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BOROUGH OF BEXHILL



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1954



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BOROUGH OF BEXHILL



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BOROUGH OF BEXHILL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

MR. COUNCILLOR N. J. TRILL

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR MRS. O. M. BURRELL

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

(COUNCILLOR MRS. J. O. ALEXANDER, J.P.)

ALDERMAN MISS A. F. CLAXTON

MR. ALDERMAN R. F. BOTTING

„ G. H. GOODWIN

MR. COUNCILLOR H. W. BOSWORTH

„ R. S. BOYES

„ H. G. MORGAN

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. E. J. MYERS

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

R. J. Toleman, M.B.E., (Mil.), M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Eng.)

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

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

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Sanitary Inspectors:

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

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

F. B. Elliott, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A. (Left 4.9.54)

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

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

Miss C. Oomen, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.

Miss L. W. Parks, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.
(appointed 1.7.54).

Nurse/Midwives:

Miss M. A. Cooke, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.

Miss D. A. Jeal, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.
(appointed 27.8.54)

Miss J. E. Ross, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.
(temporary appointment 23.9.54)

General Nurse:

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

*Changes during 1954:**Health Visitors and Nurse/Midwives:*

Miss J. W. Barstow, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.
(left 26.1.54)

Miss J. E. Gorrings, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.
(left 18.9.54)

Miss E. Lamb, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.
(left 31.7.54)

Miss N. W. Spark, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.
(left for Health Visitor's Training 17.9.54)

Tuberculosis:

East Sussex County Council:

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

Venereal Diseases:

Royal East Sussex County Hospital, Hastings:

W. McAleenan, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

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 1954, which is arranged in accordance with the instructions contained in the Ministry of Health Circular 28/54, dated 15th December, 1954.

Staff

Mr. F. B. Elliott, District Sanitary Inspector, left, to our great regret, on 4th September, 1954, to take up the appointment of District Sanitary Inspector at Newton Abbot.

His successor was not appointed during the year and the Sanitary Inspectors Department was thus reduced to two for four months.

General Standard of Health

In spite of the inclement weather which prevailed throughout the Summer and Autumn the general standard of health was good; there were no major epidemics and there was only one infant death (see Infantile Mortality).

No outbreaks of food poisoning were notified, only one case of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) and again no diphtheria cases (only one case has been notified in the Borough during the past 9 years).

Vital Statistics

INFANTILE MORTALITY

But one case (a premature child that lived 1 hour) of deaths of infants under 1 year was registered, giving a rate of 4.21 per 1,000 live births.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

The deaths again greatly outnumbered the births (441 to 237) but while the Bexhill rate remained approximately the same, the corrected death rate showed a fall from 10.8 to 9.36, while in addition the Population Figure showed an increase of 200 (Registrar General's Figures) over that of the previous year, viz: 25,700 to 25,900.

DEATHS

Analysing these (441) it will be seen that 80% of the deaths were over the age of 65 and the average age at death was

Males -71.11 (Expectation of life: Males -67.50)

Females -74.26 (" " " Females: -72.44)

In regard to the causes, 84 (20%) were due to cancer (an increase of 12 over last year's figures) and 261 to Heart and Circulatory disease (60%) an increase of 10 although the percentages remain the same.

Cancer of the lung (affecting principally the male sex) increased from 9 to 14 but deaths from coronary disease remained stationary. There were no deaths from childbirth, diphtheria, measles or any other infectious disease and tuberculosis deaths remained the same, viz: 3.

Poliomyelitis

One case was notified as follows:

A man aged 43 -Partial Paralysis of arms and legs.

Admitted to Isolation Hospital: 14.2.54.

Discharged from Isolation Hospital: 6.3.54.

Complete recovery.

Other Infectious Diseases

Comparison with last year's figures shows the following:

Measles -13 as against 274 (Epidemics of Measles occur alternate years); Pertussis -103 (229); Scarlet Fever -30 (62); Puerperal Pyrexia -10 (4). This latter increase is due to the fact that notifications now require only one rise of temperature to 1000 in 2 weeks as against two formerly. It will be interesting to watch the Pertussis notification figures during the next few years, as during 1954 Diphtheria/Pertussis Immunisation commenced and 193 children (mostly infants) received injections. A reduction in incidence and severity of this distressing disease will be most welcome.

Sanitary Circumstances

Full details will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's section of the report and once again in spite of being short handed for 4 months during the year, it is a pleasure to be able to testify to the high standard that Mr. Ball and his colleagues maintain in the environmental field of Public Health.

Voluntary Agencies

Bexhill is fortunate in the Voluntary Agencies, viz: Association of Bexhill Citizens, British Red Cross Society, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Council of Social Services, Women's Voluntary Services, Rotary, Round Table, etc. whose members are active in many of the fields of preventive medicine and whose example and teaching do much to spread the gospel of Public Health and Hygiene in our community and provide services which the Welfare State in its wisdom has not attempted to encroach upon, e.g. Home Helps, Baby Sitting, teaching of First Aid, Citizens Advice Bureau, lectures and discussions on all Health matters, Youth activities etc.

The Old People's Foot Clinic Service for old people continues to flourish under the guidance of the Bexhill Council of Social Service, with very willing co-operation from members of the Society of Chiropodists. Numerous expressions of gratitude from old people who have received treatment is sufficient testimony to its value as one of the Health Services not catered for under the National Health Service Act.

Seaweed Flies

There was no nuisance from this source during the year which indicates that the presence of seaweed is the greatest contributory factor together with the peculiar climatic conditions prevalent in 1953 and which did not recur in 1954.

Bexhill is indeed fortunate that seaweed presents no such problem as occurs in other areas on the South Coast and such accumulations as occur are quickly dealt with by the Borough Surveyor's Department.

Mass Radiography Unit

This unit operated in Bexhill during 26th October to 14th November, 1954, and the following are the details supplied of the findings :

Active pulmonary tuberculosis	..	..	7
Inactive pulmonary tuberculosis	..	..	49
Other lung diseases	..	..	42
Cardio-vascular diseases	..	..	24

Number with active pulmonary tuberculosis: 2.5 (per 1,000 persons x-rayed).

It is gratifying to note that nearly 2,847 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 Spring, 1956.

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.

General Practitioner Services

The administration of the General Practitioner Services (Family Doctor) is not the responsibility of the Local Authority (Bexhill Borough) nor of the Local Health Authority (East Sussex County Council) but the function of the East Sussex Local Executive Committee which organises the Service (together with Dental and Pharmaceutical Services) in the East Sussex Area. It is however a service with which the Health Department is closely linked and it is fitting that a tribute should be paid to the high standard of the Service in Bexhill and for which the general public should congratulate themselves. I think the reasons are two (a) that Bexhill and district being a most attractive area for residential purposes, competition to be a Family Doctor in this area is keen and severe; (b) More important still, half of the Bexhill Hospital beds are "General Practitioner beds," that is, doctors send in their cases and then investigate and treat them under the best modern conditions. (All Bexhill Doctors are members of the Hospital Staff).

Consultant and other services are readily available and those patients that have to be admitted remain under their own family doctors who know and understand their private and domestic problems and difficulties, great factors in curative as well as preventive medicine. In turn, the attendance at the Hospital of necessity implies a higher standard of medical knowledge and technique all round and Bexhill can congratulate itself at being one of the few, or I should say the very few, towns or areas with its own General Practitioner Hospital.

Fouling of Footpaths by Dogs

Once again and with greater emphasis, the Department implores dog owners, etc. 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 1954.

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 workshops.
- (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 to thank the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. H. Ball, and his colleagues, Mr. K. Westwood, Chief Clerk and the clerical staff for their continued loyalty and support and for excellent teamwork on all occasions.

To the Chairman, Councillor N. J. Trill and members of the Health Committee, I am indebted for their constant interest and encouragement while the Town Clerk, in particular, and my fellow Chief Officials have been most helpful on all occasions that I have sought their advice and assistance.

The local Press, as usual, have helped in securing publicity whenever required and a special thank you is accorded to them.

R. J. TOLEMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1955.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,015 acres
Population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25,900
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,891
Number of inhabited flats	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,555
Rateable value as at 31st March, 1954	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£402,475
General Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21s. 6d. in £
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,591 11s. 2d.

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 1954:

Meteorological observations at Bexhill were carried on throughout the year 1954. 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.

The Station was inspected and the instruments tested with official standards by a representative of the Meteorological Office, and a certificate of approval was issued by the Director.

The year 1954 was notably deficient in sunshine, the total duration, 1570.2 hrs., being 242 hrs., less than the normal. The sunniest month was April (219.3 hrs.), while June (179.9 hrs.) and July (153.6 hrs.) were remarkably dull.

The rainfall for the year, 33.12 in., was 4.40 in., in excess of the normal, and each of the holiday months of June, July, August and September, received a surplus of rain in relation to normal. On four occasions during the year the daily amount of precipitation closely approached or exceeded 1 in., and on 10 other days exceeded $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

The mean temperature for the year was 50.2° (normal 50.6°). The summer months were cool, and July had the lowest mean temperature (58.7°) on local record. August, too, was unusually cool (mean temperature 59.9°), although on one day it rendered the maximum temperature for the year of 76° . A notably cold spell was experienced in January and extended into February. Snow occurred on four days, day temperatures were frequently below freezing point, and there were severe ground frosts. December was a remarkably mild month, the mean temperature 45.8° being 4.2° 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	...	...	...	108	109	217
Illegitimate	...	...	...	7	13	20
Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	...	...	—	—	9.15
(Comparability Factor 1.30 ; adjusted Birth Rate)—						11.8
Stillbirths : Legitimate	...	...	..	1	7	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	1	2
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	—	—	.38
Deaths	...	...	...	187	254	441
Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	...	...	—	—	17.02
(Comparability Factor 0.55 ; adjusted Death Rate)—						9.36
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :						
Legitimate	...	...	...	—	1	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Death rate of Infants under one year of age :						4.21
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...		43	41	84
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...		—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...			—	—	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths from Scarlet Fever (all ages)	...			—	—	—

TABLE 1
CAUSES OF DEATH

All Causes							Male 187	Female 254
1.	Tuberculosis respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
8.	Measles	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	..	..	..	..	..	5	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	12	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	..	—	14
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	..	26	23
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	..	25	72
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	..	40	24
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	1	10
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	24	50
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	..	4	11
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	8	8
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	5	—
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	..	4	4
26.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	6	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	..	—	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	..	11	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	..	9	16
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	2	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	..	—	—

TABLE 2
INFANTILE DEATHS, 1954. 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	
Prematurity	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1

TABLE 3
INFANTILE DEATHS SHOWN BY CAUSES OF DEATH AND WARD
DISTRIBUTION

Ward	Prematurity	Total
Sidley	1	1

TABLE 4
AGE AT DEATH—ALL CASES, 1954

	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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	13	31	54	24	60	187
Females	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	10	26	61	53	97	254

TABLE 5
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1954 SHOWN BY WARDS

Disease	Ward						Total
	Central	Egerton Park	Old Town	Sackville	St. Mark's	Sidley	
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	5	22	19	21	4	32	103
Measles ..	4	—	—	2	6	1	13
Scarlet Fever..	6	1	3	2	4	14	30
Pneumonia ..	—	1	1	1	—	2	5
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	2	1	1	5	10
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals ..	15	25	25	28	15	56	164
Tuberculosis Notifications							12
							176

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 6
CALLS, 1954—Three Ambulances

	Local	District, 30 Mile Radius	Casualties	Long Distance	Total Calls	Total Mileage
January ..	137	5	7	4	146	1,660
February ..	176	5	8	2	183	1,583
March ..	133	5	5	7	145	1,638
April ..	111	3	12	6	120	1,534
May ..	116	3	8	6	125	1,701
June ..	130	4	10	9	143	2,095
July ..	174	5	14	7	186	1,940
August ..	218	3	26	1	222	1,998
September ..	177	—	11	12	189	1,818
October ..	147	—	9	3	150	1,323
November ..	131	—	8	1	132	1,033
December ..	148	2	13	2	152	1,379
TOTALS	1,798	35	131	60	1,893	19,702

TABLE 7

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
1953	1,481	23	149	53	1,706	21,894

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

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

1954	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	119
1953	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	105
1952-49	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	95

Total Children	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319

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

(i) Under 1 year of age	..	..	..	..	..	1,389
(ii) Over 1 but under 2 years of age	..	..	..	..	..	255
(iii) Over 2 but under 5 years of age	..	..	..	..	..	166
						—
Total attendances	..	..	..	..	..	1,810

Percentage of registered live births represented by the number in (1)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	89

Ante-Natal Clinic:

Number of expectant mothers attending	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Number of attendances	..	..	..	..	..	..	106

Dental Clinic:

Number of attendances by Mothers	..	..	..	..	..	..	125
Number of attendances by Infants	..	..	..	..	..	..	38

Health Visitors

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

To expectant mothers:

First visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	95
Total visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	154

To infants under 1 year:

First visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	231
Total visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,647

To children aged 1 to 5 years 4,367

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 1954	..	..	—
Homes registered during the year	..	..	—
Orders made refusing or cancelling registration	..	..	—
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 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 1954 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 6,688 dwelling-houses and 1,675 flats supplied direct from the public water mains, and in addition there are 114 houses covered by standpipe supplies and 584 metered trade supplies.

In the statutory area outside the Borough there are 901 dwelling-houses and 17 flats directly connected with the public mains, and in addition there are 297 metered supplies.

The average quantity of water used daily during 1954 in the statutory area was 1,335,000 gallons, which represents an increase of 44,000 per day as compared with 1953.

WATER ANALYSIS

Copy of Report on Sample of Water taken on 2nd June, 1954.

High Level

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Bright with very few mineral particals
Colour	...	...	...	...	Nil
pH	...	...	...	...	8.3
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	...	365
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	...	...	...	41
Hardness—Carbonate	...	...	...	...	105
Non-Carbonate	...	...	...	...	10
Total	...	...	...	...	115
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.6
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.005
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.005
Metals	...	...	...	...	Iron. Less than 0.03 (other metals absent)
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	Less than 3
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	Absent
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	245
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	105
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Less than 0.01
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	...	0.20
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	Absent

Bacteriological Results

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

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

Report

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The hardness of the water and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution 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 Turkey Road sewer and pumping station has been put into operation during the year and has opened up large parcels of land for development in this area which is being rapidly utilised. Thirteen properties in Turkey Road, formerly on cesspool drainage, have now been connected to the sewer.

Schemes for the drainage of Pebsham and for surface water drainage in the westerly part of the Borough have been prepared and submitted to the Minister for approval and an investigation of these schemes has been carried out by one of the Minister's Engineering Inspectors.

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

3. Rivers and Streams

Several minor cases of stoppage and silting have been dealt with but recourse to formal action has not been necessary.

4. Public Cleansing

The removal and disposal of house refuse, carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department, has proceeded satisfactorily and a new refuse freighter has been put into operation. 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 to show a profit in addition to extending the life of St. Mary's Tip. The costs of controlled tipping have been materially reduced by a redistribution of labour without any reduction in the efficiency of the method and no justifiable complaints relating to this operation have been made.

5. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

During 1954, 7,316 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 198 visits were paid to Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. Eleven notices were served during the year, of which all were complied with.

7. Moveable Dwellings

Bexhill continued to be a popular rendezvous for caravan and camping holidays. An apparent increase in the numbers visiting the Borough for this type of holiday was noticed.

There are 14 licensed sites giving accommodation for 188 caravans and 224 tents.

Specific reference may be made to one site at Normans Bay, i.e., the West Site, which is only occupied for a short period giving a seaside holiday to boys from certain of the London Districts, under the auspices of a Church Organisation. Accommodation is solely under canvas and of a very temporary nature.

Great care has to be given to the Sanitary arrangements and particularly food preparation. The usual routine inspections of fairs and circuses have been carried out and the usual high standard was found.

8. Smoke Abatement

Increased activity in connection with atmospheric pollution was necessary owing to a nuisance alleged to be arising from the Glyne Gap Works of the South Eastern Gas Board. This necessitated 28 visits at varying hours of the day and night. The observations made did not substantiate the alleged nuisance and it was found that all practical steps had been taken within the industry.

In all a total of 45 visits were made in connection with atmospheric pollution.

9. Swimming Baths and Pools

This important aspect of Public Health was undertaken during the bathing season and 18 samples were taken of bath water and submitted for analysis. All of which were satisfactory.

10. Eradication of Vermin

One complaint was received regarding vermin infestation by bed bugs in respect of one private premise. Disinfestation was carried out by Officers of the Department.

In connection with rehousing in Council Houses, 103 visits were paid and the furniture and effects were inspected prior to rehousing.

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

This class of premises was kept under routine observation throughout the year.

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 16 visits were paid to premises for poultry and rabbit-keeping, and 22 visits for pig-keeping.

14. Shops Acts

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1920.

Under the Shops Act, 1950, 206 visits were made to shops during the year in relation to lighting, heating and ventilation and general sanitation.

Eight notices were served in this connection, of which seven 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	27	61	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	93	124	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises).	7	12	6	—
TOTAL	127	197	11	—

† 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 (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	6	6	—	—	—
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	2	—	—	—
TOTAL	12	12	—	—	—

OUTWORK

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)
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> Wearing apparel { Household linen Lace, lace curtains and nets Curtains and furniture hangings Furniture and upholstery Electro-plate File making Brass and brass articles Fur pulling Iron and steel cables and chains Iron and steel anchors and grapnels Cart gear Locks, latches and keys Umbrellas, etc. Artificial flowers Nets, other than wire nets </div> <div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">5</div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto; width: 50px;"></div> </div> </div>	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

OUTWORK—continued
(Sections 110 and 111)

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

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	48
One bedroom Bungalows	17

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)	378
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... ..	908
(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	17

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	17
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

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	5	
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	5	
(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 5 complaints with regard to overcrowding were investigated by the Department.

5. Reconditioning of Houses

17 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, 1954.

1. APPLICATIONS

(a) Total number of applications on Housing Register as at 31st December, 1954	...	...	...	562
(b) Applications from non-residents	...	...	...	46
(c) Applicants working in Bexhill, but living out of the Borough	...	...	...	20

2. RE-HOUSED

(a) Total number of families re-housed by the Committee since June, 1945	...	...	...	1,099
(b) Of the above, 80 per cent. have been ex-Servicemen.				

3. THE BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR 1955 is as follows :

- (a) 4 One bedroom Bungalows.
- (b) 36 Houses.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

A total of 86 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to dealers premises and dairies during 1954.

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	21

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

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Pasteurised "	13
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 "	10
Dealer's Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested "	5

Pasteurised Milk

There has been no change in the premises dealing with this commodity. During the year there have been two plants operating within the Borough and two sources of supply of milk were treated at plants outside the Borough. The remaining supplier obtains milk from one of the local pasteurising plants.

During the year 51 samples of this milk were taken and all complied with the laboratory tests.

Tuberculin-Tested Milk

There are 10 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-nine samples of this grade of milk were obtained, of which four were found to be unsatisfactory.

Subsequent comment was made on this grade of milk in the Annual Report for 1953 and reference was made to the "bottle-neck" occurring between the production and delivery to the consumer. Some improvement was effected on this particular aspect. The transport and handling of milk varies from time to time following upon new contracts between Producers, Wholesalers and Retailers, with a consequent change in sources of supply. Some slight improvement is borne out by the figures shown above, in that whereas last year 38 samples were taken and of these 8 were found to be unsatisfactory, this year 39 samples were taken of which only 4 were found to be unsatisfactory.

The total number of samples of various grades of milk taken during the year was 114 as compared with 113 of last year. Only 4 samples, or 3.5%, were found to be unsatisfactory. A most satisfactory position.

(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	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Wet Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Fried Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Bread and Confectionery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Miscellaneous, including sweets and Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	228

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

What has been said on previous occasions again needs emphasising in spite of the absence of any Food Poisoning outbreaks, viz:

- (a) scrupulous cleanliness on the part of food handlers and all
- (b) adequate refrigeration space in all hotels, cafes, restaurants, etc.

Over and over again it has been demonstrated that the food, if not consumed on the day of preparation, should be kept in a refrigerator or a cool food store overnight before being served the following day.

Once again the public are asked to co-operate with the Department by reporting to us forthwith any departure from a high standard of cleanliness and indeed anything to which they take exception at any food store, hotel, cafe or restaurant. Prompt investigation and action by Health Officials can not only prevent food poisoning but also maintain that high standard of hygiene to which the Public are entitled and which they have the right to expect.

TABLE 9
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
—	—	—	—	51	—	24	—	35	4

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

Meat						lbs.	ozs.	Total weight.	
						lbs.	ozs.	lbs.	ozs.
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	80	0		
Beef	..	..	..	..	..	260	14		
Liver	..	..	..	..	..	36	8		
Turkey	..	..	..	..	..	31	0		
Rabbits	..	..	..	..	..	86	0		
Sausages	..	..	..	..	..	111	8		
						<hr/>		605	14
Tinned Meat									
Pork Luncheon Meat	..	..	..	..	..	74	12		
Braised Kidney	..	..	..	..	..		12		
Ox Tongue	..	..	..	..	..	22	8		
Beef Loaf	..	..	..	..	..		12		
Beef Steak Slices	..	..	..	..	..	3	12		
Mincemeat	..	..	..	..	..	1	8		
Stewed Steak	..	..	..	..	..	8	0		
Minced Beef Loaf	..	..	..	..	..	5	2		
Mixed Luncheon Meat	..	..	..	..	..		12		
Jellied Veal	..	..	..	..	..	96	0		
Lunch Tongue	..	..	..	..	..	30	0		
Corned Beef	..	..	..	..	..	158	9		
Pure Pork	..	..	..	..	..	2	0		
Steak and Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	1	0		
Luncheon Meat	..	..	..	..	..	8	12		
Steak Pudding	..	..	..	..	..	2	0		
Cooked Pressed Beef	..	..	..	..	..	4	0		
Beef Sausages	..	..	..	..	..	23	8		
Calves Tongues	..	..	..	..	..	21	0		
Irish Beef	..	..	..	..	..	1	0		
Beef and Veal Loaf	..	..	..	..	..	3	5		
Corned Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	50	4		
Pork Lunch Tongue	..	..	..	..	..	12	0		
Pork and Beef	..	..	..	..	..	1	8		
Meat and Gravy	..	..	..	..	..	1	4		
Meat Loaf	..	..	..	..	..	3	12		
Mutton Dripping	..	..	..	..	..	3	8		
Beef and Pork Mixed Dripping	..	..	..	..	..	17	4		
						<hr/>		558	8
Miscellaneous									
Cheese	..	..	..	..	..	11	8		
Biscuits	..	..	..	..	..	20	15		
Tea	..	..	..	..	..		4		
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	1	7		
Sponge Mixture	..	..	..	..	..	1	10		

Cereals	4	9½		
Fruit Squash	8	12		
Barley Water		14		
Cake	18	2		
Bournvita		8		
Nuts	2	8		
	<hr/>		71	1½
Tinned Fish	6	10¾		
Fresh Fish	364	0		
	<hr/>		370	10¾
Miscellaneous Tinned Goods			767	3¼
Ham: Tinned and Otherwise			160	1
			<hr/>	
			2,533	6½
Disposal				
Returned to Hastings Depot			183	8
Animal Feeding and Manufacturing Purposes			2,349	14½
			<hr/>	
			2,533	6½
			<hr/>	

TABLE 11
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 12
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Adulteration

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

Article	Number of Samples taken		Genuine		Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Milk	—	51	—	47	—	4
Milk (Channel Islands)	—	3	—	3	—	—
Ice cream	—	4	—	4	—	—
Pork Sausages	2	2	—	1	—	1
Beef Sausages	—	1	—	1	—	—
Dripping	—	2	—	1	—	1
Pineapple Slices	—	2	—	1	—	1
Margarine	—	2	—	2	—	—
Fish paste	—	1	—	1	—	—
Meat paste	—	1	—	1	—	—
Liquorice novelties	—	1	—	1	—	—
Ground Rice	—	1	—	1	—	—
Malt vinegar	—	1	—	1	—	—
Mayonnaise	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cheese Spread	—	1	—	1	—	—
Tea	—	1	—	1	—	—
Jam and Cream Roll	—	1	—	1	—	—
Lemon Curd	—	1	—	1	—	—
Lamb Pasties	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cream	—	1	—	1	—	—
Pure ground almonds	—	1	—	1	—	—
Tomato ketchup	—	1	—	1	—	—
Currants	—	1	—	1	—	—
Sultanas	—	1	—	1	—	—
Whisky	—	1	—	1	—	—
Horseradish	—	1	—	1	—	—
Maralyn	—	1	—	1	—	—
Coffee Extract	—	1	—	1	—	—

The four samples of milk shown as unsatisfactory were taken from churns of milk in course of delivery from farms to bottling depots. Two contained milk low in fat and two milk low in solids not fat. Further samples were taken and these were satisfactory.

The unsatisfactory sample of dripping was reported by the Public Analyst to be rancid. A further visit showed that no more dripping was stored or for sale.

The informal adulterated sample of pork sausages was reported by the Public Analyst to be 21.5% deficient in meat content. A formal sample was taken which was satisfactory. Further samples are being taken from time to time.

The unsatisfactory sample of pineapple slices was found by the Public Analyst to have a slight odour of amyl butyrate. A further test of this brand was satisfactory.

Proceedings were taken by the County Council against a firm of butchers for supplying to the School Meals Centre, sausage which was unfit for human consumption (it contained a finger bandage). A fine of £25 was imposed and costs of 15 guineas awarded.

Ice Cream

One hundred and sixteen samples were submitted for examination, with the following results: Grade 1, 61; Grade 2, 50; Grade 3, 4; Grade 4, 1.

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 1954, 95.69 per cent satisfied the requirements of Grades 1 and 2, as compared with 83.64 per cent. during the year 1953.

Eighteen 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; 287 visits for sampling and inspection were paid during the year.

Number of manufacturing premises: 4.

Number of registered retail premises: 123.

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).

It will be seen that the town was reasonably free from Infectious Disease during the year and that only one case of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) was notified, although 4 cases were admitted to Hospital as suspected cases but the diagnosis was not confirmed.

TABLE 13

Disease	Notifications received	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	103	—	—
Measles ...	13	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	30	—	—
Pneumonia ...	5	—	—
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	10	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	1	5*	—
Totals ...	164	5	—

* 4 cases for observation, diagnosis not confirmed.

Vaccination

Eleven public sessions of Vaccination were held during the year (they were held on the 1st Wednesday in the month at the East Sussex Clinic, London Road, at 2.30 p.m.). The following table gives particulars of the number vaccinated and revaccinated at the Clinic and by General Practitioners. It is gratifying to note that 180 children under the age of 1 (76%) were vaccinated during the year (England and Wales average under 40%).

TABLE 14

NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED (or re-vaccinated) DURING YEAR 1954

Age at date of Vaccination	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	180 (76%)	10	7	14	14	225
Number Re-Vaccinated	—	—	14	37	142	193

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

Thanks to the high percentage of children immunised in the Borough year after year, there were again no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year. (See remarks in first half of report.)

Figures below speak for themselves:

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

TABLE 15

	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years
Number of children who completed the full course during the year	182	86	33
Number of children who received a reinforcing dose during the year ..		13	495
Percentage of child population who have completed a course of immunisation at any time before 31st December 1954 (Estimated)	77%*	70%	96%
Percentage of child population who have received reinforcing doses within the last 5 years (Estimated)	—	—	67%

*Mainly combined with Pertussis Immunisation.

Diphtheria/Pertussis Immunisation

Scheme officially commenced on April 1st, 1954.

No. of children under 5 receiving mixed injections from that date to 31.12.1954—193.

There is a tendency because of the continued absence of Diphtheria for some parents not to take advantage of the facilities available and they are advised strongly that Diphtheria with its relatively high mortality and numerous crippling complications could soon appear again in our midst if the proportion of children immunised under 1 year falls below 60%. I need hardly say more.

Cancer

The number of deaths certified as being due to Cancer was 84—43 males and 41 females—as compared with 72 in 1953. (See my remarks under Vital Statistics.)

Tuberculosis

During 1954, formal notifications under the Regulations were received in respect of 11 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 1 case of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

In addition, 12 cases were brought to the notice of the Department from the following sources:

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Death Returns of cases not previously notified	2	—
Transfers from other areas	9	—
Cases restored to the Register	—	1

TABLE 16

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55—65	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8	3	1	—	2	1	—	—

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of 1954 was as follows :—

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	54	42	96
Non-Pulmonary	4	5	9
	58	47	105
	—	—	—

It will be seen that there were 28 cases fewer in the area as compared with 1953 (133 cases). This decrease is due to there having been 3 deaths, 28 cases having left the area, and 21 cases removed from the Register; in addition 12 new cases have been added to the Register and 12 cases have been transferred into the area.

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1954. Last year I dealt with the activities in retrospect over a number of years and reviewed the predominant features of each year since taking up my appointment in 1946.

The past year has not been an eventful one, rather has the trend of activity become more routine, but none the less interesting.

Atmospheric Pollution

One aspect of environmental hygiene which came to notice was an alleged nuisance in connection with the Glyne Gap Gasworks. Observations over a long period, and at varying times of the day and night, were undertaken. Consultations with the undertaking's Technical Officers proved most helpful. It was found that the undertaking was conducted on practical lines and the alleged nuisance could not be confirmed. In all 45 visits were made in connection with atmospheric pollution.

Myxomatosis

In common with most parts of the country myxomatosis was rife in the area. The staff of the Health Department were called upon to investigate and deal with the disposal of rabbit carcasses, thereby obviating many possible nuisances and fly breeding sources. The assistance given by many people in dealing with this problem was much appreciated.

Milk Sampling

The milk supply in Bexhill was again of a very high standard. A total of 114 samples were taken of which 4 failed the laboratory tests; 3.5% as compared with 8.85% last year representing 10 samples in 113. The 4 samples were Tuberculin Tested (Certified)—farm bottled. There were no failures of Pasteurised milk.

The closest liason was maintained with the County Health Inspectors of the East Sussex County Council. In all I can only say that the milk supply in the Borough during the year was most excellent.

Ice-Cream

Manufacture of ice-cream is confined to 4 premises within the Borough, one of which is a "Cold Mix" process. The bulk of the supply comes from the main combine manufacturers.

The continual supervision of ice-cream premises again showed improved results in the hygienic standard of the samples taken. A total of 116 samples were submitted for examination of which 111 (Grade 1: 61, Grade 2: 50) or 95.69% satisfied the requirements of the Methylene Blue Test. This compares with 83.64% for the year 1953.

It is particularly noticeable that the sale of unwrapped ice-cream is rapidly diminishing.

Cesspools

At long last results are forthcoming in dealing with the elimination of cesspools. The advent of the new sewer in Turkey Road has resulted in the connection to the public sewer of 13 premises and the discontinuance of 8 cesspools.

For the first time for a number of years it was possible to visit almost every cesspool in the area.

Moveable Dwellings

There are now 14 licensed sites operating in the district; 12 seasonable and 2 yearly, giving accommodation for 188 moveable caravans and 224 tents.

The standard of accommodation at the sites is gradually being improved to meet modern requirements. All sites are supervised constantly during occupation, as also are temporary camping sites set up by the various Youth Organisations during the holiday season.

Food Inspection

The inspection of all food shops, cafes and food preparing premises has been rigorously carried out. Only minor complaints as to unsatisfactory conditions appertaining to such premises were received. The efforts put forward in the past are now showing good results.

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

TABLE 17

Housing inspection, P.H.	...	...	...	...	...	340
Visits re above	...	...	...	...	...	871
Housing inspection, H.A.	...	...	...	...	...	38
Visits re above	...	...	...	...	...	37
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	8
Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	15
Water Samples procured :						
(a) Well Supply	...	...	...	...	...	4
(b) Main Supply	...	...	...	...	...	15
(c) Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	...	9
Smoke abatement	...	...	...	...	...	45
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	42
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	70
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rag and bone dealers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Stables and/or piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	22
Poultry/Rabbit keeping	...	...	...	...	...	16
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	3
Factories, mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	126
Factories, non mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	71
Workplaces, general	...	...	...	...	...	1
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	1
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	11

Shops Acts, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	206
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	294
Theatres, cinemas, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	474
Drainage, general	...	...	...	...	...	...	750
Drainage testing by :							
(a) Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
(b) Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
(c) Colour	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
(d) Breaking Down	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Other sanitary visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	468
Ash receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	...	378
Works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	222
Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	289
Knackers Yard(s)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	148
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	316
Fishmongers and poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dairies and milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
Ice cream sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Milk sampling							
(a) Methylene Blue	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Food and Drugs Act (Registrations)	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	176
Other food visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	168
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	192
Infectious Disease and disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	...	316
Disinfestation, general	...	...	...	...	...	...	126
Disinfestation, bugs, fleas etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

7,316

COMPLAINTS

1950	..	..	..	..	..	..	837
1951	..	..	..	..	..	..	842
1952	..	..	..	..	..	..	830
1953	..	..	..	..	..	..	804
1954	..	..	..	..	..	..	818

TABLE 18

Condition of premises	13
Housing Defects	63
Overcrowding	5
Dampness	27
Water supply	3
Drains and sanitary fittings	52
Public urinals	1
Verminous premises	12
Keeping of animals	7
Accumulation of refuse	13
Rats and mice	355
Milk and dairies	2
Absence of, or defective dustbin	5
Food premises	1
Food	79
Movable dwellings	2
Smoke nuisance	7
Cesspools	3
Stoving and or disinfection of rooms	59
Beetles, ants, etc.	39
Flooding	10
Rehousing: M.O.H.	1
Overgrown land	3
Housing Repairs and Rents Act	3
Miscellaneous	53
	<hr/>
	818
	<hr/>

SANITARY DEFECTS AND NOTICES

TABLE 19

Statutory Notices served during 1954	30
Statutory Notices complied with during 1954	29
Statutory Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1954	1
Informal Notices served during 1954	384
Informal Notices complied with during 1954	309
Informal Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1954	75

HOUSE INSPECTION AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

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

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

TABLE 20

Drains repaired	20
New branch drains	2
Inspection chambers reconstructed	1
Soil pipes or ventilation pipes renewed	2
Choked drains	24
New frames and covers fitted to existing chambers	5
Defective waste pipes	11
Defective fresh air inlets	1
Cesspools empty	5
Defective or overflowing cesspools	15
Choked gullies	1
Defective W.C. pans	6
Defective W.C. seats	7
Defective W.C. flushing cisterns	15
Insanitary and defective sinks	3
Absence of proper sinks	—
New baths fixed	1
Surround to sink renewed	1
Defective plaster to walls	51
Defective plaster to ceilings	45
Defective internal walls	1
Defective external walls	1
Dampness of walls	38
Dampness, general	17
Defective air bricks	2
Walls requiring cleansing	28
Ceilings requiring cleansing	28
Defective fireplaces and grates	8
Defective chimney flues	3
Defective pointing	1
Defective doors and cupboards	5
Defective sashes and frames	36

TABLE 21
ARTICLES DISINFECTED OR DESTROYED, 1954

Article	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Wearing Apparel ..	—	7	55	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	125	193
Uniform C'ing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bed Covers	—	5	3	2	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	2	15
Mattresses ..	1	6	7	4	—	—	4	2	2	3	5	1	35
Feather Beds	—	1	2	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	9
Eiderdowns	—	5	5	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	16
Bolsters	—	2	2	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	9
Pillows ..	6	17	13	1	6	—	—	2	4	4	12	3	68
Blankets ..	—	15	16	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	3	43
Sheets ..	—	6	8	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	3	22
Miscellaneous	1	69	21	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	2	11	108
Totals ..	8	133	132	20	8	1	10	8	13	10	25	150	518

TABLE 22
ROOMS FUMIGATED

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	6
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Polioyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	2	2	2	—	1	1	1	—	2	—	2	13
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vermin ..	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	4
Totals ..	—	4	5	3	2	1	1	2	—	5	1	5	29

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

During the year 198 visits were paid to factories, workshops and workplaces, 11 notices being served. All the notices had been complied with at the end of the year.

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

Factories Act, 1937

SECTION 1:

Defective roof of bottle washing room	..	..	..	I
Walls and ceiling colour washed	..	..	..	I
Dirty walls and ceilings	I

SECTION 3:

Reasonable temperature to be maintained	I
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SECTION 5(1):

Sufficient and suitable lighting to be provided	I
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SECTION 7:

Absence of closet accommodation for workmen	6
Dirty walls and floor etc. to W.C.	I
Dirty walls and ceiling of W.C.	I
Serious penetrating dampness to W.C...	I

SECTION 25:

Defective floor	I
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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	..	..	..	..	29
No. of articles disinfected or destroyed	..	..	..	..	518
No. of visits paid	..	..	..	..	316

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Dwelling houses and Business Premises

This service of Public Health work has now become accepted and very much used by the general public and whilst major infestations have almost disappeared, the treatment of minor cases of infestation is continued throughout the year. A total of 355 complaints were received and 2,802 visits were made to premises and land. The Rodent Officer has carried out survey work and test baiting of premises and land known to have been "black spots" in previous years. It will be noted that the complaints received show a slight increase viz; 355 in 1954 against 336 in 1953, and the increase in visits is 2,802 as against 2,293.

No. of complaints received	Rats	Mice	Total
1954	238	117	355
1953	222	114	336
1952	229	138	367
1951	310	173	483
Total number of visits paid			
1954	2,802		
1953	2,293		
1952	2,752		
1951	3,025		

Farm Premises

Specific attention has been given to these premises, 26 infestations were dealt with and a total of 35 visits were made by the Rodent Operative. There are 28 premises within the Borough which are classified as Agricultural.

Infestations:

23 premises treated by the occupier.

3 premises treated by the Council's Rodent Operator.

Sewers

Test baiting was carried out in the Borough and 85 manholes were baited, the result being negative. As a consequence of which the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have now exempted the Borough from further test baiting of sewers until 1957.

St. Mary's Lane Tip

Fifty-five visits were made to the refuse tip at St. Mary's Lane. Six minor and one major 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

My opening remarks make reference to a year of routine happenings; such a statement may be misunderstood. I do, however, assure the Council that although routine work may become boring, with a consequent loss of efficiency, this is not the outlook of the Sanitary Inspector and ancillary staff. The work is always interesting and improvement is always being sought in environmental condition for the benefit of others. The whole trend of our profession is "Service not Self," and it is with that outlook that we approach our task. I have no hesitation in saying that we have kept pace with the time and all have given of their best.

The loss of Mr. F. B. Elliott on his taking up an appointment at Newton Abbott in August 1954, meant that additional work fell to the other members of the staff. At the time of this report—December 1954—the vacancy had not been filled.

The staff have continued to integrate as a whole. Mr. C. E. Lockley and Mr. F. B. Elliott as my immediate colleagues have both worked well, whilst the so called "lesser lights," Mr. G. Chalmers, Mr. H. J. Stentiford and Mr. D. Evenden have all played their part in the efficiency of the work undertaken.

My thanks are also due to the Cleansing Personnel in connection with Public Conveniences.

The happy relationship which exists between myself and Dr. R. J. Toleman have continued on a high plane. I thank him for his support and encouragement.

May I also tender my sincere thanks to the Chairman, Councillor N. J. Trill, and the members of the Public Health Committee for their tolerance and support.

W. H. BALL,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

