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Contributors

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BOROUGH OF GODALMING



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
for 1954

TOGETHER WITH THAT OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1954.

*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 1954. This is my last Report as your Medical Officer of Health. My first was in 1934, exactly twenty years ago.

Since that year the population has increased from 12,520 to 15,270 and the inhabited houses from 3,369 to 4,412. The Birth Rate has dropped from 15.6 to 13.29, the Infantile Mortality from 30.6 to 14.77, and the Death rate from 10.2 to 8.91. But these figures indicate little, as the rates are liable to considerable fluctuation.

I have had very little trouble in maintaining the health of a town which is naturally healthy, in beautiful surroundings, and in which there is no influence of a deleterious nature to health with which to cope.

I have been pleased to be Medical Officer of Health of such a town, where I have always received the greatest co-operation from Council and staff. I cannot speak too highly of the zeal and competence of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Warner, with whom I have worked the whole time. A most reliable man, thoroughly versed in all angles of public health work, with whom it is a pleasure to work.

1954 has been a healthy year with really phenomenally low rates of death and infantile mortality and a low incidence of infectious disease of a serious nature; the majority of notifications being Whooping Cough.

Immunisation against Diphtheria has practically wiped out that often fatal disease and it is hoped that recent

discoveries may soon produce a similarly effective preventive for Poliomyelitis and Whooping Cough. Immunisation against the latter disease has been available since 1936, though not generally used and not always effective.

Once again I would like to thank the Health Committee and Council as well as my own staff for help and co-operation in my work; not omitting Mr. Peskett who is a most capable Sanitary Inspector, and Miss Joan Stearne who is an excellent Clerk.

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.A.

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
(resigned 25th September, 1954).

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area: 2,393 acres.

Population (Registrar-General's Estimate, mid-year 1954):
15,270.

Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1954), according
to rate books: 4,412.

Rateable value: £144,344.

Sum represented by a penny rate, 31st March, 1954:
£572.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births—				Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion, 13.29 (Using comparability fac- tor—13.95).
Total ...	203	111	92	
Legitimate	194	103	91	
Illegitimate	9	8	1	
Still Births—				Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 14.56. Still-births Rate per 1,000 population, 0.19.
Legitimate	3	2	1	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Deaths ...	136	54	82	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion, 08.91 (Using comparability fac- tor—07.66).

(Comparability Factors: Births 1.05, Deaths 0.86.)

Deaths from Puerperal causes: Nil.

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births (3)	14.77
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births (3)	10.54
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births (0)	—

The Birth Rate is well up on that of 1953, being 13.29 as against 11.91. 119 new houses were built during the year, and it is well known that young couples often wait for a home of their own before embarking on parenthood. They realise only too well the difficulties of the new baby in rooms or other people's houses. Our Birth Rate is by no means high, however, and does not compare favourably with that of other places. The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1954 was 15.2.

The Death Rate is very low, however, only 8.91 as against 10.52 in 1953. This is most satisfactory and indicates a good healthy town. Analysis of the causes of death support this, as 74 per cent. were in persons over 65 years of age, and no cause of death in any way associated with deleterious local conditions was apparent. The Death Rate for England and Wales for 1954 was 11.3.

The majority, some fifty-eight per cent., of deaths were due to circulatory disease (70 deaths). Cancer was responsible for twenty-six deaths, of which only four were due to lung infection.

Pneumonia caused twelve deaths and bronchitis four. Of these pneumonia cases none were notified.

Only one other infective disease caused a death and this was a case of meningitis of unknown origin, presumably tubercular.

The infantile mortality was only 14.77 (three deaths), which compares very favourably indeed with the 24.63 of 1953, and the 25.5 for England and Wales, and is a really excellent figure, showing that our Godalming babies are healthy and well cared for. Of these three deaths, only two can be found in local returns. One was a male child of twelve hours who died from prematurity, and the other a female of four months who died from broncho-pneumonia.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.** These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the new Public Health Laboratory at St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford. All examinations and tests are carried out free of charge to Local Authorities.

Godalming Deaths in 1954.

Cause of Death	Age at Death											Total		R.G. Total							
	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.								
Tuberculosis—Lungs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Tuberculosis—Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other Infective Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cancer—Stomach	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cancer—Lungs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cancer—Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cancer—Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cancer—Other sites	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Leukæmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Coronary Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other Circulatory Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Gastritis and Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Nephritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other defined Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Accidents—Motor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Accidents—Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals	1	1	—	—	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	15	10	2	15	10	33	65	51	81
	1	1	—	—	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	15	10	2	15	10	33	65	51	81
	1	1	—	—	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	15	10	2	15	10	33	65	51	81

(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, (six since September) manning two ambulances; attendants and other members acting in a voluntary capacity, and personnel on the Station day and night.

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

Number of calls (including 89 accidents)	
(Road 43)	2,284
Number of patients attended	2,759
Number of miles travelled	42,268
Voluntary hours of duty (including cinemas, fetes, etc.) (with ambulance 1,236) ...	7,172

(c) **Nursing in the Home.** There are three District Nurse-Midwives employed in the Godalming and Farncombe District Nursing Service. Their work for 1954 is as follows:—

General Nursing Cases	425
Nursing Visits	6,534
Midwifery and Maternity Cases... ..	56
Midwifery and Maternity Visits... ..	900
Ante-Natal Visits	325
Advisory and Follow-up Visits	51

(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. 3rd Thursdays, 9.30 a.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, near Godalming.

Chest Clinic: 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons, 1.30 to 5.30 p.m., by appointment.

**At South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board
Chest Clinic,**

64, Epsom Road, Guildford (Telephone: 61421).

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.

(c) Hospital Provision.

(1) The Royal Surrey County Hospital at Guildford offers 232 beds. An average of 193 beds were occupied daily throughout the year. 10,385 out-patients made 37,959 attendances, and in addition 18,728 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 and 54 Radiotherapy). 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 134 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.** There is only one registered nursing home in the Borough in the name of the Franciscan Sisters, Mount Alvernia, Godalming, with accommodation for fifteen maternity, surgical and medical patients.

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

Infectious Disease. Notifications of Infectious Diseases and admissions to hospital are shown in the Table:—

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Poliomyelitis ...	6	6	—
Scarlet Fever ...	4	1	—
	<hr/> 10 <hr/>	<hr/> 7 <hr/>	<hr/> — <hr/>

There were 92 cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1954. The majority of these were Whooping Cough with 57 cases, but as none of these received hospital treatment, it would seem that the disease was not severe. In the case of this disease as with measles it is now possible to prevent the incidence of complications by the use of penicillin and other antibiotics, so that the fatal complications such as broncho-pneumonia are avoided, and the disease not severe.

The most serious disease which occurred during the year was Poliomyelitis, with six cases.

Poliomyelitis. No one of the six cases had any common contact: each was individual with contacts of his own. There did not therefore appear to have been any proved spread of disease from the cases.

The first case was a boy of eight years. He first complained of pains in his legs on the 30th September and the doctor saw him the following day. The leg pains were followed by paralysis of the left ankle and lower erector spinae muscle. The diagnosis of Poliomyelitis being established, he was removed to Farnham Isolation Hospital on the 5th October. There he remained until the 9th November when he was discharged. Only a slight weakness of the left leg resulted and this seemed likely to clear.

The second case was a girl of seven years who commenced with vomiting at school on the 5th October but did not take to bed until the 9th, when she developed paralysis of both legs. She was sent to hospital next day. She was a severe case but kept very bright. She had urinary retention and paralysis had spread to the abdominal muscles by the 12th. She was transferred to the Special Hospital at Alton that day and there gradually improved, but so slowly that she had not been discharged in February 1955, when the Medical Superintendent's report stated that spine and trunk muscles were still very weak, the right leg was completely paralysed, but the left leg had regained strength. It was anticipated that she would be a further three months at Alton. Unfortunately she sustained a fracture of her right femur due to a fall out of bed on April 1st. This has been treated and she is receiving physiotherapy still in hospital.

The third case was a boy of fourteen years who commenced illness with pains in stomach and back on the 12th October. He was for some time considered as a non-paralytic case, but a month later was transferred from the Isolation Hospital to Alton, with weakness of the quadriceps extensors. It was considered that his recovery would be complete. In February 1955 he was fully mobile with no residual weakness.

The fourth case, a boy of two years, took ill on the 15th October with malaise. He developed paralysis of his left leg five days later but was discharged from hospital a month later. He was unable to walk well and was having physiotherapy.

The fifth case, a boy of seven years, became ill on the 8th November with headache, backache, and pyrexia. The following day he developed paralysis of his neck and legs and was removed to hospital, where he remained until he was transferred to Alton on the 1st December. On the 17th February 1955 he was reported as having residual muscle weakness in the back and moderate scoliosis, for which he was having physiotherapy. He was discharged in March 1955, looking well and with excellent posture. He has to re-visit the hospital for review from time to time.

The sixth and last case, a boy of nine years, took ill on the 16th November and was sent to hospital two days later. He had a stiff neck but attended school until mid-day when he came home and went to bed with a temperature of 102°F. Temperature fell next day. He did not develop paralysis.

The points most noteworthy about these cases were: Firstly, the fact that, though all occurred within a few days of each other, no connection whatever could be established between them. Secondly, in one case, close contacts were found to be food handlers but there is no legal authority to exclude such persons from work nor to compensate them for such exclusion. However, both firms co-operated completely with me and allowed the contacts to be off work for the quarantine period without loss of wages.

This is a matter which has already been brought to the notice of the Ministry and which it is hoped will be dealt with legislatively in the near future. There is already authority to exclude contacts of other diseases from work and compensate them.

Whooping Cough. There were 57 notifications of this disease but no case went to hospital. Immunisation against this disease was started in 1953, so that it is to be hoped that all mothers will avail themselves of this for their babies, so that the incidence of the disease may be postponed until the child is more of an age to resist infection or the disease is modified and the attack not serious. It is to be noted that only five cases occurred in children under one year and the majority in the five to ten year age group, when children are more able to cope with illness than a baby under one year. 104 children were immunised against Whooping Cough in 1954, and of these only two developed Whooping Cough, one a year and the other eighteen months afterwards.

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Born in Year		Primary Injection.	Reinforcing Injection.
1954	...	4	—
1953	...	79	—
1952	...	4	—
1951	...	3	1
1950	...	3	—
1949-1945	...	7	2
1944-1940	...	4	—
		<hr/> 104	<hr/> 3

Other diseases were low in incidence: Scarlet Fever four, and Measles three notifications.

Food Poisoning. Two cases of Food Poisoning were notified, sisters of five and one years old being taken ill with diarrhoea. *Salmonella typhi-murium* was isolated from the stools. As notification was five days after onset of illness, it was too late to trace any infected food, and no likely source of infection was discovered.

Repeatedly it happens that all effective action in cases suspected to be food poisoning is rendered impossible by delayed notification. This might easily be serious if there was a food causing serious illness consumed by many, such as a meat pie one of a consignment similarly infected. Any action to stop sale would be too late unless notification was immediate. Doctors should not wait for bacteriological confirmation, but should notify on suspicion if effective action is to be taken in time to prevent danger to others.

Gastro Enteritis. Five cases were notified, all members of one family. The history was that the baby of nine months took ill with vomiting and diarrhoea in January and was admitted to hospital, but discharged after a week. The same evening he was so ill that the parents took him to a London Hospital, where he was detained from the 20th January to the 13th February. On the 26th February the father and a brother of two and a half years became ill with abdominal pain and diarrhoea and the mother also had diarrhoea, and was followed by a sister of thirteen years and a brother of five years. It seemed obvious that the baby had conveyed infection to the other members of the family as no care was taken to avoid such infection. The infecting organism was unknown.

Pneumonia. Eight cases were notified but twelve deaths were ascribed to this disease, none notified. In view of the fact that no preventive measure is applicable to this disease, its continued notification seems quite unnecessary.

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	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	3	8
Whooping Cough	5	4	3	7	4	32	1	—	1	—	—	—	57
Measles	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Food Poisoning	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	5
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
	6	5	5	7	7	42	3	—	2	4	2	3	86

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

Disease	Meadrow County Secondary	Bridge Road Jun. Mixed and Infants	Moss Lane C. of E. Girls and Boys	Busbridge	Farncombe, George Rd. Infants	County Grammar	St. John Street Junior Mixed	Wharf Day Nursery	Total
Poliomyelitis ...	12	22	—	—	5	—	6	—	45
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	3	—	24	—	3	—	30
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	—	1	5	1	—	—	8
Chicken-Pox ...	5	69	20	4	—	1	3	6	108
Mumps ...	8	44	38	—	87	2	6	10	195
Jaundice ...	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
German Measles...	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	5
Strep. Throat ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
	26	143	61	7	124	4	19	16	400

Diphtheria Immunisation.**Diphtheria Immunisation Statistics.**

Age at 31st December, 1954	i.e., Born in Year	Number Immunised	Estimated mid-year Pop- ulation, 1954	Number and Percentage Immunised
Under 1	1954	6	948	545 (57.49%)
1	1953	111		
2	1952	133		
3	1951	131		
4	1950	164		
5—9	1949—1945	857	2430	1756 (72.22%)
10—14	1944—1940	899		
Totals, under 15	—	2301	3378	2301 (68.11%)

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

2,301 children were immunised in the Borough of Godalming against Diphtheria during 1954. The Table shows the numbers in each age group.

It still remains of vital importance that children should be immunised against Diphtheria, as the disease is as virulent as ever in those not immunised, and its severity has in no way diminished. When it does occur its immediate diagnosis and treatment without delay is as essential as ever.

The particulars from the report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health for 1953 are as follows:—

199,378 children were immunised before their first birthday and no case occurred in a child under twelve months. The case mortality figure was 8.65 per cent.; 264 cases only being notified during the whole year and 23 deaths.

180 cases of Diphtheria under 15 years were notified, of which 64 were immunised. There were 14 deaths and only one of those children was immunised.

Vaccination. There are three important reasons why vaccination against Smallpox is still necessary. These are: (1) If in contact with a case of Smallpox, the vaccinated person will either be completely protected, or the disease will attack in a modified form. (2) Vaccination will be done on joining the services for call-up and then takes more severely than if it had been previously done in infancy. (3) If going overseas to an eastern country or America, vaccination is insisted upon before one is allowed to land and is carried out before embarkation; again less serious if done in infancy.

The best age with least reaction is at three or four months of age.

During 1954 there were 203 births, and of these 71 were vaccinated, giving a percentage of 34.98 % as against 32.64 % in 1953.

The vaccination figures for England and Wales were: Of the 679,757 births during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1953, 231,200 primary vaccinations of children under one year were done, giving an acceptance rate of 34 per cent. for England and Wales.

Tuberculosis. There were 100 cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year: 49 males and 51 females—two less than 1953. Of these, 42 males and 40 females had pulmonary disease and 7 males and 11 females non-pulmonary.

Of the 82 pulmonary cases, 39 had a separate bedroom, and 43 shared a bedroom (though in fifteen of these a separate bedroom was available).

Five pulmonary cases were in Sanatoria at 31st December, 1954.

One family was re-housed by the Council from unsatisfactory housing conditions.

After-Care. The work of the Godalming and Haslemere Tuberculosis Care Committee continued throughout the year. Mr. Warner reports that twelve Godalming and

thirteen Haslemere families were assisted to the extent of £122 17s. 3d. where State allowances did not cover the necessities required, or emergency expenses to be met.

The Committee raised £106 18s. 3d. by voluntary effort, mainly through the sale of Christmas Seals: a loss of £38 6s. 1d. on the 1953 income. It is hoped that the County Council grant of £50 will enable the Committee to meet expenses in 1955.

The following Table shows age groups of new cases and deaths during 1954:—

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	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
20-25	...	—	1	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
25-35	(1*) 2	2 (1*)	—	—	...	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	...	1*	1*	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
45-55	...	1	1	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
55-65	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
65 and over	(1*) 2	—	—	—	...	1	—	—	—	—
		7	5	—	—	...	1	—	—	—

* Transfers.

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)	1,288
Nuisances, Complaints, Advisory Visits, etc. ...	1,369
Inspections of—	
Drainage to Houses, including Tests	87
Meat Inspections	36
Bakehouses	75
Dairies Milk-Shops, and Milk Stores	34
Factories, Work-places and Outworkers' Premises	120
Food Shops and places where food is prepared and stored, including Ice Cream Premises ...	547
Food-stuffs for condemnation	73
Premises, reference Provision of Dustbins ...	119
Piggeries	19
Public and Private Conveniences	83
Miscellaneous Inspections	67
Investigations and Inspections under—	
Shops and Young Persons Employment Acts ...	146
Petroleum and Carbide Acts	93
Infectious Disease Notifications (including Disinfections)	331
Part IV Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding) ...	6
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 (including testing and treatments of sewer man-holes)	1,252
Water Supplies	18
Milk Samples	34
Ice Cream Samples	24
	5,821

NOTICES SERVED.

Statutory Notices	...	...	21
Informal Notices	...	...	310
Total Notices Served	...	...	<u>331</u>
Not complied with at 31.12.54			<u>36</u>

Factories Act, 1937.

(Information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service.)

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

Premises.	Inspec- tions.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prose- cuted.
Factories with Mechanical Power ...	104	9	—
Factories without Mechanical Power	12	3	—
Other premises under the Act (in- cluding works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	11	—	—
	<u>127</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>—</u>

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Premises.	Number of Defects		Referred by H.M. Inspector.	No. of Defects in respect of which Prose- cutions were Instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.		
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)				
Insufficient ...	2	—	1	—
Unsuitable or defective	6	6	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 3	<hr/> —

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**WATER SUPPLY.**

Public Water Supply is by the Guildford, Godalming and District Joint Water Board. The water is of a high standard of bacterial purity and is sufficient for the present needs of the District. All supplies are chlorinated to ensure a safe supply.

Frequent samples are taken from all sources of supply and from various points within the Borough and other areas supplied. No form of contamination has been detected during the year, though there continued to be a high content of iron in water from one source in particular.

The number of dwelling houses and the population in the Borough supplied from the mains is as follows:—

- (a) Direct to houses, 4,412. Population 15,263.
- (b) By stand-pipe to houses, 2. Population 7 (serving 10 Almshouses).

New main extensions made during the year were as follows:

Serving New Estate: Binscombe Farm, Stage IV.
231 yards 4in. main.

Improving General Supply: Frith Hill to Binscombe.
1,142 yards 9in. and 12in. trunk main.

There is only one private well in use in the Borough and this is used for trade purposes only; mains water being available for drinking and domestic purposes. Two samples were taken from the well during the year and the water proved to be of a satisfactory bacterial standard.

With the exception of the ten Almshouses, which are supplied by two stand-pipes, all other houses in the Borough have mains water piped into the houses.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

New Drainage.

A scheme of reconstruction on the lower portion of Charterhouse Road is in progress and this includes a surface water sewer which it is hoped will ultimately be extended for the whole length of Charterhouse Road.

The first stage of the reconstruction of the Council's Sewage Disposal Works commenced during the latter half of the year and good progress has been made.

Existing Drainage.

Eighty-seven inspections were made to drainage systems of private premises and twelve tests carried out. In each case defects found were remedied, though it was necessary to serve four formal notices before Owners carried out the works required.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

One case of pollution was reported during the year and on service of an informal notice the stream was cleansed and measures taken to prevent a recurrence of the nuisance.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Inspections were made at all premises not served by the main sewer. There are fifty-one such premises in the Borough, and in each case a sewer is sited either at such a

level as to make connection impracticable or at so great a distance as to make connection thereto optional under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The means of sewage disposal for the premises situated in these areas is as follows:—

- 4 Pail Closets serving 4 premises.
- 8 Chemical Closets serving 4 premises and 10 Almshouses.
- 28 Cesspools serving 33 premises.

The majority of cesspools are constructed to act as septic tanks, and the resulting effluent is disposed of by means of sub-surface irrigation systems.

Owners executed works to cesspools, septic tanks and land drains following service of informal notices and little difficulty was experienced.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House refuse and salvage is collected weekly from all premises in the Borough by means of standard refuse collection vehicles, and is disposed of by controlled tipping on low lying ground at Broadwater. The tip is very well maintained and continues to be remarkably free from infestation by rats or other vermin.

The present policy in determining who is responsible for the provision of a new dustbin is based on whether an Agreement exists between Landlord and Tenant. Where there is no such Agreement, in the first instance, the tenant is asked to instal a bin. In cases of dispute, facts are placed before the Health Committee for a decision upon whom to serve a Formal Notice. During the year four Formal Notices, under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were served on occupiers, who subsequently complied with the Notices and installed new dustbins.

SHOPS ACTS.

A total of 146 inspections and visits were made to shop premises regarding employees' welfare and other provisions of the Act; these were found to be generally well complied with. The defects and contraventions found upon inspection were remedied by the Shop-keepers without resort to statutory action.

The provisions relating to closing hours, assistants' half-holidays, etc. were generally well observed, but two cases of non-compliance with the Act were dealt with. Complaints were received regarding the sale of unauthorised goods on Sundays, and the sale of goods after Official Closing Hours, and in these cases the persons concerned were cautioned and advised.

PETROLEUM ACTS, 1928-1936.

There are 33 premises licensed annually for the storage of Petroleum Spirit and Petroleum Mixtures. During the year, 93 inspections were made to these premises to ensure that the licence conditions were observed and adequate safety measures taken. New units comprising underground tanks and surface pumps were installed and satisfied the standard tests.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Three complaints were received during the year concerning smoke nuisances. In each case the person responsible complied with the requirements of an informal notice and abated the nuisance.

INSECT PESTS.

The following infestations were discovered or reported during the year:—

Vermin	...	...	...	...	2
Woodworm	...	...	...	...	10
Wasps	...	...	...	...	88
Other Pests	...	...	...	...	25

In each case the use of a suitable insecticide spray or powder gave an excellent measure of control.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfections were carried out to ten premises, following the removal to hospital, or death, of infectious persons.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are now no offensive trades carried on within the Borough.

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. Occupiers of private houses and business premises take full advantage of the service; private premises being treated free, and a charge made for business premises.

Infestations were reported by occupiers of premises or discovered during surveys carried out by the Rodent Operator. Occupiers were generally very co-operative in carrying out essential works, rat-proofing, etc., to assist in the destruction of the rats and mice, but during the year it was found necessary to serve ten informal Notices, under Section 4 of the Act, to carry out structural and rat-proofing works to infested premises. No formal notices were served during the year.

Contracts. Twenty-nine business firms elected to enter into a Contract with the Council for regular and systematic treatment of their premises for rats and mice. The majority of these premises are by reason of the type of trade carried on, liable to frequent re-infestation, and therefore constant and regular treatment is necessary. The contracts produced an income of £121 18s. 4d. for the year. Four new contracts were effected during the year, and the system continues to operate to the satisfaction of both contracting parties.

Sewer Treatments. Over past years routine baiting and treatment of the soil sewers has been carried out at six-monthly intervals. This work has greatly reduced the sewer rat population and for the time being the sewers are being treated only where a surface infestation involves the drainage system.

Rodent Operator. Mr. C. E. Hall has filled this post for the past five years and has carried out his duties in a most conscientious manner. In addition to rodent control he does much useful work in the destruction of various insect pests and assisting in the examination and testing of drainage systems.

NEW HOUSING.

The provision of new housing units continues, private builders having erected a number of houses on estates in

addition to houses erected on individual sites. The Council housing scheme at Binscombe is still making good progress, and 168 houses had been completed by 31st December, 1954. 455 applicants remain on the Council's housing list and the number of applicants re-housed during the year was 100.

Special cases are referred to the Health Department for enquiry and report, particularly where applicants are alleged to be living in overcrowded or unfit houses, or suffering from Tuberculosis, and cases in these categories receive special consideration.

EXISTING HOUSING.

A total of 266 houses have been inspected during the year under the Housing and Public Health Acts. This figure comprises routine inspections made to enforce general repairs and also inspections made in connection with a Survey of older houses liable to closure or demolition, for a report to be submitted to the Ministry by August 1955.

A considerable amount of repair and reconditioning work has been carried out to all types of properties and the repair notices were generally well complied with, though sixteen Formal Notices had to be served, and in one case proceedings taken against an Owner to enforce essential repairs. The repair of the old low-rented houses still presents a difficult economic problem which even new legislation has so far failed to solve. During the year, nine premises unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable expense, were dealt with under the Housing Act. This brings the total number of unfit premises closed or demolished since 1948, to twenty-seven.

Improvement Grants. Every assistance and encouragement is given to Owners to take advantage of the Grants offered under the Housing Acts, and during the year nineteen applications were received. The Council approved Grants in twelve of these cases, two applications were withdrawn, and the remainder found to be ineligible.

Certificates of Disrepair. Fourteen applications were received for Certificates under the 1954 Act and in ten cases the Council issued certificates. One certificate was subsequently revoked on the completion of the outstanding items of repair.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1954.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

1. By the Town Council	...	...	...	60
2. By other persons	...	...	...	59
3. Number of houses converted into flats	...			2

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)	...	...	...	266
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose				301
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			...	9
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		...	...	230

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	...	139
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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 ...	55
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 Owner	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	110
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices—	
(a) By Owners	13
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owner	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
3. Number of dwelling houses closed on Undertaking from Owners not to re-let for human habitation	9

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

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

General.

A total of 765 visits have been made to various food premises used for the storage, preparation, manufacture, or sale of food intended for human consumption.

Contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Food Hygiene Byelaws were dealt with by the service of informal notices both written and verbal, and a large number of improvements made to premises. During inspections, advice has been given on measures to prevent contamination of food and the improvement of hygienic conditions in the storage and handling of food.

All proposed food premises, together with conversions and alterations, are carefully watched, with the co-operation of other Departments. Advice and suggestions in the early stages of improvement schemes are much appreciated and results in the maintenance of a good standard.

Food Inspection.

The following is a list of foodstuffs inspected during the year and found to be unfit for human consumption. All goods specified were voluntarily surrendered and collected by the Health Department for proper disposal by means of controlled tipping, incineration, or salvage for animal feeding stuffs, etc. No difficulties have been experienced.

Perishable Goods:

Meat, English and Imported, including Offals	...	...	1,062 lbs.
Fish	...	...	306 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	31 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	98 lbs.
Cereals, Fruit, etc.	...	...	75 lbs.
			1,272 lbs.

Tinned Goods:

Meats, various	...	...	78 tins
Fish, various	...	...	23 tins
Vegetables, mixed	...	...	91 tins
Fruits, various	...	...	151 tins
Milk, evaporated and condensed			76 tins
			419 tins

Milk Supplies.

All milk supplies sold or distributed in the Borough are designated milks. There are four dairies licensed for the sale of Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested, and Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) milk. Six persons hold licences for the sale of Sterilised Milk, and two distributors hold licences to sell Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk in the Borough from premises situated outside the Borough.

Routine inspection and sampling is carried out at all licensed premises to ensure that the milk is handled, stored and distributed in accordance with Regulations.

During the year 34 samples of milk were taken and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory at St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford. This Laboratory provides a free service for Local Authorities and is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health.

The results of the samples taken are as follows:—

Sterilised Milk:	5 samples—	5 satisfactory.
Pasteurised Milk:	19 samples—	19 satisfactory.
Tuberculin Tested Milk:	10 samples—	9 satisfactory.

All samples except one satisfied the prescribed tests. In addition to submission for bacteriological examination, all samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were examined biologically for the presence of tubercle bacilli. No evidence of infection was found.

Ice Cream Premises (and Confectioners).

No ice cream is manufactured in the Borough and no "loose" ice cream sold except from proper premises. Forty-nine premises are licensed for the sale and storage of ice cream, and during the year three new licences were granted. Two licence holders sell ice cream from mobile vehicles but all ice cream is wrapped or in closed containers.

Twenty-four samples of ice cream have been taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination by the Methylene Blue Test. The samples gave the following results:—

Grade I	...	...	...	20
Grade II	...	...	...	4

Premises are inspected to ensure that the regulations are complied with and inspection and sampling showed that the conditions were well observed.

Bakehouses and Cake Shops.

There are fifteen premises used primarily for the sale of bread, cakes and confectionery. Twelve of these have their own bakehouses. There are no underground bakehouses in the Borough.

Regular visits are paid to all bakehouses to enforce the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and Byelaws. Written and verbal notices served requiring cleansing, repairs, and structural improvements were generally well complied with. Three improvement schemes were completed during the year and a new model bakehouse is in course of construction to replace one of the oldest still in use.

Fish Shops.

There are eleven fish shops in the Borough, five of these being fried fish shops. All shops now have closed fronts and the premises were generally well maintained and little difficulty was experienced.

Licensed Premises.

The twenty-seven licensed premises in the Borough have satisfactory sanitary accommodation for persons frequenting the premises. All are supplied with adequate facilities for cleansing glasses, etc., and have a constant supply of hot water to sinks.

Restaurants, Cafes and Canteens.

Inspections made to the twenty-three premises classed under this heading ensured compliance with existing legislation and gave opportunity for discussion and advice on hygienic practices and the condition of premises, etc.

One cafe closed during the year and one new combined Snack Bar/Restaurant was constructed to replace an existing mobile cafe. Occupiers co-operated in the endeavours made to maintain a good standard of cleanliness and readily responded to written and verbal notices. No statutory action was necessary.

Grocers, Greengrocers, etc.

There are fifty-three such premises at present in use. Inspections and advisory visits are made to promote cleanliness, prevent forms of contamination and ensure that adequate washing facilities and hot water supplies are readily available for all persons employed. Foodstuffs inspected and found unfit for human consumption are listed elsewhere in this report.

Meat Supplies.

The thirteen butchers' shops in the Borough are all registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture of sausages, etc., and each is inspected from time to time to detect contraventions of the various enactments, and for the inspection of meat and other products. Meat and offal found unfit for human consumption is listed under Food Inspection, and disposed of as described. The quantity found unfit is really minute in comparison with the amount consumed in the area, and there is little doubt that the quality of all meat offered for sale continues to improve.

The restrictions on meat supplies and slaughterhouses were lifted during the year. All local slaughterhouses had been closed during the control period and none were sited or fit for use, nor could they be made so at an economic cost. In consequence the Borough joined a scheme whereby the needs of the district for home-killed meat would be met by the modern Abattoir at Guildford, with no slaughterhouse licences issued in this area: an arrangement which appears to be working quite satisfactorily.

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 the 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 1954:—

Formal: 35 samples of milk.

Informal: Three samples of dried apricots; two samples each of preserved fruit and soft drinks; and one sample each of the following: Milk, butter, cheese, flour, jam, dried peaches, sausages, aspirin tablets, cod liver oil emulsion, ephedrine hydrochloride tablets and mineral oil.

One sample of preserved fruit and one of soft drinks were found to be adulterated or irregular.

The County Council carried out the following sampling and analyses of food and drugs during 1954 in the whole of the County area for which they are the Food and Drugs Authority:—

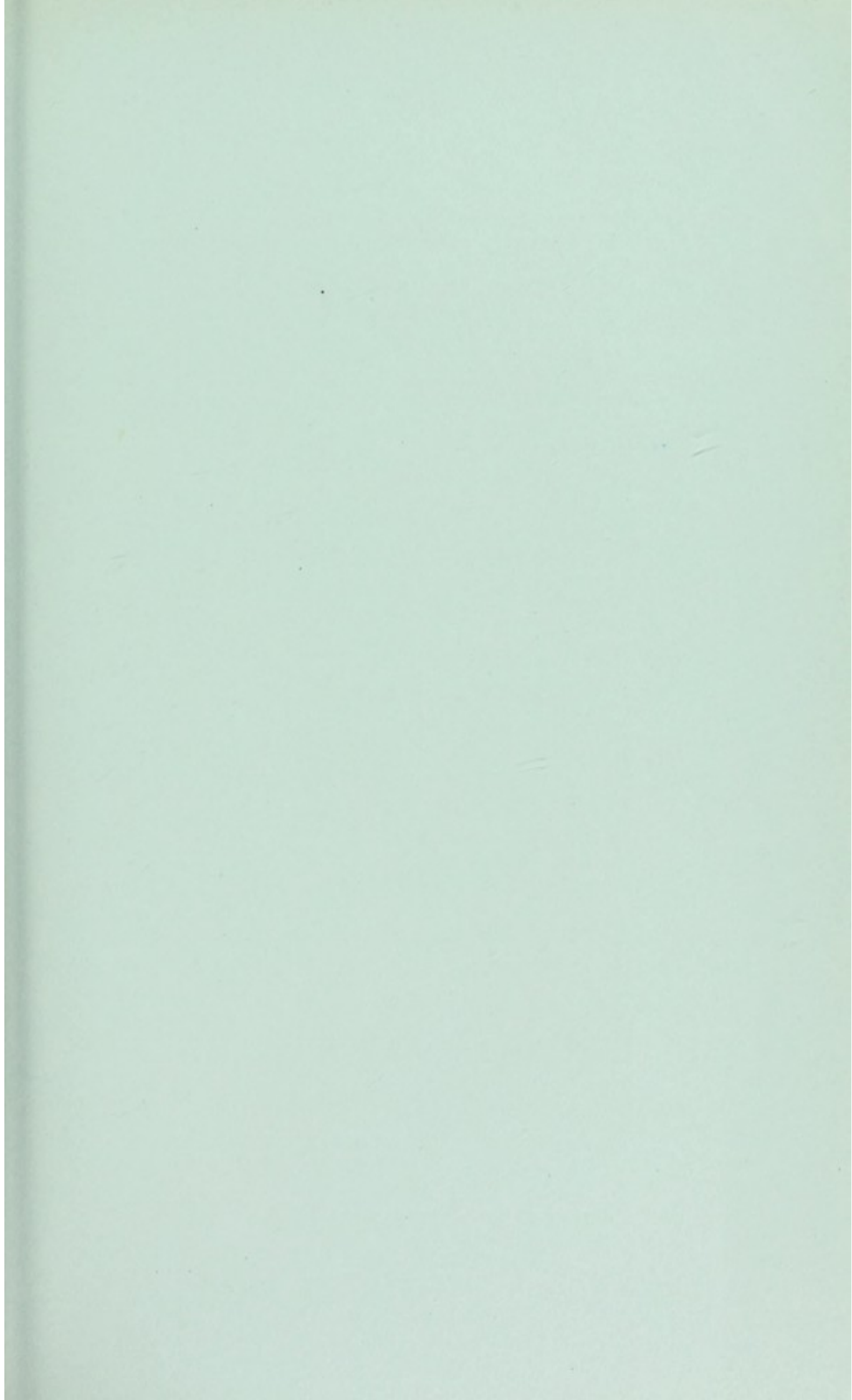
Samples analysed—involving 96 items of food and drugs:—

Formal	...	...	...	1,273
Informal	...	...	...	231

“Found adulterated or irregular”—

Formal	...	...	...	67
Informal	...	...	...	11

Legal proceedings were instituted and a conviction obtained against a dairy farmer for selling three samples of milk containing added water.



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