

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

Contributors

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FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
SANITARY INSPECTOR
for year
1950.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS AND STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health

C. H. Imrie, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

Robert Greenwood, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk

Miss D. M. Newson.

The Chairman and Members,
The Felixstowe Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith present my Annual Report for the year 1950.

As will be seen from the report the health and well being of the community has maintained a satisfactory level during the year and progress has been made in dealing with our problems of hygiene.

It will be noticed that we are still unable to balance the number of new applicants for houses against the number of those whom we are re-housing. This is unfortunate as many families have been living under unsatisfactory circumstances for years and are still far from the top of the list with little sign of ever being rehoused. I feel that we must regard this subject as our greatest public health problem.

I would like to thank both Councillors and Officials for their continued sympathy, trust and assistance in the work of my department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. IMRIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

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A. STATISTICS.

General Statistics.

1. Area of District in Acres	4281
2. Number of inhabited houses	4390
3. Density of population. Persons per acre	3.4
4. Average number of persons per house	3.3
5. Rateable Value of District	£157,095
6. Sum represented by Penny Rate	£637

Vital Statistics.

Summary covering Five Years

	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Population	14680	14330	13630	12938	12774
Live Birth Rate per 1000 population	17.23	17.72	20.61	27	22
Still Birth Rate per 1000 population	0.40	0.34	0.29	*	*
General Death Rate per 1000 population	13.55	14.09	11.8	14	12
Infantile Death Rate (under 1 year) per 1000 Live Births	27.66	11.81	31.57	30	54

* figures not available.

1. Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	128	113	241
Illegitimate	2	10	12
			253

Live Birth Rate per 1000 population - 17.23
 " " " England & Wales - 15.8
 Comparability factor - 0.98

2. Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	4	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
			6

Still Birth Rate per 1000 population - 0.40
 " " " England & Wales - 0.37

3. Deaths (all causes)

	Male	Female	Total
	92	107	199

Death Rate per 1000 population - 13.55
 " " " England & Wales - 11.6
 Comparability factor - 0.79

4. Deaths from Puerperal and Other Maternal Causes - NIL

5. Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	Male	Female	Total
	6	1	7

Rate per 1000 live births 27.66
 " " " England & Wales 29.8

6. Other Deaths.

Code No.	Disease	Male	Female	Total
1	Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	2	2
6	Meningococcal infection	1	0	1
10	Malignant neoplasm stomach	1	3	4
11	Malignant neoplasm lung & bronchus	1	1	2
12	" " breast	0	2	2
13	" " uterus	0	3	3
14	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	12	7	19
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	27	37
18	Coronary disease, angina	19	10	29
19	Hypertension with heart disease	4	5	9
20	Other heart disease	13	24	37
21	Other circulatory disease	5	3	8
23	Pneumonia	2	2	4
24	Bronchitis	2	6	8
26	Ulcer stomach & duodenum	1	0	1
27	Gastro enteritis diarrhoea	2	1	3
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	3	1	4
31	Congenital malformations	2	0	2
32	Other defined and ill defined disease	6	8	14
33	Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
34	All other accidents	3	1	4
35	Suicide	2	0	2
TOTALS		92	107	199

7. Age at Death

0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+
8			2	3	5	5	11	44	63	51	7

Comment on Statistics.

The vital statistics for 1950 and the immediately preceding years show that Felixstowe is a healthy, vigorous and growing community. Since the end of the war the population, which had fallen considerably due to evacuation and national service, has increased steadily and shows every sign of continuing to grow in the coming years.

The live birth rate is especially satisfactory in that it has remained comparatively high in spite of the general tendency for all birth rates to fall after the war. It remains well above the rate for England and Wales.

The general death rate maintains a fairly constant level and may be regarded as satisfactory.

The infantile death rate, while showing an increase when compared with last year, compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales. Fluctuations in this rate, however, are to be expected owing to the small numbers which are concerned in the calculation of the figure.

B. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

The County Council as the Local Health Authority is responsible for the services listed in Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946. In addition the administration of the School Health Service is a County responsibility.

The provision of hospital accommodation and specialist facilities is under the care of the Regional Hospital Board. The local arrangements are more or less as before.

Laboratory facilities are available for bacteriological examinations at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich, and for chemical tests at the Public Analyst's Laboratory, Norwich.

C. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1. Non-Tuberculous.

	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	Total 1950	Total 1949	Total 1948
	Age in Years.											
Scarlet Fever			5	7	1	1				14	14	6
Lobar Pneumonia								1		1	-	-
Measles	2	11	14	10	7					44	12	270
Whooping Cough		8	4	4						16	26	8
Dysentery				1						1	-	-
Meningococcal Infection						1				1	-	-
Poliomyelitis							1			1	-	-
Erysipelas									1	1	-	-
Infective Jaundice				1		2		1		4	-	-
Food Poisoning		2	2	1		9	6	5	1	26	-	-
										109	52	284

2. MONTHLY TOTALS OF NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Scarlet Fever	3		3	2	1		1	2	1		1	
Lobar Pneumonia				1								
Measles	7	1	11	14	7	3	1					
Whooping Cough						1	4	1	8			2
Dysentery							1					
Meningococcal Infection												1
Poliomyelitis						1						
Erysipelas		1										
Infective Jaundice		1						1	2			
Food Poisoning							7	1	12		6	

3. Infectious Diseases.

For the second year in succession the number of infectious disease cases notified was comparatively small and the type of illness does not appear to have been serious.

The majority of notifications concerned cases of measles and whooping cough but even in these most infectious of diseases there was no evidence of undue prevalence.

Scarlet fever produced 14 cases which were evenly spaced over the whole year.

Five outbreaks of Food Poisoning during the year were investigated. A total of 26 cases were notified and a further 12 were ascertained on investigation. All recovered completely after a short but moderately severe illness. Although most of the cases seem to have originated in private premises the vast importance of the maintenance of the highest standards among food handlers, especially in the catering industry, has been stressed and the supervision of food premises has been made a subject of priority.

Although it might appear that Food Poisoning is increasing I doubt if this is really the case. The general public seems to be more conscious of it than it was a few years ago, and demands more protection against it by the local authorities.

4. Immunisation.

Immunisation against Diphtheria was carried out at Child Welfare Clinics and in the schools.

	1950	1949	1948
Percentage of Pre-school children immunised	65	59.88	39.6
Percentage of all children immunised	66	62.8	54.6

It is pleasing to note that over the past 3 years there has been a yearly increase in the percentage of children who have received protection against diphtheria. There is, however, still room for improvement in these figures.

The importance of maintaining at the highest possible level the immunity of our child population is the surest guarantee against diphtheria.

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE FOR 1950.

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
	Pulm.	Non Pulm.	Pulm.	Non Pulm.	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at 1st January, 1950	28	11	20	7	66
Number of cases notified under Regulations of 1930 for the first time during the year	2	2	5	-	9
Number of cases restored to Register having been removed in previous year	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases added to Register and brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification	3	1	4	2	10
Number of cases removed from Register during year	6	3	5	1	15
Number of cases remaining on Register at end of the year	27	11	24	8	70

Reasons for Removal from Register.

Removed from District	3
Died	2
Recovered	10

D. HOUSING.

Housing Statistics.

Number of inhabited houses (approx)	4390
Average number of persons per house	3.3

Building & Conversion

	1950	1949	1948
New houses built by Council	56	48	76
Houses built or converted privately	16	13	18
	72	61	94

Waiting List for Council Houses

Number on Waiting List for Council Houses at 31st December, 1948	=	490
Number on Waiting List for Council Houses at 31st December, 1949	=	624
Number on Waiting List for Council Houses at 31st December, 1950	=	640

Housing in Felixstowe is still a problem which unfortunately does not show signs of becoming less acute with the passage of time. During the past three years the waiting list for Council houses has increased steadily until by 31st December, 1950, it had reached a total of 640. It would seem therefore that unless the rate of building can be increased materially the number of families in need of housing must inevitably go up still further.

The rapid increase in the population of Felixstowe is perhaps a greater factor in this connection than has become generally realized. There is no doubt that Felixstowe is becoming increasingly appreciated by visitors and no doubt attracts favourable attention of those seeking a place to live.

Although, as I pointed out in my report for 1949, Felixstowe is fortunate in not having a slum problem to deal with. There are throughout the district numbers of houses which provide shelter for more persons than was intended by the designers. These houses may or may not be overcrowded in the legal sense but there is no doubt that many of the inhabitants are lacking in much of the comfort and amenity which they expect and are consequently looking for fresh accommodation.

As a temporary expedient to mitigate to some small extent the shortage of homes many authorities are giving sympathetic consideration to applications for licenses to make all-the-year-round use of caravan sites. In my view this practice, subject to proper safeguards and for a limited period, has much to commend it.

E. ACTION UNDER VARIOUS REGULATIONS.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

During 1950 information was received indicating that milk retailed by a certain dairy contained the germs of a disease which might be communicated to man, i.e. Undulant Fever. In accordance with the above regulations an order was issued to the purveyor concerned requiring that all milk retailed for human consumption should be heat treated to render it safe before sale.

At the same time the Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Milk Officer of the Ministry of Food were notified for such action as they considered appropriate.

National Assistance Act 1948.

No action was found necessary under Section 47 of this Act.

F. CLIMATE.

The geographical situation of Felixstowe confers upon it a climate which has many attractive features.

From the table it will be seen that the average daily sunshine throughout the year was 4.4 hours and that in June it actually averaged over 9 hours per day throughout the month. Felixstowe therefore enjoys more sunshine than the majority of other holiday resorts.

With regard to rainfall, the total during 1950 was only 18.93 inches or an average of 1.57 inches per month. Here again from the point of view of a holiday resort this is an important attraction.

Taken altogether Felixstowe can offer dry, bright and invigorating weather for a much greater portion of the year than can be expected in other parts of the country.

Sunshine and Rainfall.

	Sunshine Hours	Rainfall Inches		Sunshine Hours	Rainfall Inches
January	38.5	1.40	July	205.2	1.96
February	84.2	2.1	August	200.3	1.41
March	123.7	0.47	September	121.2	2.44
April	184.9	0.96	October	124.8	0.43
May	177.0	1.26	November	57.6	3.8
June	275.0	0.93	December	36.8	1.77

Average hours of sunshine per day
 Total inches of rainfall for year

1950	1949
4.4	4.5
18.93	18.53

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. IMRIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

South Beach Mansion,
Felixstowe.

FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1950.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

315 complaints were received during the year.

150 notices were served; 148 informal and 2 statutory.

WATER SUPPLY.

Two samples of Town's water were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and two for chemical analysis. Copies of the Analyst's and Bacteriologist's reports on the latest samples are given below:-

Chemical Results in Parts per Million.

Appearance: Bright with a few mineral particles.

Colour:	Nil	Turbidity	Less than 3
pH	7.5	Odour	Nil
Electric Conductivity	500	Free Carbon Dioxide	8
Chlorine present as		Total Solids	335
Chloride	42	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	170
Hardness:	Total 230	Carbonate 170	Non-carbonate 60
Nitrate Nitrogen	3.2	Nitrite Nitrogen	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000	Oxygen Absorbed	0.05
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000	Residual Chlorine	Absent
Metals	Iron 0.08	Other metals	absent.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is hard in character but not unduly so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Sgd) GORDON MILES
for THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES,
66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.
11th September, 1950.

Bacteriological Examination.

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 3 days R.T.^o = 1 per ml.

" " " " 2 days 37^oC. = 2 per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. = nil.

Remarks.

Bacteriological findings very satisfactory.

(Sgd) J. SYKES,

for M.O. i/c P. H. Laboratory.

PRIVATE WELLS

Samples were taken as follows:-

Girl's Boarding School - 4 samples taken - 3 satisfactory and 1 suspicious. This school is now supplied with a new bore in place of the old shallow wells which required to be chlorinated. The bore was driven down the old shallow well and the suspicious sample may have been caused by seepage down of surface water. Later samples taken after heavy rain did not confirm that any such seepage takes place but the top of the bore was given additional protection.

Boy's Boarding School - 2 samples taken both unsatisfactory. The samples were taken from a shallow well which has supplied the school for many years. Since these samples were taken the well has been abandoned and water is now obtained from a deep bore at adjoining farm property.

Elementary School, Ferry Road. - 1 satisfactory sample. The position regards the water supply on Ferry Road is as reported last year, no further progress having been made in the project to extend the water mains. Water is still boiled before children are allowed to drink it.

Brickyard Cottages, The Avenue - Private well serving four cottages. This well which ceased to yield water during last year's drought has since given a very turbid water and one chemical and one bacteriological sample were taken which showed the water to be most unsatisfactory. At the present time the Council are carting water to these cottages at the cost of the owner until the well water can be made fit to drink or some alternative supply procured.

Felixstowe Dock Supply - The Dock Company's private water supply came under suspicion after reports had been received by us from the Naval Authorities and samples were taken to test its purity early in the year. The supply is from a land spring and is piped about two miles to the Dock where it is sold to ships calling there to an amount averaging about 50 tons of water per week. Samples of the raw water showed it not to be entirely satisfactory and a chlorinating plant was put in during the year. Samples taken towards the end of the year indicated that the treated water will be of a high standard of purity.

Dairy - Using its own deep well water. 1 sample - satisfactory.

Dairy - Using water from its own private shallow well for certain purposes only. One sample was taken which showed the water to be suitable for the purposes for which it is used which is for passing through cooler, swilling down floors, etc. Town's water is used exclusively for washing bottles, churns, etc.

HOUSING ACTS.

35 informal notices and 2 statutory notices were served under the Housing Acts during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Houses inspected under P.H.A. and H.A.	62
Inspections made for the purpose	351

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Bakehouses	53
Fishfryers	48
Beach hut sites	44
Stables, Piggeries and keeping of Animals	37
Overcrowding	6
Refuse accommodation	21
Ice Cream Premises and Sampling	116
Tents, vans, camping grounds, etc.	146
Sanitary defects and nuisances	142
Accumulations	37
Smoke observations	17
Dirty and Verminous houses	34
Cesspools and Septic tanks	45
Closet accommodation	16

MILK & DAIRIES

Dairies and Milkshops	47
Samples of milk taken	9

	Carried forward	1,231
--	-----------------	-------

MEAT

Slaughterhouses	11
Butchers shops	119

FACTORIES ACT

Factories	74
-----------------	----

DRAINS

Inspected	169
Tested with water and relaid	130 feet
Tested with smoke	15

MISCELLANEOUS

Water samples	21
Shops Inspected (Shops Act)	9
Food Inspections	71
Rat Infestations	15
Water supply, wells, etc.	68
Food Preparing Premises	66
Mosquitos	4
Swimming Pool	10
Infectious Diseases	40
Food Poisoning	19
Houseboats	2

1,944

SHOPS ACT.

Under this Act the Council are responsible for heating, ventilation and sanitary accommodation at shops and the County Council as the authority for the Shops Hours Act for washing accommodation and the taking of meals in shops. In all shops where food is handled for sale the provision of suitable washing accommodation for shop assistants with hot and cold water may be required under other Acts operated by the Council and so far as the writer is aware such facilities have now been provided at all food shops in the town.

No. of shops inspections during the year	- 9
Contraventions found and remedied	- 2

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

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

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	34	32	3	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	32	8	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	86	64	11	-

Part 2 of table overleaf

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of Cases				in which prosecutions were instituted.
	in which Defects were found		Referred		
	Found	Remedied	To HM By HM Insp- Insp- ursor ursor		
Want of Cleanliness	7	7	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	2	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	9	9	-	2	-

CAMPING SITES.

The number of sites licensed for camping under the Public Health Act 1936, Section 269, during the year was:-

Licenses to use land as sites for Moveable Dwellings	-	14
Licenses to erect vans on particular sites	-	5
No. of applications refused	-	3

There are five "commercial" holiday camping sites in the district accommodating from 7 to 138 caravans. All these sites have town's water and three of them have water closet sanitation. The remaining two have their dry closets emptied by the Council three times per week. These camps were all well conducted during the year and were not the subject of complaint at any time.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK.

There are 4 registered dairies in the district, 2 of them dealing in designated milk. Licenses issued for special milks during the year were:-

Dealer in Tuberculin Tested	2
Dealer in Pasteurised	2
	-
	4
	=

Examinations of Milk for Cleanliness

Samples of milk were submitted to the East Suffolk County Laboratory as follows:-

No. of Samples	Type	Methylene Blue Test	Phos- phatase Test	Remarks
4	Pasteurised	Over $\frac{1}{2}$ hour	Group I	Satisfactory
4	T.T.	Over $5\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.	-	Satisfactory

All the above samples complied with the prescribed standards.

Number of visits paid to dairies - 47.

CHAPTER I

The first part of the book is devoted to a general introduction to the subject. It discusses the scope and objectives of the study, and outlines the method of investigation. The author also discusses the importance of the subject and the need for a systematic approach to its study.

CHAPTER II

The second part of the book is devoted to a detailed study of the subject. It discusses the various aspects of the subject and the methods of investigation. The author also discusses the importance of the subject and the need for a systematic approach to its study.

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CHAPTER IV

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CHAPTER V

The fifth part of the book is devoted to a detailed study of the subject. It discusses the various aspects of the subject and the methods of investigation. The author also discusses the importance of the subject and the need for a systematic approach to its study.

There is one Pasteurising plant in the district licensed and supervised (since the transfer of powers in October, 1949) by the County Council. All the cowshed inspections are now the responsibility of veterinary officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Council still retain responsibility for the general conduct of and conditions in local dairies.

Brucella in Local Herd.

The presence of *Brucella Melitensis* (the cause of Undulant or Malta Fever) was discovered in a sample of milk produced and marketed locally. A notice (still in force at the end of the year) was served requiring this milk to be pasteurised. Details are given in the M.O.H's report.

ICE CREAM

There are 13 manufacturers of ice cream in the district and 40 other registrations for the purpose of sale of ice cream only. Other premises hotels, cinemas, clubs, etc., sell ice cream though they are not required by law to register.

The following table shows how many samples of ice cream and ice cream mix were taken from each local producer and how they were graded at the Laboratory:-

Retailer's Code No.	Total No. of Samples Taken	LABORATORY GRADING			
		1 Satisfactory	2	3 Unsatisfactory	4
No. 1	14	5	3	2	4
2	20	10	4	1	5
3	2	2	-	-	-
4	2	2	-	-	-
6	5	1	1	2	1
7	6	1	1	1	3
9	3	3	-	-	-
11	2	1	-	1	-
14	2	2	-	-	-
15	3	3	-	-	-
TOTALS	59	30	9	7	13

Satisfactory samples 39 (Grades 1 & 2)
 Unsatisfactory samples 20 (" 3 & 4)

Total = 59

The Retailer's Code Nos. are the same as previous years. Nos. 5, 8, 12 and 13 have ceased to manufacture ice cream.

During the year I made several special examinations of ice cream plants and took series of samples during the course of manufacture to ascertain where contamination occurred. I am indebted to Dr. P.H. Martin of the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich, for much valuable co-operation in these investigations. On one occasion Dr. Martin spent a morning with me at one of the larger manufacturing plants to observe a complete run through. Samples were taken on this and subsequent occasions of ice cream mix before and after cooling and freezing and at various stages during these processes and after storage. The results of all these samples are included in the above figures which, in consequence, show a smaller proportion of passes than would have been the case if sampling had been confined to the finished product. This applies especially to producers Nos. 1 & 2.

On the whole the bacterial standard of finished ice cream is somewhat higher than in previous years. The local manufacturers have made an effort to cope with the bacterial standard, which is something new to the ice cream trade. As will be seen from the above table several have produced nothing but Grade 1 samples this year. On the other hand, some have been erratic and inconsistent in method.

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

The Council this year adopted the Clean Food Byelaws. Copies of the byelaws, with a circular letter, were sent to every trader in the town who handles food.

167 visits were paid to cafes, restaurant kitchens, sausage manufacturers, bakehouses, fishfryers and similar premises.

FOOD INSPECTIONS

The 5 slaughterhouses in the district have not been used since the war except for the slaughter of an occasional householder's pig. 3 slaughtermen are licensed under the Slaughter of Animals Act.

Carcases Inspected during 1950.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	-	-	-	-	9
Number Inspected	-	-	-	-	9

No condemnation of carcasses or offal were made.

Particulars of food condemned during the year:-

	<u>tinned & bottled</u> <u>goods</u>		<u>Lbs.</u>
Milk	81	Meat	436
Meat	56	Fish	132 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fish	28	Gelatine	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
Preserves	39	Biscuits	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fruit	53	Suet	28 $\frac{3}{4}$
Fruit juices	9	Sweets	27 $\frac{1}{4}$
Vegetables	53	Cake	17
Cereal	3	Cereals (packets)	2
Soup	14	Sweet Fat (packets)	25
Coffee	9	Cheeses (packets)	37
Custard Powder	1	Rusks (packets)	19
Tomato Ketchup	43	Ice Cream blocks	753
Paste	89	Eggs	380
Salad Cream	3		
	<hr/> 481		<hr/> 1,882 $\frac{1}{2}$

RAT AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

The principal change this year is the result of the passing of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949. Our present arrangements for rat destruction are that we give free treatment to private houses and charge for business premises. We receive 50% of the expenditure incurred in this service including time spent on surveys and inspections.

The same arrangements can continue under the new Act but it is now obligatory for the occupier of any premises to notify the local authority when it comes to his knowledge that rats and mice are living on, or resorting to, his land in substantial numbers. The Council made this provision known in the district by public advertisement. The biggest change is that the responsibility of ridding agricultural land of rats is transferred to the Council by the Agricultural Committee (formerly the War Agricultural Committee.)

The result of a survey of all farm lands, 14 in number, in the district is as follows:-

Serviced by private rat catching companies	= 2
Reasonably well serviced by occupiers	= 3
Infested farms in respect of which Notices have been served under the Act	= 9

