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ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1949

ON THE

HEALTH OF ASHFORD

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. MARSHALL

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health (Ashford Urban District) and  
Area Medical Officer (Kent County Council)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE

LOCAL AUTHORITY, 1949

Medical Officer of Health (A.U.D.C.) and Area Medical  
Officer (K.C.C.)

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Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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# ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1949

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Ashford Urban District.  
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

Throughout the year, there was no unexpected cause of deaths. The number of deaths from Heart Diseases in men increased from an average of 40 since 1940, to 65 in 1949 and in women from 41 to 52. There is therefore a definite increase of these deaths in both sexes. It would be extremely difficult to attribute this increase to any single cause, but it is thought that certain heart diseases may be psychosomatic, or in other words may be due to continuous mental stress and anxiety, as for example effort syndrome neuro-circulatory asthenia, essential hypertension and possibly coronary thrombosis and angina pectoris.

The number of deaths from Cancer since 1940 has alternated between 40 and 55. The medical problem associated with this disease is chiefly one of early diagnosis when treatment would in most cases be successful. Many patients seek consultation only when the disease has become too advanced.

The average number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis since 1940 was 9, ranging from 4 to 18 and the average number of new cases since 1940 was 19, with a tendency to increase in incidence. The number of Tuberculosis Nurses is insufficient for the number of beds available and this latter number is insufficient for all who require treatment. This problem is one of the most tragic confronting medical administration.

The number of deaths from other causes is not exceptional, and there is no need for positive comment. There were no deaths from infectious disease. Minor epidemics of Measles and Whooping Cough occurred. Both of these diseases are dangerous in children, but fortunately there was no loss of life.



(3)

It is pleasing, also, to record that there were no deaths amongst mothers due to childbirth or other maternal causes, which is a tribute to the skill and care of all those engaged in the midwifery services.

There were, however, 16 deaths amongst infants under one year of age. The chief cause, as in previous years, was prematurity. Although more attention has been directed to the medical and nursing care of these infants in recent years, especially to those born at home where special nursing equipment can be provided from the Child Welfare Centre, there is no appreciable fall in the number of deaths and it would seem that still greater vigilance on the part of those concerned with their care ante-natally and post-natally is necessary. There were also 4 infant deaths from broncho-pneumonia. Although this is an exceptionally dangerous illness in infants it is reasonable to assume that a few of these lives could be saved if treatment could be instituted early.

There is no need to lay emphasis on the fact that the most urgent local government problem of today is that of Housing. Considerable progress has, however, been made, since 1946 when post war building was resumed. On the 31st December, 1949, 295 families were housed in new permanent houses, 144 in prefabricated bungalows and a considerable number in temporary accommodation such as Hutments. Although these latter have relieved families from more grievous conditions they are not regarded as being proper dwellings and will be closed as soon as more new permanent houses become available. There are still nevertheless about 1,000 families on the registration list, 800 of whom are probably "effective". Those who have been satisfactorily housed have been replaced by others, to the extent that no diminution of the "effective" list is yet apparent. It is obvious that the housing problem will remain for many years, and will require unrelaxing effort until it is resolved.

Other matters of interest are embodied in the report and in conclusion I should like to thank you for your interest and co-operation in the work of this Department, and my staff for their very efficient and loyal service.

I am,

Yours obediently,

J. MARSHALL.



(4)

SECTION A

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE  
DISTRICT FOR 1949

AREA: 5,719 acres.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF:

The Resident Population ... .. 23,890.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES ACCORDING  
TO THE RATE BOOKS ... ..

7,429

RATEABLE VALUE:- £155,044

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE:- £652

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Ashford is an agricultural and industrial town, and a business and shopping centre for the large rural population which surrounds it. It merits importance by containing the largest agricultural market in Kent, and by being an important railway junction where five lines converge, associated with which there is a large Railway Works in which the majority of the working classes of the town are employed. There is also a number of other factories, viz., Cycle Works, Underwear Factory, Iron Foundry, Printing Works, Agricultural Repair Shops, Flour Mills, Marine and Industrial Works, and Ordnance Depot.

At present there is practically no unemployment in this District and in general apart from the shortage of houses, social conditions are fairly satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>Ashford Urban District.</u>	<u>England and Wales.</u>
1. Live Births	351	177	174	Birth Rate per 1,000	14.69	16.7
(a) Legitimate	336	170	166	estimated resident		
(b) Illegitimate	15	7	8	population.		
2. Stillbirths	7	4	3	Rate per 1,000 total	19.55	-
(a) Legitimate	7	4	3	(live and still) births.		
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3. Deaths	326	172	154	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	13.64	11.7
4. Deaths from Puerperal Causes						
(a) Sepsis	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births.	-	0.11
(b) Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-		-	0.71
5. Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.	15	9	6			
(a) Legitimate	15	9	6			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births					42.74	32
Rate re legitimate infants					44.64	
Rate re illegitimate infants					-	
6. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					48	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					-	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					-	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)					1	



## CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT

DURING 1949

ALL CAUSES				Males. 172	Females 154
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	-	-
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	5	1
7.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	3	-
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	3	1
9.	Influenza	...	...	-	-
10.	Measles	...	...	-	-
11.	Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	...	...	-	-
12.	Acute Infective Encephalitis	...	...	-	-
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) and uterus (F)	...	...	2	3
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	3	3
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	...	-	8
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	16	13
17.	Diabetes	...	...	2	2
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	19	29
19.	Heart Diseases	...	...	65	52
20.	Other diseases of the circulatory system	...	...	4	8
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	10	7
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	8	3
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	5	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	3	-
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	-	1
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	1	-
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	2	2
28.	Nephritis	...	...	2	1
29.	Puerperal and Post-abortion sepsis	...	...	-	-
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	-	-
31.	Premature Birth.	...	...	4	1
32.	Congenital Malformation. Birth Injuries. Infantile Diseases	...	...	1	5
33.	Suicide	...	...	2	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	2	1
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	3	5
36.	All other causes	...	...	7	6



SECTION B.GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT1. Laboratory Facilities.

The Laboratory at County Hall, now administered by the Regional Hospitals Board is the principal laboratory in the County for the Public Health Services. Samples of food and drink, as for example water, milk, ice cream, and any food which may be a potential source of food poisoning are examined there. Lymph for vaccination against Smallpox, toxoid for Diphtheria immunisation and convalescent serum for protection before or after exposure to Measles can be obtained direct on request. Tropical vaccines and sera such as cholera, typhoid and paratyphoid, plague and yellow fever vaccines are obtainable from various laboratories in London such as the Tropical School, the Public Health Laboratory at Colindale. The Welcome Foundation, and from Allen and Hanbury's.

Pathological specimens from infectious and other patients such as blood, faeces, urine and cerebro-spinal fluid are also examined there.

The service provided by this laboratory is of very high standard and adequately serves the needs of this District.

2. Ambulance Services.

Although the County Council is responsible for the administration of this service throughout Kent, the St. John Ambulance Brigade is responsible for the execution of the service in Ashford and district acting as a voluntary agency on behalf of the County Council who re-imburse expenditure incurred for the payment of full-time staff of whom there are now three, for the payment of garage rents and the maintenance of vehicles, etc. Other Drivers and Attendants are drawn from a pool of voluntary personnel who give their time to their work, devotedly and unselfishly. There are four modern Ambulances and one Sitting-case car.

The service is adequate for the needs of the District and efficiently conducted.

3. Hospital Car Service.

This service is also administered by the County Council through the local District Officer who is responsible for the day to day execution of the service. Patients who are unable



to travel by Public Transport and for whom an Ambulance is unnecessary, are conveyed by sitting-case cars many of which are owned by private individuals who receive 6d. per mile plus subsistence allowances. This service supplies a great need on behalf of suitable patients, but strict supervision is essential to prevent unnecessary journeys.

#### 4. Home Nursing and Midwifery Services.

These services are also administered by the County Council, and six Queen's Nurses, formerly of the Ashford and District Nursing Association are employed. They are engaged in Midwifery and Maternity Nursing and the nursing of the sick in their homes. Each nurse possesses a car, one of which is owned by the County Council, and their work which is often of extreme urgency is thereby greatly facilitated. They are certified, upon the receipt of a Doctor's certificate to give Pethidine and Analgesia in Childbirth, the apparatus for Analgesia being supplied by the County Council. Their liaison with the Practitioners is excellent and altogether the service is well organised, very efficient, and adequate for the needs of the District, having regard also to the fact that there is a number of chronic sick patients being nursed at home, who should properly be in a Hospital for the Chronic Sick, if beds were available.

#### 5. Treatment Centres and Clinics.

All Maternity and Child Welfare, School, and Dental Clinics are administered by the County Council.

The following Clinics are held in Ashford:-

(i) Station Road. This is the Central and chief clinic and is contained in an "ad hoc" building. The outlying clinics are complementary. Sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week from 2-15 p.m.

(ii) Women's Institute Hall, Church Road, North Willesborough

Sessions are held at 2-15 p.m. on alternate Fridays.

(iii) The Adult School Hall, Gladstone Road, South Willesborough. Sessions at 2-15 p.m. on Fridays alternating with the North Willesborough Clinic.

(iv) The Women's Institute Hall, Faversham Road, Kennington.

Sessions are held at 2-15 p.m. on alternate Wednesdays.



(v) The Kingsford Memorial Hall, Kingsnorth Road, Ashford.

Sessions at 2-15 p.m. on Wednesdays alternating with Kennington Clinic.

Ante-natal and Post Natal Clinics.

These Clinics are held in the Station Road centre, the former Clinic being held every Monday at 2-15 p.m. with an additional session from 10 a.m. on the 3rd Monday in each month and the latter on the 1st Monday of each month from 10 a.m. by appointment. These Clinics are conducted by a Consultant.

(i) The following five clinics of the School Medical Service are held at 14, Canterbury Road.

- (a) Dental Clinic.
- (b) Ophthalmic Clinic.
- (c) Minor Ailment Clinic.
- (d) Speech Therapy Clinic.

(e) Orthopaedic Clinic.

This clinic is now held in Ashford Hospital, is administered by the Regional Hospitals Board and appointments are made by the County Public Health Department on behalf of school-children. It is held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 2 p.m.

(ii) Venereal Diseases Clinics.

This clinic is held at Ashford Hospital on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10 - 11 a.m. for Females and from 11 - 12 noon for Males.

(iii) Tuberculosis Clinic.

At No. 1 Barrow Hill Place weekly on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12-30.

(iv) Hospitals

- (a) Ashford General. Accommodation - approximately 90 beds.
- (b) Willesborough General. Accommodation - 212 beds.
- (c) Isolation Hospital. - Accommodation-68 beds.
- (d) Grosvenor Sanatorium (Private). Accommodation - 265 beds.



6. Maternity and Child Welfare Service.

These, since the inception of the National Health Service are administered by the Kent County Council, but for the information of the Urban Council the following comments are appropriate.

The number of live births for the year was 351. This number shows a further fall from 371 in 1948 and from 482 in 1947, this latter figure having been the highest recorded in Ashford Urban District. The number 351 for 1949 however still considerably exceeds the pre-war average of 290, and indicates that the number of houses to be built will require to be built at a higher rate than pre-war level. It is likely that the birth-rate will continue to decline owing to the contemporary housing shortage and the high cost of living.

The number of still-births was 7, less by 4 than the preceding year. Only careful ante-natal supervision will keep this number within unavoidable limits.

There were no deaths amongst mothers, which indicates that ante-natal supervision has been thorough and careful. The number of mothers attending the Ante-natal Clinics however is falling considerably.

The infantile mortality rate viz. 41.89 is not low as it has been and might be. Prematurity was the cause of the majority of these deaths, and it is probable that some could have been prevented if better facilities had been available for care and treatment.

[illegible]



The Domestic Help Service was of great value throughout the year to many families afflicted by illness. This service bristles with innumerable individual human problems which complicate the administration. It is also an unavoidably expensive service, but the relief of family suffering, anxiety and difficulties which it affords cannot be measured in terms of finance.

The 50 places for children under five at the Day Nursery off Beaver Lane, were full throughout the year. Many necessitous mothers, for example, widows, unmarried women, and others whose husbands are invalids etc. are obliged to go out to work and for them this is a social service of real value. It was estimated during the year that only 50% of the mothers whose children were in attendance, were in this priority category and that the other 50% were not necessitous. This service is also very costly and if the children of non-necessitous parents were allowed admission would become too great a burden on the rates to maintain, to the detriment of those mothers in real need of it.

#### 7. Private Nursing Homes.

There are two of these in the District. One, at 37 Albert Road, is registered for three maternity beds, and the other at 260 Hythe Road, is registered for nine aged and infirm patients. Both Homes were inspected throughout the year and found to be well conducted and to be giving satisfactory service.

### SECTION C.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

##### 1. Water Supply.

The water supply within the Urban District is provided by two undertakings, viz., by Ashford Urban District Council and by the Mid-Kent Water Company.

The Council provides the supply for Central and South Ashford and North and South Willesborough, and The Mid-Kent Water Company for Kennington.

#### Ashford Urban District Council Undertakings.

This supply is obtained from the following three sources

##### (i) Westwell

A new gravel-screen bore-hole 160 feet deep was



completed in August, 1948. The other two existing bore-holes were also gravel screened at the same time. A softening plant (Clark's Process) is in operation here. The water is pumped by an electrically-driven pump to a covered reservoir (capacity 1,000,000 galls.) at Potter's Corner, from where it enters the supply network. There is a connection between this reservoir and two stand-by reservoirs (280,000 and 36,000 galls. respectively) at Barrow Hill and a connection with the Mid-Kent Water Company's supply at Potter's Corner for emergency use. There is a further connection for emergency use with the Mid-Kent Water Company's supply in the Canterbury Road, at Little Bybrook.

(ii) Henwood.

This supply comes from four wells with interconnecting adits, approximately 40 feet deep. From the electrically-driven pumps (with stand-by steam plant) the water is pumped into the supply network and the surplus is diverted into the reservoir at Potter's Corner.

The above two supply the whole of Central and South Ashford.

(iii) Hinxhill

This water comes from a new bore-hole approximately 200 feet deep, being raised by compressed air into a storage adit. It is then pumped by Reciprocating and Centrifugal pumps to a covered reservoir at Broomfields (100,000 galls.) from where it enters the supply network for the whole of North and South Willesborough. There is a connection for emergency use with the Central and South Ashford supplies at the Railway Bridge, Hythe Road.

The waters from these three sources are all chlorinated, as an additional measure of safety, though the untreated waters have in successive years been of excellent bacteriological and chemical quality.

Samples.

By arrangement with the County Laboratory, 6 quarterly bacteriological samples are taken, 2 from each of the three sources. Also three samples for chemical analysis were taken half-yearly at the three sources.

These samples were all highly satisfactory, and the waters are entitled to be graded Class 1.



Examination of Samples Taken During the Year.

	Bacteriological		Chemical	
	No.	Results	No.	Results
Raw Water	7	Satisfactory	15	Satisfactory
Treated Water	24	Satisfactory	-	-

There are 14 houses not connected to the public supply mains and 9 of these are situate in Beaver Lane, 4 in Chart Road and 1 in Park Road. 7,115 houses are connected to the public Mains.

The Mid-Kent Water Company.(i) Barham.

This water is taken from the chalk, the well being about 200 feet deep. It is pumped to Hastingleigh Reservoir (Capacity 500,000 gallons) from where it reaches the Kennington supply network.

(ii) Charing.

This water is obtained from the greensand and the borings are approximately 160 feet deep. It is pumped to Fairbourne and Charing Hill Reservoirs (capacity 1,000,000 and 283,500 gallons respectively). These reservoirs afford a subsidiary or auxiliary supply to Kennington.

Samples.

Monthly bacteriological and quarterly chemical samples are taken. These, during the year were Class 1 waters bacteriologically and were chemically of good organic quality.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

There was no major development during the year, but the new sewer from the Industrial Area (Cobbs Wood) was extended from Chart Road to Maidstone Road.

Total number of Inhabited Houses (including Flats) is	...	...	...	...	...	7,429
Total number of houses connected to the sewers	...	...	...	...	...	7,214
Number of houses not connected to the sewers	...	...	...	...	...	215



Swimming Baths.

The Ashford Urban District Council Public Bath was in full use during the season. The water is chlorinated by a break-point chlorinator and there is also an electric suction sweeper for cleansing the bottom of the bath. The size of the bath is 100 x 25 yards, and its capacity 600,000 gallons. Regular samples of the water were sent for bacteriological examination, and all were satisfactory (B.Coli, presumptive, absent in 100 cc.s.).

Eradication of Vermin.

The number of houses found to be infested with vermin was as follows:-

	Bugs	Fleas
Council Houses	5	5
Other Houses	14	9

All these premises were disinfested by means of D.D.T. in spray form combined with another insecticide. This form of disinfestation proved very efficacious, as none of these houses needed a second treatment. The number of houses found to be infested with bugs has been steadily reduced each year and progress has definitely been made in the eradication of bugs from human dwellings.

Other forms of infestations occasionally dealt with included beetles, ants, earwigs and wasps.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

The destruction of these vermin continued throughout the year and 94 infestations of rats and 124 of mice were dealt with. Damp sausage rusk was the base bait and zinc phosphide the poison mostly used, and very successful results were achieved. Unpoisoned pre-bait is laid down for three days before the poison is used. This is done to encourage the rats to feed at the points selected. Most of the infestations were small and only consisted of two or three rats and a few mice. The refuse dump at Bybrook was treated regularly and the rat infestation there was kept to a minimum. The sewers also received attention and results were good. The number of rats in the sewers was small.



6. Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Details of Inspection work carried out:-

						<u>No. of Visits and re-visits</u>
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	49
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	110
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	484
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	6
Factories with Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	...	215
Factories without Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	...	
Workplaces						-
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	68
Fish Frying Premises	...	...	...	...	...	29
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	211
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	184
Ice Cream Vendors and Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	202
Rat and Mice Destruction	...	...	...	...	...	268
Other Vermin	...	...	...	...	...	72
Housing Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	1,604
Housing-overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	160
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	21
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	28
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	38
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	54
Drainage repairs	...	...	...	...	...	131
Drainage cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	72
Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	67
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	332
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	43
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	42
Ice Cream Samples	...	...	...	...	...	118
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	45
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	22
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	41
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	627
Total Number of Visits						5,343

## Work Completed

Wash-hand Basins	...	...	...	...	9
Brickwork Repaired	...	...	...	...	24
Houses at which drains were repaired..	...	...	...	...	12
Choked drains cleared...	...	...	...	...	8
Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	...	...	1
Gully traps fixed	...	...	...	...	1
Inspection Chambers built, new cover provided	...	...	...	...	1
Soil and vent pipes fixed or repaired	...	...	...	...	11
W.C. pans fixed	...	...	...	...	10
Additional W.C.'s. fixed	...	...	...	...	5
W.C. compartments ventilated...	...	...	...	...	4
New flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	16
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Sinks renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Sink waste pipes renewed or trapped...	...	...	...	...	12
Eaves, Gutters and Fall Pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	17
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	53
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	25
Water supply pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Rooms cleansed and/or disinfected	...	...	...	...	8
Window frames repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	41
Wall and Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	55
Rooms re-decorated	...	...	...	...	11
Dampness in walls remedied	...	...	...	...	42
Yard paving renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Wash coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	14
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	25
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	38
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Sanitary Bins provided	...	...	...	...	7
W.C. Seats renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Chimney Stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Accumulations removed...	...	...	...	...	-
Cesspools repaired	...	...	...	...	1
W.C.'s repaired and rebuilt	...	...	...	...	10
Sub-floor ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	5
Sashcords	...	...	...	...	30
Dampness in floors	...	...	...	...	2
Chimney pots replaced...	...	...	...	...	5



FACTORIES ACT, 19371. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health  
(including inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Reg- ister (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	30	42	15	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	121	150	13	-
iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ..	18	23	5	-
Total	169	215	33	-

## 2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which Prosecuti were Instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	15	15	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	1	1	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	2	2	-	-	-
Inadequate drainage of floors(S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Convenience					
(a) insufficient ...	5	4	-	1	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	15	15	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	13	13	-	-	-
Total	51	50	-	3	-

SECTION D.Housing

Good progress was made during the year in housing priority applicants from the Council's waiting list, which however does not seem to diminish proportionately, as there are still 969 applicants on the registration list, at the time of writing, approximately 800 of whom would probably be prepared to enter any Council House immediately offered. Many of those, however, in new Council Houses, have found the rents an onerous financial burden.

On the 31st December, 1949, the number of families rehoused during 1949 and in total since 1946 when building again became possible following the war, was as follows:-

	1949	1946-49 (inclusive)
(1) Prefabricated temporary bungalows	-	144
(2) New Permanent Houses:-		
<u>Willesborough (Osborne Road Estate)</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	20	28
(b) 3 bedroom type	87	176
(c) 4 bedroom type	1	4
<u>South Ashford (Woolreeds Estate)</u>		
(a) 3 bedroom type	120	177
(b) 4 bedroom type	10	13
(3) Flats:-		
Waterside House and East Stour Farm	3	13
(4) Temporary Accommodation (14 Hutments; Stanhope Camp)	28	28
(5)	<u>269</u>	<u>439</u>
(6) Houses completed by private enterprise	25	41

At the time of writing, the following is an approximate estimate of the number and size of the families on the waiting list.

(1) No children	382
(2) 1 child	396
(3) 2 children	110
(4) 3 children	57
(5) 4 children and over	24
	<u>969</u>



The above list indicates strikingly where the need is now greatest. It is presumed that the majority of the childless families are unable to plan for a family, owing to their present inadequate accommodation and many of those with one child for the same reason. It would seem that the problem of providing accommodation for them will have to be faced sooner than later. Many have been on the waiting list for a number of years and this list will continue to grow as young couples become married. It is reasonable to state that an adequate proportion of houses to be built should be constructed to provide suitable accommodation to enable them to have one or two children and if they wished to increase their families still further, they could make application for a larger house. As the need is urgent, the best solution to the problem, would appear to be the construction of more temporary prefabricated bungalows, and at the same time to build the appropriate permanent houses.

It will be noted from the table "Work Completed", the number of repairs of various of various kinds effected in houses during the year.

### SECTION E.

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

##### Milk Supplies.

There are in the Urban District 4 Producer Retailers and 7 Producers. Of these Producers 4 produce Tuberculin Tested Milk, 3 Accredited Milk and 4 undesignated milk. There are 18 registered distributors of milk.

Dairies are regularly inspected to ensure that the standards prescribed by the Milk and Dairies Order 1926 are maintained. Samples of milk are taken regularly from dairies and with 5 exceptions all were satisfactory. Periodic samples of undesignated milks are taken for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and during the year 14 such sampled all gave negative results.

In addition samples are taken regularly under the Milk Testing Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, whose Regional Laboratory is situated in this District.

During the year, the following samples were taken for bacteriological examination:-

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Tuberculin Tested ...	8	3
Accredited ...	12	2
Pasteurised ...	4	-



Ice Cream.

Licences for the sale of ice cream are granted by the Council under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Scrupulous cleanliness of personnel, of premises and equipment are essential to satisfy the standards of the Methylene Blue Test. In particular an adequate supply of hot water should be conveniently accessible for keeping the hands well cleansed. It is not generally appreciated that dangerous organisms may be transferred from the hands to food products. Regular inspection is done to ensure that the highest standards are maintained. Ice cream is an extremely popular food product and if strict hygiene is not observed during its production and sale, the organisms of food poisoning or of other enteric diseases might be introduced at any time and cause a serious epidemic.

35 shops sell pre-wrapped ice cream only.

7 shops sell unwrapped ice cream in addition to wrapped.

Forty-three samples of ice cream have been taken during the past year and the report showed that none contained any pathogenic organisms.

Meat and Other Foods.Unsound Food (Food and Drugs Act 1938)

<u>Unsound Food Surrendered</u>			<u>lbs.</u>			<u>lbs.</u>
Dried Fruit	...	...	284	Barley	...	39
Brawn	...	...	16	Farina	...	145
Corned Beef	...	...	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	Biscuit Meal	...	871
Veal Loaf	...	...	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	Cake Mixture	...	160
Stewed Steak	...	...	1	Biscuits	...	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Luncheon Meat	...	...	6	Confectionery	...	99
Fish	...	...	302 $\frac{3}{4}$	Sausages	...	1
Cheese	...	...	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	Milk	...	605 $\frac{1}{2}$
Flour	...	...	23	Vegetables	...	342
Pork	...	...	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Meat and Vegetables	...	9
Tea and Coffee	...	...	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	Soup	...	50 $\frac{1}{4}$
Prunes	...	...	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Fruit	...	263 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fruit Juices	...	...	16 $\frac{1}{4}$	Puddings	...	5
Oatmeal	...	...	428	Tomatoes	...	30
Jam	...	...	32	Pickles and Sauces	...	71 $\frac{3}{4}$
Marmalade	...	...	34	Paste	...	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sago	...	...	1168	Soya Flour	...	112
Macaroni	...	...	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	Fish Cakes	...	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Spaghetti	...	...	15	Milk Food	...	22
Rabbit	...	...	10	Tables Jellies	...	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pie	...	...	15	Pudding Mixture	...	69 $\frac{1}{2}$
Custard Powder	...	...	95	Dried Eggs	...	13
Sugar	...	...	338			

Total weight condemned : 2 tons 12 cwts. 1 qtr. 16 lbs.



Twenty-four registered food-preparing premises, and shops, stalls and vehicles, etc., where food is sold were frequently inspected for unsound food.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year which in view of the increased extent of communal feeding and the reliance of many housewives on obtaining unrationed meat to eke out the meat ration, is very satisfactory.

### Meat Inspection.

#### Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<u>Cattle excluding Cows.</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number Killed ...	628	230	433	2364	178
Number Inspected ..	628	230	433	2364	178
All diseases except Tuberculosis:-					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	4	8	33	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	229	101	5	136	38
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	36.6	45.6	3.0	7.15	24.1
Tuberculosis only:-					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	12	1	0	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	82	57	0	1	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	13.5	30.0	0.2	0.04	8.4

During the year a special routine examination of cattle was introduced for the detection of cysticercus bovis (more commonly known as "Measles" in Beef). A number of carcasses were subsequently found to have one or two cysterci and the carcasses concerned, in appropriate cases, were detained for a period of cold storage which effectively kills any parasite and renders the meat safe. No instances of a generalised condition were found.

Diseases and Abnormal Conditions Found in Animals  
Slaughtered for Food at Ashford During 1949.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cattle</u> <u>excluding</u> <u>Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u> <u>and</u> <u>Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
(a) Necessitating rejection as unfit for human consumption of whole carcasses and organs:					
Tuberculosis	3	12	1	-	3
Emaciation associated with disease	-	2	-	11	-
Oedema	-	-	-	2	-
Septicaemia or Sceptic intoxication	-	-	1	-	-
Pyæmia including umbilical pyæmia and associated conditions.	1	-	5	1	-
Empyæmia	-	-	-	2	-
Sæpæmia	-	-	-	-	2
Fever	-	-	1	1	-
Septic Pericarditis	-	1	-	-	-
Immaturity	-	-	1	-	-
Bruising	-	-	-	1	-
Osteomyelitis	-	1	-	-	-
Neoplasms	-	-	-	3	1
Septic metritis	-	-	-	5	-
(b) Necessitating rejection as unfit for human consumption of part(s) or organ(s) of animals.					
Tuberculosis	85	45	-	1	15
Actinomycosis	11	9	-	-	-
Bruising	3	8	-	15	6
Neoplasms	-	-	-	1	-
Localised Inflammatory conditions	39	28	3	42	19
Distomatosis	163	49	-	31	-
Angiomatosis	17	50	-	-	-
Rheumatoid Arthritis	-	-	-	6	2
Parasite infestation (including cysts)	4	1	-	28	-
Unclassified	2	3	2	14	5



Prevalence and Control over Infectious Disease.

Apart from minor epidemics of Measles and Whooping Cough and a relatively small number of cases of Scarlet Fever (see table), the Urban District was remarkably free during the year from serious infectious disease.

For example there were no cases of Acute Poliomyelitis or Polio-encephalitis (Infantile Paralysis), the incidence of which is becoming generalised throughout the Country. In our present state of knowledge proper hygiene and sanitation are the best safeguards against the disease. Vigilant supervision over the hygiene of food and drink, in particular of milk and water (including swimming pools), and of sanitation, especially sewage disposal and drainage and the control of insect pests e.g., flies and mosquitoes and vermin such as rats and mice are constantly essential. It is also very desirable that fruit should be cleansed as far as is practicable before consumption if only because many people who pick and handle the fruit before sale are not too scrupulous regarding personal cleanliness. Infantile Paralysis, of all the Infectious Diseases, is the most difficult to control. Usually the source of infection cannot be identified, and although the disease is showing a tendency to cause a group of cases in some particular locality as for example in a village or in a part of an Urban District, sporadic or isolated cases keep occurring in widely dispersed areas. The epidemiology of the disease is receiving very assiduous study and it is hoped that the application of past knowledge and experience will lead to a clue or discovery which will enable effective control and treatment to be established.

Notifiable Diseases During the Year, 1949.  
(Civilian Population Only)

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Isolation Hosp.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever ...	13	13	-
Whooping Cough ...	167	2	-
Erysipelas ...	2	-	-
Measles ...	155	5	-
Pneumonia ...	15	-	11
Puerperal Pyrexia..	1	-	-



(24)

Analysis Under Age Groups.

Disease	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5- 9	10- 14	15- 19	20- 34	35- 44	45- 64	65 and over	Un- known.
rlet Fever.	-	-	-	2	1	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
oping Cough	15	18	21	22	24	56	4	-	3	1	3	-	-
sles	4	8	21	20	16	81	1	-	1	2	1	-	-
te Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	5	4	-
sipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis)  
Regulations, 1925 and Public Health Act, 1936  
(Section 172).

TuberculosisNew Cases and Mortality 1949

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
...	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
...	4	4	-	2	1	-	1	-
...	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
...	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
...	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
and upwards	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Totals</u>	17	5	3	2	6	1	1	-

No action was taken during the year within the meaning of the  
 ove Acts.

It will be noted from the above table that 22 new cases of lung  
 perculosis were notified during the year, an increase of 5 over  
 ose of 1948. The annual average has been 19 for many years.  
 e increase of 3 over the average is not of great significance, but  
 may be stated that there will probably be a tendency for the  
 mbers to increase, owing to the long waiting list for beds, which



at present is unavoidable owing to the shortage of Tuberculosis Nurses and of Sanatorium beds.

There were 5 new cases of other forms of Tuberculosis, the chief source of infection probably being milk. When it is possible for all milk to be pasteurised it is hoped that these cases will not occur, apart from those which may occur by direct human infection. There were 7 deaths from respiratory and one death from non-respiratory Tuberculosis.

The dwellings of all Tuberculous patients are regularly inspected, to ensure that there are no factors favourable to its propagation. Amongst other members of the family and where appropriate, recommendation is made for re-housing in Council houses.