| Maltings | 1 |
| Poultry Packing Stations | 1 |

In addition, a number of mobile food vans tour the area. There is no food market in Withan.

All are subject to inspection, 203 visits having been made during the year. The standard of hygiene is generally satisfactory; minor exceptions are at those premises which frequently change hands. With the clarification of the law relating to sanitary conveniences in Refreshment Houses which the Public Health Act 1961 presented, owners of certain premises have been requested to comply with this requirement of the Act.

The table below shows defects and other conditions required to be remedied during the year:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Design and layout of new shops | 4 |
| Structural defects | 6 |
| Defective/Inadequate sink drainage, hot water and washing facilities. | - |

Sampling:

No formal samples were taken under Section 91 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, but a number of informal samples have been submitted at the request of members of the public. In addition to the prosecution taken in respect of milk, two other prosecutions were taken, as a result of complaints of foreign bodies in food prepared outside the district. In both cases the companies concerned were given a conditional discharge with costs awarded to the Council. The sampling officer of the Food and Drugs Authority (Essex County Council) has kindly supplied the following Table showing results of formal sampling in the Witham district during 1962.

| Commodity | Taken in Witham Urban District. | Taken outside Urban District on Premises of Wholesalers who supply shops within Witham Urban District. |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Butter | - | 3 |
| Cream | 1 | - |
| Liquid Coffee Essence | 1 | - |
| Coffee Mixtures | 1 | 2 |
| Fish Cakes | 1 | - |
| Plain Flour | 1 | - |
| Self Raising Flour | 1 | 1 |
| Table Jelly | 1 | - |
| Mayonnaise | - | 1 |
| Soft Drinks | 2 | 1 |
| Suet | 1 | - |
| Preserves | 3 | 3 |
| Marmalade | - | 1 |
| Mincemeat | 1 | - |
| Buttered Sweets | - | 3 |
| Evaporated Milk | - | 3 |
| Cream Soup | 1 | - |
| Sausages | 2 | 2 |
| Beverages | 1 | 1 |
| Canned Fruit | 1 | 1 |
| Cooked Meats | - | 2 |
| Dried Fruit | 3 | - |
| Drugs | 9 | - |
| Essences | 1 | - |
| Frozen Steakburger | 1 | - |
| Frozen Chicklets | 1 | - |
| Fruit Juice | 1 | - |
| Puddings | 1 | 2 |
| Tinned vegetables. | - | 1 |
| TOTALS | 36 | 27 |

All the samples were found, on analysis, to be satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS - MILK SAMPLES.

Taken in Witham Urban District - January to December 1962.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Number of Samples taken: | 83 (including two at schools) |
| Number of Samples satisfactory: | 83 |
| Number of samples unsatisfactory: | Nil |

Condemnation of Food (other than Meat).

Long standing contact with the local food establishments has resulted in regular notification to the Public Health Department of all unfit and suspected foods. A considerable quantity is voluntarily surrendered for condemnation in this manner. No unfit food was found during routine inspections. The Department takes possession of all food surrendered and arranges for its disposal at the refuse tip. 3 cwts. 3 qrs. 18 lbs. of various foods were dealt with in this way during 1962.

POULTRY INSPECTION.

Food production in the district, involving killing of the live animal or bird, is confined to the processing of chickens at one medium sized factory. Frequent visits are made to the premises for the detection of any conditions in the dead bird calling for more detailed examination. Various specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, but it was only necessary to condemn a very small percentage of throughput.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The largest boiler-house in this district is hand fired, and to keep emissions at an acceptable level, smoke density equipment has been installed.

No smoke control areas were declared during the year.

STAFF.

Replacement of staff was brought about by the resignation of Mr. M.G. Blizzard, Junior Clerical Assistant, in April 1962. His place was taken by Mrs. B.E. Franklin.

Mr. R.G. Chapman, my Senior Clerical Assistant for 16 years, was promoted to Housing Assistant with this Authority, and took up his new duties on 6th November 1962. Mr. Chapman's place was taken by Mrs. F.A. Rowley.

Details of the Department's staff at 31st December 1962 were:-

Office: Chief Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.
Additional Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.
Secretary.
Part-time Shorthand/Typist.

Cleansing: 2 Chargehands
2 Driver/Loaders
4 Refuse Loaders
1 Labourer (Part-time)

Sewage Disposal:
1 Works Manager
2 Chargehands
4 Sewage Disposal Labourers
1 Digger/Loader Driver
1 Cesspool/Gulley Emptyer Driver.

Other: 1 Disinfector/Rodent Operative (Part-time).

The average age of the permanent outside staff is 44 years.