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Contributors

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BOROUGH OF GODALMING.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
for 1952

TOGETHER WITH THAT OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1952.

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

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for 1952.

The Birth Rate still remains much lower than that for the country as a whole, which means that our population will fall, though this trend is masked for the present by the increased longevity of those who remain. We are ten less in population than in 1951, but those infants born are given the best possible chance, and our infantile mortality is nearly half that of the country as a whole.

Infectious diseases were low in incidence. Only whooping cough, generally in mild form, caused trouble, and for this, immunisation is being brought into use in Godalming during the present year.

The general health of the town remains good and no deleterious influence affects it.

I think the fact that 68 per cent. of our deaths are in persons over 65 indicates clearly what a satisfactory place Godalming is to live in.

Corporation housing is of a very high standard, and the more houses of this type, the fewer the unhealthy low-grade houses, thus tending to raise further the health of the people.

It only remains for me to express my keen appreciation of the work of Mr. Warner and my staff, who carry out their duties conscientiously and well and in whom I have complete confidence.

Yours sincerely,

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.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

C. R. PESKETT, C.S.I.J.B., M.S.I.A.

(Both Inspectors also hold the Certificate of the
Royal Sanitary Institute
in Meat and other Foods Inspection.)

Clerks:

Miss J. S. STEARNE.

Miss J. E. STEWART.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area: 2,393 acres.

Population (Registrar-General's Estimate, mid-year 1952):
15,020.

Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1952), according
to rate books: 4,161.

Rateable value: £139,362.

Sum represented by a penny rate, 31st March, 1953:
£548.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births—				Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion, 11.78 (Using comparability fac- tor—12.36).
Total ...	177	88	89	
Legitimate	167	84	83	
Illegitimate	10	4	6	
Still Births—				Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 11.17. Still-births Rate per 1,000 population, 0.13.
Legitimate	2	1	1	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Deaths ...	168	87	81	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion, 11.18 (Using comparability fac- tor—9.95).

(Comparability Factors: Births 1.05, Deaths 0.89).

Deaths from Puerperal causes: Nil.

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births (3) ...	16.94
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births (3)	17.96
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

The Birth Rate using the comparability factor is almost exactly the same as in 1951. It is very much lower than that of the country as a whole or that of the small towns. Actually there were eight fewer births than in 1951. I know of no reason for this, except that of deliberate limitation of families, though it is possible that there are more sterile marriages than formerly. This last note I have heard put forward as a serious cause of decreased birth rate.

Unfortunately this year our infantile mortality rate is higher, there being three deaths of infants under one year

Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality in the Year 1952. Provisional Figures.

England and Wales, 160 County Boroughs and Great Towns, and 160 Smaller Towns.	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns, in- cluding London	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000— 1951 Census)	London	GODALMING
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Rate per 1,000 Population

Live Births	-	-	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6	12.36
Still-births	-	-	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.34	0.13

Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population

All Causes	-	-	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6	9.95
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)			0.01	0.01	—	0.01	—
Influenza	-	-	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.06
Pneumonia	-	-	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.58	0.39
Tuberculosis	-	-	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.31	0.13

Rate per 1,000 Live Births

Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	-	-	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7	—
Total Deaths under 1 year	-	-	27.6	31.2	25.8	23.8	16.94

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

Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births: —

Sepsis of Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium	-	-	0.09
Abortion with Toxæmia	-	-	0.02
Other Toxæmias of Pregnancy and the Puerperium	-	-	0.21
Haemorrhage of Pregnancy and Childbirth	-	-	0.09
Abortion without mention of sepsis or Toxæmia	-	-	0.04
Abortion with sepsis	-	-	0.07
Other Complications of Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium			0.20

Godalming Deaths in 1952.

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.			
Tuberculosis—Lungs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	M.	F.	1	1
Other Infective Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Cancer—Stomach	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	1
Cancer—Lungs, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	8	—	—
Cancer—Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Cancer—Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer—Other area	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	12	11	12
Leukæmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	12	17	10
Coronary Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	9	10	9
Hypertension and Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	1	6
Other Disease of Heart	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	15	11	15
Other Circulatory Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	5	4	5
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	2	4
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pregnancy and Abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Other defined Diseases	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	8	8	8
Motor Accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	3	1
Totals	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	5	3	22	17	53	62	85	84	87	81

as against only one in 1951. One of these deaths was due to congenital deformities at two days, and the other two—pneumonia at five months, and accident of birth at two days respectively.

The Death Rate of 9.95 is amazingly low. There were actually 22 deaths less than in 1951. This rate is very considerably below that for the country as a whole, and although our infant mortality rate is higher than it was last year, it is still very much below that of the country as a whole or that of the other towns. Of the ordinary deaths, as is usual these past few years, most were due to disease of the heart and circulatory system, with cancer next. Of the 168 deaths, 115 or 68% were over 65. There is nothing in the table of deaths to indicate the presence in Godalming of any cause deleterious to health.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.** These are available at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, and the Public Health Laboratory at Epsom. Water samples are sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.** This work is done in the Borough by the Godalming Division of the British Red Cross Society for the County Council, using four full-time drivers, manning two ambulances; attendants and other members acting in a voluntary capacity.

Work done by the Society's personnel and ambulances was as follows:—

Number of calls (including 88 accidents)	...	2,270
Number of patients attended	... ..	2,854
Number of miles travelled	... ..	40,624
Voluntary hours of duty (including cinemas, fetes, etc) (With ambulance 1,190)	...	7,000

(c) **Nursing in the Home.** Three midwives serving under the Surrey County Council's scheme of financial assistance, care for the needs of the Borough.

The Nurses of the Godalming Nursing and Child Welfare Association carried out the following work during 1952:—

Number of District Cases	535
Number of District Visits	5,750
Number of Midwifery Cases	19
Number of Maternity Cases (with Doctor) ...	6
Number of Midwifery and Maternity Visits ...	534
Number of Ante-Natal Visits	266
Number of Casual Visits	280

(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 "Hillsleigh," Nightingale Road, Godalming.

Ante-Natal: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

Child Welfare: Wednesdays and Fridays, 2 to 4 p.m. (No Doctor on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays).

Dental: Mondays and Thursdays, 9.30 a.m. Other days and times by appointment only.

Diphtheria Immunisation: School Children at School Medical Clinics. Pre-School Children at Child Welfare Clinics.

Eye: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2 p.m. (by appointment only).

School Medical: Fridays, 9.30 a.m. (except during School Summer Holidays).

At St. Mark's Hall, Ockford Ridge, Godalming.

Welfare Clinic: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.

At Milford Chest Hospital, Godalming.

Tuberculosis Dispensary: 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons, by appointment.

**At South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board
Chest Clinic,
64, Epsom Road, Guildford.**

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 Diseases:

Males: Tuesdays and Fridays, 5 to 7 p.m.

Females: Mondays, 3 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 195 beds were occupied daily throughout the year. 10,285 out-patients made 34,660 attendances and in addition 16,845 patients attended the casualty department. The Hospital carries a staff of Specialists in all branches of medicine and surgery with the exception of gynaecology, paediatrics and dermatology.

(2) St. Luke's Hospital, Warren Road, Guildford; General Hospital, 392 beds (includes 57 Maternity, 54 Radiotherapy and 2 emergency). Training school for nurses and Part 1 midwifery. General Medical and Surgical, gynaecological, dermatological and paediatric wards, maternity and geriatric units, isolation unit, out-patient department, facilities for physiotherapy, light treatment and rehabilitation, X-ray unit, pathological laboratory, and Regional Radiotherapy Centre.

(3) St. Thomas' Hospital, Hydestile, Godalming. This hospital has 136 beds at present and most of the patients come from London, although the admission list does include patients from Godalming.

There is not a whole-time emergency service for road casualties and surgical or medical emergencies, although emergency cases are admitted on occasion at the particular request of the doctor concerned.

(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.

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

Infectious Disease. Cases of notified infectious disease were admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Farnham during the year. Admissions were as shown in the table:—

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	18	5	—
Dysentery ...	1	1	—
Pneumonia ...	34	—	6
Whooping Cough	61	1	—
Measles ...	32	2	—
Erysipelas ...	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis ...	2	2	—
	<hr/> 149	<hr/> 12	<hr/> 6

A mild case of food poisoning was also admitted to Hospital. This was a woman who showed evidence of digestive disturbance after partaking of the same meal as others who were entirely unaffected.

Scarlet Fever. Eighteen notifications were received, of which five cases were admitted to hospital.

Two brothers developed the disease together, and one boy of five had two attacks, one in July and one in November when his sister was also a sufferer. Obviously the boy had not developed immunity to the second strain of infection.

Considerable difficulty is now arising in connection with this disease as it is not only of a very mild nature, but the penicillin treatment given by practitioners frequently has the effect of aborting the attack, so that the child feels perfectly fit two days after the onset of the disease. A throat swab is negative and therefore the doctor considers the child fit to return to school as free from infection. As the County Council exclusion regulations lay down a period of three weeks, difficulty arises. But a throat swab taken

three or four days after the cessation of penicillin treatment may, and often does, reveal the presence of the haemolytic streptococcus again. It is only the circulating penicillin which has temporarily cleared the throat. The child is therefore again infectious. For this reason the exclusion regulations must be adhered to.

Another difficulty is the fact that a haemolytic streptococcal infection does not always result in diagnosable Scarlet Fever. That effect is only produced on certain susceptible persons. In others, a sore throat only may result. But that sore throat can cause Scarlet Fever in others.

In contacts or cases of Scarlet Fever, if there is any reason to suspect infection, e.g. sore throat, a swab must be taken from the throat and examined for haemolytic streptococci. In adults this is especially important for those engaged in handling children, e.g. school teacher or nursing attendant, or those attending parturient women, e.g. nurse, midwife or attendant; also for those handling foodstuffs, particularly milk, ice cream, cream cakes, etc.

Poliomyelitis. In spite of the outbreak in Guildford there was no spread of this disease to Godalming. Two cases, however, developed which were quite unconnected with each other or any other known case. The first of these was a woman of 34, the onset of whose disease was 22nd July. She was removed to hospital next day. Paralysis started in the right hand and spread to the arm and thigh. She was discharged from hospital on the 3rd September with all paralysis gone.

The second was a man of 40, the onset of whose disease was the 29th August. He had paralysis of the left deltoid, was removed to hospital on the 8th September, and discharged on the 3rd October cured.

Other Infectious Diseases. Other infectious diseases showed a very marked drop in incidence. There were only 32 cases of measles in place of the 521 of 1951, but 61 cases of whooping cough in place of the 32 of 1951.

Pneumonia notifications dropped from 55 to 34.

As before, measles cases were mild and so were whooping cough. Only two of the former and one of the latter received hospital treatment.

Notifiable Diseases (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	Totals
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	2	1	11	3	—	—	—	—	—	18
Pneumonia	1	1	3	2	—	5	1	—	4	2	7	8	34
Whooping Cough	3	7	10	8	9	22	—	—	—	2	—	—	61
Measles	1	4	3	8	5	10	—	—	1	—	—	—	32
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	5	13	16	20	15	48	5	—	6	6	7	8	149

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

Disease	Meadow County Secondary	Bridge Road Jun. Mixed and Infants	Moss Lane Girls and Boys	Busbridge	Farncombe, George Road	County Grammar	St. John St. Jun. Mixed and Infants	Raglan Nursery	Wharf Day Nursery	Total
Measles	...	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	17	21
Scarlet Fever	...	8	—	5	—	6	1	1	—	22
Mumps	...	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	4
Whooping Cough...	2	5	15	3	17	—	—	1	—	43
Chicken-Pox	...	3	2	27	—	13	7	8	—	64
Scabies	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
German Measles	...	2	20	9	7	5	4	—	1	48
	16	29	58	11	42	15	9	3	21	204

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Diphtheria Immunisation Statistics.

Age at 31st December, 1952	i.e., Born in Year	Number Immunised	Estimated mid-year Pop- ulation, 1952	Number and Percentage Immunised
Under 1	1952	14	967	563 (58.22%)
1	1951	115		
2	1950	161		
3	1949	131		
4	1948	142		
5—9	1947—1943	946	2157	1762 (81.68%)
10—15	1942—1938	816		
Totals, under 15	—	2325	3124	2325 (74.42%)

(Figures for Charterhouse School not included as boys are domiciled outside the Borough)

No case of diphtheria was recorded during the year. The immunisations, carried out by an assistant county medical officer for the most part, and a few by general practitioners, exceeded the totals of last year, and the percentage of children between five and fifteen years of age immunised has reached the excellent figure of 81.68%. The percentage of those under this age group is 58.22, giving a total percentage of 74.42. The fact that estimates of the child population were no longer available from the Registrar General made the obtaining of these figures from the Education Authority necessary, but as that Authority have complete figures of children aged five to fifteen, the percentages could be worked out.

The births over the past four years supplied the other figures. Results are excellent and it seems to be an established precept with all parents that diphtheria immunisation is an essential, so that little difficulty is experienced in obtaining parental co-operation.

No outbreak of diphtheria is possible in Godalming under these circumstances.

Vaccination. During 1952 there were 177 births and of these 99 were vaccinated, giving a percentage of 55.9, which is higher than the rate of 1951, and very much higher than the average throughout the country, which in 1951 was 29.6 % of infants.

The drop in infantile vaccination since the repeal of the compulsory Act is marked, and is due not only to the fact that infantile vaccination is voluntary, but that now no vaccinating officer calls at the house ready to vaccinate the baby then and there. It is to be hoped that infantile vaccination is kept up, as there is no question that infancy is the age of choice, and that vaccination for one reason or another is almost certain to be required later in life, for the Services, or foreign travel, or in face of an outbreak of smallpox. And for this last, vaccination after contact with a case of smallpox is not infrequently too late to protect from the disease, as has been unfortunately proved in recent outbreaks.

Tuberculosis. 109 cases remain on the register, 13 less than in 1951: 54 males and 55 females. These comprised—Males: Pulmonary 43, non-pulmonary 11; and Females: Pulmonary 41, non-pulmonary 14.

A special survey has been undertaken during the year to ascertain the cases actually remaining in the district and the state of health of each. As a result, many cured cases have been removed from the register.

Of the 84 pulmonary cases on the register only in three was an extra bedroom desirable for adequate segregation. Only five male and five female pulmonary and three female non-pulmonary cases were added to the register during the year, and four pulmonary cases died. Five cases were transfers from other districts, and ten left the district.

The Housing Committee re-housed three families, in each of which one member was suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

The following table shows age groups of new cases and deaths:—

Age Periods.	New Cases.					Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
1-5	...	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
5-10	...	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
10-15	...	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
15-20	...	—	1	—	1	...	—	—	—
20-25	...	—	*1	—	1	...	—	1	—
25-35	...	*2	*1	—	—	...	—	1	—
35-45	...	2	2 (1*)	—	—	...	1	—	—
45-55	...	—	—	—	1	...	—	—	—
55-65	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
65 and over	...	1	—	—	—	...	—	1	—
<hr/>									
		5	5	—	3	...	1	3	—
<hr/>									

*Transfer.

Chief 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)	1,253
Nuisances, Complaints, Advisory Visits, etc. ...	1,007
Inspections of—	
Drainage to Houses, including Tests	179
Meat Inspections	29
Bakehouses	55
Dairies, Milk-Shops, and Milk-Stores	28
Factories, Work-places and Outworkers Premises	184
Food Shops and places where food is prepared and stored, including Ice Cream Premises ...	544
Foodstuffs for condemnation	122
Offensive Trades Premises	2
Premises, reference Provision of Dustbins ...	42
Piggeries	2
Public and Private Conveniences	82
Investigations under—	
Shops and Young Persons Employment Acts ...	118
Petroleum and Carbide Acts	39
Infectious Disease Notifications and Prevention Acts (including Disinfections)	128
Part IV Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding) ...	35
Public Health Act, 1936 (Smoke Abatement) ...	4
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 (including testing and treatments of sewer man-holes)	1,807
Water Supplies (domestic and bathing purposes) ...	42
Milk Samples	36
Ice Cream Samples	36
	<hr/>
	5,770

NOTICES SERVED.

Statutory Notices	...	...	36
Informal Notices	...	...	357
Total Notices served	...	...	393
Complied with	...	...	372
Not complied with at 31.12.52			21

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.	Occupiers Prose- cuted.
Factories with Mechanical Power ...	151	19	—
Factories without Mechanical Power	30	2	—
Other premises under the Act (in- cluding works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	6	—	—
	187	21	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Premises.	Number of Defects		Referred by H.M. Inspector.	No. of Defects in respect of which Prosec- utions were Instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.		
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)				
Insufficient ...	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	18	17	7	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ...	—	1	—	—
	<hr/> 21 <hr/>	<hr/> 21 <hr/>	<hr/> 9 <hr/>	<hr/> — <hr/>

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply has continued to be satisfactory both in quantity and quality. A new deep borehole (162 feet) at Borough Road Pumping Station was brought into use in April 1952.

Samples of chlorinated and un-chlorinated water have been taken frequently from Borough Road and Ockford Road sources. The laboratory reports on these samples have shown the water to be satisfactory in all respects, except for the high proportion of iron present in the Ockford Road supply. Additional samples have been taken from various premises in the rural areas supplied by the Corporation; all these samples have also given satisfactory reports. No form of contamination has been experienced.

To avoid repetition and overlapping, sampling by the Health Department ceased during the summer on the formation of the Guildford, Godalming and District Water

Board. Copies of reports on samples taken by the Water Board in the Godalming area are forwarded to the Health Department.

The number of dwelling-houses and population supplied from the mains are:—

- (a) Direct to Houses, 7,575. Population 26,235.
- (b) By Standpipe to Houses, 2. Population 7.

New main extensions during the year were as follows:

Furze Lane, Farncombe.

New Housing Estate for Godalming Corporation:

Diameter 3in. Length 54 yards.

Binscombe Farm Estate (1st Section).

New Housing Estate for Godalming Corporation:

Diameter 6in. Length 408 yards.

Diameter 4in. Length 210 yards.

Diameter 3in. Length 64 yards.

Little London Housing Estate.

New Housing Estate for Hambledon Rural District Council:

Diameter 4in. Length 479 yards.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

New Drainage. No new major works of soil or surface water drainage were carried out during the year, except for those constructed in connection with new housing sites.

The Council is anxious to improve and enlarge the sewage disposal works at Unstead; this has not yet been possible due to current restrictions on capital expenditure.

Existing Drainage. Inspections, visits and tests were made to house drainage systems and fittings. The defects and chokages reported or discovered were dealt with by the service of notices on the persons responsible. Four formal notices had to be served, and in two of these cases the Council carried out the necessary work in default of the Owners.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No cases of pollution have been detected or reported during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are now 50 premises within the Borough not connected to main drainage. In each case a sewer is not available, or is situate at such a distance as to make connection optional, and in most cases far too expensive.

The disposal means in the unsewered areas is as follows:—

- 9 Pail Closets (at 9 premises).
- 4 Chemical Closets (serving 10 Almshouses).
- 27 Cesspools (serving 31 premises).

During the year four pail closets were converted to chemical closets, a scheme for main drainage having proved too expensive.

The majority of cesspools are constructed to act as septic tanks and the resultant effluent is disposed of by a sub-surface irrigation system.

Owners quickly executed work to cesspools, septic tanks and land-drains following the service of informal notices, thereby reducing nuisance to a minimum.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House refuse and salvage is collected weekly throughout the Borough and disposed of by controlled tipping. The Quarry tip at the entrance to Aarons Hill Estate has been filled, and tipping commenced on low lying ground adjoining Broadwater Recreation Ground. In both areas the new raised levels will eventually be grassed over and used for playing fields.

Trade refuse is also collected weekly from shops and other business premises and gave rise to no difficulty during the year.

Where there is no agreement to the contrary, occupiers of dwelling-houses are now called upon to provide their own dustbins. During the year one formal and sixteen informal notices were served on occupiers to renew defective bins. In each case a new bin was provided.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Periodical inspections were made and owners and occupiers agreed to carry out necessary improvements and

works on service of informal notices. These notices related primarily to the repair, reconditioning and provision of additional sanitary conveniences.

The provisions relating to Closing Hours, Young Persons Employment and Assistants' Half-holidays in shops were generally well observed, but it was found necessary to give warnings to the occupiers of a number of shops following contraventions of the regulations.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Four complaints were received concerning smoke nuisances. In all cases the person responsible complied with the requirements of an informal notice, and no further trouble was caused.

VERMIN.

Six infestations were reported or discovered during the year: two of fleas and four of bed-bugs. It is pleasing to note the small number of such cases arising compared with pre-war days, and also the speed and effectiveness of the methods of eradication. In each instance the infested premises were treated with insecticide containing D.D.T., and satisfactory results obtained.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The one remaining premise carrying on an offensive trade within the Borough closed during the year. No nuisance had occurred up to that time.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

In common with all other local authorities, the Council maintains a scheme under the above Act for the destruction of rats and mice. Both householders and business firms have taken full advantage of the service offered, infestations on private premises being treated free, and a charge made for treatments on business premises.

Infestations were reported by occupiers of premises and discovered during surveys by the Rodent Operator. Occupiers generally complied with verbal requests to carry out works of rat proofing, etc., but it was found necessary to

serve eleven written notices during the year, all of which were satisfactorily complied with.

Contracts. Twenty-five business firms elected to enter into a contract with the Council for payment of regular and systematic treatments. The majority of these premises are, by reason of the type of trade carried on, liable to frequent re-infestation, and require constant supervision and treatment.

Sewers. The local authority is responsible under the Act for dealing specifically with their own premises and undertakings, especially sewers. Inspections and treatments are carried out each year in March and September. Apart from a few minor infestations in different areas, there is little rat trouble in the sewers at present. The regular tests and poisonings serve to keep the sewer rat population down to a minimum.

I would like to record an appreciation of the work carried out by Mr. C. E. Hall, who was made full-time Rodent Operator from the 1st April, 1950. He has carried out his duties in a diligent and effective manner, and several written and many verbal expressions in appreciation of his services were received.

Insect Pests. Twenty-four infestations by various insect pests were successfully dealt with during the year.

New Housing.

The number of new houses built and completed during the year was as follows:—

Built by the Council	...	...	62
Built by Private Builders	...	...	10
			<hr/>
			72
			<hr/>

In addition four houses were converted into flats and provided 15 units of accommodation.

Work at the Binscombe Farm Estate is proceeding and a number of houses and bungalows have already been occupied. It is estimated that approximately 300 houses will be constructed on this site.

At the end of the year, there were 542 applicants on the Council's Housing List, and the number of applicants re-housed during the year was 96.

Existing Housing.

Inspections of dwelling-houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts totalled 224. The majority of inspections were made following complaints by occupiers, but the figure includes a proportion resulting from a limited amount of survey work.

Notices for repairs were served and these were primarily concerned with essential items of weather-proofing and structural defects, in an endeavour to maintain the premises in a reasonably habitable condition. Apart from a time lapse, the notices were fairly well complied with, and some very urgent and necessary works carried out. At the end of the year twenty-one Notices had not been complied with, but it is expected that the repairs will be completed early in the new year.

The large number of applicants on the Council's Housing List precludes any large scale demolition or closure of premises not capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost. It was, however, found necessary to make two demolition orders, one closing order and accept four undertakings not to re-let unfit houses. In four of these cases the Council are re-housing the occupants, and in one case the premises became vacant.

A basement flat which was the subject of a Closing Order was subsequently rendered fit by the Owner at considerable cost and the Closing Order therefore rescinded.

Two old cottages which were subject to an undertaking not to be re-let until rendered fit for human habitation, were in course of repair and conversion into one fit house.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1952.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

1.	By the Town Council	...	...	...	62
2.	By other persons	...	...	...	10
3.	(a) Number of houses converted into flats	...			4
	(b) Number of flats resulting from (a)	...			15

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)	224
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	254
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 ...	7
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	124

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 ...	94
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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 ... | 8 |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices— | |
| (a) By Owners | 8 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | — |

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 22 |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices— | |
| (a) By Owners | 22 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owner | — |

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 | 2 |
| 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 | 3 |
| 2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | 1 |

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. There are now eight premises where milk is sold, and of these four are licensed for the sale of Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk, and the remainder for the sale of Sterilised Milk.

In addition, two distributors come into the area from premises situate outside the Borough and are licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Inspections are carried out at all premises to ensure compliance with conditions of the Licence. During the year, 36 samples of milk were taken and sent for examination at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford; the results were as follows:—

Pasteurised Milk: 20 samples all satisfied the phosphatase and methylene blue tests.

Tuberculin Tested Milk: 12 samples all satisfied the methylene blue test.

Sterilised Milk: 4 samples all passed the turbidity test. (The samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were also submitted to biological examination and no evidence of tubercle bacilli was discovered.)

Ice Cream. Of the 41 premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, one is for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream, and the remaining 40 for the sale and storage only of ice cream. Premises are inspected to ensure that the provisions of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations are complied with. The conditions contained therein must be complied with before an application for registration is granted. During the year two new registrations were granted.

Thirty-six samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination by the methylene blue test, and results were as follows:—

Grade 1:	25.
Grade 2:	9.
Grade 3:	2.
Grade 4:	0.

Meat Supplies. Seven of the eight private slaughter-houses within the Borough are closed. Since 1940 all slaughtering has been carried out at centralised slaughter-houses, those serving this Borough being situate at Haslemere and Guildford.

During the year the new experimental abattoir at Guildford was brought into operation and arrangements were made for Godalming butchers to visit it. There are seven slaughtermen in the Borough holding licences for the slaughter of animals under the Act of 1933. One small slaughter-house in the Borough is available for emergency purposes only, by arrangement with the Ministry of Food.

Butchers' shops are inspected for cleanliness in the storage, handling and sale of food, including the provision of adequate sanitary and washing facilities. Twelve are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the preparation and manufacture of sausages. Notices for cleansing, improvements and other works to premises were complied with, and the regulations governing such premises generally well observed.

During the year it was found necessary to condemn, as unfit for human consumption, 6 lbs. Imported Mutton and 213 lbs. Home-Killed Beef. There has been some improvement in the quantity and quality of meat supplies, and the proportion found to be unfit for human consumption was indeed very small.

Food Premises. In the year under review 544 inspections were paid to premises used for the sale of food intended for human consumption. Written and verbal notices were served on Owners and Occupiers for structural works to premises, together with works of cleansing, re-decoration, and general improvements in the hygienic handling and storage, etc., of all types of foodstuffs. Efforts are made to obtain the interest and co-operation of both management and staff in maintaining cleanliness and good hygienic practices.

In general the Notices were complied with in reasonable time, except in those cases where considerable structural alterations were necessary and the costs high.

During the year the following foodstuffs found upon inspection to be unfit for human consumption were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:—

Perishable Goods:

Fish	...	...	...	39½	stone.
Sausages, Polonies, etc.				230	lbs.
Brawn, Luncheon Meat, etc.				115	lbs.
Sweets	...	...		21	lbs.
Miscellaneous		...		12	lbs.

Tinned Goods:

Jam	...	...	...	21	tins.
Fruit	...	...	...	350	tins.
Evaporated Milk		...		92	tins.
Vegetables	...	...		199	tins.
Meat	...	...	...	286	tins.
Fish	...	...	...	74	tins.
Cereals	...	...		15	packets.
Miscellaneous	...	...		49	tins.

In addition to the above list, 38 cwts. of Butter, Margarine and Cooking Fats, became contaminated, due to the flooding of a cellar storeroom in a wholesale warehouse. These fats were sent to the Ministry of Food and a proportion subsequently salvaged.

Tests were continued at cafes and restaurants to determine the cleanliness of crockery, cutlery and washing-up water by bacteriological examination. This is a voluntary measure and serves a useful purpose, by encouraging care and attention in the washing-up processes, and the consequent improvement in cleanliness generally.

The results of the tests were as follows: Fourteen series were taken involving 80 tests. Three series and 25 tests failed to reach the required standard. *B. coli* was isolated in two instances but no faecal coli was isolated. Four samples of washing-up water were found to be unsatisfactory and in three cases *B. coli* and faecal coli were isolated. Following advice on the use of detergents and sterilising agents, further samples proved that no coli was present. Generally speaking the tests reached a reasonable standard, but there is still room for improvement and a more widespread use of detergents and sterilising agents.

Adulteration and Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The Surrey County Council administers those provisions of the 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 1952:—

Formal: 34 samples of milk.

Informal: 3 samples of milk, 2 of beer, and 1 each of the following: Bacon, butter, cheese, condensed milk, cooking fat, eggs, flour, margarine, meat (cooked and prepared), meat (fresh), meat pie, mustard, sugar, tea, liver salts, tomato juice cocktail, horseradish relish, loganberries in syrup.

None were found to be adulterated or irregular.

The County Council carried out the following sampling and analyses of food and drugs during 1952 in the whole of the County area for which they are the Food and Drugs Authority:—

Samples analysed—involving 115 items of food and drugs—

Formal	...	...	...	1,306
Informal	...	...	...	321
				<hr/> 1,627

Found "adulterated or irregular"—

Formal	...	...	...	111
Informal	...	...	...	30
				<hr/> 141

There were 9 prosecutions involving various articles of food and drugs, resulting in 7 convictions: 2 in respect of milk, and 1 each in respect of whisky, ice cream, jelly, sausages and tonic syrup. Seven labelling offences were also dealt with.



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