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ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1958

ON THE

PUBLIC HEALTH OF ASHFORD

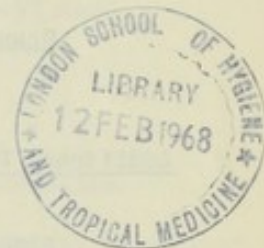
BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. MARSHALL

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

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

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE

LOCAL AUTHORITY, 1958

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

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

Senior Public Health Inspector

HAMMOND, S.F., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector

RATHMELL, E.W.G., M.A.P.H.I.

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and Senior
Public Health Inspector for the Year 1958

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1958.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 26,310 - an increase of 170 over that of the previous year.

Live Births and Rate

The number of live-births was 412 (214 M., 198 F.) - a substantial increase of 70 over that of the previous year, and the crude birth-rate was accordingly 15.66; after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, which is computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution and allows comparison with the rates of other Districts, the rate becomes 15.97 and approximates to that of 16.4 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

The number of stillbirths was 6 (3 M., 3 F) and the stillbirth rate was accordingly 14.35 which was lower than that of 21.6 for England and Wales.

Assiduous ante-natal supervision and obstetric skill are essential to prevent avoidable stillbirths.

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

Four infant deaths were registered, two of which were under four weeks of age, and the infantile mortality rate was 9.7 which compares very favourably with that of 22.5 for England and Wales.

The causes of death were as follow:-

- (1) Mongolism
- (2) Cerebral Intraventricular Haemorrhage
- (3) Pulmonary Valve Atresia
- (4) Fulminating Streptococcal Septicaemia

As for the prevention of stillbirths, with which neo-natal infant deaths are closely related, careful ante-natal supervision and obstetric skill are essential.

Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

This rate was nil, as there was no death from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion. There has been no maternal death in the Urban District for eleven years, which in general terms, is an index of the high standard of midwifery practice.

Total Deaths and Death Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 316 (168 M., 148 F.), and the crude death rate was accordingly 12.01; after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, as for births, the rate becomes 11.29 - slightly lower than that of 11.7 for England and Wales.

As would be expected, the chief cause of deaths was Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular Diseases of the Nervous System, for these are the natural penultimate causes of death amongst the aged. There were 179 of these deaths.

Of these, disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart caused 52 deaths, whose ages at death ranged from 47 to 89 years. Four of the deaths were under 50 years of age, 7 under 60 years, and 9 under 70 years. The primary cause is still obscure, but it has been postulated that prolonged mental stress and/or excessive fat intake and/or excessive smoking may be important contributory causes. Thirty-nine of the deaths were in males in contrast to 13 in women, a ratio of 3 M. to 1 F.

There is evidence that Atheroma of the Coronary Artery is also causing an increasing number of deaths, as demonstrated by post-mortem examinations.

As also expected, Cancer caused the second highest number of deaths, i.e. 53, excluding the four deaths from Leukaemia.

Cancer of the lung or bronchus caused 12 deaths; 11 of those were male deaths in contrast to 1 female. The ratio of deaths is always much higher in males, many more of whom smoke cigarettes than women and also more excessively. Although these figures are small for any statistical conclusion, it would appear that smoking is a contributory, if not a primary cause. Since 1950, when Cancer of the Lung was separately classified by the Registrar General the number of deaths in successive years has been 3, 6, 6, 9, 8, 11, 10, 10 and 12. The ages of death of those who died in 1958 ranged from 54 to 82 years - one was aged 60 years and five were under 70 years.

On the other hand, Cancer of the Breast caused seven deaths. From the point of view of diagnosis and treatment, the breast is one of the most superficial sites of the body, but as with all forms of Cancer, procrastination by patients, many of whom are senile, concomitant with the insidious nature of the disease, is the commonest factor associated with late diagnosis. Early diagnosis is the key to the success of treatment.

Bronchitis was the third highest cause of death. Most of those were amongst the elderly. Apart from a hereditary pre-disposition to this disease, occupational environment is an important factor, but much research is still required in the fields of prevention and treatment.

The Pneumonias caused the fourth highest number of deaths. The majority of those were amongst the elderly, who do not respond actively to treatment and in whom Hypostatic Pneumonia is usually a concomitant complication.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no exceptional mortality.

Infectious Disease

There was no death due to the Infectious Diseases endemic in this Country, and the Urban District was free from any of the more serious infections.

Scarlet Fever

Twenty-four sporadic cases of this infection were notified. The disease in its present phase is mild, and patients are usually treated at home, unless complications arise, or social circumstances are undesirable.

There is evidence that the types of haemolytic streptococci which cause sore-throat, with or without exudate, but without the appearance of a rash, are becoming more prevalent and that Acute Nephritis with Albuminuria may be an occasional complication.

Whooping Cough

Only ten cases of this distressing illness in children were notified. Modern vaccines for protection are available at the Child Welfare Centres, and from the family Doctor, and although it is rather premature to assess their effect it would appear that a barrier against outbreaks of the disease is already being created.

Broncho-pneumonia and Atelectasis (Collapse of the Lung) are the most dangerous complications, particularly in infants, who should be shielded from infection for this reason; fortunately these complications do not occur frequently, i.e. approximately in less than 0.1% of children.

Measles

There was no outbreak of this infection during the year, only eight cases having been notified.

Outbreaks commonly occur every second year or when a sufficient number of susceptible children has accumulated.

As with Whooping Cough, Broncho-pneumonia, when the lungs are invaded by secondary bacteria, is the most dangerous complication, but it also does not occur frequently. Otitis Media is also an occasional complication.

Gamma globulin for passive immunity is available from the Public Health Laboratory, Preston Hall, and is occasionally used to protect children who have been exposed to the infection and who are suffering from another illness.

Sonne Dysentery

Only one case of this disease was notified. This disease in the majority of cases is mild, causing diarrhoea for several days with or without blood and mucus in the stools. Many patients do not consult their family Doctor, and in consequence there is a reservoir of convalescent or Chronic carriers, who from time to time cause outbreaks, most commonly in schools. The best defence against the disease is simply the washing of hands after toilet and before meals.

Erysipelas

Six cases of this infection of the skin by haemolytic streptococci were notified. This was a very serious disease with a relatively high mortality, before the introduction of the Sulphonamides and Antibiotics, which have been specific for treatment, and deaths are in consequence now rare.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Four cases were notified from a local Hospital.

Puerperal Sepsis is now comparatively rare due to modern aseptic techniques and to prophylactic or early specific therapeutic treatment.

Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia

Fourteen of these cases were notified. In many cases, chest signs are not present until the disease has become advanced and commonly there is no sputum from which to isolate the causal organism to provide an antibiotic sensitivity test. In some cases, although a complete course of treatment has been given and the patient had become a-pyrexial, chest signs and X-ray examination have shown that the pneumonia may take many weeks to resolve and during this time a relapse may occur.

Acute Poliomyelitis

No cases of this serious disease occurred throughout the year, in which 3,814 children were given their second inoculation and 170 their third.

Although the mass vaccination scheme has not yet been completed, there is firm ground for optimism from a preliminary assessment that a barrier against outbreaks of the disease is being created.

Food Poisoning

That there were no cases of Food Poisoning is an excellent tribute to the work of the Senior Public Health Inspector and his staff, who amongst their many other varied duties, are responsible for ensuring that food and drink are wholesome and free from disease-producing organisms.

Tuberculosis

Eight new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified. The number of new cases is decreasing each year; for example in the immediate post-war year the annual average was 20.

Only one new case of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis (Pelvis) was notified. The Urban District is within an area specified by the Ministry in which only designated or Tubercle-free milk may be sold and this has been a great step forward towards the eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis in man.

No deaths from Tuberculosis were registered which in general terms is a reflection of the success of modern treatment.

The Mass Radiography Service which visits Districts in rotation, is playing a valuable part in the detection of unsuspected cases who would have become open sources of infection to others.

Also B.C.G. vaccination is being offered to school-children before they leave school, as adolescence is a very vulnerable age-group.

It is hoped that all the measures being taken against the disease, including those of a social nature, such as the relief of overcrowding and the elevation of the standard of nutrition, will witness its elimination in the foreseeable future.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you for your interest and assistance in the work of the Public Health Department and the staff for their most efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

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

Central Public Health Office,
1, Elwick Road,
Ashford, Kent.

Tel: No: Ashford 1485.

SECTION A.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

OF THE DISTRICT FOR 1958

AREA: 5,719 acres

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF:

The Resident Population	...	...	26,310
<u>NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES ACCORDING TO THE RATE BOOKS</u>	...	...	8,825
<u>NUMBER OF BUSINESS PREMISES</u>	...	...	1,055
<u>RATEABLE VALUE</u>	...	...	£358,126
<u>SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE</u>	...	...	£1,450

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Ashford is both an agricultural and an industrial town and a business and shopping centre for the large rural community which surrounds it. It merits importance by containing the largest agricultural market in Kent and in having a railway junction where five lines converge, associated with which is a large Railway Works. There is also a number of other Factories, including Cycle Works, Iron Foundry, Printing Works, Agricultural Repair Shops, Flour Mills, Marine and Industrial Works, Ordnance Depot, Bread Factory and a large Cannery.

At present there is little 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</u> <u>Urban</u> <u>District</u>	<u>Engle</u> <u>at</u> <u>Wash.</u>
1. Live Births	412	214	198	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	15.66 (Adjusted Rate 15.97)	16
(a) Legitimate	391	202	189			
(b) Illegitimate	21	12	9			
2. Stillbirths	6	3	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	14.35	26
(a) Legitimate	5	3	2			
(b) Illegitimate	1	-	1			
3. Total live and still- births	418	217	201			
4. Deaths	316	168	148	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	12.01 (Adjusted Rate 11.29)	17
5. Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	-	No Ave
6. Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age	4	1	3	Rate per 1,000 live births	9.71	25
(a) Legitimate	4	1	3	Rate per 1,000 live births (illegitimate)	10.23	
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 live births (illegitimate)	-	
7. Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of Age	2	-	2	Rate per 1,000 live births	4.85	
(a) Legitimate	2	-	2			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
8. Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births					5.1%	
9. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					53	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					-	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					-	
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)					-	

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT

DURING 1958

ALL CAUSES				Males	Females
				168	148
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	...	...	1	1
0.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	3	3
1.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	11	1
2.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	7
3.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	3
4.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	8	17
5.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	3	1
6.	Diabetes	...	...	1	2
7.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	21	30
8.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	38	14
9.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	6	6
0.	Other heart disease	...	...	19	31
1.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	9	5
2.	Influenza	...	...	1	4
3.	Pneumonia	...	...	8	6
4.	Bronchitis	...	...	14	3
5.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	3	2
6.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	-
7.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	-	-
8.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	2	1
9.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	3	-
0.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	-	-
1.	Congenital malformations	...	...	-	1
2.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	8	7
3.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	1
4.	All other accidents	...	...	2	2
5.	Suicide	...	...	3	-
6.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	-	-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1958

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	14	-	2
Dysentery	1	1	-
Erysipelas	6	-	-
Measles	8	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	2	-
Scarlet Fever	24	-	-
Whooping Cough	10	1	-

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	Unknown
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	1	5	2	-
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	-
Measles	2	-	1	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	1	1	16	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	1	1	-	-	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1958

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>				<u>Total Cases on Register</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	133	100	15	27
1 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 ...	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 ...	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 ...	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	4	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

No action was necessary during the year in accordance with the above powers.

There were no deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis of patients who had not been notified as suffering from this disease.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Diphtheria Immunisation, Whooping Cough Immunisation and
Smallpox Vaccination figures for 1958 based on record cards.

Year of Birth	Diphtheria Immunisation		Smallpox Vaccination		Whooping-cough Immunisation
	Primary	Reinforcing	Primary	Revaccination	Primary
1958	53	-	113	-	138
1957	200	5	140	-	164
1956	17	-	7	-	16
1955	-	-	-	-	-
1954	5	10	2	-	2
1953	2	144	2	-	2
1952	9	65	3	-	2
1951	3	6	1	-	1
1950	-	5	-	-	-
1949	2	1	-	-	-
1948	1	2	3	-	-
1947	1	1	1	1	-
1946	-	-	2	5	-
1945	-	1	1	5	-
1944	-	-	-	5	-
Before 1944	-	-	9	22	-
Total	293	240	284	38	325

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, 1958

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1958, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date, (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1944).

Year of Birth	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether Primary or Booster) 1954 - 1958	173	166	145	43	170	340	367	316	320	335	302	286	303	233	53	3,55
1953 or earlier	122	180	267	370	210	43	85	68	106	16	-	-	-	-	-	1,46

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION, 1958

The following table gives the numbers of persons resident in the district who received injections against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1958.

<u>Year of Birth</u>	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	Others
Given two injections	38	222	322	295	264	238	247	219	143	132	140	162	366	291	307	428
Given third injection	-	1	16	14	12	14	7	16	24	16	17	20	2	2	-	9

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE DISTRICT

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service which is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health is situated in Preston Hall, British Legion Village, Maidstone, and provides valuable services on behalf of the Public Health Departments of District Councils. For example samples of water, milk, ice cream and other food-stuffs are regularly examined, and in relation to Infectious Diseases their bacteriological reports are of great value.

The local General Hospitals also have their own Laboratories, which provide valuable services to the other local Hospitals, to the Consultants and to the Practitioners.

Ambulance and Hospital Car Service.

The County Council, being the Local Health Authority administers this service throughout Kent, but in this District, the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Ashford Corps (which incidentally is the oldest Corps in the Country), are responsible for the day to day execution of the service. There are five Ambulances in operation, manned by one Station Officer and nine full-time Driver/Attendants, and by a panel of St. John Volunteers, whose devotion to duty merits high appreciation. There are also four Sitting-case Cars for ambulant cases, which cope with approximately 90% of these cases. A few cars, when necessary are provided by a panel of volunteer private car owners, who are re-imbursed on a mileage basis of payment. The service is adequate for the needs of the District and is operated very efficiently.

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 2.0 p.m.

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

Sessions are held at 2.0 p.m. on alternate Fridays.

(iii) Women's Institute Hall, Faversham Road, Kennington

Sessions are held at 2.0 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

(iv) The Community Centre, Beaver Lane, South Ashford.

Sessions are held at 2.0 p.m. on 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays of each month.

School Medical Service Clinics

The following clinics of the School Medical Service are held at the main Station Road Clinic.

- (a) Dental Clinic
- (b) Ophthalmic Clinic
- (c) Speech Therapy Clinic

(d) Orthopaedic Clinic

This clinic is held at 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.

Venereal Diseases Clinic

This clinic is held at Ashford Hospital on Wednesdays 9 - 1 p.m. and Fridays 2 - 6 p.m.

Tuberculosis Clinic

This clinic is held at Ashford Hospital on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9.30.

Hospitals

- (a) Ashford General - accommodation 138 beds
- (b) Willesborough General - accommodation 137 beds
- (c) Infectious Diseases - accommodation 40 beds

4. Private Nursing Homes

There are now no Private Nursing Homes in the Urban District.

5. Home Nursing and Midwifery Services

The County Council also administers these services. On the local staff, there are six full-time and three part-time Home Nurse/Midwives who are engaged in Midwifery and Maternity Nursing and in the Home Nursing of the sick. The standard of service given by the Nurses is excellent and there is complete co-operation between them and the Practitioners. The majority of patients nursed in their homes are elderly chronic sick, many of whom are awaiting beds in Chronic Sick Hospitals which are still inadequate to cope with the waiting list.

6. The Maternity and Child Welfare Service

This service is also administered by the County Council. There are four Child Welfare Centres within the District, which are conveniently situated for mothers, and the attendances are well maintained. The value of these Clinics is reflected in the gradually falling Infant Mortality rate in the District. Every baby brought to the Clinic is regularly examined and weighed to ensure that no unsuspected defects exist and that growth is normal and vigorous. The sale of essential foods and vitamin complements at cost price is also of value to mothers. Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough and vaccination against Smallpox and Poliomyelitis are also available at these clinics.

7. The Domestic Help Service, the Family Help Service, Evening and Night Attendant Service and the Child Care Service

(a) The Domestic Help Service of the County Council has become a very important health service in the home and has rapidly expanded within recent years. The service is administered peripherally by Area and Local Domestic Help Organisations and the assessment of income of the applicants is done by the District Officer. In this District there is an adequate pool of Domestic Helps who are paid 3/11d. per hour and there is a sliding scale of charges based on the family income of the applicant, the maximum charge being 3/11d. per hour.

The majority of those who benefit from the service are the aged and infirm and chronic sick and most of these receive the service free of charge. Regard, however, should be given to the fact that many would degenerate into Chronic Sick Hospital cases, without this service, where maintenance costs would far exceed the cost of domestic help. The service is also of great value to young mothers and to those mothers, who are discharged from Hospital following operations, and others suffering from miscellaneous illnesses. The service

relieves anxiety and stress in the home particularly where there are children under five years of age and aids the recovery of the mother from illness.

(b) The Family Help Service

Prior to the recent introduction of this service, it was necessary to remove children, particularly those under five years of age, to expensive Children's Institutions from families in which the mother was absent from home through severe illness, death, estrangement, desertion or separation or other cause. The service is designed to provide help and care for the children whilst the father is at work and the Family Help may be required to reside in the home. The maximum period of help is for three months, during which period the father is expected to make permanent arrangements for the care of his children. This is a valuable service and although there is only a small number of families who require this help, expensive institutional maintenance, particularly where there is a large number of children in one family, is obviated.

(c) Evening Attendant Service

This service is designed to provide help to old people living alone but who do not require more help than half to one hours attention before retiring for the night. The number of old people who require this service is, however, not considerable.

(d) Night Attendant Service

This service provides for people of all ages who are seriously ill and live alone. The helpers usually go at 10 p.m. and stay until 7 a.m. the following morning, and attend each night, including Sunday, until the patient recovers or dies or is removed to hospital. Assistance is also given for several nights to relatives who are unable to stay every night throughout. This service has proved to be of great value to old people living alone, most of whom have strong nostalgic attachments to their homes.

(e) Child Care Service

This domestic help service was introduced by the County Council to help the so-called Problem Families, the objectives being threefold; to raise the standard of living of these families, to improve the standard of Child Care, and to prevent the break-up of the family.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

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

There are four gravel-screen bore-holes, each with pumping plant installed capable of abstracting 10,000 gallons per hour from each bore-hole. 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 gallons) 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 66,000 gallons 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 borehole approximately 200 feet deep, being raised by compressed air into a storage adit. It is then pumped by Reciprocating Centrifugal pumps to a covered reservoir at Broomfields (100,000 gallons) 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 Public Health Laboratory Service samples for bacteriological examination are taken from the sources, reservoirs and points of the distribution network at the rate of eight each month from the Ashford Urban District Council's own supplies and one from the Mid-Kent Water Company's supply network in the district. Samples for chemical analysis are also taken, before and after treatment from the three sources at quarterly intervals. The Mid-Kent Water Company take three samples monthly from the sources of their supplies to the district.

Examination of Samples taken during the Year

	<u>Bacteriological</u>		<u>Chemical</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Results</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Results</u>
Raw Water	85	67 Satisfactory 18 Unsatisfactory	8	Satisfactory
Treated Water	77	Satisfactory	12	Satisfactory

The unsatisfactory samples of raw water were derived from Henwood Pumping Station following very heavy rainfalls. Survey indicated possible sources of pollution and after steps were taken to remove these and heavy rains ceased the supply slowly returned to normal. The treated water remained satisfactory throughout but with the development of the town this source has become more vulnerable and an alternative supply becomes necessary.

There are five houses not connected to the public supply mains, four of these are situate in Beaver Lane. 8,820 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.

(iii) Godmersham

The water source is from two borings into the chalk (each 200 feet deep). Some water is pumped to the Hastingsleigh Reservoir and enters the supply network and also supplies the water tower (100,000 gallons capacity) of the Batchelors Foods Factory.

Drainage and Sewerage

No new public sewerage schemes were undertaken, but small extensions to existing system were made to serve private development.

Total number of inhabited houses (including Flats) is	...	8,825
Total number of houses connected to the sewers	...	8,591
Number of houses not connected to the sewers	...	234

Swimming Baths

The Swimming Bath water is chlorinated by a break-point chlorinator and there is also an electric suction sweeper for cleansing the basin of the bath. The size of the bath is 100 x 25 yards, and its capacity 600,000 gallons. Samples of the water sent for bacteriological examination were satisfactory.

Disinfection

The number of disinfections of houses after infectious disease dropped to four, of which three followed the removal of tuberculous persons in an infectious state.

Eradication of Vermin

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

	<u>Bugs</u>	<u>Flies</u>	<u>Cockroaches</u>
Council houses	-	10	9
Other houses	2	6	4

The number of bug infestations has continued to decline. Flea infestations were less, probably due to the coolness of the summer, but a more widespread possession and use of vacuum cleaners will help finally to eliminate the pest. One instance of flea resistance to the chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticide group was found - where the housewife had been in the habit of using a trace of D.D.T. powder about the house. Only thirty-one wasps nests had to be dealt with, but invasion of houses by ants gave rise to an increased number of complaints. Twenty-eight such infestations were dealt with, twenty in Council houses.

The arrangements with the Hospital Authority whereby an infestation service is provided for the local General Hospitals and the Isolation Hospital were continued and operated satisfactorily.

During the Easter and Whitsun Holidays selected parts of nine school kitchen buildings in the district were sprayed to afford a persisting fly control.

6. Rats and Mice Destruction

Domestic house rodent infestation (dealt with free) was higher than last year and numbered 145 (86 rats and 59 mice infestation) and necessitated 491 visits. Rats and mice infestation on business premises which were dealt with during the year numbered 16 and 19 respectively and directly involved 157 visits.

In 1957 the method of control of rats in the towns' sewerage system was changed from treatment at all available baiting places on the system to (a) baiting of all access points in the town centre (where there is likely to be a reservoir of infestation in and near the brick barrel sewers) and (b) the baiting of about one in ten of manholes selected junctions over the rest of the system. In order to check the efficacy of the method, (with the approval of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) a complete testing of all access points on the sewerage system was undertaken. Over three hundred manholes were tested. The results indicated an almost entire absence of infestation in the sewerage system as a whole and a light infestation in parts of the town centre. This clearly supported continuing treatments on the lines adopted during recent years.

Careful control has been exercised to prevent rats establishing themselves in the Brookfield Road Council Refuse Tip and has been successful.

7. Clean Air Act

During the year notification of the installation of five furnaces was received. The number of observations and visits in connection with smoke emissions increased substantially and serious attempts were made to obtain co-operation in implementing the Act. This work of necessity takes time, but worthwhile progress has been made.

In view of the size of Ashford and its situation surrounded by miles of open country, no Bylaw has been adopted limiting the fuel appliances to approved types. Should Ashford expand and industrialize substantially this may have to be reviewed.

8. Analysis of Public Health Inspectors Visits

				No. of Visits and re-visits
Bakehouses	...	...	...	18
Butchers	...	...	...	73
Dairies	...	...	...	44
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	38
Itinerant Vendors and Stalls or delivery vans	...	...	...	261
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	14
Registered Food Manufacturers (not included under Butchers)	...	...	...	22
Restaurants, Cafe and School Canteens and Works Canteens and Clubs	...	...	...	56
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	476
Other food premises	...	...	...	208
Rats and Mice Destruction	...	...	...	108
Other Vermin	...	...	...	65
Council House Inspections	...	...	...	110
Old Persons	...	...	...	29
Dirty Houses	...	...	... (Council 44)	68
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	35
Offensive Accumulations or Deposits	...	...	...	51
Offensive Odours	...	...	...	39
Dustbins	...	...	...	4

No. of Visits
and re-visits

Housing, adequacy of	...	...	...	49
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	5
Houses inspected re defects under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	915
Improvements Grants	...	...	...	24
Rent Act	...	...	...	76
Drain Testing	...	...	...	70
Drainage Work and Survey	...	...	...	261
Water Supply	...	...	...	219
Smoke abatement - Observations	...	...	...	66
Visits	...	...	...	55
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	227
Pets Act	...	...	...	2
Shops Act	...	...	...	22
Food Poisoning Enquiries	...	...	...	-
Infectious Disease Enquiries	...	...	...	26

Improvements and Repairs Effected

Total

Roof repairs	...	...	...	21
Chimney stacks repaired and rebuilt	...	...	...	18
Eaves, gutters and fall pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	44
Brickwork repaired	...	...	...	7
Brickwork, pointing renewed	...	...	...	7
Outbuildings	...	...	...	1
External rendering repaired or renewed	...	...	...	9
Yard Paving	...	...	...	12
Window frames repaired or renewed	...	...	...	13
Sashcords repaired or renewed	...	...	...	16
Putties renewed	...	...	...	8
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	25
Rooms redecorated	...	...	...	7
External painting	...	...	...	7
Floors repaired	...	...	...	27
Dampness in walls remedied	...	...	...	40
Dampness in floors	...	...	...	4
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	25
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	6
Sub-floor ventilation imposed	...	...	...	9
Window sills repaired	...	...	...	19
Fireplaces or stoves renewed or repaired	...	...	...	4
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	2
Wash coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	1
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	4
Lighting improved	...	...	...	2
Water supply pipes provided or renewed	...	...	...	19
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	-
Foodstores improved	...	...	...	1
Cooking facilities remedied	...	...	...	4

Drainage Works

Houses at which drains were repaired	...	...	...	24
Houses at which drains were renewed entirely	...	...	...	2
Choked drains cleared (not by Department)	...	...	...	3
Choked drains cleared (by Department)	...	...	...	4
Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	...	4
Inspection chambers built or covers renewed	...	...	...	4

Soil and Vent pipes fixed or repaired	...	...	3
Sink waste pipes renewed	...	...	7
Sinks renewed	...	...	9
Draining boards renewed or provided	...	...	2
W.C. Pans fixed	...	...	9
W.C. seats renewed	...	...	3
W.C.'s repaired or rebuilt	...	...	4
New flushing cisterns provided	...	...	6
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	7
Gully traps renewed	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	15

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health
(including inspection made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Reg- ister	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
i) Factories in which Section 1,2,3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authority	24	5	1	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority	121	31	3	-
iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	2	-	-	-
Total	147	36	4	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number cases in which Prosecution were Instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	8	8	-	2	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Convenience					
(a) insufficient	4	4	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	3	3	-	-	-
Total	16	16	-	2	-

SECTION D.

HOUSING

The number of dwellings completed during the year was as follows:-

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1946 - 1958</u> <u>(inclusive)</u>
(i) Prefabricated temporary bungalows	-	144
(ii) New Permanent houses:-		
<u>Woolreeds Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	9
(b) 3 " "	-	364
(c) 4 " "	-	21
(d) 2 " maisonettes (Court Wurtin)	-	8
<u>Musgrove Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	40
(b) 3 " "	-	73
(c) 4 " "	-	3
<u>Osborne Road Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	28
(b) 3 " "	-	175
(c) 4 " "	-	4
<u>Aylesford Green Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	6
(b) 3 " "	-	10
<u>Beaver Green Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	8	42
(b) 3 " "	15	110
<u>Burton Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	58
(b) 3 " "	-	94
<u>Repton Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	30
(b) 3 " "	-	60
(iii) <u>Flats</u>		
<u>Croft Road</u>		
(a) Bed-sitting room type	-	2
(b) 2 bedroom type	-	1
(c) 1 bedroom type	-	3
<u>Musgrove Estate</u>		
(a) Gregory Flats	-	28
(b) Bed-sitting room type	-	16
(c) 2 bedroom Easiform type	-	16

Woolreeds Estate

(a) Bed-sitting room type	-	6
(b) 2 bedroom type	-	6

Osborne Road Estate

(a) 3 bedroom type	-	1
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Godfrey Walk

(a) Bed-sitting room type	-	13
(b) 1 bedroom type	-	27
(c) 2 bedroom type	-	28

Beaver Green Estate

(a) Gregory Flats	-	28
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Aylesford Green Estate

(a) 2 bedroom type	-	20
(b) 1 bedroom type	-	12

East Stour Farm

Repton Estate	-	48
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(iv) Old People's Bungalows

(a) Burton Estate	-	12
(b) Beaver Green Estate		4

Total number of units provided by the Council 23 1,563

Number provided by private enterprise 155 762

Analysis of Applications for Council houses registered to 30-6-59

Living in Ashford - inadequately housed

Childless couples	...	...	...	80
One child families	...	...	...	65
Two/Three child families	...	...	...	41
Four or more child families	...	...	...	2 188

Living in Ashford - adequately housed

Childless Couples	...	...	...	63
One child families	...	...	...	74
Two/Three child families	...	...	...	38
Four or more child families	...	...	...	5 180

Living elsewhere, working in Ashford - inadequately housed

Childless Couples	...	...	...	7
One child families	...	...	...	13
Two/Three child families	...	...	...	17
Four or more child families	...	...	...	4 41

Living elsewhere, working in Ashford - adequately housed

Childless Couples	...	...	...	24
One child families	...	...	...	17
Two/Three child families	...	...	...	32
Four or more child families	...	...	...	2 75

Applicants for bed-sitting room flats of whom 12 are householders	19
Applicants for old peoples dwellings of whom 50 are householders	70

Total	573

Dampness from use of oil heaters

There has been a marked increase in the use of oil vapourisers in the home for direct heating and this has been accompanied, especially where thermal insulation is not high (e.g. in prefabricated bungalows), by severe dampness due to condensation. The whole products of combustion, which are said to include $1\frac{1}{2}$ pints of water for every gallon of oil burned, are passed into the air of the room, where, in contact with cooler surfaces a substantial part of the moisture is given up. When flue and other openings are sealed - as sometimes happens - the dampness is aggravated.

Slum Clearance

As part of the programme, eleven houses and six dwellings forming parts of buildings were closed. The rehousing of persons displaced by slum clearance proceeded. In addition the Minister approved the inclusion of the Council's property Waterside House (4 flats) in slum clearance. Houses and parts of houses closed since the programme got under way total 41. It became increasingly evident that a more complete survey of the many poor standard properties in the area was necessary, but could not be undertaken with existing staff, and the Council agreed to the employment of an additional Inspector.

Rent Act, 1957

The overall effect, despite shortcomings, has been beneficial on the general repair and maintenance of private rented houses. Requests for Certificates of Disrepair were received in 41 instances, four of which were not justified. Undertakings were given by landlords in all but four of the remainder, and during the year only six certificates had to be issued. Unfortunately, much time was taken up in answering queries and 76 visits were made in the operation of the Act.

SECTION B.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supplies

An order came into operations on 14th April, 1958, which brought Ashford within the category of 'specified area' and required that no undesignated milk may henceforth be sold retail in the area.

There are twenty-two registered distributors of milk and nine dairies registered with the local authority.

Dairies are regularly inspected to ensure that the standards prescribed by the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 are maintained. Samples of milk, in course of delivery, are taken regularly. Periodic samples of milk are taken from retailers for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and no sample revealed a tubercle infection.

During the year, the following samples were taken for examination in accordance with the tests prescribed by the Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Regulations.

			<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	9	-
Sterilised	...	...	1	-
Pasteurised	...	...	15	-
Undesignated	...	...	1	-

2. Ice Cream

Sampling was again mainly concentrated on sales of loose ice cream, as experience has shown that whereas prepacked ice cream is produced and sold at a high standard, the same ice cream is liable to contamination where it is sold loose and there is any relaxation in the sterilization of service equipment. The samples of ice cream sold loose included some from itinerant vendors.

<u>Ice Cream</u>	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>	<u>Total</u>
Samples of 'loose'	12	6	1	2	21
Samples prepacked	2	-	2	1	5
	14	6	3	3	26

The Grade 3+ samples of pre-packed ice cream were not from a manufacturer of national repute. One catering establishment locally produces ice cream by the complete cold mix process and retails it 'loose'.

Some 92 shops and four school premises are now registered for the sale of ice cream. Compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations is first necessary. Practically all ice cream sold from registered premises is sold pre-packed.

3. Meat and other Foods

Unsound Food (Food and Drugs Act, 1938)

Unsound Food Surrendered

		<u>lbs.</u>			<u>lbs.</u>
Sausages	...	1	Dried Fruit	...	125
Tinned Milk	...	146 $\frac{1}{4}$	Ham	...	115 $\frac{1}{2}$
Vegetables	...	338 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brawn	...	1
Soup	...	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tongue	...	57 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fruit	...	885 $\frac{1}{2}$	Corned Beef	...	357
Pudding	...	3	Veal Loaf and Beef Loaf	...	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tomatoes	...	431 $\frac{3}{4}$	Bacon	...	316 $\frac{3}{4}$
Paste	...	$\frac{1}{4}$	Stewed Steak	...	45
Pudding Mix	...	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Luncheon Meat	...	243 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cereal	...	1	Fish	...	60 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chicken	...	10	Cheese	...	60
Spaghetti	...	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Flour	...	22
Macaroni	...	2	Pork	...	14
Dog and Cat Food	...	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Fruit Juices	...	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mince meat	...	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Jam	...	20
Fruit Cake	...	3	Marmalade	...	2
Sweets	...	11	Cream	...	$\frac{1}{2}$
Marzipan	...	12	Brisket	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ducks	...	40

Total weight condemned: 2 tons 16 cwt. 2 Qrs. 4 lbs.

Rejected meat from the slaughterhouse, unfit bacon and butchers meat is slashed and soaked with green aniline dye after which it is removed for the manufacture of by-products in another part of the county. Other foodstuffs, comprising mainly unsound tinned foods are disposed of by dumping at the Council's

refuse dump where controlled tipping is practiced.

A serious leak in the refrigerant in a butcher's cold store resulted in the liberation of sulphur dioxide gas. Some bleaching of meat occurred. In view of the prohibition (with exception) of preservatives in food, a number of samples were taken to assess the degree of contamination. Guided by the analysts reports most of the meat was trimmed and released - some only for manufacturing purposes.

A regular inspection was commenced of poultry/^{entered} in the local market auction.

Food Hygiene

It is regretted that routine inspection of food premises did not receive the attention that it needed during the year owing to many demands on staff time. A survey follows to give an indication of some of the positive improvements in food premises achieved during the year though they do not record voluntary improvements made.

There are some 26 premises registered for the manufacture of meat products (mostly sausages).

Food Premises Improvements 'on request' Analysis

Clothes storage remedied	8
First Aid outfit provided	21
Wash-hand notices fixed up	11
Wash hand basins installed	15
Towels, Soap or Nailbrushes remedied	13
Sinks (inadequate or unsuitable) provided	8
Hot water provided	7
Washing up agents improved	8
Wall finishes made hygienic	11
Floor finish made hygienic	11
Preparation table tops unhygienic	17
Cold storage arrangements remedied	1
Food Storage remedied	8
Lighting remedied	6
Ventilation improved	3
Exposed food protected	17
Lack cleanliness remedied	5
Food wrapping made satisfactory	-
Warnings re smoking	7
Warnings re temperature control food	2
Redecoration	7
Miscellaneous	16

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	618	241	65	2324	4600	-
Number inspected	618	241	65	2324	4600	-
<u>1 diseases except Tuberculosis</u> <u>2 Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	2	2	17	10	-
Parts of which some part or organ was condemned	100	136	3	171	756	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and cysticerci	16.19	57.261	7.70	8.09	16.66	-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Hors
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	2	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	8	-	-	103	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.62	3.31	1.53	0.04	2.29	
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	

The general standard of quality of the animals slaughtered for local butchers continues to be very high and although, in order to meet the national shortage of imported chilled beef, there was a substantial increase in the number of cows slaughtered, these too were generally of good quality and relatively free from disease. The tuberculosis eradication scheme has brought this about. The existing slaughterhouses, situate in centre part of the town fall far short of necessary public health requirements and other considerations. There is urgent need for adequate modern slaughtering facilities available to this market town and centre.



