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BOROUGH OF GODALMING

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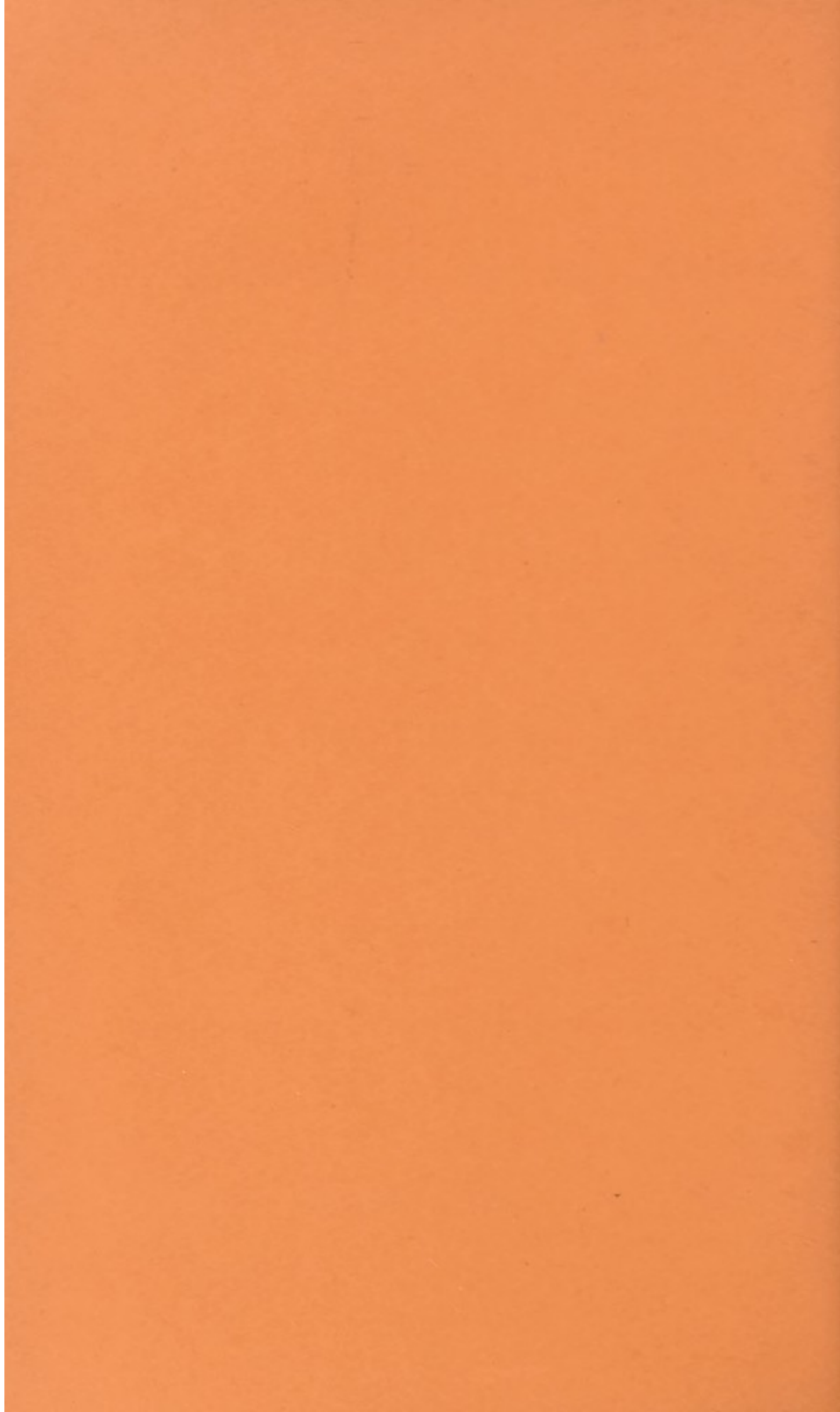
# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health  
for 1955

TOGETHER WITH THAT OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector





# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

for 1955.

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

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1955, the last year in which my predecessor, Dr. Belam, was your Medical Officer of Health. It is a pleasant duty to undertake, for under his guidance the health of the Borough has reached a very high standard, as the pages of the Report will show.

Notifications of Infectious Disease were greater in 1955 than in 1954, being 142 as against 92, but 134 of these cases were due to Measles. The number of cases of Infectious Diseases admitted to Hospital, which is a good index of the severity or otherwise of such cases, was only 7, the same number as in 1954.

The Death Rate remains low, and it is a remarkable fact that one third of the deaths occurred over the age of 75, and there were a number of nonagenarians.

At the other end of the scale, it is gratifying to note that the Infant Mortality Rate remains within the low figure which was achieved by the County of Surrey in 1955, a figure to which all concerned with Maternity and Infant Welfare have contributed. There was no Maternal Death.

During 1955, good progress was made with the County Council's campaign to secure B.C.G. vaccination of 13-year old school children under the County Council's scheme,

initiated at the end of 1954: this is a positive preventive measure which should materially assist in the campaign to eradicate tuberculosis. About three-quarters of the parents give their consent to this procedure.

A cause for great concern from the Public Health angle during the last few months of the year was the chemical contamination of the water supply from some of the wells at the Borough Road Pumping Station. This necessitated cutting out the sources involved, and the taking of the necessary steps to deal with the source of contamination. This incident serves most forcibly to show how vulnerable these shallow wells are to contamination, and the need for constant sampling and adequate treatment of the raw water: it also serves to reinforce the need for adding as soon as possible to the present sources of supply.

During the year under review the very necessary extensions to the Sewage Disposal Works were continued; as a result of these new works satisfactory treatment of the greatly increased volume of sewage should be practicable, and a cause for much concern be obviated.

In conclusion, I would like, on behalf of Dr. Belam and myself, to thank the members of the Health Committee and the Council for their advice and help, and express the thanks of the members of the Health Department to the Officers of the Council for their co-operation.

I am, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. B. R. FINN,

Medical Officer of Health.



## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

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### Medical Officer of Health:

F. A. BELAM, T.D., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.I.  
(Retired 31st December, 1955).

A. B. R. FINN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.  
(From 1st January, 1956).

### 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.)

### Clerk:

Miss J. S. STEARNE.

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## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area: 2,393 acres.

Population (Registrar-General's Estimate, mid-year 1955):  
15,400.

Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1955), according  
to rate books: 4,557.

Rateable Value: £148,645.

Sum represented by a penny rate, 31st March, 1955:  
Actual, £587. Estimated 1955-56, £604.

## Extracts from Vital Statistics

(Comparative of the years 1954 and 1955).

		1954			1955			England and Wales, 1955.
		Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Live Births	...	203	111	92	207	105	102	
Legitimate	...	194	103	91	197	102	95	
Illegitimate	...	9	8	1	10	3	7	
Live Birth Rate, per 1,000 of Estimated Population	...	13.29			13.44			15
Still Births—								
Legitimate	...	3	2	1	3	2	1	
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Still Birth Rate, per 1,000 Live and Still Births	...	14.56			14.28			23.1
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	...	3			5			
Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live Births		14.77			24.15			24.9
Deaths	...	136	54	82	153	80	73	
Death Rate, per 1,000 of Estimated Population	...	8.91			9.93			11.7

The Birth Rate remains practically unchanged from last year at 13.29. This is a little below the national figure of 15, and calls for no especial comment.

The Death Rate is a little higher than in 1954, being 9.93 as against 8.91, but in a small population such as that of Godalming every small variation in the number of deaths is magnified when converted into a Death Rate. The Death Rate for England and Wales for 1955 was 11.7, and the Godalming figures are entirely satisfactory. Godalming's population, in common with that of other places, is an ageing one, and 58 per cent. of the deaths were in persons over 65 years of age.

Diseases of the Heart and Arteries accounted for half the deaths, as is usual: disease of the Coronary Arteries of the Heart was the largest single cause of death, occurring



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almost equally in the age groups 45-65 and over 65. Cancer is unfortunately still the second biggest cause, being responsible for 35 deaths as against 26 in 1954: deaths from Cancer of the Lung remained at four, all in males. Recent statistical research indicates that there is a clear relationship between lung cancer and cigarette smoking, and while it appears to be not the only factor, nevertheless this is sufficient evidence to make it clear that efforts should be made by all concerned with the young to discourage heavy cigarette smoking.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis or other infective diseases; better housing, better health education, better prevention and better treatment have all played their part over the years. Deaths from respiratory disease are insignificant, a reminder that the population of Godalming is lucky enough to live in an area unaffected by heavy degrees of smoke and consequent smog.

The Infant Mortality Rate, which was unusually low in 1954, was 24.15 in 1955; the figure for England and Wales was 24.9, the lowest ever recorded in this country. Of these five infant deaths, three were due to Pneumonia, and two to Congenital defects, i.e., defects in development present at birth.

### **General Provision of Health Services for the Area.**

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

(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 six full-time drivers manning two ambulances; attendants and other members act in a voluntary capacity, and personnel are on the Station day and night.

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

Number of calls (including 106 accidents)	
(Road 45) ... ..	2,543
Number of patients attended ... ..	3,131
Number of miles travelled ... ..	41,055
Voluntary hours of duty (including cinemas, fetes, etc., also ambulance) ... ..	8,007

(c) **Nursing in the Home.** This work is carried out in the Borough by three excellent vocational highly trained Queen's District Nursing Sisters. The work runs smoothly and has increased over the past year. Their work for 1955 is as follows:—

	Cases.	Visits.
General Visits ... ..	411	5,198
Midwifery ... ..	43	611
Maternity ... ..	9	527
Tuberculosis ... ..	7	249
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal ... ..		385
Others ... ..	17	145
Totals ... ..	487	7,115

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.** (See inside back cover.)

(e) **Hospital Provision.**

(1) The Royal Surrey County Hospital at Guildford offers 232 beds. An average of 194 beds were occupied daily throughout the year. 10,080 out-patients made 36,205 attendances, and in addition 19,720 patients attended the casualty department. The Hospital carried 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's Hospital, Hydestile, near 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 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 and Control of Infectious and other Diseases.

**Infectious Disease.** Cases of Infectious Diseases admitted to Hospital are shown in the Table:—

	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ... ..	2	—
Measles ... ..	4	—
Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic) ...	1	—
	<hr/> 7 <hr/>	<hr/> — <hr/>

163 cases of Infectious Disease (other than Tuberculosis) were notified during the year; this was nearly double that for 1954, but was largely accounted for by the 134 cases of Measles. It will be seen that only four of these required admission to Hospital. Measles is less severe than it used to be: its tendency to occur in alternate years is still very marked in Godalming over the last five years.

**Poliomyelitis.** In a year of high incidence in the country as a whole, Godalming was most fortunate to have only one case of this disease. This occurred in October in a boy of 6 years of age, who was admitted to Hospital and eventually made a complete recovery. He had not been

in contact with any known case of the disease, but had probably been in contact with a mild symptomless case of the disease or with a carrier.

**Whooping Cough.** There was a low incidence of this disease, only 14 cases, all nursed at home. Good progress continues to be made with the immunisation of infants, and most infants now receive combined immunisation against Whooping Cough and Diphtheria: it is satisfactory to note that 173 children were immunised against Whooping Cough in 1955, or 69 more than in 1954. Only two cases occurred under the age of 1 year, the dangerous age for this disease.

There were two cases occurring amongst immunised children.

As with all diseases, prevention is better than cure, and every effort continues to be made to persuade parents to accept this worthwhile and harmless procedure for their children, more especially as immunity against Diphtheria is simultaneously conferred.

#### Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Born in Year		Primary Injection.	Reinforcing Injection.
1955	...	15	—
1954	...	129	—
1953	...	17	—
1952	...	2	—
1951	...	4	1
1950-1946	...	5	9
1945-1941	...	1	1
		<hr/> 173	<hr/> 11

**Food Poisoning.** Eighty million meals, snacks, and cups of hot beverages are served in cafes, hotels, restaurants and other catering establishments every day in England and Wales, so that the clean handling of food is vital if epidemics of food poisoning are to be avoided. Godalming's standards must be high, and a credit to the work of the Sanitary Inspectors: there were only two notified cases, both due to *Salmonella Typhi-murium*—one in a child of 15 months and one of three years. The source of the infection could not be ascertained in either case.



### 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
Measles	2	9	10	12	18	80	2	—	—	1	—	—	134
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	7
Whooping Cough	2	1	1	3	1	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	14
Food Poisoning	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	4
Totals	4	11	11	17	20	90	2	1	3	3	1	—	163

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

Disease	Meadrow County Secondary	Godalming C.P. Junior Mixed	Godalming C. of E.	Busbridge C. of E.	Farncombe C. of E. Junior Mixed	Farncombe C. of E. Infants Mixed	Wharf Day Nursery	Godalming County Grammar	Totals
Pink Eye	...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Chicken-Pox	...	2	7	4	12	—	—	2	27
Measles	...	—	2	2	14	—	65	2	85
Mumps	...	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	3
Ringworm	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Conjunctivitis	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	...	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	4
Whooping Cough	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Poliomyelitis	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	...	5	16	9	26	—	66	—	126

**Diphtheria.** Although no cases occurred in the Borough, this disease still occurs from time to time in this country in a virulent form, and every effort must be made to keep a high immunisation rate among the pre-school and school-child population. Parents nowadays have not seen this disease and do not realise the severity of it, which makes it all the harder to impress upon them how vital immunisation is.

The Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health records in his Report for 1954 that 100 cases occurred under the age of 15 in England and Wales: of these, 60 had never been immunised and there were six deaths among them. Forty had a history of immunisation and there was no death.

The percentage of children in Godalming under the age of 15 immunised against Diphtheria within the last five years was 69.6 % in 1955, a figure above that for Surrey (57.1 % in 1954) and for the English Counties as a whole (48.3 % in 1954). A national figure of 75 % immunised within five years is the aim; the primary immunisation, usually conferred in infancy, wanes with the passage of time and after about five years it has fallen to such a degree as to be virtually ineffective, hence 'Boosting' doses are required at five year intervals during childhood.

### Diphtheria Immunisation Statistics.

Age at 31st December, 1955	i.e., Born in Year	Number Immunised	Estimated mid-year Child Population, 1955	Number and Percentage Immunised
Under 1	1955	12	3313	2306 (69.6%)
1—4	1951—1954	554		
5—9	1950—1946	875		
10—14	1941—1945	865		
Totals, under 15	—	2306	3313	2306 (69.6%)

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



**Vaccination.** Although smallpox is fortunately rare in this country, it is only by encouraging vaccination that the degree of resistance of the population can be maintained. Vaccination in infancy is the ideal, not only because it protects the infant, but because vaccination in the previously unvaccinated adult may cause a severe reaction.

In these days of rapid air travel, a traveller returning say from the East can be infected out there, travel home, and be at home for a week or more, in a highly infectious condition, before developing the disease: the risk of spread to a susceptible population is therefore great.

During 1955 there were 207 live births, and of these infants, 82 were vaccinated, giving a figure of 39.6% as against 35% in 1954; this is an improved figure and a credit to the work of the Medical and Health Visiting staff of the Clinics, and to the General Practitioners of the Borough.

The vaccination figure for England and Wales showed an acceptance rate of 34.5%; the target is 75%, though this figure has never been approached even in the days of 'compulsory' vaccination.

**Tuberculosis.** At the close of the year 102 cases remained on the Godalming Register: 50 males and 52 females—two more than in 1954. Of these, 45 males and 41 females were pulmonary cases and 5 males and 11 females non-pulmonary.

Of the 86 pulmonary cases, 36 had a separate bedroom, and 50 shared a bedroom (though in 16 of these a separate bedroom was available).

Five pulmonary cases were in Sanatoria at the 31st December, 1955. One family was re-housed from rooms by the Council during the year, and two others obtained improved private accommodation.

The following Table shows age groups of new cases and deaths during 1955.—

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	—	—	...	—	—	—
25-35 (1*) 4	1*	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
35-45 (1*) 2	2*	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
45-55 ...	1	—	—	—	...	1	—	—
55-65 ...	1*	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
65 and over	—	1	—	—	...	—	—	—
Totals	9	7	—	—	...	1	—	—

\* Transfers.

**After-Care.** The Godalming and Haslemere Tuberculosis Care Committee, formed in 1933, continued its good work in 1955.

Mr. Warner reports that eleven Godalming and nine Haslemere patients were assisted to the extent of £118 12s. 7d. with necessities and emergency expenses not covered by the State Allowances.

Income amounted to £172 11s. 2d., of which £122 11s. 2d. was contributed voluntarily, mainly through the sale of Christmas Seals; the balance of £50 being the usual Grant from the County Council. Expenditure amounted to £153 9s. 4d.

Miss M. J. Arrowsmith (well known as a Health Visitor in Godalming for many years), a Founder-Member of the Committee, and Chairman since 1949, resigned in April on leaving for Hereford. Her resignation was received with regret and tribute was paid to her services at the Annual Meeting of the Committee. Mrs. E. Skelton, Vice-Chairman, was elected Chairman, and Miss V. Vonahan Vice-Chairman. Mr. Warner, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer since 1933, was re-elected. Miss J. Stearne of the Health Department was re-elected Assistant Secretary, and Mr. A. Kendall, Borough Treasurer, was re-elected Hon. Auditor.



# 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) ... ..	1,668
Nuisances, Complaints, Advisory Visits, etc. ...	991
Inspections of—	
Drainage to Houses, including Tests ... ..	243
Bakehouses ... ..	57
Dairies, Milk-Shops, and Milk Stores ... ..	49
Factories, Work-places and Outworkers' Premises	74
Food Shops and places where food is prepared and stored, including Ice Cream Premises ...	368
Food Inspection ... ..	64
Premises, reference Provision of Dustbins ...	56
Piggeries ... ..	46
Public and Private Conveniences ... ..	40
Miscellaneous Inspections ... ..	66
Investigations and Inspections under—	
Shops and Young Persons Employment Acts ...	87
Petroleum and Carbide Acts ... ..	86
Infectious Diseases (including Disinfections) ...	192
Part IV Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding) ...	3
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 (including testing and treatments of sewers) ...	1,213
Water Supplies ... ..	91
Milk Samples ... ..	41
Ice Cream Samples ... ..	22
Total ... ..	5,475

## NOTICES SERVED.

Statutory Notices	...	...	22
Informal Notices	...	...	297
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	319
			<hr/>
Not complied with at 31.12.55			23
			<hr/>

**Factories Act, 1937.**

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

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

Premises.	Inspec- tions.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prose- cuted.
Factories with Mechanical Power ...	7	2	—
Factories without Mechanical Power	67	11	—
Other premises under the Act (in- cluding works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	9	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	83	13	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>



## 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)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)				
Insufficient ...	4	4	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective	9	9	5	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 5	<hr/> —

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

Public Water Supply is by the Guildford, Godalming and District Water Board. The water is of a high standard of bacterial purity, and in addition all supplies are chlorinated to ensure a safe supply. No new sources were brought into use during the year.

Frequent samples are taken from all sources of supply and from various points within the Borough and other areas supplied.

Contamination was experienced in some of the Wells of the Borough Road Pumping Station and water from these Wells was taken out of the supply system. Energetic action is being taken to prevent any further occurrence of the trouble.

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

- (a) Direct to houses, approximately 4,550.  
Population, 15,400.
- (b) By Stand-pipe to houses, 2.  
Population, 7 (serving 10 Almshouses).

The only new mains laid were the completion of Section IV of Binscombe Farm Estate.

With the exception of the ten Almshouses, which are supplied by two stand-pipes, all other houses in the Borough have water piped into the houses, and except for two cottages supplied by well water, all other houses are supplied with water from the mains.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

**New Drainage.** No new drainage works have been undertaken during the year under review, but there are proposals for new surface water sewers in Charterhouse Road and Catteshall Lane.

**Existing Drainage.** 243 inspections were made to drainage systems of private premises and 31 tests carried out. In each case, defects found as a result of inspection and tests were remedied by the service of informal notices, except in four cases, where Formal Notices were served on Owners.

**Sanitary Accommodation.** There are fifty-one premises in the Borough not connected to the main sewer by reason of impracticability or in a few cases where it would be uneconomical to make such a connection.

The alternative means of disposal in these areas is as follows:—

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

Most Cesspools are constructed to act as septic tanks, the effluent being disposed of by means of sub-surface irrigation systems. Little difficulty was experienced during the year and nuisances arising were quickly abated on service of informal notices.

**Sewage Disposal.** The first stage of the reconstruction of the Council's Sewage Works is now well advanced, and should be in full operation by the Autumn of 1956.



## 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.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The weekly collection of house refuse and salvage is maintained to all premises in the Borough by means of standard refuse collection vehicles. Refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping at Broadwater. This tip is very well maintained and continues to keep remarkably free from vermin.

Standard refuse bins are required at all premises and defective bins renewed by Occupiers, normally on service of an informal notice, though one Formal Notice was served on an Owner who subsequently complied with the requirements of the notice and installed a new dustbin.

## SHOPS ACT.

Eighty-seven inspections and visits were made during the year to shop premises regarding the provisions of the Act with respect to sanitary accommodation, employees' welfare, closing hours, assistants' half-holidays, Sunday closing, etc. These provisions were generally well observed and all contraventions were remedied informally.

## PETROLEUM ACTS, 1928-1936.

There are 36 premises licensed annually for the storage of Petroleum Spirit and Petroleum Mixtures. During the year 86 inspections were made to these premises to ensure that the licence conditions were observed and adequate safety measures taken. Two new units comprising underground tanks and surface pumps were installed and satisfied the standard tests.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

One complaint was received during the year concerning a smoke nuisance. The persons 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:—

Bugs	...	...	...	...	6
Fleas	...	...	...	...	6
Woodworm	...	...	...	...	8
Others	...	...	...	...	23

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

## DISINFECTION.

Disinfections were carried out to four 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.

The Council continues to operate a successful scheme for the destruction of rats and mice and for this purpose employ a part-time Rodent Operator. There is a free service for private premises, but business premises are charged either at an inclusive hourly rate of 7/6d. per hour or at a yearly contract price.

The service is operated in accordance with the Ministry's instructions and the cost of the whole service attracts a 50% Government Grant.

**Private Premises.** Infestations reported by occupiers of premises or revealed during inspections made by the Rodent Operator are quickly dealt with. Essential works of rat-proofing, removal of harbourage, etc., are generally carried out by occupiers with little difficulty, although during the year it was found necessary to serve one formal notice on an occupier of infested premises to remove harbourage.

**Business Premises.** For business premises liable to re-infestation by reason of the nature of work carried on, the Council offer a Contract service of at least once monthly



inspections and carrying out any treatments required. Thirty-four contracts produced an income of £127 6s. 9d. for the year ending 31st March, 1956.

**Sewer Treatments.** The whole of the soil sewer system in the Borough is tested twice yearly and treatments carried out on infested sections. Only minor infestations were discovered and these were successfully dealt with.

**Rodent Operator.** I would again commend the services of Mr. C. E. Hall, who continues to give the Council very satisfactory service, combining the duties of part-time Rodent Operator with other general duties in pest destruction, drainage tests, disinfections and the like.

### NEW HOUSING.

The Council's housing scheme at Binscombe is making good progress and 236 houses had been completed and occupied on this estate by the end of 1955.

The number of applicants on the Council's housing list stands at 545 at 31st December 1955, and during the year under review 74 applicants were re-housed.

Cases where applicants are alleged to be living in overcrowded or unfit houses, or suffering from Tuberculosis, or any other circumstances affecting their health, are referred to the Health Department for enquiry and report.

Private houses are being erected on a number of estates in the area in addition to those erected on individual plots of land or in small numbers.

### EXISTING HOUSING.

A survey of all the older premises in the Borough was completed during the year, and the Council's scheme for dealing with approximately 100 unfit houses during the next five years was submitted to the Ministry and subsequently approved. It now appears that this estimate will be somewhat high as a number of Owners are prepared to carry out extensive works to properties to prevent them being dealt with under the Housing Acts.

During the year under review, nine unfit houses were dealt with, two Demolition Orders and five Closing Orders made and two Undertakings accepted from Owners not to



re-let premises for human habitation until they had been rendered fit for the purpose. Three cottages were demolished during the year.

**Inspection and Repair.** Arising from the survey and from complaints received, a total of 191 houses were inspected, and as a result of action taken under the Housing and Public Health Acts considerable repair works were effected to all types of premises, though mostly to the older low-rented terraced cottages. In five cases cottages are in course of reconstruction and conversion into fit dwellings with all modern amenities.

**Improvement Grants.** The Council do everything in their power to encourage Owners and Occupiers of properties to take advantage of the Improvement Grant Scheme. During the year 35 applications were received and, of these, three applications were refused, two applications approved but subsequently withdrawn, and Grants approved in thirty cases involving a sum of over £4,000. Eleven schemes were completed during the year and the total number of applications for Improvement Grants received up to the 31st December, 1955, was 53.

**Certificates of Disrepair.** Two applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair under the 1954 Act and both applications were granted. Three Certificates were revoked during the year on completion of works specified.

## HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

1. By the Town Council	...	...	...	54
2. By other persons	...	...	...	29
3. Number of houses converted into flats	...	...	...	1

## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

**General.** A total of 368 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 service of informal notices both written and verbal, and resulted in



improvements 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.

Works to existing food premises, conversions and alterations, and proposals for new premises are carefully watched with the co-operation of other Departments. Advice and suggestions in the early stages of construction of improvement schemes are much appreciated and result 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 these goods were voluntarily surrendered and collected by the Health Department for proper disposal by means of controlled tipping, incineration, or salvaged for animal feeding stuffs, etc. No difficulties have been experienced.

**Perishable Goods:**

Meat, English and	Imported	
including Offals	...	179 lbs.
Fish	...	98 lbs.
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		277 lbs.
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**Tinned Goods:**

Meats, various	...	73 tins
Vegetables, mixed	...	87 tins
Fruits, various	...	74 tins
Milk, evaporated and condensed	...	41 tins
Fish, various	...	10 tins
Miscellaneous	...	38 tins
		<hr/>
		323 tins
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**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. Seven persons hold licences to sell Sterilised milk, and two distributors hold licences to sell Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested milk in the Borough from premises situated outside the area.



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

During the year 41 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.

Samples taken were as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ...	2
Sterilised Milk ... ..	4
Pasteurised Milk ... ..	17
Tuberculin Tested Milk ... ..	13
Flavoured Milks ... ..	5

All samples 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 the proper premises. Forty-nine premises are licensed for the sale and storage of ice cream, and during the year two new licences were granted. Two licence holders sell ice cream from mobile vehicles but all ice cream is wrapped or in closed containers.

Twenty-two 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 1 ... ..	16
Grade 2 ... ..	6

**Bakehouses and Cake Shops.** There are thirteen premises used primarily for the sale of bread, cakes and confectionery; nine of these have their own bakehouses. There are no underground bakehouses in the Borough. Two bakehouses closed during the year.

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. A new model bakehouse went into production during the early part of the year, replacing one of the oldest still in use.

**Fish Shops.** There are nine fish shops in the Borough, four of these being fried fish shops. All shops now have closed fronts and the premises are generally well maintained and little difficulty experienced.

**Licensed Premises.** The twenty-six 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-two 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. Occupiers co-operated in endeavours 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.** All slaughterhouses within the Borough remain closed and no licences have been issued since the Borough joined a scheme whereby the majority of home-killed meat consumed in the area is supplied through the modern Abattoir at Guildford. The existing slaughterhouses are sited unsatisfactorily and their condition is such that it would be uneconomical to put them in good order sufficient to meet modern requirements. The present arrangements appear to be working quite satisfactorily.

The fourteen 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 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 disposal is as described. The quantity found unfit is minute compared to the amount consumed in the area, and there is little doubt that the quality of meat offered for sale continues to improve.

### **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 1955:—

Formal: 32 samples of milk.

Informal: Four samples of cheese and double cream; two samples of confectionery; and one each of cheese spread, ice-cream, piccalilli, calamine ointment, iodine ointment and soda mint tablets.

One sample of double cream and one of calamine ointment were found to be adulterated or irregular.

The County Council carried out the following sampling and analyses of food and drugs during 1955 in the whole of the County area for which they are the Food and Drugs Authority:—

Samples analysed—involving 77 items of food and drugs:—

Formal	...	...	...	1,124
Informal	...	...	...	207
"Found adulterated or irregular"—				
Formal	...	...	...	45
Informal	...	...	...	15

Legal proceedings were instituted and a conviction obtained against each of two partners for selling malt vinegar not of the quality demanded.



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## **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, 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, 1.45 to 4.30 p.m. Other weeks a Clinic is held on Wednesday afternoons, 2.30 to 4.30 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.



