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BOROUGH OF BEXHILL




*Annual Report*

*of the*

*Medical Officer of Health*

*for the year 1953*



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# BOROUGH OF BEXHILL

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*Annual Report*  
*of the*  
*Medical Officer of Health*  
*for the year 1953*



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# **BOROUGH OF BEXHILL**

## **HEALTH COMMITTEE**

---

*Chairman:*

COUNCILLOR MRS. J. O. ALEXANDER

*Vice-Chairman:*

MR. COUNCILLOR N. J. TRILL

---

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

(MR. COUNCILLOR G. B. COGLAN, M.A.)

MR. ALDERMAN R. F. BOTTING

MR. COUNCILLOR E. CARTER

„ M. P. GRIFFITH-JONES

„ G. H. GOODWIN

„ H. S. MORGAN

„ A. S. J. STEVENS

„ 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.

*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.

*Clerks:*

K. F. Westwood.

H. J. Stentiford.

• Miss N. W. McEvoy.



*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.

E. W. Graham, M.B., B.S.

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

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

*Nurse/Midwives:*

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

Miss J. E. Gorringer, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.

Miss M. A. Cooke, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (reappointed 13th  
September, 1953).

Miss E. Lamb, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (temporary—appointed  
15th October, 1953).

*General Nurse:*

Mr. A. B. Kurn, S.R.N., Q.N.

*Changes during 1953:**Health Visitors and Nurse/Midwives:*

Miss J. E. Hawkins, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (left for health  
visitor's training 13th September, 1953).

Miss I. Nason, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (left for health visitor's  
training 19th April, 1953).

Miss M. A. Cooke, S.R.N., S.C.M. (left for Queen's training  
4th January, 1953).

*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.



## 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 1953, which is arranged in accordance with the instructions contained in the Ministry of Health Circular 1/54, dated 12th January, 1954.

### Staff

There were no staff changes during the year 1953.

### General Standard of Health—Good

There were no major epidemics, but pertussis was prevalent during the early part of the year, while measles cases dropped from 373 to 274. One infant death occurred from pertussis. There were no cases of diphtheria (only one has been notified during the past eight years) which is sufficient testimony to the value of diphtheria immunisation which is now being combined with pertussis immunisation for infants (beginning 1st April, 1954) as part of the County Council's Health Services.

### Vital Statistics

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY

The number of infant deaths fell from 10 to 8 and the infant mortality rate dropped from 41.1 to 32.21 (England and Wales, 26.8). The causes of death are enumerated in Table No. 3. It will be seen that 5 of these deaths occurred in the neo-natal period (i.e. the first four weeks of life), the most vulnerable period of life, and it is obvious that future research into this period will have to be intensified, as 5 of the deaths may be regarded as possibly preventable.

In regard to the death from pertussis, this latter condition was complicated by the presence of widespread acute broncho-pneumonia, which proved fatal in spite of removal to hospital and the modern methods of chemotherapy and antibiotics.

Diphtheria pertussis immunisation was begun in 1954, and it is hoped that all parents will seek and utilise the facilities offered by the County Council through their own family doctor or by appointment through the Bexhill Public Health Department.

Births and birth rate, deaths and death rate, remain approximately the same.

Analysing the deaths, it is seen that 80% were over the age of 65 while the average age at death was 79.3 years (expectation of life: males, 67.06 years; females, 72.35 years).

In regard to the causes, 72 were due to cancer (20%) and 251 due to heart and circulatory disease (59%). The two combined were responsible for nearly 80% of all the deaths during the year, while coronary disease increased from 51 to 63. No deaths were due to childbirth, diphtheria, measles or other infectious disease, with the



exception of poliomyelitis (1), pertussis (1) and meningococcal meningitis (1). Tuberculosis deaths fell from 8 to 3, and this is an indication that the modern treatment is now so effective that cases formerly regarded as hopeless are now responding, while others are being diagnosed earlier with consequently more favourable prognosis (for the latter we have to thank mainly the Mass Radiography Unit, to which reference will be made later.)

### **Poliomyelitis**

Three cases were notified during the year as follows:

1. Woman aged 33 years. Disease contracted abroad whilst on holiday. Bulbar type of paralysis (very fatal); admitted to Isolation Hospital 2nd September, 1953; died 20th September, 1953.

2. Woman aged 27 years. Abortive type with no paralysis; admitted to Isolation Hospital 26th June, 1953; discharged 16th July, 1953.

3. Boy aged 7 years. Slight facial paralysis; admitted to Isolation Hospital 1st October, 1953; discharged 21st October, 1953. Complete recovery.

None of these cases was related to each other.

In all 3 cases complete supervision of contacts was observed for 21 days, and no further cases were notified.

### **Para-typhoid**

One case was notified during the year in a boy, but in spite of thorough and widespread investigation no evidence was found to link it with any local origin. Admitted to St. Helen's Hospital, Hastings, 28th July, 1953, and discharged on 29th August, 1953. Result—complete recovery.

### **Meningococcal Septicaemia**

Child aged three months; admitted to St. Helen's Hospital, Hastings, 21st October, 1953; died 24th October, 1953. This is a virulent type of blood infection that did not respond to treatment.

### **Sanitary Circumstances**

Full details are contained in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report which is sufficient testimony to the thorough and efficient supervision of the environmental aspect of Public Health. I can once again assure the public that this important and essential work is in most capable hands, and makes a large contribution to the high standard of health and cleanliness of the Borough.

### **Infectious Diseases**

Pertussis and measles were prevalent during the first two quarters of the year, the majority being of a mild nature, though causing considerable absenteeism from school.



Pertussis is the more dangerous of the two and, when complicated by respiratory infection such as bronchitis or pneumonia, can be very serious (one death due to pertussis complicated by severe bronchopneumonia occurred as stated during the year, the first for some years). The institution during 1954 of combined diphtheria pertussis immunisation for infants presents facilities for all parents to take advantage of, as diphtheria, if present, is always dangerous, while pertussis is particularly serious in children under the age of one year. Immunisation is best done at three months of age and, when the child reaches this age, parents are notified so that they can attend their own doctor or be immunised by appointment at the East Sussex Clinic.

### Voluntary Agencies

These continue to flourish to assist in the promotion of the Public Health, and I do not need to repeat what was said in my report for 1952. One innovation promoted by the Bexhill Council of Social Service has been the institution of a Foot Clinic for old people, thanks to the co-operation of local members of the Society of Chiropodists; old-age pensioners can now be treated at reduced rates (the Council of Social Service funds providing half the cost). In all, up to the present, 80 old people have received or are still receiving treatment, giving them much relief from minor foot disabilities and making their lives more pleasant and more active. This is a service which is not catered for under the National Health Service Acts, and one which has caused Local Health Authorities considerable worry, because they have no power to undertake or provide such a service.

### Seaweed Flies

During the latter part of the summer and early in autumn most south-coast towns were invaded by the Seaweed Fly (*Coelopa Frigida*). Investigations show that this fly breeds in rotting seaweed and hibernates deep in shingle. It is strictly speaking not a Public Health problem as it does not carry disease, does not bite and is purely a mechanical nuisance. Bexhill did not suffer greatly, but was invaded by a few small swarms windborne from coast resorts west of Beachy Head, which tends to act as a break for seaweed flow and cause it to drift out to mid-channel.

Seaweed is not a problem on the beaches from Hastings to Eastbourne, and the problem of eradication of the Seaweed Fly is bound up with the seaweed problem, which is much greater in West Sussex resorts. Swarms which occurred in Bexhill quickly responded to spraying or wind action, and did not menace the public long. That widespread spraying of the beaches was not called for was the opinion of Medical Officers of Health and Chief Sanitary Inspectors of those resorts least affected, viz. Bexhill, Hastings, Eastbourne, Hailsham Rural District, etc.

At the time of writing, in 1954, there has been no undue prevalence or breeding in Bexhill of this type of fly, concurrent with absence of seaweed on the beaches.



### Mass Radiography Unit

This unit operated in Bexhill during 1st-31st July, 1953, and the following are the details supplied of the findings :

Active pulmonary tuberculosis	..	..	5
Inactive pulmonary tuberculosis	..	..	38
Other lung diseases	..	..	42
Cardio-vascular diseases	..	..	14

Number with active pulmonary tuberculosis: 1.45 (per 1,000 persons x-rayed).

It is gratifying to note that nearly 3,500 people availed themselves of the facilities provided, and consequently active cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (potential and dangerous source of infection) were detected as well as many other lung and chest conditions which could receive appropriate treatment. Early diagnosis means early treatment, which means early cure and arrest.

The unit will be visiting Bexhill again in November, 1954.

Close liaison is maintained between chest physicians, family doctors, tuberculosis health visitors and the Medical Officer of Health in all matters affecting tuberculosis, especially of the lungs, while the housing conditions and standards are under constant survey by the Department to ensure there is no overcrowding, to undertake disinfection and to advise separate beds and rooms for infectious cases.

### Fouling of Footpaths by Dogs

Once again the Department appeals to all animal owners, especially dog owners, to play their part in preventing what in Bexhill is a blot on the high standard of cleanliness, e.g. fouling of the forecourts and footpaths, and to ensure 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 1953.

### 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 Medical Officer of Health, supervision and administration of the

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

### Committees

The Committees responsible for health matters in Bexhill are, with their duties:

#### I. HEALTH COMMITTEE

- (a) Public Health and sanitation.
- (b) Slaughterhouses, dairies, Shops Acts and factories and work-shops.
- (c) Moveable dwellings.
- (d) The mortuary.



- (e) Breaches of Byelaws or Statutes as to matters dealt with by them.
- (f) The service of Notices (other than Preliminary Notices).
- (g) Reconstruction of drains.
- (h) Pollution of streams and watercourses.
- (i) To exercise and carry out the powers and duties of the Council in all matters of urgency relating to the suppression of nuisances and the preservation of public health.
- (j) Sewerage and drainage.
- (k) The collection and disposal of house and trade refuse.

## 2. ESTATES AND PARKS COMMITTEE.

- (a) The care, control and management of the swimming bath.
- (b) The care, control and management of cemeteries.

## 3. WATER COMMITTEE

- (a) The supply of water and management and control of the water undertakings of the Council.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of thanking all members of the staff for their continued and loyal service: Mr. W. H. Ball (Chief Sanitary Inspector) and his colleagues, Mr. K. Westwood (Chief Clerk) and the clerical staff.

The Town Clerk and his deputy have on all occasions been only too willing to help and advise when necessary, and I am most grateful to them.

To the Chairman, Councillor Mrs. J. O. Alexander, and members of the Health Committee I am also greatly indebted for encouragement and support on all occasions.

Finally, one word of thanks to the local Press who have been of great help and assistance on numerous occasions, for the value of good publicity on health matters can hardly be assessed.

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

R. J. TOLEMAN,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*August, 1954*



## SECTION A

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,015 acres
Population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25,700
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,654
Number of inhabited flats	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,520
Rateable value as at 31st March, 1954	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£392,485
General Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20s. in £
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,566 2s. 6d.

### 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 1953:

Meteorological observations at Bexhill were carried on throughout the year 1953. Daily telegraphic reports and monthly returns were transmitted to the Meteorological Office, Air Ministry, and information was supplied to the press, to the publishers of year-books, to local municipal departments, and to various inquirers.

During the year under review the instruments enclosure in Egerton Park was moved to another and better site a short distance to the west. The transfer was approved by the Meteorological Office. The new enclosure, conforming to official standards, afforded satisfactory accommodation for the Dines Tilting Syphon Recording Rain Gauge acquired by the Borough Surveyor's Department, and added to the equipment of the Station.

The year 1953 was remarkably dry, the total precipitation, 22.06 in., being 6.73 in. less than the normal. December, with a fall of 0.83 in. (normal 3.14 in.) was the driest December since 1932, and amounts for the preceding months of October and November were notably small in comparison with the normals. A very dry spell of 34 days extended from 20th February to 25th March. September, for the third year in succession, received an abundance of rain with a fall of 3.21 in. (normal 2.28 in.); it was the wettest month of the year. The duration of sunshine, 1,775.4 hrs. was a little below the average. April and May were sunny months in relation to normal; July was unusually dull.

The mean temperature for the year was 51.3 (normal 50.2). Unusually cool weather was experienced early in June, but high temperatures in the latter part of the month caused the average temperature to be a little above the normal. May, with a mean temperature of 55.6 (normal 52.3) was notably warm, and each of the last four months of the year—especially November and December—had mean temperatures much above the normal.

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	...	...	...	115	116	231
Illegitimate	...	...	...	8	9	17
<b>Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population</b>	...	...	...	—	—	<b>9.60</b>
(Comparability Factor 1.22 ; adjusted Birth Rate)	—	—	—	—	—	<b>11.7</b>
Stillbirths : Legitimate	...	...	...	3	—	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
<b>Rate per 1,000 population</b>	...	...	...	—	—	<b>.11</b>
Deaths	...	...	...	189	237	426
<b>Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population</b>	...	...	...	—	—	<b>16.57</b>
(Comparability Factor 0.65 ; adjusted Death Rate)	—	—	—	—	—	<b>10.8</b>
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :						
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	2	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	1	1
<b>Death rate of Infants under one year of age :</b>						<b>32.21</b>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	29	43	72
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	—	—	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths from Scarlet Fever (all ages)	...	...	...	—	—	—

TABLE 1  
CAUSES OF DEATH

All Causes						Male 189	Female 237
1.	Tuberculosis respiratory	..	..	..	..	2	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	..	..	..	..	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	—	1
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..	—	1
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	—	1
8.	Measles	..	..	..	..	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	1	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	..	..	..	..	8	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	7	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	—	9
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	—	6
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	14	24
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	1	1
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	—	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	35	58
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	39	24
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	11	10
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	26	48
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	5	6
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	2	—
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	6	5
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	8	10
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	4	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	..	..	..	..	6	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	—	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	1	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	1	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	17	17
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	—	—
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	..	1	5
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	2	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	2	1



**TABLE 2**  
**BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,**  
**MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFEC-**  
**TIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1953**  
**(Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns)**

	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	160 Smaller Towns. (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Administra- tive County
Births :	Rates per 1,000 Home Population			
Live births .. ..	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5
Still births .. ..	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38
Deaths :	22.4 (a)	24.8 (a)	21.4 (a)	21.0 (a)
All causes .. ..	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5
Typhoid and Para- typhoid .. ..	0.00	0.00	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria .. ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Tuberculosis .. ..	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24
Influenza .. ..	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15
Smallpox .. ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Acute Poliomyelitis incl. Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia .. ..	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64
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	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever .. ..	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02
Whooping Cough ..	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30
Diphtheria .. ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas .. ..	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12
Smallpox .. ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles .. ..	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09
Pneumonia .. ..	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73
Acute Poliomyelitis incl. Polioencephalitis :				
Paralytic .. ..	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07
Non-paralytic .. ..	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Food Poisoning .. ..	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38
Puerperal pyrexia ..	18.23 (a)	21.33 (a)	12.46 (a)	28.61 (a)
Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Births Live			
All causes under 1 year of age .. ..	26.8(b)	30.8	24.3	24.8
Enteritis and Diar- rhœa under 2 years of age .. ..	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1

(a) Per 1,000 Total (live and still) births.  
(b) Per 1,000 related live births.





TABLE 5  
AGE AT DEATH—ALL CASES, 1953

	Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66-75	76-80	Over 80	Total
Males	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	10	23	69	35	43	189
Females	2	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	3	11	24	61	50	81	237



TABLE 6  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1953 SHOWN BY WARDS

Disease	Ward						Total
	Central	Egerton Park	Old Town	Sackville	St. Mark's	Sidley	
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	22	7	38	34	25	103	229
Measles ..	18	43	25	71	79	38	274
Scarlet Fever..	1	4	15	5	7	30	62
Pneumonia ..	2	1	1	2	3	1	10
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	1	1	—	1	4
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	1	1	3
Men'cal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Paratyphoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ..	45	55	81	115	115	175	586
Tuberculosis Notifications							22
							608

## 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

While the Ambulances themselves are the property of the Local Health Authority, the Service itself is staffed and run by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Bexhill Division, and continues to function efficiently and satisfactorily by the personnel concerned.

**TABLE 7**  
**CALLS, 1953—Three Ambulances**

	Local	District, 30 Mile Radius	Casualties	Long Distance	Total Calls	Total Mileage
January ..	139	2	8	4	153	2,069
February ..	148	—	11	5	164	2,131
March ..	115	2	6	2	125	1,319
April ..	123	1	15	8	147	2,086
May ..	106	1	13	5	125	1,430
June ..	124	6	17	5	152	2,469
July ..	149	1	13	5	168	1,814
August ..	98	—	21	2	121	1,604
September ..	111	2	17	4	134	1,704
October ..	158	2	10	6	176	2,108
November ..	99	1	5	4	109	1,479
December ..	111	5	13	3	132	1,681
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,481</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1,706</b>	<b>21,894</b>

**TABLE 8**

Year	Local	District, 30-Mile Radius	Casual- ties	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
1952	1,358	31	130	58	1,577	22,542

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





## (2) Number of children who attended the Centre during the year and who were born in:

1953	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	116
1952	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	104
1951-48	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	98
Total Children	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	318

## (3) Number of attendances during the year made by children who at the date of attendance were:

(i) Under 1 year of age	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,355
(ii) Over 1 but under 2 years of age	..	..	..	..	..	..	281
(iii) Over 2 but under 5 years of age	..	..	..	..	..	..	180
Total attendances	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,816

Percentage of registered births represented by the number in (1) .. .. . 81

**Ante-Natal Clinic:**

Number of expectant mothers attending	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Number of attendances	..	..	..	..	..	..	156

**Dental Clinic:**

Number of attendances by Mothers	..	..	..	..	..	..	116
Number of attendances by Infants	..	..	..	..	..	..	33

**Health Visitors**

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

To expectant mothers:

First visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	112
Total visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	193

To infants under 1 year:

First visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	234
Total visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,005

To children aged 1 to 5 years .. .. . 4,263

**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 1953	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Homes registered during the year	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Orders made refusing or cancelling registration	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Nursing Homes closed down during the year by owners	..	..	..	..	..	..	—



## SECTION C

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### 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 seven rural parishes, the water being obtained from three pumping stations and is fed throughout the whole area through 110 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 1953 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 6,515 dwelling-houses and 1,598 flats supplied direct from the public water mains, and in addition there are 114 houses covered by standpipe supplies and 569 metered trade supplies.

In the statutory area outside the Borough there are 872 dwelling-houses and 13 flats directly connected with the public mains, and in addition there are 275 metered supplies.

The average quantity of water used daily during 1953 in the statutory area was 1,291,000 gallons, which represents an increase of 55,000 per day as compared with 1952.

## WATER ANALYSIS

Copy of Report on Sample of Water taken on 2nd December, 1953.

### High Level

#### Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Very faint opalescence with very few mineral particals
Colour	...	...	...	...	3
pH	...	...	...	...	8.3
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	...	380
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	...	...	...	39
Hardness—Carbonate	...	...	...	...	105
Non-Carbonate	...	...	...	...	10
Total	...	...	...	...	115
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	1.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.005
Metals	...	...	...	...	Iron 0.08 (other metals absent)
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	Less than 3
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	Absent
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	255
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	105
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Less than 0.01
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	...	0.40
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	Absent

#### Bacteriological Results

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

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

### Report

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, faintly alkaline in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The hardness of the water and its content of mineral and saline constituents are very moderate, and its organic quality is of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.



## **2. Drainage and Sewerage**

The construction of the Turkey Road sewer and pumping station has been completed and will be in operation on the receipt of pumping machinery. A number of properties have already been connected to the sewer and others are in course of being so connected when the use of the cesspools will be discontinued. The second stage of the Council's housing development at Southlands Road has also been connected to this sewer.

The sewer has made land on both sides of Turkey Road ripe for development and proposals for this have already been approved by the Council.

Obstructions to the sewerage system which have occurred during the year have been satisfactorily dealt with and cleansing and dragging of main sewers has been continued.

## **3. Rivers and Streams**

Watercourses throughout the whole of the Borough have been patrolled but no evidence was found of pollution. The main drainage streams at Normans Bay have also been kept under observation.

## **4. Public Cleansing**

The removal and disposal of house refuse, carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department, has proceeded satisfactorily. Weekly collections of refuse have been maintained with twice weekly and special collections from Hotels and Schools where necessary.

The separation of salvage from refuse has continued and has shown a monetary profit in addition to prolonging the life of St. Mary's Tip. During the year no justifiable complaints relating to refuse disposal have been made.

## **5. Sanitary Inspection of the Area**

During 1953, 7,856 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. It is interesting to note that the number of visits paid in 1952 was 6,839.

## **6. Factories, Workshops and Workplaces**

During the year 244 visits were paid to Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. Twenty-one notices were served during the year, of which twenty were complied with.

## **7. Moveable Dwellings**

The popularity of camping and caravan holidays is on the increase throughout the whole country and Bexhill shared in the increase in this type of holiday. The position in the Borough is well regulated and is within reasonable bounds, having regard to the amenities of the Borough as a residential area.

There are 14 licensed sites, to which 69 visits were paid during 1953.

There is no particular aspect which calls for specific mention. Conditions have been well maintained at all the sites. The temporary camping sites set up by various organisations such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, etc., have also been supervised, and in all cases ready co-operation was forthcoming.



Mention might be made of another aspect which comes within the province of Moveable Dwellings, that of the travelling showmen, here also ready co-operation of a very high standard has always been forthcoming. Many other people who undertake camping and caravanning might well take the travelling showmen as a standard for conditions to be aimed at.

### **8. Smoke Abatement**

Smoke abatement does not occupy a great deal of the Department's time. There are eight premises which are kept under observation from time to time, but during the period under review there were no proved contraventions of the Regulations relating to the emission of black smoke or grit.

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

### **10. Eradication of Vermin**

Three complaints were received regarding vermin infestation by bed bugs in respect of one private and two Council premises, and disinfection was carried out by Officers of the Department.

During the year 129 visits and inspections were made of the furniture and effects of persons to be re-housed in Council Houses and requisitioned premises or when the interchange of tenants in Council Houses took place; it was not found necessary to carry out disinfection.

### **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. One visit was made during the year.

### **12. Fish Frying Premises**

Six 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 46 visits were paid to premises for poultry and rabbit-keeping, and 37 visits for pig-keeping.

### **14. Shops Acts**

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1920.

Under the Shops Act, 1950, 385 visits were made to shops during the year in relation to lighting, heating and ventilation and general sanitation.

Fourteen notices were served in this connection, of which twelve 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 .. .. .	21	83	6	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	92	160	12	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises).	1	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> .. .. .	<b>114</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>—</b>

† *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 (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	(7)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .. .. .	8	9	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .. .. .	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient .. .. .	7	8	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .. .. .	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork) .. .. .	2	2	3	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	21	23	3	2	—

N.B. Column No. 4 (Remedied) includes items in respect of which notices were served in 1952.



## OUTWORK

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section III		
	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 prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecutions (8)
(1)						
Wearing apparel { Making, etc. . . . .	3					
Household linen . . . . .						
Lace, lace curtains and nets . . . . .						
Curtains and furniture hangings . . . . .						
Furniture and upholstery . . . . .						
Electro-plate . . . . .						
File making . . . . .						
Brass and brass articles . . . . .	NIL					
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 (1)	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 prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecutions (8)	
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 .. .. .	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 ... ..	94
One bedroom Bungalows ... ..	13

#### 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) ... ..	369
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... ..	902
(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 ... ..	22
--	----

### 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 | 7   |
| (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 6 complaints with regard to overcrowding were investigated by the Department.

### 5. Reconditioning of Houses

22 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 rehoused at 31st December, 1953.

### 1. APPLICATIONS

(a) Total number of applications on Housing Register as at 31st December, 1953	...	...	...	545
(b) Applications from non-residents	...	...	...	82
(c) Applicants working in Bexhill, but living out of the Borough	...	...	...	31

### 2. RE-HOUSED

(a) Total number of families re-housed by the Com- mittee since June, 1945	...	...	...	996
(b) Of the above, 77 per cent. have been ex-Servicemen.				

### 3. THE BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR 1954 is as follows :

- (a) 17 One bedroom Bungalows.
- (b) 86 Houses.

## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### (a) Milk Supply

A total of 84 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to dealers premises and dairies during 1953.

#### REGISTRATIONS

The accompanying table gives details of the regulations 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, 1938-49—REGISTRATIONS:

Certificate of Registration of Dairy .. .. .	4
Certificate of Registration of Distributor .. .. .	16

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

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Pasteurised " .. .. .	8
Dealer's Supplementary Licence in respect of Pasteurised Milk .. .. .	6
Dealer's Supplementary Licence in respect of Sterilised Milk .. .. .	1

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

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested " .. .. .	5
Dealer's Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested " .. .. .	5

#### 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. One sample of non-graded milk was taken and was found to be satisfactory.

#### PASTEURISED MILK

There are two pasteurising plants within the Borough, and in two instances Pasteurised Milk is obtained from sources outside the Borough. The remaining supplier obtains milk from one of the local plants.

During the year 50 samples of this grade of milk were taken and only two were found not to comply with the laboratory test.



### 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-four samples of Tuberculin-Tested Pasteurised Milk were obtained, and upon examination all were found to be satisfactory.

#### (ii) Tuberculin-Tested (Certified)

Thirty-eight samples of this grade of milk were obtained, of which eight were found to be unsatisfactory.

Comment must be made in regard to this particular grade of milk. The unsatisfactory samples occurred during the summer months. Investigations proved that generally the failure was due to the age of the milk and the "bottle-neck" in transport between the place of production and the delivery to the consumer.

During the year a total of 113 samples of various grades were obtained; of these only 10, or 8.85 per cent., were found to be unsatisfactory.

### (b) Food Poisoning

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning notified during the year, although there can be no doubt that many cases of a mild nature are not notified as they quickly respond to treatment.

### (c) Food Hygiene

#### NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA

Type:

Cafes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Wet Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Fried Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Bread and Confectionery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Miscellaneous, including Sweets and Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
<hr/>									
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	225
<hr/>									
Total Shops in Area	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	485

#### NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 14 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

For the manufacture and sale of Sausages or Potted, Pickled or Preserved Food .. .. . 21

No notified outbreaks of Food Poisoning suggest that the standard of cleanliness and hygiene in Bexhill's food catering establishments is high, and many of the routine duties of the Sanitary Inspectors are devoted to ensuring that this standard is maintained. This most

important part of a Health Department's work is well and efficiently carried out, in addition to which members of the general public play their part in reporting conditions which they think require investigation and action by the Department. It is a true saying that a town gets the standard of health and cleanliness it deserves, and so an alert public can ensure that slackness and inefficiency on the part of caterers and cafe, authorities are dealt with promptly by bringing all such instances to our notice. We, on our part, are keen to help and advise on all occasions, with emphasis on soap and hot running water, clean hands, clean towels, good lighting and adequate ventilation.

The two main preventive measures against food poisoning are:

- (i) Scrupulous personal cleanliness of food handlers.
- (ii) No serving of food prepared overnight unless there is adequate refrigeration available.



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)	
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
1	—	—	—	48	2	24	—	30	8

**TABLE 11**  
**SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO MEAT**  
**AND OTHER FOODS**

						Total weight.	
<b>Meat</b>						lbs.	ozs.
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	170	7
Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	39	5
Beef	..	..	..	..	..	507	10
Rabbits	..	..	..	..	..	90	0
Chicken	..	..	..	..	..	8	0
Sweetbread	..	..	..	..	..	17	0
Liver	..	..	..	..	..	9	6
Sausages	..	..	..	..	..	6	0
						<hr/>	
						847	12
<b>Tinned Meat</b>							
Pork Sausage Meat	..	..	..	..	..	2	0
Tongue	..	..	..	..	..	15	2
Steak	..	..	..	..	..	2	0
Minced Beef Loaf	..	..	..	..	..	12	12
Stewed Steak	..	..	..	..	..	33	15
Jellied Veal	..	..	..	..	..	109	8
Luncheon Meat	..	..	..	..	..	57	4
Pork Butts	..	..	..	..	..	9	9
Brisket of Beef	..	..	..	..	..	16	0
Pork Sausages	..	..	..	..	..	80	8
Pressed Beef	..	..	..	..	..	1	12
Pork Luncheon Meat	..	..	..	..	..	39	12
Mincemeat	..	..	..	..	..	14	12
Beef Sausages	..	..	..	..	..	129	8
Sausage Meat (Beef)	..	..	..	..	..	60	0
Ham and Veal Loaf	..	..	..	..	..	2	4
Corned Beef	..	..	..	..	..	43	4
Pork Slices	..	..	..	..	..	16	0
Chopped Pork	..	..	..	..	..	34	8
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	11	4
Pate Chicken Liver	..	..	..	..	..	1	6½
Sliced Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	1	8
Polish Veal	..	..	..	..	..	6	0
Pork Shoulder	..	..	..	..	..	35	1
Curried Ham	..	..	..	..	..	13	8
Sliced Liver	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
Braised Kidney	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
						<hr/>	
						751	9½
<b>Miscellaneous</b>							
Cereals	..	..	..	..	..	30	0
Flavouring Powder	..	..	..	..	..	85	0
Tomato Powder	..	..	..	..	..	22	0
Mashed Potato Powder	..	..	..	..	..	320	0



Cakes and Cake Mixture .. ..	12	0		
Cheese .. ..	36	8½		
Oatcakes .. ..	21	4		
Pork Pies .. ..	4	10		
Dried Peas .. ..	9	0		
Savoury Straws .. ..	2	8		
Gelatine .. ..	52	0		
Margarine .. ..	9	0		
Rice .. ..	15	9		
Butter Beans .. ..	6	0		
Fish Cakes .. ..	3	0		
Gravy Powder .. ..	40	0		
Semolina .. ..	21	0		
Jelly Powder .. ..	21	0		
Whey Powder .. ..	7	0		
Fruit Squash .. ..	112	8		
			829	14½
Tinned Fish .. ..	90	6¾		
Fresh Fish .. ..	282	4		
			372	10¾
Miscellaneous Tinned Goods .. ..			1,377	4¾
Ham: Tinned and Otherwise .. ..			220	0
			4,399	3½
<b>Disposal</b>				
Returned to Hastings Depot .. ..			847	12
Animal Feeding .. ..			3,551	7½

**TABLE 12**  
**CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
All diseases except T.B. Whole carcases 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- cases condemned .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases 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	Number of Samples taken		Genuine		Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Milk .. ..	3	41	3	38	—	3
Ice cream .. ..	—	3	—	3	—	—
Whisky .. ..	—	3	—	3	—	—
Marzipan .. ..	—	2	—	2	—	—
Glass of milk .. ..	1	1	—	—	1	1
Meat paste .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Fish paste .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Marmalade .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Jam .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Malt vinegar .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Apple vinegar .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Malt and butter sweets .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
American candy .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Meat pie .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Sausages .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Fish cake .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Self-raising flour .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Pre-cooked flour .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Tomato juice .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Pepper .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Dried sage .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Froment .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
High protein food .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Glucose powder .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Meat soup .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Strawberries in syrup .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Ruby wine .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Skimmed condensed milk .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Milk loaf .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Butter .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Coffee .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Liquid Paraffin .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cascara sagrada .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Tomato Piquant .. ..	—	1	—	1	—	—

**Remarks**

The three samples of milk shown as unsatisfactory were taken from churns of milk in course of delivery from farms to bottling depots. Two churns contained milk low in fat and the other churn contained milk low in solids, not fat. Further samples were taken and these proved satisfactory.

Legal proceedings were instituted concerning the glass of milk which contained added water and resulted in a conviction and fine of £7 os. od. and £3 os. od. costs.



### Ice Cream

One hundred and ten samples were submitted for examination, with the following results: Grade 1, 38; Grade 2, 54; Grade 3, 13; Grade 4, 5.

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 1953, 83.64 per cent satisfied the requirements of Grades 1 and 2, as compared with 73.45 per cent. during the year 1952.

Fourteen samples of ice cream were taken in order to ascertain the quality of the product, which is based on a Fat Content Standard of 5 per cent. All samples were found to be satisfactory.

Strict supervision is given to premises where ice cream is handled; 417 visits for sampling and inspection were paid during the year.

Number of manufacturing premises: 4.

Number of registered retail premises: 116.

## SECTION F

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The table below summarises the notifications for the year, together with Hospital Admissions (Isolation Hospital, Hastings, now named The Mount Pleasant Hospital).

Notification of Infectious Disease by Practitioners to the Medical Officer of Health is the first step in the control of disease (in emergencies by telephone, more usually by post).

This notification, to be of any value, must be prompt and early in the disease. Unfortunately in diseases such as Measles, and Pertussis, this is seldom practicable as the diagnosis is in doubt for some days, and in the case of Pertussis may never be very clear at all. In the case of Scarlet Fever (Scarlatina) (a mild condition these days and readily responsive to treatment), notification does not take into account Streptococcal Tonsillitis, which is Scarlet Fever without a rash and which is often more severe. It is a matter of some doubt as to whether notification of the above three conditions is of any value to the prevention of the spread, and whether the payment of fees for notification is justified.

Under the Public Health Infectious Disease Regulations, revised and operating from April, 1953, the Medical Officer of Health has the power, in dealing with enteritis and like infections, to exclude carriers as well as actual sufferers of the disease, from any occupation involving food and drink, and he can act on his own responsibility without waiting for the approval of the Local Authority, and thus no time is wasted.

**TABLE 14**

Disease	Notifications received	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	229	2	1
Measles ...	274	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	62	3	—
Pneumonia ...	10	—	—
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	3	3	1
Meningococcal Inf.	1	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	1	—	—
Totals ...	586	8	2

#### **Vaccination**

Eleven 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 1953**

Age at date of Vaccination	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated .. ..	187	6	10	6	17	226
Number Re-Vaccinated .. ..	—	—	8	35	153	196

**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) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—

### Diphtheria Immunisation

Twenty-one sessions for inoculation 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 16

	Under 5 years	5-14 years
Number of children who completed the full course during the year .. .. .	193	12
Number of children who received a reinforcing dose .. .. .	—	510
Percentage of child population who have completed a course of immunisation at any time before 31st December, 1953 .. .. .	62%	92%
Percentage of child population who have received reinforcing doses within the last 5 years .. .. .	—	68%

### Cancer

The number of deaths certified as being due to Cancer was 72—29 males and 43 females—as compared with 81 in 1952.

### Tuberculosis

During 1953, formal notifications under the Regulations were received in respect of 22 cases of 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 .. .. .	1	—
Transfers from other areas .. .. .	8	—

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	9	13	—	—	2	1	—	—

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of 1953 was as follows:—

				Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	...	...	...	57	62	119
Non-Pulmonary		...	...	6	8	14
				—	—	—
				63	70	133
				—	—	—



# Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1953, and in so doing I am tempted to look back beyond the year under review and to peruse remarks made in the seven previous reports that have been submitted.

It is interesting to quote the opening remarks of each year, viz.:—  
1946:

"It is of necessity comparatively brief, due to the fact that I did not commence duties until September. It will therefore be appreciated that much of the work recorded in the report was carried out by Mr. A. C. Horne, Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector."

1947:

"It has been a year of great activity in the Department and every attempt has been made to cover all phases of Sanitary administration.

Particular and detailed attention has been given to the handling of food in shops, cafes and restaurants. It is pleasing to find that the handling of food in the Borough is generally of a high hygiene standard."

1948:

"The Department has made every endeavour to cover all phases of Sanitary Administration, but the anticipated progress has not been made. For a major part of the year the staff were engaged on dealing with the unsatisfactory position which had arisen with regard to the milk supply within the Borough. We can be well satisfied with the progress made in this sphere of Public Health."

1949:

"During the year the activities of the Department were maintained with great vigour and there was no slackening in the endeavours of the Department to deal with all aspects of Sanitary Administration. Indeed it was found that the modern tendency for speed had penetrated to the activities of the work covered by the Sanitary Inspector."

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."

1951:

"Last year I stated the year under review, 1950, had not been an eventful one. To the year 1951 a similar description may be applied in so far as the work of the Sanitary Section goes. The multifarious duties which fall to the lot of the Sanitary Inspector have been undertaken with zest and interest. In the past years it has been possible



to make comment on some highlight of the year's work, but on perusal of the work undertaken I cannot pick out anything outstanding."

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."

During the foregoing years the predominant items were: (a) Milk; (b) Housing Repairs; (c) Welfare Work; and (d) Food.

The year 1953 has not brought forward any particular branch of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors, except perhaps the "scare" of the "Weedies" or Beach Fly, or to give the pest its Latin name, *Coelopa Frigida* or *Coelopa Piliipes*. Patrol and observation of the beach, and operation "Seaweed," did much towards minimising the mild infestation which this part of the coast experienced.

The routine work of the Department has been maintained at a high level.

### **Milk Sampling**

Particular reference must be made to the standard of the milk supply within the Borough. Of the 113 samples taken, only 10, or 8.85 per cent, failed the Laboratory test. This is most satisfactory and is up to average for the country. One interesting fact is that 8 of the 10 samples which failed the test were Tuberculin Tested (Certified)—bottled on the farm.

### **Brucella Abortus: Tuberculosis**

Biological sampling of milk was pursued in conjunction with the Public Health Laboratory Service. Three investigations were carried out at farms in connection with the prevalence of *Brucella Abortus*; 279 quarter samples, involving 70 cattle, were obtained and submitted for examination. Nineteen biological samples were taken and all were found to be negative to the presence of Tubercle Bacilli.

### **Ice Cream Premises**

Manufacture of ice-cream is confined to three premises within the Borough, one of which is a "Cold Mix" process. The bulk of the supply comes from the main combine manufacturers. Conditions of the local factories are most satisfactory.

### **Dustbins**

The provision of dustbins has for the past three or four years been taking up a considerable amount of time in many Health Departments throughout the country. The idea that the landlord must provide



means for the storage of house refuse is an erroneous one. Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, reads:

"A local authority who, as respects their district or any part thereof, have undertaken the removal of house refuse may by notice require the owner or occupier of any building within the district, or, as the case may be, within that part of the district, to provide such number of covered dustbins for the reception of house refuse of such material, size and construction as the authority may approve."

Each case can only be dealt with on its merits as to circumstances existing. The Public Health Committee have given much time and consideration to all the cases coming before them.

During the year one owner appealed against the Council's notice requiring him to provide a dustbin. The appeal was lost and the owner subsequently provided the bin.

### Poultry Keeping

The practice of poultry keeping on Council Estates showed some increase. Each application is considered and the site inspected. Eleven applications were considered during the year.

Whilst it has not been necessary to deal with any cases of nuisance arising from the keeping of poultry on Council Estates, the type of poultry house used is open to criticism. All shapes and sizes are erected—quite a number detract from the amenities of the estates.

### Insect Infestation

From time to time the staff are called to deal with varying species of insects, some of which are not readily identifiable. Mr. Sargent, the Museum Curator, has been most helpful in placing his knowledge at the disposal of the Department.

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

TABLE 18

Houses inspected, P.H.	...	...	...	...	...	...	353
Visits re above	...	...	...	...	...	...	899
Houses inspected, H.A.	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Visits re above	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Water Samples procured :							
(a) Well Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Main Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
(c) Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Smoke abatement	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Rag and bone dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1



Stables and/or piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Poultry/Rabbit keeping	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Factories, mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	160
Factories, non mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Workplaces, general	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Shops Acts, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	385
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	221
Theatres, cinemas, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	354
Drainage, general	...	...	...	...	...	...	711
Drainage testing by :							
(a) Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
(b) Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
(c) Colour	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
(d) Breaking Down	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Other sanitary visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	545
Ash receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	...	437
Works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	209
Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	406
Knackers Yard(s)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	346
Fishmongers and poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Dairies and milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	263
Ice cream sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	154
Milk sampling							
(a) Brucella Abortus	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Methylene Blue	...	...	...	...	...	...	117
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Food and Drugs Act (Registration)	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	164
Other food visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	126
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	201
Infectious Disease and disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	...	376
Disinfestation, general	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Disinfestation, bugs, fleas etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	8



## COMPLAINTS

1949	..	..	..	..	..	735
1950	..	..	..	..	..	837
1951	..	..	..	..	..	842
1952	..	..	..	..	..	830
1953	..	..	..	..	..	804

TABLE 19

Condition of premises	..	..	..	..	22
Housing Defects	..	..	..	..	40
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	6
Dampness	..	..	..	..	18
Water supply	..	..	..	..	2
Drains and sanitary fittings	..	..	..	..	59
Public urinals	..	..	..	..	1
Verminous premises	..	..	..	..	14
Keeping of animals	..	..	..	..	10
Accumulation of refuse	..	..	..	..	9
Rats and mice	..	..	..	..	336
Milk and dairies	..	..	..	..	1
Absence of, or defective sanitary dustbin	..	..	..	..	4
Food premises	..	..	..	..	5
Food	..	..	..	..	67
Movable dwellings	..	..	..	..	1
Smoke nuisance	..	..	..	..	3
Cesspools	..	..	..	..	2
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	44
Stoving and disinfection of rooms, etc.	..	..	..	..	96
Beetles, ants, etc.	..	..	..	..	51
Flooding	..	..	..	..	2
Rehousing: M.O.H.	..	..	..	..	4
Rehousing- Borough Treasurer's	..	..	..	..	4
Overgrown land	..	..	..	..	2
					804

## SANITARY DEFECTS AND NOTICES

TABLE 20

Statutory Notices served during 1953	..	..	..	27
Statutory Notices complied with during 1953	..	..	..	21
Statutory Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1953	..	..	..	6
Informal Notices served during 1953	..	..	..	412
Informal Notices complied with during 1953	..	..	..	342
Informal Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1953	..	..	..	70

## HOUSE INSPECTION AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

Twenty-two houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action.

The following tables show the sanitary improvements effected during the year:—

TABLE 21

Drains entirely constructed .. .. .	1
Drains repaired .. .. .	28
New branch drains .. .. .	4
Soil pipes or ventilation pipes renewed .. .. .	4
Choked drains .. .. .	23
New frames and covers fitted to existing chambers .. .. .	7
Defective waste pipes .. .. .	6
Additional soil pipes fixed .. .. .	3
Cesspools emptied .. .. .	2
Defective or overflowing cesspools .. .. .	20
Defective W.C. pans .. .. .	5
Defective W.C. seats .. .. .	3
Defective W.C. flushing cisterns .. .. .	11
Insanitary and defective sinks .. .. .	5
Absence of proper sinks .. .. .	2
Surround to sink renewed .. .. .	1
Defective plaster to walls .. .. .	26
Defective plaster to ceilings .. .. .	22
Defective internal walls .. .. .	4
Defective external walls .. .. .	1
Dampness of walls .. .. .	22
Dampness, general .. .. .	17
Defective air bricks .. .. .	3
Walls requiring cleansing .. .. .	24
Ceilings requiring cleansing .. .. .	25
Defective fireplaces and grates .. .. .	13
Defective chimney flues .. .. .	6
Defective pointing .. .. .	6
Defective wash boilers .. .. .	1
Defective doors and cupboards .. .. .	9
Insufficient ventilation of rooms .. .. .	1
Defective sashes and frames .. .. .	35
Defective and dangerous chimney stacks .. .. .	2
Defective roofs .. .. .	52
Defective yard paving .. .. .	11
Absence of paved approach .. .. .	1
Dustbins provided .. .. .	120
Keeping of animals .. .. .	7
Accumulation of refuse/manure .. .. .	12
Vermin .. .. .	2



Dirty floors .. .. .	3
Defective rain water pipes .. .. .	4
Defective eaves gutters .. .. .	18
Defective floors .. .. .	28
Defective sills .. .. .	1
Insufficient heating—Shops Act, 1950 .. .. .	18
Absence of intervening ventilated space .. .. .	3
Absence of closet accommodation .. .. .	13
Miscellaneous .. .. .	77
	<hr/>
	712
	<hr/>

TABLE 22  
ARTICLES DISINFECTED OR DESTROYED, 1953

Article	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Wearing Apparel ..	—	1	14	—	8	—	3	2	4	—	76	7	115
Uniform C'ing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bed Covers	—	—	4	—	1	6	3	1	4	1	—	2	22
Mattresses ..	8	4	11	6	8	17	3	7	3	3	3	6	79
Feather Beds	3	1	—	—	4	—	2	2	—	2	1	—	15
Eiderdowns	2	1	—	—	2	—	4	3	2	3	—	2	19
Bolsters ..	2	2	—	—	3	—	2	4	3	2	1	3	22
Pillows ..	17	3	16	—	15	28	22	4	5	24	9	10	153
Blankets ..	5	8	4	—	5	6	7	7	12	11	9	13	87
Sheets ..	—	3	2	—	—	—	5	2	5	3	2	7	29
Miscellaneous	12	1	5	18	91	13	6	5	7	13	12	6	189
Totals ..	49	24	56	24	137	70	57	37	45	62	113	56	730

TABLE 23  
ROOMS FUMIGATED

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	7
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Cancer ..	—	1	6	1	3	—	1	6	—	1	—	1	20
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	3
Tuberculosis	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	1	1	—	9	—	16
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vermin ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Miscellaneous	6	—	8	—	—	—	2	2	2	2	1	—	16
Totals ..	6	2	14	4	5	2	9	11	6	3	14	2	78



## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

During the year 244 visits were paid to factories, workshops, and workplaces, 21 notices being served. Twenty 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:

Dirty floor .. .. .	1
Dirty walls and ceilings .. .. .	3

#### SECTION 7:

Lack of effective and suitable ventilation to intervening ventilated space .. .. .	1
Dirty walls and ceilings to intervening ventilated space ..	1
Absence of suitable closet accommodation for building site for workmen .. .. .	5
Absence of artificial lighting to W.C. compartment .. ..	1
Absence of suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation ..	1
Absence of eaves, gutters and down pipe to W.C. compartment ..	1
Defective roof to W.C. compartment .. .. .	1
Unpaved approach to W.C. compartment .. .. .	1
Accumulation of soil against W.C. compartment wall above damp course .. .. .	1
New W.C. compartment provided .. .. .	1
Absence of intervening ventilated space .. .. .	1
Choked W.C. pan .. .. .	1
Dirty walls and ceilings to W.C. compartment .. .. .	4
Defective wall plaster to W.C. compartment .. .. .	1
Foul pedestal .. .. .	1

#### SECTION 42 (1):

Defective and insanitary wash basin .. .. .	1
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## DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE

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

No. of rooms disinfected .. .. .	78
No. of articles disinfected or destroyed .. .. .	730
No. of visits paid .. .. .	376

## RODENT CONTROL

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

#### Dwelling houses and Business Premises

With the co-operation of the general public still further progress has been made in this sphere of work. Whilst the number of complaints has diminished considerably—336, as compared with 367 in 1952—it does show a marked decrease from the number of complaints received in 1950, viz. 545. The incidence of infestation has also decreased in that most infestations are now of a minor character. Survey of land and premises is carried on continuously.



No. of complaints received	Rats	Mice	Total
1953	222	114	336
1952	229	138	367
1951	310	173	483
1950	—	—	545
Total number of visits paid			
1953	2,293		
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 16 infestations have been dealt with and a total of 16 visits were made by the Roden Operator.

#### Infestations:

- 12 premises treated by the occupier.
- 2 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; 85 manholes were baited, being approximately 10 per cent 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-seven visits were made to the refuse tip at St. Mary's Lane. Five minor infestations were found and treated.

The operation of the tip is most excellent and results in the possibility of rat infestation being kept down to an absolute minimum.

### CONCLUSION

Whilst I have particularised in my report on certain aspects of the work undertaken by the Sanitary Inspectors, I am satisfied that all branches of Environmental Hygiene and Food Inspection have been kept under routine observation. We await with anticipation the new legislation relating to Food and Housing.

May I extend my sincere thanks to my two colleagues, Mr. C. E. Lockley and Mr. F. B. Elliott, and to all other members of the staff. We have all worked together as a team and I feel that something has been achieved.

Problems arise, are dealt with and pass into record. I have at all times been able to discuss such problems with the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. R. J. Toleman. We agree, we disagree, but our relationships are always at the highest level.

To the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Councillor Mrs. J. O. Alexander, may I once again say "Thank you." Your support has been most encouraging and helpful. May I also convey to the members of the Public Health Committee my sincere thanks.

W. H. BALL, *Chief Sanitary Inspector.*



