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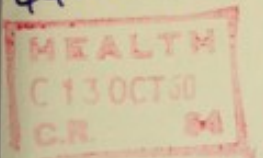
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ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1959

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)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE

LOCAL AUTHORITY, 1959

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 Inspectors

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

PRATT, S. M.A.P.H.I.

ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, KENT

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and
Senior Public Health Inspector for the Year 1959.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1959.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 26,550 - an increase of 240 over that of the previous year.

Live Births and Rate

The number of live births was 381 (220 M. 161 F.) which was less by 31 than that of the previous year. The crude birth-rate was accordingly 14.35 which after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution becomes 14.64 and was lower than that of 16.5 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

The number of stillbirths was 9 (7 M. 2 F.) and the corresponding rate was 23.08, being slightly higher than that of 20.07 for England and Wales.

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

Five infant deaths were registered, four of which were under four weeks of age, and the corresponding infantile mortality rate was 13.12 which compares favourably with that of 22.0 for England and Wales.

The causes of death were:-

- (1) Prematurity (9 hours)
- (2) Birth Injury (14 hours)
- (3) Atelectasis (5 minutes)
- (4) Pulmonary Syndrome (3 days)
- (5) Tracheo-laryngitis (1 month)

Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

This rate was nil, as there were no deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion.

Total Deaths and Death Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 296 (163 M. 133 F.) and the crude death rate was accordingly 11.15; after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, as for births, the rate is reduced to 10.48, which was lower than that of 11.6 for England and Wales.

The chief group cause of deaths was Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System as these are the natural end causes of death amongst the aged; of these there were 149 deaths.

Disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart, however, is not wholly a senile disease, for it claims many victims in middle-age when their responsibilities are at their highest. There were 42 of these deaths the ages at death having ranged from 48 to 87 years; 6 of these were between 50 and 60 years, and 13 between 60 and 70 years. The deaths also predominated amongst males, the ratio of males to females having been approximately 3 to 1. It is probable that excessive smoking is a

contributory cause, as with Lung Cancer, but the primary cause is still obscure although extensive research is being devoted to it. Atheroma of the Coronary Artery would also seem to be a growing cause of deaths, as demonstrated by post-mortem findings and it is possible that the increasing consumption of sophisticated foods such as 'battery' eggs and 'broiler' fowls may be associated with its causation.

Cancer, as in previous years, was the second highest cause of deaths; of these there were 68, excluding one death from Leukaemia. Having regard to the insidious nature of the disease, procrastination by patients, the majority of whom are senile, is the most common factor in late diagnosis. If the diagnosis is established reasonably early, modern treatment has the potentiality to effect either a complete cure or to prolong life for many useful years.

Cancer of the Lung caused a disturbing total of 20 deaths, the ages at death having ranged from 51 to 76 years; of these 8 or 40% were between the ages of 51 and 60 years, 9 or 45% between the ages of 61 and 70 years and 3 or 15% between the ages of 71 and 80 years. Cancer of the Lung, therefore, like Coronary Thrombosis, is responsible for many deaths in middle-age, and it is difficult to ignore the hypothesis or fact that the inhalation of tobacco smoke over a period of years eventually stimulates the growth of Cancer cells in the lungs, although there may be complementary factors such as vitiated atmospheres or atmospheric pollution. Since 1950, when Carcinoma of the Lung and Bronchus were separately classified by the Registrar General, the number of deaths in successive years has been 3, 6, 6, 9, 8, 11, 10, 10, 12 and 20, and from these figures it is obvious that the numbers are increasing year by year and that in 1959 the total had virtually doubled the average of the previous five years. The inhalation of tobacco smoke is also the cause of a considerable number of cases of Bronchitis and Emphysema with coughing and catarrh.

It is undisputable that smoking is a form of drug addiction and responsible parents should exert all their influence to prevent their children from beginning this addiction which can lead to permanent damage to the lungs, or later possibly to Lung Cancer.

The third highest cause of deaths was Bronchitis, which were mainly amongst the elderly; of these there were 18 deaths. Although a hereditary disposition is one of the chief factors in the morbidity of Bronchitis, contributory causes are, as stated above, the inhalation of tobacco smoke and vitiated atmospheres.

The other causes of death were heterogeneous and there was no exceptional influence.

There were no deaths from the Infectious Diseases, which no later than twenty-five years ago, would have been regarded as having been incredible. Since then, remarkable advances have been achieved in medical science; for example, the introduction of the Sulpha drugs in 1936, and later of the Antibiotics has revolutionised their treatment; in the field of prevention, the various immunisation procedures have seen the virtual disappearance of the killer Diphtheria and in the more immediate past, vaccination against Poliomyelitis and Whooping Cough appear to be having their desired effect.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

Measles

There was a small outbreak of Measles, 57 cases having been notified. Measles is primarily an endemic infection of schoolchildren and outbreaks occur when a sufficient number of susceptible children has aggregated, usually every second year. It is most infectious in the early catarrhal phase, before the appearance of the tell-tale rash, when it is confused by parents with the common cold, and who continue to send their children off to school, where the virus is rapidly disseminated in the close contact of the class-rooms. It is therefore impracticable to prevent its spread.

School-children carry the infection back to their pre-school brothers and sisters, and as the disease is most dangerous to infants, they should be kept from infection for as long as possible. Serious complications are not common; these are in order of frequency (1) Broncho-pneumonia (2) Otitis Media and (3) Encephalitis or Myelo-Encephalitis.

Gamma globulin is available from the Public Health Laboratory, Preston Hall, to provide passive immunity to an exposed susceptible child who may be suffering from some other illness but in practice, it would seem that it is seldom required for this purpose.

Scarlet Fever

Thirty-three cases of this infection were notified. These occurred sporadically throughout the District during the year. The infection in its present phase is mild, and the serious complications of former years, such as Otitis Media, Nephritis and Endocarditis are seldom met with today; it is known, however, that Type 12 of the Haemolytic Streptococcus may cause Acute Nephritis.

The majority of cases are treated at home, as shown by the fact that only five of the thirty-three cases were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, and those were admitted chiefly for social domestic reasons to prevent the spread of the infection to other children in the family.

Erysipelas

Three cases of this infection of the skin were notified. As the causal organism is the same as that of Scarlet Fever, cases are more frequent when the latter is prevalent. In former years, Erysipelas, like Scarlet Fever, was a serious disease, and caused many deaths, but the introduction of specific treatment by the Sulpha drugs and by the Antibiotics has reduced the mortality to practically nil.

Whooping Cough

Only seven cases of this distressful children's infection were notified. There is sound reason for optimism that protective vaccination which is done in routine practice at the Child Welfare Clinics and also by the family Practitioners, is placing a barrier against outbreaks of this disease, and if so, another triumph of preventive medicine over a serious infection will have been accomplished.

Food Poisoning

Three cases of Food Poisoning were notified. The causal organism viz. *Clostridium Welchii* was isolated from pork which the patients, (three boys, aged 9, 11 and 13 years) had eaten. The pork had been cooked wrapped in foil in a gas oven on the 15th August, when part of it was consumed by the parents and the three boys without any untoward consequence. The pork was then placed in an unventilated cupboard in a scullery facing south, during hot weather. On the 17th August, in the absence of their mother, the boys prepared a cold pork and vegetable meal at twelve noon. At 4 p.m., that is about four hours later, they all became ill with severe vomiting followed by diarrhoea and dehydration. They were immediately admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital where, after appropriate treatment, the vomiting and diarrhoea ceased after 48 hours, and they were discharged, fully recovered, on the 21st August. The Gastro-enteritis was presumably caused by the toxin of the *Cl. Welchii*, which had not been destroyed in the process of cooking and which in the interim two days had multiplied in the pork producing their toxin. No *Cl. Welchii* were isolated from the vomit or stools of the three boys.

Dysentery

One isolated case of Sonne Dysentery was notified and there was no evidence to point to the source of infection. Sonne Dysentery is usually a mild illness with some nausea or vomiting and moderate diarrhoea.

Many patients do not feel sufficiently ill to necessitate consulting their Practitioners, and in consequence there are many convalescent or chronic carriers of the organism. The washing of hands after toilet, particularly in public conveniences, and before meals is the best safeguard against all bowel infections.

Fuerperal Pyrexia

Six cases were notified, five having been from a local Hospital and each received early specific treatment, without further complications.

Poliomyelitis

No cases of this serious infectious disease were notified during the year, and it is probable that the vaccination scheme, which began in 1956 and gained momentum in 1957 when greater supplies of vaccine became available, is already placing a barrier against outbreaks of the disease. The last notified case was in 1957. A later table gives the number of individuals vaccinated during the year. The scheme has now been extended to adults of forty years or under, and it is hoped that these will come forward in increasing numbers.

Tuberculosis

Only five new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified, compared with eight in the previous year and the annual average of twenty in the immediate post-war years. There has therefore been a progressive decline in the notification rate particularly since 1950, and it is noteworthy to record that this decline is most noticeable in the adolescent age-group, which contained the highest national notification rate prior to 1950. Improving environmental conditions such as the relief of overcrowding and improving nutritional standards are amongst the factors which have augmented the power of resistance in complement with the B.C.G. scheme through which an increasing number of 'school-leavers' are being vaccinated. The reservoirs of infection are also falling as more and more open cases are ascertained and treated and in this respect the Mass Radiography Service is performing a valuable part.

There were three deaths, at the ages of 46, 65 and 81 years. Modern treatment has gained supremacy over this disease, if not too advanced and the declining death-rate is a reflection of this.

It is also noteworthy to record that there were no new cases of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis. The fact that only Designated Milks may now be sold in the area is having a far-reaching effect in the eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis which has in former years been the cause of innumerable deaths or severe deformity and disablement. Appreciation should be expressed to the Public Health Inspectors for their thorough inspection of meat in inconvenient slaughter-houses which have for years been out-dated and out-moded.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest and support in the work of the Department and also the staff for their competence and loyal co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

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

Central Public Health Office,
14, Church Road,
Ashford, Kent.

Tel: No: Ashford 1485.

SECTION A.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

OF THE DISTRICT FOR 1959

AREA 5,719 acres

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF:

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|----------|
| The Resident Population | ... | ... | 26,550 |
| <u>NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES ACCORDING</u> <u>TO THE RATE BOOKS</u> | ... | ... | 9,000 |
| <u>NUMBER OF BUSINESS PREMISES</u> | ... | ... | 1,060 |
| <u>RATEABLE VALUE</u> | ... | ... | £390,897 |
| <u>SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE</u> | ... | ... | £1,600 |

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Ashford is both an agricultural and an industrial town and a busy 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, Light Engineering 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 satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

| | Total | M. | F. | | Ashford Urban District | England and Wales |
|---|-------|-----|-----|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Live Births | 381 | 220 | 161 | Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population | 14.35 (Adjusted Rate 14.64) | 16.5 |
| (a) Legitimate | 364 | 210 | 154 | | | |
| (b) Illegitimate | 17 | 10 | 7 | | | |
| Stillbirths | 9 | 7 | 2 | Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births | 23.08 | 20.7 |
| (a) Legitimate | 9 | 7 | 2 | | | |
| (b) Illegitimate | - | - | - | | | |
| Total live and stillbirths | 390 | 227 | 168 | | | |
| Deaths | 296 | 163 | 133 | Death rate per 1,000 resident population | 11.15 (Adjusted Rate 10.48) | 11.6 |
| Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion | - | - | - | Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births | - | Not available |
| Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age | 5 | 3 | 2 | Rate per 1,000 live births | 13.12 | 22.0 |
| (a) Legitimate | 5 | 3 | 2 | Rate per 1,000 live births (legitimate) | 13.76 | |
| (b) Illegitimate | - | - | - | Rate per 1,000 live births (illegitimate) | - | |
| Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of Age | 4 | 2 | 2 | Rate per 1,000 live births | 10.50 | 15.8 |
| (a) Legitimate | 4 | 2 | 2 | | | |
| (b) Illegitimate | - | - | - | | | |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births | | | | | 4.72% | |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | | ... | ... | | 68 | |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | | ... | ... | | - | |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | | ... | ... | | - | |
| Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages) | | | | | 1 | |

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT

DURING 1959

| | | | | Males | Females |
|------------|---|-----|-----|-------|---------|
| ALL CAUSES | | | | 163 | 153 |
| 1. | Tuberculosis, respiratory | ... | ... | 1 | 2 |
| 2. | Tuberculosis, other | ... | ... | - | - |
| 3. | Syphilitic disease | ... | ... | 1 | - |
| 4. | Diphtheria | ... | ... | - | - |
| 5. | Whooping Cough | ... | ... | - | - |
| 6. | Meningococcal infections | ... | ... | - | - |
| 7. | Acute Poliomyelitis | ... | ... | - | - |
| 8. | Measles | ... | ... | - | - |
| 9. | Other infective and parasitic diseases | ... | ... | - | - |
| 10. | Malignant neoplasm, stomach | ... | ... | 7 | 3 |
| 11. | Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | ... | ... | 17 | 3 |
| 12. | Malignant neoplasm, breast | ... | ... | - | 6 |
| 13. | Malignant neoplasm, uterus | ... | ... | - | 4 |
| 14. | Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | ... | ... | 14 | 14 |
| 15. | Leukaemia, aleukaemia | ... | ... | - | 1 |
| 16. | Diabetes | ... | ... | 1 | 2 |
| 17. | Vascular lesions of nervous system | ... | ... | 17 | 18 |
| 18. | Coronary disease, angina | ... | ... | 32 | 10 |
| 19. | Hypertension with heart disease | ... | ... | 5 | 9 |
| 20. | Other heart disease | ... | ... | 18 | 23 |
| 21. | Other circulatory disease | ... | ... | 9 | 8 |
| 22. | Influenza | ... | ... | 2 | 1 |
| 23. | Pneumonia | ... | ... | 4 | 3 |
| 24. | Bronchitis | ... | ... | 11 | 7 |
| 25. | Other diseases of respiratory system | ... | ... | 2 | 1 |
| 26. | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | ... | ... | - | - |
| 27. | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | ... | ... | 1 | - |
| 28. | Nephritis and nephrosis | ... | ... | 2 | - |
| 29. | Hyperplasia of prostate | ... | ... | 5 | - |
| 30. | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | ... | ... | - | - |
| 31. | Congenital malformations | ... | ... | 2 | 1 |
| 32. | Other defined and ill-defined diseases | ... | ... | 3 | 13 |
| 33. | Motor vehicle accidents | ... | ... | 5 | - |
| 34. | All other accidents | ... | ... | 2 | 2 |
| 35. | Suicide | ... | ... | 2 | 2 |
| 36. | Homicide and operations of war | ... | ... | - | - |

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1959

| Disease | Total Cases Notified | Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital | Total Deaths |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------|
| Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia | 6 | - | - |
| Dysentery | 1 | - | - |
| Erysipelas | 3 | - | - |
| Food Poisoning | 3 | 3 | - |
| Measles | 57 | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 6 | 1 | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 33 | 5 | - |
| Whooping Cough | 7 | - | - |

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 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 1 | - |
| Dysentery | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 |
| Food Poisoning | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Measles | - | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 5 | - | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 26 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1952

| <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 | 98 | 15 | 28 |
| 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 55 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65 and upwards | - | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - |
| Total | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | 2 | - | - |

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 three 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 1959.

| Year of Birth | Diphtheria Immunisation | | Smallpox Vaccination | | Whooping-cough Immunisation |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| | Primary | Reinforcing | Primary | Revaccination | Primary |
| 1959 | 52 | - | 112 | - | 144 |
| 1958 | 208 | - | 142 | - | 170 |
| 1957 | 31 | 1 | 2 | - | 13 |
| 1956 | 3 | - | 4 | - | 5 |
| 1955 | 6 | 8 | - | - | 5 |
| 1954 | 8 | 125 | 2 | - | 3 |
| 1953 | 1 | 33 | - | - | - |
| 1952 | 1 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 |
| 1951 | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 1950 | - | - | - | 3 | - |
| 1949 | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | - |
| 1948 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 1947 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| 1946 | - | - | 1 | 2 | - |
| 1945 | - | - | 1 | 5 | - |
| Before 1945 | - | 1 | 9 | 14 | - |
| Total | 312 | 182 | 276 | 30 | 344 |

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, 1959

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1959, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date, (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1945).

| Year of Birth | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | Total |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| At least complete course of injections (whether Primary or booster) 1955 - 1959 | 137 | 122 | 32 | 58 | 132 | 355 | 316 | 305 | 238 | 329 | 294 | 306 | 265 | 261 | 52 | 3,202 |
| 1944 or earlier | 209 | 290 | 382 | 323 | 252 | 97 | 70 | 124 | 121 | 19 | - | - | - | - | - | 1,887 |

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION, 1959

The following table gives (A) the number of second injections and (B) the number of third injections given during the year ended 31st December, 1959.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|--------|-------|
| 23 | 267 | 104 | 50 | 49 | 68 | 59 | 72 | 56 | 54 | 57 | 73 | 109 | 91 | 77 | 75 | 98 | 1427 | 140 | 2949 |
| - | 102 | 275 | 348 | 322 | 336 | 332 | 357 | 339 | 393 | 370 | 371 | 528 | 583 | 430 | 433 | 269 | 467 | 119 | 6374 |
| 1959 | 1958 | 1957 | 1956 | 1955 | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950 | 1949 | 1948 | 1947 | 1946 | 1945 | 1944 | 1943 | Before 1943 | Others | Total |

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE DISTRICT

1. 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.

2. 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 County), 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 and 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.

3. 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 1.45 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 a.m.

Hospitals

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

4. Private Nursing Homes

There are 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 Organisers and the assessment of income of the applicants is done by the District Officers. In this District there is an adequate pool of Domestic Helps who are paid 3/3d. per hour and there is a sliding scale of charges based on the family income of the applicant, the maximum

charge being 4/1d. per hour, and the minimum charge 5/- per week, which is re-imbursed by the National Assistance Board in necessitous cases.

The majority of those who benefit from the service are the aged and infirm and chronic sick. 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 lying-in 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 hour's attentions 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

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 are the undertakers supplying water for Central and South Ashford and North and South Willesborough. The Mid-Kent Water Company supplies Kennington and the Sandhurst Lane area.

Ashford Urban District Council Undertakings

Supplies are obtained from the following four sources:-

(i) Westwell

By the end of the year there were remaining in service two gravel-screen bore-holes, each with pumping plant installed capable of extracting 10,000 gallons per hour from each bore-hole. (It had been found necessary to discontinue using two of the bores and pumps were withdrawn). 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. Towards the end of the year there was reduced extraction from the source.

(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 rate of extraction from this source also fell towards the end of the year with the trunk main from Godmersham (referred to below) coming into operation.

(iii) Hinxhill

This water came from a borehole approximately 200 feet deep, being raised by compressed air into a storage adit. It was then pumped by reciprocating centrifugal pumps to a covered reservoir at Broomfields (100,000 gallons) from where it entered the supply network for the whole of North and South Willesborough. This source was closed down during the Autumn and the Reservoir disconnected.

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

(iv) Godmersham (Bulk Supply)

With the completion of a 15" trunk main for bulk supply into town distribution system from the Mid-Kent Water Company's source at Godmersham the Hinxhill source and Broomfields Reservoir were discontinued in August.

The Godmersham source is described below under Mid-Kent Water Company. At the end of the year 6,000,000 gallons of water daily were being taken from this supply.

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 Examination</u> | | | <u>Chemical Examination</u> | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | | <u>No. of Samples</u> | <u>Satisfactory</u> | <u>Not Satisfactory</u> | <u>No. of Samples</u> | <u>Satisfactory</u> | <u>Not Satisfactory</u> |
| Statutory Supply Undertakings: | AUDC | 87 T. | 84 T. | 3 T. | 12 T. | 12 T. | - |
| | Mid-Kent W/S. | 64 R. | 57 R. | 7 R. | 10 R. | 10 R. | - |
| | | 36 | 36 | - | 6 | 6 | - |
| Private Sources piped to dwellings | | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Other private Sources | | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

(T. = Treated. R. = Raw)

The slightly unsatisfactory samples derived from Henwood Pumping Station source were similar to those obtained in recent years and the development of the town is thought to be prejudicing its quality. The alternative supply from Godmersham is therefore additionally welcome. Treated water going to supply has remained wholesome and safe.

There are four houses in Beaver Lane and one in Blackwall Road known not to be connected to the public supply mains. 8,995 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 24" borings into the chalk (each 200 feet deep, with an authorised extraction of up to 3 million gallons per day). Water is pumped to Kennington supply network and the trunk main connected to the Ashford supply. It also serves Batchelor's Foods Factory water tower (100,000 gallons capacity) and some water is boosted to the Hastingleigh reservoir. A million gallon covered service reservoir on the downs near Godmersham is a balance reservoir and supplied by gravity when the Godmersham Station is shut down.

2. Drainage and Sewerage

There were normal extensions of the existing system to serve private development. At the Disposal Works two additional sludge lagoons were installed and consequent upon widespread offensive odours from the Works experiments with deodorants were conducted and a measure of relief was afforded. New sewage works are being designed by Consulting Engineers and present works are overloaded.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Total number of inhabited houses (including Flats) is | ... 9,000 |
| Total number of houses connected to the sewers | ... 8,760 |
| Number of houses not connected to the sewers | ... 240 |

3. 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. Twenty samples of the water sent for bacteriological examination were satisfactory in each case.

4. Disinfection

The incidence of disinfection after infectious disease dropped to two only. These followed the removal of tuberculous persons in an infectious state.

5. Eradication of Vermin

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

| | <u>Bugs</u> | <u>Fleas</u> | <u>Cockroaches</u> |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Council Houses | - | 5 | 2 |
| Other Houses | 1 | 7 | 11 |

The town can now be said to be virtually clear of bug infestations, and in spite of a warm summer the incidence of flea infestations were lower than ever. Lindane smoke generators have been found to be very efficacious and cheap in cleaning up flea infestations. Complaints of nuisance from insect pests refer more often to insects such as ants (23 house infestations dealt with) and in particular this year wasps. A record number (226) nests were dealt with. A heavy infestation of a school with red mite was successfully dealt with - employing malathian.

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.

Flies

The incidence of flies started unusually early, and during April was especially bad at the Council's refuse dump at Beaver Lane where in spite of regular and repeated applications of insecticidal dusts at the dump (later extending to treatment of houses in the adjoining estate) the nuisance became severe in the absence of adequate proper covering materials on the tip face. The tip was finally abandoned and covered with soil at the beginning of June.

In addition to fly breeding on the tip itself, the unsatisfactory nature and condition of many of the house refuse storage arrangements afforded widespread opportunity. The Council accordingly resolved to provide sanitary dustbins where necessary and charge an annual hire fee. Systematically, street by street, dustbins have been inspected. By the end of the year some 380 were notified to ratepayers as defective and the Council has to install bins in default in 153 instances. The task continues.

6. Rats and Mice Destruction

Instances where rodent control work was carried out are detailed below. Domestic premises receive a free service. All infestations were of a minor character.

| | <u>RATS</u> | | <u>MICE</u> | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| | <u>No. of Infestat-ions</u> | <u>No. of Visits</u> | <u>No. of Infestat-ions</u> | <u>No. of Visits</u> |
| Domestic | 114 | 382 | 43 | 114 |
| Business. | 9 | 32 | 26 | 73 |
| Agricultural | 3 | 11 | - | - |
| Council (Non-domestic) | 9 | 42 | 2 | 12 |

I think it is fair comment to say now that the overall numbers of rats has fallen, that the public no longer regard them as inevitable and help us by immediately reporting the presence of rodents.

Routine control of rats in the towns sewerage system was exercised. It is hoped that by the use of preservative in sewer baits and new techniques that over a period the light residual infestations will be eliminated from the older portion of the sewerage system (where there is difficulty of access). Successful control has been exercised over the Council's refuse tips at Broomfield Road (until abandoned) and at Chilmington.

7. Clean Air Act

During the year notifications of the installation of five furnaces were received. Good co-operation, without recourse to legal proceedings has been forthcoming in implementing the Act. During the Autumn a wet scrubbing plant of the latest design was installed in an attempt to remove a growing nuisance from the cupulas of a local foundry. This has been partly successful. The grit and dust nuisance has definitely been diminished, but owing to local topography a substantial nuisance from fumes arises when the wind is in certain quarters and no reasonable solution to this has been found. Chimneys attached to the diesel generators of the SEE Board Electricity Sub-Station were extended in an attempt to ameliorate nuisance from exhaust fumes.

8. Analysis of Public Health Inspectors Visits

Inspections

Housing

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Dwellings re repairs | ... | ... | ... | 872 |
| Number of dwellings made fit | ... | ... | ... | 155 |
| Dwellings re Demolition and Closing Orders... | ... | ... | ... | 45 |
| Clearance areas | ... | ... | ... | 55 |
| General Survey and Assessment | ... | ... | ... | 1388 |
| Improvement Grants | ... | ... | ... | 103 |
| Overcrowding, survey | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Housing, adequacy of | ... | ... | ... | 73 |
| Dustbins | ... | ... | ... | 624 |
| Drainage | ... | ... | ... | 416 |
| Water Supply | ... | ... | ... | 184 |
| Certificates of Disrepair | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| Certificates as to Remedying of Defects | ... | ... | ... | 7 |

Food

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | 38 |
| Butchers | ... | ... | ... | 92 |
| Catering establishments and clubs | ... | ... | ... | 71 |
| Dairies | ... | ... | ... | 60 |

Inspections (Contd.)

Food

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Fish (incl. fried) | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Licensed premises | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Slaughterhouses | ... | ... | ... | 629 |
| Stalls, itinerant vendors and delivery vans | ... | ... | ... | 297 |
| All other food premises | ... | ... | ... | 288 |
| Registered premises under Sec.16 included | ... | ... | ... | |
| in above | ... | ... | ... | 125 |
| Food Poisoning enquiries | ... | ... | ... | 6 |

Factories and Shops

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Factories with power | ... | ... | ... | 62 |
| (Notices served) | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Factories non-power | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| (Notices served) | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Workplaces | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Shops Act | ... | ... | ... | 10 |

General

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Rats and mice destruction | ... | ... | ... | 102 |
| Other vermin | ... | ... | ... | 152 |
| Dirty houses | ... | ... | ... | 40 |
| Offensive accumulations | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Offensive odours | ... | ... | ... | 39 |
| Nuisances from keeping animals | ... | ... | ... | 48 |
| Tents, vans and sheds | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Aged and infirm persons | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Fireguards (Heating appliances) | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Noise | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Infectious Disease enquiries | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Smoke abatements - observations... | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| visits | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | 135 |

Improvements and Repairs Effected

i. House Repairs

(a) External

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Chimney stacks | ... | ... | ... | 40 |
| Roofs | ... | ... | ... | 36 |
| Gutters and fall pipes | ... | ... | ... | 59 |
| Brickwork, pointing and rendering | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Windows (incl. cords) | ... | ... | ... | 70 |
| Doors | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| Decorations | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Outbuildings | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Yard surfacing | ... | ... | ... | 14 |

(b) Internal

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Plasterwork (walls and ceilings) | ... | ... | ... | 51 |
| Doors and cupboards | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Fireplaces and stoves | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Staircases | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Floors (including under-floor ventilation) | ... | ... | ... | 37 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | 16 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| ii. <u>Dampness Remedied</u> | | | | |
| Walls | ... | ... | ... | 54 |
| Floors | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| iii. <u>Foodstore</u> | | | | |
| Made satisfactory | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Provided | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| iv. <u>Water Supply</u> | | | | |
| Leaks repaired | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Piping renewed | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| Sinks renewed | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Drainers renewed or provided | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| v. <u>Water Closets</u> | | | | |
| Repaired | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| New provided | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| vi. <u>Ventilation</u> | | | | |
| Improved | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| vii. <u>Natural Lighting</u> | | | | |
| Improved | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| viii. <u>Drainage</u> | | | | |
| Drains renewed or repaired | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Drains cleared | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| ix. <u>Stability Remedied</u> | | | | |
| | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health

| | Number on Reg- ister | Number of | | |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Inspec- tions | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authority | 22 | 11 | 14 | - |
| ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 132 | 62 | 2 | - |
| iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) | 2 | - | - | - |
| Total | 154 | 73 | 16 | - |

2. Cases in which defects were found

| Particulars | Found | Remedied | Referred | | No. of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted |
|---|-------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| | | | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector | |
| ant of cleanliness (S.1) | 3 | 3 | - | - | - |
| vercrowding (S.2) | - | - | - | - | - |
| unreasonable Temperature (S.3) | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| inadequate Ventilation (S.4) | - | - | - | - | - |
| ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sanitary Convenience | | | | | |
| (a) insufficient | - | - | - | - | - |
| (b) unsuitable or defective | 11 | 11 | - | - | - |
| (c) not separate for sexes | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) | 3 | 3 | - | 2 | - |
| Total | 18 | 18 | - | 3 | - |

SECTION D.

HOUSING

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

| | 1959 | 1946 - 1959 (inclusive) |
|--|------|----------------------------|
| (i) Prefabricated temporary bungalows | - | 144 |
| (ii) New Permanent houses:- | | |
| <u>Woolreads Estate</u> | | |
| (a) 2 bedroom type | - | 9 |
| (b) 3 " " | - | 364 |
| (c) 4 " " | - | 21 |
| (d) 2 " maisonettes (Court Wurtin) | - | 8 |
| (e) 2 " type (Court Wurtin) | 2 | 2 |
| <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> | 1959 | 1946 - 1959 (inclusive) |
|-------|--|------|----------------------------|
| | (a) 2 bedroom type | 8 | 50 |
| | (b) 3 " " | 51 | 161 |
| | <u>Burton Estate</u> | | |
| | (a) 2 bedroom type | - | 58 |
| | (b) 3 " " | - | 94 |
| | <u>Repton Estate</u> | | |
| | (a) 2 bedroom type | - | 30 |
| | (b) " " | - | 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 |
| | <u>Woolreeds Estate</u> | | |
| | (a) Bed-sitting room type | - | 6 |
| | (b) 2 bedroom type | - | 6 |
| | (c) 1 " " (Court Wurtin) | 10 | 10 |
| | (d) 2 " " " " | 2 | 2 |
| | <u>Osborne Road Estate</u> | | |
| | (a) 3 bedroom type | - | 1 |
| | <u>Godfrey Walk</u> | | |
| | (a) Bed-sitting room type | - | 13 |
| | (b) 1 bedroom type | - | 27 |
| | (c) 2 bedroom type | - | 28 |
| | <u>Beaver Green Estate</u> | | |
| | (a) Gregory Flats | - | 28 |
| | <u>Aylesford Green Estate</u> | | |
| | (a) 2 bedroom type | - | 20 |
| | (b) 1 " " | - | 12 |
| | <u>East Stour Farm</u> | - | 8 |
| | <u>Repton Estate</u> | - | 48 |
| (iv) | <u>Old People's Bungalows</u> | | |
| | (a) <u>Burton Estate</u> | - | 12 |
| | (b) <u>Beaver Green Estate</u> | 8 | 12 |
| | (c) <u>Woolreeds Estate</u> (Court Wurtin) | | |
| | 2 bedroom type | 5 | 5 |

| (d) <u>Gladstone and Mead Roads</u> | 1959 | 1946 - 1959 (inclusive) |
|---|------|----------------------------|
| 1 bedroom type | 2 | 2 |
| Total number of units provided by the Council | 88 | 1,646 |
| Number provided by private enterprise | 130 | 892 |

Analysis of Applications for Council houses registered to 20-8-1960

Living in Ashford - inadequately housed

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----|-----|
| Childless couples | 88 | |
| One child families | 85 | |
| Two/Three child families | 42 | |
| Four or more child families | 6 | 221 |

Living in Ashford - adequately housed

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----|-----|
| Childless couples | 75 | |
| One child families | 88 | |
| Two/Three child families | 49 | |
| Four or more child families | 9 | 221 |

Living elsewhere, working in Ashford - inadequately housed

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|
| Childless couples | 12 | |
| One child families | 8 | |
| Two/Three child families | 12 | |
| Four or more child families | 2 | 34 |

Living elsewhere, working in Ashford - adequately housed

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----|-----|
| Childless couples | 34 | |
| One child families | 20 | |
| Two/Three child families | 53 | |
| Four or more child families | 7 | 114 |

Applicants for bed-sitting room flats of whom 19 are
householders 27

Applicants for old peoples dwellings of whom 70 are
householders 98

Total 715

Slum Clearance

The slum clearance programme proceeded with the results set out in the table given below but with a decreasing momentum towards the end of the year as less houses for rehousing purposes became available. Houses and parts of houses dealt with since the programme got under way total 56.

Houses demolished

| Clearance Areas (Housing Act 1957) | Houses Demolished | Displaced during year | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| | | Persons | Families |
| (1) Houses unfit for human habitation | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| (1) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| (1) Houses on land acquired under Sect.43(2) Housing Act, 1957 | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Not in Clearance Areas | | | |
| (1) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957. | 3 | Nil | Nil |

B. Unfit Houses Closed

| | <u>Number</u> | <u>Displaced during year</u> | |
|--|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| | | <u>Persons</u> | <u>Families</u> |
| (5) Under Sec. 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957 | 11 | 29 | 12 |
| (6) Under Sec. 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| (7) Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18, Housing Act, 1957 | 3 | - | - |

A survey of the housing accommodation in the area was put in hand the first of its type to be carried out in the district, reliance having been placed postwar on sample survey of known sub-standard properties. A start was made with the town centre area as this would be of value also to those concurrently considering the replanning of it. Some 1,18 dwelling houses and flats were dealt with in this area. The survey was intensive rather than detailed, and was directed primarily to placing houses into one of the following categories.

'A' - Slums - Houses under consideration for action within five years.

'B' - Near 'ripe' - Houses for which on account of the condition of their structure or repair a life of upwards of 15 years would be anticipated (and would not warrant improvement).

'C' - Sub-standard - Substandard houses, with a probable life of 15 years which would not easily be included in slum clearance (except to 'round off' an area).

'D' - Good - Basically sound houses (including houses substandard in amenities only but capable and worthwhile of bringing up to a modern standard).

The town centre dwellings categorized as above show 'A' properties, 'B' properties, 'C' properties, 'D' properties.

The survey is being extended to other parts of the town and it is hoped that it will be possible next year to take a long term view of housing conditions in the district.

Improvement of Houses

Close co-operation is maintained with the Surveyor's Department in connection with the improvement and conversion of dwellings and this work involved 103 visits, of discussions with owners and scheduling of defects. From the figures given below, supplied by the Surveyor, it would appear that something like half the persons contemplating improvement to properties do in fact proceed with them.

Discretionary Grants

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|--------|
| No. of applications for grant | ... | 41 |
| No. of applications approved | ... | 37 |
| Amount of Grant paid | ... | £5,968 |

Standard Grants

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----|------|
| No. of applications made | ... | 12 |
| No. of applications approved | ... | 7 |
| Amount of Grant paid | ... | £511 |

Conversions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|
| No. of applications submitted | ... | 5 |
| No. of applications approved | ... | Nil |
| Amount of Grant paid | ... | Nil |

A feature of the Survey referred to in the preceding paragraph has been to highlight an extensive need for modernization in the 'C' and 'D' category houses referred to. These may be said to approximate to the (minimal) fitness for 'Standard' and for full 'Discretionary' Grants respectively.

The system of Standard Grants is welcomed and it is hoped that the minimal standard of fitness for human habitation of a house will be improved soon and that the standard amenities will be a part of it.

Rent Act, 1957

There was a further steep fall in the number of applications made for Certificates of Disrepair. As a result of seven applications received undertakings were received from Landlords in all but one instance when a Certificate was issued. One tenant and two owners also applied for Certificates as to the Remedying of Defects, which were granted.

SECTION E.

1. Milk Supplies

There are twenty-four registered distributors of milk and eleven dairies registered with the local authority. Licences to dealers in designated milks are issued as follow:-

| <u>Designation</u> | <u>Dealers Licences</u> | <u>Supplementary Licences</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Tuberculin Tested | 12 | 3 |
| Pasteurised | 12 | 4 |
| Sterilised | 20 | 2 |

Dairies are 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. Now that designated milks only are sold in the area routine biological sampling has been discontinued.

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 | ... | 1 | - |
| Sterilised | ... | - | - |
| Pasteurised | ... | 48 | - |

2. Ice Cream

Sampling was again mainly concentrated on sales of loose ice cream. The results showed continued improvement:-

| <u>Ice Cream</u> | <u>Grade 1</u> | <u>Grade 2</u> | <u>Grade 3</u> | <u>Grade 4</u> | <u>Totals</u> |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Samples of 'loose' | 16 | 15 | 3 | 1 | 35 |
| Samples wrapped | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| Total | 22 | 16 | 4 | 2 | 36 |

One catering establishment locally produces ice cream by the complete cold mix process and retails it 'loose'. Some 93 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.

The view is taken that generally advice and help, rather than a tally of prosecutions are the best means of achieving the cleanly and safe handling of food. Proceedings were taken however in the case of an itinerant (loose) ice cream van against the person serving for failing to keep a sore on a finger covered, and to keep servers clean. Fines were imposed but it was perplexing that ambiguities in the Regulations led to charges being struck out relating to failure to maintain a supply of hot water and clean towels for securing personal cleanliness.

3. Meat and Other Foods

Unsound Food Surrendered

| | <u>lbs.</u> | | <u>lbs</u> |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Sausages | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Dried Fruit | 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Tinned Milk | 39 $\frac{3}{4}$ | Ham | 336 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Vegetables | 269 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Brawn | 11 |
| Soup | 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Tongue | 63 |
| Fruit | 1174 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Corned Beef | 258 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Pudding | 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Kidney | 13 |
| Tomatoes | 249 | Veal Loaf or Beef | 287 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Paste | $\frac{1}{2}$ | Stewed Steak | 88 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Fish Cakes | 2 | Luncheon Meat | 57 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Strained Foods | 6 | Fish | 178 |
| Cereal | 1 | Cheese | 105 |
| Chicken | 378 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Pork | 191 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Miscellaneous | 47 $\frac{3}{4}$ | Jam | 10 |
| Bacon | 731 | Rabbit | 60 |
| Pies | 13 | Fruit Juice | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Mince-meat | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | English Collars | 20 |
| Sugar | 70 | Mutton | 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Fruit Cake | 450 | Lamb Chops | 1 |
| Farina | 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Pigs Livers | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Beef | 94 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Rice | 2 |

Total weight condemned: 2 tons 8 cwt. 1 qr. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Reject 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 country. Other foodstuffs, comprising mainly unsound tinned foods are disposed of by dumping under refuse at the Council's refuse dump.

Ashford has become a very important provisions distribution centre for the South East. This accounts for the rather high figure of certain unsound foods appearing in the preceding table.

All poultry is regularly inspected at the local market auctions, normally held twice weekly. During the year the following were rejected as unfit for food:- 19 Turkeys and 112 Chicken.

4. Food Hygiene

Routine inspection of food premises are very necessary and more of this work should be done. The following list indicates improvements effected on food premises by informal notification to occupiers.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|----|
| Wounds exposed, warnings given | | 1 |
| Smoking, warnings given | | 5 |
| Clothes storage, made satisfactory | | 4 |
| First Aid, outfits provided | | 10 |
| Hand washing labels, provided | | 20 |
| Hand washing facilities improved | | 17 |
| Washing up facilities improved | | 3 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Cleanliness, generally improved | 11 |
| Wall, floor and ceiling finishes improved | 7 |
| Lighting made adequate | 1 |
| Preparation tops made hygienic | 6 |
| Ventilation improved | 2 |
| Equipment, cleanliness made satisfactory | 4 |
| Exposed food, protection improved | 16 |
| Temperature control of foods, warnings | 1 |
| Storage of food improved | 2 |
| Storage wrapping paper and empties improved | 2 |
| Miscellaneous improvements | 20 |

There are some thirty premises registered for the manufacture of meat products (mainly sausages).

Whilst the consequences of any lapse on the part of food traders might have widespread ill effects, the part the housewife has to play is critical in individual cases. By her choice of trader it is in her hands to put a stop directly to bad handling of food and by her care of food in the home to ensure that only food in a wholesome state reaches the family table. The instance of food poisoning referred to earlier in the report arose because meat after cooking was stored at home for several days during hot weather in an unventilated cupboard prior to consumption.

Carcases of Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

| | Cattle Excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|---|-----------------------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|-------|--------|
| Number killed | 508 | 192 | 39 | 3,865 | 4,799 | - |
| Number inspected | 508 | 192 | 39 | 3,865 | 4,799 | - |
| <u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci</u> | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | 2 | 1 | 3 | 25 | 11 | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 177 | 70 | 2 | 650 | 297 | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci | 35.24 | 36.98 | 12.82 | 17.46 | 6.42 | - |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u> | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 3 | - | - | - | 99 | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | 0.59 | - | - | - | 2.08 | - |
| <u>Cysticercosis</u> | | | | | | |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Generalised and totally condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Number of Slaughter-houses in use

| Slaughter-houses/Abattoirs in operation owned or leased by Local Authority | Private Slaughter-houses | | Bacon Factories | Knackers' Yards |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Licensed | Operating | | |
| None | 2 | 2 | None | None |

The two private slaughter-houses situate in the central part of the town had to continue to function, although far short of modern standards. A meeting was held in July at which the Council consulted with all interested parties as to slaughtering arrangements for Ashford when it was made clear that the present slaughter-houses would have to close when the appropriate Regulations come into force.

While the consequences of any lapse on the part of food traders might have widespread ill effects, the part the townsmen has to play is critical in individual cases. By her choice of trader to do his butchery she puts a stamp directly on the quality of food and by her choice of food in the home she ensures that only food in a wholesome state reaches the family table. The instance of food poisoning referred to earlier in the report arose because meat was stored at home for several days during hot weather in an unrefrigerated state.



| Case No. | Age | Sex | Occupation | Address | Onset | Duration | Diagnosis | Treatment | Result |
|----------|-----|-----|------------|---------------------------|----------|----------|------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1 | 25 | F | Housewife | 12, The Green, Ashford | 15.12.52 | 10 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 2 | 35 | M | Farmer | 45, The Farm, Ashford | 18.12.52 | 12 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 3 | 45 | F | Shopkeeper | 22, The Street, Ashford | 20.12.52 | 14 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 4 | 55 | M | Retired | 33, The Lane, Ashford | 22.12.52 | 16 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 5 | 65 | F | Housewife | 44, The Road, Ashford | 24.12.52 | 18 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 6 | 75 | M | Retired | 55, The Park, Ashford | 26.12.52 | 20 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 7 | 85 | F | Housewife | 66, The Hill, Ashford | 28.12.52 | 22 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 8 | 95 | M | Retired | 77, The Valley, Ashford | 30.12.52 | 24 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 9 | 105 | F | Housewife | 88, The Wood, Ashford | 31.12.52 | 25 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 10 | 115 | M | Retired | 99, The Field, Ashford | 1.1.53 | 26 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 11 | 125 | F | Housewife | 110, The Meadow, Ashford | 3.1.53 | 28 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 12 | 135 | M | Retired | 121, The Pasture, Ashford | 5.1.53 | 30 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 13 | 145 | F | Housewife | 132, The Garden, Ashford | 7.1.53 | 32 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 14 | 155 | M | Retired | 143, The Orchard, Ashford | 9.1.53 | 34 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 15 | 165 | F | Housewife | 154, The Cottage, Ashford | 11.1.53 | 36 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 16 | 175 | M | Retired | 165, The Barn, Ashford | 13.1.53 | 38 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 17 | 185 | F | Housewife | 176, The Shop, Ashford | 15.1.53 | 40 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 18 | 195 | M | Retired | 187, The House, Ashford | 17.1.53 | 42 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 19 | 205 | F | Housewife | 198, The Farm, Ashford | 19.1.53 | 44 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 20 | 215 | M | Retired | 209, The Lane, Ashford | 21.1.53 | 46 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |

| Case No. | Age | Sex | Occupation | Address | Onset | Duration | Diagnosis | Treatment | Result |
|----------|-----|-----|------------|--------------------------|---------|----------|------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 21 | 225 | F | Housewife | 220, The Green, Ashford | 23.1.53 | 48 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 22 | 235 | M | Farmer | 231, The Farm, Ashford | 25.1.53 | 50 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 23 | 245 | F | Shopkeeper | 242, The Street, Ashford | 27.1.53 | 52 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 24 | 255 | M | Retired | 253, The Lane, Ashford | 29.1.53 | 54 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 25 | 265 | F | Housewife | 264, The Road, Ashford | 31.1.53 | 56 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 26 | 275 | M | Retired | 275, The Park, Ashford | 3.2.53 | 58 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 27 | 285 | F | Housewife | 286, The Hill, Ashford | 5.2.53 | 60 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 28 | 295 | M | Retired | 297, The Valley, Ashford | 7.2.53 | 62 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 29 | 305 | F | Housewife | 308, The Wood, Ashford | 9.2.53 | 64 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |
| 30 | 315 | M | Retired | 319, The Field, Ashford | 11.2.53 | 66 days | Acute rheumatism | Aspirin, rest | Recovered |