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**Contributors**

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BRIDGE BLEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

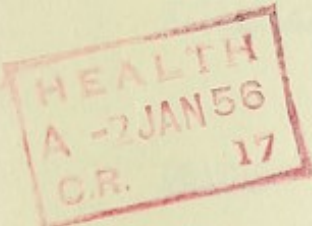
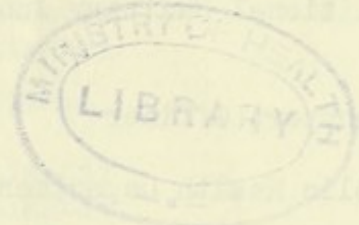
ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1954



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Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR A.J. ROSS, J.P.

-----oOo-----

Public Health Committee

- Councillor F.E. Spanton - (Chairman)
- Councillor A. Taylor - (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor S.S. Coulson
- Councillor N.D. Fuller
- Councillor W. Kerr
- Councillor J.F. Montgomery
- Councillor A.R. Palmer
- Councillor R.S. Poile
- Councillor M.P. Young

Ex Officio Members

- Councillor A.J. Ross - (Chairman of the Council)
- Councillor Rev. Father J. McCarthy - (Vice-Chairman of the Council)

-----oOo-----

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

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Senior Sanitary Inspector ... H.K. BLUNDELL, B.Sc., M.S.I.A.  
Additional Sanitary Inspector ... J.W.A. BREWSTER, M.S.I.A.,  
A.R.S.I.  
Transport Officer ... L. BOND  
Public Health Department Foreman ... A. VINTEN  
Clerical Staff: Clerks in the  
Senior Sanitary Inspectors Office ... Miss J. Manuel  
Miss M. Westoby

-----oOo-----

Clerk of the Council:

L.J. WILLIAMS, Esq.

Engineer and Surveyor:

D.C. THOMPSON, Esq.  
P.J. THACKRAY, Esq.  
(Commenced duties 15.11.54.)

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Offices: Public Health Department, Rural District Council Offices,  
41, Old Dover Road, Canterbury. (Telephone 4216).

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Population - Mid 1954: 19,100  
Area: 55,868 acres.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure in presenting the annual report on public health matters for the year 1954. I have to thank Mr. Blundell for providing the detail of work done by himself and his staff. Your Public Health Department continues to give you the good service that it has given over the many years under Mr. Blundell's direction, and I wish to thank him and the other Chief Officials for their helpful co-operation, and the Council for their interest in public health affairs.

Your obedient Servant,

MALCOLM S. HARVEY.

## Vital Statistics:

Population Mid 1954: 19,100 -- being a drop of 370 persons from 1953.

Area: 55,868 acres. - Unchanged.

LIVE BIRTHS: Male 120 (Including 7 illegitimate)  
Female 125 (Including 9 illegitimate)  
Total 245 (Total - 16 illegitimate)

STILLBIRTHS: Male 3 (Including 1 illegitimate)  
Female 2 (Including 1 illegitimate)  
Total 5 (Total - 2 illegitimate)

### DEATHS:

Neo-Natal: Infant Deaths under 4 weeks 3 - Male 3 Female Nil  
Infant Deaths 4 wks - 1 yr. 1 - Male 1 Female Nil  
Total Infant Deaths .. .. 4 (All legitimate births)

All Deaths: Male 190  
Female 146  
Total 336

Comparability Factors: Births 1.18 Deaths 0.75.

Vital Rates: Birth Rate (crude) 12.82 ) per thousand  
Corrected birth rate 15.12 ) of the  
Birth Rate Eng. & Wales 15.20 ) population  
  
Death Rate (crude) 17.59 ) per thousand  
Corrected Death Rate 13.19 ) of the  
Death Rate Eng. & Wales 11.30 ) population  
  
Infant Mortality Rate 16.3 (Calculation not significant)  
Infant Mortality Rate  
England & Wales .. 25.5 per 1,000 births  
  
Peri-natal mortality (Neo-natal deaths and stillbirths  
per 1,000 live and still births) .. 32  
  
Peri-natal mortality etc. for East Kent United M.O.H.  
District .. 41.25

These rates compare with those for 1953 in the following way. The births numerically have the same total, but due to a slight decline in population the birth rate rose two decimal points.

The death rate is much higher, 13.19 compared to 11.16 for 1953, due to a sharp increase in male deaths.

The causes of death are tabulated below:

Cause	M	F	Total 1954	Total 1953
Tuberculosis, Respiratory .. .. .	3	1	4	2
Tuberculosis, Other .. .. .	-	-	-	2
All other infectious or parasitic diseases	-	1	1	-
Malignant Neoplasms, Stomach .. .. .	4	4	8	4
Malignant Neoplasms, Lungs and Bronchus ..	5	1	6	10
Malignant Neoplasms, Breast.. .. .	-	3	3	3
Malignant Neoplasms, Uterus.. .. .	-	-	-	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ..	18	13	31	34
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia .. .. .	2	-	2	1
Diabetes .. .. .	-	2	2	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.. .. .	16	19	35	30
Coronary Disease, Angina .. .. .	19	10	29	31
Hypertension with Heart Disease .. .. .	6	2	8	5
Other Heart Disease .. .. .	51	51	102	81
Other Circulatory Diseases .. .. .	6	8	14	15
Influenza .. .. .	1	-	1	4
Pneumonia .. .. .	10	7	17	9
Bronchitis .. .. .	5	3	8	9
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	4	-	4	5
Ulcers of Stomach and Duodenum .. .. .	4	2	6	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea.. .. .	-	-	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis .. .. .	2	6	8	7
Hyperplasia of Prostate .. .. .	5	-	5	3
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .. .. .	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformation .. .. .	1	1	2	1
Other defined and ill defined Diseases ..	19	8	27	21
Motor Vehicle Accidents .. .. .	2	-	2	2
All other accidents .. .. .	6	3	9	4
Suicide .. .. .	1	1	2	2
Homicide or War Operations .. .. .	-	-	-	-
Total Deaths:	190	146	336	292
<u>Rates for Certain Diseases per 1,000 popn.</u>	Bridge Blean		England and Wales	
Respiratory Tuberculosis .. .. .	2.1		1.6	
Cancer of the Lungs and Bronchus .. .. .	3.14		3.69	
All other Cancers .. .. .	22.0		16.66	

Infant Deaths:

The causes of the 4 infant deaths were:-

Under 1 day: .. Prematurity - 1  
 1 day to 4 weeks: .. Prematurity - 1 Atelectasis - 1  
 4 weeks to 1 year: .. Pneumonia - 1

Infectious Diseases:

The following tabulation shows the incidence of cases for the year 1954, shown quarterly for appropriate diseases and in age groups.

Infectious Disease	Quarters				By Age Groups					Totals	
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	0-4	5-9	10-14	15+	65+	1954	1953
Scarlet Fever .. ..	1	1	1	5	1	4	3	-	-	8	15
Measles .. ..	1	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	3	215
Whooping Cough .. ..	17	3	21	-	12	23	4	2	-	41	75
Pneumonia.. ..	9	2	-	2	-	-	-	7	6	13	20
Acute Poliomyelitis .. ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas .. ..	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	5	-	5	-
Dysentery.. ..	1	2	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	3	13
Food Poisoning .. ..	10	-	-	-	3	3	-	4	-	10	53
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	4	6	-						11	9
Tuberculosis, Other Forms	-	2	-	2						4	1

Tuberculosis Detail

Age Distribution of Notifications

	Respiratory		Other Forms		Total All Forms
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Under 15	-	-	-	1	1
15-25	2	2	-	-	4
25-45	2	1	-	1	4
45-65	1	2	1	1	5
Over 65	1	-	-	-	1
TOTAL:	6	5	1	3	15

Tuberculosis Register:

A notified case of tuberculosis remains on the register for some years after the disease is quiescent, usually five years in the case of respiratory tuberculosis and three years for other forms. Cases may also come onto the register by transfer into the district, and come off the register by transfer to another district or existence.

	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Other Forms</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
On register 31.12.53.	72	63	18	24
On register 31.12.54.	81	62	19	23

Immunisation against Diphtheria: (Figures supplied by the County M.O.H.)

The following table shows the number of children by year of birth who had completed a course of immunisation prior to 31st December, 1954.

Year of Birth	1940	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	1950	51	52	53	54	Total
Last complete course of injections whether primary or booster 1950-1954.	26	96	102	140	175	203	222	235	184	199	202	194	196	159	18	2,353
1949 or earlier	70	57	62	29	16	19	6	15	20	3	-	-	-	-	-	297

The second table on Diphtheria Immunisation shows the immunisation done during 1954.

Year of Birth	1954	53	52	51	50	1949	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40	Total
Primary Inoculations	18	137	20	8	6	8	8	2	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	211
Re-inforcing Inoculations	-	-	-	-	6	103	26	9	14	76	18	8	-	-	-	260

Assuming a child population under 15 of approximately 3,700, the level of active immunity lies in the region of 63% with another 3% with waning protection. The number of new immunisations during 1954 dropped back from the improved 1953 level, but by the end of 1954 some 64% of the babies born in 1953 had been immunised.

Vaccination Against Smallpox: (Figures supplied by the County M.O.H.)

The following table shows the vaccination recorded in 1954.

Year of Birth	1954	53	52	51	50	1949	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40	Before 1940	Total
Primary Vaccination	92	61	4	2	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	7	127
Re-Vaccination	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	28	33

By the end of the year 37% of those born in 1954 and 60% of those born in 1953 had been vaccinated.

Other Diseases:

Epidemic Nausea: In December a sudden explosive outbreak of epidemic nausea or winter vomiting disease attacked a residential preparatory school in the District. The school doctor concerned gave me early notice of it and some investigation and attempted control was made. This was without much success, for we have no real notion of the cause of the disease, and the trouble burned itself out over a few weeks. The picture of the early days of the outbreak is shown in the following tables. The symptoms gave the diagnosis - sudden onset of nausea followed by a sudden onset of vomiting, some pyrexia which may last 24 hours, after which recovery is rapid. The memory of the nausea lingers and may interfere with recovery of appetite.

The school had 156 boarders, 26 in a junior house and 130 in a senior house. There were about 45 day boys. The outbreak started on the 6.12.54.

No cases occurred in the Junior House boarders.

The distribution of cases over the first 4 days was as shown.

Cases by date of Onset (including Day Boys)

Class	Capacity	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	Total
10	11	1	1	-	-	-	2
9	15	1	4	1	-	-	6
8	16	2	2	2	1	1	8
7	16	1	2	1	1	-	5
6	14	-	4	1	1	1	7
5	18	1	1	1	1	-	4
4	19	1	1	2	2	-	6
3	19	2	2	1	1	-	6
2	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	15	-	-	-	1	-	1
Totals	156	9	17	9	8	2	45

) Junior House



Senior House Dormitories Distribution

Dormitory	Capacity	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	Total
A	33	3	4	3	3	1	14
B	11	-	1	-	2	-	3
C	11	1	2	1	-	-	4
D	33	4	9	4	2	1	20
Total:	88	8	16	8	7	2	41

Examinations of vomit, and nose and throat swabs were made in 11 cases. In 2 cases scanty growth of coagulax positive staphylococcus aureus was isolated from the vomit and in 2 other cases a moderate growth of coagulax positive staphylococcus aureus was isolated from nose swabs. The seven other cases showed absence of such organisms.

Bed Positions in Dormitories  
(Cases marked with date of Onset)

<u>Dormitory A</u>		<u>Dormitory C</u>	
-	7th	-	-
-	-	-	-
7th	7th	-	9th
9th	-	-	7th
8th	-	-	-
-	-		9th
-	9th		
-	-		
-	-		
-	9th	7th	-
-	-	-	-
-	10th	7th	7th
-	7th	-	7th
-	6th	-	-
-	8th	8th	6th
6th	6th	-	-
		-	6th
		7th	7th
		-	7th
<u>Dormitory B</u>		8th	6th
-	7th	9th	7th
8th	-	10th	8th
6th	-	-	6th
-	7th	-	8th
-	-	9th	-
		7th	

Comment:

The cases were well spaced throughout the classes in the school and

showed more evidence of grouping in the dormitories with a tendency to group within the particular dormitory. No evidence can be presented that the staphylococcus aureus (coagulax positive) is the causative organism for the findings are no more than would be expected in a closed community at this time of year. None of these cases come within the category of notifiable infectious disease.

#### Other Illness:

An outbreak of ten cases of sickness and diarrhoea in a childrens home, involving staff and children was investigated. None of the cases investigated showed the presence of any infecting organism and the outbreak was attributed to the accidental use of a water supply which had been discontinued some time before, as being unsafe, but which was still connected to one tap in the house.

#### Water Supply:

An investigation of the water supply to dwellings in Upper Hardres resulted in a case being stated for an extension of the mains water supply. The Council agreed to proceed and received sanction from the appropriate Ministry.

#### Sewage and Sewerage:

A reassessment of the need for the completion of the Sturry and Fordwich scheme was made. One cannot contemplate with equanimity the continuance of present arrangements. The prospects of improvement are all tied up with development and economic situations, but the last thing to be wished for is the evidence of danger to public health which would quickly remove the financial barriers.

#### Slaughterhouses:

The decontrol of meat brought the need to assess slaughterhouses in the area and to decide whether any should be licensed. As a large public abattoir in the vicinity provided adequate slaughtering facilities private slaughterhouses were only licensed until the end of the year.

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Section

Mr. Blundell submits the following information on the public Health work of his department during 1954.

HOUSING

A. Number of Houses erected during 1954

New houses erected by the Council .. .. .	36
New houses under construction by the Council .. .. .	64
New houses erected by Private Enterprise .. .. .	67
Houses demolished under Housing Acts .. .. .	2
Houses demolished by other persons .. .. .	Nil
Houses otherwise closed for human habitation under Housing Acts..	Nil
Houses otherwise closed for human habitation by other persons ..	Nil
Conversions of properties into dwellings under Housing Act ..	Nil
Conversions of properties into dwellings by other persons ..	3
Conversions of properties in progress under Housing Act .. ..	3
Conversions of properties in progress by other persons .. ..	1

B. Inspections of Dwelling Houses during the year

1. (a) Number inspected under Housing Acts.. .. .	110
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose .. ..	322
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses included under Sub-heading 1 above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. .. .	-
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose .. ..	-
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation (Section 11) .. .. .	18
4. Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation (Section 9) .. .. .	Nil
5. The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to:-	
(a) serving of notices requiring the execution of works (S.9)	Nil
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders (S.11) ..	18
6. Number of cases of overcrowding known to the local authority at 31st December, 1953 .. .. .	1
7. Number of such cases identified during 1954 .. .. .	5
8. Number of cases of overcrowding at 31st December, 1954. ..	6

C. Remedy of Defects without service of Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action under Housing Acts .. .. .	Nil
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action under Public Health Acts .. .. .	23

#### D. Action under Statutory Powers

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:	
1. Number of dwelling houses on which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .	Nil
2. Number rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(i) By owners .. .. .	Nil
(ii) By Local Authority in default.. .. .	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
1. Number of dwelling houses on which statutory notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .	5
2. Number in which defects remedied after service of formal notices:	
(i) By owners .. .. .	2
(ii) By Local Authority in default.. .. .	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
1. Number of dwellings on which Demolition Orders were made..	11
2. Number of dwellings demolished under Demolition Orders ..	2
3. Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. .. .. .	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
Number of separate tenements or underground rooms on which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	Nil
(e) Proceedings under Housing Act, 1949:	
1. Number of Closing Orders made under Section 3(1) .. .. .	Nil
2. Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3(2) .. .. .	Nil
(f) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:	
Closing Orders made under Section 10(1) .. .. .	3

In connection with the work under various Housing Acts and Circulars and Public Health Acts, the following table shows the number of inspections and visits made:-

Number of houses inspected under Housing Act .. .. .	110
Number of houses visited under Housing Act .. .. .	212
Number of houses inspected under Public Health Act .. .. .	28
Number of houses visited under Public Health Act .. .. .	124
Number of miscellaneous housing visits (living conditions of Council House applicants) preliminary visits in respect of grants etc. .. .. .	289

#### Rent Act Certificates

One application for a Certificate under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restriction Acts, 1920/39 was granted and four applications under the new Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were granted.

## Improvement Grants

The number of applications for improvement grants under the Housing Act, 1949, increased considerably during the year. 40 applications were submitted to the Council for approval, all of which were approved, although at a later date two of the applicants withdrew their applications. At the end of the year the work on six properties had been completed.

Although only 40 applications were submitted to the Council, numerous others were made but were not submitted for approval as they did not comply with the standards as set out in the Circulars under the 1949 Housing Act. A continuous stream of enquiries by visits and by letter are received daily at the office. This necessitates the sending of printed notes to the enquirer and interviews at the office which can last up to 20 minutes in length, or a visit to the property with the owner. These latter visits are necessary when the improvements are of a complicated nature and necessitate items of replanning.

## WATER

The District is served by four Water Undertakings, Margate, Herne Bay, Canterbury and Mid and East Kent. These companies also have their catchment areas extending over a large part of the District. All of the water is drawn from deep wells and all supplies are chlorinated before distribution.

Throughout the year 64 visits have been made in connection with water supplies, including water sampling. Regular bacteriological samples are taken from the four mains sources within the area, as well as from Mystole House, Chartham and the Youth Hostel, Tyler Hill. The results of the samples taken during the year are as follows:-

	<u>Bacteriological</u>	<u>Chemical</u>
No. of samples taken ...	34	3
Results ... ..	27 Satisfactory 7 Unsatisfactory	3 Satisfactory

Six of the seven unsatisfactory samples were obtained from properties in the Denstroude area, and at the end of the year arrangements were still being made between Bridge Blean R.D.C. and neighbouring authorities with a view to extending the main to supply the 7 properties in the area.

Four new extension programmes were agreed during the year as follows:

1. Bossingham to Hardres Court, where the work of laying the new main was half completed at the end of the year.
2. Bossingham to Palmstead, Work in this main was completed in July 1954.
3. Knaves Ash, Hoath. Work on this main completed during the year.
4. Babs Oak Hill to Hoades Court, Sturry. Work on the main completed during the year.

With reference to the last two extensions, steps are being taken to connect properties to the mains, where the existing supply is unsatisfactory.

Arrangements have also been made for this Authority to be the water undertakers to part of the Herne Bay area (Grays and Oare Farms) adjoining the parish of Chislet.

The following table shows the source of supply for each Parish within the Rural District.

<u>Name of Parish</u>	<u>Source of Supply</u>
Adisham .. .. .	Margate Corporation
Barham .. .. .	Mid-Kent Water Co.
Bekesbourne .. .. .	) Margate Corporation
Bridge .. .. .	
Bishopsbourne .. .. .	) Canterbury Water Co., and Local Wells
Chartham .. .. .	
Chislet .. .. .	) Canterbury Water Co.
Fordwich .. .. .	
Hackington .. .. .	) Herne Bay Water Co.
Harbledown .. .. .	
Hoath .. .. .	Margate Corporation
Ickham and Well .. .. .	Mid-Kent Water Co.
Kingston .. .. .	Margate Corporation
Littlebourne .. .. .	Canterbury Water Co.
Lower Hardres .. .. .	Margate Corporation
Patricxbourne .. .. .	Mid-Kent Water Co.
Petham .. .. .	) Canterbury Water Co.
St. Cosmus and St. Damian in the Blean	
Sturry .. .. .	) Canterbury Water Co. and Rain Water Tanks
Thanington Without .. .. .	
Upper Hardres .. .. .	) Mid-Kent Water Co.
Waltham .. .. .	
Westbere .. .. .	Canterbury Water Co.
Wickhambreaux .. .. .	) Margate Corporation
Womenswold .. .. .	

FOOD AND DRUGS

1. Food Inspection

When the meat control was lifted in July 1954, slaughtering again took place in three private slaughterhouses within the district. Inspections of all animals slaughtered, together with the animals slaughtered at St. Augustine's Hospital, Chartham, have been carried out since that date. This has necessitated 35 visits to slaughterhouses. The following animals were inspected:-

Cows	-	6	Cattle excluding cows	-	5
Calves	-	9	Sheep and Lambs	-	23
Pigs	-	108			

The following organs etc. were condemned as being unfit or unsaleable for human consumption:-

4 Pigs Livers (Necrosis)  
2 Pigs Lungs (Inflammation)  
1 Cows Spleen (Abscesses)

From time to time, quantities of foodstuffs are surrendered by retailers for condemnation and during the year the following amounts of foodstuffs have been condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

788 lbs. Imported Beef  
12 lbs. English Beef  
35 lbs. Canned Beef  
15 lbs. Canned Fish  
24 lbs. Canned Vegetables  
19 lbs. Canned Fruit  
35 lbs. Canned Milk  
6 $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. Ham  
18 lbs. Cheese  
2 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. Other Foodstuffs.

It is noted that it is only the larger firms that surrender unfit foodstuffs, no doubt at the smaller shops the wholesalers are prepared to accept the odd tin without a condemnation certificate.

## 2. Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards.

As previously reported, meat became decontrolled during the year and three private slaughterhouses re-opened for slaughtering. In view of the fact that private slaughterhouses were likely to be closed at the end of the year, the owners of these slaughterhouses were not asked to carry out any major item of repair etc. During slaughtering however, the premises were kept in a clean condition.

There is only one knackers yard in the district, at Tyler Hill, and at the beginning of the year, a considerable amount of structural work was carried out in order to bring the slaughtering hall up to a better standard. A copy of the Model Byelaws was sent to the owner at the end of the year and regular visits were carried out in order to implement the conditions as set out in the Byelaws. In view of the fact that there is only one knackers yard, the Council decided not to make Byelaws for its control.

## 3. Cafes, Restaurants and Hotels.

Under this heading there are 18 premises within the area. Owing to increased work in connection with Housing and Improvement Grants, the number of visits made during the year fell well below average. During the course of visits, various suggestions and recommendations are made to the owners and these are usually attended to before the next visit. It is not, therefore, necessary to serve notices, although in two cases informal notices were sent.

#### 4. Bakehouses

There are 12 bakehouses in the area. They range from those with old fashioned side fired ovens and no mechanical aids, up to modernised ones with steam heated ovens and automatic moulders, mixers, slicers and wrappers. They are all privately owned and generally the owner both bakes and delivers the bread. The general standard of cleanliness is high and suggestions for improvements are generally accepted and implemented.

Once again, increased housing work reduced the average number of visits for the year.

#### 5. Public Houses and Inns

There are 66 licensed premises in the area and during the course of the year, further improvements were carried out to bring these premises more up-to-date.

#### 6. Fish Frying Premises

There are still 2 fish fryers within the district. The conditions of one shop are below average but in view of the fact that the premises consist of a temporary wooden hut and are licensed annually by this authority, pending the replanning of Sturry it is unreasonable to attempt to attain structural improvements. Under the conditions, general cleanliness is average.

#### 7. Ice-Cream

It was only possible during the year to take 8 samples of ice-cream and 4 of ice lollies, all of which were reported upon as coming within Grade I of the Ministry of Health gradings. There are no ice-cream manufacturing premises in the District. Applications for the registration of 10 premises were approved, making a total of 61 that are licensed to sell ice-cream in the district. All of these premises retail pre-packed ice-cream.

#### 8. Milk and Dairies

The undermentioned licences under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949, have been granted to persons retailing milk within this area.

	<u>Dealers</u>	<u>Supplementary</u>
Pasteurised ...	11	5
Sterilised ...	3	1
Tuberculin Tested	11	5

There are no pasteurising plants within the district. The only regular milk sampling that takes place in the area is at St. Augustine's Hospital, Chartham. During the winter months regular monthly samples are taken and during the summer months fortnightly samples. These samples are submitted for the biological and methylene blue tests and the results are



as follows:-

		<u>Biological Test</u>	<u>Methylene Blue Test</u>
No. samples taken	...	8 (T.T.)	10 (T.T.)
Results	... ..	8 Satisfactory	8 Satisfactory
No. samples taken	...		1 (Raw)
Results	... ..		1 Satisfactory

The two samples reported upon as being unsatisfactory did not arrive at the laboratory in Maidstone until the following day. This matter was taken up with the British Railways and since that date no further trouble has been experienced in the delivery of milk samples.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

There are 66 factories (58 with power, 8 without power) and 23 workplaces on the factories register.

46 visits were made during the past year and I would point out that under the Factory Acts, the Public Health Department are only responsible for sanitary accommodation in factories with power. This issue of Certificates and supervision of means of escape in case of fire is dealt with by the Surveyor.

Two complaints were received from the Factory Inspector with regard to premises in the District, but in my opinion, the observations made were unreasonable.

The following tables give the prescribed particulars under Section 128 of the Factories Act, 1937.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sec. 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	8	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	58	17	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	66	20	-	-

Cases in which Defects were Found

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found				No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	-	1	-
Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences	-	-	-	1	-
TOTAL:	1	1	-	2	-

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits are made following the report of cases of scarlet fever, poliomyelitis or food poisoning within the area. During these visits, information is sought concerning the spread of infection and steps taken to prevent its spreading further. In addition, information and advice are given to those responsible for the patients. During this year 9 such visits have been made, the majority of these being concerned with scarlet fever.

RODENT CONTROL

Rodent control is carried out in the district by a half-time operator who deals with complaints from private and business premises.

During the course of the year, the following premises were visited and treatment carried out where necessary.

	<u>Private</u>	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Farm</u>	<u>Business</u>	<u>Total</u>
Inspections	132	35	17	17	201
Treatments	106	32	8	12	158

Routine tests on the sewers at Harbledown and Sturry proved once again to be negative. This authority is now exempted until the year 1957 from carrying out further tests on the sewers. The contract service offered by the Kent Agricultural Executive Committee to farmers, ended on 31st March, 1954, Farmers now make their own arrangements with regard to inspections and treatments. Very few additional calls have been made upon this Authority's service as it has been found that farmers carry out their own treatments, using Warfarin.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Drainage within the district is generally to cesspools, septic tanks and soakaways, there being sewers at Harbledown, Woolage Village, Westbere, and part of Sturry, and at three of the Council's post-war housing estates.

159 visits were made during the year re overflowing of cesspools, obstructed drains etc. As it is the duty of any person who wishes to alter or construct new drains, to submit a plan for Byelaw approval, all the drain testing is carried out by the Surveyor's Department.

The Blean Land Drainage Scheme was completed during the year and although no appreciable difference can be noted in Blean, I am able to report that a considerable amount of water is being carried away from the area by this system.

Arrangements were made during the year to connect two small areas of Bridge Blean to the Canterbury Corporation sewer. These areas are Bramley Avenue (34 houses) and Cockering Road (5 houses). Work on the Bramley Avenue scheme was in progress at the end of the year.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

Six vehicles are employed on cesspool and pail closet emptying. In the northern part of the district, cesspools are emptied in rotation every three months and the remainder of the district upon receipt of requests. Following upon the resolution of the Council, additional emptyings are now carried out upon payment and during the year, 33 were attended to.

Four vehicles are employed in carrying out a weekly refuse collection in the district. Refuse is disposed of at three tips in the district, namely Chartham, Oldridge Wood and Womenswold. Controlled tipping is carried out at each tip. During the year, owing to the increased tonnage of refuse disposed at Chartham and the danger of receiving complaints, it was necessary to employ an elderly pensioner to carry out part-time work at Chartham Tip.

This authority has continued with its paper salvage and during the year the price of waste paper rose from £5 to £7 per ton. The income from this paper amounted to £564 ls. 1d. During the same period a sum of £21 2s. 9d. was realised from the sale of scrap metal.

## MOVABLE DWELLINGS

This local authority has three registered caravan sites and 9 persons hold Public Health Act licences to station and use movable dwellings within the area. The licences in respect of individual caravans are renewed annually subject to the Public Health conditions being complied with. One application for a new site licence was approved in respect of land at Woolage Green.

During the year, 31 visits were made in respect of new and existing licences for individual caravans as well as in respect of sites at Dengrove, Broad Oak and Woodlands, Honey Hill, Blean.

### HOP-PICKERS' CAMPS

Eleven farms within the district provide accommodation for hop-pickers. There are 15 camps in use during the season, housing approximately 3,000 persons. The construction of the huts range from weather boarded type with felt roofs to the breeze or concrete block type with corrugated iron roofs. All the huts have concrete floors, with bunks and shutter ventilation. Mains water is piped to the sites, with one exception. In most cases the sanitary accommodation consists of trench privies.

The usual procedure is to inspect some weeks prior to occupation and notify the owner of any defects. During hop-picking, regular visits are made with the emphasis on cleanliness of sites and sanitary accommodation. 44 visits were made during the year.

### SHOPS ACT, 1950

Delegation of powers under the above Act was accepted by this Authority in September. These additional powers deal with early closing, half day holidays and Sunday trading. 6 visits on Public Health grounds were made during the year.

