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BOROUGH OF BEXHILL



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1950



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BOROUGH OF BEXHILL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS. J. O. ALEXANDER.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MISS A. F. CLAXTON.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

(Mr. Alderman C. Pycroft, M.B., Ch.B., J.P.)

MR. ALDERMAN A. ASHBY, J.P.

„ R. F. BOTTING.

MR. COUNCILLOR J. BAKER.

COUNCILLOR MRS. P. M. BURRELL.

MR. COUNCILLOR G. B. COGHLAN.

„ G. H. GOODWIN.

„ A. H. STONE.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

R. J. Toleman, M.B.E., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

W. H. Ball, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Second Sanitary Inspector :

C. E. Lockley, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Disinfecting Officer and General Assistant :

G. Chalmers.

Rodent Operator :

A. E. Hatch.

Maternity and Child Welfare :

Bexhill Nursing Association and East Sussex County Council :

M. & C.W. and 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:

*Present Staff:**Full-time Health Visitors:*

Miss R. Raison, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. (appointed 1st September, 1950).

Miss E. E. Harris, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. (appointed 4th September, 1950).

Miss W. A. Fordyce, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (appointed 9th October, 1950).

Nurses/Midwives:

Miss N. W. Spark, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.

Miss F. Oliver, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (appointed 1st April, 1950).

Miss L. M. Pitts, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (appointed 1st April, 1950).

Miss E. W. L. Woods, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. (appointed 1st December, 1950).

*Changes during 1950:**Nurses/Midwives:*

Miss F. G. Carey, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. (left 24th March, 1950).

Miss M. L. Clark, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (left 27th March, 1950).

Miss K. Trow, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (left 7th April, 1950).

Miss J. Carder Henderson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (appointed 24th March, 1950; left 30th September, 1950).

Full-time Health Visitors:

Miss L. M. Avery, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. (left 1st September, 1950).

Miss Reed, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (left 31st August, 1950).

Miss W. Tait, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. (appointed 1st May, 1950; left 31st August, 1950).

Tuberculosis:

East Sussex County Council:

R. Dingley, M.A., M.D. (Chest Physician).

Venereal Diseases:

Royal East Sussex County Hospital, Hastings:

O. Jeral, M.D.

Clerks:

F. A. H. Wilson.

K. F. Westwood.

Miss N. W. McEvoy.

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

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1950, which is arranged in accordance with the instructions contained in the Ministry of Health Circular 112/50, dated 6th December, 1950.

Staff

There were no staff changes during the year.

General Standard of Health

This can be regarded as satisfactory as evidenced by the low Infantile Mortality rate (see vital statistics below) which is regarded as an accurate index of the social conditions of the area and tends to be high where there is overcrowding, bad housing and defective sanitation.

The major epidemic during the year was due to Measles and occurred earlier in Bexhill than elsewhere in the country generally. This measles outbreak will be referred to in the section devoted to Infectious Diseases.

Vital Statistics

The number of births registered was 289 as against 311 for 1949, giving a rate of 10.88 as against 11.86 (England and Wales 16.17), while the death rate showed a rise, viz., 15.86 as against 14.33 (England and Wales 11.6). (Corrected death rate for Bexhill 10.30.) Table 5 shows that the vast majority of deaths were in the age group 65 years and over.

The increase in the population from 26,230 to 26,540 was approximately the same as that for 1949, indicating that no great increase can be expected until the numbers of new houses built are substantially increased.

Infantile Mortality

During the year there were five deaths of children under 1 year, giving a rate per 1,000 live births of 17.3 as against 3.2 in 1949 (England and Wales 29.8). This rate is again well below the average for the country and must be a source of gratification not only to those responsible for the excellent local and social services with high standards of hygiene and sanitation, but also to the Maternity and Child Welfare Services in Bexhill, as part of the East Sussex County Council Schemes.

Poliomyelitis

There were four cases notified in Bexhill during the year. Details as follows:—

- (i) P.M. Girl, 18 years. 5th April, 1950. Severe attack. Partial recovery.
- (ii) G.F. Boy, 3½ years. 28th June, 1950. Mild attack. Complete recovery.
- (iii) J.B. Girl, 18 years. 24th July, 1950. Severe, acute, fulminating type. Died.
- (iv) M.B. Girl, 10½ years. 6th November, 1950. Mild attack. Complete recovery.

The latter case attended a school in Hastings and was probably infected there.

The incidence (three cases in the year) is identical with the general incidence in England and Wales during the year. Complete and thorough investigations were carried out in each case and further spread prevented; none of the cases were found to be related to each other.

Sanitary Circumstances

Full details will be found in the appropriate section of the report and which has been compiled by the Chief Sanitary Inspector. I am pleased again to testify to the part played by this Officer and his assistants whose work at all times was most thorough and efficient. I can but emphasise what was said in my report for 1949.

Housing

Progress in housing is slow but sure. Much remains to be done and I feel bound once again to congratulate the Housing Committee, the Tenancy Sub-Committee and the Housing Manager for their impartial handling of the most difficult task in Local Government at the present time. All circumstances are fully investigated and taken into consideration in every case, and one hopes that the large waiting-list will be soon reduced to reasonable proportions in the not too distant future. The mutual relationship between the two Departments continues to be most friendly and co-operative.

National Health Service Act, 1946

The Medical Officer of Health is responsible to the County Medical Officer of Health for the Vaccination and Immunisation Services in the Borough and also for the administration (other than financial and technical aspects) of the Ambulance Service which is staffed by the officers and personnel of the Bexhill Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Statistics for both the above services will be found in the appropriate sections of this report, but it should be stated here that, thanks to the Medical Practitioners in Bexhill, the Diphtheria Immunisation Service is most efficient and the fact that there has been only one case of Diphtheria in four years is a sufficient tribute to its value. This case will be referred to in Section F of this report. Vaccination figures again were extremely low, although at the end of the year the outbreak of Smallpox at Brighton caused a significant rise in the numbers vaccinated locally.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman, Councillor Mrs. Alexander, for her encouragement and keenness on all occasions and also all members of the Health Committee for their support.

The staff of the Department, as usual, has been a most efficient and loyal team, and while particularly mentioning Mr. Ball, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. Westwood, who is now Chief Clerk, for their efficient handling of their appropriate sections, I am greatly indebted to all members of the staff for their continued efforts during the year.

As in previous years, the Town Clerk has been ever ready to help and advise in all cases of difficulty as indeed have all Chief Officers and their staffs, and I am most grateful to them all for their ever ready assistance on all occasions, and finally also thank you to the Press for their willing co-operation and valuable publicity.

Mr. Mayor, Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

R. J. TOLEMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1951.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,015 acres
Population	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	26,540
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,472
Number of inhabited flats	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,434
Rateable value at the end of 1950	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£375,218
General Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16s. in £
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,515 os. 6d.
(End of financial year, 1950-51)								

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Bexhill is situated on the South Coast, 62 miles from London, 5 miles west of Hastings and 13 miles east of Eastbourne.

The southern half of the town is situated mainly on Ashdown Sand. North of the railway line (Brighton section) Wadhurst clay forms the surface beds, with areas of Tunbridge Wells sand in the more elevated ground. In the Galley Hill area, Fairlight clays are in evidence, capped in places by Ashdown sand.

The area of the Borough is 8,015 acres, exclusive of 521 acres of foreshore, and rises on gentle slopes behind the sea front to 150 ft. above sea level.

The district is well supplied with public parks and recreation grounds, which have an acreage of 91 acres approximately.

The character of the population is residential for the most part, many retired professional and business people making it their permanent abode, and in consequence the average age of a large number of the residents is higher than usual.

It is also a select seaside resort, so that there are a relatively large number of hotels and apartment houses.

There is no particular occupation or manufacture which is detrimental to the health of the inhabitants.

By virtue of its situation and southerly aspect it always enjoys a maximum of sunshine and an exceptionally even climate, the atmosphere being particularly dry and sunny, with a minimum of fogs, mist, snow and frost.

Its proximity to the sea minimises the daily temperature range and the annual temperature range and its annual rainfall is below that for England and Wales generally.

The acreage is fairly large for a town with a population below 30,000 and thus there are no congested areas, while there remain numerous suitable sites for building and development.

Apart from the residential area of Cooden and the main shopping and boarding house areas, thriving suburbs are found at Sidley, Little Common and the Old Town, where exist strong individuality and each has a thriving Community Centre in spite of the lack of suitable premises. The number of Residential Schools, chiefly Girls' and Preparatory Schools, that are found, indicate its value as a Scholastic Centre, while the existence of numerous Convalescent Homes for adults and children proves its value as a recuperative centre for those recovering from operations and long illnesses.

Adequate railway and other transport facilities exist with easy access to London, neighbouring country and rural areas ; a well-planned shopping centre and numerous voluntary societies catering for all classes and tastes, together with social and entertainment amenities combine to make Bexhill an extremely attractive town for residential and holiday purposes.

METEOROLOGY

I am indebted to Mr. H. J. Sargent, the Borough Meteorologist, for the following report for 1950 :

Meteorological observations at Bexhill were carried on throughout the year 1950 ; daily telegraphic reports and monthly returns were transmitted to the Meteorological Office, Air Ministry, and information was supplied to the Press, to local municipal departments, and to various inquirers.

The Station was visited by a representative of the Meteorological Office in November. The various instruments were tested with the official standards and a certificate of approval was issued.

The total duration of sunshine during the year—1,739.9 hours—was 72.4 hours below the normal. The rainfall—30.13 inches—was appreciably above the normal (28.79 inches). February and November were wet months, the latter with a fall of 5.89 inches, being the wettest November since 1940.

The mean temperature for the year was 50.9°. June was notably warm with a mean temperature of 61.9°, four degrees above the normal. The maximum day temperature for the year, 82°, was recorded during this month. A cold spell occurred late in April, when night temperatures fell below freezing point on more than one occasion, and December was notably cold with a mean temperature of 36.0°.

The full records of daily observations of air-pressure, temperatures, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, clouds, visibility, and wind, with notes on the general weather conditions throughout the year, are available for reference.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

				Males	Females	Total
Live Births : Legitimate	...	...	...	129	148	277
Illegitimate	...	...	...	5	7	12
Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	...	...	—	—	10.88
(Comparability Factor 1.23 ; adjusted Birth Rate)—						13.3
Stillbirths : Legitimate	...	...	...	3	4	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	—	—	.26
Deaths	...	...	...	180	241	421
Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	...	...	—	—	15.86
(Comparability Factor 0.66 ; adjusted Death Rate)—						10.30
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :						
Legitimate	...	...	...	2	3	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Death rate of Infants under one year of age :						17.3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	—	—	84
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—	—	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	—	—	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	Nil
Deaths from Scarlet Fever (all ages)	...	...	...	—	—	Nil

TABLE 1
CAUSES OF DEATH

All Causes						Male 180	Female 241
1.	Tuberculosis respiratory	..	..	..	..	1	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	2	2
3.	Syphilitic Disease	..	..	..	..	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	—	1
8.	Measles	..	..	..	..	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	1	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	..	..	..	..	6	6
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	6	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	—	10
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	—	8
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	23	23
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	—	3
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	—	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	16	46
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	31	23
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	2	7
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	41	69
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	5	5
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	1	—
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	7	7
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	4	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	2	1
26.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	..	..	..	..	6	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	2	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	16	14
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	1	—
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	..	2	3
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	1	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	—	—

TABLE 2

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFEC-
TIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1950
(Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns. (Resident Populations 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administra- tive County
Births :	*Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population			
Live	15.8	17.6	16.7	17.8
Still	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.36
Deaths :				
All causes	11.6	12.3	11.6	11.8
Typhoid and Para- typhoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	00.1	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.39
Influenza	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.07
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis incl. Polioencephalitis	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	0.46	0.49	0.45	0.48
Notifications (Corrected):				
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.50	1.56	1.61	1.23
Whooping Cough	3.60	3.97	3.15	3.21
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03
Erysipelas	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.17
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	8.39	8.76	8.36	6.57
Pneumonia	0.70	0.77	0.61	0.50
Acute Poliomyelitis incl. Polioencephalitis :				
Paralytic	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.08
Non-paralytic	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.05
Food Poisoning	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.25
Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
All causes under 1 year of age	29.8(a)	33.8	29.4	26.3
Enteritis and Diar- rhœa under 2 years of age	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.0
Notifications (Corrected):	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)			
Puerperal Fever	5.81	7.43	4.33	6.03
and Pyrexia				

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

International List No. and Cause	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
651 Abortion with Sepsis ..	0.09	7
650, 652 Other Abortion ..	0.05	4
640-649, 670-678 Complication of pregnancy and delivery ..	0.54	
681 Sepsis of childbirth and the puerperium ..	0.03	
680, 682-689 Other complications of the puerperium ..	0.15	

(b) Per 1,000 related births.

TABLE 3
INFANTILE DEATHS, 1950. TABLE SHOWING CAUSES AND AGES
AT DEATH

Cause	Age in Weeks				Total under 1 Month	Age in Months					Total
	-1	-2	-3	-4		1+	2+	3+	6+	9-12	
Gastro-Enteritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. Broncho- Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Convulsions ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Congenital Disease of Heart ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Congenital Atelec- tasis ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Broncho-Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prematurity ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

TABLE 4
INFANTILE DEATHS SHOWN BY CAUSES OF DEATH AND WARD
DISTRIBUTION

Ward	Gastro- Enter- itis	T.B. Broncho- P'monia	T.B. Menin- gitus	Con- vuls'ns	Cong'l Disease of H'rt	Cong'l Atelec- tasis	Br'cho Pneu- monia	Prema- turity	Total
Old Town ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Egerton Park ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Central ..	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
St. Mark's ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sidley ..	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Sackville ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	5

TABLE 5
AGE AT DEATH—ALL CASES, 1950

	Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65	Total
Males ..	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	5	12	22	136	180
Females ..	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	11	29	193	241

TABLE 6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1950 SHOWN BY WARDS

Disease	Ward						Total
	Central	Egerton Park	Old Town	Sackville	St. Mark's	Sidley	
Diphtheria ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	10	2	6	5	7	10	40
Measles ..	40	26	75	31	52	161	385
Scarlet Fever ..	1	3	9	—	1	2	16
Pneumonia ..	1	1	6	2	5	2	17
Erysipelas ..	—	1	—	—	1	1	3
Ac. Poliomyelitis	2	1	—	1	—	—	4
Men. Meningitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Para Typhoid F'r	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals ..	54	34	99	39	66	176	468
Tuberculosis Notifications							20
							488

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

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

Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological and pathological examinations continued to be carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at their Brighton Laboratory, under Dr. J. E. Jameson, Director.

Ambulance Facilities

The statement made in my Annual Report for 1949 applies equally to the year 1950, and it is again a pleasure to say that the Ambulance Service at all times has been most efficiently run and maintained by all concerned.

TABLE 7
CALLS

	Local	District, 30 Mile Radius	Casualties	Long Distance	Total Calls	Total Mileage
		Two Ambulances				
January ..	108	1	5	4	118	1,785
February ..	96	1	3	7	107	1,639
March ..	98	1	8	2	109	1,119
April ..	94	1	10	3	108	1,323
		Three Ambulances				
May ..	91	1	6	4	102	1,250
June ..	93	1	18	11	123	2,770
July ..	54	2	16	7	79	1,734
August ..	65	2	18	5	90	1,541
September ..	80	3	10	6	99	1,734
October ..	67	3	8	3	81	1,516
November ..	99	2	9	4	114	1,342
December ..	96	—	6	3	105	1,217

Nursing in the Home

During 1950 the following number of cases were attended by the District Nurses and Health Visitors :

Maternity and Midwifery	...	...	117
General cases	...	...	437

The visits paid were :

Maternity and Midwifery	...	...	2,337
General Nursing	...	...	8,081
Casual Visits	...	...	1,873
Health Visits	...	...	6,904
Ante Natal	...	...	1,328

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Minor Ailments Clinic for School Children, London Road Clinic, Bexhill :	Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m.
Dental Clinic for School Children, London Road Clinic, Bexhill	By appointment
Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, London Road Clinic, Bexhill	Every Thursday at 2.30 p.m.
Ante-Natal Clinic, London Road Clinic, Bexhill	2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 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, 2.30 p.m.
Vaccination Clinic : London Road Clinic, Bexhill	First Wednesday in Month at 2.15 p.m.
Tuberculosis Dispensary, London Road Clinic, Bexhill :	Every Monday, 3 p.m.
Venereal Disease Clinic, Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings :	By appointment

TABLE 8**Attendances at the Maternity and Child Welfare, Ante-Natal and Dental Clinics****Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic****Total Attendances :**

Toddlers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	385
Infants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,243

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

(i) Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	148
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	9
Percentage of notified births represented by the number in (i)	...	...	...	...	...	51.2

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 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	127
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	245

Ante-Natal Clinic

Number of expectant mothers attending	...	...	44
Number of attendances	...	...	167

Dental Clinic

Number of attendances by Mothers	...	...	90
Number of attendances by Infants	...	...	104

Health Visitors

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

To expectant mothers :

First visits...	...	...	77
Total visits	...	...	119

To infants under 1 year :

First visits...	...	...	300
Total visits	...	...	2,364

To children aged 1 to 5 years	4,312
-------------------------------	-----	-----	-------

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	...	8
Number of applications for registration during 1950	...	—
Homes registered during the year	...	—
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.

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

(b) Bacteriological examinations of the raw water and subsequent treatment at the various pumping stations are carried out.

During 1950 a sample was submitted each month for bacteriological and/or chemical examinations of the water supplied to the consumers and in all cases the standard was that required of a public supply.

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

(d) There are within the Borough 6,326 dwellinghouses and 1,447 flats supplied direct from the public water mains, and in addition there are 118 houses covered by standpipe supplies and 437 metered trade supplies.

In the statutory area outside the Borough there are 746 dwellinghouses directly connected with the public mains, and in addition there are 187 metered supplies.

The average quantity of water used daily during 1950 in the statutory area was 1,750,000 gallons, which represents an increase of 38,000 gallons per day as compared with 1949.

WATER ANALYSIS

Copy of Report on Sample of Water taken on 14th August, 1950.

High Level

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Very faint opalescence with a few mineral particles
Colour	...	...	...	...	Nil
pH	...	...	...	...	7.9
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	...	405
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	...	...	...	42
Hardness—Carbonate	...	...	...	...	125
Non-Carbonate	...	...	...	...	5
Total	...	...	...	...	130
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.4
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.000
Metals	...	...	...	...	Iron 0.18 (other metals absent)
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	Less than 3
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	2
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	270
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	125
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Less than 0.01
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	...	0.00
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	Absent

Bacteriological Results

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in :

1 day at 37° C.	...	...	...	I
2 days at 37° C.	...	...	...	I
3 days at 20° C.	...	...	...	I
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	Absent from 100 ml.			
Bact. Coli	...	...	...	Absent from 100 ml.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	...	...	...	Absent from 100 ml.

Report

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance, on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water has very moderate hardness and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

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

2. Drainage and Sewerage

No new sewer construction has been carried out during the year, but further work has been done in connection with the proposed sewerage schemes at Turkey Road, Mayo Lane and Bidwell Avenue. These schemes are being produced with the object of reducing the number of properties on cesspool drainage and discussions are being held with the Ministry of Health regarding the matter.

Various blockages of the sewerage system have been cleared and routine annual cleaning of sewers and checking of stormwater overflows have been dealt with satisfactorily.

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, carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department, has proceeded satisfactorily. The number of properties in the Borough has increased during the year, but despite this a weekly collection has been maintained.

With a more efficient system for the separation of waste paper from the refuse and the consequent saving in space which has resulted therefrom it has been found possible to continue refuse disposal at St. Mary's Tip, but it is expected that a transfer to another site will be necessary during the coming year as the present site becomes exhausted.

5. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

During 1950, 6,971 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

During the year 156 visits were paid to Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. Thirteen notices were served during the year, of which 11 were complied with.

7. Moveable Dwellings

The Town has continued to be popular for the purpose of annual camping by the Souting, Girl Guides, Boys' Brigade and similar organisations; frequent visits have been paid to such camping sites. It has been a noticeable feature that these visits by Officers from the Department have at all times been welcomed and the co-operation of all organisations has always been willingly forthcoming. The camps have been conducted in a most orderly manner.

Licensed sites for which 15 licences were granted to operate during the year were also strictly supervised, and in all 90 visits were paid to caravan and camping sites during 1950.

8. Smoke Abatement

There are eight premises within the Borough where processes are carried out which may cause the emission of smoke and grit. It has not been found necessary to take any action with regard to these premises.

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. Eighteen samples were taken and submitted for analysis, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

10. Eradication of Vermin

Nine complaints were received regarding vermin infestation by bed bugs in respect of private premises, and disinfestation was carried out by Officers of the Department.

During the year 101 visits and inspections were made of the furniture and effects of persons to be rehoused in Council Houses and requisitioned premises. Visits and inspections were also made on occasions when the interchange of tenants in Council Houses took place.

It was only found necessary to carry out disinfestation in one instance. It is a feature that premises in the town are singularly free from infestation by bed bugs.

11. Offensive Trades

Seventeen visits were paid to the four fish-frying premises and one rag-and-bone dealer's premises situate in the Borough. Conditions at the fish-frying premises continue to reach a reasonable standard of cleanliness.

12. Pig-Keeping, Poultry-Keeping and Rabbit-Keeping

The supervision of premises where pig-keeping, poultry-keeping and rabbit-keeping was carried on has been pursued, and a noticeable feature has been the tendency where poultry are kept to be the cause of rat infestation. Eleven visits were paid in respect of pig-keeping, and 17 visits were paid in respect of poultry- and rabbit-keeping.

13. Shops Acts

SHOPS ACT, 1934

SHOP HOURS ACT.

EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS ACT.

The Report of the Gowers Committee on Shops Administration has not yet been implemented by Statute or Regulations. The Shops Act, 1950, which was merely a consolidating Act, came into force on the 1st October, 1950.

Conditions under the Shops Act, 1934, have now reached a very high standard within the Borough, and are showing the results of the past three years' work; 119 visits have been made during the year to shops in relation to heating, lighting and ventilation and general sanitation. Eleven notices were served in this connection, of which eight had been complied with at the end of the year.

The administration of the Employment of Young Persons Act is also carried out by the Department, under which 17 inspections were made. It was not found necessary to serve any notices.

14. Disinfestation

During the year 35 rooms were treated for eradication of vermin. The number of Council houses treated for beetle infestation during the year was 9.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	32	43	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	82	113	10	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises).	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	115	156	12	—

† *i.e.* Electrical Stations [Section 103(1)], Institutions. (Section 104 and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
(1)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	2	2	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	—	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	3	—	1	—
TOTAL	13	16	—	1	—

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110				Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecutions (8)	
(1)							
Wearing { Making, etc.	7 NIL						
apparel { Cleaning and washing							
Household linen							
Lace, lace curtains and nets							
Curtains and furniture hangings							
Furniture and upholstery							
Electro-plate							
File making							
Brass and brass articles							
Fur pulling							
Iron and steel cables and chains							
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels							
Cart gear							
Locks, latches and keys							
Umbrellas, etc.							
Artificial flowers							
Nets, other than wire nets							

OUTWORK—continued
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecutions (8)
(1)						
Tents	NIL					
Sacks						
Racquet and tennis balls						
Paper bags						
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper.. .. .						
Brush making						
Pea picking						
Feather sorting						
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.						
Stuffed toys						
Basket making						
Chocolate and sweetmeats						
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.						
Textile weaving						
Lampshades						
TOTAL	7					

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	...	...	38
Two bedroom maisonettes	...	...	4
Three bedroom maisonettes	...	...	2
One bedroom flats	...	...	6

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)	...	...	...	...	327
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	...	...	...	...	545
(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	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(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	...	...	...	...	29

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	29
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

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	10
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	10
(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 12 complaints with regard to overcrowding were investigated by the Department. Four 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

29 houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action,

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, 1950.

1. APPLICATIONS

(a) Total number of applications on Housing Register as at 31st December, 1950	...	...	...	559
(80 per cent. of the above are from ex-Service men.)				
(b) Applications from non-residents	...	...	...	187
(c) Applicants working in Bexhill, but living out of the Borough	...	...	...	40

2. RE-HOUSED

(a) Total number of families re-housed by the Com- mittee since June, 1945	...	...	...	572
(b) Of the above, 80 per cent. have been ex-Servicemen.				

3. THE BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR 1951 is as follows :

- (a) 16 One bedroom Bungalows.
- (b) 32 Houses and Bungalows.

4. TRADITIONAL TYPE BRICK HOUSES AND FLATS, ETC.

Considerable work has been carried out relating to the erection of 100 houses, flats and maisonettes on the Ninfield Road Estate, 50 of which are now occupied, and the remainder under construction.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

A total of 73 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to dealers' premises and dairies during 1950.

REGISTRATIONS

The accompanying table gives details of the registrations effected and the licences issued during the year:—

Food and Drugs Act, 1938-49
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949
Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949
and the
Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations, 1949.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938-1949—REGISTRATIONS :

Certificate of Registration of Dairy	7
Certificate of registration of Distributor	8

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED) REGULATIONS, 1949—LICENCES :

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Pasteurised "	2
Dealer's Supplementary Licence in respect of Pasteurised Milk	5

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949—LICENCES :

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested "	4
Dealer's Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested "	4

NON-GRADED AND ACCREDITED MILK

There are two producer-retailers retailing this class of milk within the Borough, with farm premises situated outside the area. 10 samples were taken, of which 1 sample was found to be unsatisfactory.

PASTEURISED MILK

There are five suppliers retailing this grade of milk within the Borough. In two instances the pasteurising plant is situated in the Borough boundary, and in three instances the milk supplies are obtained from plants outside the area. The remaining supplier obtains milk from one of the local plants.

The supplies of Pasteurised Milk have continued to be satisfactory, and the improvements reported in the report for the year 1949 have been well maintained.

A total of 58 samples of this grade of milk were taken, and only two samples were found to be unsatisfactory.

TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK

(i) Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)

There are five dealers in the Borough who supply graded milks under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

Twenty-seven samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk were obtained, of which only one was found upon examination to be unsatisfactory.

(ii) Tuberculin Tested (Certified)

Twenty-three samples of this grade of milk were obtained, of which only one was found to be unsatisfactory.

(iii) Heat Treated Milk

Seven samples of this milk were obtained, and found to be satisfactory.

During the year a total of 125 samples of milk of various grades were obtained, of these only five, or 4 per cent., were found to be unsatisfactory. This must be regarded as a most satisfactory state of affairs in regard to the milk supply delivered within the Borough.

(b) Food Poisoning

There were no reported outbreaks of Food Poisoning occurring within the Borough.

In connection with investigations into possible Food Poisoning outbreaks the Public Health Laboratory Service can now be utilised.

A branch of this service is now available in Brighton, under the direction of Dr. J. E. Jameson. There is still much to be learned about the methods for the preparation of safe food, and the Ministers of Health and Food have set up committees and working parties to enquire into subjects such as Catering Establishments, Meat Products and Meat Inspection. These committees have already heard evidence from numbers of scientific, professional and commercial bodies, and three have reported in the following publications:—

- (1) Ministry of Food—Report of the Manufactured Meat Products Working Party.
- (2) Ministry of Food—"Hygiene in Catering Establishments." Report of the Catering Trade Working Party.
- (3) Ministry of Food—Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Meat Inspection.

It is becoming more and more evident that serious attention in the application of simple hygiene methods will do much to combat outbreaks of Food Poisoning.

Deaths from Food Poisoning seldom occur and are generally in the very young and very old, or in patients suffering from chronic disease such as long-standing bronchitis or heart failure. The staff of the Department have pursued diligently the position in regard to food hygiene in local establishments.

(c) Clean Food Campaign

Model Clean Food Byelaws were approved by the Ministry of Food and the requisite notice was given in the Press on the 29th April, 1950, and became operative on the 24th July, 1950. It is hoped that all premises dealing with the handling, preparation and serving of food will take notice of these Byelaws.

The onus at all times is upon those who handle, prepare and serve food, and it cannot be too strongly stressed that cleanliness is the most important principle to be observed at all times, and again it cannot be too often repeated that food having been once cooked should not be reheated up after being kept overnight and served again the following day.

Most outbreaks of Food Poisoning are due to non-observance of this important principle. The general standard amongst catering establishments in Bexhill is good, but there is still room for improvement, and it is hoped that this will be reached during the coming year.

TABLE 10
SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO MEAT
AND OTHER FOODS

						lbs. ozs.	Total Weight lbs. ozs.
Meat							
Beef	..	..	..	..	..	401 2	
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	20 0	
Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	20 4	
Tripe	..	..	..	..	..	63 8	
Bovine Lungs	..	..	..	..	..	9 0	
Bacon and Ham	..	..	..	..	..	170 11	
							684 9
Tinned Meat							
Chopped Pork	..	..	..	..	..	10 14	
Minced Beef Loaf	..	..	..	..	..	10 15 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Veal and Ham Loaf	..	..	..	..	..	5 15	
Luncheon Meat	..	..	..	..	..	44 4	
Pork Brawn	..	..	..	..	..	12	
Corned Beef	..	..	..	..	..	1 8	
Jellied Veal	..	..	..	..	..	79 8	
Ham	..	..	..	..	..	10 13	
							164 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Miscellaneous							
Slab Cake	..	..	..	..	..	125 11	
Figs	..	..	..	..	..	12 0	
Vita Wheat Biscuits	..	..	..	..	..	1 0	
Cheese	..	..	..	..	..	15 8	
Peaches	..	..	..	..	..	12 0	
Scone Mixture	..	..	..	..	..	107 8	
Frozen Asparagus	..	..	..	..	..	8	
Frozen Spinach	..	..	..	..	..	8	
Ginger Cake Flour	..	..	..	..	..	5 0	
Dates	..	..	..	..	..	8	
Flour	..	..	..	..	..	27 0	
Semolina	..	..	..	..	..	1 0	
Christmas Pudding	..	..	..	..	..	52 0	
Cream Layer Cake	..	..	..	..	..	15 0	
Shredded Wheat	..	..	..	..	..	1 10	
Sausages	..	..	..	..	..	54 0	
Fowls	..	..	..	..	..	1,094 14	
Currants	..	..	..	..	..	4 8	
Prunes	..	..	..	..	..	373 8	
Jelly	..	..	..	..	..	4	
Oatmeal	..	..	..	..	..	1 8	
Salad Cream	..	..	..	..	..	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Frozen Fruits	..	..	..	..	..	1 12	

Rabbits	80	0		
Sandwich Spread	4	8		
Danish Pork		12		
	<hr/>		1,992	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
Fresh Fish	283	0		
Tinned Fish	23	5		
	<hr/>		306	5
Miscellaneous Tinned Goods	1,289	4	1,289	4
			<hr/>	
			4,437	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
			<hr/>	

Disposal

Returned to Hastings Depot	513	14
Animal Feeding	3,873	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Returned to Vendor	50	11
	<hr/>	
	4,437	9 $\frac{3}{4}$

TABLE 11**CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	—	—	—	—	1
Number inspected	—	—	—	—	1
All diseases except T.B. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than T.B.	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only : whole car- casses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with T.B. ..	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 12

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	Number of Samples Taken		Number Genuine		Number Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Milk	—	28	—	28	—	—
Pork Sausages ..	—	4	—	2	—	2
Beef Sausages ..	—	3	—	3	—	—
Cheese Spread ..	—	3	—	2	—	1
Whisky	—	2	—	2	—	—
Gin	—	2	—	2	—	—
Pickles	—	2	—	2	—	—
Tomato Ketchup ..	—	2	—	2	—	—
Glace Cherries ..	—	2	—	2	—	—
Condensed Milk ..	—	2	—	2	—	—
Meat Pie	—	1	—	1	—	—
Boiled Sweets ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cough Mixture ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cake Flour Mixture ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Mustard Sauce ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Strawberries in Syrup	—	1	—	1	—	—
Potted Meat	—	1	—	1	—	—
Fish Paste	—	1	—	1	—	—
Jelly	—	1	—	1	—	—
Suet	—	1	—	1	—	—
Dates	—	1	—	1	—	—
Pearl Barley	—	1	—	—	—	—
Meat Pate	—	1	—	1	—	—
Tomato Soup	—	1	—	1	—	—
Processed Peas ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Sausage Meat	—	1	—	1	—	—
Lemonade Powder ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Dried Peas	—	1	—	1	—	—
Dessicated Coconut ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Coffee	—	1	—	1	—	—
Lime Juice Cordial ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Dessert	—	1	—	1	—	—
Non-brewed						
Condiment	—	1	—	1	—	—
Horseradish Sauce ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
" Fizzi Quenchers " ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
" Screen "	—	1	—	1	—	—

Remarks

The samples of pork sausages found incorret were purchased from the same shop. One sample was slightly deficient in meat content ; the other contained a small percentage of a permitted preservative but its presence was not declared to the purchaser. Samples taken subsequently from this shop were in order,

The Sample of pearl barley was infested with mites. This was reported to the Sanitary Inspector.

The sample of cheese spread was satisfactory as regards its composition but the quoted figure for butter-fat was misleading. As a result of representations to the importers, the foreign packers have now corrected this.

Ice-Cream

Fifty four samples were submitted for examination, with the following results: Grade 1, 16; Grade 2, 20; Grade 3, 12; Grade 4, 6.

In accessing the hygienic quality of ice cream it is generally accepted that the product should attain either Grade 1 or 2.

The results show that of the samples taken during the year 1950 66.6 per cent. satisfied the requirements of Grades 1 and 2, as compared with 64.5 per cent. during the year 1949. It is interesting to note that 42.8 per cent. of the samples taken during the year 1948 came within these categories. This would point to a steady improvement.

The results obtained are indicative that there is still room for improvement, and that there must be no relaxation of the supervision of the manufacture and sale of this product which is now looked upon more or less as a food in our dietary.

Sixteen samples of ice-cream were taken in order to ascertain the quality of the product. At the time the samples were taken there was no legal standard laid down, but a Ministry of Food Circular had suggested that the minimum standard should be $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. fat. Based upon this figure, the samples were of satisfactory quality. It is, however, the Ministry's intention in the very near future to increase the fat standard required to 5 per cent.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

The total number of notifications received during 1950 was 488 (including Tuberculosis, compared with 216 in 1948).

This increase in notifications of Infectious Diseases was due entirely to the Measles epidemic which visited the Borough between September and December, 1950, and continued into 1951.

It occurred in two waves. The first, a minor one, during September and October, accounted for 67 cases, following which the incidence dropped for two weeks and then rose again during the last two weeks of November until the last three weeks of December, when there was an explosive outburst of 222 cases. Generally speaking, most of the cases were mild and no emergency precautions, e.g. closing of schools, Sunday schools, cinemas, etc., were called for. The more serious cases quickly responded to modern therapy. It is significant that not one case was admitted to Hospital and complications were conspicuous by their absence.

The cases of Infantile Paralysis have already been commented on and otherwise the table presents no abnormalities apart from the notification of one case of Diphtheria (the first case in four years), which was mild owing to previous immunisation, and the notification of a case of Para-Typhoid Fever which on investigation was found to have contracted the disease before coming to Bexhill. Diagnosis was confirmed after admission to Hospital and no further cases were reported.

TABLE 13

Disease	Notifications received	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Deaths including Inward Transfers
Scarlet Fever ...	16	10	—
Whooping Cough	40	—	—
Measles ...	385	—	—
Diphtheria ...	1	1	—
Pneumonia ...	17	1	14
Dysentery ...	—	—	—
Ac. Enc. Lethargica ...	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	3	3	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	4	4	1
Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—
Men. Meningitis	1	1	—
Para-Typhoid fev'r	1	1	—
Food Poisoning...	—	—	—
Totals ...	468	21	15

Vaccination

Twelve sessions of Vaccination were held during the year, the following table giving particulars of the number of persons vaccinated and re-vaccinated either at the Clinic or by their own doctor.

TABLE 14

NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED (or re-vaccinated) DURING YEAR 1950

Age at date of Vaccination	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	125	75	12	28	240
Number Re-Vaccinated	—	9	38	164	211

NUMBER OF CASES SPECIALLY REPORTED DURING PERIOD (age groups as above)

(a) Generalised Vaccinia	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Post-vaccinal Encephalo-myelitis	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Death from complications of vaccination other than (a) and (b)	—	—	—	—	—

The increase during 1950 of the numbers revaccinated was probably due to the outbreak of Smallpox in Brighton during December. The number of vaccinations rose sharply during January and February, 1951, while the epidemic was at its highest and then declined as abruptly as soon as the outbreak was brought under control and confined to Brighton. This epidemic illustrated the importance of efficient Public Health administration and the dangers of virulent Smallpox appearing in a non-vaccinated community. It should be emphasised that this danger is a real one in these days of rapid air travel when cases often show no evidence of infection on arrival in this country from countries where virulent Smallpox is endemic. The successful efforts of those who had to deal with the Brighton outbreak, in controlling and confining the disease, illustrated the importance of teamwork in which Medical Officers of Health, Ministry of Health Medical Officers, General Practitioners, Sanitary Inspectors, Health Visitors, and not least the Press, all played prominent and essential parts. No cases were confirmed outside Brighton, but there were quite a few false alarms in Bexhill as in other areas.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Twenty sessions for Innoculation were held during the year, and particulars of the number dealt with there, and including those dealt with by private practitioners, are shown in the following table.

TABLE 15

	Under 5 years	Over 5 years
Number of children who completed the full course during the year	237	32
Number of children who received a Reinforcing dose	—	600
Percentage of the child population fully immunised at 31st December, 1950	62.2	74.5

It is gratifying to note the increase, the percentages being 62.2 and 74.5 as against 57.8 and 65.0. As there was one case notified in the year, the disease has not yet been finally stamped out and one cannot feel satisfied and confident until the percentage of immunised children under and over 5 years reaches 90 per cent. or more. With the use of more efficient antigens, reactions following injections have decreased considerably.

Cancer

The number of deaths certified as being due to Cancer was 84, 35 males and 49 females, as compared with 69 in 1949.

Tuberculosis

During 1950, formal notifications under the Regulations were received in respect of 12 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 8 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

In addition 9 cases were brought to the notice of the Department from the following sources :—

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Death Returns of cases not previously notified	—	—
Transfers from other areas	7	2
Cases restored to Register	—	—

During the year under review the number of cases notified declined from 91 in 1949 to 83, and the decline was due to a decrease in the number of Pulmonary cases, viz., 71 as against 78.

The following table shows the total number of cases coming to the notice of the Department, by primary notification during the year, together with the total number of deaths classified into age groups :—

TABLE 16

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—5	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—
5—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
15—25	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	4	—	2	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—55	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
55—65	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	7	5	3	5	1	—	2	2

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of 1950 was as follows :—

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	40	31	71
Non-Pulmonary	6	6	12
	—	—	—
	46	37	83
	—	—	—

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1950.

The year under review has not been an eventful one, but has rather tended to emphasise the necessity for continued application of effort and endeavour to maintain the position attained. I think it is right to say that, generally, arrears occasioned by the war have now been cleared up, except in one phase of the work. I refer to the Housing repairs. It is well known that owing to the economic condition obtaining properties are being allowed to deteriorate, hitherto the efforts of the Department have been directed towards the carrying out of essential repairs in order to prevent deterioration, and at the same time to provide people with a reasonable standard of accommodation. It is apparent that systematic Housing Inspection will have to be undertaken, otherwise the standard of accommodation in the older houses will become below that which is acceptable.

The continued advance of the Council's housing programme has tended to cause people residing in the older houses to become unsettled, and not a little dissatisfied with the conditions under which they live. This is without doubt due to foresight the Council have displayed in the type of house erected and the layout of the estates.

I have on occasion referred to the cesspool problem which appertains in the Borough. The elimination of the system of sewage disposal is retarded by lack of sewers in certain areas and we can only hope that the schemes now in hand will come to early fruition. In the meantime the Department are actively engaged in supervising the maintenance and repairs of the existing units. The requirements of modern houses, with baths and washbasins plus the ordinary domestic fittings, cannot be adequately dealt in many instances by a cesspool which is the minimum legal requirement. Certain premises are provided with Septic Tank Systems which minimise the risk of a nuisance arising, but such installations are more costly to install. Another difficulty which arises is the ultimate disposal of the effluent due to "clay" subsoil, which does not readily absorb the purified liquid.

In connection with Food Hygiene the new Food Byelaws are being applied with vigour, and the position with regard to ice-cream is satisfactory.

In previous reports much has been written in regard to milk. Perusal of the table showing the results of samples taken during the year shows the position to be highly satisfactory.

Last year I commented on the transfer of the production side of milk to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and stated that this was in my opinion a retrograde step. I still hold to this view as, in so far as I can ascertain, there is still little or no supervision of the methods in operation on the farms.

One final point I would like to comment on, and at the same time to make an appeal to the general public, is that of people taking dogs into food shops, in many cases allowing them to go freely about the premises. Fouling of the food does occur and I appeal to dog lovers to assist both the Council Officers and the shopkeepers in this important aspect of Food Hygiene.

The accompanying tables set out the nature and scope of the work carried out by the Department during the course of the year.

TABLE 17

Houses inspected, P.H.A.	...	...	...	...	...	327
Visits re above	...	...	...	...	...	545
Houses inspected, H.A.	...	...	...	...	...	36
Visits re above	...	...	...	...	...	4
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	6
Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	7
Water Samples procured :						
(a) Well Supply	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Main Supply	...	...	...	...	...	13
(c) Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	...	18
Smoke abatement	...	...	...	...	...	2
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	14
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	90
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	—
Rag and bone dealers	...	...	...	...	...	—
Stables and piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	11
Poultry keeping	...	...	...	...	...	17
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	17
Factories, mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	113
Factories, non mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	43
Workplaces, general	...	...	...	...	...	2
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	1
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	11
Shops Acts, 1934	...	...	...	...	...	179
Shop Hours Act	...	...	...	...	...	119
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	17
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	28
Theatres, cinemas, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	10
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	1,985
Drainage, general	...	...	...	...	...	825
Drainage testing by :						
(a) Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	80
(b) Water	...	...	...	...	...	153
(c) Colour	...	...	...	...	...	38
(d) Breaking Down	...	...	...	...	...	6

Other sanitary visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	291
Ash receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	153
Fishmongers, poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Greengrocers, fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dairies and milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Milk samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cafes and Hotel kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Other food visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	177
I.D. and disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	...	323
Disinfestation, general	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Disinfestation, bugs etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	145
							6,971

COMPLAINTS.

1946	...	...	...	...	...	1,240
1947	...	...	...	...	...	1,239
1948	...	...	...	...	...	633
1949	...	...	...	...	...	735
1950	...	...	...	...	...	837

TABLE 18

Condition of premises	...	...	...	7
Housing defects	...	...	...	56
Overcrowding	...	...	...	12
Dampness	...	...	...	29
Water supply	...	...	...	3
Drains and sanitary fittings	...	...	...	67
Public Urinals	...	...	...	—
Verminous premises	...	...	...	26
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	9
Accumulation of refuse, etc	...	...	...	15
Rats and mice	...	...	...	532
Milk and dairies	...	...	...	4

Absence of sanitary dustbins	...	...	...	...	11
Food premises	...	...	...	...	1
Food	...	...	...	...	5
Movable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	4
Smoke Nuisance	...	...	...	...	1
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	49
					<hr/> 837 <hr/>

SANITARY DEFECTS AND NOTICES

TABLE 19

Statutory Notices served during 1950	..	..	..	..	19
Statutory Notices complied with during 1950	..	..	..	..	13
Statutory Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1950	..	..	..	..	6
Informal Notices served during 1950	..	..	..	..	328
Informal Notices complied with during 1950	..	..	..	..	275
Informal Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1950	..	..	..	..	53

HOUSE INSPECTION AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

Twenty nine houses were rendered fit as the result of informal action, and in this connection 545 visits were made.

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

In connection with the drainage of premises by means of cesspools, supervision has been pushed forward and repairs and improvements have been carried out. It is hoped that circumstances within the area will enable the number of cesspools to be considerably reduced, as this method of drainage in an urban area does not coincide with the modern requirements of the populace, and can be an extreme source of trouble.

TABLE 20

Drains entirely reconstructed	..	..	..	..	..	21
Drains repaired	..	..	..	..	..	18
New branch drains	..	..	..	..	..	26
Inspection chambers reconstructed	..	..	..	..	..	18
Additional inspection chambers provided	..	..	..	..	..	9
Soil or ventilation pipes renewed and fixed	..	..	..	..	..	10
Choked drains	..	..	..	..	..	17
New frames and cover fitted to existing inspection chambers	..	..	..	..	..	15
Defective water supply pipes	..	..	..	..	..	2
Defective waste pipes	..	..	..	..	..	23
Cesspools emptied	..	..	..	..	..	14
Defective W.C. pans	..	..	..	..	..	17

Defective W.C. flushing cisterns	17
Defective W.C. seats	2
Lavatory basins fixed	8
New baths fixed	2
Insanitary and defective sinks	6
Surround to sink renewed	1
Absence of proper sink	1
Defective yard paving	12
Absence of paved approach	2
Defective roofs	51
Defective and dangerous chimney stacks	0
Defective eaves gutters	11
Defective rain water pipes	10
Defective down spouts	9
Defective pointing	14
Defective sashes and frames	32
Defective sills to doors or windows	6
Defective floors	24
Defective plaster to walls	52
Defective plaster to ceilings	39
Defective internal walls	2
Defective external walls	7
Defective fireplaces and grates	15
Defective wash boilers	3
Defective doors and cupboards	7
Defective water fittings	1
Defective chimney flues	4
Defective air bricks	3
Defective fresh air inlet	5
Walls requiring cleansing	18
Ceilings requiring cleansing	27
Dampness to premises	43
Dampness of walls	34
Condition of premises	1
Insufficient ventilation of rooms	2
Dustbins provided	45
Accumulation of manure/refuse	14
Ditches requiring cleansing	1
Keeping of animals	6
Vermin	3
Miscellaneous	12

TABLE 21

ARTICLES DISINFECTED OR DESTROYED, 1950

Article	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Wearing Apparel . . .	2	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	5	3	5	—
Uniform Clothing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Bed Covers	5	3	—	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	5	—
Mattresses . .	7	1	2	4	10	6	9	8	11	7	13	—
Feather Beds	2	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	3	—
Eiderdowns	—	—	—	2	4	4	1	1	3	2	3	—
Bolsters . .	2	2	1	1	3	—	—	2	2	1	2	—
Pillows . .	7	9	3	20	19	8	8	33	15	29	21	—
Blankets . .	30	12	—	16	11	18	7	3	29	6	34	—
Sheets . .	2	4	—	5	8	4	6	2	8	4	12	—
Miscellaneous	5	3	—	1	5	—	8	4	12	4	7	—
Totals . .	62	38	7	51	64	44	41	55	92	60	105	—

TABLE 22

ROOMS FUMIGATED

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever	5	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	3	—	—	—
Diphtheria . .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer . .	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	3	1	—
Erysipelas . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Meningitis . .	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	2	1	—
Acute . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-myelitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	1	—	—	1	—
Vermis . .	—	—	—	7	—	—	4	10	1	—	12	1
Miscellaneous	3	—	2	1	—	—	2	10	1	4	1	1
Totals . .	10	2	2	10	4	5	10	22	8	6	17	2

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

During the year 156 visits were paid to Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, 13 notices were served. Eleven notices had been complied with at the end of the year.

The following are details of the items contained in the notices complied with:—

Insanitary surround to sink	1
Provision of water heater	1
Dirty walls and ceilings	2
Rooms requiring cleansing	1
Absence of suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences	2
Absence of artificial lighting	2
Defective connections between flush pipe and pedestal to W.C.	1
Conveniences not indicated by suitable notice .. .	1

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Dwellinghouses and Business Premises

Number of complaints received during the year	545
Number of visits of inspection, baiting and extermination during the year	1,985

Sewers

Annual test baiting of the sewers was carried out; 86 manholes were baited, being approximately 10 per cent. of those in the area, i.e., 854.

Treatment showed that the sewer system was free from rat infestation as compared with the previous year when a small section had become infested, but which was eradicated by subsequent maintenance treatment.

General

It can now be stated that there are no major infestations within the Borough. One outstanding feature of the complaints received is the number of small infestations which occur in the vicinity of premises where domestic poultry-keeping is carried out.

CONCLUSION

Once again I would record my thanks to all my colleagues in the Department for the team-work which exists therein, and in particular to Mr. C. E. Lockley I would extend especial thanks for his untiring assistance.

To Dr. R. J. Toleman may I extend my sincere thanks for his support and for the encouragement he so willingly gives. The co-operation of my fellow officials has been much appreciated, and I hope that this may continue.

I desire to tender my sincere thanks to the Chairman, Councillor Mrs. J. O. Alexander, and to the members of the Health Committee for their support and co-operation.

W. H. BALL,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

