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DOVER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Kent

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1958

C.F. LYNCH, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor W.E. Hollis (Chairman)

Councillors

Mrs F.J. Harvey	Mrs E.A. Manley
W.H. Archbold	J. Collard
G.H. Ellidge	W. Farrier, O.B.E., J.P.
J.W. Freeman	W.E. Gascoine
K.J. Madge, J.P.	N.W.S. Mitchison
F.R.G. Pepper	H.E. Russell, J.P.
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P.E. Wootton	C.D. Young, O.B.E.

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Clerk to the Authority:

W. Wilmott

Medical Officer of Health:

C.F. Lynch, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

J.A. Kelly, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
(from 5th May, 1958)

Senior Public Health Inspector:

W.O. Armstrong, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Assistant Public Health Inspector:

J.K. Freathy, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Assistant:

Miss D. Baldwin

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

BROOK HOUSE,

DOVER.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Dover Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of Dover Rural District for the year 1958.

The Registrar-General's estimated mid-year population was 12,740, which is 130 less than the figure for the previous year.

The birth-rate per 1,000 of the population was 18.3 compared with 16.1 in 1957, and the death-rate 10.0 compared with 8.7 for the previous year. The corresponding rates for England and Wales (1958) were 16.4 and 11.7 respectively.

There were fewer deaths from cancer than in 1957, especially cancer of the lung, the rate for which was approximately half the national average and is in accordance with the known fact that mortality from this cause is lower in rural areas.

The number of deaths of infants under one year was 7, giving an infant mortality rate of 34.8 per 1,000 live births. This is more than twice the rate for 1957 (16.7) and considerably higher than the rate for England and Wales which was 22.5. Analysis of these deaths showed that in all but one the cause of death was prematurity, birth injury, or congenital defect. Whereas the common infections have been largely overcome as a cause of infant deaths, the problem of prematurity and other neo-natal hazards remain. The importance of adequate ante-natal and obstetrical care cannot therefore be over-emphasised.

Housing and general sanitary conditions in the area received close attention and the Council's programme for the elimination or remedying of unfit properties continued to be the Department's active concern throughout the year.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support throughout the year. I am indebted also to the Senior Public Health Inspector for his co-operation in the preparation of this Report.

I have the honour to be,
Ladies and Gentlement,

Your obedient Servant,

C.F. Lynch.

Medical Officer of Health.

S E C T I O N A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The district is bounded roughly as follows:- On the North by the Rural Districts of Bridge-Blean and Eastry and the Borough of Deal; on the East by the sea; on the South by the Borough of Dover, the sea and the Borough of Folkestone, and on the West by the Rural Districts of Elham and Bridge-Blean.

The following Civil Parishes are situated within the boundary:-

Alkham, Capel-le-Ferne, Coldred, Denton, Guston, Hougham, East Langdon; West Langdon, Lydden, Ringwould, River, Shepherdswell, St. Margaret's, Temple Ewell, Whitfield, Wootton.

Area (including inland water), 25,780 acres.

Population: (a) Estimated mid-year Home population 12,740

(b) 1951 Census figures 10,504

(NOTE: All rates are calculated on the Registrar General's estimated mid-year Home Population of 12,740).

Number of Dwellings, 3,495 (excluding military properties)

Rateable Value, £168,964.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate, £678.

Density of population - Persons per acre, 0.5.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

1. BIRTHS:

(a) Registered Live Births:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	101	100	201
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	101	100	201

Comparability Factor = 1.16

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	15.78
Crude legitimate Live Births per 1,000 estimated population	15.78
Crude Illegitimate Live Births per 1,000 estimated population	-
Adjusted Live Birth Rate for comparative purposes	18.30

(b) Stillbirths:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	-	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	4	-	4

Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths) 19.50

2. DEATHS:

	Male	Female	Total
Registered	68	77	145

Comparability Factor - 0.88

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	11.38
Adjusted for comparative purposes	10.01

NOTE: Comparability Factors are factors derived by the Registrar General from the final 1951 Census populations in order to make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distributions of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. After multiplying the crude birth and death rates for the area by this comparability factor, the rates so adjusted are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales or with the corresponding adjusted rate for other areas. The death rate area comparability factors have been adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area, while the birth rate factors have been adjusted to take account of the presence of sterile population in institutions for the mentally ill or mentally deficient.

3. INFANT MORTALITY. Deaths under 1 year:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	5	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	2	5	7

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births 34.8

4. SPECIALLY RECORDED DEATHS:

Measles (all ages)	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-
Cancer (all ages)	21

Rate per 1,000 Home Population

	Dover Rural District	England and Wales
(i) Lungs and bronchus	0.24	0.439
(ii) Other	1.41	1.685

5. CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1958:

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	6	13
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	11	19
Coronary disease, angina	13	8	21
Hypertension with Heart disease	1	-	1
Other heart diseases	8	15	23
Other circulatory disease	6	6	12
Influenza	-	2	2
Pneumonia	3	2	5
Bronchitis	2	3	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	6	-	6
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	10	14
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	2	4	6
Suicide	1	-	1
	68	77	145

6. COMPARATIVE RATES:

	Dover Rural District 1957 (per 1,000 Home Population)	Dover Rural District 1958 (per 1,000 Home Population)	England and Wales 1958
BIRTHS:			
Live Births Crude:	13.91	15.78	16.4
Live Births Adjusted:	16.14	18.30	-
Still Births:	0.16	0.31	0.30
DEATHS:			
Crude:	9.95	11.38	11.7
Adjusted:	8.76	10.01	-
DEATHS: (Per 1,000 Live Births)			
All causes under 1 year of age	16.76 (Deaths 3)	34.8 (Deaths 7)	28.5
MATERNAL MORTALITY: (Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births)			
All Causes	- (Deaths -)	4.88 (Deaths 1)	0.43

S E C T I O N B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Clinical material for examination may be submitted to the Local Hospitals' Laboratory Service as well as to the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone, where all routine examinations of samples of milk, water, etc., are carried out.

Hospitals

There are no hospitals situated within the Rural District but three hospitals in the Borough of Dover, which are administered by the South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, provide appropriate facilities for general medical, surgical, maternity and infectious cases.

St. Augustine's Nursing Home, Kearsney, a privately run Home, admits medical, surgical and maternity cases.

Nursing and Midwifery Services

The Kent County Council, as the administrative Authority responsible, provides these services in the Rural area, and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following information on the work of the services during 1958:-

(a)	No. of Home Nurses working in district	5
	No. of Patients attended	279
	No. of attendances (including casual visits)	7,212
(b)	No. of Midwives working in district	7
	No. of births attended	79

Clinics and Welfare Centres

The County Council as the Local Health and Education Authority provides various specialist and consultant services for expectant and nursing mothers, infants, toddlers and children of school age.

The Regional Hospital Board also provides local clinic services including facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and of veneral disease.

6. COMPARATIVE RATES:

	Dover Rural District 1957 (per 1,000 Home Population)	Dover Rural District 1958 (per 1,000 Home Population)	England and Wales 1958
BIRTHS:			
Live Births Crude:	13.91	15.78	16.4
Live Births Adjusted:	16.14	18.30	-
Still Births:	0.16	0.31	0.36
DEATHS:			
Crude:	9.95	11.38	11.7
Adjusted:	8.76	10.01	-
DEATHS: (Per 1,000 Live Births)			
All causes under 1 year of age	16.76 (Deaths 3)	34.8 (Deaths 7)	28.5
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S E C T I O N C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Over 98% of the houses in the Rural District are supplied from the public mains. Of the sixteen parishes in the district fourteen are supplied by the Mid Kent Water Company and two by the Folkestone and District Water Company.

Eight samples of water were taken from the mains supply, and these proved to be highly satisfactory.

Four samples of water were taken from two rain water tanks and the results were unsatisfactory. One property served by one of the tanks was found to be unfit for human habitation and was dealt with by the Council under the Housing Act, 1957. The occupant of the other property was informed that all drinking water should be boiled.

Drainage and Sewerage

There are two main sewerage systems in operation in the area, serving part of Temple Ewell and Capel-le-Ferne, otherwise sewage is disposed of by means of cesspools, septic tanks, pail closets and chemical closets.

Number of houses on main drainage	525
Number of houses on cesspools and septic tanks	2,546
Number of pail and chemical closets	424

Work was commenced on the second phase of the Temple Ewell sewerage scheme to serve a further seventy five properties.

The Council approved details of the proposed sewerage scheme for the parish of Whitfield and a small part of the parish of Temple Ewell for submission to the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

Scavenging

The collection and removal of domestic refuse, the emptying of cesspools and collection of pails has been carried out by direct labour, and has worked very satisfactorily.

The number of cesspool emptyings given as a charge on the rates was increased from the 1st April, 1958 in respect of cesspools serving one property only, and a free emptying is given on request three months after the date of the last free emptying instead of six months as previously given. Where two or more properties are served by one cesspool the number of free emptyings was increased from the 22nd July, 1958, so that a free emptying is now given six weeks after the date of the last free emptying instead of three months as previously given.

Salvage

This is under the supervision of the Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector who reports on the year's work as follows:-

Weights of material sold	76 tons 13 cwt.
Amount received for the material	£603 1s. 10d.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Number of inspections made during the year	3,783
Drainage:	
Reconstructed	79
Cesspools:	
Emptied	1,870

Factories Act, 1937

(i) Registered Factories:

With mechanical power	22
Without mechanical power	17
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	2
	41

(ii) Inspections:

Premises	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	47	-	-
Factories without mechanical power	21	-	-
Other premises	2	-	-
	70	-	-

(iii) Defects:

	Number of Defects				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by	
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:- Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
	1	1	-	-	-

One certificate as to means of escape in case of fire was issued under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937.

Verminous Premises

Four complaints were received, and successful action taken to eradicate.

Destruction of Rats and Mice

Gassing, trapping and poisoning are carried out by a full-time Rodent Operator. Regular surveys of the area have been made during the year.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:

Number of infestations found and treatments carried out:	
Rats, Major	14
Rats, Minor	159
Mice, Major	-
Mice, Minor	24
Estimated Kill:	
Rats	1,433
Mice	124
Number of bodies found:	
Rats	694
Mice	53

Camping Sites

There are eight sites licensed in the district for the summer months; viz Capel-le-Ferne five; Hougham two and Martin Mill one. Three sites at Capel-le-Ferne are licensed for a total of twenty two caravans for the winter months. These sites are kept under regular supervision.

S E C T I O N D

HOUSING

During the year one hundred and thirteen houses were inspected for housing defects. Fourteen houses were dealt with in accordance with the Councils programme of slum clearance under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

In connection with improvement grants, twenty eight schemes for improvement and one for the conversion of three cottages to two were submitted to the Council and twenty eight schemes were approved. Total costs on approved schemes amounted to £14,060 and the costs on which grants were made amounted to £10,746. Eighteen schemes were completed during the year.

Fifty two new houses were completed by private enterprise and twenty four were under construction at the end of the year.

Rent Act, 1957

Nine applications for certificates of disrepair were received; three certificates were issued, five undertakings to carry out works were accepted, and two certificates of disrepair were cancelled.

S E C T I O N E

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

During the year regular visits were made to all registered premises:

(a) Number of Registered Distributors	6
(b) Number of Registered Dairies	1

The following licences were granted by the Dover Rural District Council under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations -

Dealer's Pasteurised	14
Dealer's Tuberculin Tested	12
Supplementary Pasteurised	5
Supplementary Tuberculin Tested	5

Seven Pasteurised and one T.T. Milk samples were taken and found to be satisfactory.

Eleven samples of milk were taken for biological testing for Brucella Abortus and all were negative.

Shops Act, 1950

Regular inspections of all shops were made, and any necessary instructions given in regard to ventilation, temperature, lighting and sanitary accommodation.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Under Section 16 (1) (a) of the above Act, thirty nine premises are registered for the sale of ice cream, and under Section 16 (1) (b) four premises are registered. The type of premises registered under Section 16 (1) (a) are - Cafes 3; Shops 27; Camps 4; Public Houses 4; N.A.A.F.I. 1; and under Section 16 (1) (b) - Cafe 1; Shops 2; Butchers Shop 1.

Four samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination, and the results were -

Grade 1 - 4

Regular visits were made during the year to registered food premises and other food premises and food shops in the district. Particular reference was paid to the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 - 1952 and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 - 1956.

The following table gives the number and description of food premises in the area -

Restaurants, Cafes, Hotels, etc.	16
Public Houses	33
Butchers	7
Dairies	1
Bakeries	2
Fish Shops	2
Factories	2
Food Shops	48

In addition to the listed specialised food premises, many of the grocery shops in the area deal in "open" foodstuffs to a limited extent. Generally speaking, the requirements of the various Acts and Regulations are well observed and the premises reasonably well maintained.

Foodstuffs condemned during 1958

Canned Goods	-	287 tins
Bacon	-	15½ lbs.

All food condemned is surrendered to the Public Health Inspector and removed to one of the Council's refuse tips where it is buried.

Food Poisoning

Two cases of food poisoning were notified during the year; the patients were husband and wife and the food suspected was prepared and eaten by both in the workshop of the husband. The main symptoms were severe diarrhoea and vomiting and the duration of the illness was over one week, both patients being admitted to Hospital. Faeces specimens and food samples were all negative and the final diagnosis was presumptive food poisoning, a non-specific infection of unknown origin.

A further incident occurred at a local school when, within twenty four hours of consuming a school dinner, eleven of the twenty seven taking the meal suffered from a mild attack of vomiting, the average duration of the illness being one day. The meal was prepared and cooked in the kitchen at another school and transported to the place of consumption in special heat-retaining containers. Samples of the foodstuffs were submitted for laboratory investigation and a heavy growth of micrococci found in a specimen of mutton stew and potato.

The Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957

Four licences under this Order were issued during the year, and all licensed premises were inspected.

S E C T I O N F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) Notified during 1958 - By Age Groups (Corrected

	Whooping Cough	Measles	Dysentery	Scarlet Fever	Food Poisoning
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2 years	-	3	-	-	-
2 - 3 years	-	2	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	-	1	1	-	-
4 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10 years	2	13	2	1	-
10 - 15 years	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20 years	-	2	-	-	-
20 - 35 years	-	1	1	-	-
35 - 45 years	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 65 years	-	-	-	-	2
65 years and upwards	-	-	-	-	-
	2	22	4	1	2
Admitted to hospital	-	-	1	1	2
Notification Rates per 1,000 Home Population Dover Rural District	0.16	1.73	0.31	0.08	0.16
England and Wales	0.74	5.75	0.84	0.86	0.20

2. Immunisation and Vaccination

The schemes for Whooping Cough and Diphtheria immunisation and Smallpox and Poliomyelitis vaccination continued under the administration of the Kent County Council and the following statistics are made available by the courtesy of the County Medical Officer:-

(a) Whooping Cough Immunisation:

110 children received primary Whooping Cough immunisation during 1958.

(b) Diphtheria Immunisation:

Number of children resident in the Rural District of Dover, who during 1958 received:-

(a) Primary Inoculations	124
(b) Reinforcing Inoculations	58

Number of children under the age of 15 years on the 31st December, 1958, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date:-

	Under 5 years	From 5 - 15 years	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1954 - 1958	501	756	1,257
1953 or earlier	-	797	797

(c) Smallpox Vaccination:

Vaccinations against smallpox recorded in the Rural District of Dover during 1958:-

	Age at 31st December, 1958:				
	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 and over	Total
Number vaccinated	65	70	2	4	141
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	6	9	15

(d) Poliomyelitis Vaccination:

Persons resident in the Dover Rural District who received injections against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1958:-

	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-10 years	11-14 years	15 years and over
Given two injections	11	460	478	397	149
Given third injections	-	74	378	108	1

3. Tuberculosis - Annual Statement of Cases of Tuberculosis

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
(a) Number of cases of Tuberculosis on Register as at 1st January, 1958	57	41	16	16
(b) Number of Cases notified under Regulations of 1952 for first time during year	3	2	2	2
(c) Restored to Register	-	-	-	-
(d) Added to Register otherwise than by formal notification	4	4	-	-
(e) Cases removed from Register during the year including recoveries or deaths (excluding deaths of un-notified cases)	6	1	1	-
(f) Cases on Register at end of 1958	58	46	17	18

Deaths of Un-notified cases of Tuberculosis: Nil.

Analysis of New Cases of Tuberculosis Notified in 1958

Age Group	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-
1 - 2 years	-	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	1
15 - 24 years	-	-	1	-
25 - 44 years	1	1	1	-
45 - 64 years	2	1	-	-
65 years and over	-	-	-	1
	3	2	2	2

Analysis of Mortality in 1958 of cases on Tuberulosis Register

One Male (aged 60)

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925

No action was necessary in regard to any tuberculous person employed in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1936: Section 172:

No action was necessary with regard to the compulsory removal of tuberculosis patients to hospital during the year.

Disinfection

The Rural District Council does not possess a disinfecting plant, and, where necessary, infected bedding and clothing is disinfected by arrangement with the Hospital Authority.

Number of premises disinfected - 2.