

[Report 1950] / Medical Officer of Health, Cowes U.D.C.

Contributors

Cowes (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1950

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/d4xn9aff>

License and attribution

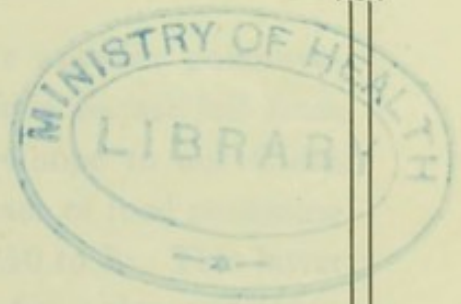
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



1950.

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE HEALTH
OF THE
COWES URBAN DISTRICT

BY

JOHN MILLS,

M.D., CH.B., M.R.C.S. (ENG.), L.R.C.P. (LOND.), D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

ISLE OF WIGHT:

JACOBS, PEATES AND CO., LTD., PRINTERS, NEWPORT.

1951.

COUNTY HALL,
NEWPORT, I.W.

October, 1951.

To the Members of the Cowes Urban District Council :—

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1950.

The birth rate has fallen to 14.62 and the death rate has fallen to 10.98 which is lower than that for England and Wales.

The still birth rate has fallen from 37.7 to 20.7.

The infantile mortality rate has also fallen from 24.9 to 21.1 in respect of all infants per 1000 live births.

The infantile mortality rate for legitimate infants has remained about the same 22.02 compared with 22.5 the previous year, but the infantile mortality in illegitimate infants has dropped from 71.4 to nil. It should be remembered that the actual figures involved are so small that the variation in rates is of little significance.

During the year 1950 there were no deaths from puerperal causes, measles, whooping cough or infantile diarrhoea, and no cases of diphtheria occurred.

In spite of an outbreak of acute anterior poliomyelitis the number of notifications of infectious disease fell from 269 to 39. In particular, largely due we hope to our Clean Food Campaign efforts, the number of cases of food poisoning fell from 43 to 1, and measles fell from 210 to 7. This latter of course is part of the cyclical pattern of measles epidemics.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1950.

Medical Officer of Health :—

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P.
(Lond.), D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :—

J. W. BROMLEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres	5542
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1950) per rate books	6023
Rateable value	£112,627
Sum represented by a penny rate	£447

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

These are unchanged since the last report.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar General's Figures)	17,130
Live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	13.8
Comparative factor	1.05
Comparative Birth rate	14.62
Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ...	20.7
Crude Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	13.4
Comparative factor	0.83
Comparative Death rate	10.98
Puerperal death rate per 1000 total (live and still births)	Nil
Infantile Mortality :—	
All infants per 1000 live births	21.1
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate births ...	22.02
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births ...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	52
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	Nil

BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 237, giving a live birth rate per 1000 living of 13.8, the corresponding rate for England and Wales being 15.8.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths was 229 giving a death rate of 10.98 per 1000 of the estimated resident population. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 11.6.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSE	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	3
Tuberculosis, other	1	—
Syphilitic disease	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—
Malignant neoplasm. stomach	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	21	12
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	1
Diabetes	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	11	20
Coronary disease, angina	11	8
Hypertension with heart disease	1	3
Other heart disease	27	35
Other circulatory disease	2	2
Influenza	1	—
Pneumonia	—	3
Bronchitis	6	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	3	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	7
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All other accidents	—	4
Suicide	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
ALL CAUSES	115	114

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 21.1 per 1000 registered live births, the rate for England and Wales being 29.8.

DIPHTHERIA.

This disease is one of the most serious killing infections of man. It used to claim large numbers of victims, mainly children who died in a most horrible way. Owing to the unremitting efforts of Medical Officers of Health in the past who knew that in diphtheria immunisation they had a safe and potent weapon against this scourge, the disease was beaten and practically wiped out. Because of the overwhelming success of diphtheria immunisation the word Diphtheria has ceased to bring to the present generation the alarm that it caused to their fathers and mothers. But it must be remembered that the disease is still with us, lurking in the throats of protected individuals simply waiting for an opportunity to strike and kill as is its very nature.

There is only one way to be certain that this disease never strikes back and that is by ensuring that the population especially our children are properly immunised against it. Most adults are immunised unwittingly by repeated small infections of which they know nothing. Children can only be rendered immune by the safe, uncomplicated procedure of immunisation by their family or clinic doctor.

A child who has not this protection is in danger of its life. It is only sheer chance that saves it.

In Cowes only 36.83 per cent. of children under 5 enjoy the benefits of this protection. 64.11 per cent. of children of school age are protected. This means that large numbers of children are being exposed quite unnecessarily to the chance of death.

There are so many causes of death that one cannot avoid. Surely it is not asking too much that parents should help their children to one of the certain means of avoiding it.

POLIOMYELITIS IN COWES.

Poliomyelitis first began to appear on the Island in 1950 on January 25th, with a severe case of paralysis in a girl of 13 at Chale. The next was a fatal case in a woman of 40 at Shanklin on February 12th. Thereafter there were three mild cases, one on February 20th at Newport, one on May 20th at Newport, and one on May 16th at Ryde.

It was only after 25 cases had rapidly occurred in the Rural District and Newport that this District became involved in the outbreak.

The first case occurred at Gurnard in a girl aged 21, M.M. This was a paralytic case. There was no evidence of any contact between this girl and any known case, but by this time the early contacts were doubtless extensive in the Island, and large numbers of mild undiagnosed and sub-clinical cases were undoubtedly at large. During this time it was quite likely that infection occurred in 'buses and cinemas.

It was, therefore, not possible by this date in Cowes to demonstrate any true line of infection in the way that it was possible to so do in the Rural District and certain of the Newport cases.

Fortunately the outbreak in Cowes was of a mild character compared with elsewhere.

It is usually found that poliomyelitis affects rural communities more severely and more extensively than urban. This is probably due to the fact that a large community gradually builds up an immunity through being exposed more or less continuously to mild, sub-clinical infection, so that when an outbreak does occur the population as a whole is naturally better equipped to meet the onslaught than a community which is meeting the disease for perhaps the first time.

A table of the cases occurring in Cowes is included below :—

POLIOMYELITIS 1950—COWES.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Initials.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>West or East Cowes.</i>	<i>Paralytic/Non- Paralytic.</i>
11.8.50	M.M.	21	West	Paralytic
16.8.50	J.W.	21	East	Non-Paralytic
18.8.50	A.T.	20	West	Non-Paralytic
19.8.50	B.P.	20	West	Non-Paralytic
21.8.50	A.C.	7	West	Paralytic
23.8.50	K.C.	18	West	Non-Paralytic
2.9.50	A.G.	8	West	Abortive
11.9.50	C., Mrs.	25	East	Non-Paralytic
11.9.50	M., Mrs.	25	East	Non-Paralytic
11.9.50	D.M.	10	East	Non-Paralytic
19.9.50	V.L.	6	East	Non-Paralytic
19.9.50	J.P.	4	East	Non-Paralytic
19.9.50	W.P.	37	East	Paralytic
11.10.50	W.B.	37	West	Paralytic
30.10.50	D.C.	1½	East	Paralytic

It is not possible in an outbreak of this kind, and in an island so small as this to limit consideration of an infectious disease to one town. The Island must be considered as a whole, especially in view of the commercial intercourse and circular travel of tourists and holiday-makers. I have, therefore, drawn up a spot map showing the siting of the cases so that an idea of the full picture may be obtained.

THE POSITION ON 20.5.50.



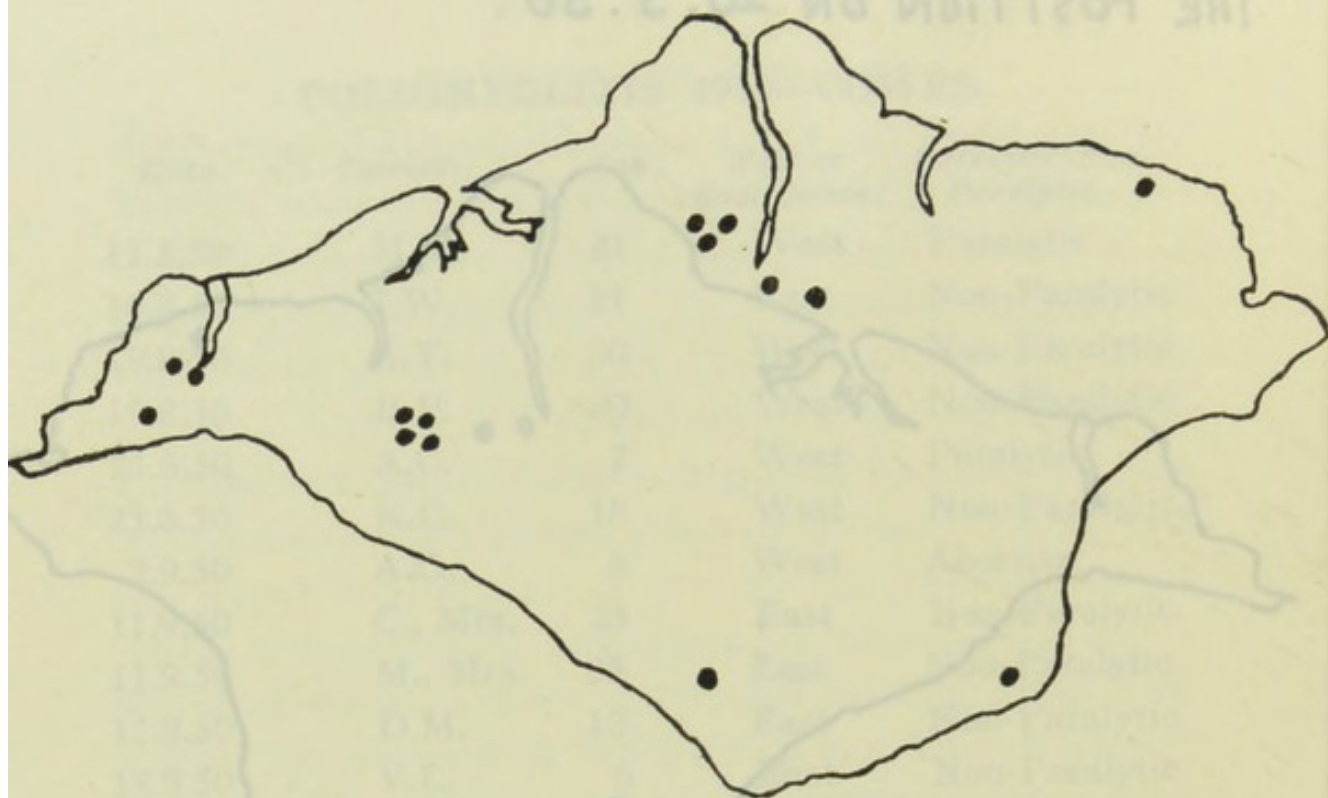
THE POSITION ON 6.7.50

2.



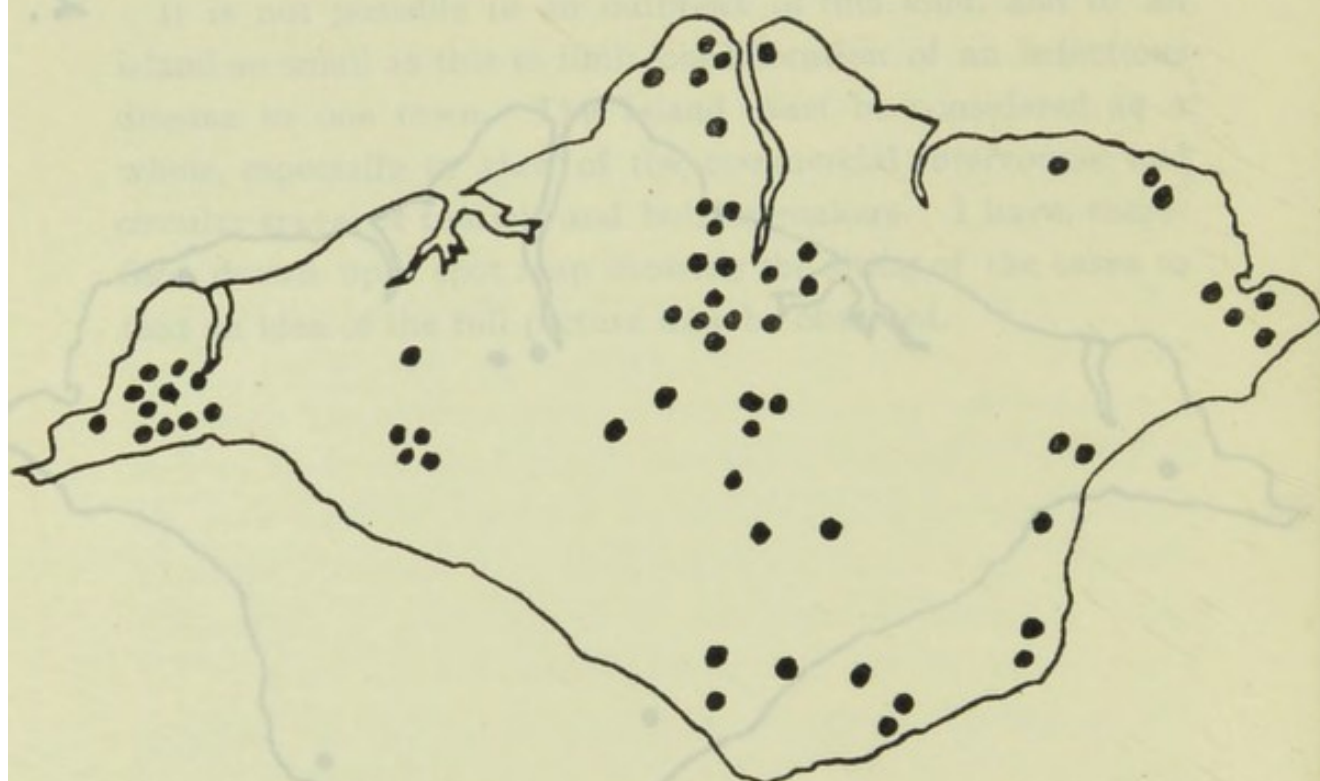
THE POSITION ON 31.7.50

3.



THE POSITION ON 31.8.50

4.



THE POSITION ON 8.11.50

5.

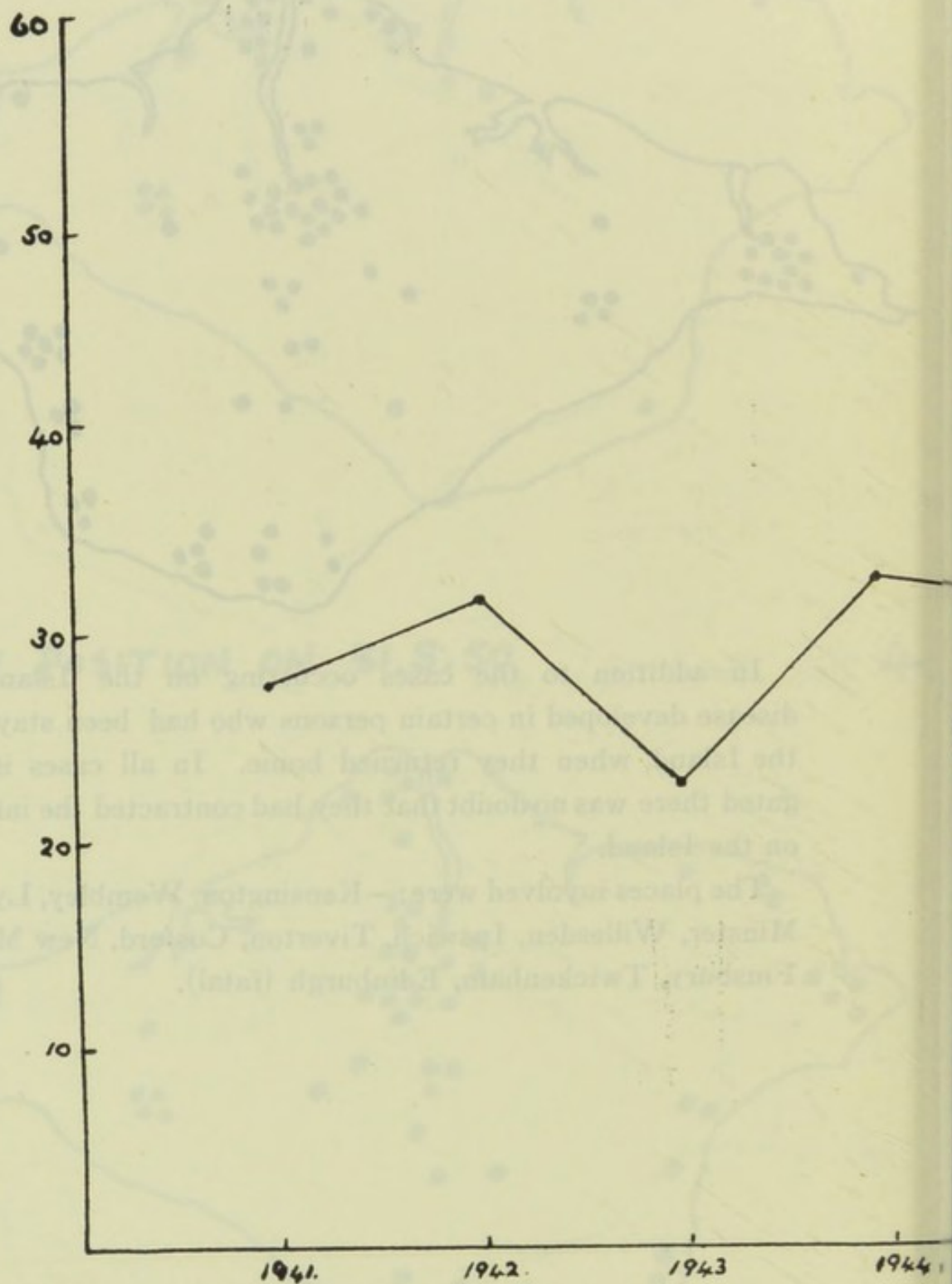


In addition to the cases occurring on the Island, the disease developed in certain persons who had been staying on the Island, when they returned home. In all cases investigated there was no doubt that they had contracted the infection on the Island.

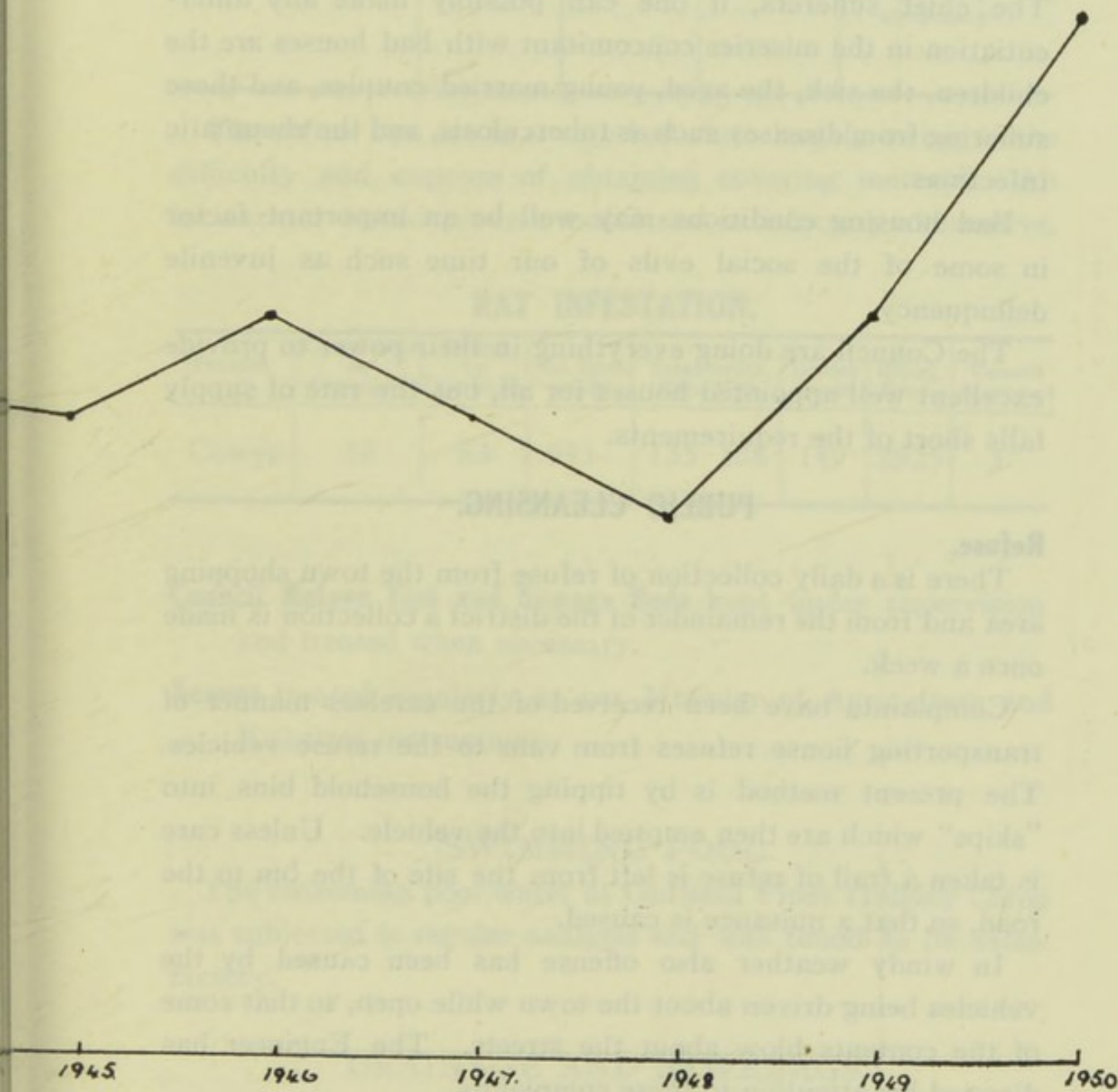
The places involved were:—Kensington, Wembley, Lytchett Minster, Willesden, Ipswich, Tiverton, Cosford, New Malden, Finsbury, Twickenham, Edinburgh (fatal).

CANCER DEATHS IN C

NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM CANCER.



5 URBAN DISTRICT 1941 - 1950.



HOUSING.

The position in respect of housing is still serious. Overcrowding is still common. Dark, damp houses that are in all respects no longer fit for human habitation are from stark necessity still in occupation. Many of the occupied properties, but for the war, would long since have been demolished. The chief sufferers, if one can possibly make any differentiation in the miseries concomitant with bad houses are the children, the sick, the aged, young married couples, and those suffering from diseases such as tuberculosis, and the rheumatic infections.

Bad housing conditions may well be an important factor in some of the social evils of our time such as juvenile delinquency.

The Council are doing everything in their power to provide excellent well appointed houses for all, but the rate of supply falls short of the requirements.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse.

There is a daily collection of refuse from the town shopping area and from the remainder of the district a collection is made once a week.

Complaints have been received of the careless manner of transporting house refuses from vans to the refuse vehicles. The present method is by tipping the household bins into "skips" which are then emptied into the vehicle. Unless care is taken a trail of refuse is left from the site of the bin to the road, so that a nuisance is caused.

In windy weather also offense has been caused by the vehicles being driven about the town while open, so that some of the contents blow about the streets. The Engineer has directed his attention to these complaints.

The following schedule give particulars regarding the operation of the service during the year and I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for the figures:—

No. of Vehicles.	Approx. Tons per week.	Number of vehicle loads.	Mileage.	Disposal.
3	100	65-70 per week	180 per week	<i>West Cowes</i> Old Oyster beds. <i>East Cowes</i> Land adjoining cemetery.

The refuse tips are in a very bad state largely owing to the difficulty and expense of obtaining covering material. An incinerator would prove a useful and satisfactory alternative.

RAT INFESTATION.

District	Complaints by Occupiers	Found by Operators	No. Insp. made	Treatments, Rats Mice	Bodies Found	Killed, Estm.	Vessels Inspected
Cowes	38	83	941	135 108	149	2825	3

Council Refuse Tips and Sewage Beds kept under supervision and treated when necessary.

Sewers treated regularly as per Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries instructions.

SWIMMING POOL.

The swimming pool water at Gurnard Pines Holiday Camp was subjected to regular analysis and was found to be satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A recurring nuisance is caused in Cowes by the presence of crude sewage in the harbour and in the sea along the adjacent foreshore.

More especially, the mud and seaweed on the foreshore at East Cowes is impregnated with sewage deposits and at low states of the tide and especially during hot weather, an unpleasant effluvia is given off and is disseminated over a fairly wide area.

The difficulty in correcting this position is the fact that there are very numerous sea outfalls for the sewage, some owned by the Council but others which are private property. Owing to the topographical difficulties and the very great expense involved in a new sewage scheme it is impossible at the moment to make any major alteration for the improvement of these conditions,

The state of the harbour has been aggravated by fractures in the existing outfalls but these are repaired as they occur,

The problem is not a new one and has been present for at least fifty years,

HOUSING.

Two hundred and nine houses were inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts 1936, and as a result various defects were found to exist.

One hundred and ninety seven houses have been put into a fit state by formal notices leaving twelve houses where repairs had not been completed.

Eight Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act and Housing Acts 1936, were served during the year, two of these had not been complied with at the end of the year.

Four Statutory Notices under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936, were served. An undertaking from the Owner that the premises would not be used for habitation was received and accepted.

Three hundred and ninety four visits were made as continual inspections of Council Houses and Council owned property.

During the year the number of houses built was 148, made up as follows:—

Local Authority ...	48
Private Enterprise ...	16
Housing Association ...	50
War Damage Reinstatements	34
Total	148

FOOD HYGIENE.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The Local Authority after giving consideration to the Model Byelaws issued by the Ministry of Health adopted the Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938,

All food traders, caterers and those interested were supplied with a copy of these byelaws in improving the hygiene standard in the handling, wrapping and distribution of foodstuffs in the Urban District.

Upon inspection and observations of these premises, it was found that efforts were being made by all concerned to carry out the conditions as set out in the byelaws, and no infringements were dealt with.

ICE CREAM.

Continued supervision of the manufacture and retailers of Ice Cream has been maintained and the products controlled by the weekly samples of Ice Cream. All samples of Ice Cream which did not come up to Grade 1 standard were followed up and the cause found and remedied.

There is only one manufacturer and sixty-four retailers of Ice Cream and with a few exceptions all Ice Cream is sold prepacked.

During the year 96 samples of Ice Cream were procured and submitted to the Pathologist, Royal I.W., County Hospital for examination and were graded as follows:—

Grade 1	...	81
" 2	...	7
" 3	...	5
" 4	...	3

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS 1944. URBAN DISTRICT OF COWES.

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Winchester, for the presence of live Turbercle Bacilli. The results for the year under review were 100 per cent. satisfactory.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during 1950	...	27
Number of samples found to be positive	... ..	nil
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	... ..	3

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

There were 39 notifications of infectious diseases, 15 being of Poliomyelitis. There were no cases of Diphtheria. Immunisation against Diphtheria continued throughout the year. Of the children under five 36.83 per cent. are immunised, and of children of school age 64.11 per cent are immunised.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases among school children.

Mumps	... ..	—
Chicken Pox	... ..	42
Ringworm	... ..	—
Scabies	... ..	—
German Measles	... ..	—
Influenza	... ..	2
		—
		44
		—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All animals are slaughtered at Government controlled Slaughter Houses in Newport or Wroxall.

When carcasses and offal arrive at Allocation Centre, weekly inspection is again carried out before being passed on to local butchers.

UNSOUND FOOD 1950

					lbs.
Hind Quarter Beef	...	...	...	...	84
Boneless Beef	...	...	...	...	97½
Topside Beef	...	...	...	...	25
Beef Trimmings	...	...	...	...	99
Mutton Imported	...	...	...	...	14
Tripe	...	...	...	...	18¾
Sausages	...	...	...	...	50
Bacon	...	...	...	...	150
Butter	...	...	...	...	46
Fresh Cod	...	...	...	...	112
Smoked Haddock	...	...	...	...	42
Fresh Haddock	...	...	...	...	80
Kippers	...	...	...	...	28
Creamed Cheese	...	...	...	...	15
Tea	...	...	...	...	7½
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	7
Slab Cake	...	...	...	...	12
Flour	...	...	...	...	99
Mixed Sweets	...	...	...	...	4½
Rolled Oats	...	...	...	...	2
Nut Toffee	...	...	...	...	15
Pickles	...	...	...	...	80
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	192
Ham	...	...	...	...	16
Preserved Cherries	...	...	...	...	4½
Total					1,300¾

In addition, 1078 tins containing fish, fruit, vegetables, milk, etc., weighing 1106 lbs. were found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption.

All were disposed of in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Food.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Food Poisoning ...	1	1	—
Meningococcal Infec- tion ...	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	10	1	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (includ- ing Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	2	—	—
Erysipelas ...	1	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	15	7	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	7	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	2	—	—
Malaria ...	1	1	—
Totals ...	39	11	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Particulars of the administration of the Factories Act, 1937,
Parts I and VIII administered by the Council.

PART I OF THE ACT.

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

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	48	42	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	24	25	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	14	10	—	—
Total ...	86	77	—	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

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

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK. (Sections 110 and 111.)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing } Making, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—
apparel } Cleaning	—	—	—	—	—	—
and washing	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades	202	—	—	—	—	—
Other classes of work	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	202	—	—	—	—	—

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Meningococcal Infection	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Malaria
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
2 „ 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 „ 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
4 „ 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 „ 10	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	2	—	—
10 „ 15	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
15 „ 20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
20 „ 35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	1
35 „ 45	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
45 „ 65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	10	—	—	—	2	1	2	7	—	—	15	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	Totals.	New Cases.				Totals.	Deaths.			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 " " 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 " " 10	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 " " 15	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 " " 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 " " 25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 " " 35	5	4	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
35 " " 45	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 " " 55	1	1	—	—	—	3	1	2	—	—
55 " " 65	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
Total ...*	15	9	5	1	—	8‡	5	3	—	—

*Included in this total are five transfers from the mainland.

‡Includes one case who died from another disease.

