

[Report 1955] / Medical Officer of Health, Dartford Borough.

Contributors

Dartford (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1955

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/mvgcup48>

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>

442(3)

HEALTH
A 14 JUN 57
C.R. 17

The Corporation
2 *Library*

Rural District Council of Dartford



ANNUAL REPORT

ON CERTAIN MATTERS
CONCERNING

Public Health

FOR THE YEAR

1955



	Pages
SUMMARY	1
TEXT	1 - 12
TABLES:	13 - 22
I - Social Conditions	13
II - General Vital Statistics	14
III - Causes of Death according to Sex	15
IV - Causes of Death according to Age	16
V - Causes of Death Ages 75 and over	17
VI - Causes of Death according to Social Class	18
VII - Prevalence of Infectious Diseases	19 & 20
VIII - Diphtheria Immunisation	21
IX - Smallpox Vaccination	22
APPENDICES:	23 - 39
I - Housing	23 - 25
II - Water	26
III - Drainage	27 & 28
IV - Food	29 - 34
V - Vermin	35
VI - Disposal of Refuse	36 & 37
VII - Factories & Shops	38 & 39

S U M M A R Y

In 1955 the upward trend of population steepened markedly, largely owing to immigration.

The number of houses built was, at the time, the largest of post-war years.

The number of births continued its upward trend.

The pattern of deaths was that to be expected in an area of south-east England well provided with social services.

There was a visit of mild influenza and a routine visit of measles.

Infant vaccination against smallpox increased.

Meat inspection markedly increased.

Attention had to be given to the disposal of refuse in this district by Metropolitan London.

In general food and water remained wholesome.

Measurements of air pollution continued.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARTFORD

Annual Report for 1955 on certain matters concerning Public Health

March, 1957.

To THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARTFORD.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I am writing to discuss the information which comes my way in my annual attempt to review a year's health experience of the people of Dartford Rural District.

POPULATION. In 1955 the estimated mid-year home population increased by 2,180 on the previous year thereby accelerating the present trend of increase. Increases in the population are due to the natural causes, i.e. excess of births over deaths, and immigration, both being related to new houses built:

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Est. mid-year home population	36,150	35,890	36,870	37,520	38,250	38,610	39,110	41,290
Increase on previous year	510	-260	980	650	730	360	500	2,180
Natural increase	289	244	211	149	143	187	170	222
Immigration	221	-504	769	501	587	173	330	1,958
Houses built	168	173	353	223	231	439	573	847

* Including 69, 31, 35 and 67 houses built by Dartford Borough in 1950, 1951, 1954 and 1955 respectively.

BIRTHS. There were 41 more births than in the previous year and the trend of increase continued:

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Births	631	565	545	576	514	539	586	627
Birth rate	18.3	16.6	15.5	16.1	13.9	14.0	15.0	15.2
Birth rate (England and Wales)	17.8	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.3	15.5	15.2

Of the 627 births, 614 were classified for us by the Registrar General, with following result:

Percentage:			
Born at home	...	155	25%
Born in hospital	...	459	75%
		614	100%

In Bexley, Crayford, Erith, Dartford Borough and Rural District, i.e. Area 6 of the Local Health Authority, the percentages given by the County Medical Officer of Health have been:

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Born at home	23%	22%	20%	21%	20%
Born in hospital	77%	78%	80%	79%	80%

In the year 1955, the social classification of births was:

Social Class.	Legitimate births by social class of father	Illegitimate births by social class of mother	Total	Percentage	
				1955	1954
I	43	-	43	7%	6%
II	111	4	115	19%	14%
III	279	6	285	46%	46%
IV	82	5	87	14%	16%
V	79	1	80	13%	18%
Not stated	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>0%</u>
	<u>596</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>614</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

DEATHS. Before 1953 the only deaths in Stone House and Darenth Park Mental Hospitals allotted to Dartford Rural District were those whose home addresses were either in Dartford or were unknown. In the year 1952, the number so allotted was 9. For the year 1953 a change in practice was begun and all deaths of patients in these hospitals were thenceforth allotted to Dartford Rural District. The increase which is not allowed for in the comparability factor has to be separated from our total if we are to follow the trend of deaths in the rural district population. Taking the average quarterly figure for deaths in Stone House and Darenth Park allotted to Dartford Rural District prior to 1953 as 2, the following adjustment can be made:

	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Year 1955
Total deaths allotted to Rural District by Registrar General	123	102	81	99	405
Less deaths in Mental Hospitals	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>47</u>
Deaths excluding Mental Hospitals	108	89	77	84	358
Add	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>
Dartford Rural District deaths by pre-1953 method of allotting deaths	110	91	79	86	366

Quarterly number of deaths (pre-1953 method of allotting deaths):

Year	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total
1949	95	91	70	65	321
1950	101	76	89	68	334
1951	144	96	90	97	427
1952	118	81	60	112	371
1953	124	76	66	86	352
1954	115	85	87	93	380
1955	110	91	79	86	366

Quarterly death rates (pre-1953 method of allotting deaths):

Dartford Rural District -

Year	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Year
1950	11.0	8.2	9.7	7.4	9.2
1951	15.3	10.2	9.6	10.3	11.4
1952	12.3	8.5	6.3	11.7	9.7
1953	12.9	7.8	6.6	8.8	9.0
1954	11.7	8.7	8.9	9.5	9.7
1955	10.6	8.8	7.5	8.2	8.8

England and Wales -

1950	14.0	11.1	9.3	12.3	11.6
1951	19.1	11.1	9.1	11.0	12.5
1952	13.4	10.6	8.9	12.4	11.6
1953	15.8	10.5	8.9	10.7	11.4
1954	14.0	10.6	9.3	11.4	11.3
1955	15.4	11.2	9.1	11.1	11.7

The deaths at the ages of 65 and over, and 75 and over were as follows

				65 and over	75 and over
1950	...	...	...	229 (69%)	145 (45%)
1951	...	...	...	278 (65%)	161 (38%)
1952	...	...	...	263 (71%)	161 (44%)
1953 *	...	...	...	260 (66%)	175 (44%)
1954 *	...	...	...	267 (64%)	164 (39%)
1955 *	...	...	...	273 (68%)	187 (46%)

* Including Stone House and Darenth Park.

The deaths in hospital and at home were:

All Ages:				Aged 75 and over:	
		Hospital.	Home.	Hospital.	Home.
1950	...	126	207	51	94
1951	...	175	252	56	105
1952	...	171	200	60	101
1953*	...	176	219	73	102
1954*	...	225	191	73	93
1955*	...	217	188	79	109

* Including Stone House and Darenth Park.

The social class of deaths, including Stone House and Darenth Park, was:

				1955	1955	1954	1953
Class I	...	...	...	14	3%	4%	3%
Class II	...	...	...	74	18%	16%	19%
Class III	...	...	...	154	38%	38%	30%
Class IV	...	...	...	79	20%	19%	24%
Class V	...	...	...	63	16%	16%	15%
Unclassified	...	...	...	21	5%	7%	9%
				405	100%	100%	100%

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The causes of death may be summarised :

	1953*	%	1954*	%	1955*	%
All causes	395	100%	416	100%	405	100%
Main causes	322	82%	327	79%	326	81%
Other causes	73	18%	89	21%	79	19%
((440-468) Diseases of circulatory system	152	39%	163	39%	133	33%
((140-205) Cancer, including Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia & aleukaemia	64	16%	88	22%	88	22%
((330-334) Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	47	12%	47	11%	57	14%
((470-527) Diseases of respiratory system	59	15%	29	7%	48	12%

* Including Stone House and Darenth Park.

CORONARY DISEASE. There were 52 deaths from this cause in 1955 and of these four occurred in mental hospitals. All were 45 years of age and older. Ten deaths occurred in Social Class V and twelve in Social Classes I and II. The death rate in 1955 was 1.26 per thousand compared with 1.60 for England and Wales and 1.57 for London.

CANCER OF THE LUNG. This caused 17 deaths in 1955 compared with 11, 11, 8 and 24 in 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954 respectively. The death rate in 1955 was 0.41 per thousand population compared with 0.39 for England and Wales and 0.57 for London. One of the 1955 deaths from this cause occurred in a mental hospital.

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM. This showed an increase from 29 in 1954 to 48 in 1955 and the difference may be due to mild influenza late in the first quarter of 1955.

Respiratory diseases in the first quarter are worth watching --

	Deaths in First Quarter :	
	Respiratory diseases.	All causes.
1950	16	101
1951 (influenza A)	30	144
1952	13	118
1953 (influenza A)	36 *	124 *
1954	14 *	115 *
1955	20 *	110 *

* According to pre 1953 method of allotting deaths.

DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE.

Road Accidents. There were four deaths involving motor vehicles and one from an accident involving two cyclists.

Other accidents included the death of an 80 year old man following a fall downstairs.

Suicide. There were seven suicides compared with two in 1954. The youngest was 47 and the eldest 76.

DEATHS RELATING TO WELFARE OF MOTHERS AND INFANTS. There was one maternal death due to the late effects of childbirth. Still births numbered 15; there were 9 in 1954. The rate was 23.4 compared with 23.2 for England and Wales and 20.2 for London.

Deaths under four weeks of age numbered 11 in 1955 compared with 9 in 1954 and all, except one, occurred within five days of birth. Prematurity caused 6, brain injury 2, congenital defects 2 and pneumonia 1.

Deaths over four weeks and under one year numbered 6 compared with 3 in 1954. The causes included three pneumonia, cases all aged 1 month, and two congenital malformations, aged 2 months and 4 months. Two of the pneumonia deaths occurred in problem families, the other was associated with lung abscess.

The infant mortality rate was 27.3 compared with 24.9 for England and Wales.

DEATHS OF THOSE AGED 75 YEARS AND OVER.

		Quarters.							
		1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th	1955	%	1954	%
All causes		61	53	33	41	188	100%	164	100%
Main causes		53	45	30	36	164	87%	141	86%
Other causes		8	8	3	5	24	13%	23	14%
Main Causes	((440-468) Diseases of circulatory system:	20	21	15	19	75	40%	87	53%
	((140-205) Cancer, including Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia and aleukaemia:	6	10	7	9	32	17%	21	13%
	((330-334) Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system:	14	6	6	7	33	18%	20	12%
	((470-527) Diseases of respiratory system:	13	8	2	1	24	13%	13	8%
Aged respiratory mortality 1953						1st Qr.	Year		
influenza A:		...	...	...	...	33%	18%		
Aged respiratory mortality 1954									
normal year:		...	...	...	...	9%	8%		
Aged respiratory mortality 1955									
mild influenza		...	...	...	...	21%	13%		

MEASLES. The two-yearly cycle continued but reached its maximum later in the year 1955 than was usual.

NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS:

		November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April
1949-1950	...	-	-	1	-	-	-
1950-1951	...	16	102	67	127	150	78
1951-1952	...	-	-	-	-	2	3
1952-1953	...	26	210	284	164	147	61
1953-1954	...	-	-	-	-	-	-
1954-1955	...	1	-	5	4	43	76
1955-1956	...	-	1	-	2	-	4

76 still increasing (see Table VII)

WHOOPIING COUGH. Notifications for the years 1952-1955 have been 50, 155, 171 and 112.

NOTIFIABLE BOWEL DISEASES.

Dysentery. There were only two notifications of dysentery. One concerned a seven-year old child who showed the organisms in her stools. Three specimens from each member of her family were clear and after two courses of treatment, the child's specimens became clear.

The other notification concerned a toddler but specimens from herself, sister and mother were clear.

In addition to the above cases statutorily notified there were the following:

A child admitted to a London hospital was found to be infected with sonné dysentery. On sampling those members of the child's family who were co-operative, three members were found to be carrying the organisms. They cleared with treatment.

An immigrant admitted to a Bromley hospital was found to be carrying Flexner dysentery. Her family here were found to be free of infection and the patient eventually cleared up.

Two families who had incurred dysentery symptoms gave no evidence of infection in their stool specimens.

Food poisoning. The notification of food poisoning referred to a three-year old child suffering from the symptoms of food poisoning with S. Typhimurium in his stools. The rest of the family submitted specimens and were found clear. The child was still found to be carrying the organisms after one course of treatment but he cleared up after a lapse of two months.

In addition to the notified case, an adult was reported to be suffering from food poisoning but we found nothing in his or his household's stool specimens.

There were a number of unnotified cases of diarrhoea and vomiting.

POLIOMYELITIS. The three paralytic cases occurred in the Parishes of Stone, Hartley and Southfleet. The deferment of National Service for a month was arranged in one of the family contacts of these cases and his employer was persuaded of freedom from reasonable risk to others and to keep him at work meanwhile.

Of the three non-paralytic cases, all of which occurred on Temple Hill Estate, two occurred in one family where the mother was a food handler. She was allowed absence from work with pay for, eventually, one month. Nevertheless, the family declined to let the patients' bedding being disinfected.

RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications. The numbers of new cases notified in recent years have been as follows:-

1952	...	...	...	47
1953	...	...	...	53
1954	...	...	...	27
1955	...	...	...	36

Of these 36 cases, 9 were known to be infectious, 16 were not so regarded, the condition of 10 was unknown and in 1 the diagnosis was changed.

2 cases were notified from a mental institution and 2 from a mental hospital.

Register. The number of cases of respiratory tuberculosis on the register continued to increase:

Number on register at	31/12/50	...	248
" " " "	31/12/51	...	265
" " " "	31/12/52	...	287
" " " "	31/12/53	...	328
" " " "	31/12/54	...	349
" " " "	31/12/55	...	381

The changes on the register in 1955 were as follows:-

Additions.

New notifications...	...	...	36
Came into district	...	...	34
Restored to register (moved back into district)	...	...	<u>4</u>
			<u>74</u>

Removals.

Left district	...	...	14
Lost sight of	...	...	3
Died ...	...	...	8
Recovered	...	...	16
Diagnosis altered...	...	...	<u>1</u>
			<u>42</u>

Deaths. Although the number of cases removed from the register by death was 8, there were in fact 12 deaths from respiratory tuberculosis and the details of these were as follows:-

(i) On the register, total 8 cases.

(a) Notified during the course of their disease:

Reg.No.1107 notified 1952 - an infectious male aged 64.
 Reg.No.1138 notified 1943 - an infectious male aged 56.
 Reg.No.1114 notified 1952 - a female aged 55 at a mental institution.
 Reg.No.1198 notified 1953 - a male aged 67 at a mental institution.
 Reg.No.1236 notified 1954 - an infectious male aged 69. This case was mentioned in the 1954 Report. He was a contact who repeatedly declined to come under observation of the Chest Clinic as a contact of his wife. When he finally did attend he was found to be in an advanced stage of tuberculosis and presumably was the origin of the disease in his wife.
 Reg.No.1105 notified in 1952 - wife of No.1236.

(b) Notified at the time of their death:

Reg.No.1278 notified 1/4/55 died 1/4/55 - infectious male aged 82. This person had been nursed at home for a considerable time by his daughter but attempts to get her under observation failed.
 Reg.No.1321 notified 22/10/55 died 24/10/55 - an infectious male aged 48. This case had been under treatment by the Chest Clinic for a long time, the case having been originally "transferred in" and the treatment taken over from a clinic elsewhere. The case had not been notified because it had been assumed that it was already notified, etc. This case should also have been notified to this office as a "transfer in" in 1946, but no particulars had been received here.
 Reg.No.1290 notified 10/6/55 died 13/6/55 in a London hospital - a female aged 68.

(ii) Not on the register, total 3 cases:

Reg.No.1170 originally notified in 1953 - a male aged 23, inmate of mental institution; removed from the register 27/8/54 as recovered, died 26/3/55 from ischio-rectal abscesses, presumably secondary to the original respiratory tuberculosis.

Transferable death ref.221/1/488 - male aged 69, a chronic infectious case with an address in this district who had collapsed in the street in London in 1953 and had been taken to hospital where he had remained but had not been notified.

Transferable death ref.235/1/162 - a young woman who died from the disease in hospital. Originally notified in 1945 while under observation as a family contact. The disease later asserted itself owing to the strain of conditions which included child birth. Not on register due to omission following frequent changes of address. She was under full observation and treatment.

Mass X-Ray

The unit visited this district in June and July and then visited the neighbouring Borough. The percentage of tuberculosis found 0.3% harmonises with the figure obtained in the country as a whole. As was to be expected the visit revealed in addition diseases other than tuberculosis; these were:

Carcinoma of lung	1	Pneumonitis	1
Sarcoidosis	1	Substernal thyroid	1
Pneumoconiosis	1	Hiatus hernia	1
Emphysema	1	Cardiovascular lesions	4
Bronchiectasis	1		

Contact examination

In 1955 examination of 717 contacts at the Chest Clinic, which like Mass X-Ray covers a large area centred on Dartford, revealed 16 new cases of tuberculosis, i.e. about 2.2% - a figure similar to that of Kent and of England and Wales. It will be noted that although the figure is small it is 7 times that of the figure for the general community as revealed by Mass X-Ray.

NON RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications.

The numbers of new cases notified in recent years have been as follows:-

1952	...	13
1953	...	5
1954	...	5
1955	...	7

Four of the new notifications were for infected glands of the neck and two of these had been consumers in the past of milk found by guinea-pig tests to be infected with tuberculosis. Of the other three, two were kidney infections and one was lupus vulgaris of the neck.

Register

The number of cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis on the register was as follows:-

Number on register	31/12/52	...	52
" " "	31/12/53	...	55
" " "	31/12/54	...	60
" " "	31/12/55	...	58

Approximately one-third of the cases on the register have either not attended the Chest Clinic here for several years or are unknown to this Chest Clinic and presumed to be attending clinics elsewhere.

The changes on the register in 1955 were as follows:-

Additions

New notifications	...	7
Came into district	...	-
Restored to register		<u>-</u>
		7

Removals

Left district...	...	-
Lost sight of...	...	2
Recovered	...	7
Diagnosis altered	...	<u>-</u>
		9

Deaths. A death of a person not on the register was classified to non-respiratory tuberculosis to comply with coding practice. The cause was ischio-rectal abscess in a patient who was thought to have recovered from respiratory tuberculosis the previous year and is included under respiratory tuberculosis above (Reg.1170).

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASE. In July, leptospirosis was incurred by a child who was accustomed to playing on the banks of a creek of the River Darent where there are rats. Two cage traps were laid. We lost one trap and caught one brown rat whose kidneys showed no abnormality. There was insufficient rat blood for agglutination tests.

The same patient showed evidence of psittacosis in her blood. She had the task of cleaning out the cage of the family's pet budgerigar and four months previously the budgerigar had been found dead. Her brother and sister both submitted blood for examination but no evidence of leptospirosis or psittacosis was found.

A further case of psittacosis occurred in an adult with no known contact with birds. The relatives showed **no** evidence of psittacosis in their blood.

ATTEMPT AT A FORECAST. In recent years influenza and measles have tended to follow a two yearly cycle.

Virus A influenza has tended to arrive in January or February of alternative years following its appearance in South Africa several months before or on the continent of Europe several weeks before. In Dartford this background together with evidence of the presence of Virus A locally enabled a presumption to be made in December 1952 of the outbreak in February 1953. In June 1954 influenza occurred in South Africa and on two Union Castle ships on their voyage from South Africa to the United Kingdom. Two passengers from the ship arrived in this district, and although their blood showed no evidence of Virus A infection, such evidence was provided by passengers arriving elsewhere in the country.

Measles arrives here on similar alternate years to Virus A influenza. It usually arrives in Dartford Borough in time to celebrate every other bonfire night and it is on the way out by the following Easter. The Rural District incidence follows that of the Borough by a couple of months' interval or so.

In view of these facts the following letter was sent on July 7th, 1954, to Medical Practitioners in Dartford Borough and Rural District -

"I am taking the liberty to remind you of some facts which may be of use in planning for the coming winter.

Since 1949 epidemics of influenza in England and Wales have been due to Virus A and have assumed a two yearly cycle. All three edpidemics have been preceded by outbreaks in other parts of the world. The 1949 epidemic originated in Sardinia. The 1951 and 1953 epidemics came from South Africa and the Continent.

This two yearly cycle entitles us to expect an epidemic of influenza this coming winter, i.e. in the first quarter of 1955. Virus A is now appearing in South Africa and so events seem to be running in accordance with the recent pattern.

Measles here also has a two yearly cycle and is also due next winter. Notifications for Dartford Borough and Rural Districts received in months of November and April were:-

1949 - 50	2
1950 - 51	1,249
1951 - 52	5
1952 - 53	1,721
1953 - 54	0

Measles outbreaks embrace the whole of the first quarter of the year. Influenza usually reaches its peak about the first half of February and quadruples the sickness rate.

Thus I imagine that you are going to be busy in the first quarter of 1955 as I believe you were in the first quarter of 1953."

My reports to the July 1954 meeting of the Public Health Committees of Dartford Borough and Rural District stated that evidence was accumulating that the following winter's influenza was on its way.

The influenza did arrive and was with us by the end of January, but it was not of the nature, substance and quality of previous years as it was relatively mild and did not appreciably affect adult sickness benefit figures (which require at least three days' absence) or numbers of deaths. It did, however, cause considerable inconvenience and it did markedly affect school children. Whether the Virus was A or B or both I don't know as it was not feasible to take blood samples and both viruses were present in the country as the time.

The anticipated measles arrived in January, a trifle behind schedule but by the end of April 806 cases had been notified in Dartford Borough. It did not however reach its peak in the Rural District until the middle of the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. These figures for 1955 were lower than the previous year. Comparison with other areas is provided by the following:

	Percentage of those born in 1953 immunised in 1953 or 1954	Percentage of those born in 1954 immunised in 1954 or 1955
Dartford Borough	73%	64%
Dartford Rural District	65%	60%
Kent A. C.	62%	50%

	Percentage of births of those immunised at age of under 1 year	
	1954	1955
Dartford Borough	58	44
Dartford Rural District	44	39
Kent A. C.	42	43
England and Wales	37	37

Percentage of children under 15 years of age immunised in 5 years ending :

	December 31st 1954	December 31st 1955
Dartford Borough	50%	50%
Dartford Rural District	42%	43%
Kent A. C.	51%	52%
Ministry's aim	75%	75%

1955 was the seventh year in succession in which no diphtheria occurred in Dartford Rural District.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX. Owing to more vaccinations being done at the child welfare clinic, 97 in 1955 compared with 53 in 1954, there was an increase in the infant vaccination rate.

Comparison with other areas is provided by the following figures :

	Percentage of those born in 1953 vaccinated in 1953 or 1954	Percentage of those born in 1954 vaccinated in 1954 or 1955
Dartford Borough	64	58
Dartford Rural District	50	59
Kent A.C.	60	61

	Percentage of births of those vaccinated in 1954 at age under 1 year	Percentage of births of those vaccinated in 1955 at age under 1 year
Dartford Borough	64	53
Dartford Rural District	53	55
Kent A. C.	60	61
England and Wales.	35	36

Re-vaccination. The number of children due each year for re-vaccination in school life (assuming only one re-vaccination during that period) is roughly the number of infant vaccinations done five years previously. The percentage of those re-vaccinated is shown by the following calculations :

	Infant vaccinations done in 1950	Children aged 5-14 re-vaccinated.	Percentage of possible x number of those re-vaccinated.
Dartford Borough	374	4	1%
Dartford Rural District	255	11	4%
Kent A. C.	13,237	932	7%
England and Wales.	169,766	11,936	7%

* These percentages contain approximations and errors which when corrected would result in lower figures.

Thus, as in former years, there was almost no re-vaccination of school-children although the Ministry regard this as a necessary routine on entering and again on leaving school.

Adjacent to this Rural District is a smallpox hospital (170 beds, 50 of which are staffed) to receive cases from this part of England at short notice. The unsatisfactory state of immunity in our population may cause needless risk should smallpox have to be cared for in this hospital.

Smallpox Contacts. One contact of a case of smallpox from S.S.Chusan was under surveillance.

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME. Accidents in the home are a cause of ill-health or death about which, in other areas, Medical Officers of Health have persuaded their Authorities to form Home Safety Committees. I have refrained from requesting this here until the size of the problem has been measured.

So far, our figures for home accidents are not by any means as disturbing as elsewhere. In addition to the unfortunate aged man fatally injured by a fall downstairs mentioned above, the following details of those who have received in-patient treatment arising out of accidents in the home in 1955 have been kindly provided by the Dartford Hospital Management Committee:-

Age	Falls	Burns and Scalds	Other	Total
0 - 4	2	-	-	2
5 - 64	4	1	9	14
65+	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>17</u>

Compared with this total of 17, there were 38 admitted from Dartford Borough which has the same population. It may be, however, that in the Rural District some cases were admitted to hospitals other than those of the Dartford Group.

FOOD. 1955 was the first year in which there was no sale of undesignated milk in this district.

1955 was the first full year which followed the return to private slaughtering in mid-1954. The carcasses of animals inspected in the years 1953, 1954 and 1955 were 84, 1622 and 5672 respectively.

Amongst the carcasses found tuberculous, there was that of a day-old calf with generalised tuberculosis. The dam was found to belong to a milk herd and was slaughtered with compensation. There was little tuberculosis in her carcass but there was a small tuberculosis nodule in the uterus and presumably the calf had been infected from this before birth.

A heifer whose carcass showed generalised tuberculosis had been bought for slaughtering after being found positive to the tuberculin test.

AIR. A start was made in the inspection of industrial sources of pollution. One of the largest industrial concerns (apart from the cement industry and the generating station) put an additional boiler into use and amongst other improvements installed smoke density indicators.

Air pollution measurements were continued as part of the measurements of the Thames-side Joint Committee.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. I wish to emphasise that the detailed day to day work of housing, water, drainage and food inspection is done by the Council's Public Health Inspectors.

My thanks are due to numerous colleagues in providing the information for this report.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and the Staff of this Office for their willing co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

John A. Hudson.
Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I - SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (acres)	34,113
Population (Registrar-General's estimated mid-year home population) 1955	41,290
Population (Census 1931)	31,253
Population (Census 1951)	37,905
Number of inhabited houses (31.3.56 according to Rate Books) ...	12,394
Rateable value 31.3.56	£296,593
Sum represented by ld. rate	£ 1,071

The 1955 comparability factor for births, governed by the proportion of women aged 18-44 years, is 1.00. The factor for deaths, governed by the proportion of all age groups, is 0.99. The crude birth or death rate of any local area multiplied by its comparability factor is said to make it comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales and with any other local area which has been adjusted by its own comparability factor.

The following figures may act as indicators of social conditions for 1955:-

Cases dealt with by N.S.P.C.C. :-

Neglect	21
Ill-treatment	9
Children involved ...	76
Prosecutions	1

Unemployed on December 31st, 1955 (Dartford Borough and Dartford Rural):

Men	76
Women	59

Illegitimate birth rate 1955 per thousand live births:

Dartford Rural District ...	35
England and Wales	45

TABLE II - GENERAL VITAL STATISTICS, 1955

Live Births						Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	340	265	605
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	11	11	22
						351	276	627
Crude live birth rate (per 1,000 estimated home population)						...	...	15.2
Birth rate adjusted by comparability factor						...	...	15.2
Crude live birth rate, England and Wales, 1955						...	...	15.2
Still Births						Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	7	8	15
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
						7	8	15
Still birth rate (per 1,000 live and still births)						...	...	23.4
Still birth rate, England and Wales						...	...	23.2
Deaths from all causes						Males	Females	Total
	...	...	...	...	...	224	181	405
Crude death rate (per 1,000 estimated home population)						...	...	9.8
Death rate adjusted by comparability factor						...	...	9.7
Death rate adjusted for Stone House and Darenth Park and by comparability factor (pre 1953 method)						...	...	8.8
Crude death rate, England and Wales						...	...	11.7
Deaths from puerperal causes						Rate per 1,000 Total Number. (Live & Still) Births		
Dartford Rural District						...	...	0.
England and Wales						...	...	0.64.
Deaths of Infants under one year of age.						Males	Females	Total
Legitimate under 4 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	10	1	11
Legitimate over 4 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
						15	2	17
Deaths per 1,000 live births of infants under 1 year of age:-								
Dartford Rural District						...	...	27.3
Dartford Borough						...	...	20.6
England and Wales						...	...	24.9
London and South-east Region						...	...	21.2
Harrow Municipal Borough						...	...	17.0
Deaths per 1,000 live births of infants under 4 weeks of age:-								
Dartford Rural District						...	...	17.5
England and Wales						...	...	17.3
Dartford Borough						...	...	13.8

TABLE III - CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SEX, 1955.

Registrar General's Return

	Male	Female	Persons
All causes	224	181	405
Tuberculosis, respiratory	7	4	11
Tuberculosis, other	1	-	1
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	5	15
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	4	17
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	4	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	29	17	46
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-	2
Diabetes	-	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	28	29	57
Coronary disease, angina	32	20	52
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2	4
Other heart disease	22	31	53
Other circulatory disease	7	17	24
Influenza	-	2	2
Pneumonia	7	5	12
Bronchitis	17	13	30
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	2	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	2	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
Congenital malformation	5	1	6
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	11	33
Motor vehicle accidents	4	-	4
All other accidents	3	-	3
Suicide	5	2	7
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-

TABLE IV - CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO AGE, 1955.

Compiled Locally

	All ages	Under 4 weeks	4 wks. - 1 yr	1 - 2	2 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 55	55 - 65	65 - 75	75 +
All Causes	405	11	6	1	1	3	2	6	10	29	64	86	187
Tuberculosis, respiratory	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	5	2
Tuberculosis, other	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	6	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	8	6	8	22
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Diabetes	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	12	10	33
Coronary disease, angina	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	12	14	22
Hypertension with heart disease	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Other heart disease	51	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	10	36
Other circulatory disease	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	8	17
Influenza	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia	11	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	5
Bronchitis	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	5	16
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Congenital malformations	5	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	36	10	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	4	2	14
Motor vehicle accidents	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1
All other accidents	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
Suicide	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	1
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE V - CAUSES OF DEATH

Ages 75 and over

	Total Male & Female	Males					Total Males	Females					Total Females
		75	80	85	90	95		75	80	85	90	95	
All causes	188	41	28	15	6	-	90	32	34	25	7	-	98
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	2
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, tracheus	5	3	1	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	21	5	4	3	-	-	12	3	5	1	-	-	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	33	2	6	5	2	-	15	3	5	9	1	-	18
Coronary disease, angina	22	8	1	1	-	-	10	8	1	2	1	-	12
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other heart disease	35	5	4	2	2	-	13	4	10	5	3	-	22
Other circulatory disease	18	2	2	-	2	-	6	3	5	2	2	-	12
Influenza	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	5	1	2	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	2
Bronchitis	16	6	1	-	-	-	7	3	2	4	-	-	9
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis, nephrosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	14	4	3	3	-	-	10	2	1	1	-	-	4
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suicide	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1

TABLE VI
CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SOCIAL CLASS

MALES:	All Classes	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIId	IIIe	IVa	IVb	Va	Vb	X
All causes	224	5	38	-	8	6	1	81	22	15	11	26	11
Tuberculosis, respiratory	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	1	1	1
Tuberculosis, other	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	-	2	-	-	1	-	4	-	2	2	1	-
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	29	1	3	-	-	-	-	12	5	1	2	4	1
Leukaemia & aleukaemia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	29	2	6	-	-	-	-	12	5	1	-	3	-
Coronary disease, angina	34	-	7	-	2	2	-	10	3	3	1	5	1
Other heart disease	22	1	2	-	1	-	-	7	2	1	1	4	3
Other circulatory disease	10	1	-	-	-	1	-	5	1	-	1	-	1
Pneumonia	5	-	1	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis	15	-	1	-	1	-	-	6	3	1	1	2	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Congenital malformations	4	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	25	-	8	-	1	1	-	9	2	2	-	2	-
Motor vehicle accidents	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
All other accidents	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Suicide	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
FEMALES:													
All causes	181	8	37	-	4	3	1	48	17	27	5	20	11
Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	18	2	7	-	-	-	-	4	1	3	-	-	1
Diabetes	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	29	1	3	-	2	-	-	7	5	5	1	4	1
Coronary disease, angina	20	1	4	-	-	1	1	5	3	2	2	1	-
Hypertension with heart disease	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other heart disease	28	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	2	7	2	3	2
Other circulatory disease	21	1	4	-	1	-	-	6	1	4	-	3	1
Influenza	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	1	-
Bronchitis	13	-	3	-	-	-	-	5	1	1	-	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis & nephrosis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth & abortion	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	11	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	2	3
Suicide	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE VII - PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) during 1955:-

Disease	Total	0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65+
<u>General Population</u>									
Measles	596	6	101	137	335	14	1	2	-
Whooping Cough	112	7	26	41	37	1	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	20	-	-	2	16	1	-	1	-
Pneumonia	11	2	2	1	2	-	-	1	3
Poliomyelitis:									
Paralytic	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Non-paralytic	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Dysentery	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Food poisoning	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:	753	16	130	183	394	16	2	7	5

Residential Institutions of more than 100 population

Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
-----------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Measles 1955:-

	Ash	Darenth	Eynsford	Farningham	Fawkham	Horton Kirby	Longfield	Southfleet	Stone	Sutton-at-Hone	West Kingsdown	Wilmington	Hartley	Total
January	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
February	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	4
March	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	5	-	14	-	43
April	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	33	7	1	31	-	76
May	-	-	4	3	-	8	2	-	3	71	-	14	2	107
June	1	2	2	3	-	1	4	2	27	28	1	3	6	80
July	-	4	2	7	-	8	-	-	9	142	6	18	2	198*
August	-	4	-	1	-	2	-	4	8	24	27	6	-	76
September	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	5
October	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
November	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
December	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS:	3	14	9	17	-	21	10	6	104	280	35	87	10	596

* including a number of late notifications.

Pneumonia 1955:-

Stone	...	6
Wilmington	...	2
Horton Kirby	...	1
Darenth	...	1
Southfleet	...	1
		<u>11</u>

Poliomyelitis 1955:-

Paralytic:		
Stone	...	1
Hartley	...	1
Southfleet	...	1
Non-paralytic:		
Stone	...	3
		<u>6</u>

Non-notifiable diseases during 1955:-

The following non-notifiable diseases were reported from the schools -

Chicken pox	...	16
German measles	...	2
Impetigo	...	2

TABLE VII Continued.

Tuberculosis:-

The following table gives details of cases notified and deaths occurring during the year -

Age periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10-15	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-20	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-25	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
25-35	4	3	2	1	-	1	-	-
35-45	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	4	-	1	-	1	1	1	-
55-65	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
65 and upwards.	2	-	-	-	5	1	-	-
TOTALS:	25	11	3	4	7	4	1	-

4 of the above new cases notified were from Institutions in the Rural District.

The following is a statement of the number of cases on the Register at the beginning and end of the year:

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Number on register at end of 1954	211	129	28	32	400
Number on register at end of 1955	228	144	28	30	430

80 children under 15 years of age received vaccination with B.C.G. during the year at Dartford Chest Clinic.

MASS X-RAY:

		Total X-rayed	Considered tuberculous	Percentage
1955				
Men	...	1,087	4	0.4%
Women	...	<u>1,487</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0.2%</u>
		2,574	7	0.3%
1953				
Men	...	1,064	1	0.1%
Women	...	<u>1,554</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0.3%</u>
		2,618	5	0.2%
1952				
Men	...	405	3	0.7%
Women	...	<u>528</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0.4%</u>
		933	5	0.5%

TABLE VIII - DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

From the figures supplied by the County Medical Officer the following are derived:-

INOCULATIONS DONE EACH YEAR:

	Age at 31st December	Primary Inoculations done in the year	Re-inforcing Inoculations done in the year
1955	0 - 4 years	396	18
	5 - 14 years	19	270
1954	0 - 4 years	395	21
	5 - 14 years	49	275
1953	0 - 4 years	363	23
	5 - 14 years	79	367
1952	0 - 4 years	431	16
	5 - 14 years	73	351
1951	0 - 4 years	368	14
	5 - 14 years	98	500
1950	0 - 4 years	356	14
	5 - 14 years	39	165

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH EFFECTIVE IMMUNITY:

Immunisation is effective for about five years and then requires to be re-inforced. Hence -

December 31st	Age Group	Children immunised at any time in their life	Children immunised in the last 5 years	Popu- lation Census 1951 *	Percentage children immune
1955	0 - 4 years	1,527	1,527	3,175	48%
	5 - 14 years	<u>3,711</u>	<u>2,165</u>	<u>5,319</u>	<u>41%</u>
	0 - 14 years	<u>5,238</u>	<u>3,692</u>	<u>8,494</u>	<u>43%</u>
1954	0 - 4 years	1,501	1,501	3,175	47%
	5 - 14 years	<u>3,547</u>	<u>2,101</u>	<u>5,319</u>	<u>40%</u>
	0 - 14 years	<u>5,048</u>	<u>3,602</u>	<u>8,494</u>	<u>42%</u>
1953	0 - 4 years	1,492	1,492	3,175	47%
	5 - 14 years	<u>3,918</u>	<u>1,801</u>	<u>5,319</u>	<u>34%</u>
	0 - 14 years	<u>5,410</u>	<u>3,292</u>	<u>8,494</u>	<u>39%</u>

* In view of the changing birth rate and development of the district, these population figures are becoming unreliable.

INFANT IMMUNISATION RATE:

Percentage of those born in a given year who were immunised in that year or the next -

Year of birth	Number of live births	Year immunised	Number Immunised	%	Total	%
1955	627	1955	40	6	?	?
		1956	?	?		
1954	586	1954	41	7	344	59
		1955	303	52		
1953	539	1953	34	6	334	62
		1954	300	56		
1952	514	1952	47	9	332	65
		1953	285	56		
1951	576	1951	42	7	345	60
		1952	303	53		
1950	454	1950	31	6	301	56
		1951	270	50		

Immunisation by age at date of immunisation:

	Number of live births	Number under 1 year of age immunised	Percentage of births of previous year
1955	627	232	40%
1954	586	251	44%
1953	539		

TABLE IX - SMALLPOX VACCINATION

NUMBERS VACCINATED:

	Age at December 31st		
	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14
1955			
Vaccinated	221	147	9
Revaccinated	-	-	12
1954			
Vaccinated	216	110	28
Revaccinated	-	2	8
1953			
Vaccinated	169	119	19
Revaccinated	-	1	3
1952			
Vaccinated	163	118	18
Revaccinated	-	3	18
1951			
Vaccinated	192	118	38
Revaccinated	-	3	16
1950			
Vaccinated	154	101	17
Revaccinated	-	4	6

INFANT VACCINATION RATE:

Percentage of those born in a given year who were vaccinated in that year or the next -

Year of Birth	Number of live births	Year vaccinated	Number vaccinated	%	Total	%
1955	627	1955	221	35	?	?
		1956	?	?		
1954	586	1954	216	37	343	59
		1955	127	22		
1953	539	1953	169	32	269	50
		1954	100	19		
1952	514	1952	163	32	271	53
		1953	108	21		
1951	576	1951	192	33	303	53
		1952	111	19		

Vaccination by age at date of vaccination -

	Number of live births	Number vaccinated by age at date of vaccination			Percentage of births of those vaccinated under one year
		Under 1	1-4	5-14	
1955	627	343	23	11	55%
1954	586	309	16	32	53%
1953	539	273	19	14	50%
1952	514	272	13	15	53%

PROPORTION OF VACCINATIONS DONE BY PRIVATE DOCTORS AND CLINICS:

The analysis for 1955 is as follows -

Age Group	Vaccinated:		Revaccinated:	
	Private Doctors	Clinics	Private Doctors	Clinics
Under 1	255	88	-	-
1 - 4	17	6	2	-
5 - 14	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>-</u>
Total under 15	280	97	13	-

APPENDIX I - HOUSING

NEW HOUSES: The following dwellings have been completed in the last five years:-

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
By Dartford Rural District Council	174	178	312	224	158
By Dartford Borough Council	31	-	-	35	67
By private enterprise	18	53	127	314	622
	<u>223</u>	<u>231</u>	<u>439</u>	<u>573</u>	<u>847</u>

HOUSING PROVIDED BY COUNCIL: The effective waiting list of housing applicants at the end of March, 1956, numbered 1,087 (exclusive of engaged couples), the total registered applications for the year being 1,338. During the year ended March, 1956, 163 families were rehoused by the Council.

Families Re-housed:

Neighbourhood	April-March 1953-54	April-March 1954-55	April-March 1955-56
Ash-cum-Ridley	5	1	2
Fawkham	3	-	1
Hartley	1	-	1
West Kingsdown	12	5	1
Longfield	12	5	5
Southfleet	9	3	3
Betsham	-	-	3
Bean	1	1	1
Darenth	12	33	14
Stone	40	48	21
Eynsford	3	3	7
Farningham	7	5	6
Horton Kirby	12	4	3
South Darenth	9	4	3
Sutton-at-Hone	17	8	1
Lullingstone	-	2	-
Swanley	80	52	51
Crockenhill	14	20	10
Hextable	16	9	3
Wilmington	33	26	14
Hawley	4	8	-
Outside Rural District	<u>30</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>13</u>
	<u>320</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>163</u>

165 Council tenants were moved to accommodation more suitable to their requirements.

HOUSING PRIORITY ON MEDICAL GROUNDS: The following are the details of applications, supported by medical certificates, received during the year for priority in rehousing on medical grounds:-

	Applications received	Some degree of priority recommended	No priority recommended
Tuberculosis	16	13	3
Other than tuberculosis	<u>63</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>27</u>
Total	<u>79</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>30</u>

APPENDIX 1 - Continued.

IMPROVEMENTS: In 1955, 22 applications for improvement grants under the Housing Act 1949, were received relating to 38 houses. All, except one, were approved and grants totalling £7,510 were made. All the work involved however, was not finished until 1956. Five cottages were improved without application for grant.

REPAIRS: 493 dwellings were inspected by the Council's Public Health Inspectors.

446 dwellings were rendered fit as a result of informal action.

2 notices were served under the Public Health Act, 1 was served under the Housing Act and all were complied with.

The following are the details of repairs initiated by the Council's Public Health Inspectors :-

New W.C. Pans provided	...	17
Flushing cisterns renewed or repaired	...	7
Sink waste pipes repaired	...	2
Water pipes repaired	...	10
New water taps provided	...	1
New hot water tanks provided	...	2
Cooking ranges, stoves, coppers and boilers repaired or renewed	...	7
Water waste preventors and flush pipes repaired or renewed	...	8
Gutters and rainwater pipes renewed or repaired	...	26
Fascia Boards renewed	...	1
Roofs repaired	...	40
Chimney stacks, chimney pots and flashings repaired or renewed	...	6
External walls repaired	...	9
Dampness to walls abated including damp proof courses inserted	...	16
Floors repaired	...	14
Windows repaired	...	45
Doors repaired or renewed	...	16
Staircases repaired	...	1
Wall plaster repaired or renewed	...	49
Ceiling plaster repaired or renewed	...	6
Yard paving provided	...	1
New dustbins provided	...	11
Caravans removed	...	4
Offensive accumulations removed	...	28
Smoke nuisances abated	...	1

Certificates of disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954:

Issued ... 8 Cancelled ... 1

DEMOLITION OR CLOSURE OF HOUSES:

The following houses were demolished as a result of action under the Housing Act :-

1 and 2, Portobello Cottages, School Lane,
West Kingsdown, (Order served 1954)
Broomfield Cottage, Swanley. (Order served 1954)
48 and 50, Main Rd., Sutton-at-Hone, (Order served 1953)
Trixie Lodge, Hever Avenue, West Kingsdown, (Order served 1953)
79, Invicta Road, Stone, (Order served 1954).

APPENDIX I - Continued

Demolition or Closure Orders were served but the interval allowed before vacation was not up by the end of the year in regard to the following properties:-

- 1 Bridge Cottages, Darenth.
- Holts Bungalow, Swanley Village.
- 12 Whitehill Road, Longfield.
- Wooden dwelling at Bower Farm, Eynsford.
- 2 Lilac Cottages, Betsham.
- Black House, Betsham.
- 1-4 Invicta Cottages, Betsham.
- 2 Hedge Place Cottages, Stone.
- 9 Ifield Terrace, Stone.
- 2 Main Road, Sutton-at-Hone.

Undertakings that the houses would not be used for human habitation were given in regard to the following:-

- 1 & 2 Russell Cottages, Eynsford.
- 2 Ford Cottages, Eynsford.
- Herb Farm Bungalow, Darenth.
- 2 Hedge Place Road, Stone.
- 2 & 3 Martins Cottages, Longfield.

Houses demolished by informal action - nil.

The persons displaced by the demolition or closure of the above houses were 33 persons aged 10 years or over and 17 children who had attained 1 year and were under 10 years old.

CARAVANS: The following are the details of licences issued during the year under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936:-

Number of annual licences granted authorising the use of moveable dwellings (two holiday camps having a total of 80 moveable dwellings licensed by two licences)	...	...	...	...	96
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Number of licences authorising persons to allow land to be used as sites for moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Number of unlicensed caravans removed during the year	...	...	...	...	...	4
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

APPENDIX II - WATER

In 1955, the position in regard to quality and quantity was approximately as follows:-

		Sample Results	
		Bacteriological	Chemical
9950	houses supplied by Metropolitan Water Board. Quantity abundant. Samples taken mostly by Board. Raw water - satisfactory Water going into supply - satisfactory	about 1500	about 25
2351	houses supplied by Mid Kent Water Company Quantity abundant Raw water - satisfactory Water going into supply - satisfactory	11 15	3
65	houses supplied by piped supply from well in Lullingstone Park, Parish of Lullingstone. Quantity satisfactory. Raw water Water going into supply - satisfactory	No samples taken 3	
9	houses supplied by piped supply from one well at Sutton House, Clement Street, Parish of Sutton. Untreated Quantity satisfactory.	No samples taken	
14	houses supplied by pump or bucket from adjacent wells. Untreated. Quantity usually satisfactory but varies. Samples unsatisfactory	1	
5	houses supplied by rainwater. Untreated. Quantity unsatisfactory	No samples taken	
12394	Total houses. 31.3.56.		
1	hospital supplied by well. Treated. Quantity satisfactory. Raw water - satisfactory Water going into supply - satisfactory	2 2	
2	hospitals supplied by Metropolitan Water Board. Quantity satisfactory Samples satisfactory	4	
2	factories supplied by well. Untreated. Quantity satisfactory	No samples taken	
3	swimming baths (M.K.W.C.) open to public. Treated.	No samples taken	
3	swimming baths (M.W.B.) not open to public.	No samples taken	

APPENDIX 111

DRAINAGE

An account of the drainage and sewerage of this district is given in our previous reports.

During 1955, a sewer from Rectory Road, Stone to the Chichester Road area was begun and completed in 1956, and 49 dwellings were connected thereto. The cost was £3,347. to the Council and £290. to the owners.

The construction of a sewer disposal plant, i.e. septic tank at White Hill Crossroads, Longfield, was begun in 1955 and completed in 1956. This plant was to serve 8 new flats built by the Council.

158 dwellings built by the Council and 504 built by private enterprise were connected to the sewer.

118 dwellings built by private enterprise were connected to cesspools.

The effluent from Stone Outfall Works was sampled by the Port of London Authority on three occasions and on two of these the reports were unsatisfactory.

The following are the details of the work initiated by the Council's Public Health Inspectors during 1955 :

Cesspools abolished and property connected to sewer	...	...	1
Additional cesspool provided	...	...	1
New cesspools provided	...	...	3
Cesspools repaired	...	...	3
Sewer relaid affecting 4 properties	...	...	4
Drainage relaid	...	...	5
Drains repaired	...	...	31
Drains cleansed	...	...	96

At the end of the year, the sanitary accommodation and drainage was approximately as follows :

Dwellings with waterclosets discharging into the drainage system	...	...	9,789
Dwellings with waterclosets discharging into septic tanks	...	...	157
Dwellings with waterclosets discharging into cesspools	...	...	2,396 (1,100 estimated to be leaking.)
Dwellings provided with pail closets	...	...	48
Dwellings provided with privies	...	...	4
TOTAL			<u>12,394</u>

(i.e. number of dwellings
at 31/3/56)

APPENDIX III (Cont'd.)

Cesspool emptying service.

The Council's cesspool-emptying service employed 9 men and 5 vehicles during the year. 29 acres of land were acquired on lease in the Parish of Farningham on a yearly basis at an annual rent of £52.10.0. for the purpose of disposal of cesspool contents in that part of the District. The costs of this service were as follows :

Capital expenditure :

New cesspool emptying vehicle	...	£2,066.
Protective clothing	...	16.
Fees, stamp duty, etc. on agreement re.lease of land	...	7.
		<u>£2,089.</u>

Recurrent expenditure :

Maintenance, repair, etc. of vehicles	...	£3,025.
Wages, etc.	...	4,804
Hose and couplings	...	20.
Insurances, etc.	...	14.
		<u>£7,863.</u>

The number of occasions on which cesspools were emptied was 4,081. At December 31st, 1955, the number of cesspools to be emptied on the waiting list was 42.

APPENDIX IV - FOOD

MILK: Regulations require this Council to register (i) dairies not being dairy farms and (ii) distributors, i.e. dairymen other than dairy farmers. The Council also have the duty to grant or refuse to grant, dealers' licences to distributors authorising the use of a special designation in relation to milk sold from premises in this district. Those holding dealers' licences for trade from premises outside this district can be granted supplementary licences authorising them to use a designation in relation to milk sold in this district.

The following are the figures for registrations and licences during the recent years:

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Dairies registered	8	8	6	2	2
Distributors registered	24	28	34	37	37
Distributors of undesignated milk	4	2	1	1	0
Dealers' licences for:-					
Tuberculin tested milk	17	19	17	19	19
Pasteurised milk	19	19	21	21	21
Sterilised milk.	9	12	25	31	29
Supplementary licences for:-					
Tuberculin tested milk	5	7	7	8	7
Pasteurised milk	5	6	6	6	6
Sterilised milk	3	3	6	9	9
Number of visits to dairy premises by Council's Public Health Inspectors.	52	94	61	53	12
Sampling for designation or infection tests	None				

Sampling for Adulteration.

52 samples of milk were taken by the County Sampling Officers in Dartford Rural District and a report, kindly supplied by the County Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures, shows that all these samples were genuine with the exception of the following:-

<u>Sample of</u>	<u>Analysis.</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
Hot milk.	Contained 10.6% extraneous water.	Proceedings. Fined £5 and £2.2.0 costs.
Hot milk.	Contained 21.2% extraneous water.	Proceedings. Fined £12 and £3.3.0 costs.

Eleven milk samples were found to be deficient in fat. Producers were advised as to proper methods of mixing and follow up samples were taken. No further action was necessary.

ICE-CREAM: The position regarding the registration of premises and sampling for cleanliness by the methylene blue test during recent years up to the end of 1955 is as follows:

APPENDIX IV Continued.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Premises registered for -						
Sale	69	68	71	81	96	96
Manufacture	-	3	-	-	-	-
Samples -						
Grade I	13 61%	56 74%	63 74%	9 90%	15 100%	-
" II	3 15%	12 16%	16 19%	1 10%	-	-
" III	4 19%	5 7%	4 5%	-	-	-
" IV	1 5%	2 3%	2 2%	-	-	-
Total	21 100%	75 100%	85 100%	10 100%	15 100%	-

2 samples of ice-cream taken by the County Sampling Officers were reported on as genuine, i.e. had a fat content of not less than 5% fat, 10% sugar not derived from milk and 7.5% milk solids other than fat.

MEAT: The number of slaughtermen licensed in 1955 was 19

The number of slaughterhouses licensed in 1955 was 6

The following are the details regarding meat inspection by the Council's Public Health Inspectors:

Summary of animals killed and carcasses inspected -

Particulars.	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs.
Number killed.	275	83	376	1,519	2,819
Number inspected	275	83	376	1,519	2,819
(i) All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis -					
Whole carcass condemned	-	-	1	1	8
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	21	14	-	17	25
Percentage of number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticercosis	8%	17%	0.3%	1.2%	1.2%
(ii) Tuberculosis only -					
Whole carcass condemned	-	1	1	-	-
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	7	6	-	-	18
Percentage of number inspected	3%	8%	0.3%	-	0.6%
(iii) Cysticercosis -					
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX IV (Contd.)

The following items were rejected:-

Diseases other than tuberculosis

<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
33 livers - flukes	2 carcasses - casualties
11 " - abscesses	1 sow (98lbs. bruised hind quarters)- casualty
4 " - cirrhosis	1 pig (80lbs) broken
1 liver - cavernous angioma	pelvis - casualty
1 bullock's cheek - abscesses	2 carcasses - swine erysipelas
1 steer's lungs - pneumonia	1 sow - fevered flesh traumatic peritonitis
1 cow (15lbs flank) - peritonitis	1 sow(65lbs. loin, kidneys) - hydronephrosis
1 steer - 2 lbs. bruised buttock	3 pigs(24lbs)- loin bruising
1 " - 14 lbs. wing rib - oedema	10 livers - cirrhosis
1 heifer's kidneys and surrounding fat - oedematous	6 livers - milk spots
	1 liver - ascaris lumbricoides
	4 pigs (80 lbs. loin) - pleurisy
	2 plucks - pleurisy
	5 plucks - pleurisy and pericarditis
	1 pig's lungs - pneumonia and pleurisy
	1 pig's heart and lungs- pneumonia and pleurisy
	3 pigs' legs (23lbs.) - abscesses
	2 livers - abscesses
	1 pig's shoulder (14 lbs.)- abscesses
	1 pig (7 lb. loin) - abscesses

Calves

- 1 calf - umbilical pyaemia
- 1 day old calf
- immature

Sheep

- 1 carcass - emaciation
- 1 " - flesh fevered
- 2 livers - flukes
- 1 liver - abscesses
- 1 liver &
lungs - parasitic affection

Tuberculosis

<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Calves</u>
1 carcass	10 heads	1 carcass - congenital tuberculosis
3 heads	8 lungs and livers	
5 lungs		
3 livers		
2 mesentery, heart and lungs.		

44 specimens were submitted to the hospital pathological laboratory and of these the following are the positive findings:-

Cows

- Purchased Sevenoaks Market prior to slaughtering.
Submaxillary lymph gland.
Sections show fibro-caseous tuberculosis; focal
calcification present.
- Purchased at Sevenoaks Market prior to slaughtering.
Lumbar lymph gland.
Section shows typical caseous tuberculous tissue.
Culture: M. tuberculosis grown.
- Purchased Chelmsford Market prior to slaughtering.
Left bronchial lymph gland
Culture: M. tuberculosis grown.

APPENDIX IV (Contd.)

- (iv) Emergency slaughtering.
Mediastinal lymph node
Section: typical caseating tuberculous lymphadenitis
Culture: M.tuberculosis grown.

Heifers

- (i) Purchased Sevenoaks Market prior to slaughtering.
Left bronchial lymph gland
Section shows fibro-caseous tuberculosis. Calcification present.
Culture: M.tuberculosis grown
Hepatic lymph gland
Section shows fibro-caseous tuberculosis. Calcification present.
Culture: M.tuberculosis grown
(ii) Purchased Sevenoaks Market prior to slaughtering.
Retropharyngeal left and right lymph glands.
Culture of each: M.tuberculosis grown
(iii) Purchased at Sevenoaks Market prior to slaughtering.
Pleura, lung, mediastinal lymph glands, ischiatic lymph gland, supra mammary lymph gland.
Pleura: section shows caseo-granulomatous tuberculosis
Mediastinal, supra mammary and ischiatic lymph glands
Culture: M.tuberculosis grown
(iv) Purchased at Sevenoaks Market prior to slaughtering.
Left bronchial lymph gland.
Film: M. tuberculosis

Bullocks

- (i) Local owner.
Posterior mediastinal lymph gland
Film: M.tuberculosis
(ii) Purchased Dartford Market prior to slaughtering.
Flesh from sternum
Section shows calcifying granulomatous tuberculosis
Culture: M.tuberculosis grown

Calf (congenital generalised tuberculosis). Local owner.
Hepatic lymph gland
Culture: M.tuberculosis grown

Dam of above calf slaughtered with compensation to owner
Nodule from uterus
Culture: M.tuberculosis grown
Mesenteric lymph gland
Culture: M.tuberculosis grown

- Pigs (i) Local owner.
Submaxillary lymph gland
Film and culture: M.tuberculosis grown
(ii) Purchased Sevenoaks Market prior to slaughtering
Liver - aspergillus-like fungal growth
(iii) Purchased Dartford Market prior to slaughtering
Right sub-maxillary lymph gland
Culture: M.tuberculosis grown
(iv) Local owner.
Cyst from kidney.
Section: retention cyst.

Sheep

Liver cyst.
Section: congenital cyst.

APPENDIX IV (Contd.)

The following items were surrendered from shops and canteens:

- 4 cwts. 3 qrs. 20 lbs. imported beef affected by bone taint.
- 2 qrs. 24 lbs. decomposed chilled beef.
- 1 qr. 17 lbs. imported beef - oedema due to injury.
- 5 sheep carcasses - rancid (store staleness)
- 2 qrs. 14 lbs. loins of imported lamb contaminated by mouse droppings.
- 13 lbs. decomposed imported pig livers
- 3 qrs. 1 stone 9½ lbs. tinned meat

OTHER FOODS. Other than meat, the following were surrendered from shops and canteens as unfit for human consumption:-

- 1 qr. 6¾ lbs. tinned fruit and vegetables.
- 1 qr. 23½ lbs. tinned or bottled fruit and vegetables.
- 20½ pints tinned milk
- 2 cwt. 2 qrs. 2 lbs. tinned jam and marmalade
- 1 tin of soup

The visits to food shops and food preparation premises numbered 431.

Sampling. In addition to the 52 samples of milk and 2 samples of ice-cream, mentioned above, the County Sampling Officers took the following samples during 1955:

Drugs ...	10
Spirits ...	6
Other samples...	39
	55

All these samples were genuine with the exception of the following:

<u>Sample of:</u>	<u>Analysis:</u>	<u>Action taken:</u>
Canadian ice-cream	Fat 10.2% (Not butter fat)	Use of description "Canadian" discontinued
Dundee cake	Fat 18.4% (containing 5.8% butter fat)	Insufficient butter to justify claim "contains butter". Under investigation.
Jingos	The foreign body is a metallic fragment (minute) consisting of iron. No rodent hairs	No further action. Origin of foreign body could not be proved.
Koola Kreem	Fat 2.6%. Total solids 26.1%. Sucrose 13.9%. Non-fatty milk solids 8.3%. Of nature of ice-cream and therefore deficient in fat.	Article will, in future, be described as an ice cream lollie.
Pork Sausages	The meat contained a negligible amount of pork	Beef sausages inadvertently sold as pork sausages. Written caution issued.
Hop bitters	Contained yeast and no sugar	Old stock. Remaining stock destroyed. No further action

Food Preparation Premises

During 1955, the following action has been initiated by the Council's Public Health Inspectors:

- 1 bakehouse flour store - walls replastered.
- 1 bakehouse - floor relaid and roof repaired.
- 2 bakehouses - walls and ceiling redecorated.
- 1 bakehouse - lighting and ventilation improved.
- 1 bakehouse - new sink provided and fixed.

APPENDIX IV (Contd.)

- 1 food shop - walls replastered
- 1 food shop - walls, and ceilings redecorated
- 1 shop storeroom - redecorated
- 1 shop storeroom - walls and ceiling cleansed
- 1 shop premises - redecorated
- 1 travelling shop - redecorated inside and outside
- 4 shop premises - "Wash your hands" notices fixed to W.Cs.
- 3 general stores - walls and ceilings redecorated
- 1 general stores - new solid floor provided to storeroom
- 1 sausage preparing room - walls and ceiling redecorated
- 1 sausage room to butcher's shop - room and store redecorated
- 6 cafe kitchens - walls and ceilings redecorated
- 1 cafe kitchen - walls cleansed
- 2 cafe dining rooms - walls and ceilings redecorated
- 1 cafe premises - walls and ceilings redecorated and repaired
- 1 cafe stockroom - walls and ceiling redecorated
- 2 cafes - walls and ceilings redecorated
- 1 cafe - intervening ventilated space provided to ladies' W.C.
- 1 cafe - screen provided to men's W.C.
- 1 cafe - drain inlet removed to open air.
- 1 timber-framed cafe - demolished

APPENDIX V

VERMIN, ETC.

Rodents : The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Council's Rodent Operator :

Number of complaints received	...	165
-------------------------------	-----	-----

Infestations found :

Rats, major	...	2
Rats, minor	...	249
Mice, major	...	7
Mice, minor	...	28

Infestations found as a result of survey :

Rats, major	...	-
Rats, minor	...	189
Mice, major	...	3
Mice, minor	...	24

Business premises treated	...	19
---------------------------	-----	----

Private dwellings treated	...	286
---------------------------	-----	-----

Estimated kill, Ministry of Food formula :

Rats	...	747
------	-----	-----

By traps or other means :

Rats	...	30
Mice	...	119

Dead bodies found :

Rats	...	653
Mice	...	119

Sewer treatment :

Manholes tested	...	178
Infestations found	...	5
Infestations treated	...	5

Other vermin :

Council houses disinfested of bed bugs	...	1
Private dwellings disinfested of bed bugs	...	10
Council houses disinfested of fleas	...	1
Private dwellings - ditto -	...	2
Houses disinfested of ants	...	1
Houses disinfested of woodworm	...	1
Houses disinfested of beetles	...	1
Houses disinfested of swarms of flies	...	1
Houses disinfested of swarms of bees	...	-
Wasp nests destroyed	...	13
Houses disinfested of silverfish	...	1

Disinfection.

Houses disinfested after infectious disease	11
---	----

APPENDIX VI

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

Refuse of Dartford Rural District Council.

The site for tipping refuse together with fly ash which was made available by the Central Electricity Authority near Littlebrook Generating Station in 1954, became full in June 1955.

Proposals for dealing with the problems of refuse disposal and improvement of the service were put before the Public Health Committee and in part adopted.

Expenditure for 1955/56 was as follows :

Capital expenditure :

New refuse-collection vehicle	...	...	£1310.
Hire of excavator - fire Bournemouth Tip			39.
			<u>£1,349.</u>

Recurrent expenditure :

Repair and maintenance of vehicles	...	4,087.
Wages, etc.	...	15,036.
Tip control	...	509.
Clothing	...	56.
Rent (Littlebrook)	...	128.
Fire Insurance	...	1.
Water	...	6.
Powder	...	6.
		<u>£19,829.</u>

Salvage :

Salvage brought in the following revenue :

Paper	...	£ 818.
Rags	...	99.
Metal	...	47.
Bottles	...	26.
Sacking	...	3.
Cullet	...	1.
		<u>£ 994.</u>

Recurrent expenditure :

Repair, Maintenance etc.	£211.
Wages etc.,	... 529.
Clothing	... 2.
Water	... 3.
Baling wire	... 21.
	<u>£766.</u>
10% bonus on salvage revenue	99
	<u>£865.</u>

Refuse of Southwark Metropolitan Borough.

The tip of Southwark Metropolitan Borough at Longfield was visited on occasions during the year and we again expressed concern at the immense tipping face that was exposed and the continual breeding of flies and rats. A site meeting of the officers of the two Local Authorities was arranged and it was again emphasized that in Dartford Rural District we expected the Southwark Metropolitan Borough to comply with the Ministry's requirements for a controlled tip. By the end of the year there was some improvement, the tipping face had been narrowed and old refuse, which had been tipped after incineration about 40 years ago, had been put into use as covering material.

APPENDIX VI (cont'd.)

Proposed use of disused chalk and gravel pits for the disposal of waste materials including household refuse from certain large Boroughs.

The pits concerned in this proposal were known as :

Pits 5, 6 and 7, on the western border of Dartford Rural District continuous with the eastern outskirts of Dartford Borough : total area 57 acres, depth 50 - 100 feet

Horns Cross pit: A large chalk excavation about 50 acres in area the eastern edge of which is at Horns Cross.

Pits 9 and 10 : 30 and 6 acres in area respectively: disused sand and gravel pits, depth up to 35 feet, housing adjacent on 3 sides.

This proposal was the subject of a three-day inquiry held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in which the views of Dartford Rural District Council and other Local Authorities and interested bodies were heard. The Minister agreed to the use of Pits 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10 for the disposal of house refuse and other suitable materials, but refused the application for the use in this way of the large Horns Cross pit. The Minister laid down certain conditions amongst which were that the refuse was to be only normal fresh domestic house refuse, that the other waste material would consist of inert matter, that all refuse must be covered within 24 hours from the time of deposit and that the area left uncovered at any one time should be limited.

Private enterprise tip.

About 1945, the occupier and owner of a certain farm decided that a chalk pit on that farm should be filled and thereafter, they began to accept waste materials from certain firms in the neighbouring boroughs. These waste materials consisted of leaky oil drums, discarded saw-dust, greengrocers' refuse, discarded fruit crates of matchwood and oily sludge from oil cake mills - the latter predominating from 1952 onwards.

In June 1955, this tip of refuse was found to be breeding flies and rats and the bottom of the pit was a lagoon of oily sludge. The occupier was asked to comply with the Ministry's code of practice for tipping refuse and this he began to follow so far as he was able. In September the tip caught fire and when the flames had died down the smouldering, as expected, showed no signs of ending for months and was the cause of nuisance to the neighbourhood. The occupier of the land continued to do what he could to abate the nuisance while the Public Health Committee and the Council gave repeated consideration to taking action under the Public Health Act. No statutory action, however, was taken and eventually the occupier of the land was able to obtain sufficient covering material to bring the smouldering and the nuisance to an end.

Disused gravel pit near Stanley Cottages.

A proposal to deal with the nuisance created by indiscriminate tipping of refuse in this pit was made to the Darenth Parish Council, which consisted of turning the pit into a controlled tip for Dartford Rural District Council. The proposal was turned down by the Parish Council on the grounds that controlled tipping would not be entirely devoid of all nuisance.

Byelaws for the prevention of nuisance from refuse tips.

In July 1955, the Council agreed to adopt byelaws which amongst other provisions required refuse tips to be conducted in accordance with the code of practice laid down by the Ministry. The byelaws came into operation on the 1st day of January 1956.

APPENDIX VII.

The following work was done by the Council's Public Health Inspectors:

1. Inspections under Part I, Factories Act, 1937 -

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of inspections.	Number of written Notices.	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	14	47	13	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	123	166	7	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7. is enforced by Local Authority (excluding Out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total:	137	213	20	-

2. Particulars of Defects found -

Particulars	Number of Defects Found.	Defects Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Number of prosecutions.
Want of cleanliness (Sec.1).	11	11	-	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (Sec. 3).	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (Sec.4).	2	2	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec.6).	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec.7).					
(a) Insufficient.	4	4	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	3	3	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for the sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
(d) Other offences against the Act. (Excluding Outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	20	20	-	3	-

APPENDIX VII (Continued).

Outworkers:

(a)	Total number of outworkers notified to the Council by firms in the Dartford Rural District under Section 110 (1c) Factories Act, 1937.	55
(b)	Total number of outworkers notified by Dartford Rural District Council to other Councils under Section 110 (2) Factories Act, 1937	Nil.
(c)	Total number of outworkers notified to Dartford Rural District Council by other Councils, i.e. from firms	10
(d)	Total number of outworkers employed in Dartford Rural District	65
(e)	Total number of inspections of work-places under Section III (i) Factories Act, 1937	65
(f)	Scheduled occupations followed by outworkers employed in premises in Dartford Rural District -	
	Making wearing apparel	16
	Making boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper, cardboard, chip or similar material	49

Shops.

There are 606 shops in the Rural Area. The total number of inspections during the year by the Council's Public Health Inspectors of shops, other than food preparing premises, was 167. Action was taken to ensure that the sanitary conveniences in two shops were cleansed.