

[Report 1964] / Medical Officer of Health, Battle R.D.C.

Contributors

Battle (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1964

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RURAL DISTRICT OF BATTLE



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1964

M. I. SILVERTON,
O.B.E., T.D., Q.H.P., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. D.P.H., F.R.S.H.



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THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BATTLE

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(constitution at 31st December, 1964)

Chairman:

MR. Q. LLOYD

Vice-Chairman:

COMMANDER H. G. BOWERMAN, D.S.C., R.N.

MAJOR M. GRISSELL, J.P. (Chairman of the Council)

MR. E. E. BEANEY

MRS. F. R. BISHOP

BRIGADIER W. H. BLOOD, M.V.O.

MR. W. H. COOPER

THE HON. E. DAPHNE COURTHOPE,
O.B.E.

MR. H. M. HORSLEY

MR. H. L. PECK

MR. F. J. REEVES

COMMANDER J. D. ROSS, R.N.
J.P.

MRS. A. G. K. WILSON

DR. J. R. WRIGHT, T.D., J.P.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

M. I. SILVERTON, O.B.E., T.D., Q.H.P., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
F.R.S.H.

(also Medical Officer of Health to Borough of Rye and School Medical
Officer to East Sussex County Council)

Senior Public Health Inspector:

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

Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector:

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

Public Health Inspectors:

F. B. Elliott, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert. (to 31/1/1964)

R. D. Brown, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

R. Pulford, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

R. C. Price, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert. (from 6/5/1964)

J. Lawson, Pupil Public Health Inspector (from 21/9/1964)

Chief Clerk:

Miss M. E. Portnell

Shorthand-Typists and General Clerks:

Mrs. W. R. Edwards

C. W. Field

Miss S. M. Peacock (from 1/4/1964)

Rat Catcher:

R. Elliott

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1964.

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

Despite an era of continuing inflation this Council's record of achievement in the related fields of main water supply and sewage disposal is outstanding. In taking advantage of present day charges, rather than waiting hopefully for easier economic conditions, essential amenities have been provided at a reasonable cost; this aspect is particularly evident when viewed in retrospect.

At the invitation of the Borough of Bexhill and with the consent of this Council, I acted as their Medical Officer of Health from 1st August to 17th November, 1964, and produced their Annual Report. This was in addition to my other appointments as Medical Officer of this Rural District and the Borough of Rye. The East Sussex County Council relieved me of my School Medical Officer duties during this period.

Mr. Dunford (Chief Public Health Inspector) and the Public Health Inspectors have given me their loyal support and I would like to express my thanks to them and the Clerical Staff under the able direction of Miss Portnell (Chief Clerk) for their assistance during the past year.

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

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.

Telephone: Battle 2214/7.

STATISTICS RELATING TO BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT IN 1964

Area of district in acres (estimated)	117,147
Population (Registrar General's estimate for mid-year) ..	31,410

Analyses of Rateable Values

	31st March, 1963		31st March, 1964	
Domestic properties ..	£736,655	73.1%	£754,492	73.0%
Commercial properties	98,319	9.8%	98,504	9.5%
Industrial properties ..	73,219	7.3%	71,979	7.0%
Other properties ..	98,875	9.8%	108,008	10.5%
	£1,007,068	100 %	£1,032,983	100 %

Sum represented by a penny rate	£3,960	£4,075
Number of rateable premises as at 1st April	13,083	13,287

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES

<i>Live Births:</i>	Male	Female	Total	<i>Still Births:</i>	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	194	181	375	Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	24	16	40	Illegitimate	0	0	0
	218	197	415		1	0	1

	Battle R.D.	England and Wales
Live birth rate per 1,000 home population (crude)	13.21	} 18.4
Corrected birth rate	17.43	
Still birth rate per 1,000 births (live and still) ..	2.4	16.4*
Still birth rate per 1,000 home population ..	0.03	0.3

A still birth is defined as any child which has issued forth from its mother after the 28th week of pregnancy, and which did not at any time after being completely expelled from its mother, breathe, or show any signs of life.

Illegitimate birth rate per 1,000 live births ..	96.3	72.0
Illegitimate birth rate per cent of total live births	9.6%	7.2%

*Lowest rate recorded.

Live births registered in England and Wales in 1964 totalled 874,178; this is the highest number since the 1947 "bulge" year when 886,820 babies were born.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES

	<i>Battle R.D.</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Deaths of infants under 1 week (perinatal) (excluding still births)	3	10,537
Death rate of infants under 1 week per 1,000 live and still births	7.21	11.8
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks (Neonatal) ..	3	12,106
Death rate of infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births	7.22	13.8*
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	5	17,445
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births	12.04	20.0
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil	0.2

*Lowest rate recorded.

Deaths

<i>Battle R.D.</i>			<i>England and Wales</i>		
Male	264	} 515	Male	274,773	} 534,737
Female	251		Female	259,964	
Death rate per 1,000 population	16.39	} 11.3			
Corrected death rate	10.8				

DETAILED CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 1 Year	1- 14	15- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65 and over
Tuberculosis, Other*	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	11
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	17	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	10
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	10	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	24	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	16
	F	27	—	1	—	—	1	3	6	16
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of ner- vous system	M	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	28
	F	56	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	53
Coronary disease, angina	M	69	—	—	—	—	1	5	13	50
	F	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	27
Hypertension with heart disease	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other heart disease	M	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	21
	F	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	39
Other circulatory disease	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6
	F	9	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	8
Influenza	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	M	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
	F	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	18
Bronchitis	M	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	13
	F	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2
Other diseases of res- piratory system	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital malforma- tions	M	4	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
	F	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other defined and ill- defined diseases	M	18	2	1	—	1	1	—	2	11
	F	20	1	1	1	—	—	—	2	15
Motor vehicle accidents	M	3	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
All other accidents	M	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—
	F	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
Suicide	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	264	3	2	4	2	4	11	45	193
	F	251	2	3	1	—	2	5	29	209

*The two male deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis have not been notified to us and cannot be traced in this District.

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

	1962	1963	1964
(i) Diseases of the heart and circulatory system (Coronary disease)... ..	165 (34.7%) 77 (16.2%)	197 (37%) 101 (18.9%)	186 (36.1%) 98 (19.0%)
(ii) Malignant neoplasms (cancer) ... (Cancer of lung and bronchus) ...	85 (18%) 18 (3.8%)	86 (16.1%) 20 (3.7%)	105 (20.3%) 20 (3.8%)
(iii) Vascular lesions of the nervous system	96 (20.2%)	90 (16.9%)	86 (16.7%)
(iv) Respiratory diseases (excluding tuberculosis)	55 (11.5%)	66 (12.4%)	63 (12.2%)

DEATHS FROM SPECIFIC CAUSES AND
RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION

	Battle R.D.		England and Wales	
	No. of Deaths	Per 1,000 pop.	No. of Deaths	Per 1,000 pop.
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	Nil	Nil	2,209	0.04
Tuberculosis (other than respiratory) ...	2	0.06	275	0.00
Influenza	1	0.03	1,043	0.02
Bronchitis	25	0.79	28,740	0.6
Pneumonia (excluding pneumonia of the new born)	31	0.98	29,509	0.61
Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil	4	0.00
Coronary and arteriosclerotic heart disease	98	3.12	106,290	2.24
Cancer of the lung, trachea and bronchus	20	0.63	25,371	0.54
Cancer, all forms	105	3.34	104,698	2.2
Motor vehicle accidents	7	0.22	7,271	0.15
All other accidents	11	0.35	11,431	0.24

DEATHS—65 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER

	Battle R.D.			London *		
	1962	1963	1964	1962	1963	1964
Total deaths	475	532	515	38,346	39,590	35,056
Number of deaths 65 years and over ..	413	434	402	26,025	26,769	23,099
Percentage of total deaths	86.9	81.5	78.0	67.8	67.6	65.9

* England and Wales not available

SUMMARY OF POPULATION, BIRTHS AND DEATHS WITH RATES, 1954-1964

Year	Esti- mated popula- tion	Total live births			Corr- ected Birth rate	Birth rate Eng. & W.	Total deaths			Corr- ected death rate	Death rate Eng. & W.	Natu- ral de- crease
		M	F	Total			M	F	Total			
1954	29,780	202	177	379	15.0	15.2	221	223	444	10.4	11.3	- 65
1955	29,850	204	159	363	14.3	15.0	221	210	431	9.8	11.7	- 68
1956	29,810	180	193	373	14.7	15.6	214	225	439	10.3	11.7	- 66
1957	29,680	188	167	355	14.1	16.1	258	232	490	11.7	11.5	-135
1958	29,630	164	178	342	13.6	16.4	209	225	434	9.9	11.7	- 92
1959	29,640	196	165	361	14.3	16.5	199	239	438	10.3	11.6	- 77
1960	29,970	231	190	421	16.5	17.1	201	240	441	10.4	11.5	- 20
1961	30,400	174	188	362	14.0	17.4	235	262	497	11.6	12.0	-135
1962	30,710	195	189	382	14.6	18.1	227	248	475	10.3	11.9	- 93
1963	31,000	186	192	378	16.0	18.2	244	288	532	11.3	12.2	-154
1964	31,410	218	197	415	17.4	18.4	264	251	515	10.8	11.3	-100

The Corrected Birth and Death Rates pay due regard to the increased proportion of aged retired persons within the Rural District as compared with England and Wales, and this is reflected in the increased number of deaths and the comparatively low number of births.

The requisite correction is achieved by using a comparability factor which is provided annually by the Registrar General.

In 1961, in the south-east (excluding London) 15.8% of people were aged 65 or over, as against 11.9% in the whole country.

The number of females per 1,000 males decreased from 1,082 in 1951 to 1,067 in 1961, the relative number being higher in the south-east where there are proportionately more old people.

Life expectancy remains at 68 years for a male child and 74 years for a female child at birth.

Natural Increase in England and Wales

The number of births registered in 1964 exceeded the deaths by 339,554—the highest natural increase for any year since 1948 (307,073).

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME

Deaths from	1963			1964		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Coal gas poisoning ...	481	738	1,219	363	532	895
Other poisoning ...	285	281	566	261	323	584
Falls	1,282	2,882	4,164	1,197	2,779	3,976
Burns and scalds ...	302	586	888	277	490	767
Choking and suffocation	273	220	493	323	227	550
Other accidents ...	230	193	423	225	163	388
	2,853	4,900	7,753	2,646	4,513	7,159

Those usually affected were under 5 years or over 65 years of age; these accidents were almost wholly preventable with the exercise of foresight and care.

It is salutary to reflect that accidents in the home account for a higher percentage of child mortality than accidents on the roads.

Children's Nightdresses Regulations, 1964

It has been estimated that about 300 deaths and 1,000 burns of varying severity were caused by the ignition of clothing, particular emphasis being placed on the inflammability of children's nightdresses.

From 1st October, 1964, it became an offence under the Consumer Protection Act, 1961, for a retailer to sell a child's nightdress not conforming to an agreed standard of low flammability. In this connection the Consumer Council has produced a folder entitled "Making a Nightdress?" for free distribution.

Enforcement in this area rests with the Local Health Authority.

MOTOR VEHICLE DEATHS

<i>England and Wales</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1959	..	..	..	4,414	1,612	6,026
1960	..	..	..	4,754	1,889	6,643
1961	..	..	..	4,753	1,881	6,634
1962	..	..	..	4,522	1,784	6,306
1963	..	..	..	4,589	1,762	6,351
1964	..	..	..	5,238	2,033	7,271

There were seven deaths from this cause within Battle Rural District during 1964.

MOTOR CYCLE DEATHS

	1963			1964		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 5 years ...	2	1	3	1	—	1
5—14 years ...	3	1	4	4	7	11
15—24 years ...	679	45	724	799	72	871
25 years and over ...	415	36	451	426	31	457
	1,099	83	1,182	1,230	110	1,340

The age group 15-24 continues to be especially vulnerable in riders and pillion passengers, and emphasises the necessity for wearing crash helmets, a proven life saver and injury limiting measure.

Safety education in schools and youth clubs is strongly advised.

DEATHS FROM CANCER, ENGLAND AND WALES

Cancer, all forms				1961	1962	1963	1964
Males	..	..	..	53,441	54,716	55,180	56,247
Females	..	..	..	46,474	46,854	47,200	48,451

LUNG CANCER AND SMOKING

Lung Cancer deaths in England and Wales

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Males ..	18,882	19,460	20,278	20,757	21,476
Females ..	3,118	3,350	3,501	3,677	3,895
	<u>22,000</u>	<u>22,810</u>	<u>23,779</u>	<u>24,434</u>	<u>25,371</u>

The death rate for cancer of the lung now accounts for 7.8% of all deaths of men while the rates from all other forms of cancer remain virtually unchanged.

Evidence continues to accumulate pinpointing the association between lung cancer and smoking. It is salutary and enlightening to note that the death rate for men over 25 between 1951 and 1962 in England and Wales rose by 22% whereas the death rate among doctors dropped by 7% due to their changed smoking habits.

In addition, chronic bronchitis is two or three times commoner among cigarette smokers than non-smokers although pipe smoking is not wholly without risk. This disease, accounting for 28,740 deaths in 1964, is the largest single cause of absence from work.

Despite all the publicity of the evidence incriminating smoking, 255 million pounds of tobacco were consumed in 1964, a rise of 1.5% compared with 1963. In tobacco duty this produced £892,000,000—£14 million more than in 1963, accounting for one eighth of the public revenue.

The medical profession's campaign against smoking is completely altruistic, as a sudden drop in tobacco consumption would inevitably cause a rise in personal income tax. In the fullness of time the saving of lives in the prime of life and the reduction in hospitalisation would make a worthwhile contribution to the country's economy.

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, 1964 ..	73	57	130	5	10	15	78	67	145
2. Cases previously removed and re-notified in 1964 ..	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
3. Primary notifications received in 1964 ..	1	1	2	2	—	2	3	1	4
4. Cases moved into area as transfers in 1964	7	3	10	—	—	—	7	3	10
Totals	81	63	144	7	10	17	88	73	161
5. Cases removed from Register in 1964 ..	17	8	25	—	2	2	17	10	27
6. Number on Register at 31st December, 1964	64	55	119	7	8	15	71	63	134

NEW CASES NOTIFIED GIVING AGE GROUPS AND OCCUPATIONS

Age	New Cases Primary Notifications				Occupation
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	M	F	
0—2 ...	—	—	—	—	—
3—5 ...	—	—	—	—	—
6—10 ...	—	—	—	—	—
11—15 ...	—	—	I	—	Schoolboy
16—25 ...	—	—	I	—	Lay Brother
26—35 ...	—	I	—	—	Housewife
36—45 ...	—	—	—	—	—
46—60 ...	—	—	—	—	—
Over 60 ...	I	—	—	—	Chartered Accountant

ANALYSIS OF REMOVALS, 1964

	Pulmonary Cases		Non-pulmonary Cases	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Left district	3	5	—	—
*Died	5	1	—	1
Cured	9	2	—	1
	17	8	—	2

*The six persons who were suffering from Pulmonary tuberculosis died from other causes.

The one female death from Non-pulmonary tuberculosis died in a London Hospital and does not appear on our list of deaths from this cause.

TUBERCULOSIS—PREVENTIVE MEASURES

The advent of new drugs in 1948 capable of treating tuberculosis is estimated to have saved more than 100,000 lives over the intervening years.

These new drugs have not only conserved the lives of people treated but have acted as a preventive measure in eliminating foci of infection in patients who would otherwise have disseminated the disease within the family group and to other contacts.

In 1930, 4,670 persons over 60 years died from this condition and the number was still 1,396 in 1963. These over 60's continue to be a serious reservoir of infection and every encouragement should be given to this particular age group to attend for Mass Miniature Radiography which is so easily available as a diagnostic aid for all.

Many when approached individually are apathetic and fatalistic "nothing can be done for me at my age." This thinking must be combated if prevention is to progress to elimination, if not interested in their own welfare they must be made to realise that they could be a source of danger to their families and friends.

Mass Miniature Radiography not only discloses early tuberculous lesions but other abnormal conditions of the heart and lungs which are amenable to treatment. No appointment, no undressing, no segregation of sexes, no charge and the whole procedure is completed within minutes. A personal confidential report is forwarded by post.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS

Disease	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 ...	—	—	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	7
Whooping cough ...	1	3	11	15	2	1	—	—	—	33
Measles ...	2	28	67	145	60	9	3	1	—	315
Acute pneumonia...	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	4	1	9
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Puerperal pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	3	32	80	164	63	12	6	5	3	368

SEASONAL INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Scarlet fever ..	1	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7
Whooping cough	3	1	2	6	3	7	2	6	3	—	—	—	33
Measles ..	—	—	2	3	1	4	4	25	21	71	119	65	315
Acute pneumonia	2	2	—	—	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	9
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ..	6	4	5	12	7	15	6	31	26	71	119	66	368

DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE PARISHES

	Measles	Whooping cough	Scarlet fever	Acute pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia
Ashburnham (312) ..	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
Battle (4,517) ..	6	—	1	—	—	—	—
Beckley (931) ..	46	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bodiam (404) ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brede (1,011) ..	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Brightling (373) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burwash (1,998) ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Camber (432) ..	21	—	—	1	—	—	—
Catsfield (710) ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Crowhurst (639) ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dallington (288) ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
East Guldeford (90)	4	—	—	1	—	—	—
Etchingham (674) ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Ewhurst (799) ..	1	5	—	—	—	—	—
Fairlight (866) ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guestling (1,057) ..	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
Hurst Green (767) ..	10	2	—	—	—	—	—
Icklesham (1,974) ..	40	—	1	1	—	1	—
Iden (417) ..	6	—	1	—	—	—	—
Mountfield (543) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northiam (1,445) ..	118	6	—	—	—	—	—
Peasmarsh (783) ..	11	9	2	1	—	—	—
Penhurst (29) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pett (639) ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Playden (359) ..	13	1	1	—	—	—	—
Rye Foreign (419) ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Salehurst (1,777) ..	4	1	1	—	—	—	—
Sedlescombe (991) ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ticehurst (2,840) ..	—	—	—	3	—	1	—
Udimore (393) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Westfield (1,779) ..	5	2	—	—	—	—	—
Whatlington (333) ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	315	33	7	9	1	2	1

Population of parishes given in brackets (East Sussex County Council Year Book, Census 1961).

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Poliomyelitis

No case of poliomyelitis has been recorded in this District for the past five years.

Poliomyelitis became a serious epidemic in 1947 when 8,000 cases were notified. An average of 4,500 persons a year contracted the disease during the following decade. Vaccination started in 1956 and there was an immediate reduction in the incidence of this disease.

Oral prophylactic vaccine consolidated this success as exemplified by the following table:—

	England and Wales		
	Corrected Notifications		Deaths
	Paralytic	Non-paralytic	
1952	2,976	1,571	338
1962	212	59	18
1963	39	12	7
1964	30	8	4

Diphtheria

Immunisation is the controlling factor in this disease and I am happy to record that there has been no infection in this District for the past 19 years.

Measles

Having experienced an incidence of 589 cases in 1963 there was a comparative lull until August 1964, this rise continued throughout the remaining months of the year. Fortunately there were no complications necessitating admission to hospital.

Measles prophylactic vaccine is undergoing trial.

Whooping cough

Low incidence with immunisation controlling and minimising adverse effects.

Scarlet fever

Mild in character and of no special significance, no case was admitted to hospital. 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.

Typhoid fever

Two imported cases following holidays in Western Europe were recorded in 1963, fortunately without spread. Prospective travellers abroad would be well advised to have protective immunisation against this disease.

No incidence in 1964.

The Aberdeen typhoid fever epidemic, although remote from this District, did entail much extra work and activity by the Public Health Department in tracing suspected tinned meats on the advice of the Ministry of Health.

Dysentery

One case was notified by a General Practitioner but no organism was isolated and there was no spread.

A second incident involved a family living in a London Borough who arrived in this area on holiday. I was advised by the Borough Medical Officer of Health concerned that the mother was still a carrier

of shigella sonne after discharge from hospital. The whole family was sampled with negative results and they returned home after three weeks without any evidence of spread.

Food Poisoning

Following a notification of "sickness" from a Local Authority School involving four children of the same family, samples were taken and Salmonella menston was isolated in the father, the rest of the family proved negative.

The father (*aet* 41 years) had no medical history relating to this condition and was apparently fit. His private doctor was notified and subsequent re-samplings following treatment showed that he was free from infection.

The patient was engaged in poultry farming and in co-operation with the Divisional Veterinary Officer faecal swabs were taken from 20 hens in each of five houses with negative results. In addition, all food stuffs were sampled with the same result.

The farm was run on hygienic lines and there did not appear to be any rodents.

The family had not taken any meals away from home for some considerable time before this episode.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1959-1964

1st JANUARY-31st DECEMBER

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	2	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	406	206	506	38	589	315
Scarlet fever	14	11	6	7	11	7
Whooping cough	32	26	18	1	40	33
Acute pneumonia	31	16	18	10	43	9
Erysipelas	3	5	1	—	2	2
Puerperal pyrexia	5	1	2	—	—	1
Dysentery	—	2	1	2	1	1
Food poisoning	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	2	2	2	2	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	2	—

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES EXCLUDED FROM STATE SCHOOLS

	Mumps	Ringworm	Chicken-pox	German Measles	Scabies	Impetigo
January ...	1	—	3	—	1	—
April ...	—	—	—	1	—	—
May ...	1	—	—	2	—	—
June ...	3	—	—	9	—	2
September ...	1	—	5	14	—	—
November ...	—	1	—	2	—	—
December ...	—	—	—	2	—	—
Totals ...	6	1	8	30	1	2

PERIOD 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	
			<i>Patients</i>	<i>Contacts</i> , 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	Re-admit when family doctor permits.	Adult contacts engaged in school meals service excluded until Medical Officer of Health allows return to work. Other contacts, if healthy, need not be excluded.
MEASLES	7—14	3—4	10 days after the appearance of the rash if the child appears well.	Children under 5 years of age who have not had the disease should be excluded for 7 days from the date of the appearance of the rash in the last case in the house. Other contacts can attend school. Any contact 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.	Children under 7 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.
CHICKEN-POX	11—21	0—2	7 days from the date of appearance of the rash.	None.
MUMPS	12—28	—	7 days from the subsidence of the swelling.	None.
CONJUNCTIVITIS (INCLUDING PINK EYE)	1—3	—	To be excluded until certified as fit to attend.	None.
RINGWORM OF THE BODY (INCLUDING ATHLETE'S FOOT)	If the infected area can be kept covered the patient need not be excluded. He should not, however, take part in swimming—nor in the case of ringworm of the feet—in gymnastic classes or barefoot dancing.			

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The percentages of children born in 1963 who were immunised at 31st December, 1964, by the East Sussex Local Health Authority are compared with England and Wales:—

	Children Born 1963		
	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis
Local Authority	87	86	79
England and Wales	69	68	60

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

	Local Health Authority's Records					
	Primary			Revaccination		
	*1962	1963	1964	*1962	1963	1964
Under 1 year	222	24	10	—	—	—
1 year	48	59	121	1	—	—
2—4 years	44	9	40	35	6	2
5—14 years	186	—	8	555	36	39
15 years or over	227	—	13	1,377	197	148
	727	92	192	1,968	239	189

International Certificates of Vaccination against Smallpox

It must be stressed that all travellers proceeding to and from endemic areas must be in possession of current valid Certificates of Vaccination against smallpox.

International certificates of vaccination against smallpox authenticated in this office for travel abroad:—

	Primary			Revaccination
1961	..	..	30	189
*1962	..	..	91	1,000
1963	..	..	26	242
1964	..	..	27	267

*Smallpox outbreak at Bradford.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES IN BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

<i>Name and Address of Centre</i>	<i>Sessions</i>
BATTLE: Langton House	Fourth Tuesday in month. (<i>Weighing session only.</i>)
BECKLEY: Village Hall	Second Tuesday in month. (<i>Weighing session only.</i>)
BODIAM: Parish Room	First Thursday in month. (<i>Weighing session only.</i>)
BREDE and UDIMORE: Women's Institute Hall, Brede	Second Wednesday in month.
BURWASH: "Dawes," High Street	Fourth Thursday in month.
ETCHINGHAM: Village Hall ..	First Thursday in month.
FLIMWELL: Village Hall	Fourth Tuesday in month. (<i>Weighing session only.</i>)
GUESTLING and DISTRICT: Village Hall, Icklesham	Fourth Monday in month.
NETHERFIELD: Scout Hut, Darvel Down	Second Friday in month. (<i>Weighing session only.</i>)
NORTHIAM: Women's Institute Hall	Third Tuesday in month.
PEASMARSH, IDEN and DISTRICT: Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh ..	First Friday in month.
ROBERTSBRIDGE: The Institute, Station Road	First Tuesday in month.
SEDLESCOMBE: Village Hall ..	First Thursday in month. (<i>Weighing session only.</i>)
TICEHURST: Institute Hall ..	First Wednesday in month.
WESTFIELD: Church Hall ..	Third Tuesday 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) (a) *Ambulance Service*

BATTLE. Sub-station, 38 High Street (Telephone Battle 2626), having 4 full-timers and 2 ambulances (including 1 dual-purpose vehicle) and serving the parishes of

Ashburnham	Brightling	Etchingham	Mountfield
Battle	Burwash	Ewhurst	Penhurst
Bodiam	Catsfield	Hurst Green	Salehurst
Whatlington			

HAILSHAM. Sub-station, Grovelands Road (Telephone Hailsham 324, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Hailsham Telephone Exchange at all other times), serving the parish of Dallington.

RYE. Sub-station, Conduit Hill (Telephone Rye 3395), having 4 full-timers and 2 ambulances (including 1 dual-purpose vehicle) and serving the parishes of

Beckley	Icklesham	Rye Foreign
Camber	Northiam	Rye Harbour
East Guldeford	Peasmarsh	Udimore
Iden	Playden	Winchelsea Town
Winchelsea Beach		

HASTINGS. Main Station, Castle Hill Road (Telephone 1481), serving the parishes of

Brede	Fairlight	Sedlescombe
Crowhurst	Guestling	Westfield
Pett		

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. Main Station, 86a Speldhurst Road, Tunbridge Wells (Telephone 23222), serving the parish of Ticehurst (including Flimwell, Stonegate and Wallcrouch).

(b) *Hospital Car Service*

The Hospital Car Service is provided by the joint organisations 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 152).

(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 arranged by Hastings Corporation.

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

(v) *Home Help Service*

This service is much appreciated and of great assistance in avoiding hospitalisation and institutionalism, particularly for those elderly persons desirous of remaining in their own homes.

(vi) *Infant Welfare Centres*

See list of Centres on page 19.

(vii) *Immunisation and Vaccination Service*

Clinics attended by your Medical Officer of Health were held periodically at all schools and as follows:—

BATTLE: Girl Guide Hut,
London Road

First WEDNESDAY in each
month, from 10 to 10.30 a.m.

B.C.G. Vaccination sessions against tuberculosis attended by an Assistant County Medical Officer are held at schools, for children aged 13 years.

(viii) *Mental Health Service*

(ix) *Registration of Nursing Homes*

There are three efficiently-conducted registered private Nursing Homes in this District (33 beds available).

(x) *School Dental Service*

(xi) *School Medical Service (*routine medical examinations including the assessment of handicapped pupils)*

*Delegated duties to your District Medical Officer of Health, who also acts as School Medical Officer.

(B) PROVIDED BY THE EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Homes for the Aged

Furze House, Flimwell, Ticehurst
Grey Friars, Winchelsea.

(C) 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.
 Homœopathic Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.
 Cottage Hospital, Hawkhurst.
 Hill House, Rye Foreign.

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

Blood Transfusion Service

The National Blood Transfusion Service visits Battle periodically.

Stamped addressed leaflets for volunteer donors are available at this Council's Offices.

(D) 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, which are restricted, should be made personally to Doctor J. E. Jameson, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton (Telephone Brighton 63506).

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Available for</i>	<i>Usual dosage</i>
Rubella	Women who have not had rubella, exposed to close infection (i.e. in the same room) during the first three months of pregnancy. The case to which the woman has been exposed is deemed to be infective on the day the rash appeared and for ten days afterwards.	750 mg. (intramuscularly) into buttock. (No need for refrigeration).

Protection is immediate providing symptoms have not yet appeared and lasts two to three weeks, no side effects. Optimum prevention is up to first week after exposure.

Measles	(1) Children at risk under one year.	250 mg.
	(2) Older children subject to special conditions for whom an unmodified attack of measles would be dangerous*.	<i>Prevention:</i> 3 years and over— 750 mg. 1—2 years—500 mg. <i>Attenuation:</i> All ages—250 mg.

*Children receiving preventing doses are liable to develop measles after four to six weeks if re-exposed to infection.

A small stock of gamma globulin prepared from blood of persons recently vaccinated against smallpox is held at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London, N.W.9, (Telephone: Colindale 7041). This is for the treatment of cases of generalised vaccinia, accidental vaccinal infections endangering the eye, and in special circumstances, for the protection of unvaccinated smallpox contacts.

Other types of vaccine, anti-toxins and serums are not in stock at the Brighton Laboratory but information may be obtained from the Director.

(E) NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

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

Fortunately I have been able to avoid using this Section during 1964.

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

Action was necessary in the case of one person where the relatives were unable to pay the funeral costs.

(F) HOME PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICE

The Home Physiotherapy Service continues to provide qualified physiotherapists with completely equipped vans for treatment of the incapacitated.

This valuable service, mainly concerned with the elderly, is complementary to the National Health Service hospital physiotherapy department. It provides treatment for those persons who, in the opinion of their hospital consultants or general practitioners, would derive more benefit from domiciliary attention but who cannot afford the services of a private physiotherapist.

(G) NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN
Liaison maintained.

(H) FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

Designed to advise married people on the spacing and limitation of families, including involuntary sterility and minor gynaecological ailments.

The nearest clinic is at 1 Tower Road West, St. Leonards-on-sea (Telephone: Hastings 278).

(I) MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL

Problems related to marital relationships. Appointments Secretary, Hastings and District, Telephone Hastings 6162.

(J) EASTERN CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

This Committee is composed of representatives from National, Local Government and voluntary bodies, covering the Local Authority areas of Battle and Hailsham Rural Districts and the Boroughs of Rye and Bexhill.

It is concerned with the care of children in families where conditions may be adverse.

The Children's Officer of the East Sussex County Council is thus mainly concerned but all members use their best endeavours to arrive at a reasonable solution in each case.

Your Medical Officer of Health is a member of this Committee, which meets monthly at Bexhill Town Hall.

(K) MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE

Two voluntary organisations supply elderly persons with Meals on Wheels in the following parishes:—

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Parishes served</i>
(a) Burwash and Burwash Weald Old People's Association	Burwash including Burwash Weald.
(b) Women's Voluntary Service	Winchelsea, including Winchelsea Town and Rye Harbour. Battle Town Beckley (commenced 18th September, 1964) Northiam (commenced 6th November, 1964)

Other schemes in adjacent parishes will commence in 1965.

A subsidy of 9d. per meal is granted by this Local Authority who have also provided the equipment necessary for serving the individual meals.

Transport is subsidised by the Welfare Department of the East Sussex County Council.

This is a most valuable service providing varied attractive hot meals of good calorie content and vitamin value twice weekly to the elderly. These meals are an insurance against malnutrition. A potent contribution to the mental well-being of those living isolated and lonely lives who derive great benefit from regular contact with the voluntary worker.

These agencies provided some 5,000 meals in the year 1964.

FOOD HYGIENE

	1962	1963	1964
Total number of food premises in Battle Rural District	419	433	436
Number fully inspected	64	230	195
Informal notices served	24	52	40
Notices compiled with by the end of the year ...	10	15	48

The decline in inspections of food premises is due partly to the resignation of a Public Health Inspector in January, 1964. His successor was appointed on 30th January, but owing to housing difficulties was unable to take up his appointment until 7th May, 1964.

Continued surveillance of food premises is exercised by the Public Health Inspectors. They use their best endeavours to educate food purveyors and handlers, making them aware of their obligation to adhere strictly to accepted hygienic procedures.

With food so well packaged, showing no external signs of age, there is a tendency to allow slow moving lines to prolong their shelf lives unduly. The end result may be a stale, deteriorated food not in accordance with the pure food warranty.

Rotation of foods on shelves and in deep freeze cabinets is very necessary and stressed during inspections. Equally important is the care, attention and supervision that should be given to frozen food cabinets. Too often food handlers are unaware of the risks attached to slipshod maintenance and incorrect handling. Customers are lulled into a state of false security because the product is served from a frozen food cabinet.

How frequently one sees a frozen food cabinet encrusted with ice of great thickness, this is indicative of laxity. In order to be efficient in maintaining the correct temperature the cabinet must be defrosted regularly, ice should never be thicker than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch otherwise gradual spoilage may be occurring. This is one point that the customer might easily note and register a complaint when contemplating a purchase.

The discerning housewife will assist if more discretion is employed in patronising those food establishments which conform to good hygienic practices.

The following is a comprehensive list of purveyors of food in Battle Rural District:—

	1963	1964
<i>Shops Classified according to their Main Trades</i>		
Grocers and General Provisions	135	134
Butchers	26	24
Fishmongers	5	5
Greengrocers	6	6
Confectionery and Sweets	18	22
Cafes with Cake Shops	4	4
Cake and Bread Shops	5	6
Shops selling Milk	3	3
Bakehouses	6	6
<i>Licensed Premises (Hotels and Inns)</i>	89	93
<i>Hotels, Guest Houses and Cafes</i>	70	68
<i>Canteens (Industrial, etc.)</i>	4	3
<i>Schools</i>		
(a) Private (Boarding and Day)	15	15
(b) East Sussex County Council (Day)	27	27
(c) E.S.C.C. Boarding Annexes	2	2
<i>Hospitals</i>		
(a) Regional Hospital Board	4	4
(b) Private	1	1
<i>Nursing Homes</i>	4	4
<i>Homes for the Aged</i>	2	2
<i>Food Preserving Premises (Jam Making)</i>	3	4
<i>Poultry Killing Establishment</i>	1	1
<i>Egg Packing Station</i>	1	1
<i>Village Trust</i>	—	1

Registered Food Premises

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Ice Cream

No. of premises on Register at end of 1963	..	175
New registrations during 1964		12

Ice cream is not manufactured within the District and shops sell the wrapped product.

Sausages

No. of premises on Register at end of 1963	..	18
No. of premises removed from Register during 1964		1
New registrations during 1964		Nil

Preserved Foods

No. of premises on Register at end of 1963	..	6
New registrations during 1964		1

Inspections of Registered Food premises

There were 102 inspections of registered food premises during the year.

A Purveyor of Unsound Meat

In 1962 and 1963 I reported the case of a butcher selling unsound meat because of his lack of appreciation of the consequences of his actions.

In May 1964, it became necessary to prosecute him again for contraventions under Sections 8 and 108 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and Sections 5, 8, 9(a), 9(b), 16(2), 16(4), 23(1)(b) and 24 of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955; he was heavily fined.

In November 1964, this aged butcher retired, the business was closed and the premises sold.

Game Act, 1831, Game Dealer's Licences

Six persons were licensed to deal in Game during the year 1964.

Slaughterhouses

There are four licensed slaughterhouses which are situated in Brede, Icklesham, Salehurst and Ticehurst. They do not comply with the standards laid down in the Slaughterhouse Act, 1958, and all will close on the appointed day, (1st October, 1965).

Hastings County Borough, the Boroughs of Bexhill and Rye, and the Rural District of Battle have combined to construct and maintain a Slaughterhouse. This is sited just within the Hastings boundary adjacent to this Rural District, building commenced early in 1964.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

In 1964 seven men were granted licences to slaughter animals.

Condemned Foods

Certificates are issued when required, food is then either removed to the Council's refuse tip, or stained and subsequently used in soap making.

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	156 lbs.	Tinned Fruit ..	6 lbs.
Tinned Meat	32 lbs.	Tinned Vegetables	11 lbs. 13 ozs.

In addition, 68 frozen ducklings were decomposed and were declared unfit for human consumption.

The contents of two deep freeze cabinets fully stocked with frozen foods became defrosted due to electrical failures and the entire stocks of varied foodstuffs were declared unfit.

Meat Condemned at Slaughterhouses

	<i>Carcase Meat</i>	<i>Offal</i>
Beef	20 lbs.	106 lbs.
Pork	22 lbs.	4 lbs.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Beasts Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed and inspected ..	220	—	1	199	110	—
<i>All diseases except T.B. and Cysticerci:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	—	—	—	2	—
% of number inspected affected with disease	4.54%	—	—	—	1.82%	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	1	—
% of number inspected affected with T.B.	—	—	—	—	0.90%	—
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

MILK PRODUCTION

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1963

The Ministers of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and of Health, discontinued the licensing of tuberculin-tested (T.T.) milk in England and Wales as from 1st October, 1964. In future there will be three designations of milk—"Pasteurised," "Sterilised" and "Untreated." "Untreated" will replace the designation "Tuberculin Tested." The past designation "tuberculin tested" is no longer applicable since all milk now comes from cows subjected to tuberculin testing.

SAMPLES OF MILK FROM TUBERCULIN TESTED (T.T.) CATTLE SUBMITTED FOR BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Number of samples taken	5
Number negative for tubercle bacilli	5
Number positive for <i>Brucella Abortus</i>	2

Brucella Abortus

It must be emphasised that "Untreated" milk is raw milk although the product of tuberculin tested cattle. This milk is still a potential hazard to health as it has been variously estimated that 22% of dairy herds are excreting *brucella abortus* organisms. Diagnosis of human brucellosis is difficult and virtually impossible on clinical grounds alone. The infection may give rise to a variety of symptoms with gradations from intermittent lassitude with occasional mild aches and pains to full-blown obvious organic lesions involving liver, joints and heart disease.

The process of pasteurisation will definitely eliminate this organism from milk. Consumers are unfortunately deluded by the appearance of the cream in raw milk but this is not lost in pasteurised milk but merely more evenly distributed throughout the bottle.

When brucellosis is isolated from a particular cow the farmer is ordered to send that milk for pasteurisation until subsequent repeated laboratory negative tests presume the absence of this organism in the animal concerned. The farmer can, however, without let or hindrance, sell this cow on the open market and need not disclose its infectivity.

SAMPLES OF PASTEURISED MILK SUBMITTED FOR METHYLENE BLUE AND PHOSPHATASE TESTS

Number of samples submitted	8
Number of samples conforming to the standard of T.T. milk ..	7

The sample that failed the test emanated from a neighbouring County Borough and the Medical Officer of Health was notified.

Penicillin in Milk

Penicillin is widely used for treating inflammation of cows' udders (mastitis), and milk taken within 48 hours of treatment may result in unpleasant reactions to persons sensitive to this antibiotic.

Regulations now require 48 hours to elapse before milk is sold following penicillin treatment of an animal in order to avoid contamination of the milk.

In future all milk submitted by this Department for biological testing will additionally be subjected to a test for penicillin content.

SAMPLES OF RAW AND PASTEURISED MILK SUBMITTED SUBJECTED TO ANTIBIOTIC TESTING

No. of samples of raw milk submitted	..	..	..	..	5
No. of samples of pasteurised milk submitted	..	..	..	..	8
Total number of samples tested for Penicillin and found to be satisfactory	..	..	..	..	13

WATER SUPPLY

On the 31st December, 1964, there were three Statutory Undertakings supplying water of a high standard of purity and adequate quantity.

All water for domestic use is treated and chlorinated.

No bacteriological reports on raw water were made available to this Authority.

None of the water supplied to Battle Rural District is plumbo solvent.

<i>Undertaking</i>	<i>Parishes</i>
Eastbourne Waterworks Company ...	Ashburnham, Battle, Beckley, Bodiam, Brede (part), Brightling, Burwash, Catsfield, Crowhurst, Dallington, Etchingham, Ewhurst, Hurst Green, Iden, Mountfield, Northiam (part), Peasmarch, Playden, Rye Foreign, Salehurst, Sedlescombe, Ticehurst, Whatlington.
Hastings Corporation	Brede (part), Camber, East Guldeford, Fairlight, Guestling (part), Icklesham including Winchelsea Beach, Winchelsea Town and Rye Harbour, Pett, Udimore and Westfield.
Mid-Kent Water Company	Northiam (part).

Extensions to Existing Schemes

The following minor extensions were completed in 1964:—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Properties</i>
Battle	London Road (part)	8
Brede	Goatham Lane	7
Dallington	South Lane	7
Salehurst	Jimpson's Lane	10
Westfield	Spray's Lane	11

Fluoride Content of Main Water Supplies.

(a) *Eastbourne Waterworks Company*

This Water Company utilises five sources for supplying Battle Rural District and their respective fluoride contents are given below:—

<i>Station</i>				<i>Fluoride as F p.p.m.</i>			
Powdermill, Battle	..	..	..	..	less than	0.1	
Burwash	..	..	..	..	..	0.1	
Hazard's Green, Ninfield	..	..	..	..	..	0.1	
Sweet Willow Wood, Ninfield	..	..	..	..	less than	0.1	
Sedlescombe	..	..	..	..	..	0.4	

(b) *Hastings Corporation*

The fluoride content of water supplied from the Brede Treatment works is 0.1 p.p.m.

(c) *Mid-Kent Water Company*

The fluoride content of the water supplied to Northiam from Goudhurst Pumping Station is approximately 0.1 p.p.m.

All these main supplies fall below the optimum level of 1 part per million which is advised by leading authorities as being necessary to prevent the decay of teeth in the young child.

A decision from the East Sussex County Council is still awaited on the implementation of this valuable preventive measure.

Private Piped Water Supply

TOOT ROCK, PETT LEVEL

This private piped supply ceased to exist on 31st December, 1964, following successful negotiations with Hastings Corporation for the absorption of Toot Rock into their Statutory area of water supply. An adequate supply of water is now ensured for 54 properties.

The owner now utilises this water supply for her estate of 14 houses and adjacent licensed caravan site accommodation 30 caravans.

**DISTRIBUTION OF PIPED WATER SUPPLIES—DOMESTIC
PROPERTIES CONNECTED TO THE MAIN**

	Properties				Population 1961 Census
	1964	1963	1962	1961	
<i>Eastbourne Waterworks Company</i>					
Ashburnham	67	65	64	64	312
Battle	1,709	1,664	1,633	1,631	4,517
Beckley	254	242	221	202	931
Bodiam	129	129	129	129	404
Brede—see also (a) below ...	4	4	2	—	1,011 (a)
Brightling	69	66	64	61	373
Burwash	670	646	632	627	1,998
Catsfield	205	205	203	203	710
Crowhurst	229	224	219	207	639
Dallington	90	84	83	82	288
Etchingham	241	238	235	233	674
Ewhurst	220	210	204	202	799
Hurst Green	285	280	275	269	767
Iden	121	121	115	114	417
Mountfield	135	130	129	129	543
Northiam—see also (b) below	52	51	45	43	1,445 (b)
Peasmarsh	208	202	190	186	783
Playden	100	97	95	94	359
Rye Foreign	64	61	61	60	419
Salehurst	644	618	596	566	1,777
Sedlescombe	289	280	270	268	991
Ticehurst	928	917	903	897	2,840
Whatlington	97	95	93	93	333
<i>Hastings Corporation</i>					
Brede—see also (a) above	389	363	345	316	1,011 (a)
Camber	249	251	247	236	432
East Guldeford	15	15	15	13	90
Guestling*	1,173	1,016	953	895	2,562
Icklesham†	930	876	841	771	1,974
Udimore	106	102	92	69	393
Westfield	623	578	563	538	1,779
<i>Mid-Kent Water Company</i>					
Northiam—see also (b) above	501	486	478	474	1,445 (b)
	10,796	10,306	9,995	9,672	30,560

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

†Including Winchelsea Town, Winchelsea Beach and Rye Harbour.

There are no permanent standpipes in this District.

Sampling of Public Supplies

The following table summarises the results of sampling public supplies:—

	Type	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Total
<i>(a) Samples taken by the Council:</i>				
Toot Rock, Pett Level ...	Bacteriological	4	1	5
Hastings Corporation:				
Brede	Bacteriological	1	—	1
Icklesham	Bacteriological	3	—	3
<i>(b) Reports received from Statutory Undertakings:</i>				
Eastbourne Waterworks Co....				
Powdermill Lane, Battle ...	Bacteriological	22	—	22
Brede	Chemical	2	—	2
Burwash	Bacteriological	10	—	10
	Chemical and			
	Bacteriological	2	—	2
Icklesham	Bacteriological	1	—	1
Ninfield	Bacteriological	1	—	1
Sedlescombe	Bacteriological	24	—	24
Hastings Corporation:				
Fairlight	Bacteriological	35	—	35

Investigation suggested that the one unsatisfactory result might have been due to contamination during sampling.

Manganese content, Crowhurst Bridge, Burwash

The contact tank between the aerator and the upward flow tanks was installed and resulted in reducing the manganese content to an insignificant amount.

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN FROM NEW AND SUSPECT SOURCES

	Wells		Springs	
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Ashburnham	—	—	1	—
Beckley	—	1	—	—
Brede	—	1	—	2
Burwash	2	2	—	—
Catsfield	—	—	1	—
Northiam	—	—	4	2
Peasmarshe	1	2	2	3
Pett	—	1	—	—
Ticehurst	4	1	—	—
Udimore	1	—	1	—
Westfield	1	—	—	—
Whatlington	—	1	—	—

SEWERAGE

BATTLE (SEWERING OF OUTLYING PARTS OF THE PARISH AND RECONSTRUCTION OF BATTLE TOWN SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS)

The Council will receive grants from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the East Sussex County Council for 30 years.

Satisfactory progress was maintained throughout the year despite difficulties in procuring sufficient labour.

BECKLEY

In July, 1964, the Ministry approved the amended scheme for this parish. Tenders were invited in September and the lowest satisfactory tender was accepted by the Council in November.

BROAD OAK, BREDE

A short extension of the sewer to serve one property in this area was approved in February, 1964.

BURWASH (FARM EFFLUENT)

Negotiations were proceeding for the acceptance of effluent from Seaview Poultry Farm, Burwash Common, into the main drainage system.

CATSFIELD

Progress was satisfactory. Connections to the sewer were commenced in July and 67 properties were connected by the end of the year.

ETCHINGHAM AND HURST GREEN

A local investigation into this scheme by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was held in November, 1964.

FAIRLIGHT, TREATMENT WORKS (REMEDIAL WORKS)

The Works were substantially complete by the end of the year except for delivery and fitting of the pump.

GUESTLING AND WEST PETT

A comprehensive report on the proposed sewerage of premises in these areas was submitted to the Council by the Surveyor and Engineer in November, 1964.

It was agreed that a detailed scheme for the drainage of premises in Friar's Hill, Guestling, and in the main Hastings Road (to the Borough boundary), and along Pett Road to Pett Church, be prepared by the Surveyor and Engineer for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the East Sussex County Council and the Kent River Board.

ICKLESHAM (TREATMENT WORKS)

In October, 1964, the Consultants were instructed to prepare a report on these works, taking into account present and estimated growth of the village of Icklesham.

ICKLESHAM (RYE HARBOUR)

In May, 1964, a connection for this area to the Rye Borough new sewage disposal works was constructed. The connection will not be put into use until all negotiations are complete.

TICEHURST (FLIMWELL)

A small extension of the existing sewer to serve two properties in Union Street, Flimwell, was approved.

WESTFIELD

The Council received a comprehensive report from the Surveyor and Engineer on the proposed scheme for sewerage certain areas of Westfield.

WINCHELSEA TOWN (STORM WATER TANK)

Tenders for this work were considered and accepted in April, 1964, work has not been commenced up to date owing to the protracted delivery date of essential materials.

WINCHELSEA BEACH

Due to flooding following heavy rain in November, 1964, pumps at Morlais Ridge pumping station were unable to deal with the flow of sewage.

Temporary remedial action was carried out.

FUTURE SEWERAGE SCHEMES

The Surveyor and Engineer was instructed to prepare schemes for sewerage (1) outskirts of Peasmarch and (2) Dallington.

NEW DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS OF MAIN WATER SUPPLY

Pressure of new development in areas of main water is beginning to overload comparatively recently built sewage works, thus making secondary schemes an urgent necessity. Tertiary schemes may have to be considered unless sufficient allowance is made now for the future.

Maybe large district works with extra acreage for future expansion, serving several parishes, would be the answer in potentially more populous areas. Inordinate lengths of extra piping with ancillary pumping equipment could be a deterrent.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

NUMBER OF LOADS REMOVED

	Private Properties				Local Authority				Total			
	1961	1962	1963	1964	1961	1962	1963	1964	1961	1962	1963	1964
January ..	120	149	74	194	18	12	9	5	138	161	83	199
February ..	149	173	111	197	10	6	7	4	159	179	118	201
March ..	240	165	210	202	20	12	26	10	260	177	236	212
April ..	226	189	254	279	10	17	20	9	236	206	274	288
May ..	222	292	286	292	18	10	22	17	240	302	308	309
June ..	193	207	204	348	19	13	21	7	212	220	325	355
July ..	238	241	307	268	21	50	26	13	259	291	333	281
August ..	205	247	242	252	32	19	43	29	235	266	285	281
September ..	188	233	246	277	33	24	16	30	221	257	262	307
October ..	148	210	179	170	11	17	9	25	159	227	188	195
November ..	169	201	218	155	9	18	7	13	178	219	225	168
December ..	107	113	151	154	15	8	9	5	122	121	160	159
Totals ..	2,205	2,420	2,582	2,788	216	206	215	167	2,421	2,626	2,797	2,945

The Council own two cesspool emptying vehicles of 1,000 and 800 gallons capacity respectively, operated by four men.

REFUSE COLLECTION

In my 1958 Annual Report I commented that a regular fortnightly collection had been achieved even in the most remote areas. However, it was noted that there was a small but insistent demand for a weekly collection. I expressed sympathy with this view on public health grounds while being aware of the reluctance of the Council to embark on this scheme because of other heavy capital commitments on sewage disposal.

In 1959 and 1960 weekly collections were reconsidered but not pursued because implementation would have resulted in a 9d. rate increase.

I issued a leaflet to all householders during 1962 advising them on methods of guarding against infection from refuse bins awaiting collection.

In 1962 and 1963 I stressed the difficulties of householders in built-up areas of disposing of wrapped food packages, particularly where oil-fired boilers were in use.

Burning in small suburban gardens creates a noxious smoke nuisance to neighbours, inhalation of this smoke is both unpleasant and potentially inimical to health.

The Council has now agreed that consideration should be given to areas which warrant special attention and a pilot scheme is envisaged in the Winchelsea Town area.

Special collections of "junk" were arranged at the request of householders during the winter months. Facilities are also available to take builders' waste and trade refuse at the refuse tips.

The Council's fleet of refuse vehicles consists of two Shelvoke and Drewry fore-and-aft tippers and five Dennis side-loaders. The labour force, including the foreman and the driver of the J.C.B. mechanical shovel, consists of 21 men.

A Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic collection vehicle is on order for delivery in April, 1965.

Salvage

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

<i>Materials</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qr.</i>	<i>Lb.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Mixed Wastepaper ..	179	5	0	0	1,309	1	4
Rags	8	9	1	0	152	6	6
Ferrous metal ..	8	13	3	0	69	10	0
Non-ferrous metals ..	2	5	1	24	261	13	1
	198	13	1	24	£1,792	10	11

LITTER ACT, 1958

100 litter bins on the coastal strip from Pett Level to Camber and 20 street bins in Camber were sited at focal points.

Beach wardens were employed to pick up litter and a full-time driver with a van visited each bin at least every two days with special attention at Bank Holidays.

This comprehensive scheme for litter clearance from the coastal areas continued from May till October, 1964, the resultant cleanliness was appreciated.

Main Highways

The East Sussex County Council as Highway Authority provided approximately 25 litter bins on laybys on trunk and main roads in Battle Rural District.

Bin clearance was incorporated in this Authority's refuse collection scheme.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES IN BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

Public conveniences with wash-basins are provided by the Council at:

The Abbey Green, Battle,
Camber, East,
Camber, Central,
Camber, West,
Pett Level,
Winchelsea Beach.

By arrangement with the brewers, the Council contribute to the cost of the public conveniences at the New Inn, Winchelsea Town.

THE RENT ACT, 1957

Part I—Applications for Certificates of Disrepair

(1) Number of applications for certificates	..	..	..	Nil
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates	..	..	..	Nil
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates:	..	..	..	Nil
(a) in respect of some, but not all defects	..	..	..	Nil
(b) in respect of all defects	..	..	..	Nil
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	..	..	..	Nil
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	..	..	..	Nil
(6) Number of certificates issued	..	..	..	Nil

Part II—Applications for Cancellation of Certificates

(7) Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	..	..	..	..	Nil
(8) Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	..	..	..	..	Nil
(9) Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objections	..	..	..	..	Nil
(10) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	..	..	..	..	Nil

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)	347
(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose ..	1,212
(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	103
(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose ..	324
(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(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	171

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	118
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

(A) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957:*

(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 ..	Nil
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices (by Local Authority)	Nil

- (iii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices (by owners) .. Nil

(C) *Proceedings under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957:*

- (i) Number of Representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation .. 5
- (ii) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil
- (iii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil
- (iv) Number of dwelling-houses closed in pursuance of undertakings accepted from owners .. 5
- (v) Number of dwelling-houses demolished which were the subject of Undertakings 1
- (vi) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners which have since been made fit 3

(D) *Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:* .. Nil

(E) *Proceedings under Section 24 of the Housing Act, 1957...* Nil

HOUSING

The Housing Act, 1964, Improvement Grants

This Act came into operation on 16th August, 1964, and gave local authorities powers to require the improvement of tenanted dwellings in certain circumstances. However, the emphasis still remains on voluntary improvement.

This Local Authority has availed itself of the power to make grants since 1951 and has approved more than 1,000 since this date. It is a tribute to this Council's vision in making this facility available that any potential improvement areas which existed prior to the availability of these grants have been eliminated.

Changes in the Standard and Discretionary grants were introduced in order to make these grants more attractive.

The intention is to secure, within the next ten years, that most of the older houses capable of improvement will be provided with the basic five standard amenities of a fixed bath or shower in a bathroom, hot and cold water supply, a wash-hand basin, inside water closet and a satisfactory food store.

Discretionary Grants are given at the discretion of the local council whereby up to half the estimated cost of a wide range of improvements may be paid, subject to a maximum grant of £400. Grants of up to £500 are payable for converting houses of three or more storeys into self-contained flats.

Discretionary Grants

Applications received	..	..	..	..	..	..	62
Applications withdrawn	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Applications refused (unsuitable properties)	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Properties approved for grant	..	..	..	..	..	..	57

Analysis of the 57 approved properties:—

Owner/occupier	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Dwellings for agricultural workers	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Occupied by statutory tenants or vacant and intended for letting	..	..	..	..	..	..	15

In the present year the ratio is 45.6% owner/occupied and 54.4% tenanted properties, which is indicative of the sense of obligation of landlords in raising their tenants' standard of living.

Percentage ratio of Grants for the past 4 years						
			Owner/occupied	Tenanted properties		
1961	...	...	51	49		
1962	...	...	42	58		
1963	...	...	50	50		
1964	...	...	45.6	54.4		

Total amount of Discretionary grants approved in 1964	..	..	..	..	..	£19,703 2s. 6d.
Average grant per dwelling (57 dwellings)	..	..	..	..	..	£345 13s. 4d.
Number of applications approved and completed in 1964	..	..	..	..	..	17
Number of applications approved in previous years and completed in 1964	..	..	..	..	..	37

Standard Grants enable house owners and certain leaseholders to obtain grants, *as a right*, if the necessary conditions apply, of up to £155 to provide five basic amenities of bath or shower in a bathroom (or an addition or by the conversion of an outbuilding), a wash-hand basin, a water closet (with septic tank drainage if no sewer is available), hot and cold water supply (bringing a piped water supply into a house for the first time), and a satisfactory food store.

The additional items in parentheses were introduced under the Housing Act, 1964, and may increase a standard grant up to a maximum of £350.

Standard Grants

Applications received	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Applications withdrawn	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Applications refused (unsuitable properties)	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Properties approved for grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Total amount of Standard grants approved in 1964 £3,304 15s. 0d.							

26 properties were provided with the following amenities at a total cost of £3,411 10s. 9d.

Baths or showers in bathrooms	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Wash-hand basins	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Hot water systems	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Water closets	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Food stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	20

It will be appreciated that the total amount of grants paid in the current year must, of necessity, relate partly to grants made in previous years, the works having been completed in the year 1964.

Conditions

The period during which rental and other conditions are in force on a property to which a grant has been awarded has been reduced from ten to three years.

Both Discretionary and Standard grants are available to landlords and owner/occupiers. An explanatory leaflet is available at the Council Offices, free of charge.

HOUSING PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

1939	..	..	..	..	..	433
1947	..	..	..	..	..	540
1957	..	..	..	..	..	1,326
1962	..	..	..	..	..	1,404
1963	..	..	..	..	..	1,420
1964	..	..	..	..	..	1,431

Number of Council owned houses occupied at 31st December, 1964: 1,429 (two dwellings undergoing modernisation).

51 families were rehoused during 1964 (estimated number of persons 163).

651 applicants were on the Register on 31st December, 1964.

The Council controls 82 housing estates, varying from two dwellings to 88.

All Council dwellings are now on main water supplies.

Basic Improvements to Council houses during 1964

Number of dwellings provided with water closets	8
(Eight houses remain without water closets)	
Number of dwellings connected to main water supply ..	4

Rent Rebate Scheme

In order to alleviate cases of hardship, the Council operates a Rent Rebate Scheme:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Approximate amount of rebate</i>		
1962	£837		
1963	£717		
1964	£753		

No rebates are granted to recipients of National Assistance.

NEW DWELLINGS

New dwellings erected during 1964

Analysis

(a) By the Council:

Battle 8 { 4 dwellings with 1 bedroom
4 dwellings with 2 bedrooms

Sedlescombe 15 { 13 flatlets with 1 bedroom
2 flatlets with 2 bedrooms

(b) By private enterprise .. 252 { 3 dwellings with 1 bedroom
135 dwellings with 2 bedrooms
103 dwellings with 3 bedrooms
11 dwellings with 4 bedrooms

Dwellings in course of erection 31st December, 1964

(a) By the Council:

Battle 8

(b) By private enterprise .. 107

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

				PRIVATE ENTERPRISE		LOCAL AUTHORITY
				New dwellings	Conversions	NEW DWELLINGS
1957	..	..	..	61	7	52
1958	..	..	..	88	8	0
1959	..	..	..	111	0	18
1960	..	..	..	144	0	18
1961	..	..	..	160	34	22
1962	..	..	..	199	19	10
1963	..	..	..	203	5	18
1964	..	..	..	252	15	23

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

Sheppard Place, Battle, was a prototype of "Housing for the Elderly" in one block of self-contained flats, and was fully described in my Annual Report for 1959.

The amenities provided were so well received and enjoyed by the tenants that a second purpose-built block on similar lines was completed and opened on 9th December, 1964, at Roselands, Sedlescombe.

This block comprises 13 one bedroomed and two two bedroomed flatlets, all self-contained, consisting of kitchen, bathroom having W.C. and wash-basin, and living room. Under-floor electric heating is provided by the Council with individual electric plugs.

There is a communal sitting-room with an open fire, with adjacent toilets, a communal utility-room complete with electric washing machine, spin dryer and drying cabinet and a hoist for open air drying. A telephone coin call box is in the hall.

A resident warden lives in one of the flats and is available for emergency calls by an electric bell system connecting each flat with her bedroom.

The warden is responsible for the cleanliness of all the communal areas.

We are indebted to the Sedlescombe Restholme Trust who furnished the communal sitting-room so pleasantly including television, and provided a master aerial for connection to all flats,

LICENSED CARAVAN SITES

<i>Sites</i>	<i>Number of Caravans</i>			
Crowhurst Park, Battle	300			
Silver Sands Caravan Park, Camber	350			
Frenchmans Beach, Rye Harbour	315			
Rye Bay Caravan Park, Winchelsea Beach ..	268			
Winchelsea Sands Caravan Park, Winchelsea Beach ..	300			
Beauport Caravan Park, Battle	350			
Coghurst Caravan Park, Guestling	300			
Camber Caravan Park & Tourist Court, Camber ..	250			
Lordine Court Caravan Park, Ewhurst	150			
Beach Caravan Park, Pett Level	30			
White Lodge Caravan Park, Winchelsea Beach ..	45			
Devonia Caravan Park, Iden	20			
The Cock Inn, Peasmarsh	20			
Winchelsea Beach Caravan Park, Winchelsea Beach ..	50			
Windmill Caravan Site, Winchelsea Beach ..	45			
Ferryfields Caravans, Winchelsea	45			
Victoria Way, Winchelsea Beach	6			
Waterbridge Place, Winchelsea Beach	20			
Links Caravan Site, Camber	6			
Carters Farm, Pett	50			
Land rear The Rother Valley Hotel, Northiam ..	6			
Dogs Hill Road, Winchelsea Beach	8			
Whitegates, Westfield	6			
Stonepit Wood, London Road, Battle	5			
Total	2,945			

Occupation is restricted to the period 1st March—31st October.

The issue of a site licence is conditional on planning consent having been obtained.

Amenities provided are based on Model Standards, 1960, recommended by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and subject to variation at the Council's discretion.

VISITS OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS—COMPARATIVE
TABLE FOR YEARS 1956, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964

	1956	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Drainage and sewage disposal	1,294	1,575	1,912	2,260	2,261	1,920
Water supplies	503	274	189	191	374	177
Milk and dairies	77	58	25	26	36	17
Building inspections	1,416	2,512	2,867	3,309	3,632	3,233
Hop-pickers' dwellings	51	9	13	10	12	—
Infectious diseases ...	155	51	65	42	51	42
Food premises	175	158	125	244	533	624*
Housing and Public Health Acts	558	487	501	446	518	559
Improvement Grants	611	982	962	872	911	653
Moveable dwellings ...	36	48	28	39	95	35
Nuisances	184	252	260	315	275	326
Verminous premises	23	38	15	13	10	12
Factories and work-shops	12	9	6	16	21	5
Schools	9	11	2	—	10	16
Slaughterhouses	588	335	272	421	424	338
Public cleansing	82	149	93	105	151	24
Miscellaneous	374	300	294	547	499	537
Petroleum Regulations	—	106	73	136	185	110
Rent Act, 1957	—	45	—	—	—	—
Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963	—	—	—	—	8	19
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	—	—	—	—	—	127
Totals	6,148	7,399	7,702	8,992	10,006	8,774

*The increase in visits to Food Premises was due to the outbreak of typhoid fever in Aberdeen noted under " Incidence of Infectious Disease " on page 15.

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936

133 premises in Battle Rural District were licensed to store petroleum spirit necessitating 110 visits by the Public Health Inspectors.

Petroleum (Carbide of Calcium) Order, 1929

One garage in this Rural District was licensed to keep Carbide of Calcium on its premises.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

This Act came into force on 1st January, 1964, and the Chief Public Health Inspector was designated as the Officer responsible for its administration.

All animal boarding establishments for dogs and cats must be licensed by the local authority. Special conditions may be specified by the local authority to ensure that the accommodation is suitable and that the animals will be adequately cared for in relation to food, drink, spread of disease, fire precautions and supervision. A register of animals must be maintained by the licensee and be open to inspection.

I am particularly concerned with the possibility of dogs from hygienic homes being boarded out and acquiring a worm infection from other dogs. Then on rejoining the family circle ovæ may be disseminated to those who fondle the dog and keep it in close contact. A recent survey on the transmission of disease in this way did reveal morbidity in some children. *Toxocara canis* cysts have been discovered in orbital lesions resulting in loss of vision, also removal of an eye in some cases. Proprietors should watch for evidence of worms and take action to secure their elimination. In my opinion, all runs should be concreted and be capable of being hosed down, thus preventing the spread of disease from fouled ground.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act made provision for the health, welfare and safety of persons employed in offices, shops and certain railway premises and came into force in stages during 1964, other regulations will follow.

Offices in factories, railway premises and premises occupied by Local Authorities, which include Fire, Police, Justices, Probation and Schools, are under the control of the Factory Inspectorate of the Ministry of Labour.

Most offices and shops will be inspected by Officers of Local Authorities and it has been estimated that more than one million premises employing eight million persons will come within the scope of this Act.

INDUSTRIES

The numbers engaged in the main industries located in the District are given in the table below.

	At 31st December, 1964			At 31st December 1963 Total
	Male	Female	Total	
Bakeries	57	20	77	69
Beach works	35	—	35	36
Building works	490	20	510	416
Bus and Coach Operators.. .. .	20	3	23	22
Cattle market	1	—	1	1
Cattle Breeding Station	16	7	23	54
Coal merchants	20	3	23	25
Concrete works	66	8	74	107
Egg packing station	14	19	33	35
Engineering works	553	110	663	606
Entertainments	3	1	4	4
Fencing contractors	16	—	16	19
Flour mills	79	21	100	94
Gypsum mines	473	10	483	452
Hop gardens (permanent staff—Guinness's)	100	10	110	127
Hotels	19	19	38	31
Jam factory.. .. .	29	97	126	47
Joinery works	28	2	30	31
Laundries	16	56	72	73
Oil distilling	3	—	3	4
Oil refining	18	—	18	15
Plastics factory	2	10	12	12
Printing works	10	2	12	10
Sawmills	142	14	156	83
Sports goods manufacturers	35	16	51	47
Sports ground contractors	47	13	60	88
Wooden toy manufacturers	9	14	23	26

Mass Miniature Radiography in Industry

A completely mobile, self-contained Mass X-ray Unit is available to visit any premises employing 100 persons or more in the East Sussex area. The only facility required is a parking site for two vehicles.

Over 100 people can be given free chest X-ray examinations in a period of one hour and, as there is no undressing, both men and women are X-rayed at the same session. Arrangements can be made either by telephone to Brighton 66017 or by letter to the Director, East Sussex Mass Radiography Unit, 26 Ditchling Road, Brighton, 7.

It is emphasised that the Mass X-ray Service is free and that no information is disclosed without the patient's consent.

**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN AREA
COVERED BY HASTINGS COUNTY BOROUGH,
THE BOROUGH OF BEXHILL AND RYE AND
BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT (EXCLUDING BUR-
WASH AND TICEHURST)**

Year	Men	Women	Total
1959	1,558	434	1,992
1960	1,621	469	2,090
1961	1,760	385	2,145
1962	1,587	343	1,930
1963	1,599	407	2,006
1964	1,633	312	1,945

It is not possible to give the numbers of agricultural workers in Battle Rural District as a separate entity.

Hop-pickers' Camps

35 families working on hop-picking machines for Messrs. Guinness Hop Farms Ltd., were accommodated on Broadlands Farm, Ockham, Ewhurst, in a camp where Elsan closets, showers and electric light are provided.

Hop-picking machines were also manned by 50 members of Concordia (an international students' organisation) accommodated in one camp having flush water closets, showers and electric lighting.

This virtually marks the end of an era when there was a mass annual traditional exodus of complete generations of families from East London to the hop gardens for holidays with pay. Two main factors have contributed to this change, one being the affluent society which became disenchanted with the stereotyped family trek, and the second being the advent of an efficient hop-picking machine. The falling labour force was an added incentive to perfect the machine.

During 1964 hot and cold showers were provided in the oasthouses and three toilet blocks were erected for the use of casual labour.

The seasonal medical services provided by Messrs. Guinness Hop Farms Ltd., included a local General Practitioner holding surgeries three times a week, and a trained first aid and nursing auxiliary on call 24 hours a day.

All Guinness's hop gardens are provided with toilet and water facilities at strategic points.

Hop-pickers' Huts in Battle Rural District in 1963

Bodiam (Messrs. Guinness Hop Farms Ltd.)	..	..	20
Bodiam (other growers)	..	..	20
Udimore	..	..	19
			—
			59
			—

Huts and toilet facilities provided by all growers conform to Byelaw standards.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Five inspections under the Factories Act, 1937, were made during 1964. There were four outworkers under Section 110(1) (c). Conditions were satisfactory.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council employs one rat catcher who is trained to use modern methods as approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, he is experienced and efficient.

Prevention action is effected by routine maintenance of permanent baiting points at refuse tips, public sewers, sewage works, slaughter-houses and other vulnerable premises or areas.

Many farms have contracts with private firms for pest control, otherwise one man could not cope satisfactorily with this vast rural area.

The following table summarises the results of the operator's work during the 12 months ending 31st December, 1964:—

	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	26	11,849	Approx. 1,101	1,666	13,541
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority as a result of (a) notification (b) Survey under the Act (c) otherwise	(a) 8	282	2	27	319
	(b) 18	281	—	17	316
	(c) —	110	—	198	308
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats	Major 1	1	1	4	7
	Minor 20	265	1	22	308
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by mice	Major —	1	—	—	1
	Minor —	33	—	10	43
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	21	300	2	36	359

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One application received in respect of the sale of birds and fish, and one licence granted.

METEOROLOGY

RAINFALL FIGURES TAKEN AT BATTLE WATERWORKS

	Number of days on which rain fell	Longest period of drought	Periods of drought
1958 ..	175	None recorded	None recorded
1959 ..	130	38 days 22 days	14th Aug. to 21st Sept. inclusive 31st Jan. to 21st Feb. inclusive
1960 ..	130	None recorded	None recorded
1961 ..	146	20 days	2nd-19th March & 9th-28th May
1962 ..	149	20 days	4th-23rd Oct. inclusive
1963 ..	166	13 days	6th-18th January inclusive
1964 ..	146	16 days	19th Sept.-4th Oct. inclusive

The definition of Drought is 15 days without rain.

Comparison with previous years is given in the following table:

<i>Year</i>	..	..	..	..	<i>Total rainfall</i>
1954	..	..	..	..	37.0 inches
1955	..	..	..	..	32.7 inches
1956	..	..	..	..	30.0 inches
1957	..	..	..	..	32.5 inches
1958	..	..	..	..	38.1 inches
1959	..	..	..	..	31.0 inches
1960	..	..	..	..	42.9 inches
1961	..	..	..	..	27.2 inches
1962	..	..	..	..	27.9 inches
1963	..	..	..	..	34.5 inches
1964	..	..	..	..	29.2 inches

TEMPERATURE

	Highest recorded temperature		Lowest recorded temperature	
	Degrees	Dates	Degrees	Dates
1958 ..	86 f	9th July	6 f	23rd Jan.
1959 ..	92	5th July	17	16th Jan.
1960 ..	83	19th June	12	14th Jan.
1961 ..	91	2nd July	19	25th Dec.
1962 ..	84	19th Aug.	18	4th Dec.
1963 ..	87	22nd July	6	22nd Jan.
1964 ..	89	27th Aug.	12	28th Dec.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Five visits were made to factories during the year.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES	NO. ON REGISTER	INSPIC- TIONS	NOTICES	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	72	5	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	—	—	—
TOTALS	93	5	2	—

Cases in which defects were found

PARTICULARS	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND				NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH PROSECUTIONS WERE INSTITUTED
	FOUND	REMEDIED	REFERRED		
			To H.M. INSPECTOR	By H. M. INSPECTOR	
Want of cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) insufficient ...	1	—	—	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	1	—	1	—

(Outwork Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel:						
Making, etc.	4	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and washing	—	—	—	—	—	—

DATE OF ACQUISITION: _____

BY: _____

FROM: _____

REMARKS: _____
