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Contributors

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BRIDGE - BLEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH
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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year

1951



MALCOLM S. HARVEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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BRIDGE - BLEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILChairman of the Council:

Councillor A. J. Ross, J.P.

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Public Health Committee:

Councillor F. E. Spanton - (Chairman)
 Councillor A. Taylor - (Vice-Chairman)
 Councillor S. W. Arnold
 Councillor E. W. Baker
 Councillor A. H. Cheel
 Councillor C. L. Clough
 Councillor M. D. Jenkins
 Councillor R. S. Poile
 Councillor Dr. R. A. C. McIntosh

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF - 1951

Medical Officer of Health	...	MALCOLM S. HARVEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	...	H. K. BLUNDELL, B.Sc., M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector..		D. A. Warren, M.S.I.A. A.R.S.I. 1.1.51 to 25.8.51.
"	"	"
"	"	"
"	...	R. A. Goldfinch, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

Clerical Staff:

Clerks in the Chief)	...	Mrs. J. V. Harvey.
Sanitary Inspector's)	...	Miss P. E. Woods.
Office:)	...	Miss K. E. Rowe.
)	...	Miss J. Sharp.

Council Offices,
Old Dover Road,
Canterbury.

October, 1952.

The following Annual Report on Public Health for 1951 in the Bridge-Blean Rural District is presented to the Chairman and the Members of the Bridge-Blean Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

The year 1951 saw changes in Public Health arrangements which resulted in a permanent separation of Bridge-Blean Rural District from East Kent (No. 1) United District and the conjunction of a new group of authorities, namely, Eastry Rural District, Whitstable Urban District, Sandwich Borough and Canterbury County Borough, with Bridge-Blean Rural District, to form a new united district for the purpose of appointing a joint Medical Officer of Health. This is not a new association for part of your district, as the old Bridge Rural District had such a relationship to the authorities lying to the east before the combination of Bridge and Blean Authorities. As a neighbourhood arrangement it seems more realistic than an association with Broadstairs from which you were separated by another district. These changes have had their effects on the Public Health Department and a trial period will be necessary to show the best working arrangements for record keeping and reporting.

I should like to express my thanks to the Council for their confidence and to Mr. Blundell, the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his staff for their help. Part of this report comes from his Office.

In recording the break with East Kent (No. 1) United District, I wish to express the feeling of loss that comes from an arrangement which deprives me of the help and sterling service of Miss H. Y. Phillips, who has for so many years served as clerk to the Medical Officers of Health of that District. While this loss is someone else's gain it is hard not to envy.

On the resignation of Mr. Warren, an Additional Sanitary Inspector, in August, 1951, you decided not to fill the vacancy. This weakens your public health staff.

Your obedient Servant,

MALCOLM S. HARVEY.

Medical Officer of Health.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Bridge-Blean is a rural district consisting of twenty-five Parishes, surrounding the City of Canterbury. It is divided by the Great Stour, roughly two-fifths lying north of the river, and about three-fifths to the south, the river bisecting at an angle south west to north east. The District includes a coal area, and is agricultural and residential in character.

Agriculture is the main industry, a large part being agricultural land, orchards, hop gardens and woodlands. There are approximately 200 separate farms and 600 agricultural cottages in the District.

Apart from agricultural pursuits, a large proportion of the inhabitants of the Rural District are employed by a number of well established industrial concerns, including the following:-

<u>Barham:</u>	Agricultural Engineers. Waterworks.
<u>Chartham:</u>	Concrete Works. Paper Mills.
<u>Harbledown:</u>	Printing Works.
<u>Ickham:</u>	Flour Mills.
<u>Sturry:</u>	Light Engineering.
<u>Westbere:</u>	Chislet Colliery. Kent Concrete Products.
<u>Wickhambreaux:</u>	Rubber Factory.

In the Parish of Sturry is the mining village of Hersden, where there are some 250 miners' dwellinghouses, and others under construction. 40 of this number were erected by the Rural District Council during 1951.

Similarly, in Woolage Village in the Parish of Womenswold there are 58 miners' houses.

At Westbere, Chartham and Stodmarsh are gravel pits of considerable importance, with extensive plant; and at Harbledown are the Head Offices of the East Kent Road Car Company Limited, where a large staff is employed.

Many building firms operate in the Rural District and the aggregate labour force is considerable.

In addition to the industrial concerns, there is a large Mental Hospital situated at Chartham, with patients and staff, resident and non-resident, numbering between 2,000 and 3,000; this is now known as "St. Augustine's Hospital".

There is also a residential establishment and chronic sick unit situated at "The Close", Bridge, with accommodation for 111 people - 51 hospital beds for males and females; 14 female residents and 46 male residents; and here some 40 people are employed; this number includes trained and domestic staff.

An annexe to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital has been opened at Highland Court, Bridge, with the present accommodation of 25 beds. This is to be increased to 45. A staff of 20 are employed.

There are at present 60 houses in course of erection at Broad Oak, and 24 are nearing completion at Bekesbourne. Plans have also been made to erect a further 6 at Petham and 22 at Littlebourne during 1952. It is also expected that 31 houses will be erected by private enterprise.

There are 5,634 rateable dwellings in the District, of which 863 are dwellings provided since 1939; this represents an occupation per dwelling of 3.52 persons.

STATISTICAL DETAIL

Area: The area of Bridge-Blean Rural District including inland water is 55,868 acres.

Population: The population in mid 1951 was estimated by the Registrar General to be 19,860 persons. The census of 1951 indicated a population of 18,032 persons of whom 8,617 were males and 9,415 females. This was a population increase of 5.8% on the previous census of 1931, when a total of 17,041 persons was made up of 8,465 males and 8,576 females. Thus of the 991 increase 839 are females. Of the estimated mid year population, 1,604 were under 5 and 2,683 were 5 to 14 inclusive.

The number of inhabited dwellings at the end of 1951 was 5,634.

The rateable value of the District was £106,370 being an increase of £690 over 1950, and the product of a penny rate had risen by £14 odd to £421.7s.2d.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births: There were 270 live births and 6 stillbirths amongst our own persons in the District during the year. 14 of the births occurred outside marriage. The live birth rate of 14.1 per 1,000 persons is compared with figures for England and Wales in a tabular statement below. This includes a comparison after correction by the comparability factor of 1.24 given by the Registrar General on the basis of a comparison of our population make-up with that of England and Wales.

Deaths: There were 200 deaths in the District excluding persons temporarily resident in institutions, hospital or elsewhere. Of these 97 were males and 103 females. Seven of the deaths were infants under 1 year of age and of these seven, 5 were under 4 weeks old, and 2 were infants born out of wedlock. The death rate of 10.07 is compared below with that of England and Wales, including a comparison corrected by the comparability factor of 0.82.

Live Births:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	256	139	117
Illegitimate	14	5	9
Total:	270	144	126

Crude Birth Rate: 14.1 per 1,000 population.

Birth Rate Corrected: 17.48 per 1,000 population. England and Wales: 15.5 per 1,000 population.

Stillbirths: (Total 6): 0.30 per 1,000 population. England and Wales: 0.36 per 1,000 population.

Deaths: Total: 200 - Males: 97 Females: 103.

Crude Death Rate: 10.07 per 1,000 population.

Death Rate Corrected: 8.26 per 1,000 population. England and Wales: 12.5 per 1,000 population.

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year: 7. Representing Infant Mortality Rate of 25.9 per 1,000 live births. England and Wales: 29.6 per 1,000 live births.

Causes of Death:

	Total	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	5	5	-
Syphilitic Disease	1	1	-
Infectious Diseases	3	3	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	10	5	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	4	4	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	4	-	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Other sites	14	9	5
Leukemia, Aleukemia	1	1	-
Diabetes	2	2	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	24	8	16
Coronary Disease, Angina	19	11	8
Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	2	2
Other Heart Disease	52	15	37
Other Circulatory Disease	6	3	3
Influenza	11	8	3
Pneumonia	9	5	4
Bronchitis	5	5	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	-
Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	1	1	-
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	1	-	1
Nephritis, Nephrosis	2	-	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	1	-
Other defined and ill defined diseases	16	5	11
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	1	-
TOTAL:	199	96	103

7.

There were no deaths connected with pregnancy or childbirth or with accidents (other than motor accidents) or other forms of violence.

It will be seen that 52.5% of deaths were due to the diseases of the heart or blood vessels, and that respiratory diseases caused 13%, and cancer 17% of all deaths.

The seasonal variation in the number of deaths showed December to May as the most dangerous half-year, which one would expect, but this danger was most marked for those over 65. For those over 80, January and February were the months of greatest danger.

The seven infant deaths registered were due to the following causes:-

Cause	Under four weeks.		Over four weeks but under one year.
	Under 24 hrs.	24 hrs. to 4 weeks.	
Prematurity	2	-	-
Prematurity with Atelectasis	1	-	-
Congenital Malformation	1	-	-
Asphyxia (overlaid)	-	-	1
Haemorrhagic Disease of Newborn	-	1	-
Haemorrhagic Gastritis	-	-	1
TOTAL:	5		2

The ages of persons dying locally including those who belong to other districts is as shown below.

Ages of Death

	0-1	1-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65-80	80-90	90 +	Total
Male	2	1	1	9	25	79	24	4	145
Female	-	-	2	10	42	89	51	12	206
Total	2	1	3	19	67	168	75	16	351

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were 450 notifications of infectious diseases during the year of which 272 were measles, 79 were whooping cough and 21 were Scarlet fever.

Thirty cases of tuberculosis were notified, 14 male, 16 female, of whom 26 were respiratory tuberculosis. 13 of these cases were known to have been admitted to hospital for treatment.

Forty two cases of acute primary or influenzal pneumonia were notified, a high figure, partly due to institutional cases, but also representative of a pneumonic infection which moved about in the rural areas south east of Canterbury for a time in the late spring.

The other notified diseases were Erysipelas 1, Dysentery 3, Puerperal Pyrexia 1 and Acute Poliomyelitis 1.

Age Groups and Incidence of Certain Infectious Diseases

	Quarter	Under	1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever	1st	-	-	-	5	1	1	1	8)22
	2nd	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3	
	3rd	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	
	4th	-	-	3	6	1	-	-	10	

	Quarter	Under	1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over	Total
Whooping Cough	1st	3	6	15	6	-	-	-	-	30)
	2nd	3	8	10	17	1	-	1	-	40)
	3rd	1	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	7)
	4th	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2)
Measles	1st	2	31	64	130	8	1	1	-	237)
	2nd	-	3	10	12	2	-	-	-	27)
	3rd	-	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	6)
	4th	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2)
	Quarter	Under	5	5-14	15-44	45-64	65 +	Total		
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	1st	1	-	2	6	19	-	28)		
	2nd	1	-	2	1	5	-	9)		
	3rd	-	-	1	-	-	-	1)		
	4th	-	2	2	-	-	-	4)		

Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Reporting a total of 173 vaccinations and 66 re-vaccinations against smallpox, and 230 primary immunisations and 447 reinforcing inoculations against diphtheria, the County Medical Officer provides the following detail:-

Vaccination

Age at 31st December, 1951.	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	98	45	11	19	173
Number Re-Vaccinated	-	1	14	51	66

Year of Birth	Primary Inoculations	Reinforcing Inoculations	Total
1937	-	49	49
1938	1	38	39
1939	-	27	27
1940	-	15	15
1941	3	54	57
1942	1	58	59
1943	2	13	15
1944	8	30	38
1945	5	39	44
1946	11	106	117
1947	4	15	19
1948	4	1	5
1949	19	2	21
1950	163	-	163
1951	9	-	9
Total	230	447	677

Diphtheria Inoculation State

Year of Birth	Total
1937	227
1938	268
1939	275
1940	241
1941	230
1942	231
1943	247
1944	210
1945	284
1946	244
1947	199
1948	193
1949	127
1950	177
1951	9
Total	3,162

INVESTIGATIONS OF OUTBREAKS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Investigation of a small outbreak of diarrhoea in a residential school brought out no evidence of an identifiable infecting organism, but indicated certain faults in food preparation which might have caused the outbreak.

DISINFECTION

The Council provides a disinfecting chamber in the Bridge Depot in which articles can be treated with formaldehyde. Fumigation and spraying at home is also used.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

This is centred on Haine Hospital, Ramsgate. Ambulance transport is provided by the Joint Canterbury and Kent County Ambulance Service and is obtainable through Canterbury Ambulance Station, Telephone No. Canterbury 5001.

REPORT ON THE SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(Information supplied by the)
(Chief Sanitary Inspector.)

Water.

The water from the public supplies within the area is generally satisfactory. We are supplied by 4 Companies and have 1 pumping station lying in the area, and 2 on our boundaries. All of the supplies are chlorinated before the delivery to the public mains, the Barham supply being chlorinated between the pump and the principal service main. All of the waters are drawn from chalk wells and they have a considerable temporary hardness, varying from 18 to 23. Only the Canterbury Company soften their water, leaving a residual hardness of 11. None of the waters in the area is plumbo-solvent. The following table shows the source of supply for each Parish within the Rural District:-

Name of Parish	Source of Supply
Adisham ...	Margate Corporation.
Barham ...	Mid-Kent Water Company.
Bekesbourne ...	Margate Corporation.
Bishopsbourne ...	" "
Bridge ...	" "
Chartham ...	Canterbury Water Company and Local Wells.
Chislet ...	" " " "
Fordwich ...	Canterbury Water Company.
Hackington ...	" " "
Harbledown ...	" " "
Hoath ...	Herne Bay Water Company.
Ickham and Well ...	Margate Corporation.
Kingston ...	Mid-Kent Water Company.
Littlebourne ...	Margate Corporation.
Lower Hardres ...	Canterbury Water Company.
Patricxbourne ...	Margate Corporation.
Petham ...	Mid-Kent Water Company.
St. Cosmus and St. Damian in the Blean... ..	Canterbury Water Company.
Sturry ...	" " "
Thanington Without ...	Canterbury Water Company and rain water tanks.
Upper Hardres ...	Mid-Kent Water Company.
Waltham ...	" " " "
Westbere ...	Canterbury Water Company.
Wickhambreaux ...	Margate Corporation.
Womenswold ...	" "

Samples of raw waters from springs and wells were also taken and sent to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination with the following results:-

Raw Water Samples	No. of Samples taken.	Result of Examination
1-4, North Park Cottages, Knaves Ash. (Wells)...	2	Unsatisfactory
Blandings, Marshside, Chislet. (Wells)...	1	"

In both instances schemes are in hand to extend the mains to serve the areas affected and until this can be done the people have been warned to boil all drinking water.

Samples to determine River Pollution.

Raw Water Samples.	No. of Samples taken.	Result of Examination.
Ditch, School Lane ...	1	Evidence of Recent Pollution.
Ditch, Tyler Hill Road...	1	" " " "
Brook, Hare and Hounds...	1	" " " "

These samples were taken having regard to Rivers Pollution, the Council having formulated a scheme to improve the land drainage of the area owing to the soil of the Council's Housing Estate being water-logged with resultant drainage troubles owing to lack of soakage. It was found that the degree of purity of the streams and ditches were very similar.

Extensions of Mains.

Tenders have been accepted for extensions to the Council's mains at Calcott Sturry, Lower Marshside, Chislet, and Little Palmstead, Upper Hardres. A scheme has been formulated and submitted for tender for the Hoath Road area, running from Babs Oak Hill, and for Rushbourne and Knaves Ash from the Herne Bay Company's main. Consideration is being given to extending the supply, Wick Lane, Woolage Green. The mains were extended to serve the hamlet of Anvil Green, Waltham.

Examination of Water Samples: Bacteriological.

Samples of the treated waters were taken quarterly from taps in the Rural District and sent to the County Laboratory by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the results of which were as follows:-

Samples taken from public supplies of:	No. of Samples taken.	Result of Examination.
Canterbury Water Company.	4	Satisfactory.
Margate Corporation ...	4	"
Mid-Kent Water Company...	4	"
Herne Bay Water Company..	3	"

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are sewers serving Hersden, Broad Oak and Westbere, Rough Common and Harbledown, Woolage Village, Upper Harbledown, and the Council houses at Barham and Chartham. These are all maintained by the Health Department. The Upper Harbledown sewer is a new addition having been put in this year to serve a small hamlet which previously had considerable trouble with its sewage disposal. It is at present working satisfactorily, although not yet to full capacity as the majority of the houses still have bucket closets. The conversion of these is now being undertaken by the Council.

The Rough Common and Harbledown drainage system has been in existence since 1903 with alterations at varying intervals and continues to give satisfactory service.

The Sturry scheme taking sewage from Hersden, Broad Oak and Westbere was taken over last year (1950) and has been working comparatively satisfactorily since, although the flow is far higher than was estimated and large amounts of sludge are accumulating which it is hoped will be disposed of to local farmers. Trouble was experienced with this sewer in the Broad Oak area owing to the slight fall and considerable silting occurred, but the Broad Oak Council houses have now had bucket closets converted to flush lavatories, and bathrooms fitted, and it is hoped that the consequential increased usage will assist in flushing the flatter sections.

Again there are a large number of bucket closets in the area served by the Sturry sewer and a survey is shortly to be undertaken with reference to conversion of these.

Throughout the remainder of the area drainage is through cesspools and septic tanks. The Council operates a cesspool emptying scheme undertaking to empty cesspools within the area at three monthly intervals. During the year some 4,036 requests were dealt with entailing the emptying of well over 5,000 cesspools.

Rivers and Streams.

Routine inspections were made during the year and a few cases of obstruction and pollution were dealt with by informal notice.

The Nailbourne, a chalk stream, commenced to run during the early part of the year and owing to there being considerable growth in the river bed, slight flooding occurred in the village of Bridge. This, however, was not serious. The Nailbourne has since ceased to flow except for a small section between Bourne Park and Patrixbourne.

As a result of the land drainage survey of Blean mentioned last year, a scheme has been formulated to lower the water-table but this has progressed no further than the drawing board stage owing to the difficulty of making arrangements with the various farmers and the need for co-operation with the County Council and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Closet Accommodation.

The approximate numbers of each type of sanitary convenience in the Rural District are:-

W.C's into drainage system	805
W.C's into cesspools	2500
Pail Closets	2100
Pail Closet Conversions made this year	55

Public Cleansing.

The cleansing services throughout the area are the responsibility of the Health Department, and the Council own seven cesspool emptiers and four refuse vehicles which are employed full time for these services. The Council maintain a weekly collection of household refuse throughout the area, the contents being disposed of by controlled tipping on a number of sites in the District. By these methods, a number of bomb holes and chalk pits have been brought into use as arable land and demands for similar work will last for a number of years. Two cesspool vehicles

are employed full-time on the emptying of the sanitary pails with a third vehicle working part-time. These lorries have a special attachment for the collection of pail contents so that the work is carried out with the minimum of inconvenience to the community. A weekly service is maintained and the contents are buried in the most extensive of the controlled tips. There is also a salvage collection and owing to the rising cost of waste paper some considerable profit has been made during the course of the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector reports as follows with regard to the sanitary inspection of the area:-

Total number of visits of all kinds made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year	...	2,171
Number of Notices served - Statutory		11
Informal		112
Number of Nuisances abated	...	94

Smoke Abatement.

During the year no smoke nuisances from factory chimneys were observed, and no complaint of such a nuisance was received.

Shops and Offices.

During the year regular routine inspections were made of shops and offices. Conditions found were generally satisfactory, but in cases where minor defects were observed no action was found to be necessary, as the defects were dealt with when brought to the notice of the persons concerned.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

The two following tables give the prescribed particulars which are required to be furnished by Section 128(3) of the Factories Act, 1937, with respect to matters under Part I of that Act, which is administered by the District Council. (Part I - Section 1. - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors); and Section 2. - Cases in which defects were found).

PART I. OF THE ACT

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

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	7	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	84	35	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * (excluding outworkers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	91	35	-	-

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

2. - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Reme- died.	Referred		
			To H.M. Ins- pector	By H.M. Ins- pector	
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	-	-	-

Camping: Licences for Caravans and Moveable Dwellings:
Public Health Act, 1936.

Ten applications for licences have been made for permission to station caravans within the area. All but one of these were granted. The licence refused was in respect of a caravan situated on a site without necessary sanitary conveniences.

Hop-Pickers' Encampments.

The Hop-picking Encampments at thirteen farms were inspected before and during occupation. The standards found were, in the main, good and in no case was it necessary to serve notice or take any action in connection with the camps. It was noticed that farmers themselves effected improvements to their camps during slack periods when they had labour to spare for such work.

Improvements made include the provision of additional privies at Lenhall Farm and alterations in the washing arrangements at Garrington Farms.

An Official from the Ministry of Health inspected some camps in the area during the season and made various suggestions towards improving the facilities therein. These suggestions have been acted upon by approach to the grower concerned.

Number of persons engaged in hop-picking during the year	2,000 approximately.
Number of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors	85

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are two swimming pools in connection with Boys' Boarding Schools. No action was taken in respect of these during the year.

Insect Inspections.

One case of infestation with bed bugs, and four cases of infestation with fleas were dealt with by Public Health Department Staff, using D.D.T. preparations.

The houses of prospective Council house tenants are inspected for evidence of infestation before the removal occurs.

Rodent Control.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector reports that during the year one part-time Rodent Operator dealt with the complaints of infestation by rats and mice.

All public sewers in the area were test baited with negative results.

103 complaints were received of infestations in the area and the following is a summary of the work done:-

	Rats
Number of infestations found	134
Estimated Number killed by poison ...	1599
Estimated Number killed by other means ...	136
TOTAL Numbers killed ...	1735

Schools.

There are 3 Boarding Schools within the District having accommodation for approximately 300 pupils. 2 of these Schools also take a number of day boys. There are also 19 County Primary Schools and 1 County Modern Secondary School. The Primary Schools are in many cases in fairly old buildings and in a number of cases are definitely behind the times. At 5 Schools sanitary accommodation is of the bucket closet type which cannot be considered satisfactory. During the year 3 Schools have been converted to cesspool drainage.

There are 3 school canteens attached to the larger Schools being situated at Chartham, Blean and Sturry. These canteens are in modern pre-fabricated buildings which have been erected close by the original buildings.

During the year we have had three complaints concerning dirty milk bottles supplied to the school milk service. This matter was taken up with the Wholesaler providing milk, and an alteration was made to the bottle washing system in order to prevent any recurrence. He did, however, point out that school milk bottles are more difficult to wash than any others as they are always returned in a dirty state, often after being in the sun for a considerable period so that dried milk adheres to the sides of the bottles. This could probably be improved by a little additional attention to the bottles at the Schools.

H O U S I N G1. - INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	200
	(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose...	434
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	125
	(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose...	173
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	10
(4)		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 ...	74

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 ...	60
--	--	---	----

3. - ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a)		Proceedings under Sections, 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil.

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|
| (a) | By Owners. | ... | 1 |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of Owners | ... | Nil |
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 12
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|
| (a) | By Owners | ... | 11 |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of Owners | ... | Nil |
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. Nil
- (3) Number of Undertakings accepted. 9
- (4) Number of dwellings rendered fit through such Undertakings 2
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil
- (2) 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 - PART IV. - OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	1
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein		1
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein		5
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	2
(c)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	1
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	1
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions	...	Nil

Rural Housing Survey.

During the year inspections were continued for the purpose of the Housing Survey; however, because of shortage of staff, not as many visits were made as was hoped, but the final summary for the year was as follows:-

1.	Number of houses condemned but occupied		6
2.	Number of houses demolished in the last five years	...	5
3.	Existing number of overcrowded houses		Nil
4.	Existing number of applications for new houses	...	585
5.	The position with regard to the Rural Survey, including the number of houses in each of the five classifications -		
	Category 1 - Houses satisfactory in all respects		173
"	2 - Houses with minor defects		442

Category 3 - Houses requiring repair, structural alterations or improvements	803
" 4 - Houses appropriate for re-conditioning	187
" 5 - Houses unfit for habitation and beyond repair at a reasonable expense	54

Housing - General.

The number of new houses erected during the year and the number under construction on 31st December, 1951, was as follows:-

Houses erected by:	Number Erected:	Number under Construction:
The Local Authority	38	120 to be erected
Other Bodies and Persons	9	
Conversions and Private Enterprise	20	31 to be erected
T O T A L S	67	151

Total number of houses and flats owned by the Local Authority	...	522
Number of premises still under requisition by the Rural District Council	...	21
Number of families housed in requisitioned properties	...	26

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.Bakehouses.

There are 13 bakehouses within the area. They are almost all old-fashioned places which have been in existence for many years. The owners are aware of their deficiencies and are endeavouring to improve facilities wherever possible. Efforts are being made to replace front fired ovens by the side fired type, larger windows are being installed, better means of artificial lighting, and where necessary, cracked and crumbling ceilings have been replaced.

Most of the bread consumed throughout the area is delivered to the public by tradesmen's vans and these vans are inspected at frequent intervals. On the average they have maintained a high standard of cleanliness. Bread is also brought into the area from the bakeries in Canterbury and from villages on the outer boundaries.

The Supervision and Sale of Ice-Cream.

There are 38 retailers selling ice-cream within the area excluding premises mainly used as cafes and restaurants. All but two of these sell pre-packed ice-cream produced by large wholesalers outside the Rural District. The other two use a complete cold-mix manufactured by large wholesale firms outside the District and reconstituted by the addition of water only on the premises of the retailer. Samples of all ice-creams have been taken during the Summer and the samples submitted to the methylene blue test. The results of these tests show that the general standard of purity of ice-cream sold in the area was very high. Only one sample coming within Grade 4 signifying a high bacterial count.

Cafes, Restaurants and Food Places.

There are 32 cafes within the District. These can be divided roughly into three classes. Primarily, the transport cafe, having a clientele mainly of transport workers, and travellers; secondly, the smaller country teahouse; and thirdly, the large roadhouse type serving teas and late suppers and having adequate accommodation for cars, etc. In all of these the standard of cleanliness was found to be high, the owners being aware that the public of to-day expect food to be served in hygienic conditions.

In addition a fair number of licensed premises within the area serve full meals by appointment and cater for occasional parties and dinners. In these cases the standard again is pleasantly high, the service being under personal direction of the landlord.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

Owing to the present system of licensing controls, no animals are slaughtered within the Rural District for retail selling. There are, however, a number of licensed slaughter-houses where pigs are slaughtered for human consumption and these are generally inspected at the request of the local butchers. Four cows were also slaughtered for St. Augustine's Hospital who are endeavouring to attain a tuberculin tested herd. The cows slaughtered had re-acted to the tuberculin test. 200 lbs. of meat and the majority of the offals were found to be tuberculous.

When foods other than meat are found to be unfit it is the usual practice for retailers to return them to the wholesaler so that they may be salvaged and in consequence the total amounts surrendered to the Department are low. This year there was a total of 2,100 lbs. of food stuffs, mainly of the tinned variety. This total included several large tins of imported hams which had deteriorated before being opened.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS.

An isolated case of bovine anthrax was discovered at "Sunnybank", Covet Lane, Kingston. At the request of the Police the Department supervised the destruction, and the subsequent disinfection of the cowshed in the area. Following this work a block control for the rats was carried out by the Council's Rodent Operator to eliminate any chance of the disease being spread by this agency.

KNACKERS YARD.

There is one Knackers Yard within the area, the business being carried on in conjunction with kennels. Inspections have shown the business to be properly conducted, the premises being maintained in a clean condition and the animals slaughtered in a humane manner.

