

[Report 1957] / Medical Officer of Health, Bridge-Blean R.D.C.

Contributors

Bridge-Blean (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1957

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BRIDGE-BLEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1957

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Chairman of the Council

COUNCILLOR H. ANDERSON.

---oOo---

Public Health Committee 1958

Councillor A. Taylor - (Chairman).
Councillor J. F. Montgomery - (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor F. E. Spanton.
Councillor A. R. Palmer.
Councillor F. V. Lee.
Councillor A. J. Ross.

Ex Officio Members

Councillor H. Anderson (Chairman of the Council)
Councillor G. Mount (Vice-Chairman of the Council)

---oOo---

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

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Senior Public Health Inspector ... H.K.Blundell to J.W.A.Brewster
from 25.11.58.

Additional Public Health Inspector J.W.A.Brewster to 25.11.58
G.L.Almond from 1.2.58.

Transport Officer L. Bond.

Rodent Operator A. Vinten.

Clerical Staff: Clerks in the Mrs. M. Price.
Senior Public Health Inspector's Miss E. A. Dowson.
Office (on reporting).

---oOo---

Clerk of the Council: Treasurer: Engineer and Surveyor:
L. J. WILLIAMS, Esq. W. GARDNER, Esq. P. J. THACKRAY, Esq.

---oOo---

Offices: Public Health Department, Rural District Council Offices,
41 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, (Telephone 4216/7)

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour as your Medical Officer of Health to present an Annual Report for 1957. It is presented in the usual form and with the annual hope that you may manage to cross the bog of statistics to reach the substance of the matter, in particular the contribution from Mr. Brewster, your Senior Public Health Inspector, whose promotion during the year was both praiseworthy and deserved and whose help is appreciated greatly by me. I wish to thank him and the other chief officials for their co-operation in public health affairs and thank the Council for their continuing interest. It is my earnest hope that Councillors will always find public health an aspect of local government full of interest, and of promise of further progress for the betterment and happiness of the community we all serve.

Your obedient servant,

Malcolm S. Harvey
M.S.H.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population Mid 1957: 19,080 - The population is steady and shows only slight annual variations.

Area: 55,862 acres - Unchanged.

LIVEBIRTHS:

Male	119	(including 4 illegitimate)
Female	147	(including 5 illegitimate)
Total	266	(Total - 9 illegitimate)

STILLBIRTHS

Male	5
Female	3
Total	8 (1 outside wedlock)

DEATHS

Neo-natals: Infant Deaths under 4 weeks	3	= Male 1 Female 2
Infant Deaths 4 weeks - 1 yr.	1	= Male
Total Infant Deaths	4	(Including 1 illegitimate birth)

All Deaths: Male	182
Female	138
Total	320

Comparability Factors: Births 1.25 Deaths 0.51 (to be used to standardise the local rates against those for England and Wales)

<u>Vital Rates:</u> Birth Rate (Crude)	13.9	} per thousand of the population
Corrected Birth Rate	17.4	
Birth Rate England & Wales	16.1	
Death Rate (crude)	16.77	} per thousand of the population.
Corrected Death Rate	8.55	
Death Rate England & Wales	11.5	
Infant Mortality Rate	15.4	(Calculation not significant)
Infant Mortality Rate England & Wales.	23.0	per 1,000 births.
Peri-natal mortality Rate (Infant deaths under 1 week and stillbirths per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	40.	

The causes of death are tabulated below.

Cause	M	F	Total 1957	Total 1956
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	1	2	4
Tuberculosis, Other	-	-	-	-
All other infectious or parasitic diseases	-	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasms, Stomach	4	1	5	12
Malignant Neoplasms, Lung and Bronchus	6	3	9	6
Malignant Neoplasms, Breast	-	1	1	5
Malignant Neoplasms, Uterus	-	2	2	4
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	16	9	25	24
Leukaemia and Aeuukaemia	4	-	4	4
Diabetes	2	1	3	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	16	17	33	36
Coronary Disease, Angina	30	13	43	30
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	1	3	25
Other Heart Disease	24	37	61	96
Other Circulatory Diseases	5	11	16	23
Influenza	-	2	2	1
Pneumonia	17	9	26	11
Bronchitis	14	5	19	9
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	7	-	7	5
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	1	3	7
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea ..	1	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	2	5	4
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	3	-	3	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformation	3	-	3	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases	15	20	35	30
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2	3
All other accidents	4	-	4	6
Suicide	2	-	2	2
Homicide or Operations of War	-	-	-	-
Total Deaths ..	182	138	320	355

INFANT DEATHS

The causes of infant deaths.	Under 24 hrs.	to 1 wk.	to 1 mth.	to 1 yr.	Total
Prematurity with Atelectasis.	-	2	-	-	2
Prematurity.	-	1	-	-	1
Acute Hydrocephalus.	-	-	-	1	1
	-	3	-	1	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following tabulation shows the incidence of cases for the year 1957, 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+	1957	1956	
Scarlet Fever	4	8	3	9	1	17	3	3	-	24	7	
Measles	35	16	64	-	49	60	4	2	-	115	78	
Whooping Cough ..	17	8	12	12	20	27	-	1	1	49	31	
Pneumonia	4	4	1	3	-	2	-	7	3	12	7	
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-						1	2	
Dysentery	-	4	-	-						4	7	
Food Poisoning.. ..	-	-	-	-						-	1	
Paralytic Polio ..	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
Non Paralytic Polio	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	

Scarlet Fever - There was a higher incidence than for a few years past due to two outbreaks of cases in the Littlebourne Primary School, one at the end of the Summer term and one at the end of the Autumn term. There appeared to be a common factor in both incidents as the early cases in each outbreak were associated with the same group of Council houses and its nearby locality. It is thought to be more than a coincidence that the outbursts were at the end of a school term and that they resulted from a build up of streptococcal infection amongst the children until the crucial spill over level was exceeded and illnesses resulted. One case occurred in the School in late March. Six cases occurred in June and seven in December.

The School roll is just on the 100.

In the June outbreak action was centred on the homes and at school was limited to advice on precautionary measures and classroom disinfection.

In the December recurrence all children were examined for existence of ear or nose discharges, skin infection or tonsillar inflammation. Swabbing was carried out on seven children and eight children were excluded from School. Introduction of disinfectant dusting and sweeping after disinfectant spraying of the school appeared to reduce further spread and there were no recurrences in the Spring term.

Out of the 24 cases in the year 11 were admitted to Hospital.

Measles

The prevalence of measles in the first three quarters of the year occurred in the Northern half of the Rural District.

Pneumonia

There is a certain constancy in the location of these cases in the district; Bridge, Bekesbourne, Petham and Waltham providing their annual quota. Four of the cases in that area occurred during the lambing season. Out of the annual total of 12 notified cases 4 were influenzal pneumonias associated with the Autumn epidemic.

Influenza

As in other parts of the country a wave of mild influenza swept through the district during the Autumn and had waned to a seasonal incidence by the end of the year. The deaths, of which only 2 were attributed to influenza, especially in the pneumonia or bronchitis groups showed no increase to correspond with the increase of illness in the community during the epidemic.

Whooping Cough

This was prevalent in Barham, Waltham and Petham in the early part of the year and in Broad Oak and Sturry at the latter part.

Dysentery

A group of four cases of sonne dysentery occurred associated with a household infection and this was investigated.

Acute Poliomyelitis

The first case of the season occurred in the first week in June and had a wide range of contacts. Information was sent to the other Medical Officers of Health on the contacts. No secondary cases appeared to follow.

In late July just before the close of School a case occurred in a Lower Hardres schoolchild with serious potentialities of spreading, because of the wide contact that had occurred. The occurrence of such a case cannot be isolated from happenings in another local authority area nearby and this case coincided with trouble in Swale Rural District south of Faversham. All absentees were followed up and several cases of illness had a febrile or headachy character. Symptoms such as "not herself", "woke up terrified", "tearful and needing Mother" were noted and in general such cases were advised to avoid contact with other children for the specified 21 days and to practice a high level of personal hygiene.

Two other isolated cases occurred in season, and finally two cases, one a diagnosis after illness, occurred at the close of the year and appear in the notifications for 1958.

Tuberculosis

A rise from 4 (1956) to 15 cases (1957) of pulmonary tuberculosis calls for comment. Five of these were diagnosed as the result of a survey in one of the longstay hospitals in the district, 1 was a posthumous notification, 1 arose from the Mass Miniature Radiography Survey, 1 was a case passed through from the Services, 1 was lung involvement of a previous case of gland tuberculosis and the other six were diagnosed in the course of the general practice. Of this last mentioned 6 three were concerned with farming, two were engineers and one a coal miner, all males. It is gratifying to note the absence of any delay in admission to hospital.

Protection against Infection

The County Medical Officer of Health has provided figures on the work done by his staff and by the General Practitioners during 1957.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Until the end of the year protection was available to those born 1947-55 and according to vaccine supplies. The following number were protected by 2 injections.

492 children aged 5-10 (just over 40%)
and 69 children aged less than 5 (just under 10% of these
aged 2-5)

Diphtheria Immunisation

194 Primary Immunisations were completed, 164 of them under the age of 5. This is just over 60% of the birth intake into the group. It could with advantage be 20% higher.

319 booster immunisations were given, 318 in the 5-15 age group representing 13% of the age group and a reasonable maintenance rate, but only if the level of primary protection is high. At 60% the primary protection is insufficient to prevent a waning in the adequacy of

protection in our child population. We now have in the 5-15 group over 90% who at some time have had Diphtheria Immunisation. But the younger children are only 60% protected.

Smallpox Vaccination

130 primary vaccinations were carried out, 122 in those under 5 yrs, representing just 50% of the birth intake.

GENERAL MATTERS

The section contributed by Mr. Brewster, Senior Public Health Inspector, which follows gives a more detailed survey of other matters of public health interest, but a few items are mentioned here as being of special interest. The Medical Officer of Health is still concerned in advising on environmental matters which due to the progress that has already been made in the public health field may not now appear to be the province of a medical man. Because progress in social and preventive medicine has kept pace with environmental hygiene the responsibilities of the Medical Officer of Health in the latter field of activity remain unchanged.

Housing

The progress in housing tenants from condemned properties or from properties listed in our slum removal programme is hindered because this duty of the Council is unaided by the clamant demands of the tenants who in general are inured to their living conditions. The more vociferous claims from inconvenienced, crowded or other housing applicants misleads the Council in applying priorities to the detriment of its duty as a public health authority to move people out of unfit dwellings into reasonable living conditions. Some progress is now being made in the latter direction. Clearance and redevelopment of the site of a block of wooden cottages in Bridge has been completed. Two groups of cottages in Adisham are being dealt with and alternative houses provided. In the latter case some delay was caused by thoughts to purchase and renovate one row of unfit dwellings, a measure that would have delayed the inevitable for perhaps fifteen or twenty years. This expensive perpetuation of the inconvenience of others was fortunately abandoned.

Housing of Old Persons

We are now moving towards some schemes of suitable dwellings for old persons and the **unit** of dwellings at Lynton Cottages, Bridge is a step forward.

Old and Infirm Persons

No case required the use of Section 47, National Assistance Act. Other action was successful in one case of a physically handicapped man of 60 living alone in an unsatisfactory breeze block hut in Hoath. The interest of the County Medical Officers staff in elderly or infirm persons is always observed.

Water Supplies

The few groups of dwellings which are not on mains water supply are kept under observation as Mr. Brewster's report shows and where the supply is doubtful in quality or inadequate, mains extensions are sought. A case of shallow well supply which has always been adequate in quantity but was found to fail in quality called for special advice and an automatic chlorination process was installed by the owner, to tide over until the future allows a mains extension.

We were invited to take part in discussions on the use of river water for the pit head baths at the local colliery. This would have reduced the draw off a mains water supply that in the warmth of summer can show a troublesome drop in pressure, and we were sorry to learn that a scheme which was going to produce a safe alternative supply to the baths had been abandoned.

Sewage and Sewerage Schemes

In Adisham the subjects of water supply and sewerage intermingle, and local improvements were bedevilled by sterile discussions that seemed to promise a main drainage scheme. In view of the stasis that had developed in discussions with the Thanet Water Board a review of the local situation and of existing outline proposals was submitted to the Council. It cannot be claimed that this review made things clearer, or that it produced progress during 1957. But it is significant that a scheme which was to have laid a trunk sewer over a water addit has been abandoned and that a limited extension of an existing Council house sewage treatment plant which disposes of effluent by surface soakaway, to meet the needs of an additional group of houses has been found acceptable by the Water Board and others concerned.

Hoath Sewage Scheme was the subject of an enquiry.

Sturry main drainage was also enquired into by the Ministry Inspectors. The local private enquiry, having been gratuitously publicized by a magazine circulating locally became an informal public enquiry and the tolerant good humour of the Inspectors in face of the unexpected gave much local pleasure in the same measure as the outcome gave satisfaction.

Blean Drainage

A review of the conditions in Blean was made with the valued assistance of Parish Councillors and a report on the urgent need of improvement here was submitted to the Council.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT (J.W.A.BREWSTER)

HOUSING

As in previous years Housing duties take up the majority of the Departments time. Over 800 visits were made in dealing with all aspects of Housing work which includes the Slum Clearance Programme, Improvement Grants, Rent Act Certificates and general complaints. Statistics of this work appear at the end of this section. The following are a few comments on the major duties of Housing work.

(a) Improvement Grants

Owing to the financial situation this Council decided in November, 1957, to suspend the making of Grants unless the property had been included in the Council's Slum Clearance Programme. This decision did not materially effect the position of Improvement Grants during the year under review when Grants in respect of 57 properties were completed. Of this figure 20 were owner/occupied, 35 were agricultural lettings and 2 were normal lettings. Two of the above properties had been classed as unfit and one, a stable block, was converted into 8 dwellings, therefore 10 extra units of Housing accommodation were provided.

(b) Slum Clearance

For various reasons it was not possible to adhere rigidly to the five year Slum Clearance Programme. It was generally decided to deal with unfit properties which became vacant either on death or upon the tenants being rehoused by this or any other Authority. At the end of the year (the second year of the five year programme) 72 out of 159 unfit properties had been dealt with. This Council, therefore, are ahead of their Programme. Set out opposite is a table showing the number of unfit properties in each Parish and the number dealt with to date.

(c) Rent Act 1957

This Act came into force on the 6th July, 1957 and although one of its main objects was to prevent Local Authorities being inundated with numerous requests for Certificates of Disrepair the provisions are so complicated and the procedure for obtaining such Certificates so lengthy, that a considerable amount of the time of the Technical Officers and the clerical staff of the Department was spent on explaining to tenants and owners the correct procedure. At the end of the year 30 applications for Certificates of Disrepair had been received and in all but one case it was decided to issue Certificates. As the Certificate had to be based on the defects set down by the tenant on his or her Notice to the Landlord (Form "G") it was noted in many cases that quite serious items of disrepair had been omitted or overlooked and the only way of dealing with these defects was to take separate action under the Housing or Public Health Acts. At the end of the year the majority of the Certificates of Disrepair had not been complied with and it does appear that certain owners had hoped that the

	No. on Survey	Demolished	Demolition Order	Closing Order	Closed	Unofficial Undertaking	Made Fit	Work in Progress	Action in Progress.
Adisham	26	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	7
Barham	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Blean	18	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	-
Bridge	18	4	-	-	-	-	8	2	4
Chartham	8	-	1	-	1	4	-	-	2
Chislet	26	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	1
Fordwich	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hackington	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Hoath	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ickham	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kingston	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
L. Hardres	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Petham	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Sturry	6	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	3
Thanington	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
U. Hardres	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Waltham	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wickhambreaux	13	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	2
Womenswold	10	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	159	6	3	3	8	6	21	2	23 = 72

tenant would not apply for a Certificate but would pay the rent increase without raising any query. As the cost of complying with some of the Certificates which included such items as external decoration and repairs to outbuildings, footpaths, fences and gates is bound to be high I am quite certain that the Landlord will forego the rent increase. In my opinion it would then be necessary for the Local Authorities to deal with the items that fall within the relevant section of the Housing and Public Health Acts.

(d) General

As already mentioned, unless a tenant buys or secures alternative accommodation, progress in dealing with unfit properties relies upon the Local Authority rehousing the tenants. Although a number have been rehoused over the past year there are still twelve families living in unfit properties which have been represented to the Council dating back to September 1954. I set out below particulars of the outstanding Demolition and Closing Orders etc. together with the relevant dates and remarks as to occupation:-

Demolition Orders

<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1 Mayton Lane, Broad Oak, Sturry.	Sept.1954.	Empty, in course of Demolition.
5 Mayton Lane, Broad Oak, Sturry.	Sept.1954.	Empty - adjoining occupied cottage.
1 Woodside Cottages, Tyler Hill, Hackington.	Feb.1955.	Occupied by elderly brothers.
2 Woodside Cottages, Tyler Hill, Hackington.	Feb.1955.	Empty.
2 Garden Cottages, Shalmsford Street, Chartham.	Jan.1956.	Occupied by a couple.
1 Oast Cottages, The Street, Adisham.	Mar.1956.	Empty - adjoining occupied property.
1 Seedmill, Chartham Hatch.	Jan.1956.	Empty.
2 Seedmill, Chartham Hatch.	Jan.1956.	Occupied by sub-tenant.
3 Seedmill, Chartham Hatch.	Jan.1956.	Empty.
2 Tharps Cottages, Broad Oak, Sturry.	Mar.1957.	Empty - adjoining occupied property.

Unofficial Undertakings

1 & 2 Lucknow Cottages, Broad Oak, Sturry.	Dec. 1956.	Occupied by elderly couples.
1 - 4 Railway Bridge Cottages, Shalmsford Street, Chartham.	June. 1957.	Occupied by elderly single persons.
1 & 3 Field View Cottages, Ickham.	July. 1957.	Occupied.

Closing Orders.

2 Whites Cottages, The Street, Wickhambreaux.	Dec. 1957.	Occupied by a single person.
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(e) HOUSING STATISTICS

A. New houses erected by the Council	3
New houses under construction by the Council..	5
New houses erected by Private Enterprise	60
Houses demolished under Housing Acts	3
Houses demolished by other persons.. .. .	2
Houses otherwise closed for human habitation under Housing Acts	7
Houses otherwise closed for human habitation by other persons	Nil
Conversions of properties into dwellings under Housing Act.. .. .	11
Conversions of properties into dwellings by other persons	Nil
Conversions of properties in progress under Housing Act	Nil
Conversions of properties in progress by other persons..	Nil

B. Inspections of Dwelling Houses during the year

1. (a) Number inspected under Housing Acts	97
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	437
(c) Number of miscellaneous Housing visits	184
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation (Section 16)	23
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation (Section 9)	Nil
4. Number of representations made to Local Authority with a view to:-	
(a) serving of notices requiring the execution of works (Section 9).. .. .	Nil

<u>B. Inspections of Dwelling Houses during the year (Contd)</u>	
4. (b) the making of demolition or Closing Orders (Section 16)	23
5. Number of cases of overcrowding known to the Local Authority at 31st December 1956	4
6. Number of such cases identified during 1957.. .. .	3
7. Number of cases of overcrowding at 31st December, 1957..	7
<u>C. Remedy of Defects without service of Notices</u>	
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..	19
<u>D. Action under Statutory Powers</u>	
(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 12 of the Housing Act 1957.	
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 houses inspected under Public Health Acts ..	24
2. Number of houses visited under Public Health Acts ..	75
3. Number of dwelling houses on which statutory notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	8
4. Number in which defects remedied after service of formal notices:	
(i) by owners.. .. .	5
(ii) by Local Authority in default	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 16 and 23 of the Housing Act 1957.	
1. Number of dwellings on which Demolition Orders were made	3
2. Number of dwellings demolished under Demolition Orders	9

D. Action under Statutory Powers (Contd).

(c) 3.	Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section (4) of Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957.. .. .	6
3a.	Number of unofficial undertakings accepted	2
(d)	Proceedings under Sections 17(1) 17(3) and 18 of the Housing Act, 1957.	
1.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms on which Closing Orders were made (S.18).. .. .	Nil
2.	Number of Closing Orders made under Section 17(3) ..	Nil
3.	Number of Closing Orders made under Section 17(1) ..	5

FOOD AND DRUGS

Owing to the amount of housing work and the various changes in the Department, routine inspections of food preparing premises suffered accordingly. This is rather unfortunate as there is still a large amount of work to be done following the coming into force of the new Food and Drugs Act, 1955. In my opinion, all premises dealing with the preparation of food should receive at least one visit every quarter. The various categories of premises coming under the scope of the Food and Drugs Act are as follows:-

Cafes, Restaurants and Hotels etc	21.
(This figure does not include licensed premises where catering is carried on)	
Bakehouses	- 8
Butchers Shops	- 13
Fishshops	- 1
Shops	- 92
School Canteens and Kitchens	- 24
Licensed Premises	- 68
Other premises (Hospitals, Factory Canteens etc)	- 6

MILK AND DAIRIES

The under-mentioned 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	15	6
Sterilised	5	1
Tuberculin Tested	12	6

MILK AND DAIRIES (Contd)

A certain amount of milk sampling was carried on during the year. Once again this side of the work was well below that required for complete supervision of the quality of the milk. Of the samples taken all were satisfactory.

ICE-CREAM

Only 8 samples of ice-cream were taken during the year, all of which proved to be satisfactory. Included in the 8 samples was one taken from a shop in Sturry which has been retailing a loose cold mix and over which some difficulty had been experienced in the previous year. More and more shops are now retailing products manufactured by well-known and reputable firms. As far as possible sampling is confined to lesser known brands as it is felt that there is ample coverage of the big firms products. I think attention should be given also to the mobile ice-cream parlours which tour the district during the evenings, although difficulty will probably be experienced in storing these samples overnight. It is intended, however, to go into this matter and try and put some scheme into force during the forthcoming year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKER YARDS

Routine visits have been made during the year to the private slaughterhouse at St. Augustine's Hospital, Chartham, and the knacker yard at Tyler Hill.

FOOD INSPECTION AND DISPOSAL

(a) Meat Inspection

3 Cows and 235 Pigs were inspected as to their fitness for food at St. Augustine's Hospital, Chartham during the year. There is usually a small kill on most weeks and occasionally a larger kill for bacon on Sundays.

(b) Other Food Inspections

The Department has been called in from time to time by the larger retailers to inspect consignments of canned and other food stuffs. The amount condemned is as under:-

448 lbs English Beef.	32 lbs Canned Fruit.
182 lbs Imported Beef.	11½ lbs Canned Fish.
66 lbs English Pork.	5 lbs Soup.
41 lbs Canned Meat.	3 lbs Canned Milk.
59 lbs Canned Vegetables.	5½ lbs Other Foods.

FOOD INSPECTION AND DISPOSAL (Contd)

(c) Food Disposal

All condemned food is disposed of by being buried at the Council's refuse tips.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

20 visits were made during the year in respect of closing hours and Sunday trading and also for matters of sanitary accommodation, lighting and ventilation.

RODENT CONTROL

Following representations from the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, this Council employed the services of a full-time Rodent Operator in addition to the part time Operator. It was felt by the Ministry that this Authority was not making sufficient progress in their inspections of farms. With the change round in the Department in November the services of the full-time Operator were dispensed with and Mr. A. C. Vinten was employed on full-time duties, it being felt that this was sufficient to ensure the carrying out of the required number of visits to farms etc. per year. Naturally the number of inspections in the year rose considerably and the complete figures are as follows:-

	Private	Local Authority	Farm	Business	Total
Inspections	339	82	440	89	950
Treatments	164	40	10	28	242

No sewer testing was carried out during the year.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Some 40 visits were made in respect of infectious diseases, approximately half of which concerned the collection of faeces specimens from contacts.

HOP PICKERS CAMPS

There are still some 10 farms in the district providing accommodation for Hop Pickers consisting of 50 camps which can house approximately 2,500 persons. Farmers, however, are relying more on

HOP PICKERS CAMPS (Contd)

local labour and a considerable number of huts were unoccupied during the season.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Dengrove Caravan Site, Broad Oak is the only licensed site of any note within the district. The licence allows for 60 vans to be stationed and occupied. One or two other sites hold Public Health Licences but have not come into use as permission was not obtained under the Town and Country Planning Acts. There are seven licences in respect of individual caravans which are renewable at the end of each year.

WATER

Water sampling during the year was not on such a large scale as in the past, and was mostly concentrated on the Vale Farm area, Sturry, where repeated samples from a well serving three properties proved to be unsatisfactory, no doubt due to the closeness of the well to the cesspool and stockyard of the farm. In order to overcome this contamination the owner installed a small chlorination plant which came into use at the end of the year. Samples will be taken from time to time to check the efficiency of the plant.

Attempts were still being made during the year to secure the extension of water mains in the following areas:- Denstroude, Blean; Marshside, Chislet; Buckwell Farm, Sturry; in most cases the number of properties to be served are small and the cost of such extensions is very high. These areas and odd individual properties represent a fraction of 1% of the total number of properties in the area, that are without a mains water supply.

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	Thanet Water Board.
Barham	Mid-Kent Water Co.
Bekesbourne	Thanet Water Board.
Bridge	Thanet Water Board.
Bishopsbourne	Thanet Water Board.
Chartham .. .. .	) Canterbury Water Co.
Chislet	
Fordwich	Canterbury Water Co.
Hackington	Canterbury Water Co.
Harbledown	Canterbury Water Co.
Hoath	Herne Bay Water Co.
Ickham and Well	Thanet Water Board.

WATER (Contd)

<u>Name of Parish</u>	<u>Source of Supply</u>
Kingston .. .. .	.. Mid-Kent Water Co.
Littlebourne .. .. .	.. Thanet Water Board.
Lower Hardres .. .. .	.. Canterbury Water Co.
Patrixbourne .. .. .	.. Thanet Water Board.
Petham .. .. .	.. Mid-Kent Water Co.
St.Cosmus & St.Damian in the Blean..	..) Canterbury Water Co.
Sturry .. .. .	.. ) Canterbury Water Co.
Thanington Without .. .. .	.. ) Canterbury Water Co.
Upper Hardres .. .. .	.. Mid-Kent Water Co.
Waltham .. .. .	.. Mid-Kent Water Co.
Westbere .. .. .	.. Canterbury Water Co.
Wickhambreaux .. .. .	.. Thanet Water Board.
Womenswold. .. .. .	.. Thanet Water Board.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

This branch of the Departments work has suffered more than any other during the past year as only three visits were made. The under-mentioned table gives the prescribed number 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.	3	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7. is enforced by Local Authority.	45	3	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7. is enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
Total	48	3	-	-

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Upon the retirement of Mr. J. H. K. Blundell in November the control and management of the sewage disposal works passed to the Engineer and Surveyor. The four main sewage works serve Littlebourne, Westbere, Harbledown and Upper Harbledown. Small areas situated close to the Canterbury boundary drain into their sewers. In the remaining part of the district drainage is generally to cesspools, septic tanks and soakaways. On the whole, very little trouble was caused by this form of drainage in the Southern part of the District although water undertakers are beginning to take action to safeguard their collecting grounds which cover large areas at Adisham, Kingston, Barham, Lower Hardres and Chartham.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

6 vehicles are still engaged on cesspool and pail closet emptying. In the northern part of the district cesspools are emptied on rota every three months and the remaining part of the district upon receipt of requests. In addition extra emptyings are carried out upon payment. After the conversion of further vehicles to diesel, running expenses have been considerably reduced as will be noted from the estimates for the year 1958-59.

On refuse collection, 4 vehicles carry out a weekly service and the refuse is deposited at controlled tips at Chartham, Oldridge Wood, Sturry, Adisham and Barham. Despite the difficulty in maintaining strict controlled tipping with the available staff and the proximity of houses at the majority of the tips very few complaints have been received.

A sum of £1,006. was realised from the sale of waste paper which is an increase of some £63 over the previous year. The residents of the area play an important part in keeping paper separate from normal refuse and we are fortunate in having sufficient storage space at Laundry Lane Depot, Bridge, to deal with this material.

At the end of the year the Council employed 25 persons plus one part time in operating the public cleansing and salvage service. It is interesting to note that this figure is 5 less than the number employed in 1952 and the whole service is continually being reviewed in order to make economies of this nature, despite the fact of the increasing amount of work done especially with regard to cesspool emptying.

STERILISATION OF WASTE FOOD

In September the Council accepted a Delegation of Functions in connection with the sterilisation of waste food under the Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order 1957. It was not possible in the remaining months of the year to inspect and licence these premises but it is hoped to deal with them in the early part of 1958.