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Contributors

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ASHFORD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the YEAR 1968



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE
LOCAL AUTHORITY, 1968

Medical Officer of Health

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.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

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

Additional Public Health Inspector

COULING, S.W. M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

BLACKWELL, A. M.A.P.H.I.

ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, KENT

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of
Health for the year 1968

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1968.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 34,880 an increase of 810 over that of the previous year.

Live Births and Rate

The number of live births was 671 (349 M. 322 F.) which was a decrease of 46 from that of the previous year. The crude birth-rate was accordingly 19.2 which after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution, becomes 18.6 compared with that of 16.9 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

The number of stillbirths was 7 (4 M. 3 F.) and the corresponding rate was 10.0 in comparison with that of 14.0 for England and Wales.

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

Eleven infant deaths were registered seven of which were under four weeks of age, and the corresponding infantile mortality rate was 16.0 compared with that of 18.0 for England and Wales.

The causes of death were:-

Extreme Prematurity: Eclampsia - 1 hour

Extreme Prematurity - 6 hours

Extreme Prematurity - 8 hours

Congenital Morbus Cordis (Dextro Cardia and Patent
Ventricular Septum - 6 months

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate (Contd)

Anencephalus - 1 day

Acute Tracheo-Bronchitis - 3 months

Intracranial Haemorrhage through undilated Cx.

Breech Delivery - 17 hours

Pulmonary haemorrhage: Congenital Pyloric Stenosis - 1 month

Inhalation of Vomit: Gastro Intestinal Disorder - 3 weeks

Prematurity: B.W. 890 gr. - 2 hours

Prematurity - Weighed 2-lbs. - 9 hours

causes of

The hard core 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 379 (201 M. 178 F.) and the corresponding crude death rate was 10.9 which after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, as for births, becomes 11.6 compared with that of 11.9 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 189.

Disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart was the cause of 101 (60 M. 41 F.) in the following age-groups; 1 between 35 - 44; 5 between 45 - 54; 10 between 55 - 64; 33 between 65 - 74 and 52 over 75 years of age. Eighty-five of those deaths were over 65 years, including 52 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 80 in the following

age-groups; 5 between 35 - 44; 12 between 45 - 54; 18 between 55 - 64; 25 between 65 - 74 and 20 over 75 years. The majority of the deaths were over 65 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 22 deaths (19 M. 3 F.) in the following age-groups:- 2 between 35 - 44; 2 between 45 - 54; 5 between 55 - 64; 10 between 65 - 74 and 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.

Cancer of the Breast was the cause of 6 deaths in the following age-groups; 2 between 45 - 54; 2 between 55 - 64; 1 between 65 - 74 and 1 over 75 years. 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 stomach caused 8 (3 M. 5 F.) deaths, 1 between 45 - 54; 1 between 55 - 64; 1 between 65 - 74 and 5 over 75 years.

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

The Infectious Diseases

Measles

Only 12 notifications of this disease were notified compared with 510 in the previous year.

Whooping Cough

Five cases were notified. 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.

The Infectious Diseases (Contd.)

Scarlet Fever

Thirteen 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.

Food Poisoning

Five cases were notified - all in the same family, and the causal organism was salmonella typhi-murium.

Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia

Seven cases of this illness were notified up to the end of September. Including the secondary Pneumonias which are not notifiable, there were 24 deaths in the following age-groups; 2 between 55 - 64 years; 7 between 65 - 74 years and 15 over 75 years. Pneumonia is a common terminal cause of death amongst the aged.

Tuberculosis

Three new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and all patients were over 65 years of age. One new non-Pulmonary case was notified - the patient was nine years old.

There were two deaths due to Tuberculosis of the Lung - both patients were over 55 years of age.

Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968

The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968 came into force on the 1st October 1968, and, as requested by the Minister of Health, copies of these new Regulations and also copies of Sections 47 to 49 of the Act of 1968 were sent to all medical practitioners in the area.

The Infectious Diseases (Contd.)

Under this new Act the following Infectious Diseases are now notifiable:-

Acute Encephalitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Acute Meningitis	Paratyphoid Fever
Acute Poliomyelitis	Plague
Anthrax	Relapsing Fever
Cholera	Scarlet Fever
Diphtheria	Smallpox
Dysentery	Tetanus
(amoebic or bacillary)	Tuberculosis
Infective Jaundice	Typhoid Fever
Leprosy	Typhus
Leptospirosis	Whooping Cough
Malaria	Yellow Fever
Measles	

The following diseases are now no longer notifiable:-

Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	Erysipelas
Acute Primary Pneumonia	Membranous Croup
Acute Rheumatism	Puerperal Pyrexia

Cases or suspected cases of Food Poisoning are still required to be notified.

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.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT FOR 1968AREA: 5,719 acresREGISTRAR-GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF

The Resident Population	...	...	...	34,880
<u>NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES ACCORDING</u>				
<u>TO THE RATE BOOKS</u>	...	...	...	11,466
<u>NUMBER OF BUSINESS PREMISES</u>	...	...	...	2,219
<u>RATEABLE VALUE (1-4-69)</u>	...	...	...	£1,424,099
<u>SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE (1-4-69)</u>				£6,025

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 Engineering and Electrical Engineering, Ordnance Depot, Bread, Cereal Products and Jam Factory, Starch/Glucose conversion factory, a large Food Processing and Dried Foods Factory, a Cosmetic Manufacturer, a Perfumery, Glass Scientific Instrument Firm, Wood Worker and Furniture Makers, Plastics Manufacturer, Plating and Rubber moulding firms.

Light industry (mainly medium and small firms) is coming to the district in concert with the absorption into the town of London 'overspill'. Unemployment in the area is relatively low.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

-6-

ASHFORD
U. D.

ENGLAND
& WALES

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>			
1. <u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	671	349	322	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	19.2 (Adjusted Rate 18.6)	16.9
(a) Legitimate	627	325	302			
(b) Illegitimate	44	24	20			
2. <u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	7	4	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	10.0	14.0
(a) Legitimate	7	4	3			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3. <u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS</u>	678	353	325			
4. <u>DEATHS</u>	379	201	178	Death Rate per 1,000 resident population	10.9 (Adjusted Rate 11.6)	11.9
5. <u>DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILD- BIRTH, ABORTION</u>	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	Nil	Not Available
6. <u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE</u>	11	8	3	Rate per 1,000 live births	16.0	18.0
(a) Legitimate	9	6	3	Rate per 1,000 live births (legitimate)	14.2	
(b) Illegitimate	2	2	-	Rate per 1,000 live births (illegitimate)	45.5	
7. <u>PERINATAL MORTALITY</u> (Stillbirths and deaths of infants under 1 week)	13	7	6	Rate per 1,000 total births	19.0	25.0
8. <u>ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS</u>					6.6%	

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1968

<u>ALL CAUSES</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	201	178
1. Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	1	-
2. Other Tuberculosis, Including Late Effects	-	2
3. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	-
4. Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	3	5
5. Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	19	3
6. Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	6
7. Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	5
8. Leukaemia	-	2
9. Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	19	18
10. Diabetes Mellitus	-	1
11. Other Diseases of Nervous System etc.	1	2
12. Active Rheumatic Fever	1	-
13. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	2
14. Hypertensive Disease	4	4
15. Ischaemic Heart Disease	60	41
16. Other Forms of Heart Disease	14	17
17. Cerebrovascular Disease	20	26
18. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6	8
19. Influenza	3	1
20. Pneumonia	11	13
21. Bronchitis and Emphysema	15	4
22. Asthma	1	1
23. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1
24. Peptic Ulcer	1	1
25. Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	1
26. Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	3
27. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1
28. Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-
29. Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	-
30. Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	1
31. Congenital Anomalies	2	1
32. Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	-	1
33. Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	3	1
34. Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1
35. All Other Accidents	6	4
36. Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1968

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	7	-	1
Measles	12	-	-
Scarlet Fever	13	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	-	-
Food Poisoning	5	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Acute Meningitis	1	-	-
Dysentery	7	-	-
Infective Jaundice	2	-	-

ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS

<u>DISEASES</u>	Under 1 Yr.	1	2	3	4	5-9	10- 14	15- 19	20- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65	Unknown
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	3	-
Measles	-	1	1	6	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	-	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	1	1	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Meningitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1968

<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>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	144	99	19 28
1 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-			
5 ...	-	-	1	-	-	-			
15 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-			
25 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-			
35 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-			
45 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-			
55 ...	-	-	-	-	2	-			
65 and upwards	3	-	-	-	-	-			
TOTAL	3	-	1	-	2	-			

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 Pulmonary Tuberculosis of a patient who had not been notified as suffering from this disease.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Primary</u>						<u>Reinforcing</u>					
	Triple Antigen	Diphtheria Tetanus	Smallpox	Tetanus	Measles	Polio-myelitis	Triple Antigen	Diphtheria Tetanus	Smallpox	Tetanus	Measles	Polio-myelitis
1968	254	-	-	1	1	130	-	-	-	1	-	-
1967	367	15	390	1	32	517	6	4	-	-	-	-
1966	20	-	}		36	79	116	276	-	2	-	-
1965	3	3	-	-	29	19	25	67	-	-	-	-
1964	1	-	-	2	19	6	-	10	-	3	-	17
1961-1963	-	3	-	1	118	-	58	415	7	5	-	564
1952-1960	1	-	-	11	4	-	1	13	-	7	-	-
Total	646	21	390	17	139	751	206	785	7	18	-	581

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

January/February 1968

	<u>FILMS TAKEN</u>			<u>Change from last Survey</u>		<u>IN ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS</u>			<u>CANCER OF LUNG</u>		
	<u>FILMS TAKEN</u>		<u>Total</u>			<u>IN ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>CANCER OF LUNG</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
<u>PUBLIC CENTRES</u>	2,336	3,144	5,480	+ 265		10	16	26	-	-	-
<u>INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER SITES</u>	2,275	1,064	3,339	+ 354		23	3	26	-	-	-
<u>SCHOOLS</u>	244	297	541			-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>PUBLIC CENTRES</u>	-	-	-			-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER SITES</u>	-	1	1			-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>SCHOOLS</u>	-	-	-			-	-	-	-	-	-

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 and 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 five sitting-case cars are garaged. The ambulance personnel numbers one Station Officer and one Assistant Station Officer. The twenty-two Driver/Attendants are supplemented by St. John Brigade and Hospital ~~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:-

(1) 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 Thursday of each week from 2.00 p.m. The Doctor attends once weekly on Tuesdays.

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

Sessions are held at 2.00 p.m. on alternate Fridays.

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

Sessions are held at 2.00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

(iv) Brookfield Hall, South Ashford

Sessions are held at 2.00 p.m. on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday of each month.

School Medical Service Clinics

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

- (a) School 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 is held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 2.00 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)

Chiropody Service, Chiropody Clinic, Station Road, Ashford.

This service is provided for men over 65 years and women over 60 years for physically handicapped persons and for expectant mothers. Appointments are made through the Principal Welfare Officer, K.C.C. Health Department, 27/

27, High Street, Ashford. (Tel: No: Ashford 24451).

Cytology Clinic

This clinic is held monthly at the Station Road Clinic and applications should be made direct to the Clinic. (Tel: No: Ashford 24915).

Tuberculosis Clinic

This clinic is held at Ashford Hospital on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9.30 a.m. Appointments must be made through the Lenham Chest Hospital. (Tel: No: Lenham 314).

Hospitals

- (a) Ashford General - accommodation 115 beds
- (b) Willesborough General - accommodation 133 beds
- (c) The Warren Hospital - accommodation 16 cubicle beds
(including cots) - Infectious Diseases.

4. Private Nursing Homes

There were two registered Nursing Homes in the area at the end of the year - accommodating nineteen patients. Since 30-4-69 Laburnum Lodge Nursing Home, Jemmett Road, has been closed.

5. Home Nursing and Midwifery Services

The County Council administers these services. 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.

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

These services are administered by the County Council and have become a very important health service in the home. Applications for assistance should be made to the local Domestic Help Organiser at 14, Church Road, Ashford. (Tel: No: Ashford 24411).

Home Helps are paid at the rate of 5/2d. per hour and there is a sliding scale of charges based on the family income of the applicants - the maximum charge being 6/5d. per hour.

The number of dwellings completed during the year 1968/9 was as follows:-

		<u>Completed</u> <u>1968/9</u>	<u>1946 - 1968</u> <u>(inclusive)</u>
(i)	<u>Prefabricated temporary bungalows</u>	-	39
(ii)	<u>New Permanent Houses:-</u>		
	<u>Woolreeds Estate</u>		
(a)	2 bedroom type	-	9
(b)	3 " "	-	385
(c)	4 " "	-	23
(d)	2 " maisonettes (Court Wurtin)	-	8
	<u>Musgrove Estate</u>		
(a)	2 bedroom type	-	40
(b)	3 " "	-	73
(c)	4 " "	-	3
	<u>Osborne Road Estate</u>		
(a)	2 bedroom type	-	28
(b)	3 " "	13	188
(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 " "	-	431
(c)	4 " "	-	10
	<u>Burton Estate</u>		
(a)	2 bedroom type	-	58
(b)	3 " "	-	98

<u>HOUSING (Contd.)</u>		<u>Completed</u> <u>1968/9</u>	<u>1946 - 1968</u> <u>(inclusive)</u>
<u>Repton Estate</u>			
(a)	2 bedroom type	-	30
(b)	3 " "	-	4
<u>Brookfield South Estate</u>			
(a)	3 bedroom type	-	205
(b)	3 " 3 storey with garage	-	105
(c)	4 " type	-	11
<u>Bockhanger Estate</u>			
(a)	3 bedroom type	-	158
(b)	4 " "	-	34
<u>Stanhope</u>			
(a)	3 bedroom type	304	432
(b)	4 " "	85	126
<u>Flats</u>			
<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>Woolreeds Estate</u>			
(a)	Bed-sitting room type	-	6
(b)	2 bedroom type	-	14
(c)	1 " " (Court Wurtin)	-	6
(d)	2 " " " "	-	2
(e)	Bed-sitting room type (Beaver Court)	-	24

HOUSING (Contd.)1968/919.
1946-68
(incl.)FlatsOsborne Road Estate

(a) 3 bedroom type

-

1

Godfrey Walk

(a) Bed-sitting room type

-

13

(b) 1 bedroom type

-

27

(c) 2 " "

-

28

Beaver Green Estate

(a) Gregory Flats

-

28

(b) 1 bedroom type

-

18

(c) 2 " "

-

53

(d) Bed-sitting room type

-

4

Bockhanger Estate

(a) 1 bedroom type - flats

-

34

(b) 2 " Maisonettes

-

70

(c) 3 " "

-

66

Brookfield South

2 bedroom type

-

71

Aylesford Green Estate

(a) 2 bedroom type

-

20

(b) 1 " "

-

12

East Stour Farm

-

8

Repton Estate

-

48

Burton Estate - 2 bedroom type

-

8

Stanhope

(a) 1 bedroom flats

51

75

(b) 2 " maisonettes

102

150

<u>HOUSING (Contd.)</u>	<u>1968/9</u>	<u>1946-68</u> <u>(incl.)</u>
<u>Old People's Bungalows</u>		
(a) <u>Burton Estate</u>	-	12
(b) <u>Beaver Green Estate</u>	-	16
(c) <u>Brookfield Court and Court Wurtin</u>		
2 bedroom type	-	5
1 " "	-	12
(d) <u>Waterside</u>		
1 bedroom type	-	6
(e) <u>Gladstone, Mead and Osborne Roads</u>	9	11
1 bedroom type		
Total number of units provided by the Council	564	3,502
Number provided by private enterprise 1968.	208	2,201
<u>Analysis of Applications for Council Houses</u>		
<u>Living in Ashford - Inadequately housed</u>		
Childless couples	46	
One child families	75	
Two/Three child families	49	
Four or more child families	<u>18</u>	188
<u>Living in Ashford - Adequately Housed</u>		
Childless couples	69	
One child couples	74	
Two/Three child families	92	
Four or more child families	<u>14</u>	249
<u>Living elsewhere, working in Ashford - inadequately housed</u>		
Childless couples	9	
One child families	15	
Two/Three child families	24	
Four or more child families	<u>7</u>	55

HOUSING (Contd.)Analysis of Applications for Council Houses (Contd.)

Living elsewhere, working in Ashford - adequately housed

Childless couples	18	
One child families	23	
Two/Three child families	53	
Four or more child families	<u>3</u>	97

Applicants for bed-sitting room flats of whom		
25 are householders	...	54

Applicants for old peoples dwellings of		
whom 105 are householders	...	147

Total applicants	...	790
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Houses in clearance areas and unfit houses elsewhere

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED	IN OR ADJOINING CLEARANCE AREAS declared under Section 42 of the Hsg. Act 1957	Unfit for human habitation	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
				Nil
		Included by reason of bad arrangement	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
		On land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act 1957	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
		As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17(1) Housing Act 1957	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	6
		Local authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
				Nil

A. (Contd.)	HOUSES DEMOLISHED	IN OR ADJOINING CLEARANCE AREAS declared under Section 42 of the Hsg. Act 1957	Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
			Houses included in unfitness orders made under para. 2 of the Second Schedule to the land compensation Act 1961	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
B.	UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED in pur- suance of closing orders or under- takings	Number of separate dwellings included above which were previously reported as closed in pursuance of closing orders or undertakings		Reported as closed up to 31st December 1964	2
				Reported as closed since 31-12-64	1
		Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act 1957 and Section 26 Hsg. Act 1961		Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	6
				Number of Houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	6
		Under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act 1957			-
		PARTS OF BUILDINGS CLOSED under Section 18 Housing Act 1957		Number of dwellings	1

C. Number of PERSONS DIS- PLACED	From houses to be demolished in or adjoining clearance areas From houses to be demolished not in or adjoining clearance areas From houses to be closed From parts of buildings to be closed	Nil 3 7 Nil
D. Number of FAMILIES DIS- PLACED	From houses to be demolished in or adjoining clearance areas From houses to be demolished not in or adjoining clearance areas From houses to be closed From parts of buildings to be closed	Nil 2 2 Nil
E. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT	<p>After informal action by local authority by owner</p> <p>After formal notice under Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957 (a) by owner (b) by local authority</p> <p>After formal notice under Public Health Acts Previously included in a clearance order which has been or will be modified or revoked under Section 24 Housing Act 1961</p> <p>Previously included in a demolition order which has been or will be revoked under Section 24 Housing Act 1957</p> <p>Previously included in a closing order which has been or will be determined under Section 27 Housing Act 1957</p>	118 56 Nil 2 Nil Nil 1

F. HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED (Other than unfit houses made fit) After formal notice under Public Health Acts				Nil
G. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957)	Retained for temporary accommodation	Under Section 48	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
		Under Section 17(2)	Number of houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
		Under Section 46	Number of Houses Number of separate dwellings contained therein	Nil
	Licensed for temporary accommodation under section 34 or 53 - No. of Houses			Nil
	Houses in clearance areas other than those included in confirmed orders or compulsory purchase orders		Number of houses Number of occupants	Nil
H. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT				Nil

Report of the Public Health Inspectorate

for the Year 1968

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting an Annual Report on the environmental health inspection services carried out in 1968.

Whilst the main objective, the achievement of a healthful environment and a feeling of good health remains unchanged over the years, there is no questioning the fact that the pace quickens with increasing population and new problems arise from this and the complexities of modern living. This trend is matched by modern legislation and directives which occupy more and more time in order to try to keep abreast of developments in the many aspects of the environment - clean air, food, housing, workplaces and so on.

It is fair to say that during 1968 there was no particular emphasis on any one aspect of the environmental health field work. The Imported Food Regulations 1968 are at present of little significance locally but with the growth of containerization of foodstuffs coming from abroad, it could at any future time effectively bring port surveillance duties to inland towns such as Ashford.

We were pleased to be joined by Mr. A. Blackwell who was successful in passing the final Diploma of the Association of Public Health Inspectors, and is the first Public Health Inspector to be trained in the Department.

I should like to record thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their help and understanding, and the consideration they have given to suggestions presented to them. My thanks are also due to the Medical Officer of Health, and to my colleagues for their valued assistance and co-operative team effort throughout the year.

Your obedient Servant,

S.F. HAMMOND

Chief Public Health Inspector

Visits

Nuisance from (a) keeping of animals.....	47
(b) dust.....	-
Control of tents, vans and sheds.....	2
Caravans.....	43
Aged and infirm persons.....	4
Infectious diseases.....	27
Food Poisoning.....	4
Agriculture, safety and welfare.....	1
Clean Air (a) observations.....	39
(b) visits.....	49
(c) monitoring stations.....	344
(e) miscellaneous.....	13
Noise (i) sources investigated.....	16
(ii) visits arising.....	98

4. Places of Work

Factories with power.....	155
Factories non power.....	6
Building & Engineering Works.....	24
Outworkers.....	12
Workplaces.....	12
Offices.....	61
Shops.....	156
Warehouses.....	16
Catering Establishments.....	19

5. Miscellaneous

Shops Act (hours etc.).....	6
Fireguard (Heating Appliances).....	13
Unclassified.....	455

HOUSING

Repair or Clearance of Unfit Houses

When attempting to assess progress in eliminating unfit housing at any point in time it is useful to look back briefly. After the prolonged war-time pause in routine repair and maintenance of property and the clearance of unfit dwellings the resumption of the latter was recommended to Local Authorities by the Government, and in 1954 the clearance or closure of unfit houses was resumed. Initially eighteen dwellings were considered to be needing to be dealt with. By 1956 forty-two houses were so listed and a further fifteen were added during 1958. By 1958 seventeen had been demolished, twenty-one closed and one reconditioned. By March 1959, forty-nine houses or parts had been closed or pulled down, and seven were in course of being dealt with. Subsidies for replacement houses were considered essential and progress in so-called 'slum clearance' had to be dovetailed carefully into the Ministry approval for replacement houses. During 1959, some twenty-four additional houses were proposed for clearance. It was, even before then, clear that not only did the clearance of unfit houses call for a methodical approach but that a programme was necessary to assist with forward planning, to give guidance to owners and prospective purchasers of property and also to enable one to be in a position to advise as to whether houses should be improved by means of grants or not. A survey was put in hand, commencing with the town centre, in which a sampling technique was followed as far as possible, but on some occasions could not be, owing to the varying ages, conditions and types of property sometimes within close proximity to each other, calling for house-to-house inspection.

By 1960 families had been rehoused from some sixty-six dwellings and a number of families had found alternative accommodation or moved away. At this time the survey was sufficiently advanced to enable a five-year programme to be drawn up aimed to deal with twenty-two houses for the year 1961, twenty-two for 1962 (to include Hempsted Street

Clearance Area), twelve for 1963, and eighteen for 1964 (to include Mead Road Clearance Area). The survey, completed in 1961, enabled pre-war houses to be categorized as follows:-

Category 'A' - Unfit house - for clearance in five years - 118

Category 'A/B' - Substandard houses to be considered for clearance at an early date - 23

Category 'B' - Substandard houses which are not expected to have a life of 15 yrs. or more - 172

Category 'B/C' - Substandard houses which by reason mainly of past neglect or defects or structure may not have a full life of 15 yrs. or more - 117

Category 'C' - Substandard houses which have a life of more than 15 yrs. but which cannot readily be brought up to a full modern standard - 833

Category 'D' - Basically sound houses (including houses substandard in amenities only) - 3504

The programme was substantially completed as planned. Compulsory Purchase Orders for Hempsted Street and Mead Rd. Clearance Areas were duly confirmed by the Minister, followed by rehousing of the occupants and clearance of the houses. In 1965 a quinquennial survey of 'A/B', 'B' and 'B/C' houses was started and finished off in the following year. This survey revealed that some sixty houses on the 'border-line' of unfitness had been effectively reconditioned. A five-year programme extending to 1970 comprising of seventy-nine houses (including two small clearance areas) to be dealt with as unfit was decided upon and a further fifty-five listed as having a probable life not exceeding ten years.

In November 1968, the Minister notified confirmation of the Albion Place and Terrace Compulsory Purchase Order but re-housing arising from this could not progress far during the year.

There is now going to be a gradual running down of so-called 'slum clearance' activity, and with the worst of the houses cleared the accent is clearly on repair and improvement. The picture is not altogether good however, as subsequent to enforced delay in implementing various planned projects there is a substantial amount of residential premises, most especially in the centre of the town, which is barely maintained with no thought for long-term maintenance and improvement. There is also surely something seriously wrong that after making progress to dispose of British Railways Newtown Estate to the Council, new obstacles should be introduced to hinder completion of the purchase. Meantime, basic unsatisfactory features to some of the Newtown Estate houses go unremedied and as these houses empty they are shut and left unoccupied to a continuing and progressive state of deterioration affecting not only the houses but the morale of some of those living on the Estate. So far as I am aware there are two fixed baths and only one shower bath in about 250 British Railway Corporation dwellings on the whole Estate!

Multi-let Accommodation

When viewed against the problem experienced in some localities, the estimated 130 houses in multi-let occupation here present minimal difficulties. It is a local experience that flats are not generally popular and this has a tendency to lead to tenancies changing frequently, with disadvantages to landlord and tenant alike. There is a welcome tendency for some larger houses to be converted properly into two or more dwellings but the absence of numbers of really large houses is a limiting factor. Very helpful liaison is maintained with the Housing Manager in this and other housing matters, so that the application of legal requirements and restrictions in regard to multi-let accommodation is so timed as to avoid added hardship to those, it is the intention of the (complex) legislation to help.

There are nine 'directions' operative to limit numbers of occupants in those nine houses but for several years it has not been found necessary to apply any more such Orders.

Improvement

As referred to above, the emphasis in housing is rightly changing to securing the improvement of houses allied to

carrying out essential repairs. During the year 121 schedules of improvements ranking for grant together with lists of essential repairs were prepared, and suitable improvements and layouts discussed with the owners and others, with a view to affording as much help as possible so as to encourage improvements.

The work of improving houses in the Christchurch Road Improvement Area became almost completed during the year with six tenanted houses and three owner occupied houses being improved and six houses (one owner/occupied in the Linden Road Environs Area also having improvements completed during the year. Three houses outside improvement areas were improved at the request of the tenants. These eighteen out of a total of seventy-four houses improved in the whole area gives some measure support for the effectiveness of the provisions of the Housing Act, 1964, but calculated 'snowball' effect will be lost with proposed changes in the law.

It was intended, and initial steps were taken, to declare a further Improvement Area to be known as the Kent & Sussex Improvement Area. When however the White Paper on Improvement of Houses was published in the Spring indicating proposals for changes in legislation - and increased grant aid - it was felt that it would be patently unfair to attempt to persuade owners to voluntarily improve their houses (as has been our practice) as co-operative owners would suffer compared with others. At the same time encouragement to all owners to improve their houses was continued as heretofor.

Type of Grant	Houses Improved & Grant Paid	Applications Approved		
		Owner Occupied	Tenants	Totals
1. Conversion	-	2	2	4
2. Discretionary Grant	8	2	3	5
3. Standard Grant	52	22	11	33
4. Standard Grant with Plusages	14	32	7	39
	74	58	23	81

Of the above Standard Grants, twenty-one were authorized by me under delegated powers since August in an effort to speed up the process, and add to the convenience of persons seeking grant aid.

The number of houses improved is almost exactly the same as for last year, but, if only on account of costs rising against house owners and with the grant figures (fixed nine years ago) now at too low a level, this is not surprising. Apart from economics, the two inhibiting factors are 'the mess' attending alterations and the problems of getting enough Builders to carry out the work.

Applications for Rehousing

In 117 instances applications for rehousing by the Council were referred by the Housing Manager for investigation. This is an especially valuable arrangement as it draws attention to unsatisfactory housing conditions, in particular multi-let accommodation and also enables an on-the-spot assessment to be made of health and housing matters. In a number of cases what is needed is to secure the repair of premises, and in those cases service of notice follows. Undoubtedly many less applications for rehousing would be received if more houses had at least the modern basic amenities of inside toilets, bath and means of hot water supply. Tenants are informed of their opportunities in this respect.

Rent Act, 1957

Only one application was received for the issue, under the provisions of the Act, of a Disrepair Certificate.

Overcrowding

Statutory overcrowding is rarely met with in the district and has been of a transient nature when encountered.

Drains, Sewers and Cesspools

As the Urban area becomes more fully developed the need becomes more acute for a programme to be implemented to put the whole of the town on main drainage. More water is being used domestically and although Building Regulations call for larger capacity cesspools it merely means less frequent but more protracted unpleasantness from cesspool-emptying operations. The Council provides a single free emptying of cesspools (and septic tanks) each year, the cost

of which would be saved in respect of a number of the estimated 250 cesspools and septic tanks locally, when the sewers are extended.

In the course of the year some sixty-one sewers (lying in private gardens, courts and passages) were cleared and also forty-eight private drains and sewers. Drainage systems were tested by smoke under pressure in seven instances and by other means in two. A possible problem for the future is the number of new private estates where private sewers, taking the discharge from sometimes a large number of house drains, run through private land which does not become vested in the Local Authority as public sewers on adoption of the road system. In my opinion, where the number of individually-owned houses served exceeds say eight or ten, private sewers should be vested in the Local Authority.

Water Supply

The Mid Kent Water Company are the statutory water undertakers supplying the whole of the Urban District. The principal source of supply is from deep wells in the chalk at Godmersham with an authorised extraction of up to three million gallons per day. A million gallon covered service reservoir above Godmersham acts as a balance reservoir. Water from a subsidiary (greensand) source at Charing may reach the northern fringe of the district and there are standby sources at Westwell (again from greensand) and from Henwood.

Chlorination of water is maintained as an additional safeguard but regular bacteriological examination and chemical analysis at the sources confirm their excellent quality. The following table gives details of the examination of water supplies. Samples are taken by the Health Inspectors every month from points on the distribution system in the Urban area, and examined at the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone as a completely independent check.

	<u>Bacteriological Examination</u>		<u>Chemical Analysis</u>	
	<u>Samples Satisfactory</u>	<u>Samples Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Samples Satisfactory</u>	<u>Samples Unsatisfactory</u>
<u>Mid Kent Water Co.</u>				
Treated Water	69	-	9	-
Raw Water	49	1	14	-
<u>Ashford U.D.C.</u>				
Treated Water	46	-	2	-

All dwellings in the district (with a single exception) are on mains water supply. Water supplies in the area are by their nature not plumbo solvent. Waters derived from the chalk source have a ph of 7.4 and have a fair degree of hardness, but still below the degree at which it is officially recognised as necessary to employ a softening process (total hardness is 259 ppm, which includes 25 ppm of non carbonate hardness). The natural fluorine content is low, namely 0.085 ppm in the Godmersham supply, which is a long way short of the recommended standard of 1.0 ppm.

Good co-operation is received from the Company.

In the course of the year the Council made fifteen grants (normally one third cost) towards the expenses involved when a shared supply pipe to dwelling houses is found to be corroded up so that a new separate supply has to be laid on from the water undertakers mains. Commonly the poor supply is noted when improvement works are put in hand. The total involved was just over £200 and in terms of public health advantage was money very well spent.

Swimming Baths

The public swimming bath is an unheated open air pool the use of which varies directly with the thermometer. Within its

natural limitations the quality of the water is well-maintained, as regular bacteriological examinations made during the summer confirm. The free chlorine level is maintained between 1 and 2 ppm, with additions of soda ash made to reduce acidity and unpleasant eye effects. Turbidity is maintained at a low degree by means of rapid sand filtration with a twelve hour turn-over period - made unavoidable by the size of the bath 100 yds. x 25 yds. (capacity 600,000 gallons). On account of the size of the bath, sampling is made every time from four points spaced around it.

Visits were paid to the open-air school swimming baths in the area, when tests for chlorination were also applied. Marginal chlorination is practised but was well-maintained at both pools. All samples of swimming bath water taken were also satisfactory on bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

F O O D

The Abattoir

The Ashford Abattoir opened on 25th March, 1964, is owned by the Urban Council and operated under agreement by the Ashford Slaughtering Co. Ltd. - formed by a number of local butchers. It meets the needs of local traders and of the Ashford Cattle Market which is close by it, and was designed to be capable of serving an expanded Ashford. The Health Inspectors are responsible for the inspection of all meat processed in the Abattoir. In Ashford, since the War, this inspection has always been one hundred percent.

Carcases Inspected & Condemned

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	616	388	242	1369	4784
Number <u>not</u> inspected	-	-	-	-	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	8	6	11
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	154	149	3	79	542
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	27
<u>Cysticerci</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6	1	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to refrigeration	6	1	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

No unusual conditions were encountered during 1968 and one specimen only was submitted for examination by the Veterinary Laboratory at Wye whose assistance is very helpful in times of need. Judged on the limited number of bovine animals

slaughtered, there is an apparent increase in the number of cases of *Cysticercus Bovis*, the larval stage of the tapeworm *taenia sargenata* in man. When four cases were found at the same time, the farms from which they came were traced. Each came from a different farm. One is reminded when inspecting kitchens, what a dis-service is performed by the person who cooks the joint to the 'rare' condition only - which would certainly not destroy a tapeworm cyst. The traditional, thorough cooking of beef and pork still remains the best and safest method of cooking.

For the second year running it is pleasing to note the entire absence of any sign of tuberculosis in any bovine animals slaughtered. The relatively few cases found in pigs, together with the fact that no generalised infection was found, re-inforces the probability of pig infections being of avian origin.

Poultry

There are no poultry slaughtering or packing stations in the Urban Area. One instance came to notice, and was promptly stopped, of the dressing of chickens in the kitchen of a private house where there was a person living who is a chronic carrier of a salmonella infection.

Regular inspections are made each week of dead poultry and rabbits deposited for auction sale at the Ashford Market. In all 3,406 birds were examined and 2,256 rabbits of which 22 poultry and 12 rabbits were rejected as unfit for food. The general quality and condition of presentation have steadily improved over the years and correspondingly the number of rejections has dropped steadily.

Milk Supplies

There are fifty-one registered distributors of milk mostly shops, in the district and only four dairies. There is now no milk bottling nor pasteurising plant operating in the area. The County Council issue licences for the sale of the 'Special Designated' milk after being notified of this local authority's satisfaction with arrangements - which are a necessary prerequisite to registration. Milk in course of delivery is sampled once a month from the various sources with the following results:-

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Untreated	15	-
Pasteurised	41	-
U.H.T.	2	-
Sterilised	-	-

Whilst a very high proportion of the milk we consume is heat treated and thereby rendered safe against zoonoses, the same cannot be said to be true for cream and in regard to brucella in particular (which concentrates in the cream) there appears to be no satisfactory routine laboratory test available for the distribution of that organism in cream. Pasteurised creams when examined by biochemical methods are normally found to be of good bacteriological standard. All fifteen samples of raw milk taken were found to be free from brucella infection but the risk remains and a method of testing cream for the organism is desirable until the attempt being made to eradicate the disease nationally have become effective.

Ice Cream

Ice cream has become one of our safest foods as a result of the implementation of the special Regulations governing its production and distribution, helped no doubt by the concentration of most production in the hands of a relatively small number of responsible manufacturers. No ice cream is now produced in the district - apart from soft ice cream on mobile vendors vehicles. The best check on the care exercised at all points in production and distribution of this commodity is by sampling, and to this end the more vulnerable (to contamination) points are selected, namely loose ice cream at catering establishments and ice cream made on or vended from mobile vehicles, where a continuing problem arises from the frequent change of personnel which calls for constant surveillance. By the very nature of things, mobiles are most difficult to locate when one is ready to take samples. Some 109 premises are currently registered for the sale of ice cream

and in addition it is dispensed from clubs, schools and from the vehicles of itinerant vendors. In the event the results of samples taken during the year were particularly good:-

Grade	Mobiles				Premises			
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Soft Ice Cream	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other loose	-	2	-	-	17	-	-	-
Wrapped	2	-	-	-	4	-	-	-

Food & Drugs Act

Registered Premises - Sausages & Preserved Foods

Some forty-four premises are registered for the preparation of sausages and preservation of food and these include food factories, butchers, fried fish shops, pie manufacturers, provisioners who cook hams, and shops with spit roasters or pie rotisseries. They are carefully inspected before registration to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations. Catering establishments by contrast do not have to be registered. It is generally observed that electrical devices for heating pies, frankfurters, and keeping cooked foods warm have numbered settings with no thermometer or related temperature scale. There is a natural tendency for relatively low settings to be selected with the result that temperatures of the foodstuffs may be maintained too near blood heat for safety. Further follow-up of this is intended next year when a suitable thermometer is procured.

Food Hygiene

There were no prosecutions undertaken to enforce the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations in regard to premises. The work of enforcement is normally by inspection, explanation, and example. The following is an analysis of some food hygiene work achieved during the year:-

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 - Enforcement

	<u>Total</u>
<u>Wounds</u> exposed, warnings given.....	5
<u>Smoking</u> , warnings given	6
<u>Clothes</u> storage made satisfactory.....	11
<u>First Aid</u> , outfits provided	24
<u>Hand Washing</u> labels - provided.....	10
<u>Hand Washing</u> facilities improved	24
<u>Washing-up</u> facilities improved.....	14
<u>Cleanliness</u> generally improved.....	16
<u>Wall, floor & ceiling</u> finishes improved.....	15
<u>Lighting</u> , made adequate.....	6
<u>Preparation tops</u> made hygienic.....	8
<u>Ventilation</u> improved	18
<u>Equipment</u> - cleanliness made satisfactory.....	8
<u>Exposed food</u> - protection improved.....	23
<u>Temperature</u> control of foods, warnings.....	20
<u>Storage food</u> improved.....	6
<u>Storage wrapping paper</u> and empties improved.....	2
<u>Miscellaneous</u> improvements.....	64

In many branches of the food trade the turnover of staff is high indeed so that one finds it necessary to go over the same group of food hygiene techniques and care again and again where the firm has no proper staff training arrangements. The achievement of satisfactory premises is relatively more simple, and in regard to new works and extensions I am pleased to report that many now seek advice at the planning stage and this is most helpful. Whilst on the one hand there is this constant need for 'on-the job' health education of staff in many food establishments in order to achieve a satisfactory minimum standard, the finish and equipment of premises usually exceeds legal

minimum requirements. One is a little disturbed to see vulnerable foodstuffs, particularly cooked meats, exposed for sale at ambient temperatures. There also is too often a failure to secure proper separation of cooked from raw meats at all stages in handling in many retail and catering establishments.

One prosecution was taken under the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations in regard to contraventions at two Saturday Market Stalls. Seven out of eight informations were proven and fines imposed totalled £53 10s. 0d. with five guineas costs. In other respects the Regulations have been applied successfully and without hardship, as the Market Company have provided good toilet, hand washing and washing-up facilities for the traders. A total of nine 'Exemption Certificates' have been issued to these one-day-a-week Market traders. They would otherwise have had to provide and maintain their own individual arrangements for hot water, hand and utensil washing arrangements. Bins also have been provided for waste at the stalls and these are emptied periodically during the course of the days trading. This arrangement has stopped the stream of litter blowing into the streets of the town that once used to occur on windy days. Vehicles employed in course of delivery of foods were kept under routine surveillance and in several instances, particularly in regard to retailers of bread and confectionery, contraventions were found and remedied informally. The routine cleaning of certain of these fleets is inadequately supervised at times, and sometimes cleaning, left entirely to the driver and at the end of a tiring week, is liable to be superficial only.

Food Inspection

Examination of a number of vending machines in the light of the Code of Practice produced by the Ministry of Health & of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, revealed that the cleaning instructions were not being affixed to the inside of the machines as recommended. As a result cleansing techniques were often not satisfactory. The attention of the manufacturers was drawn to the omission in all cases who undertook to remedy matters.

So far, the machines met with locally are mainly beverage dispensers.

During the year the following foodstuffs were rejected as unfit or surrendered for destruction.

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
1. Meat at Slaughterhouses	1	2	28
2. Meat at wholesale premises		11	11
3. Meat at retail shops		4	105
4. Cooked meat and meat products			15
5. Canned meats		4	12
6. Other canned foods	3	2	-
7. Fish (fresh)			6
8. Fruit & vegetables (fresh)	-	-	-
9. Other foods		5	68
Total	5	10	33

Rejected meat from the Abattoir together with unfit bacon and butchers meat is slashed and coloured with aniline dye before removal to another part of the country for the manufacture of by-products. Other foodstuffs, comprising mainly unsound tinned foods are disposed of by controlled dumping under refuse at the Council's refuse dump.

The relatively substantial amount of foodstuffs surrendered for 'condemnation' is accounted for by the large wholesale food distributing depots located in the area, with whom close liaison is maintained.

Food Complaints

Complaints of extraneous matter in food and of mould trouble were only half the number received for 1967.

(Please see following page for table of complaints)
(received during 1968.)

Commodity	Foreign Matter		Mould
	Number		Number
	Home Produced Food	Imported Food	
Milk			
Butter			
Cheese			
Bread	2		1
Canned Meat	1	-	-
Cooked Meat			
Meat Pies			
Fish			
Fruit			
Jam			
Vegetables			
Cereals			
Sweets			
Confectionery	1	-	5
Other Food	2	-	-
Totals	6	-	6

There is a great deal of merit in complaint being made to the Health Inspector as it does initiate a proper investigation, and, where appropriate and possible, the adoption of precautions aimed to prevent the hazard of a recurrence. It does not follow, however, as some members of the public seem to fear, that every complaint entails court procedure. The latter is the exception, and only is resorted to where appropriate and in the public interest. A case occurred for instance of someone biting on to a spring clip in a cream cake. This was found to be attributable to the inherent risk arising from the practice of a large wholesaler of cream in consigning cans of cream to confectionery manufacturers with lids secured by loose spring clips. On representation

being made the practice of using the metal clips was discontinued. Another complaint referred to was a salty taste in ice cream lollies. As a result the Midlands firm concerned - whose Health Inspector I contacted - arranged to introduce ultra-violet testing equipment to examine the seam welds of their stainless steel moulding boxes, in order to eliminate the cause of the brine getting into the lollies. Every year produces instances of this kind of liaison.

Education

As is well known, some food retailers and manufacturers go to great lengths to secure basic hygiene training of their staff. For the rest suitable opportunities are taken to 'health educate' at the actual place of work. Certain Secondary Schools in the area have afforded the opportunity for Health Inspectors to talk to senior pupils on food hygiene. I feel the time in talking about Food Hygiene to those about to leave school or in senior domestic science classes should be very worthwhile and something I would like to see more of. A number of copies were distributed to local traders in the summer of the Advisory Code on the Retailing of Pies, Cooked Meats, and Sausages (produced by the Association of Public Health Inspectors in consultation with the Sausages and Meat Pie Manufacturers Association).

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH
MATTERS

Rat & Mice Destruction

Rodent control work was carried out as detailed in the following table:-

Total Premises Inspected as result		Local Authority	Dwellings (incl. Council)	All Other	Agri-culture
1. NOTIFICATION		4 (-)	169(168)	34(25)	1 (-)
No. found infested	Rats	2 (-)	99(111)	22(10)	1 (-)
	Mice	5 (-)	41 (57)	10(15)	- (-)
2. SURVEY etc.		31 (17)	53(115)	38 (8)	6 (3)
No. found	Rats	18 (14)	36 (99)	5 (7)	2 (3)
	Mice	- (-)	6 (16)	1 (1)	- (-)
Block Treatment Sewer Baiting		-	21	-	-

Figures for 1967 (shown in brackets) indicate that more infestations occurred but in fact it was the comparatively larger size of rat infestation (suggesting a larger survival rate than normal) that was very noticeable, especially in the case of the infestations of rats occurring in areas of the town bordering agricultural land. For a time the control service was at full stretch to cope with the situation. One heard that other parts of the country were reporting similar difficulties, and this in a year when Foot and Mouth Disease led to the slaughter of a quarter-of-a-million sheep, cattle and pigs. There is no doubt that rats can spread this most highly infectious (epizootic) disease. In a situation where public health and economic interests are identical one expects to see maximum effort to stamp out the rat population in field and farm.

Infestation of rodents in domestic premises are cleared by this Department's Specialist without charge, but a modest payment is made for his service (and materials) at other premises.

The control of rats in the sewerage system is carried out in the Spring and Autumn using Ministry - advised methods, but in the case of the town centre the treatment at all the access points. The infestation disclosed was very light indeed, approximately half that for 1967 in contrast to the incidence of surface infestation, which suggests that there is basically little, if any, relationship between surface and sewer rat infestation in a small country town.

Weils Disease

In a year when Leptospirosis in humans has been made 'notifiable' it should be recorded and due thanks expressed to local veterinary surgeons who report cases of the occurrence of symptoms in dogs suggestive of leptospiral infections. Eleven such instances were notified, of which nine occurred in rural areas (to whose Health Inspectors the information was forwarded). Where a dog is affected, a careful survey of the environs is made for rats, followed by eradication measures. The principal incidence is noted in the late autumn/early winter.

Eradication of Vermin

A disinfection service is provided and the table below gives an indication of infestations dealt with:-

No. of cases occurring	Bugs	Fleas	Cock-roaches	Ants	Wasps
(a) Council Houses	-	10	18	7	-
(b) Other Houses	2	7	1	1	5
(c) Other Premises	-	-	5	2	-

The bug infestations had been 'imported' into the district, and were relatively light and easily cleared. Flea infestations however of their very nature are more troublesome but a combination of the use of insecticides in spray, particulate smoke, and on occasions, dust application were successful. At least some of the infestations were due to cat fleas. Householders allowing animals on their beds simply are inviting trouble of this sort.

A programme was put in hand of clearing a residual infestation of Pharoahs Ants at a local building complex by the use of dieldrin lacquer. Pre-baiting with raw liver was used to locate the nests and this was followed by 'banding' with lacquer where the surface was suitable - otherwise a carbamate or dieldrin emulsion was applied. Following subsequent liver check-baiting persisting infestations were baited using an insecticidal formulation called Ketone. In the limited experience obtained however it was not considered reliable. The overall results have fully justified the efforts made. The Council provides a control infestation service for the local hospitals and arrangements operated satisfactorily.

Fly Infestations

The usual practice was followed of spraying refuse vehicles and treating the Refuse Dump against flies. Several infestations of cluster flies were also dealt with by the use of particulate smoke insecticides.

Food Poisoning

No proven cases of food poisoning occurred but there were two small, successive outbreaks of diarrhoea and vomiting occurring amongst parties of young persons when under strict supervision. Despite an immediate and thorough investigation, aided by bacteriological examinations, no cause could be established in which food or water could be implicated. Several other isolated 'suggestions' of food poisoning when followed up clearly suggested virus infections to be the cause of the symptoms suffered.

Clean Air Act, 1956

The following table indicates some of the works undertaken under the above Act:-

1. Dark & black smoke contraventions recorded.....	3
2. Furnaces - Notifications of new installations.....	18
Number requiring alterations.....	1
3. Grit and dust emissions.....	-
4. Plans showing new chimneys.....	17
Number requiring alterations.....	3
Number duly approved.....	17
Number rejected.....	-

The main source of atmospheric pollution in Ashford is undoubtedly the domestic chimney most especially the coal-fired open grate emitting its load of pollution at low level. There are reasons to suggest that smoke from coal burning is linked with bronchitis. The Atmospheric Recording Station near the town centre is situate near an area of largely coal burning terrace houses which have a much lower density when compared with the Council estate near the Brookfield Community Centre where the second Recording Station has been operating since the beginning of 1967. When the results so far of the smoke and sulphur dioxide burden of the air at both places is compared, one finds that the town centre has about one third more smoke than South Ashford. The town centre, without any form of 'smoke control' has roughly about as much smoke as London areas with 'Smoke Control' but the concentration of sulphur in the Ashford atmosphere is much lower. One of the principal reasons for introducing an air sampling system was to assess, with the growth of the town, whether pollution of the air made it necessary to introduce Smoke Control Areas. The least costly and 'painless' way of doing this would be to start with undeveloped land - following which it might not even prove necessary to introduce smoke control into existing areas. The Ministry of Housing however, take the view that if control is to be introduced it must be programmed to

embrace the whole district. Our records of pollution, following the national trend, indicate a reduction in pollutants, so that it is doubtful in our present state of knowledge, whether it is possible to justify the expense involved in the whole town going smokeless when assessed against the impelling need to elsewhere. There is no doubt that the state of relative smokelessness will be reached in time with the increasing use of gas, electricity, oil, central heating and smokeless burning of solid fuels in scientifically-designed appliances. One urges the ending of burning coal on the old fashioned open grate. It is both polluting to the air we breathe dirty and uneconomic. The Council's Stanhope Estate, now under construction, will be completely smokeless as it will be gas heated throughout.

Noise

<u>Noise & Vibration Nuisances</u>	<u>Indust- rial</u>	<u>Commer- cial</u>	<u>Dom- estic</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. substantially confirmed	12	4	-	16
No. remedied informally	12	3	-	15
No. formal notices served	-	-	-	-

As indicated by the above table the most common source of complaint was factory noise and much of this has its origin in the juxtaposition of industrial and residential areas, especially with the adoption of night shift working which is becoming more common. It is a fact that good co-operation was forthcoming from industrialists in eliminating noise or reducing it to acceptable levels. In some instances problems took some time to solve, because as one noise was quietened so another, not apparent before, obtruded and had to be quietened.

One very objectionable source of noise nuisance is the shattering roar of pneumatic drills employed on road and other works. As a preliminary, and to set a proper example, the Council introduced appropriate clauses into its own works

contracts aimed to limit noise in plant to be employed by Contractors. This was followed by representations to Water, Gas and Electricity Undertakers and the Post Office to observe similar standards in their own men or contractors. Finally, representations on the subject of muffling of pneumatic drills was sent to some twenty-seven firms known to operate in the area, and there is every intention of immediate follow-up to ensure the adoption of all reasonable means to reduce noise from any of their operations in the area.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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One very effective source of noise is the shattering of pneumatic drills employed on road and other works. As a preliminary, and to set a proper example, the Council introduced appropriate clauses into its own works contracts aimed to limit noise in plant to be employed by Contractors. This was followed by representations to Water, Gas and Electricity Undertakers and the Post Office to observe similar standards in their own men or contractors. Finally, representations on the subject of muffling of pneumatic drills was sent to some twenty-seven firms known to operate in the area, and there is every intention of immediate follow-up to ensure the adoption of all reasonable means to reduce noise from any of their operations in the area.

PLACES OF WORK

Factories Act, 1937

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

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	154	155	6	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority	17	6	-	-
3. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises)	24	14	-	-
Total	195	175	6	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			By H.M. Inspector	To H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temp.(S.3)	-	-	1	-	-
Inadequate Vent.(S.4)	2	2	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
San.Conveniences	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	6	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	5	5	1	-	-
Total	17	16	2	-	-

OUTWORKERS - There are 10 Outworkers in the district

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1968

1. Record of Inspections

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>No. of Premises</u>	<u>No. of 'General' Inspec- tions</u>	<u>No. of Re-inspec- tions</u>	
Offices	122 (126)	38 (26)	23)	
Shops	262 (259)	84 (56)	72)	115
Wholesalers	27 (23)	8 (7)	8)	(141)
Catering	28 (26)	7 (6)	12)	

(1967 figures are given in brackets)

Total visits - 252 (236)

The aim is to have a 'general' inspection made of every registered premises at least once every four years in addition to the re-inspections carried out for a miscellany of purposes e.g. follow-up, accident investigation and so on. Many of the purposes of the legislation are incidentally attended to when inspections are made to premises primarily for other purposes, as part of an integrated routine. All newly registered premises are inspected without delay.

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	Total all Staff	Total Female Staff
Offices	1080 (1107)	23 (40)	30 (57)	- -	11 (2)	1144 (1206)	490 (502)
Shops	124 (161)	1294 (1307)	6 (8)	- (-)	10 (9)	1434 (1485)	1020 (1028)
Whole- salers	65 (48)	10 (4)	194 (185)	- (-)	- (-)	269 (237)	58 (49)
Catering	3 (4)	11 (13)	- (1)	165 (154)	11 (10)	190 (182)	175 (156)
Total	1272 (1320)	1338 (1364)	230 (251)	165 (154)	32 (21)	3037 (3110)	1743 (1735)

(1967 figures are given in brackets)

The number of persons employed can best be judged as a trend and the totals for any one year are approximate only, as the figures for only about one third of the premises will have been checked during the year.

3. Exemption Certificates

None are in operation and none were applied for.

4. Extent of Compliance with the Various Sections of the Act

The figures are derived from records of general and re-inspections made. It is noteworthy that no recourse has had to be made to formal proceedings and it is fair to say that all but a very few employers co-operate very well in attaining and maintaining the prescribed minimum standards and many more seek to achieve substantially better conditions for their staff. One hopes that this fact accounts for the lack

of complaints from staff, only one of which was received during the period under review. Where contraventions were found, as listed in the table below, it is the practice for an informal notification to be given in writing which is followed up by further visit or visits.

(a) Offices

	<u>Satis- factory</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory Notices Served</u>	<u>Notices Complied with</u>
Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	56	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	53	3	-
Temperature (Sec. 6)	40	14	2
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	53	2	1
Lighting (Sec. 8)	53	2	1
San. Conveniences (Sec. 9)	48	7	1
Washing facilities (Sec. 10)	51	4	1
Drinking & Washing fac. (Sec. 11)	48	6	2
Accdn. Clothing (Sec. 12)	53	3	1
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec. 14)	49	3	4
Safety floors, steps & stair- cases (Sec. 16)	54	1	1
Safety of Machines (Sec. 17)	21	-	1
Risk of bodily injury or health etc. (Sec. 22)	56	-	-
First Aid (Sec. 24)	39	2	15
Abstracts (Sec. 50)	40	4	12

(b) Shops

Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	123	1	2
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	124	1	1
Temperature (Sec. 6)	93	23	10
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	109	12	5
Lighting (Sec. 8)	122	3	1
San. Convenience (Sec. 9)	105	16	5
Washing facilities (Sec. 10)	113	7	6
Drinking & Washing fac. (Sec. 11)	114	11	1
Accdn. Clothing (Sec. 12)	116	4	6
Sitting facilities (Sec. 13)	116	6	2
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec. 14)	37	2	3
Meal Facilities (Sec. 15)	74	2	4

(b) Shops (continued)

	<u>Satis- factory</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory Notices Served</u>	<u>Notices Complied with</u>
Safety floors, steps & staircases (Sec. 16)	112	9	5
Safety of Machines (Sec. 17)	41	5	9
Heavy Loads (Sec. 23)	114	-	-
First Aid (Sec. 24)	110	2	14
Abstracts (Sec. 50)	110	5	5

(c) Wholesale Dept. or
Warehouse

Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	14	1	-
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	12	-	3
Temperature (Sec. 6)	10	3	2
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	13	2	-
Lighting (Sec. 8)	14	1	-
San. Convenience (Sec. 9)	11	3	1
Washing fac. (Sec. 10)	12	2	1
Drinking & Washing fac. (Sec. 11)	12	2	1
Accdn. Clothing (Sec. 12)	12	1	1
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec. 14)	8	-	1
Safety floors, steps & staircases (Sec. 16)	13	-	3
Safety of Machines (Sec. 17)	2	-	-
Risk of bodily injury or health etc. (Sec. 22)	15	-	-
Heavy Loads (Sec. 23)	15	-	-
First Aid (Sec. 24)	3	-	11
Abstracts (Sec. 50)	4	1	10

(d) Catering Establishments (Public)

Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	11	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	11	-	-
Temperature (Sec. 6)	9	2	-
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	10	-	1

	<u>Satis- factory</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory</u>	<u>Notices Complied with</u>
(d) <u>Catering Establishments</u> <u>(Public) (Continued)</u>			
Lighting (Sec. 8)	11	-	-
San. Convenience (Sec. 9)	6	3	1
Washing fac. (Sec. 10)	9	1	1
Accdn. Clothing (Sec. 12)	9	1	1
Drinking & Washing Fac. (Sec. 11)	11	-	-
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec. 14)	2	-	-
Safety floors, steps & stair- cases (Sec. 16)	10	-	1
Safety of Machines (Sec. 17)	5	1	2
Risk of bodily injury or health etc. (Sec. 22)	11	-	-
Heavy Loads (Sec. 23)	11	-	-
First Aid (Sec. 24)	9	1	1
Abstracts	7	2	2

4. Accidents Reported During the Year

There has been a reduction in the number of accidents reported to occur on registered premises. Most reports are received from firms of national standing and there is otherwise a poor response and the true position is unlikely to be reflected in figures given. The first notifiable fatal accident occurred during the year. With the increasing use of powerful machines such as fork lift trucks one wonders whether the Minister should not extend the Dangerous Machines Order made under Section 19 to include such potentially dangerous machines.

During inspections of shops and warehouses one sees so many instances of incorrect lifting of goods and objects, risking serious, painful and lasting injuries to the back, that it is felt necessary to stress the need for some national publicity directed to this matter.

(1) Recorded by Workplace - Accidents

<u>Workplace</u>	<u>Number Reported</u>		Total No. Investigated	<u>Action Recommended</u>				No Action
	Fatal	Non Fatal		Prosecution	Formal Warning	Informal Advice		
Offices	-	- (2)	- (1)	-	-	-	-	(2)
Retail Shops	-	6(11)	3 (1)	-	-	- (1)	-	6(10)
Wholesale shops Warehouses	1 (-)	1 (4)	1 (1)	-	-	-	-	2 (4)
Catering establishments open to public, canteens	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fuel Storage Depot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1 (-)	7(17)	4 (3)	-	-	- (1)	-	8(16)

(Figures in brackets are those for 1967)

*With the Compliments of the
Medical Officer of Health*

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE:
14 CHURCH ROAD
ASHFORD
KENT

TELEPHONE ~~1485~~

24411

With the Compliments of the
Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE
14 CHURCH ROAD
ASHFORD
KENT

TELEPHONE 440

(2) Accidents Analysed by Cause

	Office	Retail Shops	Whole-sale Ware-houses	Catering Estabs. open to public, canteens
Machinery	-	-	1 (1)	-
Transport	-	-	-	-
Falls of persons	- (1)	2 (3)	1 (-)	-
Stepping on or striking against object or person	-	1 (2)	-	-
Handling goods	-	2 (4)	4 (2)	-
Struck by falling object	-	1 (-)	-	-
Fires and explosions	-	-	-	-
Electricity	-	-	-	-
Use of hand tools	-	- (-)	-	-
Not otherwise specified	- (1)	- (1)	-	-

(Figures in brackets are those)
(for 1967.)

6. The Working of the Act

The recommended standards for lighting have been welcomed and the results generally accepted as fair and reasonable.

During the year there were some twenty-two new registrations, which is a drop against recent years. In the present popular mood of rebellion against official form-filling it is to be expected that many businesses open or change hands without the occupier sending completed forms of registration (OSR 1) to the Local Authority and this necessitates a continual combing of the area, when engaged on routine work, for premises which should be registered - especially necessary in view of the known weakness of the relative legal sanctions for failing to register.

The requirements of the Act as to drinking water are not simple to meet in some small offices and some other registered premises. In premises where provision is made of expendable cups and a suitably-sited water tap there seems to be little use of the facility. Staff of both large and small premises seek an infused beverage and where no automatic vending machine is provided there is a need for a proper sink for properly 'washing-up the tea things' - otherwise the lavatory basin at the toilet is liable to be used. Limitations of space however can make this difficult to achieve. In an area where dysentery can be said to be endemic there is justifiable concern in the matter and plans of business and trade premises when submitted for Building Regulation approval are scrutinized for compliance with matters such as this, coming within the purview of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.



