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BOROUGH OF BEXHILL




Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1946

Medical Officer of Health :

W. T. DONOVAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Liverpool)
(Returned from H.M. Forces, February, 1946)

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

W. H. BALL, A.R.S.I., Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
(Appointed September, 1946)



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BOROUGH OF BEXHILL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman :

MR. COUNCILLOR A. ASHBY, J.P.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
(Mr. Alderman E. W. C. Bowrey, J.P.)

MR. ALDERMAN C. PYCROFT.

COUNCILLOR MRS. J. O. ALEXANDER.

MR. COUNCILLOR A. A. ASKEW.

„ R. F. BOTTING.

„ R. C. EVERNDEN, J.P.

„ A. B. HOWES.

„ P. W. PHILLIPS, O.B.E.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

W. T. Donovan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Liverpool). (Returned from
H.M. Forces, February, 1946).

Acting Medical Officer of Health :

W. Gillitt, M.D., D.P.H. (Terminated appointment, January, 1946).

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

W. E. Norwell, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Resigned, February, 1946).

W. H. Ball, A.R.S.I., Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A. (Appointed September,
1946).

Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector :

A. C. Horne, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Resigned, August, 1946).

Second Sanitary Inspector :

C. E. Lockley, M.R.S.I., Cert. S.I.B. (Appointed, November, 1946).

Disinfecting Officer and General Assistant :

W. Stone. (Retired, August, 1946).

A. T. Smith. (Appointed July, 1946).

Maternity and Child Welfare :

Bexhill Nursing Association and East Sussex County Council :

M. & C.W. Clinics—L. M. Rhodes-Clooney, M.B., B.S.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Ante-Natal Clinics—L. M. Rhodes-Clooney, M.B., B.S.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Health Visitors and District Nurses :

Bexhill Nursing Association and East Sussex County Council :

G. Jess, S.R.N., S.C.M., T.A.

P. Barber, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.C.N. (Left 30th November, 1946).

Miss Golding, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Appointed 17th July, 1946,
left 30th September, 1946).

F. G. Carey, S.R.N., S.C.M.

G. M. Williams, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Appointed 15th March, 1946).

V. K. M. Tasker, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N. (Appointed 15th
October, 1946).

Mrs. Fenton, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Appointed 1st January, 1946).

P. A. Thackeray, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Appointed 16th November,
1946).

Tuberculosis :

East Sussex County Council :

R. Dingley, M.A., M.D.

Venereal Diseases :

East Sussex County Council :

J. E. Schneider-Green, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S. (Lond.).

Clerks :

Miss M. A. Boynton. (Resigned October, 1946).

J. B. Roodhouse. (Appointed November, 1946).

K. F. Westwood. (Returned from H.M. Forces February, 1946).

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF BEXHILL

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1946 which is arranged in accordance with the instructions contained in the Ministry of Health Circular 13/47 of the 13th March, 1947.

The General Standard of Health

The general standard of health in the Borough for the year may be regarded as satisfactory. There was a decrease in the number of infectious disease cases. 111 cases being notified as compared with 579 in 1945. The reduction being most marked in relation to Measles and Whooping Cough.

Vital Statistics

Birth Rate.—The birth rate of the Borough is 15.7 per 1,000 estimated population as compared with 15.5 per 1,000 estimated population in 1945.

Death Rate.—The death rate is 15.6 per 1,000 estimated population as compared with 17.1 per 1,000 estimated population the previous year.

Infantile Mortality

The infantile mortality rate was 33.8 per 1,000 live births which compared favourably with the country as a whole.

Diphtheria Immunisation

A feature of the campaign to protect children against Diphtheria has been the introduction of re-inforcing doses of protective material at approximately 5 years of age and a further re-inforcing dose at the age of 10 years, thus maintaining a higher level of immunity during school life. Some 433 of such doses were administered during the year under review.

Efforts are being made to increase the number of children protected against Diphtheria by means of films, posters, leaflets, talks with parents and the co-operation of teachers and nursing staff.

Sanitary Circumstances

Water Supply.—It is proposed to submit recommendations for the provision of additional standpipes in the Pebsham area so that they shall be within reasonable distance of properties in this area.

Controlled Tipping.—Consideration will need to be given to the question of refuse disposal in the near future in view of the fact that the Corporation tip in St. Mary's Lane is nearing its full capacity and development is foreshadowed in the neighbourhood.

Housing.—In common with other parts of the country, difficulties associated with the supply of building materials and shortage of labour have contributed to the delay in the reconditioning of houses damaged as the result of enemy action or through being left unoccupied when the population evacuated.

Some progress has been made with regard to re-housing and in this connection some 86 families have been rehoused in the past 18 months. Again the question of the provision of materials and labour have been delaying factors to progress.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support, Dr. Gillitt, who acted for me during my absence on service with H.M. Forces until my return in February, 1946, my brother officials for their co-operation and to the Staff of the Department for their loyalty and assistance.

W. T. DONOVAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1947.

(b) Maternal Mortality—England and Wales

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other
0.13	0.06	0.18	1.06

Abortion : Mortality per million women aged 15-45 in England and Wales

No. 140 with Sepsis	No. 141 Without Sepsis
11	5

*A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

†Per 1,000 related births.

‡Rates per 1,000 total population.

§Including Puerperal Fever.

TABLE 3

INFANTILE DEATHS, 1946. TABLE SHOWING CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH

Cause	Age in Weeks				Total under 1 Month	Age in Months					Total
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4		1-2	2-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	
Broncho-Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Prematurity ..	3	—	—	—	8	1	—	—	—	—	9
Gastro-Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2

TABLE 4

INFANTILE DEATHS SHOWN BY CAUSES OF DEATH AND WARD DISTRIBUTION

Ward	Broncho-Pneumonia	Prematurity	Acute Gastro-Enteritis	Total
Central ..	—	—	1	1
Egerton Park	—	1	—	1
Old Town ..	—	4	—	4
Sackville ..	1	1	—	2
St. Mark's ..	—	3	1	4
Total ..	1	9	2	12

TABLE 5
AGE AT DEATH—ALL CASES, 1946

	Under 1 Year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	Over 65	Total
Males ..	9	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	3	7	27	115	165
Females ..	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	3	7	20	149	188

TABLE 6

TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS, INFANTILE DEATHS AND RESPECTIVE RATES BY WARD DISTRIBUTION

Ward	Total Number of Deaths	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Number of Infantile Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Registered Live Births
Central	62	2.7	1	2.8
Egerton Park ..	86	3.8	1	2.8
Old Town	59	2.6	4	11.3
Sackville	58	2.5	2	5.6
St. Mark's	88	3.9	4	11.3

TABLE 7

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1946 SHOWN BY WARDS AND ATTACK RATE PER 1,000 ESTIMATED POPULATION

Disease	Ward										Total	Rate
	Central	Rate	Egerton Park	Rate	Old Town	Rate	Sackville	Rate	St. Mark's	Rate		
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	1	.04	3	.13	—	—	8	.35	12	.53
Whooping Cough	5	.22	—	—	2	.08	3	.13	7	.31	17	.75
Measles ..	12	.53	14	.62	2	.08	19	.84	11	.48	58	2.57
Diphtheria ..	1	.04	—	—	1	.04	—	—	3	.13	5	.22
Pneumonia ..	2	.08	4	.17	1	.04	4	.17	2	.08	13	.57
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	2	.08	—	—	—	—	2	.08
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	1	.04	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.04
Erysipelas ..	—	—	1	.04	—	—	—	—	1	.04	2	.08
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	1	.04	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.04
Totals ..	21	.93	21	.93	11	.48	26	1.15	32	1.41	111	4.92

(b) Maternal Mortality—England and Wales

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other
0.13	0.06	0.18	1.06

Abortion : Mortality per million women aged 15-45 in England and Wales

No. 140 with Sepsis	No. 141 Without Sepsis
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*A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

†Per 1,000 related births.

‡Rates per 1,000 total population.

§Including Puerperal Fever.

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Broncho-Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Prematurity ..	8	—	—	—	8	1	—	—	—	—	9
Gastro-Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2

TABLE 4

INFANTILE DEATHS SHOWN BY CAUSES OF DEATH AND WARD DISTRIBUTION

Ward	Broncho-Pneumonia	Prematurity	Acute Gastro-Enteritis	Total
Central ..	—	—	1	1
Egerton Park	—	1	—	1
Old Town ..	—	4	—	4
Sackville ..	1	1	—	2
St. Mark's ..	—	3	1	4
Total ..	1	9	2	12

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AGE AT DEATH--ALL CASES, 1946

	Under 1 Year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	Over 65	Total
Males ..	9	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	3	7	27	115	165
Females ..	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	3	7	20	149	188

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TABLE 7
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1946 SHOWN BY WARDS AND ATTACK RATE PER 1,000 ESTIMATED
POPULATION

Disease	Ward										Total	Rate
	Central	Rate	Egerton Park	Rate	Old Town	Rate	Sackville	Rate	St. Mark's	Rate		
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever..	—	—	1	.04	3	.13	—	—	8	.35	12	.53
Whooping Cough	5	.22	—	—	2	.08	3	.13	7	.31	17	.75
Measles ..	12	.53	14	.62	2	.08	19	.84	11	.48	58	2.57
Diphtheria ..	1	.04	—	—	1	.04	—	—	3	.13	5	.22
Pneumonia ..	2	.08	4	.17	1	.04	4	.17	2	.08	13	.57
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	2	.08	—	—	—	—	2	.08
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	1	.04	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.04
Erysipelas ..	—	—	1	.04	—	—	—	—	1	.04	2	.08
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	1	.04	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.04
Totals ..	21	.93	21	.93	11	.48	26	1.15	32	1.41	111	4.92

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. (i) The personnel of the Medical, Nursing and Sanitary Staff of the Borough is incorporated at the beginning of the report.

(ii) (a) Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations are carried out on behalf of the Authority at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, under an agreement with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service.

(b) Ambulance Facilities

There has been no change during the year in the arrangements for the removal of infectious, non-infectious and accident cases, from those outlined in previous reports.

(c) Nursing in the Home

The Bexhill Nursing Association is supported by voluntary contributions and maintains four district nurses, one of whom is a Health Visitor, who attend non-infectious cases in their homes. The Bexhill Corporation makes an Annual grant of £100 to the Association.

During 1946, the following number of cases were attended :—

Maternity and Midwifery	...	...	140
General cases	...	...	349

The visits paid were :—

Maternity and Midwifery	...	...	2,491
General Nursing	...	...	6,687
Casual Visits	...	...	810
Health Visits	...	...	3,281

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics

Minor Ailments Clinic for School Children,
London Road Clinic, Bexhill :

Daily, 9 a.m.

Dental Clinic for School Children,
London Road Clinic, Bexhill :

Every Monday, Wednesday
and Friday, 9 a.m.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic,
London Road Clinic, Bexhill :

Every Thursday, 2 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic, London
Road Clinic, Bexhill :

2nd and 4th Tuesdays
of the month, 2.30 p.m.

Dental Clinic for Mothers and Toddlers, London Road Clinic, Bexhill :	Every month, by appointment.
Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic, London Road Clinic, Bexhill :	Mondays, as required, 2 p.m.
Tuberculosis Dispensary, London Road Clinic, Bexhill :	Every Monday, 3 p.m.
Orthopædic Clinic, Bexhill Hospital :	1st Wednesday in the month, 9 a.m., by appointment.
Venereal Disease Clinic, Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings :	Males—Mondays, by appointment ; Tuesdays, 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. ; Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Females—Tuesdays, 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. ; Thursdays, 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. ; Saturdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

(e) Hospitals

General

(a) Bexhill Hospital (Voluntary)

Mr. F. Geary, Secretary of the Hospital, has kindly supplied the following information :—

The work of the Hospital has expanded considerably during the year and we have treated a record number of patients.

The following are statistics of patients treated at the Bexhill Hospital during 1946 :—

IN-PATIENTS

Number admitted	...	...	...	...	970
Average length of stay of each patient	...	...	...	...	18.12
Average daily number of beds occupied	...	...	...	...	47.81

OUT-PATIENTS

Dental Department	...	...	...	...	28
Aural Department	...	...	...	...	372
Casualty Department	...	...	...	...	1,179
Massage and Electrical Department	...	...	...	...	1,044
Gynæcological Department	...	...	...	...	100
Ophthalmic Department	...	...	...	...	132
X-Ray Department	...	...	...	...	2,296
Surgical Out-Patients	...	...	...	...	418
Medical Out-Patients (as from October, 1946)	...	...	...	...	12
Dermatological Department	...	...	...	...	109

5,690

(b) General Hospitals administered by the Public Assistance Committee

Accommodation for acute and chronic sickness is provided in the General Hospitals administered by the Public Assistance Committee of the East Sussex County Council.

Infectious Disease Hospitals

(a) SMALL POX

By arrangement with the East Sussex County Council, provision is made for the treatment at the Sedgebrook Smallpox Isolation Hospital, Sedgebrook Farm, Plumpton, of cases of smallpox occurring in the district.

There were no cases during the year.

(b) OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of infectious disease requiring hospitalization are admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Hastings, by arrangement with the County Borough of Hastings.

Maternity Hospitals

Under the East Sussex County Council Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, Maternity Hospital facilities are available when hospitalization is considered desirable.

2. Maternity and Child Welfare

The Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme in the Borough is carried out by the staff of the Bexhill Nursing Association under the supervision of the East Sussex County Council and the East Sussex County Nursing Association. Clinics are held at the London Road Clinic, Bexhill.

Midwifery and Maternity Services

The number of midwives practising within the Borough on the 31st December, 1946, was 8.

TABLE 8

**Attendances at the Maternity and Child Welfare, Ante-Natal
and Dental Clinics**

1. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic**(a) MOTHERS :**

Number attending	...	...	...	335
Number of attendances...	...	...	...	2,735

(b) CHILDREN :

Number of children who attended for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendances were :—

(i) Under one year	...	...	...	110
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years				34
Percentage of notified births represented by the number in (b) (i)	...			39.8

Total number of children under 5 years who attended the Centre during the year and who at the end of the year were :—

(i) Under one year	...	...	...	178
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years				247

2. Ante-Natal Clinic

Number of expectant mothers attending				128
Number of attendances...	...	...	...	430

3. Dental Clinic

Number of attendances by Mothers	...			148
Number of attendances by Infants	...			28

4. Institutional Provision for Mothers and Children

The facilities for institutional treatment for mothers, as described in previous reports, have continued to be available.

5. Health Visitors

The following statement shows the visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year :—

To expectant Mothers :—

First visits	...	...	...	...	153
Subsequent visits	...	...	...	...	791

To infant's under one year :—

First visits	...	...	...	...	337
Subsequent visits	...	...	...	...	1,646

To children ages 1 to 5 years

...	1,742
-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

6. Maternity and Nursing Homes

The East Sussex County Council is the local supervising Authority under Part VI of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The following particulars with reference to the Homes in Bexhill have been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health :—

Total number of homes registered in the Borough	...	9
Number of applications for registration during 1946	...	1
Homes registered during the year	...	1
Orders made refusing or cancelling registration	...	—
Nursing homes closed down during the year by owners	...	1

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

Under the Bexhill Corporation Act, 1925, the control of the water supply is vested in the Bexhill Corporation.

(1) The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory with regard to quality and quantity.

(2) Bacteriological examinations of the raw water and subsequent to treatment are carried out. During 1946, 11 samples were submitted for Bacteriological and/or Chemical examination, three of which were not of the standard required of a public supply, and in this connection appropriate action was taken and subsequent results have been satisfactory.

(3) The water of the Bexhill area is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

(4) In respect of the three unsatisfactory samples, the matter was reported to the Water Department for action. This particular source of supply was stopped pending investigation. It was subsequently revealed that the condition of a filter bed, which had been out of commission during the war period, was the responsible factor. The bed was cleansed and chlorinated. Subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

(5) Approximately 7,155 dwelling houses with an approximate population of 22,140 are supplied from the public water mains direct to the houses.

106 dwelling houses with a population of approximately 400 are supplied from standpipes.

WATER ANALYSIS

Copy of Report on Sample of Water taken on 13th March, 1946

High Level

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000

Appearance	...	...	...	...	...	...	Clear and Bright
Colour	...	...	...	...	...	...	Normal
Odour	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Reaction pH	...	...	...	...	...	...	Neutral 7.3
Free Carbonic Acid	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.0
Electrical Conductivity at 20° C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	400
Total Solids 180° C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	27.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.1
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.000
Nitrites	...	...	...	...	...	...	Absent
Hardness—Permanent	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0
Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.0
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.0
Metals	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.020 (Iron)
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0002
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.005

Bacteriological Results

Number of Bacteria per c.c. or ml. :

On Agar in 3 days at 20° C.	...	...	...	6
On Agar in 2 days at 37° C.	...	...	...	3
On Agar in 1 day at 37° C.	...	...	...	2
Bacillus Coli	...	...	...	Absent in 100 c.c.
Bacillus Welchii (B. Enteritidis Sporogenes)	...	...	...	Present in 100 c.c.
				Absent in 10 c.c.

Report

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is fairly soft in character, contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution and is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

2. Drainage and Sewerage

During the year the construction of drains and sewers for 80 temporary houses in the Preston Road Area has been completed. Work has been commenced for similar provision in relation to 104 permanent houses on the Ingrams Farm Estate. In addition a sewer diversion has been carried out at the junction of Woodsgate Park and Gunters Lane to eliminate the flooding in Leasingham Gardens.

A free cesspool emptying service which had been under consideration by the Council has been deferred for the present financial year owing to the difficulty of supply of gully and cesspool emptying machines. A new machine has been ordered, delivery of which is expected next year when the scheme for free emptying of cesspools will again be considered.

3. Rivers and Streams

No action was found to be necessary with regard to the pollution of rivers and streams in the Borough during the year.

4. Public Cleansing

The removal and disposal of house refuse is carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department. Despite the difficulties associated with the maintenance of transport, weekly collections have been made throughout the year.

Four freighters are utilised for the purpose including one new freighter ordered in 1945, which is now in service.

Controlled tipping is the method of disposal in operation at the Corporation tip in St. Mary's Lane. Consideration will need to be given to the question of disposal in the near future because the tip is nearing its full capacity and development is foreshadowed in the neighbourhood.

5. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

During 1946, 5,931 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors. The nature of the inspections, together with the list of notices served and the results of such notices, are included in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector which appears at the end of this Report.

6. Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Eighteen visits were paid during the year to Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. Four notices were served of which 3 had been complied with at the end of the year. A survey of these premises will be undertaken with a view to bringing the records (which owing to evacuation period had ceased to present the existing circumstances) up to date.

7. Moveable Dwellings

The department has exercised considerable activity in pursuance of the control of moveable dwellings. 29 visits were paid to the sites of such dwellings.

It is apparent that the conditions imposed by the Council when issuing licences in respect of such dwellings is having the desired effect of keeping the amenities of the district on a high level. During the course of routine visits minor improvements have been suggested by the department and effected by the owners or occupiers.

Six licences were issued during the year.

8. Smoke Abatement

In only one instance was it necessary to take formal action during the year. In this particular case the emission of black smoke was found to be due to the unsatisfactory quality of the fuel being used.

9. Swimming Baths and Pools

During the season supervision of the general sanitary conditions, and sampling of bath water, was carried out at the Corporation Swimming Bath in Egerton Park. In all, 3 samples were taken and submitted for analyses, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

There are no privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public within the Borough.

10. Eradication of Bed Bugs

The furniture and effects of prospective tenants to be rehoused in Council houses and requisitioned property were inspected prior to rehousing. 43 premises were visited, but in no case was it found to be necessary to carry out disinfection.

No complaints regarding bug infestation were received in respect of private premises, neither did the Inspectors find any evidence of such infestation during routine inspection of premises.

11. Offensive Trades

There are 4 fish frying and 1 rag and bone dealer on the Offensive Trades Register for Bexhill. In one case of a fish fryer's premises, it was found necessary to issue a notice requiring cleansing of the premises. This notice was complied with. Otherwise the department have experienced no difficulty in dealing with such premises during the year.

12. Pig-Keeping

Under Defence Regulations 62B, pig-keeping and poultry-keeping is exempt from the provision of any local Act or Bye-law, and pig-keeping is allowed providing the animals are kept in such a state as not to give rise to a nuisance.

Minor complaints have been received during the year, and remedy has been forthcoming following interviews with the pig-keepers. It has not been necessary to recourse to the service of notices.

During the year 10 visits were paid to premises where pigs are kept.

13. Shops Acts

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

SHOP HOURS ACT.

EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS ACT.

Twenty-five visits were paid during the year to shops in relation to heating, lighting, ventilation and general sanitation. No notices were served in this connection. In two instances, plans for Shops and Shop Alterations, submitted to the department for examination, required amendments so as to comply with the provisions of the Act. These amendments were embodied in the plans.

Generally the conditions found on inspections of the shops may be regarded as satisfactory.

The administration of the Shop Hours Act and the Employment of Young Persons Act is also carried out by the Department under which 3 inspections were made. In two instances it was found that the necessary notices required by the Act were not available. Informal action resulted in their subsequent display.

14. Disinfestation

During the year 12 rooms were treated for eradication of vermin. The number of Council houses treated for beetle infestation during the year was 6.

SECTION D

HOUSING

General details with regard to inspection of dwelling houses are submitted in the following tabular form :—

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

Traditional Type Brick Houses ...	...	Nil
Permanent Prefabricated Houses ...	...	Nil
Temporary Bungalows ...	...	63

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) ...	...	812
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	...	1,792
(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 ...	...	55
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	...	116
(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	...	Nil
(iv)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	...	355

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	300
---	-----	-----

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
- (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—
- (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1
 - (ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners ... Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil
- (c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil
 - (ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil
- (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 room having been rendered fit ... Nil

Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding

During the year 42 complaints with regard to overcrowding were investigated by the Department. Two cases were referred to the Housing Department for attention, the remainder were not overcrowded within the meaning of the Housing Act, 1936.

Reconditioning of Houses

During the year a total of 55 were inspected, rendered fit and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, involving a total of 116 visits. No cases occurred in which statutory action was necessary.

In addition 300 houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action.

In connection with the reconditioning of houses, it will be appreciated that the difficulties associated with supply of building materials and shortage of labour have contributed to the delay in the complete reconditioning of houses.

Housing Programme

The undermentioned table supplied by the Corporation Housing Department sets out details with regard to applications for housing accommodation and the number rehoused at 31st December, 1946.

1. APPLICATION

(a)	Total number of applications on Register at 31st December, 1946	...	...	...	...	...	773
(b)	Sixty per cent. of the above are from ex-Servicemen.						
(c)	Applications from non-residents	...	...	...	...	...	210
(d)	Applicants working in Bexhill but living out of the Borough	...	...	...	...	...	45

2. RE-HOUSED

(a)	Total number of families re-housed by Committee since June, 1945	...	...	...	...	...	86
(b)	Of the above, 80 per cent. have been ex-Servicemen.						

During the year the work in connection with the provision of temporary bungalows, permanent prefabricated houses and traditional type brick houses was commenced.

The programme of building for 1946 is as follows :—

- (a) 80 temporary bungalows.
- (b) 50 permanent prefabricated houses.
- (c) 54 traditional type brick houses.

(a) TEMPORARY BUNGALOWS :—NORTH ROAD, PRESTON ROAD

63 of these bungalows of the Uni-Seco type were completed and occupied by the end of the year.

(b) **PERMANENT PREFABRICATED HOUSES :—INGRAMS FARM**

Work in connection with the 50 houses of the Orlit type was commenced during the year. None of these houses had been completed by the end of the year.

(c) **TRADITIONAL TYPE BRICK HOUSES :—INGRAMS FARM**

These houses are of the three bedroom type. Work has been in progress on the majority of the 54 houses planned but none had been completed at the end of the year.

It is anticipated that the above programme will be completed during 1947 and in addition it is planned to commence work on an additional 42 houses of the traditional type. 28 of which will be in the Watermill Lane Area and 14 in the Ingrams Farm Area.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

A total of 125 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to cowsheds, dairies and milk shops during 1946.

REGISTRATIONS

The accompanying table gives the total number of persons and premises registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926-1943, at the conclusion of 1946, and particulars of the licences that were granted under the Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1943 :—

Cowkeepers and Wholesale Purveyors of Milk	...	16
Retail Purveyors of Milk	... ..	12
Premises as Cowsheds or Dairies	... ..	34

DESIGNATED MILKS

Producer's and Bottler's Licence to sell Milk as Accredited	... ..	1
Producer's Licence to sell Milk as Accredited	...	3
Bottler's Licence to sell Milk as Tuberculin Tested	...	3
Dealer's Licence to sell Milk as Tuberculin Tested	...	4
Pasteuriser's Licence	... ..	1
Dealer's Licence to sell Milk as Pasteurised	...	2

MILK SAMPLING

103 samples of milk were submitted for examination and Table 9 summarises the results. The results of 16 of the samples of milk were supplied by the County Health Inspector.

NON-GRADED MILK

The basis of comparison for non-graded milk has been the standard required for Accredited Milk, this, together with the fact that efforts have been concentrated on sources of supply which have not been satisfactory, affords an explanation for the relatively high number of samples of non-graded milk that were not considered satisfactory.

ACCREDITED

In the five samples of Accredited Milk not considered satisfactory, imperfect sterilization was considered the responsible factor. Subsequent action resulted in satisfactory samples being obtained,

PASTEURISED

The cause of the 3 unsatisfactory results was attributable to mechanical faults in the plant. Subsequent samples were satisfactory.

In dealing with the question of unsatisfactory milk samples it is necessary to consider such samples under two headings:—

- (a) Those obtained from sources of supply produced within the Borough.
- (b) Those obtained from sources of supply produced outside the Borough.

In the case of sources of supply from within the Borough the officers of the Department have made investigations immediately at the place of production, following which, repeat samples have been carried out until a satisfactory product has been obtained. Subsequent observations have proved that this method of dealing with such samples has produced satisfactory results.

Where the milk is produced outside the Borough the Medical Officer of Health of the authority concerned has been immediately notified for any action he may find to be necessary.

This co-operation with the various Local Authorities has resulted in an improvement when subsequent samples have been taken.

Meat and Other Foods

During 1946, 295 visits were made by Inspectors to shops, stalls, and other premises where food is sold, prepared or stored.

Shop premises were found to be generally satisfactory from the point of view of cleanliness, but storage rooms in some instances required some attention with regard to hygienic conditions.

Thirteen notices were served and complied with requiring cleansing or improvements.

No slaughtering is carried out within the Borough.

TABLE 9
MILK SAMPLES TAKEN IN THE BOROUGH

	Non-Graded Milk		Graded Milks								Totals
	Examined by Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests		Accredited		Pasteurised		Tuberculin Tested		Heat-treated		
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory		
Bexhill	9	13	8	5	20	3	2	—	1	—	61
Various	6	8	1	—	4	—	5	2	15	1	42
Totals	15	21	9	5	24	3	7	2	16	1	103

TABLE 11

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Adulteration

The East Sussex County Council is the Authority for the administration of this sub-section, and the following information has been received from that Authority.

Article	No. of Samples taken		No. Genuine		No. Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Broth, tinned ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Butter ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Coffee ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Flavouring ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Flour, bun ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Gelatine, powder	1	—	1	—	—	—
Gin ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Milk ...	5	20	3	20	2	—
Pudding Mixture	1	1	—	—	1	1
Soup Powder ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Soup, tinned ...	—	1	—	—	—	1*
Toffee ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Whisky ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Wine, Ginger ...	—	1	—	1	—	—

*Reported to the Ministry of Food. (Defective solids 15.2%, defective protein 1.5%).

N.B.—The samples of Pudding Mixture, shown as adulterated, were certified by the Public Analyst to contain living mites. Particulars were sent to the Bexhill Corporation who, after further enquiries had been made, decided to take no action.

Ice Cream Premises

Forty-two premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sect. 14, of which 13 are used for the manufacture and sale of ice cream and 29 for retail sale only.

A total of 61 visits were made to these premises during the year. The premises and methods of manufacture and sale may be regarded generally as satisfactory.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

There has been no change during the year in the infectious diseases compulsorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health.

The total number of notifications received during 1946 was 111 as compared with 579 in 1945.

The most marked reduction being 58 cases of Measles as compared with 417 in 1945, and 17 cases of Whooping Cough as compared with 119 the previous year.

TABLE 12

Disease	Notifications received	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Deaths including Inward Transfers
Scarlet Fever ...	12	7	—
Whooping Cough	17	—	—
Measles ...	58	2	—
Diphtheria ...	5	5	—
Pneumonia ...	13	—	10
Dysentery ...	2	—	—
Ac. Enc.			
Lethargica ...	1	1	—
Erysipelas ...	2	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Totals ...	111	16	10

Public Vaccination

During 1946, 179 certificates and copies of certificates of successful primary vaccinations of children under 14 years of age were received by the Vaccination Officer, and the total number of statutory declarations of conscientious objection, irrespective of the dates of birth of the children, received by the Vaccination Officer was 55.

TABLE 9
MILK SAMPLES TAKEN IN THE BOROUGH

	Non-Graded Milk			Graded Milks								Totals
	Examined by Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests			Accredited		Pasteurised		Tuberculin Tested		Heat-treated		
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory		Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory		
Bexhill	9	13		8	5	20	3	2	—	1	—	61
Various	6	8		1	—	4	—	5	2	15	1	42
Totals	15	21		9	5	24	3	7	2	16	1	103

TABLE 10

SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO MEAT
AND OTHER FOODS

							lbs.	Total Weight lbs.
Meat								
Stewed Steak	...	...	...	...	...	...	127	
Lamb	...	...	...	...	...	...	31 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Beef ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	402 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Bacon and Ham	...	...	...	...	...	...	81	
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	
							<hr/>	647 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fish								
Kippers	...	...	...	...	...	...	84	
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	145	
							<hr/>	229
Vegetables and Fruit								
Beans	...	...	...	...	...	...	115	
Raisins and Dates	...	...	...	...	...	...	132	
Sultanas	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	78	
							<hr/>	337
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	583	
Other Tinned Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	389 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	
Butter and Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	...	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	...	46	
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	855 $\frac{1}{2}$	
							<hr/>	2094 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total Weight								3307 $\frac{1}{2}$
								<hr/>
Disposal								lbs.
Animal Feeding Stuffs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1676 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Returned to Hastings Depot	861 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Manufacturing purposes	435 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Destroyed	104	
Returned to Vendor	230	

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Coffee ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Flavouring ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
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Gelatine, powder	1	—	1	—	—	—
Gin ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Milk ...	5	20	3	20	2	—
Pudding Mixture	1	1	—	—	1	1
Soup Powder ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Soup, tinned ...	—	1	—	—	—	1*
Toffee ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Whisky ...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Wine, Ginger ...	—	1	—	1	—	—

*Reported to the Ministry of Food. (Defective solids 15.2%, defective protein 1.5%).

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Dysentery ...	2	—	—
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Erysipelas ...	2	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Totals ...	111	16	10

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This rise in the number of complaints received is due to the fact that repairs to properties were at a stand-still during the war years, and for a short time following this period, with a consequence that conditions which were then of a minor character have now increased to major proportions requiring immediate remedial action. A decrease in the number of complaints is not anticipated until such time as sufficient building materials and labour becomes available.

TABLE 16

Condition of premises	45
Housing defects	254
Overcrowding	16
Dampness	55
Water supply	18
Drains and sanitary fittings	310
Verminous premises	45
Keeping of animals	12
Accumulation of refuse, etc	23
Rats and mice	221
Milk and dairies	18
Food premises	111
Absence of sanitary dustbin	61
Miscellaneous	51
	<hr/>
	1,240
	<hr/>

SANITARY DEFECTS AND NOTICES

TABLE 17

Statutory Notices served during 1946	1
Statutory Notices complied with during 1946	Nil
Statutory Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1946	1
Informal Notices served during 1946	350
Informal Notices complied with during 1946	253
Informal Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1946	97

HOUSE INSPECTION AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

Attention has been confined chiefly to work of an urgent nature. In this connection 1908 visits were paid and a total of 300 houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action.

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings or to carry out work in default by the owner.

The following table shows the sanitary improvements effected during the year,

TABLE 18

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Eaves, gutters, rainwater pipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Defective walls repaired and repointed	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Sub-floor ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Dampness abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Plasterwork repaired, cleansed or distempered	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
New doors fixed, or doors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Window frames repaired, sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
New baths fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Lavatory basins fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
New impervious sinks fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Stoves or fire grates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Existing wastepipes trapped, renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Yard pavings renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Premises limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Portable iron dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
New W.C. compartments constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
W.C. compartments lighted, repaired and ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
New urinals constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
New W.C. pedestal pans fixed or adjusted	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
New flush tanks fixed or adjusted	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
New manholes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Existing manholes repaired or covers fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
New soil pipes and ventilation shafts fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Ventilation shafts repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Drains repaired or new branch drains laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
Drains or gullies unstopped or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Accumulation of manure or refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Ventilated food store provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Water supply provided or reinstated	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cesspools—defective, overflowing, ditches cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	71

 1,115

TABLE 19
ARTICLES DISINFECTED OR DESTROYED

Article	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Wearing Apparel ..	2	59	2	10	2	8	1	7	—	23	—	—
Beds ..	1	6	5	3	5	—	1	4	1	1	2	—
Bed Covers ..	—	5	3	1	1	2	1	5	1	1	1	1
Mattresses ..	19	22	30	14	16	29	16	26	18	14	16	14
Eiderdowns ..	3	6	3	3	2	4	2	4	2	3	1	—
Bolsters ..	4	7	7	1	7	6	1	1	2	3	1	—
Pillows ..	38	29	72	24	25	25	38	52	55	61	23	45
Pillow Slips ..	—	13	7	1	1	14	4	—	—	—	—	—
Sheets ..	1	8	5	2	3	12	2	8	3	2	2	3
Blankets ..	24	23	26	7	3	16	6	37	16	29	2	3
Miscellaneous ..	8	12	19	12	7	23	6	38	9	2	3	3
Totals ..	100	190	179	78	72	139	78	182	107	139	51	69

ROOMS FUMIGATED

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever ..	—	1	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis ..	2	1	3	1	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	—
Cancer ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vermin ..	—	—	5	—	1	2	4	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ..	—	1	1	8	1	—	5	—	—	2	2	—
Totals ..	2	3	9	10	2	8	10	2	4	2	2	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

During the year 18 visits were paid to Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, 4 notices were served of which 3 had been complied with at the end of the year.

The following are details of the items contained in the notices served.

Repairs to floors	...	...	...	...	1
Cleansing and limewashing	...	...	...	...	1
Repairs to closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	2
Provision of heating	...	...	...	...	1

During the forthcoming year it is intended to make a survey of the Factories, Workshops and Workplaces with a view to obtaining an up-to-date record of such premises. In this respect H.M. Inspector of Factories has promised his co-operation.

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The number of visits paid during the year was 659. The following table indicates the nature of the articles disinfected and the number of rooms fumigated.

RODENT CONTROL

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919 (Infestation Order, 1943)

Considerable activity in connection with rodent control has been undertaken by the department, particularly during the latter part of the year, from September onwards, when the Council entered into the scheme initiated under the aegis of the Ministry of Food in respect of dwelling houses.

It was found that in addition to the efforts of the staff the services of a full-time Rodent Operative were essential to the success of the scheme, and as a consequence an appointment was made. The operative commenced work in September.

In so far as the survey has progressed it is now apparent that rodent infestation within the Borough is on a somewhat larger scale than was at first anticipated, and considerable work will be entailed before the Council's area can be said to be reasonably free from rodent infestation.

A survey of the whole Borough is being undertaken to ascertain the number of infestations requiring treatment, and at the end of the year this was progressing very satisfactorily. It was not deemed necessary to carry out treatment of the Council's sewers in view of the satisfactory results obtained when these were "test baited" in the year 1945. It will, however, be necessary during the forthcoming year to ascertain the extent of infestation, if any, by undertaking further "test baiting."

CONCLUSION

The year under review cannot be said to be one during which any great progress has been made, and it would appear that there is considerable leeway to be made up in matters which come within the jurisdiction of the Sanitary Department.

Whilst I do not wish to be unduly pessimistic I am convinced that it will be some considerable time before normal conditions return. It will require the co-operation of all who are concerned in attaining such an end, and I am pleased to say I have the co-operation of all in the department, in particular I desire to express my appreciation to the Medical Officer of Health for his willing support, and to my fellow officials in all departments for their assistance.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. BALL,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

July, 1947.

