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ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE HEALTH  
OF THE  
COWES URBAN DISTRICT

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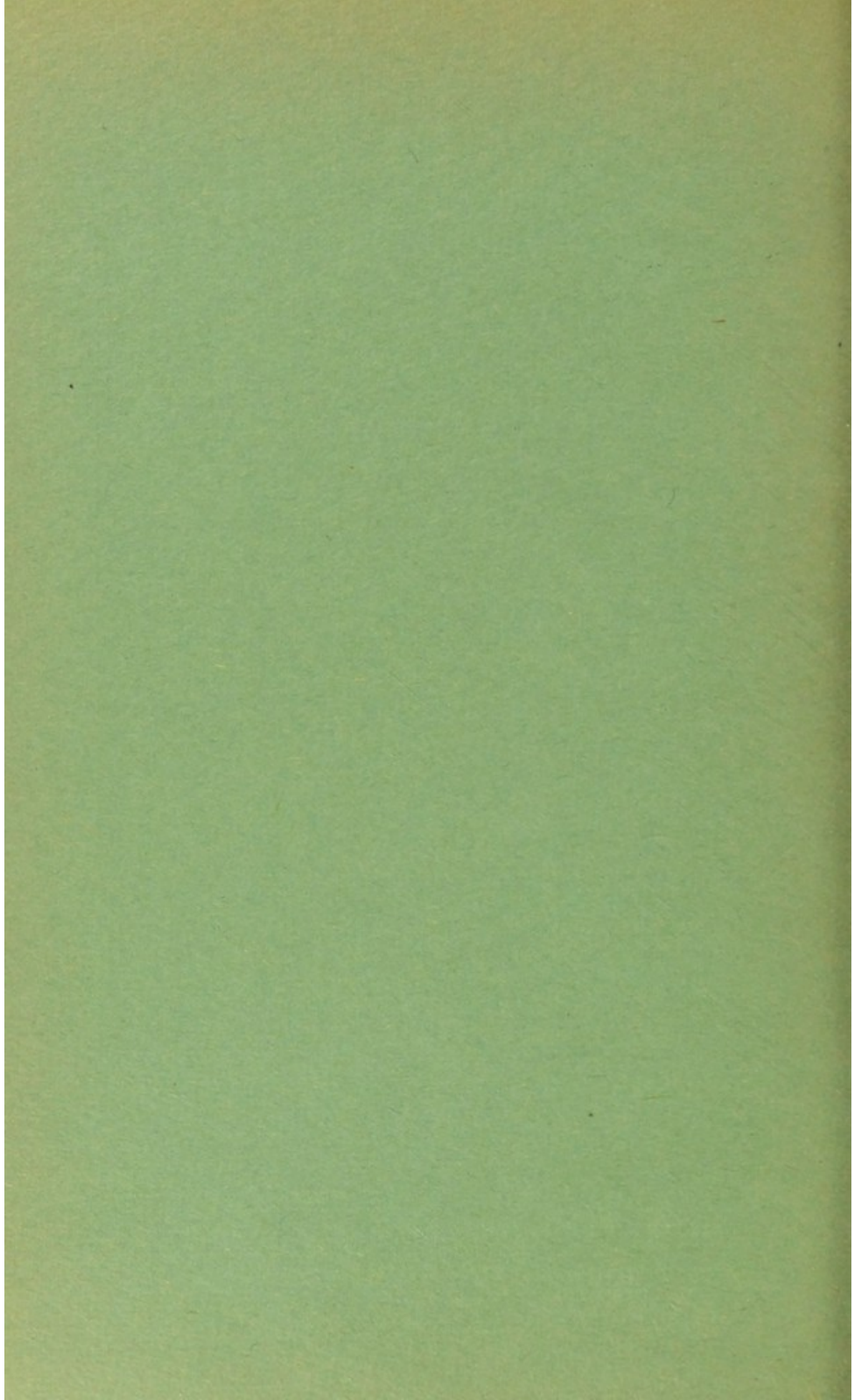
BY  
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*Medical Officer of Health.*

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ISLE OF WIGHT:  
J. W. JACOBS, AND SON, LTD., PRINTERS, NEWPORT.

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COUNTY HALL,  
NEWPORT, I.W.

*To the Members of the Cowes Urban District Council:—*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1955.

The Birth Rate rose from 13.7 to 13.8 and the death rate rose from 12.4 to 13.1.

The Infantile Mortality Rate fell from 30.3 to 4.3.

There were only 2 deaths from tuberculosis of all forms during the year.

The number of deaths from cancer of the lung during the year fell to 5.

Thirty-one deaths were due to strokes compared with twenty-seven the previous year, while heart disease accounted for eighty-six deaths compared with seventy the previous year.

There was only one death from motor accident.

Two cases of suicide occurred.

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough, Infantile Diarrhoea, Diphtheria, or Poliomyelitis.

Of the 88 samples of milk examined for the tubercle bacillus none were found to be positive but 6 samples were positive for *Brucella Abortus*.

In considering the preventive factors in heart disease one must evaluate the causes, so far as is known, and apply such knowledge to preventive measures.

Heart disease due to high blood pressure is commonest in middle age and later, and there is very little difference in the sex incidence.

Of all the known factors in relation to the causation of heart disease associated with high blood pressure, heredity plays perhaps the most important part.

Often many members of one family in the course of a few generations have shown various manifestations of the disease. As we are ignorant of the way in which hereditary acts, although we are sure of its great significance, we are unable, at the moment to do anything about it.

There is however one factor in the production of the disease about which something can be done. Overeating and obesity are frequently associated with the disease. A diet overrich in food value during and after middle age is a great potential danger. Surely here is one aspect of the cause that can and should be controlled.

It is less easy to control another known and equally potent cause of this disease, nervous strain. A life of high nervous tension favours the aggravation if not its inception. On the other hand physical effort and constant laborious work are probably protective and not aggravating factors.

Disease of the coronary arteries, the arteries that feed the muscles of the heart, is not only a very frequent and important cause of heart trouble near the end of the life cycle, but it also cripples and kills, all too frequently, in the prime of life, indeed even in youth. It is very doubtful if the coronary disease of advanced old age can ever be controlled but it is not too much to expect that distinct progress will be made in the prevention of coronary disease in the young and middle aged.

Although heart disease due to other causes has remained static more or less, since 1930, the incidence of coronary heart disease has been on the increase.

The actual cause of the disease process in the walls of the arteries feeding the heart is not known. Diet, rich in animal fats, overwork, high blood pressure, infection, heredity etc., are all factors which have been considered to play a part.

Certainly one of the most important factors is stress, as I emphasised in the comment on psychosomatic disorders in my last annual report.

It has been proved to the satisfaction of many medical experts that there is a correlation between excessive cigarette smoking and lung cancer. The most important point is that smoking should never commence. Attention therefore should be focussed on the young. If a young person never begins the smoking habit he will never feel at a loss without it. It is a fact that very many children of school age smoke cigarettes. This could and should be stopped forthwith.

Tobacco does not cause actual heart disease but in susceptible persons it may cause palpitations and a rapid heart beat. In most individuals and especially those suffering from high blood pressure the blood pressure is appreciably raised. In certain people with coronary heart disease the use of tobacco has been known to precipitate or to aggravate angina pectoris.

Many of the medical grounds for pressing housing priorities are obvious, such as open tuberculosis, but priorities attempted on less tangible grounds are equally important and involve, in many cases, the health of a greater number of individuals. One must recognise the adverse strain which must arise where a home is unwillingly shared and give weight to priorities advised on psychological as distinct from psychiatric grounds. It is probably true to say that less damage is done and less priority is therefore required in a home which is overcrowded or possesses a case of severe illness but where there is also love, than in a household where everyone is at odds.

Problem families continue to occupy the attention of the health department. A great deal of time, energy and patience is devoted to these cases and the Council have been most co-operative in the often very difficult task of meeting their housing needs.

It is depressing to see the amount of neglect of dental hygiene in school children, especially among children in their teens. In a great many cases the children admit to never brushing their teeth at all.

I must thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health and Housing Committees, the Public Health Inspectors and all members of the Public Health Department for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1955.

Medical Officer of Health :—

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

Senior Sanitary Inspector :—

R. H. HOWARD, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :—

J. H. TURNER, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres ... ..	5,542
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1955) per rate books	5,541
Rateable value ... ..	£121,435
Sum represented by 1d. rate ... ..	£475

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

These are unchanged since the last report.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar General's Figures) ...	16,860
Live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ... ..	13.8
Comparative factor (births) ... ..	1.08
Comparative Birth Rate ... ..	14.9
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	29.3
Crude death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population... ..	13.1
Comparative factor (deaths) ... ..	0.82
Comparative death rate ... ..	10.7
Puerperal death rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) ... ..	Nil
Infantile Mortality :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	4.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	4.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	38
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 232, giving a live birth rate per 1,000 living of 13.8, the corresponding rate for England and Wales being 15.0.



## DEATHS.

The number of deaths was 221 giving a death rate of 13.1 per 1000 of the estimated resident population. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 4.3 per 1,000 registered live births, the rate for England and Wales being 24.9.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSE	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	—	2
Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	—
Syphilitic disease ... ..	1	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—
Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach . . .	5	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	13
Leukæmia, aleukæmia ... ..	1	—
Diabetes ... ..	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	20
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	19	10
Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	3
Other heart disease ... ..	25	27
Other circulatory disease ... ..	3	3
Influenza ... ..	2	1
Pneumonia ... ..	2	4
Bronchitis ... ..	4	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ...	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	3	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
Congenital malformations ... ..	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	10
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	—	1
All other accidents ... ..	2	1
Suicide ... ..	1	1
Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
<b>ALL CAUSES</b> ... ..	<b>110</b>	<b>111</b>

No staff changes have occurred during the year. Mr. J. Turner, the Additional Sanitary Inspector, commencing his duties at the end of 1954. This report, therefore, covers a year's work of the department with its full complement of inspectoral staff.

The year brought an increase in housing duties due to the survey of unfit houses necessitated under the new housing legislation. In order that a true picture and knowledge of the main food premises could be tabulated and recorded a survey was made in preparation for the proposed new food legislation and its implications.

With the ever increasing number of new council houses being built, the duties associated with Housing Management are continually increasing and accounts for a large proportion of time being spent on work not directly associated with public health.

The report is set out in sections as follows:—

#### PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS IN THE AREA.

These figures cover the entire work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors and includes all phases of the duties performed.

<b>Number of dwelling houses inspected.</b> (1st. inspection.)	908
<b>Number of dwelling houses inspected.</b> (Re-inspections)	1,543
<b>Other inspections.</b> (1st. inspection.) ... ..	874
<b>Other inspections.</b> (Re-inspections.) .. ..	748
Ineffectual visits. ... ..	123
Total number of inspections and re-visits made during the year. ... ..	4,196

This figure is an increase of 1,465 on the 1954 figures.

## NOTICES SERVED.

	Informal.	Formal.
Public Health Acts ... ..	226	19
Housing Acts ... ..	19	8
Food and Drugs Act ... ..	58	Nil
Factories Act ... ..	6	Nil
Shops Act ... ..	3	Nil

## DETAILS AND NUMBERS OF INSPECTIONS.

**Public Health Acts.**

Houses inspected for nuisances ...	627
Office premises ... ..	21
Verminous premises ... ..	45
Other insects ... ..	51
Ponds, ditches and watercourses ...	12
Tents, vans, caravans and camps ...	74
Keeping of animals ... ..	13
Accumulations of refuse ... ..	48
Drainage works ... ..	392

**Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning Enquiries.** 49**Food and Drugs Act.**

Restaurants, kiosks, canteens ...	97
Butchers ... ..	27
Fish shops ... ..	12
Fried Fish shops ... ..	14
Greengrocers ... ..	9
Grocers ... ..	63
Bakehouses ... ..	23
Ice-cream premises and vehicles ...	61
Cooked meat premises ... ..	5
Other food premises ... ..	18
Milk and Dairy Regulations ... ..	32
Meat Inspection ... ..	16
Unsound food ... ..	96

**Sampling.**

Ice-cream	...	...	...	...	45
Water	...	...	...	...	251

**Housing Acts.**

Repairs, overcrowding, slum clearance					434
Improvement Grants	...	...	...		88
Certificates of Disrepair	...	...			16

**Council Housing.**

Housing applications	...	...	...		132
Council house inspections	...	...			632
Housing enquiries	...	...	...		286
Conditions of tenancy	...	...	...		191

**Factories Act.**

Mechanical Power	...	...	...		44
Non-mechanical Power	...	...			12

**Smoke Abatement.** ... .. 4**Shops Act** ... .. 56**Miscellaneous.**

Schools	...	...	...	...	14
Fairgrounds	.....	...	...	...	7
Rodent control	...	...	...	...	43
Bathing establishments	...	...			6
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...		7
Ineffectual visits	...	...	...		123

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Members of the public, and occupiers of dwellings made a total of 468 complaints to the public health offices during the year.

Details of the various nuisances detected and remedied, to the total of 642, are set out in the table below.

Doors, windows, floors, sashcords repaired	...	114
Grates, flues, chimneys repaired	... ..	39
Gutters, roofs and rain-water pipes repaired		98
Defective and choked drains remedied	...	73

Vermin eradicated	...	...	...	...	21
Verminous bedding and furniture destroyed	...				6
Water closets and flushing cisterns repaired	...				36
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...			13
Wall and ceiling plasters repaired	...	...			51
Sinks repaired and renewed	...	...	...		20
New water services provided	...	...	...		23
Pavings and yards repaired	...	...	...		7
Defective walls and pointing renewed			...		54
Ventilated food larders provided			...		10
Dampness abated	...	...	...	...	77

### RODENT CONTROL.

All rodent control work is carried out by the Rodent Officer for the Isle of Wight Rodent Control Joint Committee.

Of the 134 complaints of rodent infestations received by this office all were referred to the Rodent Officer for his attention, who has submitted the following figures for the year ending 31st March, 1956.

Total number of complaints received in the Urban area	146
Visits to Council owned properties-	
(Refuse tips, stores, depots, etc.)	46
Number of dwellings and Council houses treated	1,454
Number of business and industrial premises treated	523

No major infestations within the area were located.

102 minor rat and 74 minor mice infestations were dealt with.

The total number of inspections and re-visits to all types of properties for rodent control work was 2,023.

### VERMIN AND INSECT CONTROL.

Twenty-one complaints were made of premises infested with the common flea. On each occasion treatment was carried out by spraying with suitable insecticides.

During a period of the year under review, scattered infestations were reported from one of the larger industrial premises situated in the area. In co-operation with the management to avoid disruption of the works, large areas of floor space were treated after the buildings were vacated. Following these series of treatments no further complaints were received.

Insects which are not normally classified as vermin and in which the advice and assistance of the department were sought, included infestations of cockroaches, ants, carpet beetles and other less common insects.

During the summer months the destruction of wasps nests, are a duty performed by the department and many calls for this service were made by the public during the year.

Only three instances were found of dwelling houses infested with the bed bug and in none of these cases was any stripping or structural works necessary to eradicate the vermin.

On many occasions, following complaints of a "Fly invasion," considerable difficulty was experienced in locating the Cluster Fly (*Musca autumnalis*) owing to their habits of clustering in roof spaces, tile hangings and other most inaccessible places.

In treating these infestations of flies which in many cases literally speaking consisted of 'millions,' D.D.T. smoke generators were used and found to be more effective and less costly than the normal methods of spraying.

#### DRAINAGE.

The public health department are responsible for the supervision, testing, and compliance of building byelaws, in respect to all drainage works both to new and old buildings.

With the erection of a further sixty new houses to the Kent House Estate, additional work was involved to ensure that each section of the sewers and drains were satisfactory in design and construction, and were capable of withstanding a hydraulic water test.

With close and constant supervision, a high standard of workmanship and construction of drainage works was possible throughout the contract.

392 visits were made in connection with drainage works during 1955.

Complete co-operation was obtained throughout the year with builders practising within the area who appreciate the responsibilities in connection with this work and realise that sound drainage is essential in maintaining a high standard of public health.

In observing the statutory responsibilities of maintaining public sewers, formal notices were served under Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of 16 individual properties served by the sewers and the approved works of repair were carried out by your Council.

A new internal office procedure instituted during the year was, that all new deposited plans submitted for byelaw approval are inspected and stamped by the department for drainage works and compliance with other legislation concerned with environmental health. In this way faults can be corrected whilst the proposed buildings or conversions are still in the planning stage.

In those areas where no main sewers are available 17 septic tanks and cesspools were emptied and cleansed during the year.

### HOUSING.

In accordance with the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, local authorities were required to forward their slum clearance proposals to the Ministry of Housing by the 30th August, 1955.

To determine these figures and in order to assess the number of dwellings that would be submitted in the prescribed circular, a detailed survey was carried out of approximately 200 houses in the area.

These dwellings were then placed in three categories, the grades of which indicated their useful life and capabilities of being repaired to the new standard of fitness.

The estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation as supplied to the Ministry within the meaning of Section 9 of the Act, was 110, and the period of years in which it was required to demolish these dwellings was five years.

The aim and purpose of this survey and figures as submitted, was to secure an overall picture, and to visualise a plan of action for the future in relation to clearing these sub-standard houses.

An abstract from the statement of "Housing" within the district is set out below in the form as returned annually to the Ministry and covers all aspects of housing work.

#### HOUSING ACT, 1936.

- |    |   |     |     |     |     |     |
|----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. | HOUSES DEMOLISHED OR CLOSED.  |     |     |     |     |     |
|    | Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure.   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2   |
| 2. | LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953.  |     |     |     |     |     |
|    | Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 10(1) and 11(2)  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12  |
| 3. | REPAIRS.  |     |     |     |     |     |
|    | Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the year as a result of informal action under the Housing and Public Health Acts | ... | ... | ... | ... | 267 |
| 4. | PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS. FORMAL ACTION.  |     |     |     |     |     |
|    | Houses in which defects were remedied:—   |     |     |     |     |     |
|    | (a) By owners   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2   |
|    | (b) By local authorities in default of owners   |     |     |     |     | 1   |



## 5. HOUSING ACT, 1936. FORMAL ACTION.

Houses in which defects were remedied :—

(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	2
(b) By local authorities in default of owners					Nil

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.  
CERTIFICATES OF DIS-REPAIR.

The object and purpose of this section of the Act was to try and improve the conditions of house property and landlords were to be allowed a proportionate increase in rent in return for the improved conditions which the tenants enjoyed.

Unfortunately, with the high cost of building repairs today, and the small financial gain obtained by the owners, it has been proved by the lack of applications that owners are not using the machinery of this new legislation. Consequently, if repairs are not carried out as normal maintenance there is the danger that the object and purpose of the Act will be defeated and no halt made to the rapid deterioration of dwellings.

A total of five applications have been made by occupiers of dwellings for Certificates of Dis-repair in this district, four of which applications were granted in that the premises were not in good repair.

Subsequent to the granting of the Certificates, the repairs as defined were carried out, and Revocation Certificates issued to the owners.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

This year has brought an increased number of applications for grants under the Minister's scheme to encourage owners of properties to modernise and make better use of houses by improvements and conversion with the aid of grants.

The following figures are those applicable to the scheme for the year, 1955.

Number of preliminary applications received	...	45
Number of preliminary applications approved	...	37
Number of formal applications received	... ..	17
Number of formal applications approved	... ..	16
<i>The total number of works completed and grants paid : 7</i>		

In investigating and inspecting these applications the standard of good repair and freedom from dampness is one of the specified twelve points and to comply, often calls for considerable repairs. In contrast with other requests made upon owners for repair works to properties, the applicant in most cases is anxious to comply with whatever is required.

Of the eighty applications received since the scheme was first introduced in connection with these grants, only four owners have applied to modernise and convert their houses for letting purposes and as yet no grants have been paid for completion of schemes whereby tenants will benefit by the conversions.

### COUNCIL HOUSING.

The duties and tasks associated with Council houses, management of tenants and properties is one that is continually expanding with the advent of further building programmes.

The total number of Council owned dwellings is now 610, of which 459 have been constructed in post-war years. These now include flat dwellings which bring with them many problems not shared to any extent by families living in separate houses, i.e. exposure to noise; less privacy; lack of garden space, and common staircases.

With no designated Housing Officer or one department responsible for housing, difficulties can arise in that tenants and members of the public are unaware and experience frustration in knowing which officer or department their own particular grievance or complaint should be directed to.

Visits and inspections, numbering 1,241 were carried out in relation to housing ; this comprised 632 routine inspections of premises to determine their condition of cleanliness, repair, redecoration, and observance of tenancy conditions.

A total of 95 new applicants for re-housing were made during the year ; these were all visited to assess the number of points and degree of priority, with the provision that foremost 'housing need' is the paramount consideration when allocating 'Housing Points.'

This factor can create difficulties when recommending priority re-housing, knowing that the possibility of rent arrears, problem families, bad tenants, are often associated with the occupants of insanitary and overcrowded houses.

The numbers of new houses built within the Urban district for the year under review was made up as follows :—

Local Authority	...	...	19 houses
Housing Association	...	...	56 houses
Private Enterprise	...	...	40 houses
			-----
Total			115 houses
			-----

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The number of food premises in the area and classification of such are set out below, all of which are subject to inspection and supervision.

Restaurants, Cafes, Kiosks, Canteens	...	...	53
Butchers	...	...	17
Fish Shops	...	...	7
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	5
Greengrocers	...	...	6
Grocers	...	...	49
Bake-houses	...	...	10
Ice-cream premises	...	...	86
Licensed premises	...	...	41
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	13
Cooked Meat Shops	...	...	2

These classifications identify the premises with their main trades but in many small general stores considerable overlapping does occur.

#### FOOD CONDEMNED AS UNFIT.

The total amounts of foods which were condemned by voluntary surrender are indicated in the statement below.

	<i>Weight</i>
515 tins and jars of Fish, Fruit, Vegetables,	
Milk and Cooked Meats ... ..	628 lbs.
Fish ... ..	15 lbs.
Cheese ... ..	108 lbs.
Slab Cake ... ..	27 lbs.
Meat and Offal ... ..	1,580 lbs.
	<hr/>
Total	2,358 lbs.
	<hr/>

Making a total of 1 ton, 1 cwt., 6lbs.

As with previous years the quantity of tinned goods subject to condemnation has decreased and in the main this service of surrender is reserved to the multiple companies.

All condemned foods and tinned goods are disposed of by burying at the refuse tips prior to which they are coloured with a dye.

An increase in the quantity of condemned carcass meat and offal as compared with the year 1954, is due to the larger quantities of meat being handled since de-rationing by the meat wholesalers with cold storage depots in the area. Many of the retail butchers whom they supply in the surrounding district return any unsound meat to these central depots for condemnation.

#### FOOD PREMISES.

With the publication of the draft regulations to the proposed new Food and Drugs Act, it was anticipated that contained within the new legislation would be considerable extensions of the general powers as now contained within Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Consequently, with the food and catering premises of a good standard, the year has been one of reserved acceptance and marking time of certain practices in relation to food hygiene and food handling. In those cases where unsatisfactory conditions existed, these were noted, with the thoughts that the new legislation would contain and fulfil the requirements so necessary in the campaign to produce 'Clean Food.'

In preparation, and in order to secure a true record and picture of the main food and catering premises in the district, a survey was undertaken and a card index of each premises tabulated for record purposes.

Considerable structural works were requested as a result of the survey in order to bring those premises, not complying, up to present day standards. These cases in the majority were long overdue and the conditions in which food was being prepared and handled were far from satisfactory.

In respect to food premises generally, it has been a year of marked improvement and although the works and conditions as implemented behind the scenes in the preparation and storage rooms are not always visible to the customers, the effect of routine visits by the Sanitary Inspector can be clearly observed.

No reported cases of food poisoning were received during the year, this being most satisfactory, and does reflect credit on the persons concerned in the preparation and serving of food in the area.

#### ICE CREAM.

The total number of premises registered for the sale of Ice-cream was 86; this includes only one manufacturer of ice-cream, using a cold mix.

Six new applications were made during the year and with the exception of one these were granted.

Thirty-two samples were taken for bacteriological examination of bulk ice-cream from retail shops and these were

submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination by the Methylene Blue Test.

Although ice-cream is by regulation heat treated, contamination will take place in the finished product if complete and thorough sterilisation of the serving equipment is not maintained. This point was continually stressed to all retailers of loose ice-cream and by the methods of explanation and education a striking improvement was brought about in the cleanliness and handling of ice-cream servers and equipment.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING.

For the year 1955, samples of food taken for analysis in the Cowes area by the Isle of Wight County Council are as follows :—

	Totals.	Unsatisfactory.
Canned Prunes ... ..	1	Nil
Milk ... ..	8	Nil
Sausages ... ..	4	Nil

From this total of 13 samples it will be seen that all were satisfactory.

I am indebted to the Sampling Officers of the Isle of Wight County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority for this area, for these figures.

#### MILK SUPPLIES.

There are seven registered premises from which milk is sold for retail purposes within the area.

All the milk sold with the designation "Pasteurised" is heat treated at the pasteurising and bottling plant situated in the Borough of Newport.

Throughout the year fifty applications under the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, and the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, were made and licences granted as follows :—

To use the Special Designation	18 dealers
“ Pasteurised ” ... ..	7 supplementary
To use the Special Designation	19 dealers
“ Tuberculin Tested ” ... ..	6 supplementary

4 applications under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, were made for registration as distributors, making a total of 15 registered Distributors and 2 registered Dairies.

Many instances were found where distributors retailing bottled milk from vehicles were making a practice of depositing crates of milk in front gardens and obscure corners of the highway in order to facilitate the loading of the vehicles.

This habit was promptly dealt with in compliance with the regulations, which state “ that no bottles or cartons containing milk shall be left on a public highway,” but unfortunately, the regulations do not apply to empty bottles in such precise terms so that contamination and fouling of the empty bottles can take place whilst awaiting collection.

#### SHOPS ACT, 1950.

The register of shops for the year 1955 records 294 shops in which routine inspections were made to determine that the provisions of the Act were being complied with.

Following the making of orders during the previous year of Suspension of weekly half holidays and Sunday Trading orders, these appear to be used to the benefit of the traders and visitors.

No contraventions were found necessary to report to your Council, but in making evening and early closing day inspections, difficulty is experienced with the small ‘one man’ general shops, which by selling most of the goods exempted during periods when the shops would be otherwise closed, does in fact mean that the shop is permitted to remain open for considerably longer hours.

Consequently, complaints are received from other traders of this practice, but with the present list of exemptions and the ambiguities contained within the Act, it is an impossible task to enforce the existing legislation.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The Urban district is supplied with water from four different sources, West Cowes area receiving its supply from the Broadfields Well and Newport Road Reservoirs, whilst Gurnard and Northwood are supplied via Newport from the Carisbrooke Well.

East Cowes has two main suppliers, namely, the East Cowes Well and also the Carisbrooke Well.

In order that the purity of the water as piped to the consumer could be kept under observations, routine water samples were taken throughout the year of the water at its source and also at domestic premises.

For that purpose a total of 251 bacteriological water samples were taken, 78 of which were taken at source, before treatment and sterilization.

The results as submitted by the Public Health Laboratory, Ryde, are :—

	<i>Highly satisfactory</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Suspicious</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Water at source	22	18	3	35
Treated water	81	54	13	25

Of the 173 samples taken from domestic premises it will be seen that 78 per cent. were defined as highly satisfactory and satisfactory, these results being obtained following filtration and chlorination.

One sample of water from East Cowes was submitted for chemical analysis following reports of chemical corrosive action taking place to component parts of flushing cisterns installed in the new Kent Housing Association houses.



The Analyst's report is given below :—

“ This water contains a very large proportion of dissolved salts ; the chlorides are particularly high and the water is very hard.

Experiments have shown that the water has a negligible corrosive effect upon copper, but where copper is in contact with zinc (as brass or other alloy of copper and zinc) the water seriously attacks the zinc component. Additional evidence on this point is provided by the analysis of the two washers submitted. The undamaged washer contains 36 per cent. of zinc but the corroded washer contains only 8 per cent. of zinc. The corrosion is, therefore, due to the removal of zinc by the water.

I am of the opinion that this water would not be seriously corrosive to pure copper. It should not be used with brass or other alloys of zinc and copper.”

(Signed) A. L. WILLIAMS.

*Public Analyst.*

30th August, 1955.

Samples of water from the Gurnard Pines Holiday Camp's open air swimming pool were taken during the holiday season to determine its purity. With swimming and paddling pools where young children are present the water often inadvertently becomes drinking water and, therefore, the water contained within the pool should nearly be the same standard as drinking water.

The samples taken from the pools were submitted to the Pathological Laboratory for bacteriological examination and were in all respects satisfactory.

Routine checks were also taken from time to time to ensure that the residual chlorine present was satisfactory.

**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 Tubercle Bacilli.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during 1955	...	...	88
Number of samples found to be positive	...	...	Nil
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	...	...	6

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

There were 54 notifications of infectious diseases, 47 of which were for Measles. There were no cases of Diphtheria.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases among school children.

Mumps	...	...	64
Chicken Pox	...	...	5
Influenza and Influenza Colds			40
German Measles			1
Ringworm			1
Scabies			1
			112

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infec- tion ...	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (includ- ing Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	1	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—
Encephalitis ...	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	47	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	3	1	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—
Totals ...	54	2	—

## AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Dysentery	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Meningococcal Infection	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
2 " 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
3 " 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—
4 " 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
5 " 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
10 " 15	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	23	—	—	—	—	—
15 " 20	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
20 " 35	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 " 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45 " 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	—	—	2	1	—	3	47	—	—	—	—	—

## 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	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 " " 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 " " 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 " " 20	4	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 " " 25	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 " " 35	7	3	3	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35 " " 45	5	2	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45 " " 55	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 " " 65	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ... †	24	10	9	3	2	*3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—

†Included in this total are seven transfers from the mainland.

\*Included in this total is one patient who died from another cause.

## 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	7	5	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	73	44	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	7	—	—
Total ...	84	56	4	—

## 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)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient... ..	1	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	6	5	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	8	8	—	—	—

## PART VIII OF THE ACT.

## OUTWORK. (Sections 110 and 111.)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers 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	1	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades	140	—	—	—	—	—
Other classes of work	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	141	—	—	—	—	—

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