

[Report 1948] / Medical Officer of Health, Godalming Borough.

Contributors

Godalming (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1948

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BOROUGH OF GODALMING.


ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health for 1948

TOGETHER WITH THAT OF THE

Sanitary Inspector



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1948.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Godalming.*

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1948.

The death rate is fortunately lower than that for the country as a whole. The percentage in persons over 65 years has now gone up to 73.

The birth rate unfortunately has fallen and for this very low figure it is difficult to offer an explanation. I think, however, that the position is the births consequent upon the return of men from the Forces have passed their peak and any question of a second child is considered impossible both from the housing and economic standpoint. While so many young people are unable to get homes of their own, they are extremely loath to have children and until it has been found possible to accommodate all these young people, there is no doubt that the birth rate will remain low.

Notifiable infectious diseases have fallen except as regards Whooping Cough, which is the highest incidence since 1941. There was, however, no undue influence prejudicial to health noticeable in the Godalming area during the year and the health of the inhabitants can be considered satisfactory. Evidence of this is reflected in the extremely low Infantile Mortality rate which is the lowest record for Godalming, and this indicates that the health and welfare of mothers has been satisfactory in every respect.

Yours faithfully,

F. A. BELAM, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health :

F. A. BELAM, T.D., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.I.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

P. A. WARNER, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.Assn.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :

F. W. CULVER, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerks :

Miss E. K. GILBERT.

Miss A. EVANS.

(Both Inspectors also hold the Certificate of the R.S.I. in
Meat and Other Foods Inspection.)

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres), 2,393.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate, mid-year 1948) :
14,840.

Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1948), according
to rate books : 3,977.

Rateable Value : £128,113.

Sum represented by a penny rate, 1st April, 1948 : £530.10.11.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births—				} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion, 15.29.
Total ...	227	111	116	
Legitimate ...	218	106	112	
Illegitimate ...	9	5	4	
Still Births—				} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 17.31. } Still-birth Rate per 1,000 population, 0.26.
Legitimate ...	4	1	3	
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	
Deaths ...	167	81	86	} Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion, 11.25.

Deaths from Puerperal causes : Nil.

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	26.43
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	27.52
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	24
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	Nil

The Birth Rate for 1948 fell to 15.29, a further drop from that of 1947, which was 17.32. It is very much lower than that of the country as a whole or that of the smaller towns as set out on the following page. As an increase in the estimated population is shewn, this lowered birth rate is very difficult to explain.

The Death Rate, however, is 11.25, which is decidedly lower than that of 1947, though above that of the country as a whole. Out of 167 deaths, 56 were due to heart disease and

Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality in the Year 1948. Provisional Figures.

	Rate per 1,000 Population		Annual Death-Rate per 1,000 Population								Rate per 1,000 Live Births		
	Live Births	Still-births	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England & Wales, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, and 148 Smaller Towns.	17.9	0.42	10.8	—	—	—	—	0.02	—	0.03	—	3.3	34
England and Wales													
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	20.0	0.52	11.6	—	—	—	—	0.02	—	0.03	—	4.5	39
148 Smaller Towns (Resid't Populat'ns 25,000 to 50,000— 1931 Census) ...	19.2	0.43	10.7	—	—	—	—	0.02	—	0.04	—	2.1	32
London	20.1	0.39	11.6	—	—	—	—	0.01	0.01	0.02	—	2.4	31
GODALMING ...	15.2	0.26	11.25	—	—	—	—	0.06	—	—	—	—	26.43

The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales are as follows :

per 1,000	Total Births ...	Puerperal Sepsis—0.13	Others—0.73	Total 0.96
Godalming ... ..	... ..	—	—	—

Godalming Deaths in 1948.

Cause of Death	Age at Death											Total	R.G. Total				
	Under 1		1-2		2-5		5-15		15-25		25-45		45-65		65 & over		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.		F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Whooping Cough ...																	
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...									1								
Other forms of Tuberculosis																	
Syphilitic Diseases ...																	
Cancer of Buc. cav. and œsoph. (M.) Uterus (F.)																	
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum																	
Cancer of Breast ...																	
Cancer of all other sites ...																	
Diabetes ...																	
Intracranial Vascular Lesions																	
Heart Diseases ...																	
Other Diseases of Circulatory System																	
Bronchitis ...																	
Pneumonia ...																	
Other Respiratory Diseases																	
Other Digestive Diseases ...																	
Nephritis ...																	
Congenital Malformation, etc.																	
Suicide ...																	
Road Traffic Accident ...																	
Other violent causes ...																	
All other causes ...	1				1					1							
Total, all causes ...	5	1			1					2							
											10	13			77	87	81 86

a further 36 to disease of the circulatory system. 24 deaths were ascribed to cancer: 2 more than in 1947. Tuberculosis caused one more death than last year. But in general it can be seen that there is no particular cause of death of a preventable nature. 73 per cent. of deaths were in persons over 65, a higher percentage than last year. Special provision for the old folk was referred to in my last Report. The new old folks' bungalows are now in use and much appreciated.

The infantile mortality rate was most satisfactorily low, being only 26 per 1,000 live births. It was lower again than the previous lowest figure. Only six babies died under 12 months, and of these three were only a few (1, 2 and 7 hours) hours old and died of congenital malformation and debility. The other three deaths were one at 3 months following operation for intersusception, one at a month from gastro enteritis and otitis media, and one at four months from whooping cough. As the infantile mortality of England Wales was 34 and that of the smaller towns 32, the figure of 26 for Godalming was most satisfactory and reflects great credit on the mothers, doctors, nurses and health visitors.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.** Despite the passing of the National Health Service Act, facilities for the examination of specimens remain the same. All pathological work is done for the Borough at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford. During 1948 the following work was done: 34 swabs for diphtheria, 12 for haemolytic streptococci, 2 sputa for tubercle and 11 miscellaneous examinations—59 in all. Water samples are sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. Certain laboratory work was also carried out for the County Council from their maternity clinics, 7 urines and faeces being sent and 36 specimens of blood for haemoglobin, grouping and rhesus factor estimation.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.** The Godalming Division of the British Red Cross Society now carry out this work on behalf of the County Council, using two full time drivers, and attendants acting in a voluntary capacity being members of the Division. Infectious cases are still moved by the hospital ambulances of Ottershaw or Farnham Isolation Hospitals.

Work done by the British Red Cross Society personnel and ambulances was as follows :—

Number of calls (including 39 accidents)...	...	1,018
Number of miles travelled ...	...	22,556
Voluntary hours of duty (at cinemas, fêtes, etc.)		1,600

(c) **Nursing in the Home.** Three midwives receiving financial aid from the County Council practise in the Borough.

The nurses of the Godalming Nursing and Child Welfare Association carried out the following work during 1948 :—

Number of District Cases	...	...	384
Number of District Visits	...	...	4,123
Number of Midwifery Cases	...	...	45
Number of Maternity Cases (with Doctor)	...	...	4
Number of Midwifery and Maternity Visits	...	...	968
Number of Ante-Natal Visits	...	...	312
Number of Casual Visits	...	...	294

(Visits are entered as casual when no actual nursing is done.)

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**—The Surrey County Council Clinics are as follows :—

AT CHURCH ROOM, GODALMING.

Maternity and Child Welfare—

Dental Clinic: Mondays, 10–12 and 2–4 p.m. Thursdays, 10–12 noon and 2–4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 10–12 noon.

Child Welfare Centre: Wednesdays and Fridays, 2–4 p.m.

School Treatment Centres—

General Medical Clinics: Every Friday, 10 a.m.

Eye Clinic: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2–4 p.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation:

Fridays (School children), 10 a.m.

Wednesdays and Fridays (Children 1–5 years), 2–4 p.m.

AT MILFORD SANATORIUM.

Tuberculosis Dispensary: 1st and 3rd Fridays, 2–5 p.m.

AT SOUTH (WEST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD
CHEST CLINIC, TOWER HOUSE, EPSOM ROAD, GUILDFORD.

Tuberculosis Dispensary :

Mondays, 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesdays, 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Fridays, 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

All cases seen by appointment.

AT ROYAL SURREY COUNTY HOSPITAL, GUILDFORD.

Venereal Disease :

Males : Tuesdays and Fridays, 5 to 7 p.m. ; Saturdays,
9.30 to 11.30 a.m.

Females : Mondays, 2 to 7 p.m. ; Thursdays, 9.30 to
11 a.m.

(e) Hospital Provision.

(1) The Royal Surrey County Hospital at Guildford offers 229 beds. An average of 202 beds were occupied daily throughout the year. 14,342 out-patients made 95,291 attendances. The Hospital carries a staff embracing specialists in all branches of medicine and surgery, including radiology and physiotherapy.

(2) St. Luke's Hospital offers 404 beds which include 58 maternity beds and 62 maternity cots. Of these beds, 54 are reserved for patients treated by radiotherapy, the rest are devoted to general surgery and gynaecology, paediatrics, ear, nose and throat, eyes, neurology, dermatology and geriatrics. 5,385 in-patients were treated during the year and 6,263 out-patients made 27,225 attendances. 886 maternity cases were also dealt with.

(3) St. Thomas' Hospital, Hydestile, Godalming. Fortunately the anticipation was not fulfilled that this hospital would close at the end of 1947 as reported, and the hospital continued its good work during 1948. 110 beds are provided, all general, and 116 Godalming in-patients and 128 out-patients were treated.

(f) Maternity and Nursing Homes.

Only one registered Nursing Home is now taking patients. This is the Mount Alvernia Nursing Home of the Franciscan Sisters and it offers 15 beds for all purposes. It has been exempted from the provisions of the National Health Service Act.

The Home of Miss D. M. Oliver, Stoneycrest Annexe, Highfield, Brighton Road, is still registered but is not taking patients.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Infectious Diseases. These are sent to the Isolation Hospitals at Farnham and Ottershaw. Admissions are as shewn in the table:—

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	12	5	—
Pneumonia	18	—	3
Whooping Cough	105	2	1
Measles	59	1	—
Erysipelas	3	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	197	9	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infectious disease, though prevalent as regards whooping cough and measles, has not on the whole been of a serious nature. One child of four months old died from whooping cough and except for four deaths from pneumonia (of a non-notifiable nature) these were the only fatalities in 197 notified cases of infectious disease.

Whooping cough produced the majority of notifications and measles fell to second place with less than half the number of last year. These two diseases are extremely difficult to control. Although a vaccine has been produced for the prevention of whooping cough it has not yet come into general use. It has, however, been used in many places and found very efficacious. Despite heavy incidence of the disease in Guildford, of the 300 children immunised not one contracted the disease. This is certainly promising, especially as the disease is highly infectious and will almost certainly infect every small child in a household once it has gained access to the house.

Fortunately this, as measles, has been comparatively mild in attack and with adequate home care the cases do quite well.

Not since 1941 has there been such a high incidence of whooping cough, so it is no wonder that there was a large number of non-immune children, there having been an insufficient number of cases in the intervening years to produce active immunity by the child receiving a dose of infection too small to produce the disease, but sufficient to stimulate the production of natural immunity.

No satisfactory vaccine against measles has yet been discovered. The incidence of infectious diseases in the various schools is shewn in the Table.

Scarlet fever occasioned twelve notifications but this disease is now extremely mild as a rule, though severe cases still occur. It will be noted that the majority of cases were nursed at home.

Diphtheria was not once notified: evidence of the good response of parents to the campaign for immunisation. This has proved most successful in prevention of the disease and outbreaks are now quite rare occurrences. The subjoined Table shews that we have now 75 per cent. of Godalming children immunised against diphtheria, a really remarkable achievement. It is thus impossible for an outbreak of this disease to occur in Godalming.

Diphtheria Immunisation Statistics.

Age at 31st December 1947 ... <i>i.e.</i> , born in year	Under 1 1948	1 1947	2 1946	3 1945	4 1944	5-9 1943-39	10-14 1938-34	Total under 15
Number immunised ...	12	150	198	153	185	854	820	2372
Estimated mid-year population, 1948 ...	1143			2005			3148	
Number and percent- age immunised	698 61.06%			1674 83.17%			75.34%	
Number re-immunised, 1946-1948 ...	1544							

The number of births notified since the 5th July, 1948 (when the National Health Service Act came into force), to the 31st December, 1948, was 74.

The following vaccinations were carried out at the Clinic and by the local doctors from the 5th July also:—

Date of Birth.	No. Vaccinated.
1902	1
1904	1
1916	1
1919	1
1924	1
1929	1
1933	1
1940	1
1947	3
1948	23

Summary of Notifications of Cases and Contacts of Infectious Disease received from Schools.

Disease	Total	Central	Council, Bridge Rd., Jun. Mixed & Infants	Moss Lane C. of E. Girls and Infants	Busbridge	Farncombe, George Road	County	St. John St. Jun. Mixed & Infants	Raglan Day Nursery	Wharf Day Nursery
Measles	58	—	11	18	21	3	5	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	8	1	1	2	1	2	—	—	—	1
Chicken-pox	97	1	47	9	2	20	—	17	1	—
Mumps	17	3	1	4	5	—	—	—	—	4
German Measles	5	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	75	—	21	15	3	29	—	2	—	5
Impetigo	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Jaundice	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Bronchitis	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	266	6	83	50	33	55	6	20	1	12

Notifiable Disease (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over
Scarlet Fever	—	1	1	2	2	3	—	—	—	2	1	—
Pneumonia	—	2	1	—	2	3	—	—	1	—	5	5
Whooping Cough	8	12	16	10	15	40	1	1	—	—	1	1
Measles	2	4	5	11	5	27	2	1	—	1	1	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Total	10	19	23	23	24	73	3	2	2	3	9	7

Tuberculosis.

Three more pulmonary and four less non-pulmonary cases of tuberculosis were notified than in 1947.

Deaths increased by three females more than in 1947.

It is satisfactory that numbers remain low, but with sanatorium accommodation still at a premium owing to the shortage of nurses and so many overcrowded homes, the situation cannot be regarded with equanimity. Special efforts are made

to re-house tubercular cases if home conditions require it, but an active infectious case of pulmonary tuberculosis at home is always a cause for acute anxiety.

Dietary remains much the same; shortage of proteins and fats persisting. The case of tuberculosis must therefore be careful to get all extras he is ordered and the contacts should be especially careful to keep up their stamina to resist infection and avoid unnecessary contact.

At the end of 1948 there were 110 cases on the register.

The voluntary work of the Godalming and Haslemere Tuberculosis Care Committee continued throughout the year. Income from all sources amounted to £110 2s. 5d., of which £72 2s. 5d. was from the sale of Christmas Seals. Grants to local necessitous cases (not adequately covered by Government allowances) for clothing, extra nourishments, medicinal goods, pocket money, travelling expenses, home helps, fuel, bedding, and numerous other extraordinary expenses, amount to £131 5s. 7d.; also £32 2s. 0d. in donations to Surrey Tuberculosis After Care Funds such as film shows in Hospitals and Sanatoria, Children's Holiday Fund, etc. A total expenditure of £163 7s. 7d. for the year.

Tuberculosis: New Cases and Mortality during 1948.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	1	2*	—	—	1	2*	—	—
25-35	2*	3*	—	—	1	2	—	—
35-45	5†	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	8	5	1	—	4	6	—	—

(*including 1 Transfer.)

(†including 2 Transfers.)

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Summary of Routine and other Inspection Work carried out.

ROUTINE INSPECTIONS MADE.

Housing Inspections and Re-inspections (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	1,434
Nuisances, Complaints, Advisory Visits, etc.	848
Inspections of—	
Drainage to Houses, including Tests	241
Meat Inspection	33
Bakehouses	149
Dairies, Cowsheds, Milk-shops and Milk Stores ...	105
Factories, Work-places and Outworkers' Premises	158
Food Shops and places where food is prepared and stored	295
Ice Cream Premises	29
Foodstuffs for condemnation	130
Offensive Trades Premises	12
Premises, reference Provision of Dustbins ...	133
Rat-infested Premises	24
Public and Private Conveniences	110
Council's Hostels	7
Investigations under—	
Shops and Young Persons Employment Acts ...	57
Petroleum and Carbide Acts	49
Infectious Disease Notifications and Prevention Acts (including Disinfections)	20
Part IV, Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding) ...	37
Public Health Act, 1936 (Verminous Premises) ...	13
Public Health Act, 1936 (Smoke Abatement) ...	14
Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919 (involving inspection, baiting and re-inspection of sewer manholes)	23
Sampling of—	
Water Supplies	11
Milk Supplies	23
	3,955

NOTICES SERVED.

Statutory Notices	...	...	6
Informal Notices	...	...	607
			<hr/>
Total Notices served	...	...	613
Complied with	...	...	564
			<hr/>
Not complied with at 31.12.48			49
			<hr/>

Factories Act, 1937.

(Information required by the Secretary of State.)

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND OTHER PREMISES UNDER THE ACT.

Premises.	Inspec- tions.	Number of Written Notices.	Occup. Pros.
Factories with Mechanical Power ...	45	6	—
Factories without Mechanical Power...	84	2	—
Other premises under the Act (includ- ing works of building and engin- eering construction but not includ- ing outworkers' premises) ...	15	2	—
(Electrical Stations should be reckoned as Factories.)			
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	144	10	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects		Ref'd by H.M. Inspec- tor.	No. of defects in respect of which prose- cutions were instituted.
	Found.	R'died.		
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)				
Insufficient	Nil	1	1	Nil
Unsuitable or Defective	2	1	Nil	Nil
Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
*Other Offences	1	4	3	Nil
	3	6	4	Nil

(*Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

New main extensions carried out during the year were:—

Godalming Borough (Aarons Hill Estate), first section completed: 231 yards of 4in. main to supply permanent and prefabricated Council Houses.

Godalming Borough (Chalk Road): 275 yards of 4in. main to remove a dead end.

Hambledon Rural District: 863 yards of 3in., 1,836 yards of 4in., 58 yards of 5in., and 2,837 yards of 6in. mains to new and existing houses, to a farm and to improve existing supplies.

Guildford Rural District: 502 yards of 3in., 1,566 yards of 4in., and 1,595 yards of 6in. mains to prefabricated and existing houses and supply to Compton from the New Tower at Priors Field.

The water supply has been satisfactory throughout the water area, both as regards quality and quantity.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations of treated and untreated water are made quarterly from samples taken by the Sanitary Inspector. All these proved to be in all respects satisfactory for a public supply.

Bacteriological examinations have also been made of samples obtained from various premises within the water supply area, which are supplied from the various service reservoirs. These were taken by the Water Department; in addition, six reports were received from the Hambledon Rural District Council and six from Guildford Rural District Council on samples taken from piped supplies in their area—all of which were of satisfactory bacterial purity. No form of contamination of supplies was experienced during the year.

The number of dwelling houses supplied direct from the Corporation mains in the water supply area is 6,622, and the estimated population supplied with water is 25,821. Number of houses supplied by standpipe, 21, with a population of 60.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The laying of soil and surface water sewers on Section 1 of Aaron's Hill Estate was completed and the latter connected to a new main surface water outfall sewer laid in Eashing Lane, from Franklyn Road to Ockford Road. Work was commenced on the construction of soil and surface water sewers to the second (and final) Section of Aaron's Hill Estate during the year.

A start was made on the construction of the Milford and Witley Trunk Sewer, including tunnelling under the railway embankment near Ockford Bridge. The use of in-situ concrete piling was found necessary along some sections owing to the difficult nature of the ground.

During the year notices were served under Section 21 of the Public Health Act, 1925, on owners of various properties within the Borough requiring the carrying out of works to prevent the discharge of water from rain-water down pipes across public footpaths, and on instruction from the owners remedial measures were carried out by the Corporation Staff.

The disposal of sewage at the Unstead Works by land treatment and filtration continues to be carried out.

Preliminary investigations were made towards the Scheme for the reconstruction of the works.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

One complaint of pollution of the River Wey was received and referred to the local Inspector of the Thames Conservancy Board, who dealt with the matter.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of cesspools and pail closets remaining in the Borough are as follows:—

Cesspools draining houses: 31 (23 no sewers available).
Pail closets attached to cottages: 19 (15 no sewers available).

Arrangements for emptying cesspools devolve upon occupiers of premises, who have to rely upon the adjoining Rural District Councils for this service, as Godalming does not possess a cesspool emptier.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Collection of house refuse and salvage was continued as in previous years.

Controlled tipping was completed at Catteshall Lane and a fresh tip started in the Quarry at the entrance to Aaron's Hill Estate. It is the intention of the Council that this area, when completed, shall be covered with soil and seeded with grass to provide an open space.

During the year 133 dustbins to premises were found to be defective; although some delay was experienced by owners of property in replacing these with new bins, the majority had done so by the end of the year.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Conditions in several shops and offices were improved during the year. Inspections were made in cases where complaints arose or nuisances existed. In no case was it found necessary to take formal action, occupiers responding satisfactorily to informal requests for remedy of defects, etc.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints of smoke nuisance were received during the year. Occupiers of factories, workplaces, etc., generally complied with the provisions of the law in keeping their output of smoke down to the minimum, compatible with the somewhat inferior grades of fuel with which they were supplied.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Two dirty houses suspected of bug infestation were fumigated by the Department with a liquid insecticide containing D.D.T. Other disinfestations were carried out for cockroaches, etc. Several wasps' nests were also dealt with.

All treatment was successful.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The position in regard to the eight private houses in the Borough is as stated in the 1947 Report. All slaughtering for Godalming butchers is carried out in the Government controlled slaughterhouses at Guildford.

Seven slaughtermen in the Borough still hold licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The one Tannery remaining in the Borough was regularly inspected. No complaints were received or nuisances detected in respect of the conduct of the various trade processes carried on there. Trade refuse was removed to farms, etc., without nuisance.

New Housing.

Progress on the Town Council's housing schemes at Aaron's Hill and Silo Wood Estate during the year resulted in the letting of 20 traditional and 38 prefabricated houses to 58 families from the Council's waiting list. The Silo Wood post-war scheme comprising ten aged persons' bungalows and twenty-eight three-bedroomed houses was completed during the year.

In addition to houses built by the Town Council, local builders erected thirteen houses, all for owner-occupiers; making a total of seventy-one new houses erected during 1948. Further accommodation was provided by the conversion of three privately owned houses into nine flats.

The Housing Committee effected the transfer of nineteen families living in two-bedroomed Council houses to three-bedroomed houses, to ease overcrowding of bedrooms.

The Town Council retained the use of four large houses, viz., Holloway Hill House, Fernbank, Rothlymere and Brookdene, for the temporary accommodation of thirteen urgent

cases for re-housing. Also Ockford Wood Hall, acquired as part of Aaron's Hill Housing Estate, was let to four families from the Council's waiting list during the year.

At the end of 1945 there were approximately 700 applicants on the waiting list; 95 of these have been re-housed. A revised form of application was sent out during the year to those remaining on the list and at the close of 1948 the effective number had been reduced to 545.

Existing Housing.

Some progress was made during the year with the work of repair of privately owned sub-standard housing accommodation. Notices served on owners of cottage properties, or their agents, requiring the remedy of essential housing defects, were reasonably well complied with.

In some instances delays were due to the inability of the Owner to carry out such repairs within the statutory period owing to the present cost of repairs and the low controlled rents received for this type of cottage property. Several complaints were received from Owners as to the continued injustice of their inability to charge a reasonable increase in their rents to cover cost of essential repairs. Although the Housing Act 1936 authorises the Local Authority to carry out such work, where an Owner defaults, it was found necessary to use these powers in two instances only, where no steps whatever were taken by the Owner to comply with formal notices served.

The labour and materials situation has improved somewhat since the last Report, but the high cost of repairs still precludes the possibility of a resumption of pre-war house-to-house inspection, with its consequent implications in the matter of re-conditioning of cottages to a desirable modern standard.

One of the two old unfit cottages, closed in 1940, continued to be occupied under licence from the Town Council. Occupants of the other cottage were re-housed by the Housing Department, and this cottage with that adjoining is to be re-constructed and converted into a single bungalow.

Three other unfit cottages were closed during the year, on undertakings given by the Owners that they would not be further used for human habitation unless re-conditioned to Health Department requirements. Two are being re-conditioned accordingly and the third used for storage purposes only. A semi-basement flat was similarly closed, and will not be re-let

as living accommodation. Three families from the fore-going were re-housed by the Town Council; the fourth left the district.

Of the six old unfit cottages remaining closed, three are on a site acquired by the Town Council as a Car Park, and will be either demolished, or converted for other uses in connection with the proposed scheme. The remaining three will remain closed in accordance with undertakings given by the Owners under the Housing Act, 1936, and previous enactments.

Of the 378 dwellings inspected for defects under the Housing and Public Health Acts during the year, four were recommended for closure, being unfit for human habitation, whilst 274 were found to be defective in some respect. Notices were served and repairs to 232 of these had been completed by the end of the year.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1948.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

1.	By the Town Council	62
2.	By other bodies or persons	13
3. (a)	Number of houses converted into flats ...	4
3. (b)	Number of flats resulting from (a)	13

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1. (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	378
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	403
2. (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1932	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil

3. Number of separate tenements found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	274

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	232
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ...	6
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices—	
(a) By Owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	14

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

- | | | |
|--|--------|-----|
| 1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... .. | Nil |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... .. | Nil |

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—

- | | | |
|--|--------|-----|
| 1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... .. | Nil |
| 2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... .. | Nil |

E.—Action taken under Ministry of Health Circular 2156—

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Number of houses licensed for temporary occupation | 2 |
|---|---|

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.—One new dairy farm was registered during the year, making a total number on the registers: Five Producers and three Retailers.

Of the former, two produce Tuberculin-tested milk and two Accredited milk under licence from the Surrey County Council.

Graded milk licences in force issued by the Town Council are:—

Dealers' Licences—Tuberculin Tested Milk	... ..	3
Dealers' Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk	... ..	3

During the year thirteen samples of milk and two rinses were taken, and submitted to Guildford Hospital Laboratory for the recognised tests for cleanliness in production. Results were as follows:—

Grade of Sample	...	...	TUBER- CULIN TESTED.	ACCRE- DITED.	PASTEUR- ISED.	UN- GRADED.
Number taken	...	...	3	2	2	6
Meth. Blue Test:—						
Passed	...	...	3	2	2	3
Failed	...	...	—	—	—	3
Bacillus Coli in parts of 1 Ml.:—						
One-tenth—						
Negative	...	...	2	1	1	—
Positive	...	...	1	1	—	6
One-hundredth—						
Negative	...	...	2	1	1	5
Positive	...	...	1	1	—	1
One-thousandth—						
Negative	...	...	3	3	1	5
Positive	...	...	—	—	—	1
Phosphatase Test for Pasteurised Milk					Both passed	—
Remarks	...	...	2 S 1 U/S	1 S 1 U/S	2 S	All U/S

RINSES FROM VESSELS. Number taken—2.

Bact. Colony Counts per Vessel up to 50,000—1 passed, 1 failed.

Remarks—1 S, 1 U/S.

S—Satisfactory. U/S—Unsatisfactory.

In cases where unsatisfactory results occurred, inspections and investigations were made for faults in production, washing-up, sterilisation, etc., and repeat samples taken. The six samples of ungraded milk and two rinses were from one farm. Unsatisfactory results were subsequently proved to

be due to lack of care in the washing up of utensils prior to sterilisation. It is hoped future samples will shew considerable improvement.

Routine inspections of dairy farms, milk storage and handling depots, refrigerating rooms, etc., were made. Notices for limewashing and other requirements were complied with, and cleanliness of premises generally well maintained.

Ice-Cream. The popularity of this article of food continued to increase and twenty-eight shop premises were registered during the year under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938: two for manufacture, storage and sale, the remainder for storage and sale only.

In all cases premises and refrigerating equipment were inspected and approved, and sources of supply checked before Registration Certificates were issued.

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, which came into force on the 1st May of that year, considerably tightened up the control over such premises, necessitating regular supervision to ensure compliance therewith.

Meat and Other Foods. Slaughtering of meat for Godalming is still carried out at Guildford under the Government's centralised slaughtering scheme.

Local butchers' premises and other food shops and stores were inspected for cleanliness in storage, handling and sale of food, provision of sanitary and washing facilities, etc. The various Acts and Regulations controlling such premises appeared to be generally well observed, and Notices served for remedy of defects were complied with satisfactorily.

The weekly removal of trade refuse from shop premises by the Town Council was satisfactorily performed during the year and presented no particular problems. Traders responded promptly to requests to renew receptacles found defective, or instal additional refuse bins for the purpose.

A considerable quantity of foodstuffs was condemned during the year, as enumerated in the following list:—

- 921 lbs. Meat (including 355½ lbs. in 166 tins).
- 102 tins Meat.
- 3 tins Meat and Vegetables.
- 22 lbs. Chicken.
- 1 tin Irish Stew.

- 22 tins Boiled Beef and Carrots.
- 22 stones of Wet and Dry Fish.
- 302 tins Fish.
- 4 tins Fish Balls.
- 180 Fish Cakes.
- 1 tin Vegetable Salad.
- 1 tin Date Pudding.
- 1 tin Macedoine.
- 50 tins Pudding.
- 3 tins Tomato Juice.
- 1 tin Spaghetti.
- 22 tins Soup.
- 3 bottles Salad Cream.
- 3 tins Onions.
- 1 tin Mixed Pickle.
- 1 jar Pickles.
- 3 jars Meat and Fish Paste.
- 246 tins Vegetables.
- 109 tins Fruit.
- 155 lbs. Potatoes.
- 10 jars of Plums.
- 24 lbs. Prunes.
- 7 tins Orange Juice.
- 6 jars Lemon Curd.
- 85 tins (138½ lbs.) Marmalade and Jams.
- 5 jars and 1 tin Mincemeat.
- 446 tins Sweetened, Evaporated and Skimmed Milk.
- 5 tins Nestles Milk.
- 1 tin Gelatine.
- 1 pkt. Jelly.
- 2 tins Baby Cereal Food.
- 1 pkt. Corn Flakes.
- 1 pkt. Shredded Wheat.
- 2 lbs. Oatmeal.
- 8 lbs. Macaroni.
- 62 lbs. Flour.
- 1 bag Energen Bread.
- 500 large Loaves.
- 25 lbs. 6 ozs. Butter.
- 4 ozs. Margarine.
- 168 lbs. Cake Margarine.
- 10 lbs. Cheese.
- 50 boxes Cream Cheese.
- 1,383 Eggs.
- 2 pkts. Dried Eggs.
- 3 lbs. Sugar.
- 12 lbs. Confectionery.

Adulteration and Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The Surrey County Council administers those provisions of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1938, within the Borough, dealing with sampling and analysis of articles of food, etc., for the detection of adulteration, deterioration, etc.

The County Medical Officer of Health reports that the following samples were taken in the Borough and analysed during 1948:—

Formal: 34 samples of milk.

Informal: 3 samples of milk, 3 of sausages, and 2 of spirits, 1 each of black pudding, coffee, confectionery, fish paste, gelatine, salad cream, soya flour, vinegar, wine and cough syrup.

None was found to be adulterated or irregular and there were no prosecutions.

The County Council carried out the following sampling and analyses of food and drugs during 1948 in the whole of the County area for which they are the Food and Drugs Authority:—

Samples analysed—

Formal	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,282
Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	640
							1,922

Found "adulterated or irregular"—

Formal	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
							186

Prosecutions	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

(plus one case dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act, and one case pending).

There was also a conviction for wilful obstruction of a Sampling Officer in the execution of his duties.

