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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1959

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

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Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

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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 present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Rural District for the year 1959.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population was 12,660 compared with 12,740 in 1958.

The birth rate after correction for age and sex distribution of the local population was 17.3 which is approximately 1.0 per thousand less than in 1958 but 0.8 above the rate for England and Wales.

The death rate after the necessary adjustment was 10.2 per 1,000 population and shows a small fractional increase on the rate for the previous year, but compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales.

The infant mortality rate was less favourable however, being 37.0 per 1,000 live births. This is 2.2 above the figure for 1958 and is again considerably higher than the national rate of 22.0.

The actual number of infant deaths was the same as in the preceding year and the increased rate was therefore the result of fewer births in the year under review.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Although there were no epidemics of notifiable infectious disease, a seasonal outbreak of influenza was recorded. The disease was generally mild and complications were few.

Steady progress in improving the sanitary circumstances of the District continued especially in connection with drainage and sewerage in two parishes, and I am indebted to the Senior Public Health Inspector for the relevant details and other information concerning the District generally, supplied for inclusion in this Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and to the Clerk of the Council I would like to express my appreciation of their consideration and support throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

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 12,660

(b) 1951 Census figures 10,504

(NOTE: All rates are calculated on the Registrar General's estimated mid-year Home Population of 12,660).

Number of Dwellings, 3,569.

Rateable Value, £175,218.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate, £707.

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	91	93	184
Illegitimate	3	2	5
	94	95	189

Comparability Factor = 1.16

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	14.93
Crude Legitimate Live Births per 1,000 estimated population	14.53
Crude Illegitimate Live Births per 1,000 estimated population	0.40
Adjusted Live Birth Rate for comparative purposes	17.32

(b) Stillbirths:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	6	11
Illegitimate	-	1	1
	5	7	12

Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths) 59.7

2. Deaths:

	Male	Female	Total
Registered	75	72	147

Comparability Factor = 0.88

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	11.61
Adjusted for comparative purposes	10.22

The area comparability factors for use with crude birth and death rates contain adjustments for boundary changes and make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole. In addition, the death rate area comparability factors have been adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area. When local crude birth and death rates are multiplied by the appropriate area comparability factor, they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales or with corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

3. Infant Mortality: Deaths under 1 year:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	4	3	7

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births 37.04

4. Specially Recorded Deaths:

Measles (all ages)	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-
Cancer (all ages)	24

Rate per 1,000 Home Population

	Dover Rural District	England and Wales
(i) Lungs and bronchus	0.711	0.464
(ii) Other	1.185	1.676

5. Causes of Death in 1959; and Age Groups:

Causes of Death:	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	2	9
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	5	10
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	11	19
Coronary disease, angina	15	10	25
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	10	14	24
Other circulatory disease	4	4	8
Influenza	2	1	3
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	3	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	7	15
Motor vehicle accidents	1	2	3
All other accidents	2	1	3
	75	72	147

2. Deaths:

	Male	Female	Total
Registered	73	74	147

Comparability factor = 0.92

Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated population	11.61
Adjusted for comparative purposes	10.24

The area comparability factors for use with crude birth and death rates contain adjustments for boundary changes and also allowance for the sex in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole. In addition, the death rate contains comparability factors have been adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of one residential institution in each area. Then local crude birth and death rates are multiplied by the appropriate area comparability factor, they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales or with corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

3. Infant Mortality: Deaths under 1 year:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	4	3	7

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 37.02

4. Maternity Mortality Deaths:

Maternal (all causes)	-
Puerperal sepsis (all causes)	-
Hemorrhage (within 3 weeks of birth)	-
Cancer (all sites)	24

Rate per 1,000 live Population

	Number Placed Elsewhere	Number and Rate
(i) Lunacy and Mental Deficiency	0.733	0.464
(ii) Other	1.163	1.070

5. Causes of Death in Infants and Adolescents:

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-
Cancer uterus and Leukaemia neoplasms	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	1	3
Coronary disease, angina	2	1	3
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
Other heart disease	1	-	1
Other circulatory diseases	1	-	1
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Bronchitis	-	-	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
Diarrhoea, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	-	-
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	-	-	-
	7	3	10

Age Groups in which Deaths occurred

	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	4	3	7
5 - 14 years	1	-	1
15 - 24 years	1	-	1
25 - 44 years	-	1	1
45 - 64 years	15	10	25
65 - 74 years	24	22	46
75 years and over	30	36	66
	75	72	147

6. Comparative Rates:

	Dover Rural District 1958 (per 1,000 Home Population)	Dover Rural District 1959 (per 1,000 Home Population)	England and Wales 1959
Births:			
Live Births Crude	15.78	14.93	16.5
Live Births Adjusted	18.30	17.32	-
Still Births	0.31	0.95	0.35
Deaths:			
Crude	11.38	11.61	11.6
Adjusted	10.01	10.22	-
Deaths: (Per 1,000 Live Births)			
All causes under 1 year of age	34.8 (Deaths 7)	37.04 (Deaths 7)	22.0
Maternal Mortality: (Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births):			
All causes	4.88 (Deaths 1)	-	0.38

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 1959:-

(a)	Number of Home Nurses working in district	5
	Number of Patients attended	267
	Number of attendances (including casual visits)	6,449
(b)	Number of Midwives working in district	6
	Number of births attended	98

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.

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.

Eleven samples of water were taken from the mains supply, and all of these proved to be highly satisfactory. Eight samples of mains water were also taken after storage in a defective tank, the first four samples were unsatisfactory, but the final four samples were highly satisfactory.

Two samples of water were taken from private sources and these proved to be unsatisfactory. In one case a second sample proved to be highly satisfactory, and in the other case statutory action was taken under the Housing Act, 1957.

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	609
Number of houses on cesspools and septic tanks	2,663
Number of pail and chemical closets	297

Work was completed on the second phase of the Temple Ewell sewerage scheme to serve a further seventy five properties, sixty of which have been connected.

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.

As from the 1st April the pail closet emptying service was extended to cover all the parishes in the district.

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	88 tons 2 cwts. 6 qrs.
Amount received for the material	£715 7s. 10d.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Number of inspections made during the year	3,810
Drainage:	
Reconstructed	109
Cesspools:	
Emptied	2,168

Factories Act, 1937

(i) Registered Factories:

With mechanical power	20
Without mechanical power	16
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	12
	48

(ii) Inspections:

Premises	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	50	-	-
Factories without mechanical power	18	-	-
Other premises	30	-	-
	98	-	-

(iii) Defects:

	Number of Defects				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.	Referred by Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:- Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
	4	4	-	-	-

Verminous Premises

Three 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	10
Rats, Minor	154
Mice, Major	-
Mice, Minor	9
Estimated Kill:	
Rats	1,232
Mice	72
Number of bodies found:	
Rats	600
Mice	32

Camping Sites

There are nine sites licensed in the district for the summer months: viz Capel-le-Ferne five; Hougham two; Martin Mill one; Whitfield one. Two 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.

SECTION D

HOUSING

During the year one hundred and twenty one houses were inspected for housing defects. Twelve houses included in the Council's slum clearance programme were dealt with under the Housing Act, 1957.

In connection with discretionary improvement grants, thirty eight schemes for improvement and one for conversion were submitted to the Council and thirty two schemes were approved and the Council's offer of grant accepted by the applicants. Total costs on these schemes amounted to £16,340 and the costs on which grants were made amounted to £12,353, the grants amounted to £6,176. Twenty five schemes were completed during the year.

Three schemes were submitted to the Council for standard improvement grants, all these were approved and the Council's offer of grant accepted by the applicants. The maximum grant permitted on these schemes amounted to £335.

Seventy four new houses were completed by private enterprise and forty one were under construction at the end of the year.

Twelve old people's bungalows were built by the Council during the year, and twenty six old People's bungalows and two houses were in course of erection at the end of the year.

Rent Act, 1957

Two applications for certificates of disrepair were received and two certificates were issued.

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	17
Dealer's Tuberculin Tested	15
Supplementary Pasteurised	6
Supplementary Tuberculin Tested	6

Thirteen Pasteurised and five Tuberculin Tested milk samples were taken and found to be satisfactory. Three samples of raw milk were also taken and found to be satisfactory.

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, forty one 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 29; Camps 4; Public Houses 4; N.A.A.F.I. 1; and under Section 16 (1) (b) - Cafe 1; Shops 2; Butchers Shop 1.

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

Grade I - 6

Sixty one visits were made during the year to registered food premises and regular visits were made to 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.	17
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 1959

Canned Goods	-	86 tins
Bacon	-	82 lbs. 2 ozs.

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

There were no confirmed cases of food poisoning during the year.

The Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order,1957

All licensed premises were inspected during the year, and conditions were generally found to be satisfactory.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) Notified during 1959 - By Age Groups (Corrected)

	Whooping Cough	Measles	Dysentery	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia
Age unknown	-	1	-	-	-
Under 1 year	-	2	-	-	-
1 - 2 years	-	1	-	-	-
2 - 3 years	-	6	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	2	5	-	-	-
4 - 5 years	1	6	-	-	-
5 - 10 years	8	17	1	1	-
10 - 15 years	1	-	-	1	1
15 - 20 years	-	1	-	-	-
20 - 35 years	1	-	-	1	-
35 - 45 years	-	-	-	-	1
45 - 65 years	-	-	-	-	-
65 years and upwards	-	-	-	-	2
	13	39	1	3	4
Admitted to hospital	-	-	-	1	-
Notification Rates per 1,000 Home Population Dover Rural District	1.03	3.09	0.08	0.24	0.32
England and Wales	0.73	11.88	0.78	1.06	0.59

2. Immunisation and Vaccination

The schemes for Whooping Cough and Diptheria immunisation and Smallpox and Poliomyelitis vaccination continued under the administration of the Kent County Council and the following statistics for 1959 are made available by the courtesy of the County Medical Officer:-

(a) Whooping Cough Immunisation:

121 children received primary Whooping Cough immunisation.

(b) Diphtheria Immunisation:

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

(a) Primary Inoculations	130
(b) Reinforcing Inoculations	81

Number of children under the age of 15 years on the 31st December, 1959 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) 1955 - 1959	501	701	1,202
1954 or earlier	-	882	882

(c) Smallpox Vaccination:

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

	Age at 31st December, 1959:				
	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 and over	Total
Number vaccinated	51	61	3	4	119
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	1	4	5

(d) Poliomyelitis Vaccination:

Persons resident in the Dover Rural District who received injections against poliomyelitis:-

	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-10 years	11-14 years	15 years and over
Given two injections	16	217	149	122	495
Given third injection	-	367	558	415	320

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, 1959.	58	46	17	18
(b) Number of Cases notified under Regulations of 1952 for first time during the year.	3	4	-	-
(c) Restored to Register	1	-	-	-
(d) Added to Register otherwise than by formal notification	-	4	-	1
(e) Cases removed from Register during the year including recoveries or deaths (excluding deaths of unnotified cases	5	4	-	1
(f) Cases on Register at end of 1959	57	50	17	18

Deaths of un-notified cases of Tuberculosis: One.

Analysis of New Cases of Tuberculosis Notified in 1959:

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

Analysis of Mortality in 1959 of Cases on Tuberculosis Register - Nil

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925

No action was necessary in regard to any tuberculosis 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 - 3.

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