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Contributors

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ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1965

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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- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
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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, 1965

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

MARSHALL, J.,

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

Chief Public Health Inspector

HAMMOND, S.F.

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

Senior Public Health Inspector

FRATT, S.,

M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

COULING, S.W.

M.A.P.H.I.

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and Chief
Public Health Inspector for the Year
1965

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1965.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 30,590 an increase of 1,120 over that of the previous year.

Live Births and Rate

The number of live births was 551 (287 M. 264 F.) which was an increase of 14 over that of the previous year. The crude birth-rate was accordingly 18.01 which after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor computed from a Population standardised for age and sex distribution, becomes 18.91, compared with that of 18.0 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

The number of stillbirths was 7 (3M. 4F.) and the corresponding rate was 12.55 in comparison with that of 15.7 for England and Wales.

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

Thirteen infant deaths were registered eight of which were under four weeks of age, and the corresponding infantile mortality rate was 23.29 compared with that of 19.0 for England and Wales.

The causes of death were:-

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| An aberrant left Coronary Artery - 3 months | |
| Broncho-pneumonia - 10 months | |
| Fulminating Tracheo-bronchitis - 1 month | |
| Congenital heart disease - 3 days | |
| Uraemia due to:- Bilateral congenital hydronephrosis
and hydro-ureter | } - 3 weeks |
| Congestive Cardiac Failure
Transposition of the great arteries) | |
| Prematurity - 1 hour | |
| Congenital Mobis Cordis and Prematurity - 4 days | |
| Prematurity - 3 hours | |
| Fulminating Bilateral Broncho-pneumonia - 8 months | |
| Pulmonary Syndrome of the Newly Born - 16 hours | |
| Prematurity: Severe Toxaemia of the mother - 3 days | |
| Hyaline Membrane Disease - 2 days. | |

The hard core of causes of Perinatal Mortality (i.e. stillbirths and infant deaths under one week of age) is prematurity, asphyxia and atelectasis, birth injuries and congenital malformations, and the chief maternal factor is toxæmia of pregnancy.

Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

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

Total Deaths and Death Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 317 (157 M. 160 F.) and the corresponding crude death rate was 10.36, which after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, as for births, was reduced

to 9.63, compared with that of 11.5 for England and Wales.

The chief group cause of deaths was Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular lesions of the Nervous System, which are natural ultimate causes of death amongst the aged and of these there were 169.

Disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart was the cause of 70 (36 M. 34 F.) or approximately 22% of those deaths in the following age-groups: 4 between 45 and 54: 11 between 55 - 64: 27 between 65 - 74: 28 over 75 years. ~~Fifty-five of those deaths were over 65 years, including 28 over 75 years~~ and it would seem that a degenerative process is one of the causative factors, although the cause is still obscure and many deaths occur in middle-age.

Cancer, as invariably in previous years, was the second highest cause of deaths of which there were 48 in the following age-groups: 1 between 15 - 24: 1 between 25 - 34: 3 between 35 - 44: 8 between 45 - 54: 15 between 55 - 64: 17 over 75 years. The majority of the deaths were over 65 years including 17 over 75 years. It is reasonable to assume that many patients seek medical examination too late for treatment which is curative in most cases if the disease is not too advanced.

Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus caused 13 deaths (9 M. 4 F.) compared with 19 in the previous year: in the following age-groups: 1 between 35 - 44: 1 between 45 - 54: 3 between 55 - 64: 5 between 65 - 74: 3 over 75 years. Cancer of the Lung/Bronchus occurs in earlier age-groups than Cancer of other sites excluding Cancer of the Breast, and it may be assumed that the inhalation of tobacco smoke is a precipitating factor in those who are predisposed to the disease. Three of those cases were discovered by the Mass Radiography Service.

Cancer of the Breast was the cause of 5 deaths (4 F. 1 M.) in the following age-groups: 1 between 35 - 44: 2 between 45 - 54: 1 (M) between 65 - 74: 1 over 75 years. Three of those deaths were in early life, and it is reasonable to assume that medical advice was sought too late, as Cancer in this site is comparatively easy to diagnose.

Cancer of the Uterus was the cause of 2 deaths in the age-groups: 1 between 55 - 64: 1 between 65 - 74 years.

Cancer of the stomach caused 3 deaths: 2 between 65 - 74: 1 over 75 years.

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

The Infectious Diseases

None of the more serious Infectious Diseases was notified apart from one case of Paratyphoid Fever.

Measles

336 cases were notified in comparison with 14 the previous year. This follows the usual pattern of outbreaks every second year, when a sufficient number of susceptible children has aggregated.

This infection per se is not serious these days, and its formerly serious complications are becoming less frequent and when they do occur are treated successfully by specific Antibiotics, excepting Acute Encephalitis which is very rare.

It is equivocal whether this infection should now be statutorily notifiable, as even in non-epidemic periods Practitioners are otherwise fully engaged; also unnecessary time is taken up by Office Staffs in the registration of these notifications and in the unnecessary disbursement of fees.

Whooping Cough

Only six cases were notified which may be attributed to the effectiveness of vaccination. In former years outbreaks of this distressful children's disease were common and there was a large number of deaths chiefly due to Broncho-pneumonia.

Scarlet Fever

Thirty cases were notified. This illness is now mild and its formerly serious complications are becoming infrequent; if any does occur, treatment by a specific anti-biotic is invariably successful. All those thirty cases were treated at home.

Dysentery (Shigella sonnei)

There was a small outbreak of this bowel infection, 43 cases having been notified. (Arrangements were made with Practitioners in order to save their time, for the Public Health Inspectors to collect specimens from patients suspected to be suffering from Dysentery, Food Poisoning or Gastro-enteritis.) The illness is usually mild, diarrhoea with or without blood for several days being the chief presenting symptom. Many patients do not consult their Practitioners and in consequence the carrier rate is widespread. Personal hygiene, in other words the simple precaution of washing the hands after toilet and before meals would break the chain of infection.

Erysipelas

Three cases of this infection of the skin were notified. Before the introduction of the Sulpha drugs in 1936 and later of the Antibiotics, this was a serious disease and was the cause of many deaths.

Food Poisoning (Salmonella typhi-murium)

Four cases were confirmed bacteriologically due to this organism. Two cases occurred in one family, and specimens of the faeces of their dog which had been 'ill' were found to be infected by the same organism and phage type. There is no doubt that dogs are potential carriers of these bacteria.

None of the patients was seriously ill.

Paratyphoid B. Fever

One case was notified. The girl was in the same class i.e. sixth form, as two other girls who also suffered from this illness. Specimens of faeces were taken from all the other girls in the class and also from all the Cooks in the Canteen but none was positive. The source of infection could not be traced, the only clue having been that the girls had been dissecting in the School Laboratory shell-fish which may have been infected but unfortunately no specimens were available for bacteriological examination.

Puerperal Pyrexia

One case was notified. Puerperal Sepsis of which pyrexia is a warning was the cause of many maternal deaths before the introduction of the Sulpha drugs and later Antibiotics which are specific in treatment.

Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia

Four cases of this illness were notified. Including the secondary Pneumonias which are not notifiable, there were 16 deaths in the following age-groups: 2 between 4 weeks and under 1 year: 4 between 55 - 64: 4 between 65 - 74: 6 over 75 years. Pneumonia is a common terminal cause of death amongst the aged.

Tuberculosis

Seven new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified in contrast with nil in the previous year. The age-groups were as follow: 1 between 25 - 34: 1 between 45 - 54: 4 between 55 - 64: 1 over 65 years. The majority were in the more elderly age-groups which conforms to the usual pattern in these days. Prior to 1950, the majority of notifications were in the 'teen-age group'. There is a diminishing number of open infective cases who could infect many others and in their ascertainment the Mass Radiography Service contributes a valuable part, four of those seven cases having been discovered by them.

There were no new cases of non-Respiratory Tuberculosis which is an index of the safety of the milk supplies; also the 100% inspection of the meat supplies by the Public Health Inspectors shows less and less Tuberculosis in the carcasses.

There was one death due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the following age-group: 1 between 55 - 64. Modern treatment is very successful and it is probable that the disease in patients who die has been too advanced for curative treatment.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your support of and interest in the Department and also the Staff for their very efficient service.

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 1965

AREA: 5,719 acres

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF

The Resident Population 30,590

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES ACCORDING TO THE RATE BOOKS 10,379

NUMBER OF BUSINESS PREMISES 1,200

RATEABLE VALUE (1.4.66) £1,240,291

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE (1.4.66) £5,000

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 Carriage and Wagon Works, and Electrical Carriage Repair and Inspection Shops. There are a constantly increasing number of Factories, including Tyre Works, Iron Foundry, Printing Works, Agricultural and Vehicle Repair Shops, Flour Mills, Light and Electrical Engineering, Ordnance Depot, Bread, Cereal Products and Jam Factory, a large Food Processing and Dried Foods Factory, a Cosmetic Manufacturer, a Perfumery, Glass Scientific Instrument Firm, Furniture Makers and Plastics Manufacturer, Plating and Rubber moulding firms.

Light industry is coming to the district in concert with the absorption into the town of London 'overspill'. There is virtually no unemployment in the area.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>Ashford Urban District</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
1. <u>Live Births</u>	551	287	264	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	18.01 (Adjusted Rate 18.91)	18.0
(a) Legitimate	514	268	246			
(b) Illegitimate	37	19	18			
2. <u>Stillbirths</u>	7	3	4	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	12.55	15.7
(a) Legitimate	2	1	1			
(b) Illegitimate	5	2	3			
3. <u>Total live and still-births</u>	558	290	268			
4. <u>Deaths</u>	317	157	160	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	10.36 (Adjusted Rate 9.63)	11.5
5. <u>Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion</u>	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	-	Not Availab
6. <u>Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age</u>	13	8	5	Rate per 1,000 live births	23.29	19.0
(a) Legitimate	13	8	5	Rate per 1,000 live births (legitimate)	25.29	
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 live births (illegitimate)	-	
7. <u>Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks of Age</u>	8	5	3	Rate per 1,000 live births	14.51	Not Availab
(a) Legitimate	8	5	3			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
8. <u>Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births</u>					6.63%	
9. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)				... ..	48	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				... ..	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				... ..	-
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)					3	

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT

DURING 1965

ALL CAUSES	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	157	160
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	2	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	13
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1
16. Diabetes	4	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	28	18
18. Coronary disease, angina	36	34
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	1
20. Other Heart Disease	16	23
21. Other circulatory disease	1	10
22. Influenza	-	2
23. Pneumonia	10	6
24. Bronchitis	12	8
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	4	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	13
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	3
34. All other accidents	2	6
35. Suicide	-	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1965

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	4	-	1
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Measles	336	-	-
Scarlet Fever	30	-	-
Whooping Cough	6	-	-
Dysentery	43	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	4	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	1	-	-

ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS

DISEASE	Under	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64	65 and over	Unknown
	Year												
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
Measles	7	37	56	44	48	113	2	2	3	-	1	-	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	3	19	4	-	2	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	2	2	4	2	14	5	1	8	1	-	-	3
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-

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New Cases and Mortality, 1965

<u>Age Period</u>	<u>New Cases</u>		<u>Deaths</u>		<u>Total Cases on Register</u>	
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	-	-	-	-	138	27
1 ...	-	-	-	-	103	
5 ...	-	-	-	-		
15 ...	-	-	-	-		
25 ...	1	-	-	-		
35 ...	-	-	-	-		
45 ...	1	-	-	-		
55 ...	2	2	1	-		
65 and upwards	1	-	2	-		
Total	5	2	3	-		

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924
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 tuberculosis of a patient who had not been notified as suffering from this disease.

IMMUNISATION

The following table shows the diphtheria immunisation figures for 1965 based on the return sent to the Ministry of Health.

<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Primary</u>		<u>Reinforcing</u>	
	<u>Triple</u>	<u>Diph./Tet.</u>	<u>Triple</u>	<u>Diph./Tet.</u>
1965	217	2	-	-
1964	287	2	-	-
1963	22	2	215	88
1962	8	1	54	10
1961	5	1	15	1
1958 - 1960	2	1	158	185
1949 - 1957	1	-	1	7
Total	542	9	443	291

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

<u>Year</u>	<u>3rd and 4th Dose (Salk and Oral)</u>	<u>3 Orals (Complete Course)</u>
1965	1	85
1964	7	360
1963	-	50
1962	-	20
1958 - 1961	358	32
1949 - 1957	45	11
Total	311	558

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

<u>PRIMARY VACCINATION</u> <u>1 YEAR</u>	<u>RE-VACCINATION</u> <u>SCHOOL AGE BUT UNDER 8 YEARS</u>
334	1

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE DISTRICT

1. Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service 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 other local Hospitals, to the Consultants and to the Practitioners.

2. Ambulance and Hospital Car Service

The County Council administers this service throughout Kent. The Ambulance Station is situated at Silverhill Road, Willesborough, where five ambulances and four sitting-case cars are garaged. The ambulance personnel numbers one Station Officer and twenty-one Driver/Attendants, supplemented by St. John Brigade and Hospital Car Driver volunteers, whose devotion to duty merits appreciation.

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 Tuesday and Thursdays of each week from 2.0 p.m.

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

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) St. Francis Hall, Cryol Road, South Ashford

Sessions are held at 2.0 p.m. on the 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) Minor Ailments Clinic
- (b) Dental Clinic
- (c) Ophthalmic Clinic
- (d) Speech Therapy Clinic

(e) 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 10 - 11 a.m. (females) 11 - 12 noon (males) and Fridays 2 - 3 p.m. (females) 3 - 4 p.m. (males).

Tuberculosis Clinic

Chiropody Service, British Legion House, Church Road, Ashford.

This service is provided for men over 65 years and women over 60 years, for physically handicapped persons and for expectant mothers, and the clinic is held on Monday afternoons and all day on Thursdays.

Hospitals

- (a) Ashford General - accommodation 115 beds
- (b) Willesborough General - accommodation 134 beds
- (c) The Warren Hospital - accommodation 16 cubicle beds (including cots)
(Infectious Diseases)

4. Private Nursing Homes

There is one registered private Nursing Home which accommodates nine chronic sick patients.

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 and 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 complement 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 Care Service, Evening and Night Attendant Service and the Family Welfare Service

(a) The Domestic Help Service of the County Council has become a very important health service in the home and the calls of this service are still rapidly expanding. The service is administered peripherally by Area and Local Domestic Help Organisers. In this District it is becoming increasingly difficult to enlist Domestic Helps who are paid at the rate of 4/6d. per hour and there is a sliding scale of charges based on the family income of the applicant, the maximum charges being 5/7d. per hour in the town and 5/6d. in the country, 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 Care Service

Prior to the 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 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 go at 10 p.m. and stay until 6 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) Family Welfare 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

The water supply for the whole of the Urban District is provided by the Mid-Kent Water Company.

(i) Westwell

There remain two gravel-screen bore holes in serviceable condition each with pumping plant installed capable of extracting 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. The source affords a stand-by potential supply.

(ii) Henwood

This supply comes from four wells with interconnecting adits, approximately 40 feet deep. From the electrically driven pumps the water is pumped into the supply network and a surplus would be diverted into the reservoir at Potter's Corner. Extraction from this source has ceased but it is maintained in serviceable condition as an emergency supply.

Water extracted from these sources is arranged to be chlorinated by fully automatic means as an added safeguard to the public health.

(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. The 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 supplies by gravity when the Godmersham Station is shut down.

(iv) Charing

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

Samples

By arrangement with the Public Health Laboratory Service samples for bacteriological examination have been taken from points on the distribution network at the rate of normally four each month. By arrangement with the Water Undertakers the results of their routine sampling of supplies to the Urban Area are made available.

Houses connected to public mains

10,378 houses are connected to the public mains, leaving only one house (in Blackwall Road) known not to be connected,

Examination of Samples taken during the Year

	<u>Bacteriological Examination</u>			<u>Chemical Examination</u>		
	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Satis- factory</u>	<u>Not Satis- factory</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Satis- factory</u>	<u>Not Satis- factory</u>
<u>Statutory Supply Undertakings</u>						
(a) Ashford U.D.C.	49	49	-	-	-	-
(b) Mid-Kent W/S	48	48	-	10	10	-
Private Sources piped to dwellings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other private Sources	1	-	1	-	-	-

2. Drainage and Sewerage

An excellent effluent which more than satisfies the Kent River Authorities requirements is being produced from the Council's main Sewage Works at Bybrook which was brought into full use towards the end of 1964. The official opening ceremony was performed by the Chairman of the Council on the 28th April, 1965.

In order that drainage by gravity could be provided for housing development at Foxglove on land between Hythe Road and the Ashford Bypass, a new main sewer was laid in North Willesborough on the South side of the Bypass. The provision of this sewer has also meant that the private pumping stations for the Taylor Woodrow and Earl's Estate could be closed and sewage from these estates is now discharged by gravity into the new sewer.

A length of main foul sewer has been provided to take sewage from the Council's new Bockhanger Housing Estate. A branch from this sewer has also been laid to take sewage from new housing development on the Eastree Westree Estate between Magazine Road and the Ashford Bypass.

Total number of inhabited houses (including Flats) is ...	10,379
Total number of houses connected to the sewers ...	10,139
Number of houses not connected to the sewers (estimated)...	240

3. Swimming Bath

The Public Swimming Bath is break-point chlorinated and chlorine is maintained up to 2 p.p.m. Additions of soda ash are made to reduce acidity in the water so as to avoid eye defects etc.

The water is purified by means of a rapid sand filtration plant with a twelve-hour turn-over period. The bath (100 x 25 yds.) has a capacity of 600,000 gallons.

In spite of the indifferent summer and wet autumn the number of swimmers was 36,793 plus members on 22 'Club Nights'.

Samples of the water sent for bacteriological examination were satisfactory in each case. These samples were taken at time of maximum use.

As last year, an offer was made to both private and County Council schools who have swimming pools for samples to be taken of their bath water so that a check on the effectiveness of water sterilization methods could be made available to them. Only one private school declined to co-operate. The water treatment arrangements at the 'plastic' pool at Kennington Primary School and the permanent bath at the Boys Grammar School both functioned very satisfactorily.

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	4	3	6
Other Houses	-	2	-
Other Premises	-	1	19

The downward trend of vermin infestation continued. During the year there were only thirty-four wasps nests destroyed. The arrangement with the Hospital Board whereby the Department provides a disinfection service for the two General and the Warren Hospital proceeded satisfactorily.

Effective fly control at the Councils Refuse Tip at Chilmington was maintained and each week the refuse collection vehicles were sprayed with a persistent insecticide during the fly breeding season.

The dustbin hire scheme continued with beneficial effects. The number of bins on hire was 465 by the end of the year.

6. Rats and Mice Destruction

Instances where rodent control work was carried out are detailed below. Domestic premises receive a free service.

(A) <u>Total Premises Inspected as Result</u>	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Dwellings (incl. Council)</u>	<u>All Other</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
(1) <u>NOTIFICATION</u>	4 (3)	104 (131)	42 (38)	1 (-)
No. found infested	<u>Rats</u> 4 (1)	61 (94)	19 (18)	1 (-)
	<u>Mice</u> - (2)	40 (33)	22 (20)	- (-)
(2) <u>SURVEY</u>	25 (18)	63 (73)	17 (19)	7 (1)
No. found infested	<u>Rats</u> 22 (18)	43 (54)	8 (11)	5 (1)
	<u>Mice</u> - (-)	9 (15)	1 (7)	- (-)
(B) <u>Total No. Visits</u>	<u>Rats</u> 99 (104)	409 (492)	108 (119)	31 (3)
	<u>Mice</u> - (8)	171 (200)	129 (104)	- (-)
(C) <u>Infestations Treated by L.A.</u>	<u>Rats</u> 26 (19)	104 (143)	27 (29)	6 (1)
	<u>Mice</u> - (2)	49 (65)	23 (27)	- (-)

(For comparative purposes last years figures are given in brackets)

The above figures include one major mice infestation on a business premises and a major rat infestation extending over two agricultural holdings.

Four 'block control' schemes were undertaken including twenty dwelling houses, three business premises and two farms. Three out of the four schemes were on the fringe of the town.

The towns sewerage system was sample tested in the Spring and subsequently baited when evidence of the presence of rats was discovered. The whole of the town centre system was tested at the same time. There was follow-up treatment in the autumn of infested portions of the system and of the whole centre area. Infestation discovered was light but the sewers in the South Willesborough area were found after the Spring treatment was completed to become rapidly re-infested. This was traced to the re-introduction of rats via sewer overflows from infested banks of watercourses.

7. Clean Air Act

During the year seventeen (thirteen last year) notifications of proposals to install furnaces were received - nearly all were oil burning furnaces. One formal notice was served concerning smoke emissions - no recourse to proceedings proved necessary. Plans submitted showing new chimneys received approval as respects heights of those chimneys in twelve cases out of thirteen. Whilst the Clean Air Act enables local authorities to ensure that the height of an industrial chimney is adequate to discharge the gases (mainly sulphurous compounds) high enough to secure safe dispersion and dilution, it is unfortunately true that there is no direct similar control over the height of school heating boiler chimneys. In the event, this criteria helpfully provided by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, is disregarded by the Education Authorities and architectural considerations rather than health aspect appear paramount.

Atmospheric Pollution

The continuous monitoring of the smoke and sulphur burden of the air in the centre of Ashford continued from the Regents Place Recording Station. The results obtained are typical of a domestic smoke problem as opposed to pollution from industrial sources. Recent extensions in the South Ashford area will, it is hoped, be monitored from mid 1966. As before the year's results of smoke and sulphur burden compares favourably with data from Aylesbury, Crayford and Friern Barnet which were selected as being reasonably comparable. Towards the end of 1965 the Council considered the advisability at this stage in the development of the town of introducing 'smoke control'.

Industrial private development so far has been on a relatively limited scale and the projected Stanhope Estate of the Council will be heated by gas. In view of this, the good dispersion which normally obtains locally and other factors, the Council, have accepted the policy of not immediately declaring any existing estates 'Smoke Control Areas' but, in future to consider making Orders in respect of any of their own estates where a substantial number of solid fuel burning appliances will be installed and also where, in any future alterations to the town plan a substantial private development would result. The whole matter will be subject to periodic review in the light of the information obtained from the monitoring stations.

8. Noise.

No serious problems of noise were encountered during the year but with the development of the town the dangers of their increase, especially as there is no 'buffer zone' between residential and industrial areas. At the earliest possible stage where an industry proposes to move into the area, the aspect of noise nuisance is given attention and attempts made in the location of plant, care in siting the openings for ventilation, use of double glazing, special mountings for machinery and in other ways to obviate a nuisance arising.

Several warnings had to be given to itinerant ice cream vendors as to restriction placed on their use of chimes by the Noise Abatement Act, but the general impression gained was that the nuisance was appreciably less.

9. Analysis of Public Health Inspectors Visits
(but excluding work carried out under Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act).

Inspections

Housing

Dwellings re repairs	...	...	...	440
Number of dwellings made fit	...	...	...	83
Dwellings re Demolition & Closing Orders	...	...	...	99
Clearance Areas	...	...	...	28
General Survey and assessment	...	...	...	100
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	214
Improvement areas	...	...	...	170
Multilets	...	...	...	64
Multilet Survey	...	...	...	-
Overcrowding Survey	...	...	...	5
Housing, adequacy of	...	...	...	284
Drainage	...	...	...	267
Water supply	...	...	...	81
Certificate of Disrepair	...	...	...	-
Certificate as to Remedying of Defects	...	...	...	-
Miscellaneous Rent Act	...	...	...	6

Food

Abattoir	...	...	...	454
Bakehouses	...	...	...	2
Butchers	...	...	...	46
Catering establishment and clubs	...	...	...	55
Dairies	...	...	...	16
Fish (incl. fried)	...	...	...	31
Licensed premises	...	...	...	41
Stalls, itinerant vendors and deliver vans	...	...	...	159
All other food premises	...	...	...	116
Registered premises under Sec. 16 included in above	...	...	...	68
Food Inspection and Sampling	...	...	...	287

Factories and Shops

Factories with power	...	...	...	52
Factories non-power	...	...	...	4
Workplaces	...	...	...	7
Outworkers	...	...	...	16
Shops Act (hours)	...	...	...	20
Offices and Shops	...	...	...	607

General

Rats and Mice destruction	...	...	...	43
Other vermin	...	...	...	36
Dirty houses	...	...	...	24
Offensive accumulation	...	...	...	22
Offensive odours	...	...	...	22
Nuisances from keeping animals	...	...	...	7
Tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	3
Caravans	...	...	...	64
Aged and infirm persons	...	...	...	26
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	149
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	4
Noise	...	...	...	18
Agriculture safety and welfare	...	...	...	1
Smoke abatement - observations	...	...	...	17
- visits	...	...	...	8
Air Monitoring	...	...	...	261
Fireguards (Heating Appliances)	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	244

Improvements and Repairs Effected

1. House Repairs

(a) External

Chimney stacks	...	...	...	5
Roofs	...	...	...	25
Gutters and fall pipes	...	...	...	33
Brickwork, pointing and rendering	...	...	...	26
Windows (incl. cords)	...	...	...	23
Doors	...	...	...	3
Decorations	...	...	...	2
Outbuildings	...	...	...	10
Yard Surfacing	...	...	...	10

(b) Internal

Plasterwork (walls and ceilings)	...	...	...	26
Doors and cupboards	...	...	...	3
Fireplaces and stoves	...	...	...	13
Staircases	...	...	...	10
Floors (incl. u.f.v.)	...	...	...	18
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	17

2. Dampness Remedied

Walls	...	...	...	47
Floors	...	...	...	6

3. Foodstore

Made satisfactory	...	...	...	25
Provided	...	...	...	5

4. Water

Leaks repaired	...	...	...	-
Piping renewed	...	...	...	3
Sinks renewed	...	...	...	5
Drainers renewed or provided	...	...	...	2
Hot Water Supply	...	...	...	23
Washing facilities improved	23

5. Water Closets

Repaired	23
New provided	20

6. Ventilation

Improved	12
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7. Natural Lighting

Improved	6
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8. Drainage

Drains renewed or repaired	18
Drains cleared	5

9. Stability Remedied

	2
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ANNUAL REPORT 1965

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1965Record of Inspections

	<u>No. of Premises</u>	<u>No. of 'General' Inspec- tions</u>	<u>No. of Re-inspec- tions</u>
Offices	125 (120)	50 (79)	} 412
Shops	242 (229)	115 (135)	
Wholesalers	22 (20)	18 (6)	
Catering	27 (23)	12 (14)	
Fuel Depot	- (1)	- (-)	

(1964 Figures are given in brackets)

607 (Total visits)

2. Total Persons Employed in Classes of Work in Various Categories of Premises

	Office Work	Shop Work	Whole- sale Work	Cater- ing Work	Canteen Work	Fuel S.D. Work	Total all Staff	Total Female Staff
Offices	931(923)	24 (24)	55(50)	- (1)	2 (2)	- (1)	1012(1001)	471(483)
Shops	108(105)	1335(1272)	8 (8)	3 (-)	9 (10)	- (-)	1463(1395)	993(916)
Wholesalers	45 (45)	4 (3)	138(153)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	187 (201)	44 (47)
Catering	5 (5)	12 (14)	- (-)	159(173)	- (-)	- (-)	176 (192)	149(163)
Fuel Depot	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- (2)	- (2)	- -
	1069(1078)	1375(1313)	201(211)	162(174)	11 (12)	- (3)	2838(2791)	1657(1663)

(1964 Figures are given in brackets)

3. Number of Exemption Certificates in Force During Year

One certificate was granted during the year in respect of exemption from the requirements of Section 9 as to provision of sanitary conveniences. No difficulty in administering the provisions as to exemption was encountered.

4. Extent of Compliance with Various Sections of the Act - Found on Inspection

(a) <u>Offices</u>	<u>Found Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory Notices Served</u>	<u>Notices Complied with</u>
Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	122	1	1
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	116	6	2
Temperature (Sec. 6)	65	30	29
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	104	15	5
Lighting (Sec. 8)	116	6	2
San. Conveniences (Sec. 9)	101	17	6
Washing Fac. (Sec. 10)	64	41	19
Drinking & Washing Fac. (Sec. 11)	106	16	2
Accdn. Clothing (Sec. 12)	113	7	4
Sitting Fac. (Sec. 13)	24	-	-
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec. 14)	118	5	1

	<u>Found Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory Notices Served</u>	<u>Notices Complied With</u>
Safety floors, steps and staircase (Sec. 16)	100	17	7
Safety of Machines (Sec.17)	57	5	-
First Aid (Sec. 24)	61	32	31
Provision of Abstracts (Sec. 50)	44	33	-
<u>(b) Shops</u>			
Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	242	10	3
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	249	2	4
Temperature (Sec. 6)	103	87	65
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	175	62	18
Lighting (Sec.8)	238	10	7
San. Convenience (Sec. 9)	224	21	10
Washing Fac. (Sec. 10)	122	103	30
Drinking & Washing Fac. (Sec. 11)	226	23	6
Accdn. Clothing (Sec. 12)	184	58	13
Sitting Facilities (Sec.13)	242	9	4
Seat for Sedentary Work (Sec. 14)	81	9	2
Safety floors, steps & staircase (Sec. 16)	163	77	15
Safety of Machines (Sec.17)	123	17	2
First Aid (Sec. 24)	89	88	73
Provision of Abstracts (Sec.50)	34	72	-
<u>(c) Wholesale Dept. or Warehouse</u>			
Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	18	1	1
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	18	2	-
Temperature (Sec. 6)	12	5	3
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	14	6	-
Lighting (Sec. 8)	18	2	-
San. Convenience & (Sec.9)	16	4	-
Washing Fac. (Sec. 10)	6	11	3
Drinking & Washing Fac. (Sec.11)	14	6	-
Accdn. Clothing (Sec. 12)	17	3	-
Sitting Fac. (Sec. 13)	8	-	-
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec. 14)	17	1	-
Safety floors, steps & staircase (Sec. 16)	11	7	2
Safety of Machines (Sec.17)	11	1	-
First Aid (Sec. 24)	8	7	5
Provision of Abstracts (Sec.50)	4	7	-
<u>(d) Catering Establishments (Public</u>			
Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	25	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	25	-	-
Temperature (Sec. 6)	11	9	5
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	21	4	-
Lighting (Sec. 8)	23	2	-
San. Convenience (Sec.9)	22	3	-
Washing Fac. (Sec.10)	17	6	2
Drinking & Washing Fac. (Sec. 11)	25	-	-
Accdn. Clothing (Sec. 12)	17	6	-
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec.14)	25	-	-

	<u>Found Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory Notices Served</u>	<u>Notices Complied With</u>
Safety floors, steps and staircases (Sec, 16)	16	8	1
Safety of Machines (Sec,17)	12	2	1
First Aid (Sec. 24)	4	13	8
Provision of Abstracts (Sec.50)	3	6	-

Emphasis has been placed on the securing of the co-operation of firms in meeting with the requirements of the Act, and in fact good co-operation has been received in the great majority of instances. Many good employers already provided for the staff. It does look however, that it will be necessary to test the enforcement provisions of the Act to secure compliance with the Act in regard to a reluctant hardcore who are seeking to disregard the Act.

The Working of the Act

Minor problems arise in applying the safety precautions in relation to shop floor trap openings which give access to cellars used for storage. Owing to limited space and the location of these openings, it can be very difficult to reasonably make them safe.

It is observed that nearly all offices and shops have their own 'official' or 'unofficial' arrangements for making tea and in fact when drinking water fountains are installed they receive little or no use by the staff for whom they are provided. As the source of water, hot and cold, used to be at the wash-hand basins provided at the toilets (intended for removing bowel germs) it was quite common to find the tea cups being cleansed in those same wash-hand basins. At the inception of this Act the view was taken, that where drinking vessels have to be washed up, a sink with water supply, preferably removed from the toilets, should be provided as a 'suitable facility for rinsing drinking vessels in clean water'. A very good response to this standard of provision has been met with.

One prosecution was taken in respect of the lack of a handrail or handhold on both sides of a winding steep staircase which was the source of an accident several months after attention had been drawn to the danger. The case was lost by the Council as the staircase was not 'specially liable' to cause accidents - a history the Council could not be expected to possess. This, however, highlights a shortcoming of the Act with respect to safety on staircases, as there is no requirement that a handrail provided has to be within reach of persons using a staircase e.g. a wide staircase need have only one handhold or handrail which would be of no use whatsoever to a person falling unless they happened to be near enough to grasp it.

6. Accidents Reported during the Year

Premises	Qtr.	MEN		WOMEN		BOYS		GIRLS	
		Machin- ery	Other	Machin- ery	Other	Machin- ery	Other	Machin- ery	Other
OFFICES	1				1				
	2			1					
	3								
	4								
SHOPS	1					1			1
	2		1		1		1	1	1
	3		2						
	4		1		1				
WHOLE- SALER	1		1						
	2		2						
	3		1						
	4								
CATERING	1								
	2				1				
	3				1				
	4				1				

No fatal accidents were reported

7. Future

Inspection routine is intended to be based on a three year cycle of 'general' inspections, to secure that every registered premises received a general inspection at three-yearly intervals (in addition to such re-inspection as are found necessary).

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health

	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
i) Factories in which Section 1, 2,3,4, and 6, are enforced by Local Authority	30	9	2	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	162	51	8	-
iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	17	10	-	-
Total	209	70	10	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred</u>		<u>No. of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted</u>
			<u>To H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector</u>	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	1	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Convenience					
(a) Insufficient	5	5	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	7	7	-	-	-
Total	16	16	1	-	-

OUTWORKERS - There are eleven Outworkers in the district

SECTION D.

HOUSING

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

	<u>Completed</u> <u>1965</u>	<u>1946 - 1965</u> <u>(inclusive)</u>
(i) Prefabricated temporary bungalows	-	90
(ii) New Permanent Houses:-		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	9
(b) 3 " "	-	364
(c) 4 " "	-	21
(d) 2 " maisonettes (Court Wurtin)	-	8
(e) 2 " type (Court Wurtin)	1	3
<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	-	70
(b) 3 " "	-	419
(c) 4 " "	-	9
<u>Burton Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	58
(b) 3 " "	-	98
<u>Reuton Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	30
(b) 3 " "	-	60
<u>Brookfield South Estate</u>		
(a) 3 " 3 storey with	119	129
(b) 3 " " "	41	41
(c) 4 " " type	2	2
<u>Bockhanger Estate</u>		
(a) 3 bedroom type	158	158
(b) 4 " " "	34	34
<u>Bockhanger Estate</u>		
(a) 1 bedroom type	34	34
(b) 2 " " Maisonette	80	80
(c) 3 " " "	56	56

(iii) Flats	1965	1946 - 65 (inclusive)
<u>Croft Road</u>		
(a) Bed-sitting room type	-	2
(b) 2 bedroom type	-	1
(c) 1 " "	-	3
<u>Musgrove Estate</u>		
(a) Gregory Flats	-	28
(b) Bed-sitting room type	-	16
(c) 2 bedroom Easiform type	-	16
<u>Woolreads Estate</u>		
(a) Bed-sitting room type	-	6
(b) 2 bedroom type	-	6
(c) 1 " " (Court Wurtin)	-	6
(d) 2 " " " "	-	2
(e) Bed-sitting room type (Court Wurtin)	20	34
<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 " "	-	28
<u>Beaver Green Estate</u>		
(a) Gregory Flats	-	28
(b) 1 bedroom type	-	18
(c) 2 " "	-	53
(d) Bed-sitting room type	-	4
<u>Aylesford Green Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	20
(b) 1 " "	-	12
<u>East Stour Farm</u>		
	-	8
<u>Repton Estate</u>		
	-	48
<u>Kennington - 2 bed-room type</u>		
	-	8
(iv) <u>Old People's Bungalows</u>		
(a) <u>Burton Estate</u>	-	12
(b) <u>Beaver Green Estate</u>	-	16
(c) <u>Woolreads Estate (Court Wurtin)</u>		
2 bedroom type	-	5
1 " "	12	12
(d) <u>Waterside</u>		
1 bedroom type	-	6
(e) <u>Gladstone and Mead Roads</u>		
1 bedroom type	-	2

	1965	1946 - 65 (inclusive)
Total number of units provided by the Council	557	2,543
Number provided by private enterprise	193	1,779

Analysis of Applications for Council Houses

Childless couples	45	
One child families	96	
Two/Three child families	57	
Four or more child families	11	209

Living in Ashford - Adequately Housed

Childless couples	89	
One child couples	82	
Two/Three child families	74	
Four or more child families	4	249

Living elsewhere, working in Ashford - inadequately housed

Childless couples	10	
One child families	23	
Two/Three child families	37	
Four or more child families	18	88

Living elsewhere, working in Ashford - adequately housed

Childless couples	18	
One child families	22	
Two/Three child families	62	
Four or more child families	9	111

Applicants for bed-sitting room flats of whom 19 are householders ... 44

Applicants for old peoples dwellings of whom 65 are householders ... 103

Total applicants ... 804

A. Houses demolished

In Clearance Areas
(Housing Act, 1957)

- (1) Houses unfit for human habitation
- (2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement
- (3) Houses on land acquired under Sect. 43(2)
Housing Act, 1957

Not in Clearance Areas

- (4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sect. 17(1) Housing Act, 1957

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year Persons	Families
(1)	-	35	13
(2)	-	-	-
(3)	-	-	-
(4)	6	17	12

B. Unfit Houses Closed

- (5) Under Sec. 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1)
Housing Act, 1957
- (6) Under Sec. 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957
- (7) Parts of buildings closed under Sec.18,
Housing Act, 1957

Number

8
-
6

C. Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(8) After informal action by local authority	73	-
(9) After formal notice under -	5	-
(a) Public Health Act	3	-
(b) Secs. 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	3	-
(10) Under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957	-	-

'Slum' Clearance

Mead Road Clearance Area

The Compulsory Purchase Order was confirmed by the Minister without an enquiry being held in the absence of objectors to the Scheme, and by the end of the year eleven households had been rehoused by the Council, the occupants of the eight remaining houses being already rehoused, or provided their own accommodation.

Five Year Programme

The original programme wound up this year, and in spite of the ebb and flow of houses available for rehousing it has been adhered to with relatively small adjustments. A few houses in the programme have not been dealt with, but these largely are occupied by elderly folk who naturally do not wish to be disturbed, and for whom failure to respect their wishes would result in greater hurt than benefit. There remain a number of houses in the area which have been aptly described as 'twilight', but it is fair to say that the five year programme has cleared the area of its really bad housing and what now is considered bad is relatively so by reason of generally improved standards. A start was made at the end of the year to determine what houses in the 'twilight' range could properly be included in a future programme of clearance under the Housing Act.

Improvement of Houses

The pace of improvement works to houses continues to be hampered by the surfeit of the work enjoyed by local builders which also undoubtedly has an effect on the costs involved. No opportunity is lost of bringing the opportunity of grants to the notice of owners of property and schedules of improvements, repairs and suggestions for layout are made freely available to interested property owners.

At the beginning of the year careful consideration was given to the implementation of the powers given by the Housing Act, 1964 to local authorities to secure the improvement of houses area by area (declaration of Improvement Areas) coupled with improvement of the street scene. Limitations imposed by shortage of building labour for improvement work demanded a cautious approach and in any case voluntary improvement of premises was preferred to avoidable coercion. It was decided to try a pilot scheme and as Christchurch Road houses are basically sound houses that area was selected for a start. Accordingly the Council announced its intention to declare Christchurch Road an Improvement Area, coupled with a house-to-house detailed inspection and production of schedules of repairs and improvement works which were sent to landlords and owner/occupiers alike giving detail of grants available to them. A total of 166 houses were dealt with in this way and early in 1966 the Council will consider the 'declaration' of the Improvement Areas and it is hoped that other areas in other parts of the town will follow regularly in due course.

During the year the tenants of five rented houses outside (prospective) Improvement Areas applied to the Council to use its compulsory powers to secure the improvement of their houses and in each case the owner undertook

to secure the improvement works himself after being informally approached in the matter.

Multilet Dwellings

No serious problem arose during the year from multilet dwellings although it was considered necessary to impose direction notices to restrict the use of two dwellings where living conditions were prejudicial to health in part of each house.

SECTION E.

1. Milk Supplies

There are thirty-one registered distributors of milk in the district and four registered dairies.

Samples of milk taken in course of delivery were taken with the following results:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Pasteurised	42	1
Sterilised	6	-

2. Ice Cream

Sampling was again mainly concentrated on sales of loose ice cream from catering establishments and samples from itinerant vendors in the evenings were obtained.

	<u>Vans and Stalls</u>				<u>Premises</u>			
	<u>Grades</u>				<u>Grades</u>			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Soft	8	5	-	2	-	-	-	-
Other loose	7	2	2	1	22	1	1	-
Wrapped	4	1	-	-	8	-	-	-

Some 101 premises, mostly general shops are registered for the sale of ice cream. In addition, ice cream is retailed by catering establishments of all sorts, from theatres, clubs schools and from the vehicles of itinerant vendors without the need to register. It is most exceptional for an ice cream sold pre-packed from the type of premises that have to be registered to fail to reach the standard of hygienic quality desired.

3. Meat and Foods

There are 42 premises in the district registered for the manufacture of foods which do not include any catering establishments but range through food factories, fried fish shops, butchers (sausage manufacture), pie manufacture, provisions (ham cooking etc.) and shops with spit roasters or deep freeze pie cooking arrangements. Each year the production of prepared foods advances and increases and of its very nature the techniques call for very special care.

Reference was made last year to the pernicious practice of 'unauthorised' sale or exchange practices by some deliverymen serving retail outlets such as general shops - in which stale goods collected from one retailer are passed on to another who thinks he is getting fresh stock. In the course of the year one such instance came to light when a mouldy

loaf was eventually sold to a customer. The firm employing the deliveryman, proven to be operating sale or exchange at the time, was prosecuted and fined £30. It is to be hoped that shopkeepers will be on their guard against deliverymen who offer to exchange goods for them unless the returned goods are mutilated at the time of exchange!

Eleven instances of complaints of foreign bodies or contamination of food were received during the year. The contamination of bread with lubricant is the most regularly recurring source of trouble.

<u>Unsound Food Surrendered</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Meat at slaughterhouse (Not incl. offal)	1	18	52
Meat at wholesale premises	-	-	-
Meat at retail shops	-	3	52
Cooked meat and meat products	-	2	-
Canned meats	-	15	109
Fish	-	1	37
Fruit and vegetables	2	2	20
Other Foods (+ offal at Slaughterhouse Poultry and Rabbits at Market) ...	2	1	78
	<hr/>		
	Total	7	5
			12
	<hr/>		

In addition meat and offals were rejected at the Council's Abattoir and 73 poultry and 11 rabbits were removed as unfit from a total of 6,601 poultry and 1,790 rabbits examined at Ashford Market food auctions. The condition of the birds has steadily improved over the years.

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 under refuse at the Council's refuse dump.

Food Hygiene

Routine inspection of food premises and on-the-spot correction of food unhygienic practices are very necessary and more of this work should be done. The following list indicates improvements effected on food premises by informal notifications to occupiers.

Wounds exposed, warnings given	...	...	2
Smoking, warnings given	...	...	5
Clothes storage, made satisfactory	...	...	1
First Aid, outfits provided	...	...	3
Hand washing facilities, improved	...	...	15
Hand washing labels, provided	...	...	12
Washing up facilities improved	...	...	7
Cleanliness, generally improved	...	...	10
Wall, floor and ceiling finishes improved	...	...	17
Lighting made adequate	...	...	1
Preparation tops made hygienic	...	...	5
Ventilation improved	...	...	10
Equipment - cleanliness made satisfactory	...	...	5
Exposed foods, protection improved	...	...	10
Temperature control of foods, warnings	...	...	5
Storage food, improved	...	...	7
Storage, wrapping and empties improved	...	...	-
Miscellaneous improvements	...	...	18

Prosecution

One prosecution was taken in respect of the dirty condition of a bread delivery van, as a result of which fines totalling £60 were imposed.

There are signs that more food hygiene consciousness is needed, and especially in the home. Two points worthy of mention arose from investigations of cases of infective diarrhoea in the homes. There was evidence of spread of dysentery from family to family, especially where the children were young, emphasising the need for training at as early an age as possible the necessary routine of hand washing after using the toilet. The other matter concerns the dangers arising of human food poisoning from pets - cats and dogs - or their food. Two families and the household dog were all found to be suffering from *S. typhimurium*. Whether the infection was conveyed by contact of the animal's food with human food or whether the germs were spread by the washing up of dogs dish with food utensils of its human masters could not be ascertained. But care in both these matters might well have prevented the outbreak of food poisoning.

With the increasing use of prepared foods attention is drawn to an increasing hazard from inadequate, unsuitable food storage arrangements found even in new houses and where this is combined with central heating risks are greatly increased.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	458	63	47	3,077	4,301	-
Number inspected	458	63	47	3,077	4,301	-
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	1	50	10	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	18	10	4	220	500	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	3.9	17.5	10.6	8.8	11.9	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	33	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.8	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalized and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Author	Title	Date	Notes

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