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Contributors

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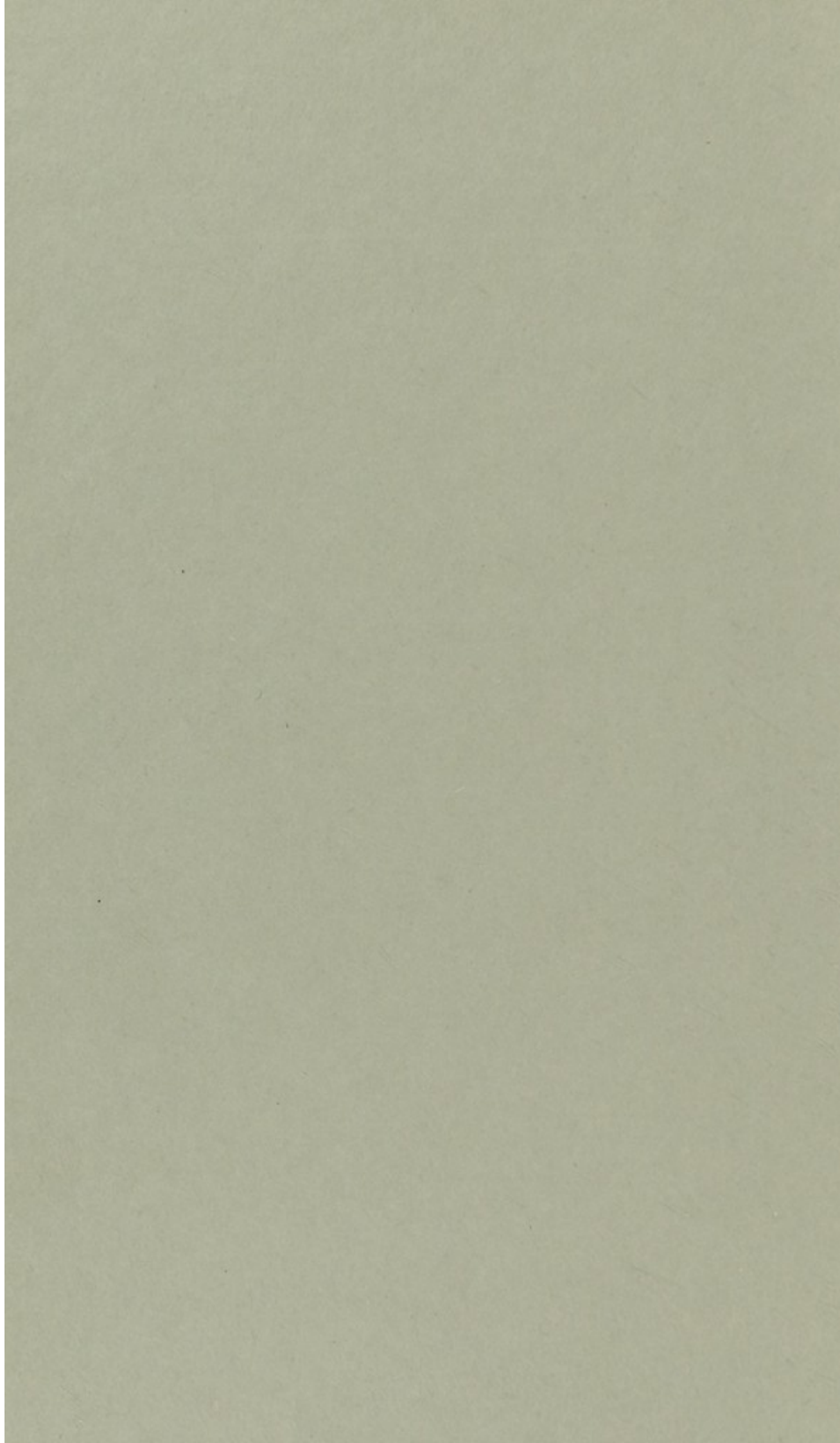


RURAL DISTRICT OF BATTLE



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1955

M. I. SILVERTON,
T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



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THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BATTLE

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(constitution at 31st December, 1955)

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Vice-Chairman:

MR. P. G. ARMITAGE

MR. G. BARLING, J.P. (Chairman of the Council)

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MRS. E. WOODGATE

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STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

M. I. SILVERTON, T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

W. FRANCIS, Cert.R.S.I., Meat and Foods Cert.

Sanitary Inspectors:

W. T. Dunford, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

K. G. Bewick, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

R. E. Briggs, D.P.A., Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

G. J. Allen, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

Chief Clerk:

Miss M. E. Portnell

**Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination Clerk:*

Miss M. H. Hearnshaw

Shorthand-Typists and General Clerks:

Mrs. E. G. Kemp

Miss W. R. Burt

Mr. C. W. Field

Rat Catcher:

Mr. R. Elliott

*County Staff employed locally

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1955.

The statistics reveal that the health of the District compares favourably with the rest of England and Wales.

This District is enjoying the benefit of its vigorous immunisation campaign against diphtheria and I am happy to record that there have not been any cases of this dread disease during the past 10 years.

The provision of safe water in sufficient quantity to replace polluted and inadequate well supplies has been one of the main preoccupations of the Public Health Committee; over one hundred separate minutes emanating from this Committee bear testimony to this desire. Concomitant sewerage schemes have been initiated wherever necessary and existing schemes improved in order to cope with the increased demands.

The building of Council Houses and the resultant rehousing of families from substandard properties is particularly gratifying. In addition the increased numbers of Improvement Grants made has been of inestimable value in perpetuating existing properties and giving the occupants the amenities so necessary to conserve health.

The Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector (Mr. W. T. Dunford) and the Sanitary Inspectors have continued to do all in their power to promote the health of the people.

I am aware that Mr. Francis (Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor) will in 1956 cease to be Chief Sanitary Inspector. He will then concentrate on the combined onerous duties of Surveyor and Works Engineer in view of the proposed amalgamation of the two departments. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking him for his unstinted efforts in safe-guarding and improving the public health of this District.

The Chief Clerk (Miss Portnell) and the Office Staff have continued to discharge all their duties efficiently and loyally.

The success of the Immunisation Campaign owes much to the careful and able work of the Immunisation Clerk (Miss Hearnshaw).

I am obliged to the Clerk of the Council and other Chief Officers for their co-operation at all times.

I am grateful to the Councillors, and in particular the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, for their stimulating interest and support.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. I. SILVERTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Watch Oak,
Battle, Sussex.

STATISTICS RELATING TO BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

	1952	1953	1954	1955
Area of district in acres (estimated)	117,147	117,147	117,147	117,147
Population (Registrar General's estimate for mid-year)	29,770	29,700	29,780	29,850
Rateable value	£219,960	£225,305	£230,397	£235,111 (13.12.55)
Sum represented by a penny rate	£875	£895	£910	£928
Number of rateable pre- mises at 1st April ..	11,484	11,690	11,893	12,004

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATE

Battle Rural District			
<i>Live Births:</i>	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate.. ..	193	153	346
Illegitimate	11	6	17
	204	159	363
<i>Stillbirths:</i>			
Legitimate.. ..	2	8	10
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	2	8	10

	Battle R.D.	England and Wales
Live birth rate per 1,000 home population ..	12.16	15.0
Corrected birth rate.. ..	14.34	—
Still birth rate per 1,000 births (live and still) ..	26.8	23.1
Still birth rate per 1,000 home population ..	0.33	0.35

The increased proportion of aged people in the population of this District will account for the apparently decreased birth rate as compared with England and Wales. The Corrected Birth Rate discounts this bias and makes it possible to compare these figures on the basis of similarly constituted populations.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES

DEATH RATES:	<i>Battle R.D.</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Death rate per 1,000 of resident population (Crude)	14.11	11.7
Corrected death rate	9.87	—
Deaths of infants under 1 year	7	16,613
Death rate of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births	19.28	24.9
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil	0.64

The Death Rate is "Corrected" in order to be comparable with that for England and Wales, the comparability factor being 0.70.

DEATH RATES FROM SPECIFIC CAUSES PER 1,000 POPULATION

	Battle R.D.	England and Wales
Tuberculosis (all kinds) ..	0.06	0.15
Influenza	0.10	0.07
Acute poliomyelitis ..	—	0.01
Pneumonia	0.53	0.49
Coronary disease and Angina pectoris	1.97	1.59

DETAILED CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	0	2
Malignant neoplasms	39	39	78
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0	1
Diabetes	2	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	28	32	60
Coronary disease, angina	36	23	59
Hypertension with heart disease	5	3	8
Other heart disease	44	45	89
Other circulatory disease	7	11	18
Influenza	2	1	3
Pneumonia	9	7	16
Bronchitis	8	12	20
Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	0	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	1	5
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	8	0	8
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	17	31	48
Motor vehicle accidents	1	0	1
All other accidents	1	0	1
Suicide	3	0	3
	221	210	431

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

	1951	1953	1954	1955
(i) Diseases of the heart and circulatory system ..	177 (40.6%)	183 (42.7%)	184 (41.4%)	174 (40.3%)
* (Coronary disease and angina)	39 (8.9%)	43 (10.0%)	54 (12.1%)	59 (13.6%)
(ii) Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	61 (14.0%)	58 (13.5%)	67 (15.9%)	78 (18.1%)
(Cancer of lung and bronchus)	7 (1.6%)	6 (1.4%)	15 (3.3%)	11 (2.5%)
(iii) Vascular lesions of the nervous system ..	59 (13.5%)	68 (15.8%)	62 (13.9%)	60 (13.9%)
(iv) Respiratory diseases (excluding tuberculosis) ..	33 (7.5%)	23 (5.3%)	38 (8.5%)	38 (8.8%)

*Coronary disease and angina—Research has not revealed a definite cause but it would appear that excess weight and mental stress, particularly in the professional and business executive classes, are important contributory factors.

DEATHS—65 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER

	Bathle R.D.			London *		
	1953	1954	1955	1953	1954	1955
Total deaths ..	428	444	431	36,636	34,469	37,877
Number of deaths 65 years and over ..	322	322	323	25,821	23,563	25,615
Percentage of total deaths	75.2	72.5	74.9	66.8	68.3	67.6

* England and Wales not available

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary Cases			Non-Pulmonary Cases			Total Cases (all forms)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1. No. on Register at 1st January, 1955 ..	52	40	92	9	12	21	61	52	113
2. Cases previously removed and re-notified in 1955 ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
3. Primary notifications received in 1955 ..	7	5	12	1	1	2	8	6	14
4. Cases moved into area as transfers ..	2	6	8	—	—	—	2	6	8
Totals	61	52	113	10	13	23	71	65	136
5. Cases removed from Register in 1955 ..	10	8	18	2	2	4	12	10	22
6. Number on Register at 31st December, 1955	51	44	95	8	11	19	59	55	114

	1954 Total Cases (all forms)			1955 Total Cases (all forms)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1. Number on Register at 1st Jan.	70	71	141	61	52	113
2. Cases previously removed and re-notified during year ..	1	—	1	—	1	1
3. Primary notifications received during year	6	9	15	8	6	14
4. Cases moved into area as transfers	7	4	11	2	6	8
Totals	84	84	168	71	65	136
5. Cases removed from Register during year	23	32	55	12	10	22
6. Number on Register at 31st Dec.	61	52	113	59	55	114

ANALYSIS OF REMOVALS IN 1955

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total Cases (all forms)		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	Total
Left District	3	4	—	2	3	6	9
Cured	3	3	2	—	5	3	8
Died*	4	—	—	—	4	—	4
Rediagnosed—not tuberculosis	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
	10	8	2	2	12	10	22

*One male removed from Register in 1955, but died in 1952.

One male died from causes not primarily tuberculosis.

Tabulated lists (in age groups) of New Cases notified in this District and all Deaths during the current year :

Age	NEW CASES (PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS)				ALL DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
11—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16—25	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
26—35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
36—45	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
46—60	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
Over 60	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	7	5	1	1	4	—	—	—

MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Battle town from 13th June to 21st June, 1955, and the analysis of results obtained is appended.

It is satisfactory to note that no cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis were discovered.

However, when one considers the numbers who attended in relation to a population of well over 4,000 one ceases to be complacent having regard to the fact that the Unit operated for several days at times known to be convenient to the majority of workers. Publicity by posters at suitable vantage points and notices in the press giving full details of the arrangements were given well in advance of the opening day.

The procedure does not involve stripping and attendance in working clothes is quite acceptable. Having handed in a simple form with name, address and name of private doctor all that remains is to proceed in single file, pausing momentarily before a screen, the whole routine being completed in under one minute.

One marvels at the apathy displayed by the adult population when this potent preventive measure against future ill health is brought to their very doorsteps and so few take advantage.

Other conditions in the chest can be discovered which are amenable to early treatment.

It is well known that there is a predominance of retired, aged persons in this area, many of whom may feel that it is rather pointless to "bother" at their age. They, too, have an obligation to attend for X-ray because, so often, it has been found that a grandparent or elderly friend has been the unwitting cause of disseminating tuberculosis within the family group or circle of friends.

I am pleased to note that the Unit intends to visit the outlying parishes next year, concentrating on school children. One hopes that this will be an opportunity for ensuring their co-operation and understanding when they reach adult status.

The treatment of the early symptomless case in any age group is the most important factor in preventing the spread of pulmonary tuberculosis.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of persons X-rayed	226	291	517
Number recalled for Large Films	19	18	37
Number found to have Abnormal Large Films..	13	8	21

ANALYSIS OF ABNORMAL LARGE FILMS:	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
(a) Active pulmonary tuberculosis	—	—	—
(b) Inactive pulmonary tuberculosis	4	4	8
(c) Malignant disease	—	—	—
(d) Other diseases of lung or pleura	4	3	7
(e) Cardio-vascular diseases	5	1	6

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1950-1955
1st JANUARY-31st DECEMBER

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	3	0	8	7	2	2
Meningococcal infection	3	1	2	1	0	0
Measles	69	410	190	1,051	5	213
Scarlet fever	35	22	87	29	14	8
Whooping cough	162	251	72	214	129	106
Acute pneumonia	23	25	34	29	23	32
Erysipelas	8	2	7	3	10	5
Puerperal pyrexia	0	1	3	0	1	4
Dysentery	0	1	1	0	21	0
Food poisoning	1	5	0	2	1	3
Acute encephalitis	0	0	0	1	0	0
Typhoid	0	0	0	0	0	2
Malaria	0	0	0	0	0	1

Poliomyelitis

There were two notified cases of poliomyelitis.

One occurred in November in an adult male, there was some residual paralysis but not sufficient to incapacitate him. Married, with two children, there was no evidence of spread, neither was it possible to establish the source of infection.

The second occurred in a schoolboy aged 7 years; a case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis, he made a complete recovery. There was no evidence of spread nor could the source of infection be found.

Personal Observations

When isolated cases occur without any apparent chain of infection and no evidence of spread one wonders whether the virus which is being investigated is a variant of the type which is exemplified by infectivity. One hears of Medical Officers of Health who impose rigid quarantine restrictions on poliomyelitis contacts and when there is no spread consider that this is due to the restrictions imposed. However, undiagnosed cases do occur where contacts have not been restricted and there is no spread. This particular point is exemplified by the case of a schoolboy aged 7 years who was admitted to a general hospital on 25th October, 1955, suffering from a palatal paralysis not considered at that time to be due to the poliomyelitis virus and no precautions were taken, yet several months later when he had completely recovered a result was obtained from the Virus Reference Laboratory which showed that his convalescent serum gave a "clear rise in titre against Type 3 Poliovirus to which his infection must be ascribed." The efficacy of strict quarantine of contacts is therefore not proven by mere lack of spread.

However, in the light of our present knowledge restrictions on close contacts, particularly food handlers and children, would appear to be reasonable.

Poliomyelitis and Fruit Picking

I have been struck by the lack of facilities for handwashing for fruit pickers. They usually spend all the day in the open, picknicking for their midday meal, etc. Lavatory accommodation is not available and the surrounding hedges and woods are used for this purpose.

It is noted that the strawberry picking season commences in early June and is followed by the picking of other soft fruits and eventually apples. These fruits are usually eaten uncooked and unwashed, and on aesthetic grounds alone this is unpleasant, particularly when one considers the complete absence of hand-washing facilities, and that toilet paper, if used, is porous.

I do wonder, however, whether there is not a more valid reason for demanding some standard of hygiene. Poliomyelitis is known to gain momentum in July and reaches a peak during the height of the fruit-picking season, and the decline is evident after its termination, at the end of September. This trend is borne out by Dr. W. H. Bradley (Monthly Bulletin of the Ministry of Health and the Public Health Laboratory Service, Volume 14, March 1955), where he mentions that the zenith occurred in the 33rd week of the calendar year when averaging out the 25,000 notifications received in England and Wales during the six years 1947-1952. The incidence of this disease then apparently loses its tempo from lack of fresh infection and burns itself out.

Research in this direction might be amply repaid and legislation to ensure the good hygiene of fruit pickers should be urgently considered.

The poliomyelitis virus is now known to be excreted via the alimentary tract and can be demonstrated in the faeces of actual patients and of others who may conceivably be unwitting carriers of this disease. (This article was published in the *Medical Officer*, 10th August, 1956.)

Measles

The usual rise occurred in the year under review and it is likely that 1956 will show an appreciably lower incidence. There were no complications of note and no admissions to hospital.

Scarlet Fever

Mild in character and of no special significance, the usual investigations were made in each case regarding the possibility of food handlers being involved, and where indicated alternative work was advised and accepted.

Dysentery

A carrier in a Hospital for Mental Defectives had been excreting *Shigella Sonnei* since 1953 following an outbreak at that hospital. She was sampled periodically during 1955 with positive results and the necessary precautions were taken to prevent infection. She died in January 1956. This hospital has remained clinically free during the whole of the year.

Food Poisoning

Two suspected cases were notified after they were clinically fit, there was a short history of diarrhoea, samples of faeces were negative and no particular food stuffs could be incriminated as the source of infection. There were no other cases within the family circle.

Typhoid

This occurred in a retired man aged 65 years who had not been abroad for 40 years. He lived outside this Rural District until 18th December, 1954, when he moved into a house within Battle Rural District, and on that same day he became ill and was diagnosed as "Influenza." Despite Terramycin he did not recover, having intermittent bouts of pyrexia with malaise and loss of weight. On 22nd January, 1955, he was admitted to hospital as Pyrexia of unknown origin, he was then diagnosed as a case of Typhoid Fever. There was no evidence that he had incurred his infection within the District and all precautions were taken to ensure that there was no spread. He was eventually discharged home fit and free from infection after prolonged treatment and isolation.

Paratyphoid B

Paratyphoid B was diagnosed in a patient at the Brook General Hospital, London, S.E.18. She had been recently admitted from Darvell Hall Hospital, Robertsbridge, where she had been a nurse. Cooking staff and other possible sources of infection at Darvell Hall Hospital were sampled with negative results and there was no history of gastro-intestinal upsets. The patient apparently ate cakes at cafes which could not be identified at a distant seaside resort and, although she may have obtained her infection from imported Chinese egg, this could not be proved.

Salmonella Ibadan

An adult male was notified as a Paratyphoid carrier but subsequent investigation revealed that he was a carrier of *Salmonella* Ibadan, which is apparently endemic in Ibadan, West Africa. He was on leave from that town. There were no other carriers within his family and prior to his return to Ibadan he was sampled on several occasions with negative results. It is an interesting sidelight on bacteriological progress that one's place of origin can be pinpointed by one's *Salmonellae*!

Malaria

One case, in a boy who had recently arrived from West Africa, where he had had a previous attack; he was suitably treated in hospital.

Influenza

In contrast to last year's experience Influenza Virus A was identified as against Virus B. The clinical features generally in this district were, however, not dissimilar from those experienced in the 1954 attack.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS

	Under 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 and over	Totals
Scarlet fever ..	—	—	—	5	3	—	—	—	—	8
Whooping cough ..	4	18	29	44	4	3	3	1	—	106
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
Measles ..	2	3	39	128	19	7	5	—	—	243
Acute pneumonia ..	—	—	1	4	2	—	6	9	10	32
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	5
Food poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
Puerperal pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	4
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Malaria	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ..	6	62	69	182	28	13	21	14	11	406

SEASONAL INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Scarlet fever ..	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	2	1	—	8
Whooping cough	10	7	25	16	6	—	7	16	18	1	—	—	106
Acute poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Measles ..	2	—	4	8	12	37	38	30	8	5	66	33	243
Acute pneumonia	3	4	7	5	1	3	—	1	3	—	4	1	32
Erysipelas ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	5
Food poisoning ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3
Puerperal pyrexia ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	4
Typhoid ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ..	16	13	36	32	20	41	48	52	32	8	73	35	406

**DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
IN THE VARIOUS PARISHES**

	Measles	Whoop- ing cough	Scarlet fever	Acute pneu- monia	Erysi- pelas	Acute polio- myelitis	Food poisoning	Puerperal pyrexia	Typhoid	Malaria
Ashburnham ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Battle ..	53	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Beckley ..	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bodiam ..	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brede ..	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Brightling ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broomhill ..	6	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Burwash ..	7	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Catsfield ..	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Crowhurst ..	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dallington ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Guldeford ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Etchingham ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ewhurst ..	3	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fairlight ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guestling ..	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hurst Green ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Icklesham ..	11	33	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	1
Iden ..	3	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mountfield ..	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northiam ..	11	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ore ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peasmarsh ..	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Penhurst ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pett ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Playden ..	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rye Foreign ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Salehurst ..	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Sedlescombe ..	7	2	—	4	—	—	2	—	1	—
St. Thomas the Apostle, Win- chelsea ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ticehurst ..	47	—	—	17	—	—	—	2	—	—
Udimore ..	8	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—
Westfield ..	39	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whatlington ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	243	106	8	32	5	2	3	4	2	1

**PERIODS OF EXCLUSION IN CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

	Usual Incubation period (days)	Interval between onset and appearance of rash (days)	Period of exclusion	
			Patients	Contacts, i.e. the other members of the family or household living together as a family, that is, in one tenement.
SCARLET FEVER AND STREPTOCOCCAL SORE THROAT	1-7	1-2	Exclude from school for 3 weeks. Not allowed back if discharge from the nose or ear, sore throat or "septic spots" be present.	7 days after removal of patient to hospital or the beginning of his isolation at home.
DIPHTHERIA	2-7	—	Until pronounced by a medical practitioner to be free from infection	7 days after the removal of the patient to hospital, or the beginning of his isolation at home. If there be any suspicious signs the child should be excluded further until pronounced by a medical practitioner to be free from infection.
MEASLES ..	7-14	3-4	10 days after the appearance of the rash if the child appears well	Infants under five years who have not had the disease should be excluded for 14 days from the date of appearance of the rash in the last case in the house. Other contacts can attend school. Any contacts suffering from a cough, cold, chill, or red eyes should be immediately excluded.
GERMAN MEASLES	5-21	0-2	7 days from the appearance of the rash	None.
WHOOPING COUGH	6-18	—	28 days from the beginning of the characteristic cough	Infants under seven years who have not had the disease should be excluded for 21 days from the date of onset of the disease in the last case in the house.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS—*continued*

	Usual Incubation period (days)	Interval between onset and appearance of rash (days)	Period of exclusion	
			Patients	Contacts, i.e. the other member of the family or house- hold living together as a family, that is, in one tenement.
MUMPS . .	12-28	—	7 days from the subsidence of the swelling.	None.
CHICKEN POX . .	11-21	—	14 days from the date of the ap- pearance of the rash	None.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

189 clinics were held during 1955 (43 sessions).

Number of children who received injections in 1955:

Primary Immunisation:

		<i>Under</i> 1 yr.	1-4	5-9	10-14	<i>Total</i>
Treated at clinics	...	50	62	48	8	168
By private doctors	...	165	58	7	3	233

Reinforcing injections:

Treated at clinics	...	—	60	277	277	614
By private doctors	...	—	24	54	22	100

Totals—Under 5	..	..	..	335	
5-14 (inc.)	..	..	..	66	
Reinforcing	..	..	..	714	

The following children have received the combined protection against diphtheria and whooping cough (these are included in the numbers given above):

Primary Immunisation:

		<i>Under</i> 1 yr.	1-4	5-9	10-14	<i>Total</i>
Treated at clinics	...	50	55	10	—	115
By private doctors	...	156	52	3	—	211

Reinforcing injections:

Treated at clinics	...	—	—	—	—	—
By private doctors	...	—	15	22	3	40

Totals—Under 5	..	..	..	313	
5-14 (inc.)	..	..	..	13	
Reinforcing	..	..	..	40	

Total number of children under 15 years of age, resident in the area, who had been immunised by 31st December, 1955:

Under 5 years	..	..	1,329
5-14 (inc.)	..	..	4,265
			5,594

Comparative figures for the past three years:

	1953	1954	1955
Number immunised under 5 years ..	1,292	1,323	1,329
Child population (under 5) ..	1,745	1,673	1,696
Percentage of child population (under 5)	74.04%	79.07%	78.36%
Number immunised 5—14 (inc.) ..	4,132	4,264	4,265
Child population (5—14)	4,329	4,466	4,648
Percentage of child population (5—14)	95.44%	95.47%	91.75%

(Population figures are estimated—Registrar General is unable to supply them.)

It is generally accepted that immunisations given more than five years previously have largely lost their effect. The state of immunity of a child population at any given time is therefore more realistically given as the numbers immunised (primary or booster) within the previous five years. This figure is known as the Immunity Index.

	<i>Under</i>			
	<i>1 year</i>	<i>1—4</i>	<i>5—14</i>	<i>Total</i>
Immunity Index expressed as a percentage of the child population	39.54%	82.88%	62.45%	66.70%

Diphtheria Immunisation is pursued with the utmost vigour and it is only by never "letting up" on an opportunity to point the necessity for continued protection from this erstwhile killing and disabling disease that these figures are achieved.

In Diphtheria Immunisation we have a proven life-saving measure without reaction, yet parents dare to ignore the possible consequences of inaction.

The report of the Chief Medical Officer brings out in sharp contrast public reaction and clamour for a safe immunisation procedure against poliomyelitis, where in 1954 there were 1,300 odd cases of poliomyelitis associated with paralysis and 134 deaths in a total population of 44,000,000, compared with 18,500 cases of diphtheria and 722 deaths as recently as 1945.

One can only hope that the safe vaccine now perfected against poliomyelitis will give as solid an immunity.

Diphtheria Immunisation percentages for Schools.

School	No. on Register	No. Immunised	Percentage
Ashburnham C.P.	41	40	97.56
Battle & Langton V.P.	233	224	96.13
Battle Secondary Modern (Claverham) ..	338	323	95.56
Beckley V.P.	60	57	95.00
Bodiam V.P.	50	48	96.00
Brede C.P.	71	69	97.18
Burwash V.P.	102	97	95.09
St. Philip's, Burwash Common	72	68	94.44
Catsfield V.P.	49	46	93.87
Crowhurst V.P.	53	48	90.56
Dallington V.P.	42	37	88.09
Etchingham V.P.	44	41	93.18
Ewhurst V.P.	17	17	100.00
Fairlight V.P.	36	35	97.22
Guestling V.P.	48	47	97.91
Hurst Green V.P.	63	59	93.65
Icklesham V.P.	59	54	91.52
Mountfield and Whatlington V.P.	103	102	99.02
Netherfield V.P.	95	93	97.89
Northiam V.P.	115	113	98.26
Peasmarsh V.P.	64	60	93.75
Pett V.P.	45	38	84.44
Playden V.P.	42	41	97.61
Robertsbridge Secondary Modern	187	171	91.44
Salehurst V.P.	145	134	92.41
Sedlescombe V.P.	86	82	95.34
Staplecross Methodist Primary	55	53	96.36
Stonegate V.P.	42	41	97.61
Ticehurst V.P.	175	170	97.14
Udimore C.P.	37	36	97.29
Westfield C.P.	124	117	94.35
Winchelsea V.P.	76	74	97.36
Attending private schools or schools outside the District	2,769	2,635	95.16
	1,879	1,630	86.74

Comparative Percentages for the past three years:

	1953	1954	1955
Attending County Council Schools	94.05%	95.22%	95.16%
Attending private schools or schools outside the District	97.46%	95.83%	86.74%

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Parents are failing in their duty to insist on this protective measure for their babies.

The speed of air travel makes the likelihood of the introduction of smallpox an ever-present possibility. Parents are exhorted to make use of this safety measure during the early months of their children's lives, and adequate facilities in each parish are made available for this purpose.

The following persons were vaccinated in 1955:—

The following persons were vaccinated in 1955:							
		<i>Under</i>				<i>15 or</i>	
		<i>1 yr.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary vaccination	..	234	10	6	8	11	269
Revaccination	..	—	—	4	27	106	137

Of these totals, 5 persons received primary vaccination and 91 were revaccinated before travelling abroad.

Comparison with previous years:

		1953	1954	1955
Total primary vaccinations	..	296	295	269
Total revaccinations		120	166	137
Number of babies born in 1955		..	..	363
Number of babies under 1 year vaccinated in 1955		..	..	234
Percentage vaccinated in 1955		..	..	64.46%
		1953	1954	1955
Comparative percentages		65.43%	65.96%	64.46%

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES IN BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

<i>Name and address of Centre</i>	<i>Sessions</i>
BECKLEY: Parish Hall	First Tuesday in month. (Weighing sessions only)
BODIAM: Parish Room	Second Thursday in month.
BREDE and UDIMORE:	
The Hall, Broad Oak	Second Wednesday in month.
BURWASH: Congregational Hall ..	Fourth Thursday in month.
ETCHINGHAM: Village Hall	First Thursday in month. (Weighing sessions only)
FLIMWELL: Village Hall	Fourth Tuesday in month.
HURST GREEN: Village Hall	Second Tuesday in month.
IDEN and PLAYDEN:	
Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh	First Friday in month.
NORTHAM:	
Women's Institute Hall	Third Tuesday in month.
ROBERTSBRIDGE:	
The Institute, Station Road	First and Third Tuesdays in month.
SEDLSCOMBE: Village Hall	First Thursday in month.
TICEHURST: Institute Hall	First Wednesday in month.
WESTFIELD: Church Hall	Third Tuesday in month.
WINCHELSEA: New Hall	Second Friday in month.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) PROVIDED BY THE EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL UNDER THE
AEGIS OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

**(i) Ambulance Service*

			1953		1954		1955	
			Cases	Mileage	Cases	Mileage	Cases	Mileage
Illness	..	..	555	15,164	566	17,759	577	16,432
Accidents	..	..	117	2,967	121	3,153	112	2,808
			672	18,131	687	20,912	689	19,240

The Volunteers of the Battle Branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade make a fine contribution to this first class service.

A welcome reduction in overall mileage is noted for the current year. However, 14% of the total mileage run was due to accident cases, it is a reminder of part of the toll that is exacted for carelessness on the roads.

(ii) *Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Children under School Age*

(iii) *Contraceptive Advice*

Subject to the limitation that advice is only given where pregnancy or childbirth is liable to be injurious to the health of the mother, arrangements are made for contraceptive advice to be given to married women at a clinic conducted by Hastings Corporation.

(iv) *District Nurses (Midwives) and Health Visitors*

(v) *Home Help Service*

(vi) *Hospital Car Service*

The Hospital Car Service in this county is provided by the joint organisation of the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The Area Transport Office for this district is at 8 Endwell Road, Bexhill-on-Sea (Telephone Bexhill 152).

(vii) *Infant Welfare Centres*

See list of Centres on page 21.

**(viii) Immunisation and Vaccination Service*

Please refer to pages 18 and 21.

(ix) *Mental Health Service*

(x) *Registration of Nursing Homes*

There are three efficiently-conducted registered Nursing Homes in this District.

(xi) *School Dental Service*

(xii) *School Medical Service (*Routine medical examinations including the assessment of handicapped pupils)*

*Delegated duties to the District Medical Officer of Health.

(b) HOSPITALS

The following are the main hospitals providing accommodation and treatment for residents in the Battle Rural District:

Darvell Hall Hospital, Robertsbridge.

Battle Hospital, Battle.

Memorial Hospital, Rye Foreign.

Isolation Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.

Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings (including V.D. Clinic).

Mount Pleasant Isolation Hospital, Hastings.

St. Helen's Hospital, Hastings.

Fernbank Maternity Nursing Home, Hastings.

Buchanan Hospital, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

Eversfield Chest Hospital, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

St. Mary's Hospital, Eastbourne.

Princess Alice Hospital, Eastbourne.

Gildredge Isolation Hospital, Eastbourne.

Bexhill Hospital, Bexhill-on-Sea.

Hellingly Hospital, Hellingly.

Pembury Hospital, Pembury.

Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.

Fairlight Sanatorium, Fairlight.

Cottage Hospital, Hawkhurst.

Hill House, Rye Foreign.

Administered by the South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board through their respective Hospital Management Committees.

(c) PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

The Public Health Laboratory Service is a free national laboratory service designed to assist all those concerned in the diagnosis, prevention and control of communicable diseases. The benefits are not limited by health authority, hospital region or other administrative boundary. These facilities are available to all doctors, both for the submission of specimens and for consultation.

Gamma globulin, prepared from pooled plasma from normal healthy adults by the Lister Institute for the Ministry of Health, is distributed to doctors in England and Wales through laboratories of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Requests for supplies should be made to the director of the nearest constituent or associated laboratory of the Service. So far as supplies allow, it is issued for the protection of susceptible contacts of measles and rubella as shown below:

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Available for</i>	<i>Usual Dosage</i>
		<i>Prevention</i>
Measles	(i) Control of hospital and institutional outbreaks.	3 years and over— 750 mg.
	(ii) Persons suffering from intercurrent illness or living in a poor environment for whom an attack of measles would be dangerous.	1-2 years—500 mg. Under 1 year— 250 mg.
		<i>Attenuation</i>
	(iii) Children under 3 years of age.	250 mg.
Rubella	Women exposed to infection in the first four months of pregnancy.	750 mg.

The address of the nearest laboratory is The Public Health Laboratory, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton (Telephone, Brighton 23506, Director—Doctor J. E. Jameson).

(d) NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

(i) *Section 47: Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention*

Fortunately, it was not found necessary to invoke these provisions during the year.

(ii) *Section 50: Burial or Cremation of the Dead*

Action was taken in two cases under this Section.

(e) HOME PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICE

This service is much appreciated.

(f) NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

Liaison has been maintained.

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME

Fatal home accidents (all ages) for England and Wales were as follows:

1953	1954	1955
5,895	6,617	(Not available)

Eight hundred and ninety children under 5 years of age died in 1954 from accidents in the home.

Five hundred and ninety-four died from suffocation, mainly in babies under one year.

One hundred and thirty-two died from burns and scalds. A recent survey of a sample of 500 houses with young children revealed that only 54% had fireguards, thus the ignition of a nightdress is quite a common cause of fatality.

Thirty-nine died from poisoning, the familiar sugar-coated, brightly coloured pill, so easily obtained since the advent of the National Health Service, and so thoughtlessly left lying about in places easily accessible to young children, is to be deplored.

Thirty-five died from falls, many of which could have been prevented by parents themselves reviewing the hazards for young children within their own homes and immediate environment.

Ninety died from miscellaneous causes too long and varied to recapitulate here but mostly preventable with a little thought and imagination by parents and others.

The Housing Committee have much to exercise them in the course of their duties but I feel that this is a facet of Council tenant education which they might consider worthwhile implementing.

CLEAN FOOD

The Sanitary Inspectors continue to make the personal approach to food handlers in whatever sphere of the catering industry they may be employed.

The following salient points are discussed with special regard to individual difficulties:

- (a) *Storage of vulnerable foodstuffs* with protection from insects, rodents, domestic animals, dust, etc.
- (b) *Exposure for sale* with safeguards for keeping quality; from contamination due to insects and droplet infection conveyed by coughs, sneezes, etc.
- (c) *Handling of the product*—stressing personal hygiene. The prime factors of importance in this connection being meticulous hand-washing after use of the lavatory, covering of sores on fingers with impermeable plasters, and the "no touch" technique wherever possible.

Customers are in a strong position to enforce good hygiene if they would note transgression and cease to patronise ill-kept establishments with untutored staff.

This presupposes that the customer is sufficiently well informed to know when conditions are in this parlous state. This can only come to pass by vigorous health education from the earliest age, including individual training and teaching in school, and in my view such knowledge is as important for future welfare as the three "Rs" in the school curriculum.

ICE CREAM

Eight new premises were registered for the sale of ice cream during 1955, bringing the total to 140. Seventy-seven registered premises sell the wrapped product.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Food Found to be Unfit for Human Consumption

During the year the undermentioned foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption:

Beef	..	..	222 lb.	Tinned vegetables	12 lb. 10 oz.
Offal	..	..	14 lb.	Tinned milk	.. 9 lb. 15 oz.
Tinned meat	..	..	6½ lb.	Tinned soup	.. 2 lb. 5 oz.
Tinned fruit	..	..	24 lb. 3 oz.	Tinned ham	.. 11 lb. 15 oz.
Tinned fish	..	..	2 lb. 7 oz.	Miscellaneous	.. 1 lb. 12 oz.

Meat Condemned at Slaughterhouses

				<i>Carcass Meat</i>	<i>Offal</i>
Beef	..	..	..	905 lb.	1,493 lb.
Veal	..	..	..	204 lb.	112 lb.
Mutton and lamb	..	..	..	60 lb.	274 lb.
Pork	..	..	..	72 lb.	367 lb.
				1,241 lb.	2,246 lb.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ..	233	—	117	748	1,077	—
Number inspected	233	—	117	748	1,077	—
<i>All diseases except T.B. and Cysticerci:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	3	2	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	69	—	3	91	49	—
% of number inspected affected with disease ..	29.6%	—	5.1%	12.4%	4.5%	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	18	—	—	—	10	—
% of number inspected affected with T.B. ..	8.5%	—	—	—	0.9%	—
<i>Cysticerosis:</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

It is disquieting to note the high incidence of Tuberculosis in cattle having regard to the fact that this figure relates to prime bullocks only.

MILK PRODUCTION

The following is a comparative estimate of the percentage of different types of milk produced in this District:

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
T.T. milk	20%	29.3%	35.3%	41.0%	47.5%	54.7%
Accredited milk ..	10%	5.4%	8.7%	5.1%	3.7%	—
Undesignated milk ..	70%	65.3%	55.9%	53.8%	48.8%	45.3%
Comparable figures for 1955 are unobtainable						

The percentages of designated and non-designated farms in this Rural District are as follows:

63.27% (286 farms) produce T.T. milk and

36.73% (166 farms) produce non-designated milk.

From March 1955 an Order in Council prescribed that this area would be allowed to retail only raw T.T., pasteurised or sterilised milks.

This Order is welcomed as an added safety measure in the distribution of so vulnerable a product.

The gradual but continuous increase of both heat-treated milk and T.T. herds over the past 34 years have contributed greatly to the virtual elimination of bovine tuberculosis as a cause of death.

This is strikingly illustrated by the numbers of deaths from abdominal tuberculosis in children under 5 years recorded as 1,107 in 1921 and one in 1954, the major proportion of these deaths in the past being most likely to be due to bovine tuberculosis.

The great strides made in the production of T.T. milk in this District alone is exemplified in the table and it is known that a large proportion of the undesignated milk was pasteurised although actual figures are not available.

Three samples of milk submitted for biological examination to test for Tubercle Bacilli and Brucellosis were satisfactory, three samples of pasteurised milk submitted for methylene blue and phosphatase tests were satisfactory; one sample of raw T.T. milk did not conform to the methylene blue test.

I have repeatedly stressed in my Annual Reports that T.T. raw milk is not wholly safe and may be a vehicle for transmitting diseases other than Tuberculosis. Pasteurised milk is safe and the nutritional value is not impaired by the process of pasteurisation.

WATER SUPPLY

There are five Statutory Undertakings within the District:

<i>Undertaking</i>	<i>Parishes</i>
Battle Rural District Council	Battle, Crowhurst, Whatlington, Mountfield, Playden, Iden, Rye Foreign and part of Peasmarsh.
Hastings Corporation	Parts of Westfield, Guestling, Pett, Fairlight, Icklesham including Winchelsea and Rye Harbour, and part of Ore.
Heathfield and District Water Co.	Burwash, Etchingham, Hurst Green, Robertsbridge, Bodiam and Ticehurst.
Mid-Kent Water Company	Northiam.
Bexhill Corporation	Ashburnham, Catsfield and part of Crowhurst.

Rye Borough supplies water to Rye Harbour and Playden by arrangement with the Undertakers concerned

Personnel of the Water Engineer's Department were blood-tested in order to eliminate the possibility of a carrier state with consequent pollution of water supply. This is arranged with the helpful co-operation of the Pathologist of the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings. The results did not indicate any past or present disease likely to affect the purity of the water supply.

All new employees of the Heathfield and District Water Company were similarly blood-tested.

Other Piped Supplies

TOOT ROCK, PETT LEVEL

This privately-owned supply serves 54 houses in the Pett Level area only. The source is a shallow well and the water of dubious purity in the raw state. Following filtration and chlorination, seven samples were taken for bacteriological examination with satisfactory results.

FAIRLIGHT COVE ESTATE WATER COMPANY.

This company supplies filtered and chlorinated water to 78 properties.

I am not satisfied that the filtration of this water supply is entirely satisfactory, particularly after heavy rain, when the water appears opalescent after treatment. The Company has been approached regarding remedial measures but has not accepted the advice given. The quality of the water therefore remains indifferent and the purity depends on the strict attention to chlorination by the Company's employee.

Warren Estate. Thirty-nine houses on this estate depend on the Fairlight Cove Estate Water Company.

Evidence continues to accumulate which reflects adversely on both the adequacy and purity of this supply.

FIREHILLS ESTATE WATER COMPANY, FAIRLIGHT

This company restricts its filtered water supply to its own estate, comprising 102 houses, and operates a system of rationing during the summer months by supplying water to each of nine sectors in turn, so that individual houses have their storage tanks filled once a day.

Sampling of Public Supplies

The following table summarises the results of sampling public supplies:

(a) Samples taken by the Council:								
Undertaking				Type	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory		Total
Toot Rock, Pett Level				Bacteriological	7	0		7
Firehills Estate, Fairlight				Bacteriological	8	1		9
Fairlight Cove, Fairlight				Bacteriological	7	1	}	10
				Chemical and Bacteriological	2	0		
Battle Rural District Council, Battle supply				Chemical and Bacteriological	4	0	}	13
				Bacteriological	9	0		
Battle Rural District Council, Peasmarch supply				Chemical and Bacteriological	4	0	}	15
				Bacteriological	11	0		
(b) Samples submitted by Statutory Undertakings:								
Heathfield and District Water Company				Bacteriological	11	0		11
Fairlight Cove, Fairlight				Bacteriological	9	0	}	10
				Chemical	0	1		

New Schemes and Extensions

CENTRAL PARISHES (MOUNTFIELD, WHATLINGTON, SEDLESCOMBE AND EWHURST)

The sinking of a new bore at Sedlescombe was completed in September, a depth of 175 ft. having been reached. The yield proved adequate but it was clear from samples taken in November that there was evidence of pollution and that careful treatment would be essential. The equipment necessary to achieve this end was therefore included in the estimate.

WINCHELSEA BEACH

Branch water mains were completed and charged in April.

Morlais Ridge and The Ridge were, unfortunately, not included owing to financial considerations.

CAMBER.

The laying of the trunk main between Rye and Camber was commenced at the end of December.

BREDE AND UDIMORE

A local investigation by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was held on 29th March. Approval for the scheme was received in September and work is to commence in 1956.

BRIGHTLING AND DALLINGTON

The protracted negotiations regarding this scheme continued throughout 1955 but by December, Hailsham Rural District Council had agreed to participate and the Minister of Housing and Local Government was making arrangements for an enquiry.

MOAT LANE AND KENT STREET, WESTFIELD

The Minister of Housing and Local Government gave permission to Hastings Corporation in March to supply water to this area but this had not been implemented during the current year.

BRANCH MAIN FOR EAST GULDEFORD

A requisition was served on Hastings Corporation in June for a branch main to East Guldeford.

IDEN WATER SUPPLY

Residents complained direct to the Ministry of Health that the Council had not provided main water in view of the dire need, having regard to polluted wells and inadequacy of supply. Discussion in December between Ministry officials, District officers and local residents resulted in the formulation of a scheme whereby the Borough of Rye agreed to supply this area.

CRANBROOK AND DISTRICT WATER COMPANY

Now ceased to exist and incorporated in the Mid-Kent Water Company under the Kent Water Act, 1955, with effect 1st October, 1955.

DISTRIBUTION OF PIPED WATER IN THE PARISHES

Parish	Properties directly connected to main				Premises supplied by meter			
	1955	1954	1953	1952	1955	1954	1953	1952
Ashburnham	39	38	38	38	—	—	—	—
Battle	1,398	1,342	1,316	1,280	162	155	148	145
Bodiam	127	127	127	127	—	—	—	—
Burwash	584	560	560	540	—	—	—	—
Catsfield	183	181	170	166	—	—	—	—
Crowhurst	184	177	175	175	37	37	37	37
Etchingham	220	218	218	213	—	—	—	—
Guestling*	351	334	267	159	—	—	—	—
Hurst Green	258	250	250	249	—	—	—	—
Icklesham	655	502	485	397	—	—	—	34
Iden	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
Mountfield	7	7	7	7	—	—	—	—
Northiam	412	384	372	369	10	17	17	17
Ore	84	80	78	64	—	—	—	—
Peasmarsh	74	73	53	—	3	3	1	1
Playden	62	61	61	51	6	6	7	6
Rye Foreign	20	19	20	19	4	4	4	3
Salehurst	511	470	470	469	—	—	—	—
Ticehurst	809	747	747	731	—	—	—	—
Westfield	299	290	261	219	—	—	—	—
Whatlington	20	19	18	4	—	—	—	—
Totals	6,299	5,881	5,695	5,279	223	223	215	244

*Including the parishes of Pett, Fairlight and that part of Guestling known as Three Oaks.

The continued improvement in connections to main water supplies in Guestling and Icklesham follows the line of the new main from Hastings in the direction of Camber.

Other increases indicate the connections of new houses to existing water mains.

WELLS AND SPRINGS

Water sampling and advice to householders, farmers, etc., on methods of improving individual supplies by protecting wells and springs has occupied a large proportion of the Sanitary Inspectors' time and reflects the great need for piped water throughout the District.

One hundred and forty-six samples of water were submitted for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination during 1955.

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN FROM NEW AND SUSPECT SOURCES

PARISH	WELLS		SPRINGS	
	Satisfactory	Unsat'factory	Satisfactory	Unsat'factory
Battle	—	1	—	—
Beckley	3	—	—	—
Bodiam (Chem.) ..	—	—	4	—
Brede	2	6	—	—
Brightling	2	7	—	2
Broomhill	2	—	—	—
Burwash	—	1	2	1
Catsfield	3	—	—	—
Crowhurst	—	3	—	—
Dallington	—	3	—	2
Ewhurst	—	7	—	—
Guestling	—	3	—	—
Icklesham	—	—	1	3
Iden	1	2	—	—
Northiam	—	1	—	—
Peasmarsh	1	3	—	1
Playden	1	—	—	1
Rye Foreign	—	1	—	1
Salehurst	1	—	—	—
Sedlescombe	3	2	—	—
Ticehurst	—	1	—	—
Udimore	—	1	—	—
Westfield	1	11	—	—
Whatlington	—	—	—	—
	20	53	3 Bact. 4 Chem.	11

SCHOOL WATER SUPPLIES

School	Results of Samples		Delivered water or well	Action taken and present position
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory		
Beckley ..	1	—	Delivered	Tank cleaned
Brede ..	2	1	Delivered	Tank cleaned
Dallington ..	—	—	Well	—
Fairlight ..	3	1	Spring	Filter cleaned
Mountfield ..	—	—	Delivered	—
Peasmarsh ..	2	2	Well	Filter media changed
Playden ..	—	3	Delivered	Contractor changed and water boiled prior to use
Sedlescombe	—	—	Delivered	—

EWHURST SCHOOL receives a weekly supply of main water free of charge with the kindly co-operation of Messrs. Arthur Guinness, Son & Co. (Park Royal) Ltd.

PEASMARSH SCHOOL is still unconnected to the adjacent main supply and the two unsatisfactory results reveal the urgency for early connection.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

(a) NORTH TRADE ROAD EXTENSION

The extension of the sewer to serve the new Asten Fields Housing Estate and 18 properties on the North Trade Road was completed during the year and all but one of the private owners had exercised their rights to connect.

The new county secondary school and the adjoining Police cottages were also connected.

(b) BURWASH

Engineering difficulties were encountered and the scheme had not been completed at the end of the year.

(c) CAMBER SANDS

Work commenced in May and excellent progress was made. The use of dewatering apparatus was completely successful in enabling the work to proceed despite the high water table.

(d) ROBERTSBRIDGE

Serious flooding occurred at Robertsbridge on 14th July following an exceptionally heavy rainstorm. Silt and stones from the area of Langham and Bellhurst Roads were washed down the main road into a sawmill yard and over the level-crossing.

The entry of vast quantities of water into the sewers resulted in sewage backing up the drains and entering some houses in Station Road.

Work on a new stormwater overflow to obviate a recurrence was commenced in December.

(e) RYE HARBOUR

The outfall sewer was cleared of encrusted matter and put in good order.

(f) TICEHURST

This scheme was nearing completion by the end of the year and tenders for the West Flimwell area were accepted.

(g) CROWHURST VILLAGE

A local investigation was held on 12th October into the Council's proposals for sewerage part of Crowhurst village.

(h) DALLINGTON

The Parish Council made representations in a letter dated 9th June asking that a main drainage scheme should be provided.

The Parish Council was informed that a scheme would be prepared as soon as the water supply was arranged.

(i) FAIRLIGHT

A local investigation into this scheme was held on 4th May. The Minister later approved the first half of the scheme in principle and the detailed scheme was submitted to him in November.

(j) NORTHAM

Steady progress was made during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The service operated smoothly throughout the year, a fortnightly collection being maintained in all but a small scattered area of the District, where the interval was 16 days.

All the Council's tips are controlled, sprayed against flies and treated by the Council's rat-catcher at regular intervals.

The Council was obliged to abandon the tip in Brickhurst Wood, Beckley, as the new owner of the access road exercised his right to close the access.

The old refuse tip at Battle was covered with excavated soil and bulldozed level.

Salvage

The results of the year's collection are summarised below:

<i>Material</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwt.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Waste paper ..	125	3	2	0	985	15	7
Rags ..	5	5	3	0	132	3	9
Ferrous metals ..	17	8	0	0	69	12	0
Non-ferrous metals ..	2	13	3	6	240	13	0
	150	11	0	6	£1,428	4	4

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

The Council has one cesspool emptier which was able to satisfy all requests from householders. Occasionally there was a few days' delay due to the increased demands of the public conveniences in the coastal areas during the fine, busy holiday season.

No expansion of this service is envisaged; the aim being to render it less necessary by the provision of public sewers.

Disposal is on selected agricultural land by arrangement with farmers and no complaints have been received.

The private contractors, whose past activities gave rise to complaints, operate to a very limited extent and the Council have virtually taken over.

This service commenced on 1st April, 1955, and the revenue for a complete year's working, i.e. until 31st March, 1956, is made up as follows:

	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Emptying of privately-owned cesspools ..	1,215	0	0
Emptying of Local Authority cesspools ..	536	0	0
Hire of vehicle by private firm ..	21	0	0
	£1,772	0	0

INDUSTRIES

The numbers engaged in the main varied industries located in the District are given in the table on this page.

Hop-pickers' Camps

Conditions were generally good and the fine weather contributed to the sense of well being.

The machine is now within the economy of the small farm, therefore the trend of using machines rather than resident pickers is becoming more apparent. Local pickers are utilised, whenever possible, either solely or to supplement machines.

The medical service provided by Messrs. Guinness was well maintained and much appreciated.

There were no cases of infectious disease and the general health was good.

Dr. H. M. Elliott, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., representing the Ministry of Health, inspected the camps during hop-picking and expressed satisfaction with the general arrangements.

Gypsum Mines

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the Gypsum Mines in June, 1955, when 450 of the personnel employed were X-rayed. It is satisfying to record that there were no cases of active pulmonary disease in this survey.

NUMBERS ENGAGED IN THE MAIN INDUSTRIES

	At 31st December, 1955			At 31st December 1954
	Male	Female	Total	Total
Bakery	27	22	49	41
Beach works	50	—	50	46
Building trade	418	10	428	480
Concrete works	129	8	137	138
Egg packing station	16	18	34	30
Engineering works	256	21	277	313
Fencing contractors	23	1	24	25
Flour mills	48	18	66	64
Gypsum mines	585	15	600	704
Hop gardens (permanent staff—Guinness's)	118	5	123	124
Jam factory	19	32	51	60
Joinery works	24	—	24	24
Laundries	12	51	63	65
Oil refining	4	—	4	3
Printing works	3	1	4	4
Sawmills	74	1	75	72
Sports goods manufacturers	33	11	44	58
Sports ground contractors	20	1	21	17
Wooden toy manufacturers	16	17	33	40

Significant declines in employment figures when compared with 1954 are noted in connection with the building and engineering industries.

The "credit squeeze" would appear to be having some effect in curtailing the abnormal expansion in 1954, the comparable figures for 1953 being 429 and 268 respectively.

The decline at the Gypsum Mines is not due to this factor but to a variation in internal administration which is to be discontinued in the coming year and so there will probably be an increased labour force for 1956.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Twenty-one inspections under the Factories Act, 1937, were made during the year, resulting in one notice being served under Section 9.

There are no outworkers under Section 110 (1) (c) in this District.

HOUSING

The following information is in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health:

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year

(i) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)		240
(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose	..	1,306
(ii) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and 1932		127
(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose	..	524
(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		25
(iv)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		113

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers		50
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

(A) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:*

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| (ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: | |
| (a) By owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. | Nil |
| (iii) Number of dwelling-houses acquired and subsequently rendered fit by the Local Authority | Nil |

(B) *Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:*

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. | 2 |
| (ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices: | |
| (a) By owners | 1 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owner .. | Nil |

(C) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:*

- | | |
|--|----|
| (i) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation | 25 |
| (ii) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 2 |
| (iii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 2 |
| (iv) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners: | |
| (a) To render the house fit for human habitation | 1 |
| (b) As to usage other than for human habitation | 18 |

(D) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:*

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. | Nil |
| (ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit .. | Nil |

Housing Repairs and Rents, Act, 1954—Section 5

Demolition Orders rescinded following reconstruction	2
--	---

HOUSING

General

Representation to the Public Health Committee in the past has appeared to be the natural precursor to demolition, but experience has proved that "representation" is but the opening gambit when coming to grips with the problem of the individual unfit house.

Unless the property is quite impossible to renovate the Public Health Committee has wisely accepted an undertaking from the owner not to relet unless made fit in accordance with the accepted standards.

When the tenant has been rehoused, the owner is left with vacant possession, which gives him an added incentive to rehabilitate the property, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector gives him all possible help when formulating the necessary requirements.

A feeling existed that the Council was assisting the owner to make a fat profit by rehousing the tenant so giving him vacant possession. However, a reasonable profit is justifiable and provides the incentive to restore one more suitable habitation when the need for housing amongst all classes is so urgent; apart from conserving the energies of the building labour force.

This forthright, realistic policy initiated by the Public Health Committee has made a worthwhile difference to a District of this character, and I view our housing problems with some optimism.

The Housing Committee and the Housing Manager have continued to give wise and sympathetic consideration to all requests for rehousing, and I am grateful for this mutual understanding which is so vital for the successful culmination of our joint efforts.

HOUSING ACT, 1949, SECTION 20, IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, 1955

Properties investigated for Improvement Grants	102
Applications withdrawn	12
Applications refused (properties did not conform to standards laid down)	4
Properties approved for Grants	86

Analysis of the 86 properties where grants were made reveals that:

79 were for improvements and 7 related to conversions.

Owner/occupied	38
Dwellings for agricultural workers	28
Occupied by statutory tenants, or vacant and intended for letting	20
Average grant per dwelling	£284 11s. 10d.

A total of £24,474 17s. 8d. was granted for the 86 properties, involving an expenditure of over £40,000 os. od. by the owners to cover statutory repairs and the balance of the improvements and conversion.

Housing Provided by the Local Authority

1939	..	..	433
1946	..	..	437
1947	..	..	540
1948	..	..	698
1949	..	..	746
1950	..	..	831
1951	..	..	895
1952	..	..	993
1953	..	..	1,083
1954	..	..	1,117
1955	..	..	1,203 plus 61 under construction

One hundred and twenty-three applicants were rehoused during 1955 (actual number of persons 356).

Four hundred and three applicants were on the Register at the end of the year.

Details of Water Supply to Council Houses

1,055 houses are on the main water supplies; 148 houses have other supplies, as outlined below.

<i>Estate</i>		<i>No. of dwellings</i>	<i>Present water supply</i>
BECKLEY, Four Oaks	..	8	Delivered to site by Works Engineer's vehicle
BECKLEY, Burnt House Cottages		4	Well
BECKLEY, Yew Tree Cottages	..	4	Well
BECKLEY, Coombs Cottages	..	12	Estate supply piped to each dwelling
BREDE, Oakhill Drive	..	13	Two wells
BREDE, Gillysite	..	4	Delivered to site by Works Engineer's vehicle
BREDE, Woodside	..	10	Two wells
BRIGHTLING, Park View	..	4	Well
DALLINGTON, South Lane	..	2	Well
EWHURST, Rose's Field	..	6	Delivered to site by Works Engineer's vehicle
EWHURST, Sidegates	..	4	Ditto
EWHURST, Scows Down	..	2	Ditto
IDEN, Elmsmead Cottages	..	13	Ditto
MOUNTFIELD, Castle Gardens	..	2	Well
MOUNTFIELD, Brickfield Cottages		2	Delivered to site by Works Engineer's vehicle
SEDLESCOMBE, Meadowside	..	4	Well
SEDLESCOMBE, East View Terrace		32	Estate supply piped to each dwelling
SEDLESCOMBE, Blacklands	..	10	Ditto
UDIMORE, Lower Cross Cottages		12	Ditto

WATER SAMPLES—COUNCIL HOUSES NOT ON MAIN WATER

	Tank (Delivered water)	Well	Result		Action taken
			Satis.	Unsat.	
Beckley (3 estate wells)	—	2	—	2	2 wells cleaned. 1 well,—Warning notice posted "To boil"
Brede (2 estates) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Brightling	—	—	—	—	—
Dallington	—	—	—	—	—
Ewhurst including Staplecross (3 estates) ..	5	—	2	3	Tanks cleaned
Iden	3	—	1	2	Tank cleaned.
Mountfield	—	—	—	—	—
Sedlescombe ..	—	—	—	—	—
Udimore (piped to each house) ..	—	2	—	2	Storage tank cleaned
	8	4	3	9	

Eighty-seven Council houses do not have water closets.

Rents and Arrears

The integrity and stability of the present-day Council-house tenant is exemplified by the following table:

Year ending			Total rent collectible			Percentage of arrears
			£	s.	d.	
31st March, 1951	..	..	43,238	8	1	.29
31st March, 1952	..	..	52,393	12	10	.105
31st March, 1953	..	..	58,755	2	5	.004
31st March, 1954	..	..	66,918	9	10	.02
31st March, 1955	..	..	70,307	7	6	.05
31st March, 1956	..	..	76,274	2	9	.06

NEW DWELLINGS

New Dwellings Erected during 1955:

(a) By the Council:

Battle (Netherfield)	..	..	11 houses
Salehurst	..	..	18 houses
			12 flats
Ticehurst	..	..	20 houses
			12 flats

(b) By private enterprise	..	..	76 houses
Conversions to dwelling-houses	..	..	8 new units

Dwellings in Course of Erection 31st December, 1955:

(a) By the Council	..	..	41 houses
			20 flats
(b) By private enterprise	..	..	35 houses

**COMPARATIVE TABLE—PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND
LOCAL AUTHORITY**

				PRIVATE ENTERPRISE		LOCAL AUTHORITY
				New dwellings	Conversions	
1949	..	..	..	54	7	48
1950	..	..	..	37	9	85
1951	..	..	..	25	13	64
1952	..	..	..	37	13	98
1953	..	..	..	86	6	90
1954	..	..	..	90	14	48
1955	..	..	..	76	8	73

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS—COASTAL AREAS

The usual seasonal influx of caravans to the coastal areas kept one Sanitary Inspector fully employed as well as a Sunday roster of duties for two other Sanitary Inspectors.

Rigorous enforcement of the Public Health Act has been necessary to preserve the health of the people who have been attracted to this delightful coast.

Caravans were recorded on entry and kept under observation throughout their stay.

VISITS OF SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING 1955

Subject:

Drainage and sewage disposal	..	..	..	..	..	1,564
Water supplies	..	..	..	..	..	389
Milk and dairies	..	..	..	..	..	42
Building inspections	..	..	..	..	..	1,163
Hop-pickers' dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	81
Infectious diseases	..	..	..	..	..	45
Food premises	..	..	..	..	..	65
Housing and Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	782
Improvement grants	..	..	..	..	..	524
Moveable dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	394
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	156
Verminous premises	..	..	..	..	..	13
Factories and workshops	..	..	..	..	..	21
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	14
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	674
Public Cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	32
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	835
Total						6,799

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council employ one rat-catcher, trained to use modern methods, and this man's work has proved most effective.

Permanent baiting points are maintained at the principal refuse tips, and the public sewers are treated annually in accordance with the routine approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The following table summarises the results of the operator's work during the twelve months ending 31st March, 1956:

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				Total
	Local Authority	Dwell- ing houses	Agri- cultural	All other (including business and industrial)	
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	22	10,447	1,247	3,347	
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority as a result of					
(a) notification	(a) 1	128	4	24	157
(b) Survey under the Act	(b) 17	55	23	12	107
(c) otherwise	(c) —	—	—	105	105
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats	Major 4	1	3	2	10
	Minor 2	128	—	19	149
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by mice	Major —	—	—	4	4
	Minor 1	32	—	8	41
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	7	140	3	23	173

METEOROLOGY

Rainfall Figures taken at Battle Water Works

	1955	1954
Number of days on which rain fell	151	177
Longest period of drought ..	19 days	24 days
Period of drought	9th-27th April (inclusive)	7th-30th April (inclusive)

Comparison with previous years is given in the following table:

<i>Year</i>	..	..	..	..	<i>Total rainfall</i>
1947	..	..	..	..	28.1 inches
1948	..	..	..	..	28.5 inches
1949	..	..	..	..	27.3 inches
1950	..	..	..	..	32.1 inches
1951	..	..	..	..	45.0 inches
1952	..	..	..	..	35.1 inches
1953	..	..	..	..	26.1 inches
1954	..	..	..	..	37.0 inches
1955	..	..	..	..	32.7 inches

Temperature

Highest recorded temperature for 1955 ..	86° on 31st July and 23rd August.
Lowest recorded temperature for 1955 ..	16° on 14th, 16th, 17th and 18th January and 27th February.