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BOROUGH OF BEXHILL



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1952

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BOROUGH OF BEXHILL



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Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1952

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BOROUGH OF BEXHILL
HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS. J. O. ALEXANDER

Vice-Chairman :

ALDERMAN MISS A. F. CLAXTON

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
(MR. COUNCILLOR G. H. GOODWIN)

MR. ALDERMAN A. ASHBY, J.P.

" R. F. BOTTING

MR. COUNCILLOR H. J. MORGAN

" A. S. J. STEVENS

" A. H. WHEELER

" A. H. STONE

" N. J. TRILL

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.

Sanitary Inspectors :

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

F. B. Elliott, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Disinfecting Officer and General Assistant :

G. Chalmers

Rodent Operator :

D. Evenden

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—A. C. D. Parsons, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.

R. K. Reid, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., 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 C. Oomen, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.

Miss J. W. Barstow, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.

Miss C. E. Fraser, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Nurses/Midwives :

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

Miss J. E. Gorringe, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. (appointed 7th September, 1952).

Miss J. E. Hawkins, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. (appointed 29th March, 1952).

Miss I. Nason, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (appointed 14th June, 1952).

Miss M. A. Cooke, S.R.N., S.C.M. (appointed 1st September, 1952.)

General Nurse :

Mr. A. B. Kurn, S.R.N., Q.N. (appointed 15th September, 1952).

*Changes during 1952 :**Health Visitors and Nurses/Midwives :*

Miss R. Raison, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. (left 15th December, 1952).

Miss E. E. Harris, S.R.N. S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. (left 4th June, 1952).

Mrs. M. E. Bielecki, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (left 5th March, 1952).

Miss D. E. Jordan, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (left for H.V. training 31st August, 1952).

Miss E. M. Robson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (left for H.V. training 27th April, 1952).

Miss E. W. L. Woods, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. (left 12th May, 1952).

Miss I. M. Penrose, S.R.N., S.C.M. (appointed 31st March, 1952, left for Combined Training 31st August, 1952).

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 :

K. F. Westwood.

H. J. Stentiford.

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 1952, which is arranged in accordance with the instructions contained in the Ministry of Health Circular 42/51, dated 10th December, 1951.

Staff

There were no staff changes during the year 1952.

General Standard of Health

This can be regarded as satisfactory; the only major outbreak was measles mainly in the latter half of the year. There were no outbreaks of food poisoning; diphtheria was again conspicuous by its absence. Nearly 83 per cent. of the population under 15 years of age are immunised.

Vital Statistics

Infantile Mortality

It is many years since the Infantile Mortality rate for Bexhill exceeded that of England and Wales as a whole, viz: 41 per 1,000 as against 27.6 per 1,000, but reference to the Statistics indicate that with a low birth rate of 11.57 as against 15.3 for England and Wales, a slight increase of 2 infant deaths in the year will increase the rate by 12 per 1,000. Formerly the Infantile Mortality rate was used as a yardstick of the cleanliness and standard of sanitation of an area when many deaths were due to Infantile Diarrhoea, but not one death was due in 1952 to this cause. A further analysis of the causes of death in Table 3 show that four occurred in the first few weeks, i.e. the neo-natal period, and that of the others at least three were not preventable, and it must therefore be assumed that in areas of small populations this rate is too fluctuating to be of any great value in itself without further analysis of the causes of death.

The number of births show a further fall this year from 274 to 243 with the rate from 10.53 to 9.45 while deaths fell from 455 to 413 and the death rate from 21.32 to 16.13. Study of the causes of death show that the cancer, heart and vascular diseases cause the largest number of deaths and that Gastric and Duodenal ulcers, although very common amongst the general population, are not very fatal conditions in themselves. There were no deaths from Infectious Diseases during the year apart from 8 due to Tuberculosis.

Poliomyelitis

Three cases were notified during the year from different parts of the town and bore no relation to each other.

Prompt detection, isolation and treatment are important in the prevention of spread of this disease, which plays havoc with public morale and leaves so much crippling behind as well as being accompanied often by a high mortality. Two of the cases recovered completely while the third has only a mild weakness of certain muscles which in no way can be regarded as other than a mild disability.

It may be as well to review the steps taken to deal with an outbreak of this disease where spread is probably from close contact rather than the medium of flies, sewage, etc.

- (1) Isolation of cases and doubtful cases.
- (2) Quarantine of contacts for 3 weeks (in the light of recent research this may be more strictly enforced in the future).
- (3) Strict attention to personal cleanliness and hygiene.
- (4) Notification to all Doctors of the appearance of cases or suspects in the area.
- (5) Strict avoidance during epidemic periods of unnecessary fatigue amongst children and young adults.
- (6) Advising parents to confine to bed children with fever, common colds, etc., and calling in their family doctor forthwith.
- (7) Suspension of tonsillectomies and dental extractions during the epidemic period.

In a disease which is largely spread by carriers, abortive cases, etc., general measures, other than the above, are of doubtful value and in the light of present research let us hope that some form of active immunisation may become available during the next few years.

Sanitary Circumstances

Details compiled by the Chief Sanitary Inspector in his section of the report indicate that supervision is thorough and efficient. Routine and special duties continue to be manifold and varied in their nature, e.g. Inspection and Supervision of Food, Food Premises, Milk and Water sampling, Infectious Diseases enquiries, Housing complaints and Over-crowding, Disinfection and Disinfestation, Shops Acts duties, Ice Cream premises and sampling, Following up and revisiting, etc. What has been said in previous reports is again emphasised, viz., that the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his Assistants by their constant vigilance play a great part in ensuring that the health of the town is kept at a high level.

Two services shall be mentioned, the water supply and refuse collection and disposal.

It is a source of satisfaction that the water supply of this town is both adequate and of a very high standard, but this department cannot feel satisfied until water has been laid on to every house and dwelling in the Borough, particularly in the Pebsham and Normans Bay areas. A start should be made in the near future in regard to Pebsham, and ultimately it is hoped that the present survey of Normans Bay will assist in development in that area, bearing in mind that other services need to be provided at the same time, viz. sewers and access roads.

In regard to refuse collection and disposal, the St. Mary's tip is nearing the end of its capacity, and negotiations and planning now in progress will ensure that the new tip will be equal in standard and utility to the old one, which can be regarded as a model of its kind and without doubt has few equals in the country.

Infectious Diseases

Reference to Table 6 shows that measles notifications were much the same as for the previous year, viz : 373 as against 350. The majority were of a mild nature and all responded well to modern therapeutic measures, thanks to which there were again no deaths, although measles cause much absenteeism from Schools.

Pertussis cases, which dropped from 110 to 21, are more distressing, both to patient and parent, although the mortality is very slight. It will be a great advantage when Whooping Cough Immunisation is introduced in the near future to be combined with Diphtheria Immunisation.

Other infectious diseases, apart from Poliomyelitis, to which separate reference is made, require no comment.

The Work of Voluntary Agencies

Bexhill is fortunate in that Voluntary Agencies, e.g., the Council of Social Service, St. John Ambulance, British Red Cross Society, W.V.S., etc., are all live bodies and play a great part in the life and work of the community, supplementing in many ways the facilities provided by the Welfare State through the National Health Service Act, the National Assistance Act, etc.

Amongst other activities carried out are staffing and running the Ambulance Services, a First Aid Hut for minor injuries on the beach at week-ends and Bank Holidays during the Summer Season, Hospital Library Service, Hospital Mobile Shop, Meals on Wheels, Clubs for Old People, Citizens' Advice Bureau, and more recently a Foot Service for old people.

Their work is not only of a practical nature but they help in many ways by lectures, talks and discussions to various societies and clubs, on many topics of a public health nature or closely allied to it, and it is true probably that their existence is essential to the welfare of the Community as a whole in that they fill the gaps that the State does not attempt to deal with or has no power.

Among other problems to the fore at the present time are : 1. Road Safety ; 2. Accidents in the Home ; 3. Litter.

Much is being said and done in regard to Road Safety, and Bexhill Road Safety Committee is active and busily engaged in all matters concerning road traffic deaths and injuries particularly at the Schools. All voluntary agencies can help here in seeing that the Highway Code is used and understood by all their members and contacts.

Similarly, "Accidents in the Homes" is another national problem which is receiving more and more attention, having regard to the fact that more children are killed in the home than on the road. Accidents in the home annually cause the deaths of more than 1,000 children under the ages of 5 and more than 3,000 in persons over 65 years of age.

Much remains to be done in educating parents and older children in their causes and prevention, particularly against burns, scalds and, particularly in old people, accidental coal gas poisoning.

In regard to litter which is unsightly and unclean, seaside towns are obviously prone to this menace, although Bexhill's problem is much less than at most places ; but even here much can be done by example and education to encourage day trippers to utilise the receptacles placed for their benefit and to see that no scrap of paper and, most important of all, no bottles, broken glass, etc., are left to become dangerous to those who follow them the next day or so.

Voluntary Agencies can play their part here also as it is only by persistent and steady effort that the general public can be taught that a town is not only judged by its beauty and cleanliness, but also by its presence of litter.

What applies to litter also applies to fouling by dogs of footpaths, grass verges, etc., and dog owners can play their part in ensuring that this nuisance is kept to a minimum.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47, as amended by the National Assistance Act, 1951

No action had to be taken under Section 47 during 1952.

National Health Service Act, 1946

The local health authority for the area is the East Sussex County Council, who have delegated to the Medical Officer of Health in his capacity as Assistant County M.O.H. supervision and administration of the

- (1) Vaccination and Immunisation Service,
- (2) Ambulance Service,

which are services provided under Part III of the Act and details of which will be found in the appropriate sections.

In regard to immunisation against diphtheria it will be seen that approximately 64 per cent of children under 5 years of age, and approximately 90 per cent of school children from 5 to 14 years of age are protected, and no case was notified during the year (since 1946 there has been but one case (mild) in the area, viz : in 1949), which can be regarded as extremely satisfactory. In spite of its comparative rarity, Diphtheria is still regarded as a dangerous infectious disease, and no parent or guardian should neglect an opportunity of having their children immunised and re-immunised.

The Ambulance Service is staffed and run by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Bexhill Division, and as usual continues to function efficiently and satisfactorily. The absence of any complaints whatever is sufficient testimony to the value of the Service and the skill and courtesy of the personnel on all occasions.

In conclusion, it is a pleasure once again to testify to the encouragement and support of the Chairman, Councillor Mrs. Alexander, and the members of the Health Committee on all occasions and for the keen interest they show in all matters pertaining to Preventive Medicine.

This report in itself is sufficient testimony to the work of the Staff of the Department, but I must once more express my warmest thanks to the Chief Sanitary Inspector for his industry and loyalty on all occasions together with his efficient handling of many difficult problems. These remarks can be applied also to the Assistant Sanitary Inspectors.

The Clerical Staff under the capable direction of the Chief Clerk, Mr. Westwood, are in their own way equally valuable as members of the team, and a special word of thanks is accorded to them.

The Town Clerk as Chief Executive Officer and all other Chief Officers have always been available to advise and assist on numerous occasions, and their help is invaluable and much appreciated.

Finally, the County Medical Officer, Dr. Langford, and his Deputy, Dr. Young, as in previous years, have been ever ready to give support whenever consulted, and their opinions and experience are of great assistance. In this connection, the meetings from time to time of the County District Medical Officers in East Sussex, with Dr. Langford in the Chair, enable us to exchange views and to discuss problems to our mutual benefit and that of the community as a whole.

The Press once again have co-operated fully and give valuable publicity when required, and a special "thank you" is due to them.

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

R. J. TOLEMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1953.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,015 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,590
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,466
Number of inhabited flats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,493
Rateable Value as at 31st March, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£383,332
General Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19s. 6d. in £
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,531 19s. 4d.

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 1952 :

Meteorological observations at Bexhill were carried on throughout the year 1952. Daily telegraphic reports and monthly returns were transmitted to the Meteorological Office, Air Ministry, and information was supplied to the press, and to various inquirers. During the year the Station was inspected by a representative of the Meteorological Office and the instruments tested with official standards. A certificate of approval was issued by the Director.

The duration of sunshine for the year was 1,801.1 hours (normal 1,812.3 hours). January, with a duration of 104.2 hours, was a notably sunny month ; in April and June the sunshine durations were also substantially above normal. March, with a total of 84.9 hours was notably dull, and in August and September the sunshine amounts were much below the average.

The rainfall for the year, 29.74 inches, exceeded the normal by one inch. The wettest months were September and November, each with totals exceeding 4 inches. July was a very dry month with a meagre fall of 0.64 inches (normal 2.29 inches).

The mean temperature for 1952 was 50° (normal 50.2°). The summer months provided no lengthy spells of hot weather ; the maximum temperature for the year, 82°, was attained on July 1st. September was a cold month in relation to normal, and November was very cold with an early onset of wintry conditions.

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	118	115	233
Illegitimate	3	7	10
Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (Comparability Factor 1.22 ; adjusted Birth Rate)	—	—	9.45
Stillbirths : Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Rate per 1,000 population	—	—	.27
Deaths	188	225	413
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	—	—	16.13
(Comparability Factor 0.65 ; adjusted Death Rate	—	—	10.48
Deaths from puerperal causes	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :			
Legitimate	4	6	10
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age	—	—	41.1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	—	—	80
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 188	Female 225
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	3
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	1
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	9
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	22	30
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—
16. Diabetes	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	28	55
18. Coronary disease, angina	32	19
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	2
20. Other heart disease	35	53
21. Other circulatory disease	5	9
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	8	8
24. Bronchitis	7	2
25. Other disease of respiratory system	4	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	22
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	1
34. All other accidents	1	3
35. Suicide	3	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—

TABLE 2
 BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
 MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE-RATES
 FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1952
 (Provisional Figures based on Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns incl. London	160 Smaller Towns. (Resident Populations 25,000- 50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Admin. County
Rates per 1,000 Home Population				
Births :				
Live births	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6
Still births	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.34
	(22.6 (a)	24.6 (a)	23.0 (a)	19.2 (a)
Deaths :				
All Causes	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6
Typhoid and Para- typhoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.31
Influenza	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05
Smallpox	0.00	—	—	—
A c u t e Poliomyelitis (inc. Polioencepha- litis)	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Pneumonia	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.58
Notifications (Corrected):				
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Meningococcal infec- tion	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Scarlet Fever	1.53	1.75	1.58	1.56
Whooping Cough	2.61	2.74	2.57	1.66
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.14
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	8.86	10.11	8.49	9.23
Pneumonia	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.57
A c u t e Poliomyelitis (inc. Polioencepha- litis) :				
Paralytic	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Non-paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.18
Puerperal Pyrexia	17.87 (a)	23.94 (a)	10.22 (a)	30.77 (a)
Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths :				
All causes under 1 year of age	27.6 (b)	31.2	25.8	23.8
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

(b) Per 1,000 related Live Births.

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Intermediate List No. and Cause	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
A115 Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	61	0.09	
A116 { Abortion with toxæmia	13	0.02	1
Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	147	0.21	
A117 Hæmorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	59	0.09	
A118 Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	31	0.04	3
A119 Abortion with sepsis	47	0.07	5
A120 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	138	0.20	

TABLE 3
INFANTILE DEATHS, 1952
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	
Rhesus Incompatibility	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Broncho-Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Cerebral Œdema	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Hydrocephalus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cardiac Failure	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1

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

Ward	Rhesus Incompatibility	Asphyxia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Convulsions	Broncho-Pneumonia	Cerebral Œdema	Hydrocephalus	Cardiac Failure	Prematurity	Total
Old Town	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Egerton Park	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Central	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
St. Mark's	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Sidley	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	3
Sackville	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	10

TABLE 5
AGE AT DEATH—ALL CASES, 1952

	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 ...	4	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	8	30	140	188
Females ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	4	12	20	179	225

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

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

Reference to these facilities are made in the introductory at the beginning of the report, the following are the statistics.

TABLE 7
CALLS, 1952—Three Ambulances

	Local	District, 30 Mile Radius	Casualties	Long Distance	Total Calls	Total Mileage
January ...	89	5	10	2	106	1,807
February ...	95	2	9	4	110	1,677
March ...	95	3	5	2	105	1,371
April ...	116	2	9	8	135	2,185
May ...	96	5	11	6	118	2,558
June ...	101	3	12	7	123	1,658
July ...	93	4	17	4	118	1,805
August ...	142	3	11	6	162	2,351
September ...	141	1	11	6	159	2,295
October ...	132	1	10	2	145	1,252
November ...	120	2	17	8	147	2,161
December ...	138	—	8	3	149	1,422
Totals :	1,358	31	130	58	1,577	22,542

TABLE 8

Year	Local	District, 30 Mile Radius	Casualties	Long Distance	Total Calls	Total Mileage
1948 (July/Dec.)	274	55	49	38	416	8,082
1949	726	12	79	52	869	15,382
1950*	1,041	16	117	59	1,235	18,970
1951	1,222	23	118	65	1,428	20,833

*Two ambulances, January/April ; three ambulances, May/December.

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	108
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	214

Ante-Natal Clinic

Number of expectant mothers attending	75
Number of attendances	168

Dental Clinic

Number of attendances by Mothers	33
Number of attendances by Infants	59

Health Visitors

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

To expectant mothers :

First visits	82
Total visits	128

To infants under 1 year :

First visits	227
Total visits	3,178

To children aged 1 to 5 years	4,751
--------------------------------------	-------

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 ...	11
Number of applications for registration during 1952 ...	4
Homes registered during the year	3
Orders made refusing or cancelling registration	1
Nursing Homes closed down during the year by owners ...	—

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN 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 Statutory area includes the Borough of Bexhill and 7 rural parishes, the water being obtained from three pumping stations and is fed throughout the whole area through 100 miles of mains, and the water supply has been satisfactory both with regard to quality and quantity.

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

During 1952 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 6,362 dwelling-houses and 1,524 flats supplied direct from the public water mains, and in addition there are 118 houses covered by standpipe supplies and 530 metered trade supplies.

In the statutory area outside the Borough there are 802 dwelling-houses and 13 flats directly connected with the public mains, and in addition there are 239 metered supplies.

The average quantity of water used daily during 1952 in the statutory area was 1,236,000 gallons, which represents an increase of 58,000 gallons per day as compared with 1951.

WATER ANALYSIS

Copy of Report on Sample of Water taken on the 14th October, 1952.

High Level

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear and Bright
Colour	...	...	...	...	Nil
pH	...	...	...	...	8.2
Electrical Conductivity	...	...	...	...	375
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	...	...	...	39
Hardness—Carbonate	...	...	...	...	110
Non-Carbonate	...	...	...	...	10
Total	...	...	...	...	120
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.000
Metals	...	...	...	...	Iron : Less than 0.03. (Other metals absent).
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	Trace
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	250
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	110
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Absent
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	...	0.15
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	Absent

Bacteriological Results

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

1 day at 37° C.	...	...	...	1
2 days at 37° C.	...	...	...	2
3 days at 20° C.	...	...	...	5
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	...	...	...	Absent from 100 ml.
Bact. Coli (Type 1)	...	...	...	Absent from 100 ml.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	...	...	...	Absent from 100 ml.

Report

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and free from colouration. The water has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. Its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are very moderate. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These are very satisfactory results ; the water is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

2. Drainage and Sewerage

Approval has now been received for the proposed new sewerage of Turkey Road and the work of construction is in progress. It is hoped that this scheme will be completed in the near future and will result in the removal of cesspool drainage along this road and will also enable a proposed extension to an adjacent Council Housing Scheme to be proceeded with. No serious blockages or collapses to the sewerage system have occurred during the year, and a programme of inspection and dragging of the main trunk sewers has been carried out and the overhaul of all storm-water overflows has been included in this work.

3. Rivers and Streams

There were two instances of serious pollution of watercourses within the area which necessitated action by this Department, and in one instance it was necessary to carry out work in default of the owner. The second case arose from serious pollution due to pig-keeping; this source of pollution has now been totally eliminated, the pig-keeping has also been discontinued.

4. Public Cleansing

The removal and disposal of house refuse carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department has again proceeded in a satisfactory manner. The separation of salvage from the refuse has again resulted in a reduction in the space necessary for disposal purposes and this has enabled the use of St. Mary's tip to be continued for the disposal of house refuse. Arrangements are in hand for the transfer to another site for disposal purposes in the near future. Weekly collections of refuse have been maintained throughout the year, with the addition of twice-weekly collections at Hotels and Schools where this has been requested.

5. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

During 1952, 6,839 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 221 visits were paid to Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. Fifteen notices were served during the year, of which eleven were complied with.

7. Moveable Dwellings

Licensed sites for which 14 licences were granted to operate during the year were also strictly supervised, and in all 52 visits were paid to caravan and camping sites during 1952. Conditions at the licensed sites have been well maintained, and no difficulties have arisen in regard to the proper conduct of the sites. Improvements of a minor character have been requested of the various owners, and these have been carried out without the service of notices.

8. Smoke Abatement

Routine observations were made from time to time of the chimneys serving eight premises within the Borough where smoke or grit emission is likely to arise. There were no contraventions of the regulations.

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

10. Eradication of Vermin

Two 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 106 visits and inspections were made of the furniture and effects of persons to be re-housed 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 found necessary to carry out disinfestation in one instance for bed bugs.

11. Offensive Trades

There are two premises in the area which come within the definition of offensive trades, i.e., two Rag and Bone Dealers. Four visits were made during the year.

12. Fish Frying Premises

Nine visits were paid to the four fish frying premises situated in the Borough. Conditions at the fish frying premises continue to reach a reasonable standard of cleanliness.

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

The Officers of the Department have continued to supervise premises where pig-keeping, poultry-keeping and rabbit-keeping are pursued, and in this connection 39 visits were paid to premises for poultry- and rabbit-keeping, and 62 visits for pig-keeping.

14. Shops Acts

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1920.

Under the Shops Act, 1950, 182 visits were made to shops during the year ; in relation to lighting, heating and ventilation and general sanitation.

Thirty-one notices were served in this connection, of which sixteen 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 in conjunction with visits to factories and shops.

FACTORIES ACTS, 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	22	42	4	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	96	152	9	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	119	194	13	—

† *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 ACTS, 1937 and 1948
2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	5	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	1	1	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	6	6	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	3	7	1	—	—
TOTAL	14	19	1	3	—

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						
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						
Chocolates and sweetmeats						
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.						
Textile weaving						
Lampshades						
TOTAL	3					

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	...	...	42
One-bedroom bungalows	...	...	12

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)	286
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	901
(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	18

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	18
--	----

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	...	14
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	... ..	7
(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

4. Housing Act, 1936

During the year seven complaints with regard to overcrowding were investigated by the Department.

5. Reconditioning of Houses

18 Houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action.

6. Housing Programme

The undermentioned table, supplied by the Corporation Housing Department, sets out details with regard to applications for housing accommodation and the number re-housed at 31st December, 1952.

1. APPLICATIONS

(a) Total number of applications on Housing Register as at 31st December, 1952	...	...	...	...	664
(b) Applications from non-residents	...	...	...	...	97
(c) Applicants working in Bexhill, but living out of the Borough	...	...	...	...	40

2. RE-HOUSED

(a) Total number of families re-housed by the Committee since June, 1945	...	...	...	...	870
(b) Of the above, 86 per cent. have been ex-Servicemen.					

3. THE BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR 1953 is as follows :

- (a) 8 One-bedroom Bungalows.
- (b) 135 Houses.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

A total of 68 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to dealers' premises and dairies during 1952.

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	...	...	...	9

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. Twelve samples were taken, of which one sample was found to be unsatisfactory.

PASTEURISED MILK

This grade of milk continues to be the milk in greatest demand, although the sale of other graded milks has increased somewhat.

There has been no change in the sources of supply. Two pasteurising plants are within the confines of the Borough, and in three instances Pasteurised Milk is obtained from sources outside the Borough. The remaining supplier obtains milk from one of the local plants.

The supplies of Pasteurised Milk have continued to be satisfactory and the standard has been well maintained.

A total of 56 samples of this grade of milk were taken, and only five samples were found to be unsatisfactory.

TUBERCULIN-TESTED MILK

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

(i) Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised)

Twenty-three samples of Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised) Milk were obtained, and upon examination all were found to be satisfactory.

(ii) Tuberculin-Tested (Certified)

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

During the year a total of 113 samples of milk of various grades were obtained, of these only nine, or 7.96 per cent., were found to be unsatisfactory.

(b) Food Poisoning

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning notified during the year, although it is probably true to say that many cases go un-notified owing to their mildness and brief duration.

(c) Food Hygiene

It is encouraging to note that only one small outbreak of Food Poisoning has occurred in Bexhill during the past three years, and there have been none attributed to School Meals or originating at School Canteens. All these latter are under supervision and inspected just as ordinary cafes, restaurants and canteens, etc. Frequent and thorough supervision by the Sanitary Inspectors, either as a routine measure or as a result of complaints—which are, of course, treated as confidential—ensures a high standard of hygiene and cleanliness in most catering establishments, and it is by the help of the public generally that we hope to achieve that 100 per cent. standard.

We again emphasise the value of hot running water, soap, clean towels, good ventilation and lighting of premises, adequate refrigerator and food storage facilities added to the rule that food prepared one day should be consumed that day if possible. Storage overnight of food in over-heated kitchens and larders provides the best possible environment and medium for food-poisoning organisms, while personal cleanliness of food handlers cannot be over-stressed and over-preached on all possible occasions as the most important preventive measure.

TABLE 10
MILK SAMPLES TAKEN

Non-Graded Milk		Graded Milks							
Examined by Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests		Accredited		Pasteurised		Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)		Tuberculin Tested (Certified)	
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
—	—	11	1	51	5	23	—	19	3

TABLE 11

SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO MEAT
AND OTHER FOODS

	lbs.	ozs.	Total weight.	
			lbs.	ozs.
Meat				
Beef	111	10		
Mutton	95	4		
Back Fat	136	0		
Tripe	35	0		
Sausages	14	8		
Turkey	14	12		
Pigs' Feet	39	0		
Liver	15	0		
	<hr/>		461	2
Tinned Meat				
Minced Meat		12		
Veal and Ham Loaf	4	9		
Chicken	7	8		
Chopped Pork	3	0		
Ox Tongue	170	0		
Ham	320	5 $\frac{1}{4}$		
Pork Luncheon Meat	55	12		
Bacon	55	8		
Minced Beef Loaf	3	0		
Braised Kidneys	3	1		
Jellied Veal	116	0		
Luncheon Meat	109	4		
Braised Pork Hearts		12		
Sausages	69	11		
Stewed Steak	60	12		
Rabbit	1	8		
Galantine of Beef	5	0		
Venison	31	0		
Pork Butts	15	15		
Pork Brawn	4	12		
Lamb Tongue	3	12		
Sheep's Tongue		12		
	<hr/>		1,042	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
Miscellaneous				
Sweets	21	8		
Cheese	16	5		
Sago	6	8		
Sandwich Spread	2	12 $\frac{3}{4}$		
Chile Con Carne	13	0		
Prunes	25	0		
Whipping Mixture		11		
Barley Kernels		12		

Miscellaneous—(cont.)

	lbs. ozs.		Total weight.	
	lbs.	ozs.	lbs.	ozs.
Liquid Eggs	14	0		
Edible Oil	18	4½		
Sweet Vanilla Wafers	50	0		
	<hr/>		168	13¼
Tinned Fish	29	2¾		
Fresh Fish	332	0		
	<hr/>		361	2¾
Miscellaneous Tinned Goods	856	12		
	<hr/>		856	12
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			2,890	7¼
			<hr/>	<hr/>

Disposal

Returned to Hastings Depot			461	2
Animal Feeding			2,429	5¼
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			2,890	7¼
			<hr/>	<hr/>

TABLE 12
CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

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

TABLE 13
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		Genuine		Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Milk	—	33	—	33	—	—
Sausage Meat	2	—	1	—	1	—
Whiskey	—	2	—	2	—	—
Ice-Cream	—	2	—	2	—	—
British Sherry	—	2	—	1	—	1
Gin	—	1	—	1	—	—
Salmon	—	1	—	1	—	—
Beef Suet	—	1	—	1	—	—
Marmalade	—	1	—	1	—	—
Coffee and Chicory Mixture	—	1	—	1	—	—
Yoghourt	—	1	—	1	—	—
Yeastrel	—	1	—	1	—	—
Horse-radish Sauce	—	1	—	1	—	—
Welsh Rarebit	—	1	—	1	—	—
Pea Soup	—	1	—	1	—	—
Lemon Juice	—	1	—	1	—	—
Beans in Tomato Sauce	—	1	—	1	—	—

Remarks

The formal sample of Sausage Meat reported by the Analyst as irregular was 6.9% deficient in meat content. The facts were reported to the Ministry of Food with a view to a prosecution. It was decided to caution.

The sample of British Sherry reported as irregular was found to contain sulphur dioxide as a preservative. At the Analyst's request a further sample was taken which was found to be satisfactory in all respects.

Ice-Cream

One-Hundred-and-Thirteen samples were submitted for examination, with the following results :— Grade 1, 42 ; Grade 2, 41 ; Grade 3, 16 ; Grade 4, 14.

In assessing 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 1952, 73.45% satisfied the requirements of Grades 1 and 2, as compared with 72.6% during the year 1951.

Twenty-one samples of ice-cream were taken in order to ascertain the quality of the product which was based on a Fat Content Standard of 4.5% during part of the year and which was increased to 5% later in the year and still remains at that figure. All samples were found to be satisfactory.

Strict supervision is given to premises where ice-cream is handled ; 368 visits for sampling and inspection were paid during the year.

Number of manufacturing premises : 4.

Number of registered retail premises : 107.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

It is a striking compliment to modern therapy that only one case of Measles out of 373 notified and not one case of Whooping Cough was admitted to Hospital during the year.

It is a practice to admit to hospital all cases of Poliomyelitis and Diphtheria when the latter occurs. (Today it is a rarity, and almost a medical curiosity). Admissions of other diseases are advised when they cannot be nursed at home satisfactorily, especially in crowded households, old people, etc., or where one of the parents is engaged in the milk trade or in food handling, etc., or where the disease is complicated by some other condition, e.g., pneumonia, etc. The Infectious Diseases Hospital at Hastings is the Group Hospital, and it can be truthfully said that in spite of difficulties, e.g., shortage of cubicle wards, etc., the standard of treatment and nursing is extremely high and the results uniformly excellent. It must be pointed out that this Hospital caters for a wide area, as well as Hastings and Bexhill.

TABLE 14

Disease	Notifications received	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	21	—	—
Measles ...	373	1	—
Scarlet Fever ...	74	3	—
Pneumonia ...	7	—	—
Erysipelas ...	3	3	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis ...	3	3	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	—	—
Totals ...	483	10	—

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 15

NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED (or re-vaccinated) DURING YEAR 1952

Age at Date of Vaccination	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated ...	167	4	6	2	19	198
Number Re-Vaccinated ...	—	—	12	36	160	208

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

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

Diphtheria Immunisation

Twenty-two sessions for inoculation were held during the year and particulars of the number dealt with at these, including those dealt with by private practitioners, are shown in the following table.

TABLE 16

	Under 5 years	Over 5 years
Number of children who completed the full course during the year	214	26
Number of children who received a reinforcing dose	4	526
Percentage of the child population fully immunised at 31st December, 1952	63.85%	89.6%

Cancer

The number of deaths certified as being due to Cancer was 81—36 males and 45 females—as compared with 82 in 1951.

Tuberculosis

During 1952, formal notifications under the Regulations were received in respect of nine cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and four cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

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

	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary
Death Returns of cases not previously notified ...	1	—
Transfers from other areas	4	—
Cases restored to Register	4	—

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 17

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
5—15	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
45—55	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	1	—	3	1	—	—
Totals	6	3	1	3	4	2	—	2

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of 1952 was as follows :—

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	52	48	100
Non-Pulmonary	7	8	15
	<u>59</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>115</u>

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have pleasure in submitting my seventh annual report covering the year 1952.

In compiling such a report there are several avenues of approach. One can either attempt to cultivate publicity, either by scare headlines or, on the other hand, to give a clear and honest report of the activities undertaken. In the field of Public Health and Environmental Hygiene, Bexhill does not lend itself to the former. The work of a Sanitary Inspector is of a routine character but, nevertheless, one has to apply oneself to the daily problems which arise, with vigour and a great deal of tact. Due to the age groups of the town's population, the officers of the Department have of necessity to integrate a certain amount of welfare work in their duties.

Much of the fruits of the spadework undertaken do not come to the notice of the general public, and do not become apparent because of their confidential nature. As officers of the Local Authority we must at all times endeavour to retain the confidence of the people. Otherwise our work will become harder and progress will be delayed. It is the intention of the officer to be helpful at all times and in every possible way.

Of those activities which the citizen usually connects with a Sanitary Inspector, viz : Drainage, Nuisances, Flies, Food Inspection and Food Hygiene, the details are given in tabulated form either in this report or in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

The problem of drainage and water supply at Pebsham may, to a great degree, be resolved in the very near future, but in the meantime supervision of the cesspools in the area is being undertaken.

In the west, Norman's Bay, with its spread development of the pre-war era, is another problem which will have to be dealt with. During the course of obtaining information in connection with the survey, varied methods of the disposal of sewage and waste water have come to light.

The supervision of Public Conveniences, now one of the Department's activities, brings its small problems, but the Cleaning Staff have undertaken their duties with great interest. The unsatisfactory conditions at Endwell Road and the Downs Arch have yet to be eliminated, but progress in negotiation is being made. When these have been dealt with I would suggest that serious consideration be given to reconstruction or the elimination of the Colonnade conveniences. They are not a good advert for the Town or the Department, being situated as they are, in the shop window, so to speak.

The construction of the Glovers Lane sewer has resulted in four premises being converted from cesspools to main drainage. Considerable progress in drainage conversion work should be made during 1953, when it is proposed to provide a sewer in the Turkey Road area.

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Other sanitary visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	456
Ashes receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	287
Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	140
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Pet Animals Act, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Civil Defence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	422
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	117
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200
Fishmongers, Poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Greengrocers, Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	226
Ice-cream Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	142
Milk Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	112
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	207
Other Food Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	188
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Infectious Diseases and Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	288
Disinfestation, general	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Disinfestation, bugs, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	163
								<hr/>
								6,839
								<hr/>

COMPLAINTS

1948	...	...	...	...	...	633
1949	...	...	...	...	...	735
1950	...	...	...	...	...	837
1951	...	...	...	...	...	842
1952	...	...	...	...	...	830

TABLE 19

Condition of Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Housing Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains and Sanitary Fittings	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Public Urinals	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Accumulation of Refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	367
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Absence of or Defective Sanitary Dustbin	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Smoke Nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Stoving and Disinfection of Rooms, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	118
Beetles, Ants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
								<hr/>
								830
								<hr/>

SANITARY DEFECTS AND NOTICES

TABLE 20

Statutory Notices served during 1952	...	...	...	...	28
Statutory Notices complied with during 1952	...	...	...	...	18
Statutory Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1952	...	...	...	...	10
Informal Notices served during 1952	...	...	...	...	303
Informal Notices complied with during 1952	...	...	...	...	231
Informal Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1952	...	...	...	...	72

HOUSE INSPECTION AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

Eighteen houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action.

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

TABLE 21

Drains entirely reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	15
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	44
New branch drains	...	...	...	...	...	44
Inspection chambers reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	20
Additional inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	...	15
Soil pipes or ventilation pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	...	17
Choked drains	...	...	...	...	...	7
New frames and covers fitted to existing chambers	...	...	...	...	...	15
Defective waste pipes	...	...	...	...	...	6
Additional soil pipes fixed	...	...	...	...	...	15
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	...	41
Choked gullies	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective or overflowing cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective W.C. pans	...	...	...	...	...	13
Defective W.C. seats	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defective W.C. flushing cisterns	...	...	...	...	...	11
Insanitary and defective sinks	...	...	...	...	...	10
Absence of proper sinks	...	...	...	...	...	3
Surround to sink renewed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defective plaster to walls	...	...	...	...	...	39
Defective plaster to ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	45
Defective internal walls	...	...	...	...	...	4

Dampness of walls	26
Dampness, general	14
Defective air bricks	2
Walls requiring cleansing	60
Ceilings requiring cleansing	54
Defective fireplaces and grates	6
Defective chimney flues	3
Defective pointing	20
Defective wash boilers	1
Defective doors and cupboards	6
Absence of ventilated food stores	1
Insufficient ventilation of rooms	8
Defective sashes and frames	31
Defective and dangerous chimney stacks	3
Defective roofs	51
Defective yard paving	11
Absence of paved approach	1
Defective water supply pipes	1
Dustbins provided	30
Keeping of animals	2
Accumulation of refuse/manure	10
Vermin	11
Dirty floors	13
Defective R.W. pipes	10
Defective eaves gutters	11
Defective floors	33
Defective sills	4
Overgrown land	9
Miscellaneous	155
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	973
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TABLE 22
ARTICLES DISINFECTED OR DESTROYED, 1952

Articles	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Wearing App'rel	4	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	9
Uniform Cloth'g	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bed Covers ...	2	—	2	3	1	—	—	5	1	2	—	1	17
Mattresses ...	1	6	9	8	4	—	7	6	2	5	2	3	53
Feather Beds ...	2	1	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	3	1	1	12
Eiderdowns ...	2	—	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	15
Bolsters ...	1	—	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	9
Pillows ...	7	8	33	21	8	18	—	9	8	13	2	10	137
Pillow Slips ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Blankets ...	3	1	16	6	4	23	—	18	3	12	—	10	96
Sheets ...	3	—	2	1	3	—	—	8	—	5	2	5	29
Miscellaneous	12	9	27	19	8	—	—	7	1	7	—	23	113
Totals ...	37	25	98	62	33	45	7	59	15	50	8	56	495

TABLE 23
ROOMS FUMIGATED

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	2	6	21	8	1	—	—	1	2	—	1	1	43
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer ...	1	—	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	—	10
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Tuberculosis ...	1	—	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	5	2	1	15
Chicken Pox ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	4
Measles ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Vermin ...	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	7
Totals ...	6	16	27	17	2	—	—	12	2	8	4	2	96

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

During the year 221 visits were paid to factories, workshops and work-places, 15 notices being served. Eleven notices had been complied with at the end of the year.

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

Factories Act, 1937 :

Section 1.

Accumulation of dirt and refuse on workshop floor	... 1
Dirty walls and ceilings	... 8

Section 2 (a).

Cases of overcrowding	... 1
Absence of Notice No. 46	... 1

Section 3 (2).

Absence of Thermometer in work-room	... 2
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Section 7.

Absence of suitable and sufficient Sanitary Convenience	... 2
Absence of screening to W.C. compartments	... 2
Absence of intervening ventilated space	... 1
Absence of indicative notice on W.C. compartment door	... 1
Absence of door to W.C. compartment	... 1
Absence of artificial lighting in W.C. compartment	... 4
Defective W.C. seat	... 1
Defective W.C. pan	... 1
Defective flush pipe to W.C. pan joint	... 1

Section 42 (1).

Defective wash basin	... 1
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Section 114.

Abstract of Factories Act, 1937, not posted	... 2
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DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Steam disinfection of bedding, clothing and other articles is carried out at the Disinfection Station, situated at St. Mary's Lane, Bexhill.

No. of rooms disinfected	... 96
No. of articles disinfected or destroyed	... 495
No. of visits paid	... 288

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Dwelling-houses and Business Premises

This necessary phase of environmental hygiene has been maintained at a high level of efficiency.

No. of complaints received	Rats	Mice	Total
1952	229	138	367
1951	310	173	483
1950	—	—	545
Total number of visits paid			
1952	2,752		
1951	3,025		
1950	1,985		

Farm Premises

The total number of such premises within the Borough is 28. Special attention has been paid to these premises, and in this connection 17 infestations have been dealt with and a total of 33 visits were made by the Rodent Operator.

Infestations :

- 11 premises treated by the Occupier.
- 4 premises treated by the Council's Rodent Operator.
- 2 premises treated by the staff of the County Agricultural Committee.

Sewers

The annual test baiting of the sewers was carried out ; 83 manholes were baited, being approximately 10% of those in the area, i.e. 854.

The test showed that the sewer system was free from rat infestation.

St. Mary's Lane Refuse Tip

Twenty-five visits were made to the refuse tip at St. Mary's Lane. Five minor infestations were found.

CONCLUSION

The details given in the foregoing report appear over my signature, but are the accomplishment and the result of the efforts of my colleagues and myself.

To Mr. C. E. Lockley and Mr. F. B. Elliott I tender my sincere thanks, also to Mr. H. J. Stentiford.

The Rodent Operator, Mr. D. Evenden has also done much to bring credit to the Department.

To Dr. R. J. Toleman may I extend my sincere thanks for the encouragement he gives. Our relationships are most cordial.

Councillor Mrs. J. O. Alexander has at all times given most willing support to the efforts of the Sanitary Inspectors. May I tender to her and to the members of the Public Health Committee the thanks of myself and colleagues.

W. H. BALL,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

